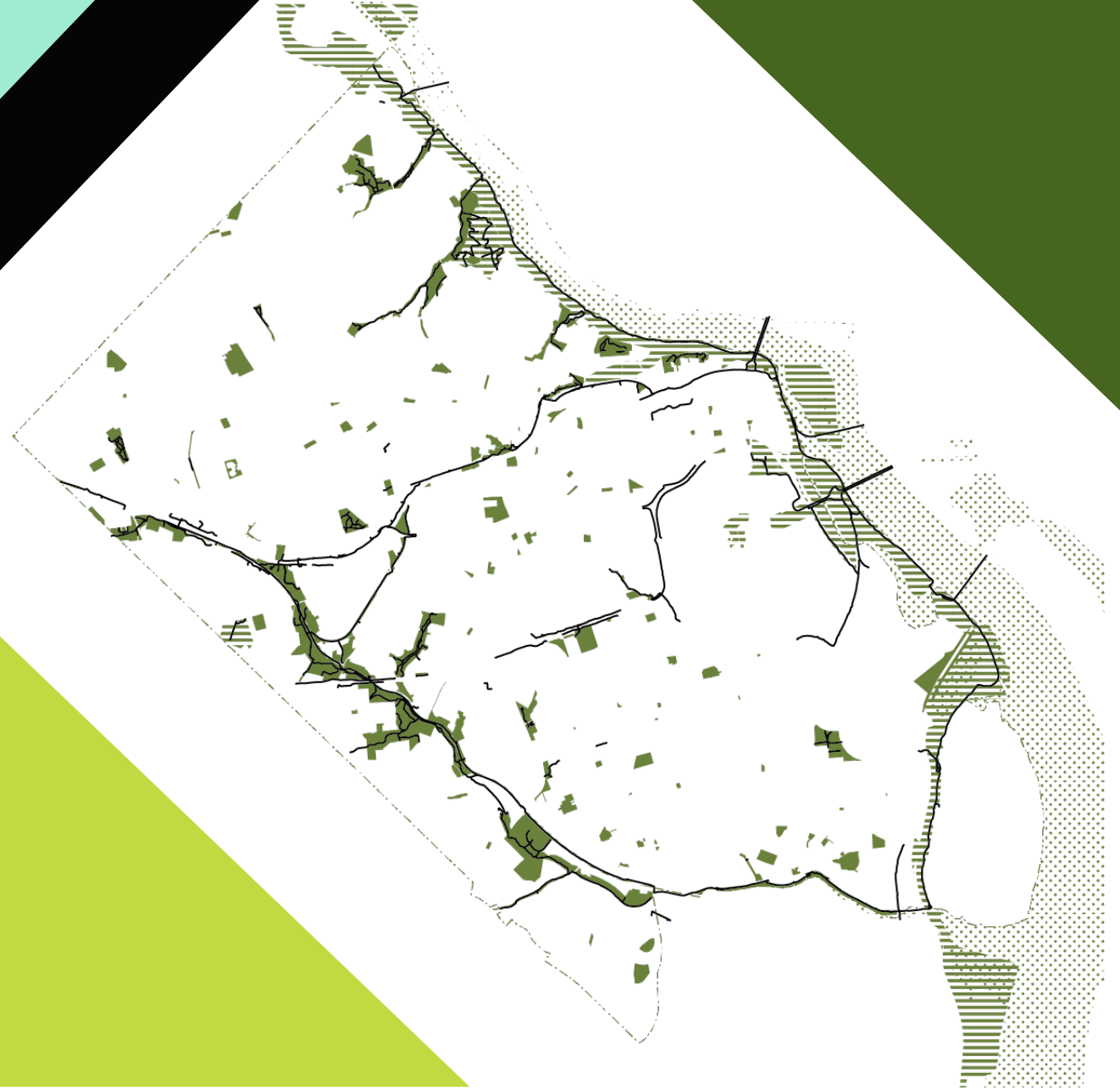


# PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN



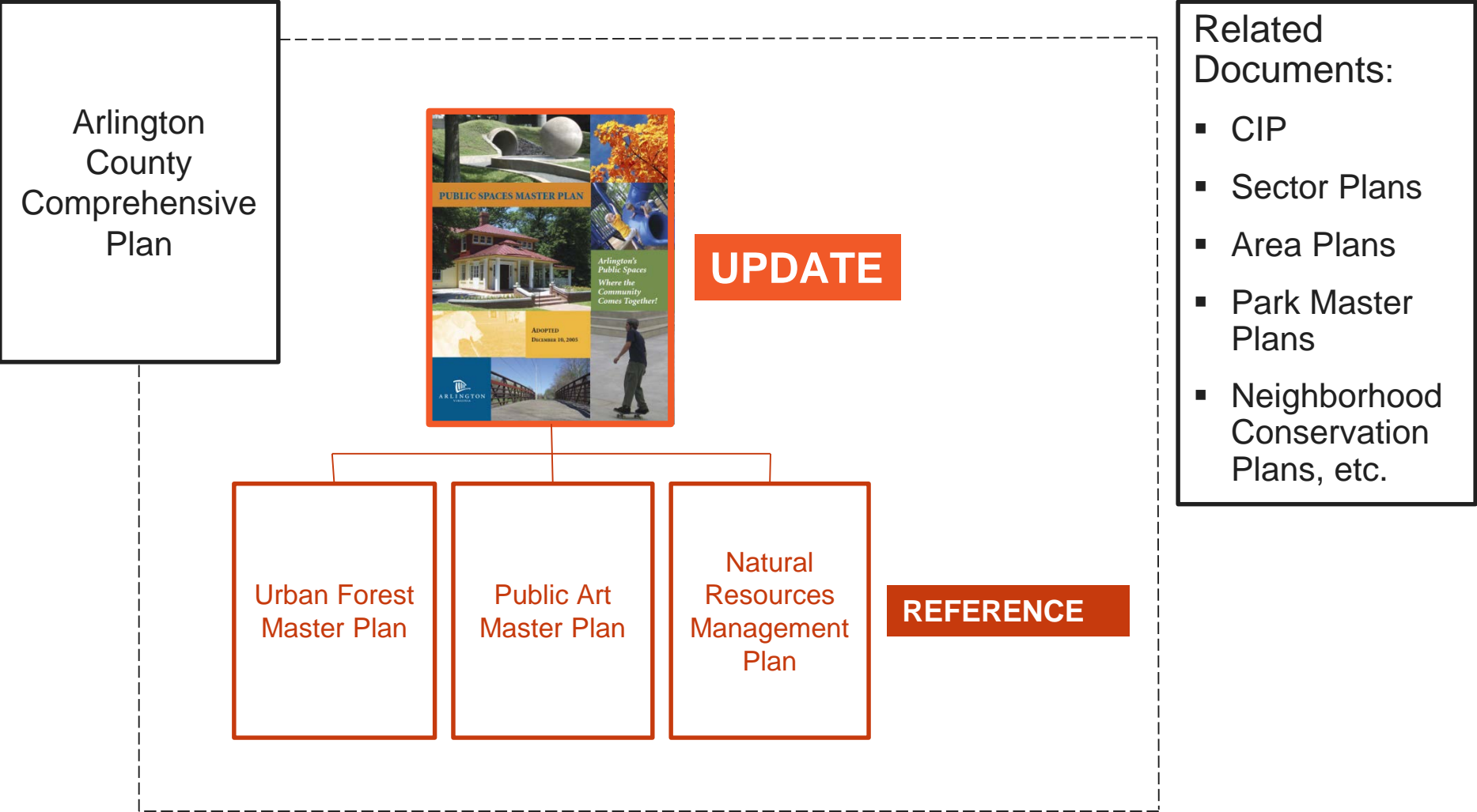
Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
August 09, 2017

