

002  
003  
**Public Spaces  
Master Plan**

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT 7/11/2017**



## #001

Posted by **ParksSupporter** on **07/20/2017** at **4:32pm**

### Suggestion

Acknowledge Court Sports

If an alien from outer space came down and flipped through the report, he or she would have no indication that activities occur on courts in Arlington County parks and schools. The report contains many photos of fields, open space, and trails, but few if any of courts. County courts include those on which tennis, pickleball, basketball, bocce ball, and volleyball are played. Add to the final report more photos of individuals using courts.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #002

Posted by **ParksSupporter** on **07/20/2017** at **4:34pm**

### Suggestion

Important Priorities

If Arlington County truly wants to encourage citizens better to use parks and associated facilities, it should prioritize three enhancements. First, provide restrooms in every public park, and properly maintain them.

Second, provide water fountains in every public park, and properly maintain them.

Third, invite concessionaires to sell food and beverages (including alcohol) in public parks. Encourage prospective vendors (for example, well-known national chains) to bid on opportunities to serve particular parks. Keep the terms of each contract short in order to monitor performance and upgrade offerings when opportunities present themselves.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 1

Reply by **Anonymous** on **08/24/2017** at **5:43pm**

I agree with all points, and would like to emphasize point number 3. Having just returned from a trip to Paris and Lisbon, I noticed that many public spaces had small kiosks vending alcohol, coffee, and small snacks with a few tables under umbrellas. These enticed people to do more than just walk through the parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #003

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **7:53pm**

### Suggestion

This comment is made on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association (ASA). ASA thanks Arlington County Parks and Recreation for the opportunity to comment on this plan. ASA provides quality soccer programs and experiences for people of all abilities, backgrounds and financial means to encourage personal growth, promote a love for the game, and advance soccer in Arlington and surrounding communities. ASA currently serve 5,700 soccer youth players of all ages, backgrounds and areas of Arlington County. In addition to offering recreational, developmental and travel soccer, soccer camps and clinics, ASA partners with the Real Madrid Foundation and Arlington Public Schools to deliver an after-school soccer and character-building program for at-risk children and TOP Soccer, a program that brings the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to children with mental or physical

disabilities. Adding more capacity to Arlington's recreational facilities and more public flexible spaces, ASA could expand its own capacity and programming to benefit the Arlington County Community.  
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

005

# PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN AT A GLANCE

*Arlington's network of parks and public spaces that support recreation and leisure and protect our natural resources contribute to the high quality of life that Arlingtonians enjoy. As more people come to live, work, and play in Arlington, the need for parks and public spaces continues to grow.*

*Arlington County envisions a network of publicly- and privately-owned public spaces that connect the County's established neighborhoods and growing corridors to natural areas, protect valuable natural resources, provide opportunities for structured and casual recreation, and ensure access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries.*

*This plan seeks to provide the foundation for a well-integrated and robust network of public spaces to support that goal.*

## SECTION 1: CONTEXT (P. 5-61)

*The baseline conditions of and trends for Arlington's public space system and a summary of resident and stakeholder engagement.*

VALUE OF PUBLIC SPACES

PLANNING CONTEXT

TRENDS

EXISTING PUBLIC SPACE SYSTEM

SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

## #004

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **1:34pm**

### Suggestion

It is unrealistic to expect public input on a 272 page draft released 50 hours before the public review meetings. I recommend that conventional public hearings be held in a couple weeks after people have had a chance to digest this draft. That way citizens can hear dialogue on the issues involved and have a chance to fully understand them.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #005

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **7:36pm**

This document is incredibly long. It is also very hard to read on line and offer comments. I would be hard pressed to think of a worse way for the County to share its ideas. Indeed, one would almost think that the Department of Parks and Recreation knows where it wants to end up and really does not care what the community thinks. If the DPR really cared, they would not have produced a document so full of facts and so short on specifics. It seems the County Government is using the "Arlington Way" as a cudgel rather than a mean to engage the public in a meaningful way.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #006

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **2:18pm**

### Suggestion

the need for natural areas, parks and public spaces. Please add natural areas to the first paragraph, second sentence.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #007

Posted by **InTheMajority** on **08/29/2017** at **6:03pm**

The majority want:

Hiking trails

Natural areas & wildlife habitats

Paved multi-use Trails

This must be obvious, "the need for parks and public spaces grow, especially hiking trails, natural areas & wildlife habitats and paved multi-use trails."

<https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2016/01/Arlington-County-Presentation-for-County-Board-Mar-15-2016.pdf>

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## SECTION 2: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (P. 63–169)

*Eight high level policy statements that form the framework for ongoing and future actions that the County should take to better its public space system.*

- 01 PUBLIC SPACES
- 02 TRAILS
- 03 RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP
- 04 PARTNERSHIPS
- 05 PROGRAMS
- 06 ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION
- 07 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE
- 08 FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

## SECTION 3: ACTION PLAN (P. 171–201)

*An implementation plan for moving each action forward, along with estimated timeframe and cost range.*

## SECTION 4: PHYSICAL VISION PLAN (P. 203)

*A comprehensive vision for Arlington's future public space system.*

## SECTION 5: APPENDICES (P. 205–255)

*A series of additional research, analysis, and information about Arlington's public space system.*

# PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN

## PRIORITY ACTIONS

**Within the eight strategic directions are ten actions that stand out as top priorities.**

**These actions can be identified by the**

**PRIORITY ACTION header.**

» **1.1. Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years. (p. 70)**

In public meetings, the most common phrase used to describe Arlington's public spaces was "need more." Over half of public survey respondents indicated that they would support acquisition to develop passive facilities. New public space should include a combination of additional land acquired by the County, public space developed by other public entities, privately developed spaces with public easements, and the addition of rooftop or similar spaces.

» **1.1.2. Secure or expand the public spaces envisioned by sector, corridor, and other plans adopted by the County Board – including the Clarendon Sector Plan, Virginia Square Plan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, Crystal City Sector Plan, and Columbia Pike Form Based Codes – and ensure they provide amenities that meet County needs. (p. 70)**

Adopted County plans provide direction at an urban design scale about where new public spaces will be located.

While the size and general function of these spaces may

be defined in such plans, the level of service standards set in this plan will guide and complement the selection of amenities to be built in these spaces. As an example, the Courthouse Sector Plan envisions a new Courthouse Square as the premier place for Arlingtonians to gather for conversation, recreation, relaxation, and to celebrate important events. It will provide a centralized civic center and public open space that will engage Arlington's residents, workers, and visitors, and better represent the goals, values, and ideals of the County. As these plans are updated, the PSMP should be used to guide future recommendations.

» **1.2.2. Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans. (p. 75)**

The County Board has adopted a number of park-specific master plans that show the location and type of park elements as well as design guidelines. The County should continue to implement the adopted park master plans for Mosaic Park, Penrose Square, Four Mile Run, Rosslyn Highlands Park, and Jennie Dean Park.

» **1.2.7. Develop park master plans, to be adopted by the County Board, for approximately 10 parks that are of high importance to the park system. (p. 78)**

A park master plan provides the County with a roadmap for the layout of park facilities and accompanying design guidelines for the future of a particular park. The ten parks

## #008

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/03/2017** at **2:45pm**

### Suggestion

Arlington already has a deficit of public land for all purposes, as documented by the Community Facilities Study group. With a growing population, is the addition of 30 acres of public space, for which competition is fierce, truly sufficient.

Even though 50% of survey respondents said that they want to acquire space for "passive facilities," most of the park plans are not passive. They involve a significant addition of new built infrastructure and planned spaces replacing natural, passive space, which degrades the environmental quality of the parks (through loss of mature tree canopy and the addition of impervious surfaces).

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #009

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **4:44pm**

Park master plans nearly always conflict with the priority investment areas identified in Figure 17 — based on the "statistically valid" 2016 survey results, hiking trails and natural areas and wildlife habitat were the top two priorities for outdoor facilities. Instead, what we see in these park plans is a conversion of natural park space — with mature tree and green space loss + addition of significant impervious or semi-pervious surfaces — into what is essentially an outdoor community center with structured fields and LOTS of expensive, built infrastructure. For some odd/unknown reason, hiking and enjoying nature is not considered to be "recreation" in this report. This disconnect represents a significant oversight and results in the schizophrenic approach to park development — with the majority of residents wanting to preserve, conserve and restore nature while each special interest subgroups successfully lobbies for its own specialized built infrastructure to replace nature.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



identified in this plan focus on the creation of new parks or the complete overhaul of major existing parks.

» **1.3. Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature. (p. 85)**

Throughout the 2017 POPS process, the community expressed a strong need to preserve and create spaces that can be used for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities – what this plan refers to as “casual use” spaces. These spaces are essential to a public space system that supports the whole community.

» **1.4.3. Based on level of service, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community. (p. 93)**

There are locations where there is a duplication or clustering of one type of amenity, resulting in low usage rates for each. At the same time, these areas may be lacking another type of amenity. This represents an opportunity to better balance the system. By replacing a duplicate with a different amenity, the County can offer a full array of recreation amenities.

» **1.6. Ensure high-quality visual and physical access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries. (p. 97)**

The 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan emphasized planning for Four Mile Run. In the 2017 Arlington POPS process, half of survey respondents indicated that natural areas and wildlife habitats are most important to their households – the second highest rated outdoor amenity. In addition, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents indicated that would support maintaining and preserving existing trees and natural areas – the highest rated improvement to the parks and recreation system. The Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries are the heart of the County's natural framework. Planning for better public spaces along these waterways will enhance their ecological value and promote access to nature.

» **2.1. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails. (p. 108)**

Arlington has an extensive trail system that connects many of its public spaces. A trail network that is easily accessible and creates connections among different public spaces can result in a more widely used system of public spaces. Cyclists have more opportunities to stop and use public space amenities, and public space users have protected routes that allow them to discover what amenities are available in other public spaces across the County. Protected routes increase safety and encourage more novice users to participate. In this plan, for example, a new circuit trail that connects the north part of the County to the rest of the trail system is proposed. Many of the strategies in this plan tie into recommendations in the Master Transportation Plan.

» **3.1. Update the Natural Resources Management Plan. (p. 120)**

The Natural Resources Management Plan was last updated in 2010. It identifies significant natural resources found in Arlington and provides recommendations and best practices in order to enhance, preserve, and protect the County's natural resources. The process for updating the Natural Resources Management Plan, which is expected to begin following the completion of this plan, shall take into consideration how to move the actions in this plan forward.

» **3.2. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan. (p. 120)**

The Urban Forest Master Plan was last updated in 2004. The plan includes an inventory of street trees and an analysis of the County's full forest canopy. It provides strategies to preserve and enhance the urban forest in a comprehensive manner. The process for updating the Urban Forest Master Plan, which is expected to begin following the completion of this plan, shall take into consideration how to move the actions in this plan forward.