# AGENDA

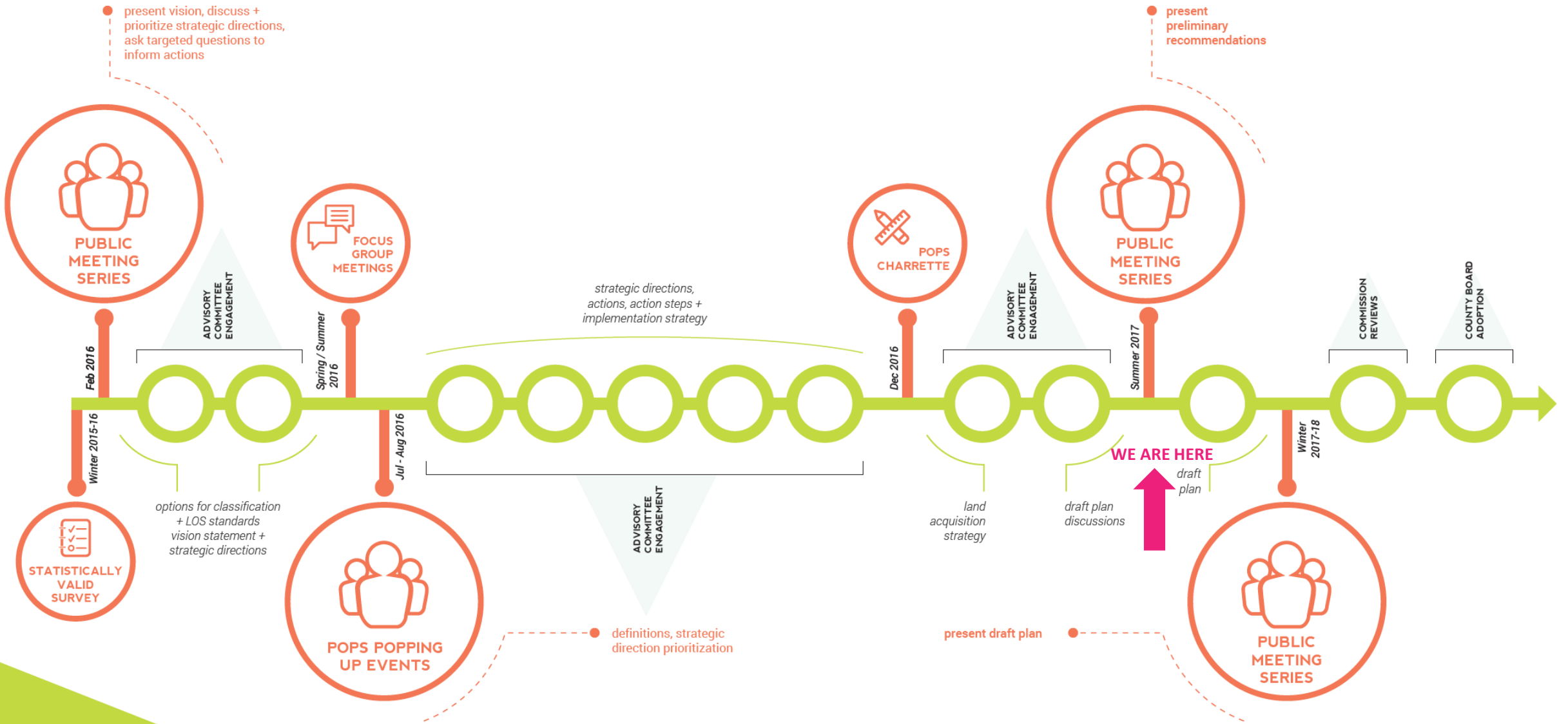


- Project Overview
  - Context
  - Timeline
  - Public Input
  - Plan Organization
- Level of Service
- Selected Draft Recommendations
- Next Steps