## #010

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/03/2017** at **2:50pm**

### Suggestion

RE: 1.4.3. NCAC projects appear to be exempt from PRC review and often, therefore, duplicate parks amenities that are available nearby. The playground at Nelly Custis Park — the bulk of which is owned by a private party — is a prime example of adding playground space when there were already multiple playgrounds for a variety of age groups within a short distance. Until NC projects are forced to follow the same rules as every other project, then there is no way to implement this item.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #011

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **5:34pm**

Item 1.6 conflicts with the top responses to high priority investment in outdoor facilities (see Fig. 17). It is impossible to cut down trees and add pavement and built infrastructure so that every can have "high-quality visual and physical access" to riparian corridors while simultaneously trying to save and protect these corridors (see item 3.3).

Suggest that staff get serious. Either you want to protect nature, preserve the mature tree canopy and conserve/restore riparian areas like the Potomac, Four Mile Run and their tributaries or you want to develop these areas. You cannot do both. Stop wasting people's time by pretending to have "green" goals while at the same time destroying and degrading what remains of our natural infrastructure and environment with every project on public or private land.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #012

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **5:26pm**

### Suggestion

The figures in this plan list only the +/-50 miles of off-road trails but leaves out the on-road bike trails (some separate, some sharrowed). This has led to a duplication of effort, which reduces funding for truly expanding the trail network. Example: The new Washington Blvd. (between Westover and East Falls Church Metro) on-road trail duplicates an existing off-road trail nearby. Washington Blvd. is heavily used and DANGEROUS, with hills, curves and poor lines of site. Cyclists should be routed to the safest option, and the money should be reserved for true expansion or maintenance of existing trails.

Suggestion: Incorporate both the off-road and on-road trail networks with respect to planning so that the county is NOT duplicating existing infrastructure.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #013

Posted by **InTheMajority** on **08/29/2017** at **6:07pm**

Much of South Arlington is entirely disconnected from easily accessible trails that lead to parks. Consider other green city loops and Arlington has a long way to go to achieve connectivity.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #014

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **11:07am**

The County has steadily but inexorably been losing canopy, especially mature trees, not only to the pressures of private development but also because of actions, decisions and projects undertaken by Arlington County and APS. Efforts to replace lost trees have been hampered by lack of budget and priority on maintenance. Arlington will no longer remain one of our country's top cities for parks if we fail to make preservation and maintenance of tree canopy a top priority.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #015

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/03/2017** at **3:25pm**

### Suggestion

According to Arlington's own data (<https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2013/09/Tree-canopy-analysis-2011-36-36.pdf> and <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2015/02/Loss-Gain-Large.pdf> and p. 51 at [https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2014/05/SWM\\_P\\_FINAL\\_Sept2014.pdf](https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2014/05/SWM_P_FINAL_Sept2014.pdf)), Arlington lost 3% of its tree canopy between the years 2008 and 2011 — a 1% per year decline. If this rate has continued to the present, tree canopy coverage will be down to roughly 35%. Yet, 109 mature trees are to be cut in Lubber Run Park. And nearly every park project includes the cutting of trees — I'm thinking specifically of Benjamin Banneker Park project. All school projects (since the county includes school property in its count of parkland/open space) also include massive tree loss: Stratford: +/-100 trees cut, McKinley Elementary +/-90 trees cut, Ashlawn Elementary +/-100 trees cut. There will be a net loss of public parkland on the Wilson School site.

Even though trees are replanted, the highly urbanized environment means that most of the replanted trees will not survive the hostile conditions we have created for them. And young, small trees are truly not a replacement for mature trees in terms of the number of gallons of stormwater they detain and intercept, the amount of pollution they can filter from the air and the ability to lower surface temperatures to offset the urban heat island effect — which leads to greater use of a/c (electricity) in the summer. It will take newly planted trees roughly 30+ years to come close to replacing those lost — if, indeed, they survive.

Looking at the iTree analysis of Arlington's ecosystem (<https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2017/02/iTree-2016-Written-report.pdf>), the loss of mature tree canopy becomes clear in Figure 2, showing that the bulk of Arlington's canopy has a stem diameter (at 4.5 feet) of 6 inches or less.

The impact of the extinction of Arlington's mature tree canopy cannot be overstated. And yet, the county and school system organize one chainsaw massacre after another on every public site.

As far back as 2012, Arlington's schoolchildren grasped the connection between replacing Arlington's tree canopy and natural space with heat-trapping built surfaces and infrastructure and the urban heat island effect; and the connection between land use and the generation of dangerous ozone pollution:

[https://washingtonlee.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/legacy\\_assets/washingtonlee/6bc35f3ceb-LIVEZEY\\_Morgan.pdf](https://washingtonlee.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/legacy_assets/washingtonlee/6bc35f3ceb-LIVEZEY_Morgan.pdf) and  
<http://aps-legacy.materiell.com/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/2281/Doyle.pdf>.

If Arlington's children can understand what is at stake, when will the adults acknowledge that the choices they are making are damaging Arlington's environment and threatening human health?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #016

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **2:29pm**

### Suggestion

The Urban Forestry Master Plan should have priority in the sequence of future updates because it is so out of date. People gravitate to tree lined streets, shady parks and green public spaces. The Urban Forestry Master Plan should not only protect and enhance our urban forest, but it should also "expand" the canopy.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #017

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **5:26pm**

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

DRAFT

# PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

018

Prepared for Arlington County

by WRT

with PROS Consulting, Barth Associates, the Trust for Public Land, Mary Means and Associates, ETC Institute, Recreation Accessibility Consultants, and Pennington Biomedical Research

Adopted by the Arlington County Board \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

**#018**

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **11:03am**

Question

This suggests the PSMP was prepared entirely by consultants/contractors!?!?! What about county staff, the PSMP Update Advisory Committee, and the various county commissions? Compare to the current PSMP.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

to be added

DRAFT



# LETTER FROM THE COUNTY BOARD (OR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS)

to be added

DRAFT

DRAFT

019

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**#019**

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **12:15pm**  
Suggestion

The Public Space Master Plan is the successor to the 1994 Open Space Master Plan which added to the Comprehensive Plan to implement the County Board's Open Space Policy adopted on September 26, 1992. (Note: the text of the Open Space Policy is most easily found in the GLUP where it is included in an appendix.) Since the PSMP is the mechanism by which the county implements the Open Space Policy, the PSMP should reference the Open Space Policy at appropriate points. Additionally, and most importantly, the complete text of the Open Space Policy should be included very early in the document, probably immediately before or after the letter from the County Board.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

DRAFT

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# Introduction

*Arlington's network of parks and public spaces contribute to the high quality of life that Arlingtonians enjoy. With little unused or underutilized land, a strong economy and real estate market, and growing needs for a wide range of County recreation amenities and protection of natural resources, Arlingtonians are deeply concerned about maintaining and improving quality of life. Arlington needs clear priorities, policies and decision-making frameworks to preserve and advance our public spaces.*

*As more people come to live, work, and play in Arlington, the need for parks and public spaces continues to grow. Arlingtonians are always looking for ways to improve and creatively expand upon the existing system. We are passionate about striving for and helping to shape a better future – one that is inclusive, sustainable, and livable. This plan seeks to provide the foundation for a well-integrated and robust network of public spaces to support that goal.*



## #020

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **2:34pm**

### Suggestion

need to state that Arlingtonians are deeply concerned about not just maintaining but also creating new parks, and natural areas.

We need to build up, not out into our existing open spaces.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #021

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **11:12am**

Arlington must set quantifiable, measurable, actionable goals to improve access to natural areas, casual recreational opportunities, enhancement of our tree canopy and wildlife habitat which include benchmarking existing resources / locations and setting forth specific goals for maintaining and expanding these.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

# ARLINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN

Arlington's *Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)* is a plan for our places and spaces. As a key element of the County's Comprehensive Plan, the *PSMP* sets policy that will guide County actions around public space. The plan, adopted by the County Board, is the culmination of a process shaped by the public and County organizations and stewarded by an appointed Advisory Committee and County staff.

## WHAT ARE PUBLIC SPACES?

Public spaces are spaces that support recreation and leisure, natural resources, casual use, and cultural resources.

Public spaces are the tree-covered parks with benches where you can read or throw a ball. They are the stream corridors, natural areas, and historic grounds that make up the County's unique resources. They are the sports courts where you can play basketball or tennis, or teach your child to ride a bike. They are the school grounds and fields where you can kick, hit, or throw a ball or see the next generation of athletes hone their skills in team sports. They are the sidewalks, streets, and trails where you can stroll, run, bike, or hike for recreation or to get from place to place.

They are the gathering spaces for local and regional events. They are the indoor spaces for leisure, sports, and fitness activities. They are spaces that host gatherings, performances, and public art. Public spaces can be on the ground, on or under bridges, or on the roofs of buildings. They can be temporary or permanent. They can be in high- or low-density neighborhoods. Together, these public spaces form a network of spaces where Arlingtonians can relax, recreate, learn, gather, and celebrate.

**Picnicking on the Fourth of July. (facing page)**  
Long Bridge Park

## #022

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **11:18am**

Unfortunately, with the exception of the ETC Institute Survey and the provision of an exceedingly time consuming effort to provide comments online, the public has had no real opportunity to exchange ideas, learn from questions raised by other community members and thereby engage in a genuine dialogue concerning the draft POPS report. Very few people have the time to plow through 272 pages, especially in the 49 hour interval between release of the 7/11 draft and the "public meetings" (with no public dialogue) that began on 7/13.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #023

Posted by **glecce** on **08/29/2017** at **8:57pm**

Suggestion

Preservation and expansion of tree canopy is sorely needed if Arlington is to be a desirable urban area. Trees are allowed to die and remain on main public streets, and public properties, for years. Also, the current approach to cutting the sides of trees to allow buses to pass is extraordinarily ugly. There are better approaches that could be used. Trees have an aesthetic value that should be included in the plan.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #024

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **11:00am**

or take a walk through wooded areas on school campuses

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #025

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **07/28/2017** at **7:50am**

Suggestion

Given the popularity and strong use, a sentence should be added about dog Parks in Arlington like "They are places we come together with our friends both people and canine for off leash play and community."

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# PUBLIC SPACES VISION

Arlington County envisions a network of publicly- and privately-owned public spaces that connect the County's established neighborhoods and growing corridors to natural areas, protect valuable natural resources, provide opportunities for structured and casual recreation, and ensure access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries.