# PLANNING CONTEXT



# TIMELINE



# PUBLIC INPUT TO DATE

Public Meeting Series 1

Langston-Brown CC  
Courthouse  
Whitlow's on Wilson  
Arlington Mill CC

Stakeholder Interviews

Advisory Committee  
APS  
Aquatics  
BIDs & Partners  
Bike/Ped  
Dog Parks  
Gymnastics  
Natural Resources  
Urban Forestry  
Sports

Statistically Valid Survey

Goal: 800  
Actual: 1,470

POPS Popping Up

July 4th @ Long Bridge Park  
Central Library  
Fairlington Farmers Market  
Clarendon Farmers Market  
Arlington Farmers Market  
Columbia Pike Farmers Market  
Westover Farmers Market  
Ballston Farmers Market

Focus Groups

Millennials  
Seniors  
Teens  
Gen Xers

Charrette

Over 90 participants

Public Meeting Series 2

Arlington Mill CC  
Courthouse  
Washington-Lee HS

# PLAN ORGANIZATION

- Introduction
- Context
  - Value of Public Spaces
  - Planning Context
  - Trends
  - Existing Public Space System
  - Summary of Engagement
  - Key Themes
- Strategic Directions
  - Policy Recommendations + Rationale
  - Analysis and Standards
    - Access / Level of Service Standards
- Action Plan
  - Implementation Responsibilities
  - Partners
  - Potential Funding Sources
  - Timeframes
- Vision Plan
  - Physical Manifestation of Action Plan
- Appendices

# LEVEL OF SERVICE

# LEVEL OF SERVICE APPROACH

## 1.4. Use a context-sensitive, activity-based approach to providing amenities.

- **context-sensitive:** access to amenities could be different in high-density and low-density areas. High-density and low-density areas have different development patterns and correspondingly different expectations for access to amenities, and different level of service can be expected in these contexts
- **activity-based:** each amenity is treated individually when defining what level of service is being provided



# LEVEL OF SERVICE

## Population-Based Standards

- How many of a facility does Arlington have per resident?
- How many would we like it to have?



## Access Standards

- How close should residents be to a type of facility?
- How does that compare with where the facilities are?



- Where should we add/remove/repurpose facilities?
- Where should we work with partners?
- Where should we advocate for private development of particular facilities?

# LEVEL OF SERVICE


## Population-Based Standards

- How many of a facility does Arlington have per resident?
- How many would we like it to have?



## Access Standards

- How close should residents be to a type of facility?
- How does that compare with where the facilities are?

- 
- Where should we add/remove/repurpose facilities?
  - Where should we work with partners?
  - Where should we advocate for private development of particular facilities?

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## Amenity

## Level of Service

	Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey Pri.	Recm. Std.
Basketball Courts (includes half courts)	each <sup>1/</sup>	2,547 <sup>1/</sup>	2,132 <sup>1/</sup>	6,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium	3,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Community Gardens	each <sup>1/</sup>	31,651 <sup>1/</sup>	37,205 <sup>1/</sup>	30,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium	30,000 <sup>1/</sup>
“Casual Use” Spaces						
Multi-Use Trails	miles <sup>1/</sup>	4,577 <sup>1/</sup>	N/A	2,500 <sup>1/</sup>	High	3,300 <sup>1/</sup>
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each <sup>1/</sup>	27,695 <sup>1/</sup>	59,426 <sup>1/</sup>	40,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium	25,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Playgrounds	each <sup>1/</sup>	1,758 <sup>1/</sup>	3,101 <sup>1/</sup>	3,500 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium	3,000 <sup>1/</sup>

■ supports raising the current standard      ■ > current  
■ supports keeping the current standard unchanged      ■ ≈ current  
■ supports lowering the current standard      ■ < current

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity

Level of Service

	Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045	Total
Basketball Courts (includes half courts)	each	87	+0	+0	+2	+8	+10
Community Gardens	each	7	+1	+1	+0	+1	+3
“Casual Use” Spaces							
Multi-Use Trails	miles	48.4	+19	+7	+7	+7	+40
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	8	+1	+1	+1	+1	+4
Playgrounds	each	126	+0	+0	+0	+0	+0

recommended standard met  
 recommended standard not met

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## Amenity

## Level of Service

	Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey Pri.	Recm. Std.
Diamond Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each <sup>1/</sup>	5,153 <sup>1/</sup>	4,107 <sup>1/</sup>	6,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Low <sup>1/</sup>	6,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Tennis Courts (includes half courts)	each <sup>1/</sup>	2,408 <sup>1/</sup>	3,768 <sup>1/</sup>	4,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium <sup>1/</sup>	3,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Picnic Areas	each <sup>1/</sup>	4,924 <sup>1/</sup>	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	6,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium <sup>1/</sup>	5,000 <sup>1/</sup>
Rectangular Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each <sup>1/</sup>	4,180 <sup>1/</sup>	3,643 <sup>1/</sup>	6,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Medium <sup>1/</sup>	4,200 <sup>1/</sup>
Volleyball Courts	each <sup>1/</sup>	22,156 <sup>1/</sup>	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	12,000 <sup>1/</sup>	Low <sup>1/</sup>	20,000 <sup>1/</sup>