Arlington County

#026

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/03/2017** at **3:35pm**

Suggestion

Despite the fact that a majority of Arlingtonians want to preserve Arlington's incredibly shrinking natural space and what little remains of natural habitat, there is NOTHING in this vision statement about preserving/conserving what little natural space and habitat remains or finding ways to reverse the trend of loss. I strongly urge that the vision statement be amended to place a greater emphasis on the conservation, preservation and expansion of natural space and habitat for wildlife. Arlingtonian's are hungry for nature, not pavement and more built infrastructure.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

DRAFT

# CONTEXT

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027

# The Value of Public Spaces

***Arlington's public spaces bestow unique and irreplaceable benefits on residents, workers, and visitors in the County and the broader region.***

***An understanding of the wide range of benefits associated with public space investments is essential to effective public policy. A well-managed public space system supports environmental infrastructure, economic development, social health, and recreation and leisure activities. With competition for space for public uses, Arlington recognizes the tremendous benefits it receives from its public spaces and will continue to find ways to increase and leverage those benefits.***

Cycling next to the George Washington  
Memorial Parkway.  
Mount Vernon Trail

"Colors on the Mt Vernon Trail"  
© Joe Flood  
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**#027**

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **12:20pm**

Suggestion

This section should reference the Open Space Policy adopted by the County Board on September 26, 1992.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Historical and contemporary data support the notion that parks and open space play a central role in shaping our community, in bringing people together, in offering recreational opportunities for our citizens, in providing critical environmental services and in contributing to our quality of life.

*This section is excerpted from the Park and Recreation Commission's July 2015 "White Paper: Valuing Arlington's Community Parks and Open Space" written by Elizabeth Gearin and William Ross.*

Scholarly and popular articles document the varied benefits provided by open or green space. The benefits range from improved physical and mental health to increased community cohesion, to significant environmental services. Associated pecuniary benefits include increases in property values and property taxes, lowered recreational expenses, increased income from tourism, and environmental savings.

028

## HEALTH BENEFITS

029

Access to green or open space, from walking through it to playing in it, to simply looking at it, yields a multitude of physical and mental health benefits that go beyond simply being outside in a natural environment.

032

Green space provides opportunities for low-intensity, long-duration activities, such as walking, cycling, and gardening. Such activities are universally supported for addressing the health problems of an increasingly sedentary life style, including diabetes, heart disease and obesity (TPL 2006, WHO 1997.) Similarly, studies have shown that when people don't have access to open spaces or parks, they go without exercise, especially those who cannot afford membership in private gyms. Finally, a recent study found that an hour or two of regular

*Access to green or open space, from walking through it to playing in it, to simply looking at it, yields a multitude of physical and mental health benefits that go beyond simply being outside in a natural environment.*

030

exposure to outdoor daylight mitigates against development of myopia (Economist 2014 p.48.)

031

Active play, which is deemed critical for assimilating new information and developing schemas for understanding the world, is also positively linked to access to greened areas (Taylor et al. 1998.) Play in outdoor greened (vegetated) neighborhood settings results in a post-activity reduction of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) behavior in children who

## #028

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **3:00pm**

### Suggestion

Well done section on benefits: health, community identity, environmental and economic. But, quality of place needs to be mentioned, maybe it goes under health category. just being outside in a natural environment doesn't do it, the place must have an attractive quality to be enjoyed.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #029

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **2:39pm**

### Suggestion

Green space can be either public or privately developed for public use, need to clarify. It's not just public green space or open space that provides health benefits.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #030

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **2:43pm**

### Suggestion

Shouldn't there be a reference to the health benefits for kids who walk to school on a continuous, safe sidewalk system?

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #031

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **8:05pm**

This comment is made on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. Participation in athletics improves overall physical fitness, coordination, self-discipline, and allows children to learn the importance of teamwork.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #032

Posted by **BobBoisture** on **08/11/2017** at **12:55pm**

It is important to also consider potential adverse health effects on users and neighbors. The proposed high intensity LED lights at the Williamsburg field illustrates this concern. The Williamsburg Field Working Group report presents compelling evidence of adverse health effects on both users and neighbors from this sort of LED lighting. The county should not approve such lighting unless and until the safety of these lights is firmly established.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

suffer from ADD; and children who typically play in greened play areas have less severe ADD symptoms than those in less-green settings (Taylor et al. 2001.)

Access to green space by urban residents in particular has been shown to afford a sense of escape from busy, fast paced urban lifestyles, and represent a place for contemplation especially for urban residents who may have little private space to themselves (Everheart 1983; Wolch, Wilson, and Fehrenbach 2002.) RAND researchers recently determined

**Protecting natural resources and habitats.**

*Four Mile Run*



Arlington County

that mental health is related to residential distance from parks, with those living closest to parks reaping the greatest mental health benefits (Sturm Cohen 2014.) Even window views of nature are linked to increased positive feelings, lowered stress levels and improved physical condition in hospital patients, residents and office employees (Tarrant 1996.) Other health benefits include improved recovery and mental rejuvenation for patients who have a view of the natural environment (Kaplan and Kaplan 1989; Verderber 1986; Ulrich 1984.)

Data consistently show an emerging relationship between greened, or landscaped built areas and a decrease in violence and crime. Public housing residents living in greened (landscaped) developments report decreased aggression and violence (Kuo and Sullivan 2001) as well as decreased mental fatigue compared with public housing residents in similar but non-greened settings (Kuo 2001.) Relatedly, a 10% increase in tree canopy was associated with a 12% decrease in crime including robbery, burglary, theft, and shooting (and controlled for race, income, and population density) in Baltimore city and county areas (Troy, Landscape and Urban Planning June 2014.)

## COMMUNITY COHESION

As a community evolves, and the landscape changes, parks may provide a permanent link to a community's identity and history. In a 1993 post-LA riot survey, 77% of residents identified improved park and recreation facilities as 'absolutely critical' or 'important' to rebuilding community (TPL 1994.) Urban open spaces also reinforce the social fabric, providing opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in activities, socialize with one another, and possibly form a neighborhood geographic focus (Woolley 2003.) When people in a given community work together to create and maintain a park or community garden they may even come to feel empowered in affecting change (TPL 2006.)

#033

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **9:37pm**

Suggestion

Because of the value of window views of nature, Arlington should consider steps to discourage the removal of trees and other greenery when homes and other buildings are constructed.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

*“Nature’s services” ultimately reduce infrastructure costs as they conserve soils in flood-prone areas, reduce heat island effects, reduce air and water pollution and reduce energy costs for cooling.*

037

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Green infrastructure—trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs—improve air quality by reducing air pollution (as plants absorb carbon dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and other materials (USDA 2006); ameliorate the urban heat island effect with shade and cooling; act as a noise barrier; and reduce urban runoff as roots capture and filter rainwater (Longcore et al 2004; Morris 2003; Pincetl et al 2003; Woolley 2003; Miller 1995.) Trees especially provide shade and cooling and block winds to other structures. Mature tree canopies can reduce air temperature by 5–10 degrees F. Increasing the urban tree canopy by 10% can reduce the summer surface temperature by 2.5 degrees F (both, Tyrvaainen et al 2005.) These ‘nature’s services’ ultimately reduce infrastructure costs as they conserve soils in flood-prone areas, reduce heat island effects, reduce air and water pollution and reduce energy costs for cooling.

Open and green spaces, particularly in urban areas, provide not only opportunities to view attractive undeveloped spaces and/or wildlife, but also can open wildlife corridors, thus increasing a jurisdiction’s available habitat (Woolley 2003.)

034

035

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The benefits described above are important because personal health, community cohesion, and a clean environment are priorities for people and planners. In addition, economic benefits provided through increased taxes and tourism income sustain other necessary services and community infrastructure. Property tax increases and tourism lend themselves fairly easily to estimated dollar values. Environmental benefits reduce government infrastructure costs. While environmental benefits have traditionally been difficult to quantify, this is changing with widespread availability and use of software programs such as CityGreen

036



## #034

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **11:27am**

This section does a wonderful job of explaining the benefits of green space, access to trees and wildlife habitat in lightly developed and undeveloped places in the County. Yet the report fails to follow through in putting priority on preserving natural values over programmed sports, high intensity field lights, and the assumption that all of Arlington is ultimately destined to become a big city, with big city lights.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #035

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:23pm**

Suggestion

Planning and Zoning should pay closer attention to the economic value of tree cover. Aurora Highlands, for example, has lost more than half its tree canopy in the past several decades.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #036

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/08/2017** at **2:48pm**

Suggestion

These benefits are priorities for people making decisions on where to live, work and recreate. Economic development follows demand. Delete the reference to planners.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #037

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **9:40pm**

Suggestion

Because of the economic value of the tree canopy, Arlington should consider requirements that impose economic consequences on people who remove large numbers of trees.

Similarly, developments conducted by Arlington county (such as the new center at Lubber Run) should be required to account for the cost of tree removal. Merely planting immature trees to replace mature trees should not be treated as adequate compensation for the tree loss.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# I-TREE ECO URBAN FOREST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

In 2016, Arlington County conducted a study on the value of the County's trees and the urban forest, utilizing the U.S. Forest Service's i-Tree Eco model. The study used a random sample of 201 plots throughout the County, on both public and private land, to study tree location, size, health, proximity to buildings, and other information. The data was processed using statistical analysis, combined with local hourly air pollution and meteorological data to quantify urban forest structure, environmental impacts, and value to communities.

040

The study found 755,400 trees in Arlington, of 121 different species, worth \$8 billion. Arlington's trees:

041

- remove 235 tons per year of pollution, improving community health and lowering the rate of disease
- store 204,000 tons of carbon, helping to reduce the impacts of climate change
- avoid 10,730,168 cubic feet of stormwater runoff
- provide \$6.89 million per year in environmental benefits

## #038

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **11:34am**

Unfortunately, trees on County property, including APS property are threatened by invasive species - english ivy, poison ivy, other types of climbing vines and by bamboo, which is treating to kill scores of newly planted trees on the Western edge of the WMS campus. This is an area where specific plans, with adequate funding are needed to prevent loss of canopy and \$\$\$ invested in new plantings

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #039

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/09/2017** at **5:39pm**

Suggestion

Trees have quantifiable environmental value, but they also have qualitative value that comes from attractive, scenic places. Need to include this health benefit that comes from trees and nature.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #040

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **9:58pm**

The Northern end of Harrison St (i.e., the "glen" near Williamsburg MS) is another example where invasive species such as ivy are killing trees on public property. In addition to building new structures, Arlington should prioritize removal of invasive species on public property.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #041