■ supports raising the current standard      ■ > current  
■ supports keeping the current standard unchanged      ■ ≈ current  
■ supports lowering the current standard      ■ < current

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## Amenity

## Level of Service

	Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045	Total
Diamond Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	43	+0	+0	+2	+4	+6
Tennis Courts (includes half courts)	each	92	+0	+0	+0	+5	+5
Picnic Areas	each	45	+0	+4	+5	+4	+13
Rectangular Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	53	+0	+6	+5	+5	+16
Volleyball Courts	each	10	+2	+1	+1	+1	+5

recommended standard met  
 recommended standard not met

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## Amenity

## Level of Service

	Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey Pri.	Recm. Std.
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	sq. ft. <sup>1/</sup>	0.57	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	0.74	Medium	0.57
Hiking Trails	miles <sup>1/</sup>	15,242	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	10,000	High	10,000
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each <sup>1/</sup>	55,390	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	40,000	High	40,000
Natural Lands	acres <sup>1/</sup>	197	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	333	High	200
Nature Centers	each <sup>1/</sup>	73,853	110,900 <sup>1/</sup>	50,000	Medium	75,000
Skate Parks	each <sup>1/</sup>	221,560	118,851 <sup>1/</sup>	40,000	Low	120,000
Small Game Courts (bocce, h-ball, petanque, multi, unmk.)	each <sup>1/</sup>	15,826	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	6,000	Low	8,000
Spraygrounds	each <sup>1/</sup>	44,312	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	45,000	Medium	45,000
Tracks (outdoor)	each <sup>1/</sup>	73,853	N/A <sup>1/</sup>	45,000	N/A	35,000

■ supports raising the current standard      ■ > current  
■ supports keeping the current standard unchanged      ■ ≈ current  
■ supports lowering the current standard      ■ < current

# LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

## Amenity

## Level of Service

	Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045	Total
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	sq. ft.	386,223	+0	+39,333	+37,443	+40,356	+117,132
Hiking Trails	miles	14.5	+8	+2	+3	+2	+15
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	4	+2	+1	+0	+1	+4
Natural Lands	acres	1,127	+0	+96	+108	+116	+320
Nature Centers	each	3	+0	+1	+0	+0	+1
Skate Parks	each	1	+1	+1	+0	+0	+2
Small Game Courts (bocce, h-ball, petanque, multi, unmk.)	each	14	+14	+3	+3	+3	+23
Spraygrounds	each	5	+0	+1	+0	+1	+2
Tracks (outdoor)	each	3	+4	+0	+1	+1	+6

■ recommended standard met  
■ recommended standard not met



# LEVEL OF SERVICE

## Population-Based Standards

- How many of a facility does Arlington have per resident?
- How many would we like it to have?



## Access Standards

- How close should residents be to a type of facility?
- How does that compare with where the facilities are?

- 
- A red arrow points downwards from the center of the standards section to the final recommendations section, indicating a flow of information from the standards to the specific actions to be taken.
- Where should we add/remove/repurpose facilities?
  - Where should we work with partners?
  - Where should we advocate for private development of particular facilities?

# LEVEL OF SERVICE APPROACH

5 min high density  
10 min low density

---

Basketball Courts

---

Community Gardens

---

“Casual Use” Spaces

---

Multi-Use Trails

---

Off-Leash Dog Parks

---

Playgrounds

---

10 min high density  
20 min low density

---

Diamond Fields

---

Tennis Courts

---

Picnic Areas

---

Rectangular Fields

---

Volleyball Courts

---

no access standards

---

Comm., Rec., and Sports Ctrs.