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **5:57pm**

Suggestion

Instead of focusing on the number of trees (755,4000), suggest that we focus on the QUALITY OF TREES. The county's own iTree 2016 analysis shows that the majority of Arlington's trees are less than 6 inches in diameter see Fig. 2 at <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2017/02/iTree-2016-Written-report.pdf>. These are young trees that are likely to have a high mortality rate, given that we provide inhospitable, urbanized conditions and do not spend the money to adequately water or provide sufficient space for trees to mature. If you have not yet seen the Rule of Four in "Positively the Pits" at <http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/publications/pits.pdf>. We need to preserve EVERY mature tree possible — on public land (school included) as well as private land. Unfortunately, county staff and elected officials try to hide behind the number of "replacement" trees planted. These young trees are NOT EQUIVALENT to the mature trees they are replacing and won't be for nearly 30 to 40 years (if they manage to survive). In 2003, it cost NYC almost \$600 to plant every tree. In 2012, I discussed with then-County Manager Donnellan the approximate cost to Arlington for the replacement of one street tree: \$800. We are wasting money trying to replace trees that are highly unlikely to survive rather than preserving the mature trees and existing canopy that is already established. This makes no financial sense and is not environmentally sound.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

*Properties adjacent to areas like preserves experience a 20% increase in property value.*

which can convert canopy and park space to dollar values, the Forest Service's Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) model, the Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFC) Tree Carbon Calculator (CTCC) and others (McPherson 2010.)



Translating the benefits of parks and open space to dollar values may help compare the resource costs and benefits of several different proposed uses for a given property as well as the expected return on investment of limited resources. Numerous studies document these economic benefits. For example, green cover in neighborhoods (canopies, parks) has been linked to an increase in property values (Garvin and Berens 1997; Brabec 1992; Myers 1997), as is close proximity to parks and even areas of deciduous trees (Woolley 2003.) Michael Kirschman, Mecklenburg County NC found that properties adjacent to areas like preserves experience a 20% increase in property value.

Other direct market values of parks include the employment opportunities associated with the creation and maintenance of urban parks and tourism dollars from visitors to the parks and to area restaurants and other facilities (Woolley 2003.)

**Figure 1. Arlington Receives Permanent Property Value and Annual Benefits from Its Parks**  
*Value of Arlington's Parks and Open Space*



Source: Arlington Park and Recreation Commission July 2015 "White Paper: Valuing Arlington's Community Parks and Open Space" written by Elizabeth Gearin and William Ross. Estimates are based on Arlington park acreage and using a formula based on average benefits for 10 U.S. cities from studies by the Trust for Public Land.

## #042

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **6:31pm**

### Suggestion

This brief summary shows how little the county values its trees. Why not mention the ITree 2016 analysis and repeat some of the important information here? This section would be a perfect place to establish set concrete goals and criteria for 1) preservation of what remains of the mature tree canopy and identifying strategies to combat loss of mature trees 2) setting up a system for tracking the loss of mature trees, street trees and the existing canopy 3) establishing rules that must be integrated into the planning and development processes that truly support tree preservation (and limited impact development — minimizing the disturbance of soil and natural infrastructure) instead of replacement.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #043

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:01pm**

Because of the economic value of tree cover, people who remove trees to build expensive homes are engaging in a self-defeating activity. Essentially, they are free-riding on the backs of neighbors who preserve their own trees, thereby preserving the value of the expensive homes. Arlington should consider prompt steps to require homebuilders who remove mature trees to compensate the neighbors (in order to discourage the removal).

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0



# Planning Context

*Arlington has a rich history of planning, as evidenced by its nearly 50 current adopted plans. These plans span different geographic scales and topics, and are the result of community-influenced processes. The County has also long maintained a commitment to managed growth in its high-density transit corridors. The Public Spaces Master Plan was developed in this tradition, taking into account the way it relates to existing adopted plans and ongoing planning processes.*

044

Viewing a mix of Arlington's high- and low-density areas.

Virginia Hospital looking towards the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor

"view from a hospital room"

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**#044**

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:04pm**

Suggestion

50 plans seem like a lot! Consider consolidating these plans. Also, emphasize action over planning!