---

Hiking Trails

---

Indoor and Outdoor Pools

---

Natural Lands

---

Nature Centers

---

Skate Parks

---

Small Game Courts

---

Spraygrounds

---

Tracks

---

# AREAS WITH ACCESS TO MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS

Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
miles	48.4	+19	+7	+7	+7

County, NOVA Parks,  
Public Easement

Arlington Public Schools

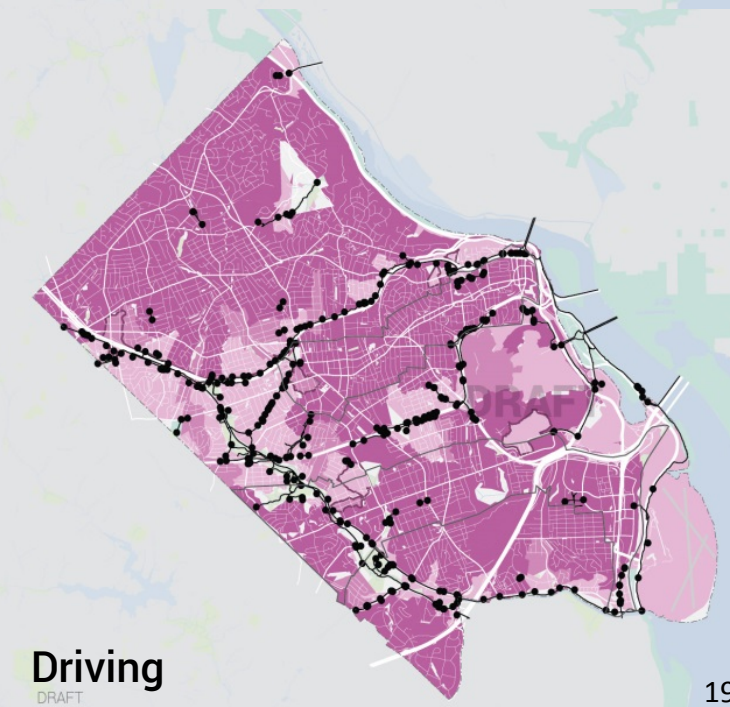
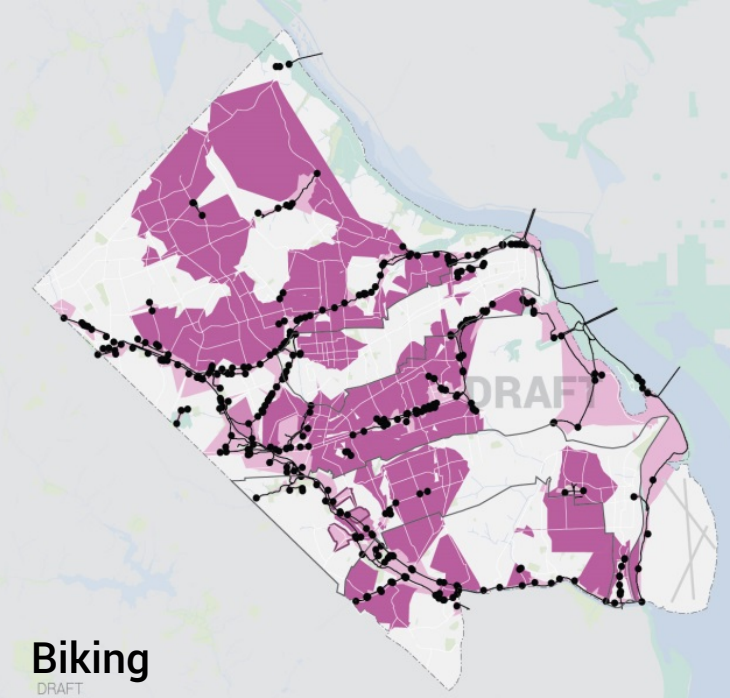
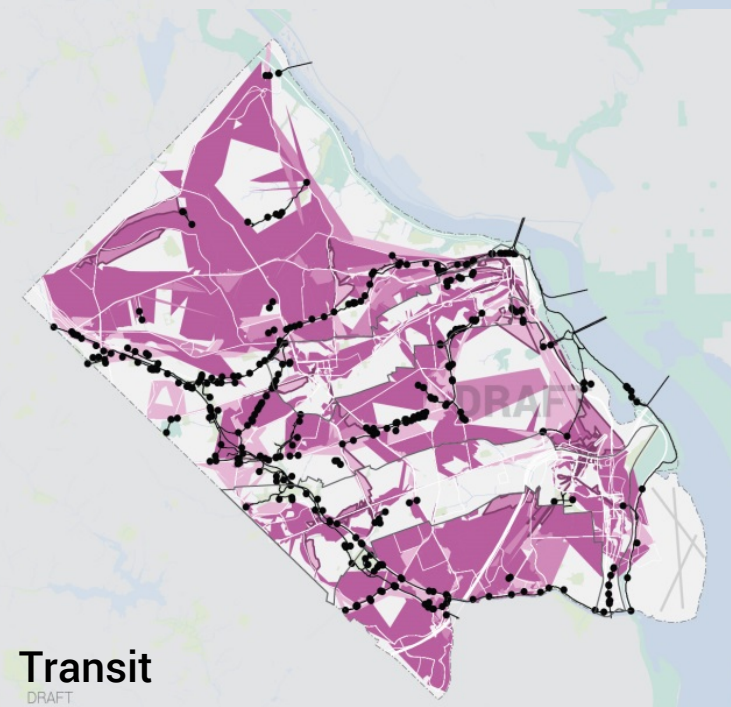
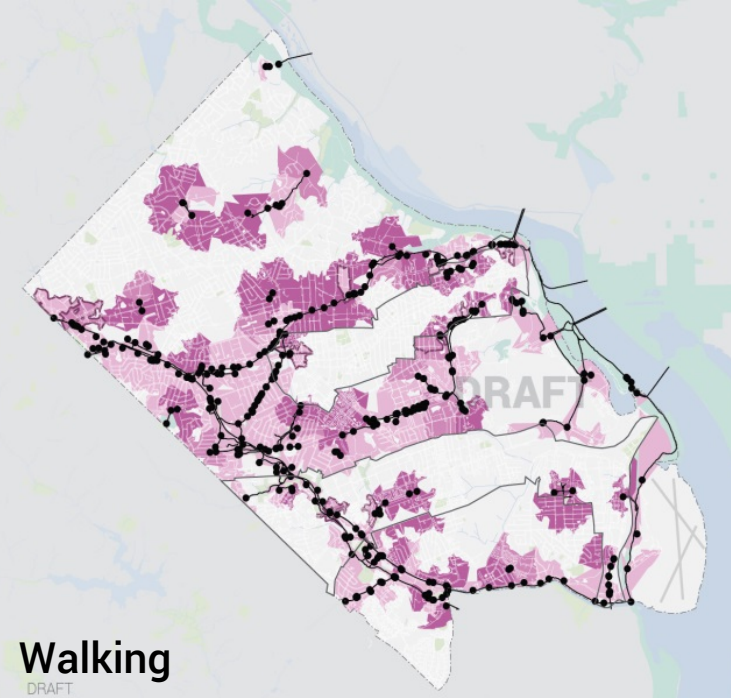
*always publicly accessible*

*restricted public access at certain times*

- ▲ available for community use
- △ permit only use (service not calculated)
- population < 80% avg.
- population 80-120% avg.
- population > 120% avg.
- 2045 population will change category

### Travel Time




High Density Areas 5 min  
Low Density Areas 10 min



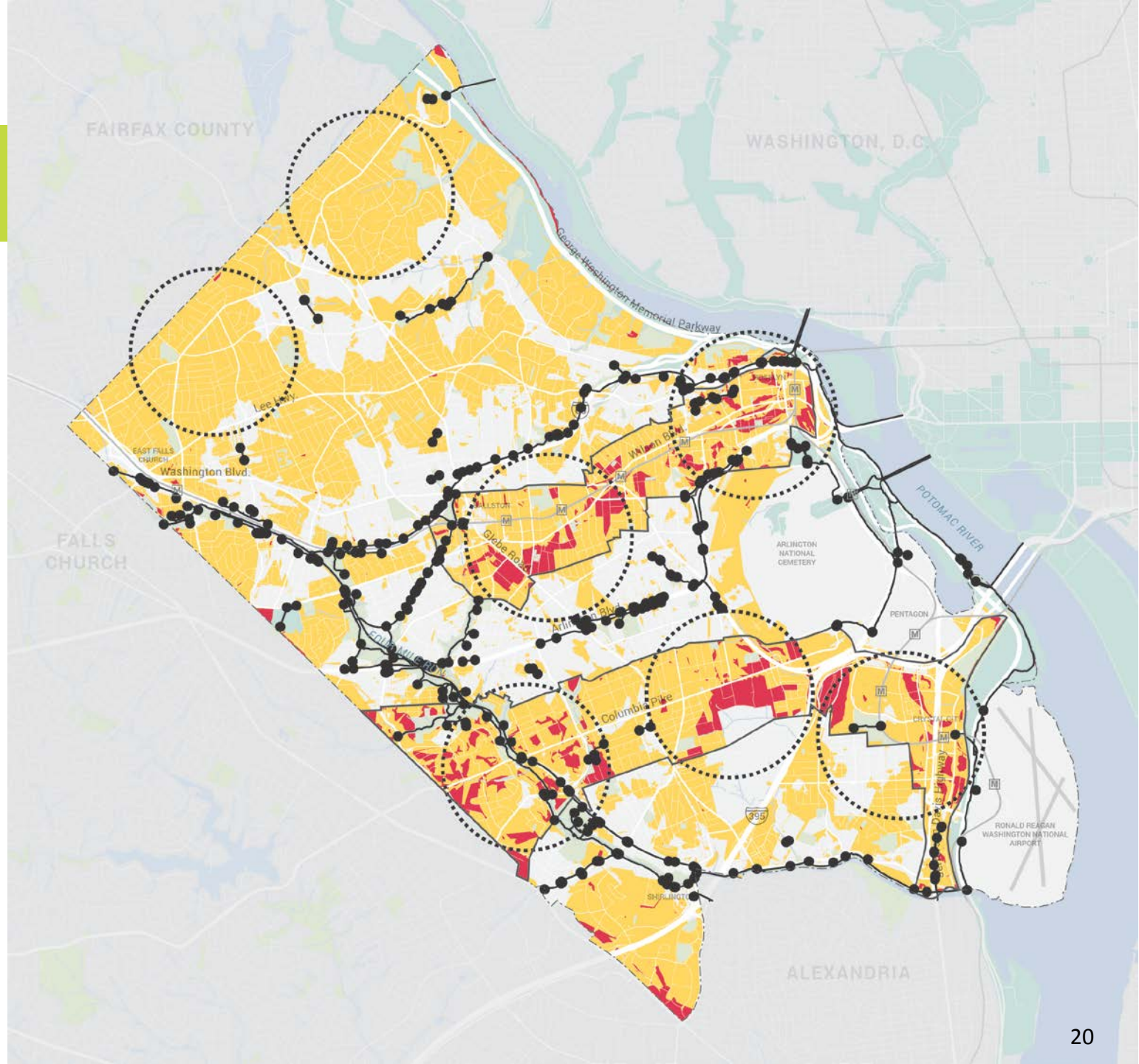


# ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD) MULTI-USE TRAILS EXAMPLE

## Access Ranking

-  most need (limited access)
-  least need (best access)
- 

 potential areas of focus





**SELECTED DRAFT  
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

## Strategic Direction 1

### **PUBLIC SPACES**

Ensure equitable access to high quality public spaces that provide opportunities to recreate, play, and enjoy nature by adding and improving public spaces.

## Strategic Direction 2

### **TRAILS**

Improve the network of trails to, within, and between public spaces to increase access and enhance connectivity.

## Strategic Direction 3

### **RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

## Strategic Direction 4

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

Clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources.

## Strategic Direction 5

### **PROGRAMS**

Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.

## Strategic Direction 6

### **ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION**

Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction.

## Strategic Direction 7

### **FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.

## Strategic Direction 8

### **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

Ensure County public spaces and facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS- ORGANIZATION

HOW THE PLAN IS ORGANIZED

1

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

*overarching policy statements*



1.1

## ACTIONS

*actions the County can take to implement the policy*



1.1.1

## ACTION STEPS

*smaller steps the County can take to move the policy forward*

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Strategic Direction 1

## PUBLIC SPACES

Ensure equitable access to high quality public spaces that provide opportunities to recreate, play, and enjoy nature by adding and improving public spaces.

Strategic Direction 2

## TRAILS

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Strategic Direction 7

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Strategic Direction 8

## FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.



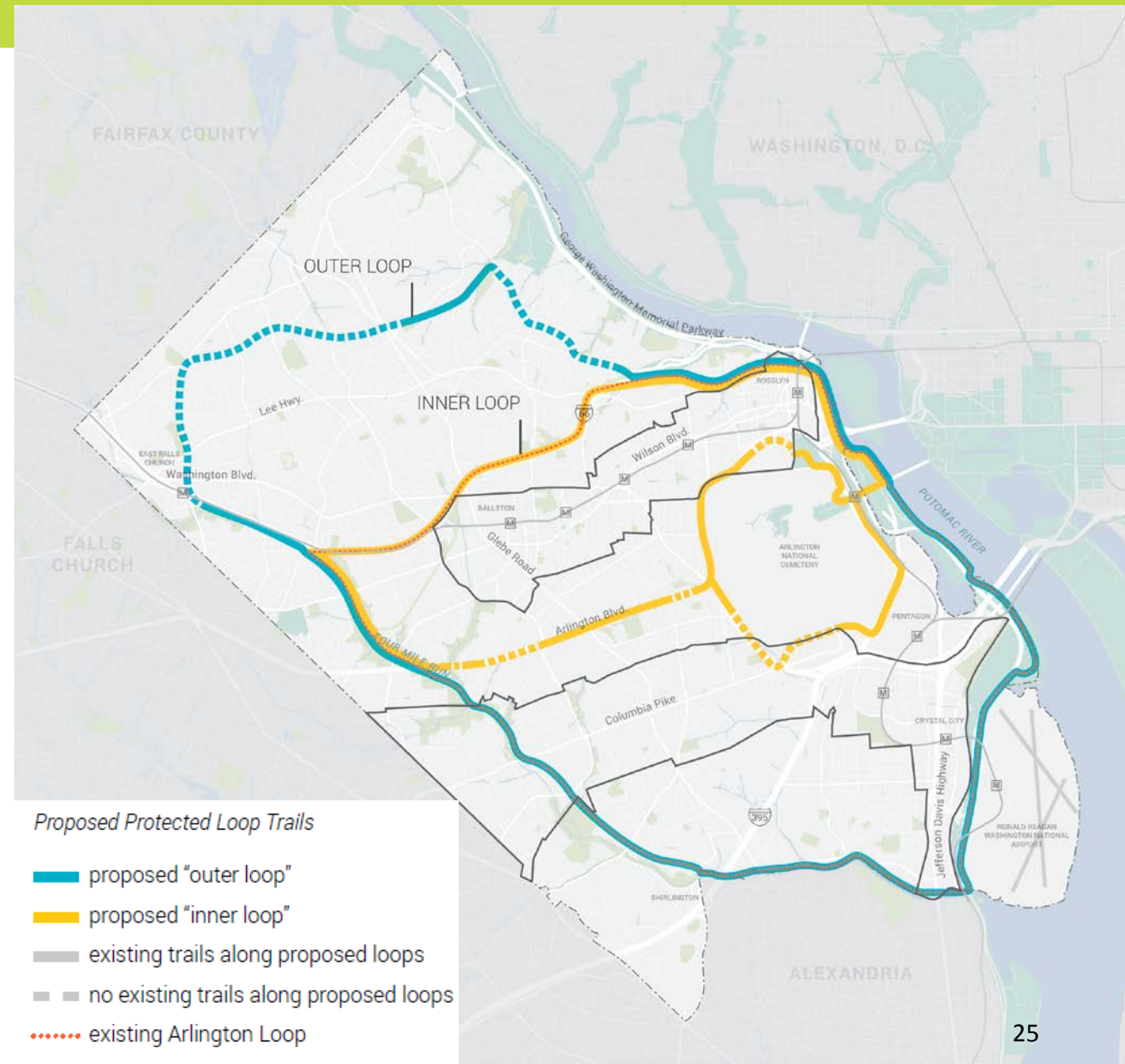
# 2.1.EXPAND ARLINGTON'S NETWORK OF CONNECTED MULTI-USE TRAILS

## 2.1.1.

Complete an “inner loop” of protected routes that connects the Custis, Four Mile Run, Arlington Boulevard, and Mount Vernon Trails

## 2.1.2.

Complete an “outer loop” of protected routes that connects the Four Mile Run, Mount Vernon, and Zachary Taylor Trails



## 2.1.EXPAND ARLINGTON'S NETWORK OF CONNECTED MULTI-USE TRAILS

### 2.1.3.

Evaluate opportunities to create better connections across or around current barriers, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway, I-395, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Army Navy Country Club.

### 2.1.4.

Connect Long Bridge Park to the Mount Vernon Trail.

## 2.1.EXPAND ARLINGTON'S NETWORK OF CONNECTED MULTI-USE TRAILS

### 2.1.5.

Create safe routes to parks and other public spaces by filling gaps in sidewalks and trails that connect public spaces to neighborhoods, schools, transit stations, and other County facilities.

### 2.1.6.

Improve and add connections to adjacent trail systems beyond the County, and show connections on signage and in communication materials.

## 2.2. ENSURE TRAILS FUNCTION FOR A RANGE OF USERS.

### 2.2.1.

Compile and clarify design standards for all types of trails.

### 2.2.2.

Use striping on major trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions, where appropriate.

### 2.2.3.

Ensure paved, multi-use trails are wide enough for passing and that there is sufficient space alongside trails for pulling over.

## 2.2. ENSURE TRAILS FUNCTION FOR A RANGE OF USERS.

### 2.2.4.

Separate modes, where space allows, on high traffic trail routes and where user conflicts commonly occur.

### 2.2.5.

Explore creative and efficient ways to educate users about trail etiquette.

### 2.2.6.

Continue to develop “learn to ride” areas that provide protected spaces for novice users to learn to bicycle.

## 2.2. ENSURE TRAILS FUNCTION FOR A RANGE OF USERS.

### 2.2.7.

Expand trail use monitoring to track usage across all major trails by mode, and use gathered data to help guide the trail planning process.

### 2.2.8.

Use Wi-Fi to provide public internet access at trailheads where feasible.

## 2.3. PROVIDE OR MAKE BETTER CONNECTIONS TO HIKING TRAILS.

### 2.3.1.

Weigh the benefits of adding hiking trails to protected natural areas against the impacts to natural resources.

### 2.3.2.

Improve the quality of and increase access to Four Mile Run and Potomac tributary trails.

### 2.3.3.

Show connections to hiking trails in neighboring jurisdictions on signage and in communication materials.

## **2.4. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CONSISTENT SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING SYSTEM.**

### 2.4.1.

Name all trail segments using descriptive names.

### 2.4.2.

Work with trail owners within Arlington and neighboring jurisdictions to develop common trail signage and wayfinding standards for major regional trails.

### 2.4.3.

Develop a County design standard for trail signage and wayfinding that addresses hierarchy, connections, destinations, landmarks, identity, and areas of congestion.



## **2.4. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CONSISTENT SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING SYSTEM.**

### 2.4.4.

Add location identifiers, potentially integrated into wayfinding signage, at regular intervals along trails for issues/emergencies as well as mile markers.

### 2.4.5.

Improve wayfinding signage at trailheads.

## **2.5. BETTER COORDINATE PLANNING FOR AND MANAGEMENT OF TRAILS.**

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

## Strategic Direction 1

### PUBLIC SPACES

Ensure equitable access to high quality public spaces that provide opportunities to recreate, play, and enjoy nature by adding and improving public spaces.

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### TRAILS

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Clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources.

## Strategic Direction 5

### PROGRAMS

Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.

## Strategic Direction 6

### ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction.

## Strategic Direction 7

### FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.

## Strategic Direction 8

### OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Ensure County public spaces and facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.

# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

1.2.16.

Develop a network of green streets that connect public spaces.

1.2.17.

Include park access planning in transportation planning efforts in order to ensure sufficient transit service to major parks and trails.

1.5.4.

Retrofit restrooms and build new restrooms so they are open and usable year round.

1.5.5.

Install additional seating and drinking fountains near facilities and trails.

# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1.5.6.

Use Wi-Fi to provide public internet access in all public spaces that are programmed more than half of their time (e.g., community centers, sports fields) as well as in plazas and other public spaces in high-density corridors.

## 1.5.8.

Improve signage for all public spaces so as to improve wayfinding, more effectively brand the system, and enhance the appeal of individual spaces as part of a cohesive whole. (see also 6.2.11.)

## 1.6.1.

Continue to enhance public access to and along waterways.

# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

## 4.2.3.

Advocate for National Park Service trails to be connected to County trails and maintained to the agreed upon maintenance standards.

## 6.6.2.

Integrate information about public spaces (including public easements), such as locations, amenities, trail information, program information, and upcoming events, into the My Arlington app and other widely used apps and platforms.

## 7.1.4.

Review and revise trail maintenance standards to address trimming, repaving, snow removal, and safety.

## 8.4.2.

Consider leasing, on a temporary or permanent basis, land adjacent to trails at trailheads for concessions (e.g., cafes, bike rentals) to increase revenue.

# PRIVATELY-OWNED PUBLIC SPACES

- 1.2.18. Develop design guidelines for privately-owned public spaces.
  - The design guidelines should help inform individual site plans, sector plans, and area plans.
- 1.2.19. Amend standard conditions of site plan approvals to require information about the location, size, and content of signage at privately-owned public spaces to ensure that the signage conforms to County standards and helps make these spaces more visible and welcoming to the public
- 1.2.20. Complete and routinely update a database of all privately-owned public spaces that includes an assessment of their quality, design, function, signage and accessibility, and create an interactive map to raise awareness of such spaces.

# CASUAL USE SPACES

# 'CASUAL USE' SPACES

**Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature.**

*Throughout the POPS process, the Advisory Committee and stakeholders expressed the need to preserve and create spaces that the community can use for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities. Sometimes referred to as “unprogrammed” spaces, these spaces are as essential to a functioning public space system as spaces that support organized sports and recreation programs. Such spaces shall not be just spaces left over after accommodating other amenities, but rather intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use.*



# 'CASUAL USE' SPACES-EXAMPLES



*Clarendon Central Park*



*Fort C. F. Smith Park*



# 'CASUAL USE' SPACES-EXAMPLES



*Glebe Park*



*Big Walnut Park*



# 'CASUAL USE' SPACES-EXAMPLES



*Long Bridge Park*



*Herselle Milliken Park*



# 'CASUAL USE' SPACES

## How the PSMP Supports Enhancing and Creating Casual Use Spaces

### Framework Plans

As the County develops framework plans for all public spaces (1.2.2.), casual use spaces will be identified as areas distinct from those that support more formal recreation programs.

### Access Standards

*If these spaces can be inventoried:*  
As part of its context-sensitive, activity-based approach to providing amenities (1.3.), the County will use access standards to determine where access is lacking to casual use spaces.

### Park Master Planning Process

Resident input during the park master planning process will inform whether casual use spaces should be enhanced or added (1.3.2.).

### Park Master Plans

Any casual use spaces identified in 10 new park master plans to be developed by the County (1.2.3.) will be purposefully designed.

### Community Engagement

Through inclusive and transparent community engagement practices (6.3.3.) and ongoing public space evaluations (6.3.4.), users will be empowered to advocate for casual use spaces.

# POPS NEXT STEPS

- **August 31-** Preliminary Draft Online
- **September & October**
  - Additional POPS Advisory Committee meetings
- **Fall**
  - County Board Work Session
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> series of public meetings (present draft plan)
- **Fall/Winter** - Commission reviews
- **Winter (early 2018)**– County Board review/approval

# Q & A