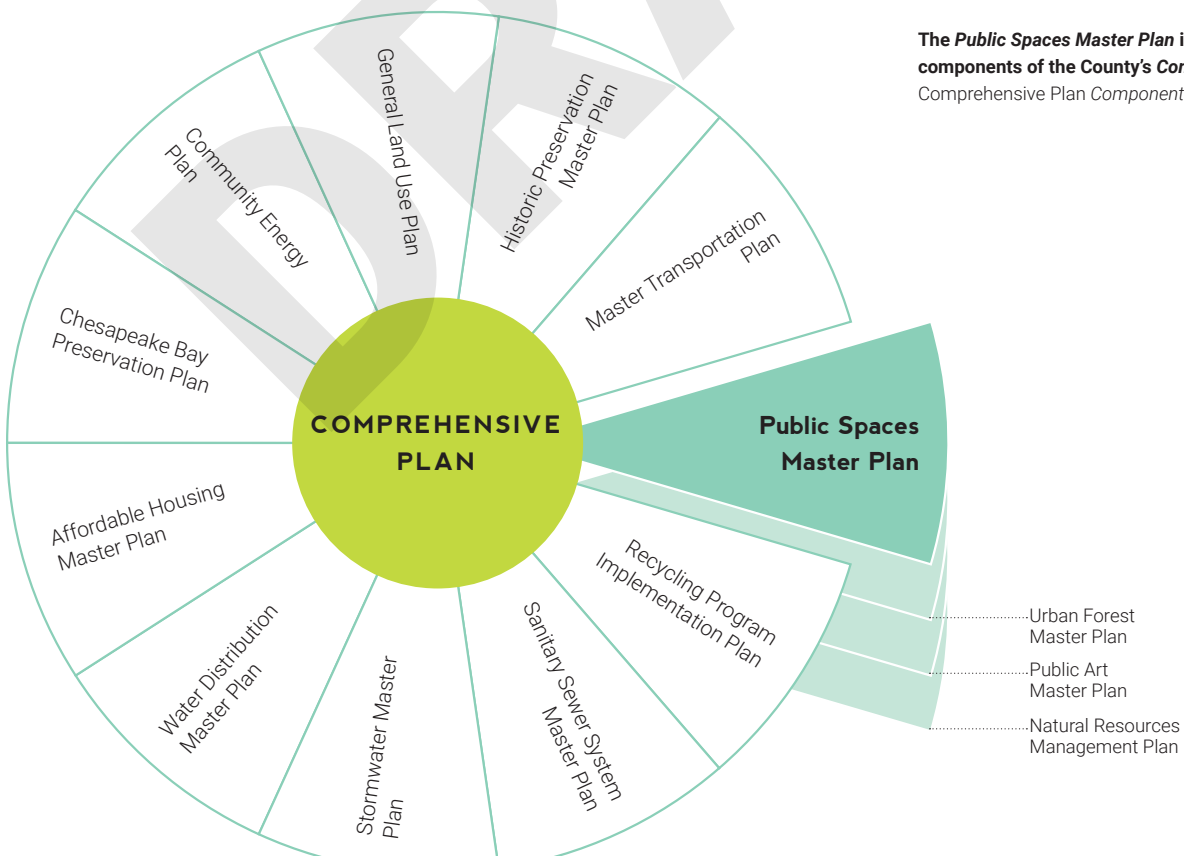
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HIERARCHY

All planning and development in Arlington is guided by the County's *Comprehensive Plan*. The *Comprehensive Plan* includes goals and objectives, reviewed on an ongoing basis, that guide the coordinated development of all land in the County. The plan has eleven elements, of which the *Public Spaces Master Plan* is one. Other plan elements address topics that are relevant to public spaces, and the recommendations of these plan elements were consulted in developing the *PSMP*.

045



The *Public Spaces Master Plan* is one of eleven components of the County's *Comprehensive Plan*.  
Comprehensive Plan Components

#045

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **6:08pm**

Question

This pie chart is NOT a hierarchy. Where is the prioritization? There is no prioritization in this graphic or text. I can tell you from sitting through interminable SPRC and PFRC meetings that the goals in the Public Spaces Master Plan and its subsidiary elements (UFC and NRM Plans) are routinely ignored with respect to environmental preservation, conservation or restoration. This plan like its predecessor will be ignored so long as staff and elected officials consider trees, green space and natural habitat and infrastructure to be "underutilized" space. You cannot save and preserve nature by cutting it down, reworking it with a backhoe to suit human desires and then paving it over.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The *Public Spaces Master Plan* is supported by a trio of plans that address Arlington's urban forest, natural resources, and public art. Recommendations of these plans were also considered in developing the *PSMP* to ensure compatibility with recommendations in this plan.

### Urban Forest Master Plan

The *Urban Forest Master Plan* (2004) aids the County in preserving and enhancing the many environmental, economic, and social benefits of trees and vegetation. It includes tree canopy and street tree figures – which have been updated since the plan's adoption – and lays out guidelines for tree maintenance and planting needs. Following completion of this plan, the *Urban Forest Master Plan* will be updated to set new goals that take build on this plan's recommendations.

### Natural Resources Management Plan

The *Natural Resources Management Plan* (2010) provides guidance and best practices on the preservation, enhancement, and protection of Arlington's many natural resources. It contains 19 primary recommendations focused on issues like natural lands management, native vegetation and non-native invasive species management, wildlife, park management and planning, and conservation easements. Following completion of this plan, the *Natural Resources Management Plan* will be updated to set new goals that build on this plan's recommendations.

### Public Art Master Plan

The *Public Art Master Plan* (2004) provides a vision for the infusion of public art in public spaces to improve their visual quality and to create opportunities for civic placemaking. The 2004 plan focuses on three themes to promote through art: Federal Arlington, which explores the County's relationship with Washington, D.C.; Historic Arlington, which reveals the many layers of settlement and development that have occurred over time; and Global Arlington, which explores the County's diversity and relationship with the wider world. A 2017 update is underway.

## #046

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/09/2017** at **5:48pm**

### Suggestion

The Urban Forestry Master Plan is way out of date. Updating this master plan should be a County priority now given the significant value and increasing loss of our tree canopy. Do not wait until PSMP is finished. The Urban Forestry division is in a different department, Natural Resources Department and could have staff resources directed by the County Board to begin this important update.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #047

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/09/2017** at **6:12pm**

### Suggestion

The Urban Forestry Master Plan is way out of date. Given that our tree canopy is recognized for its environmental, economic and healthful benefits, this update should be undertaken now and not wait for the PSMP to be finished. The Natural Resources Department is the department that updates the UFMP. This PSMP should identify the critical need to update now.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

# PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED PUBLIC SPACE PLANS

Public spaces have been an element of the County's *Comprehensive Plan* since 1994. The following is a brief synopsis of the first two versions of the plan element. This version of the plan will replace the 2005 *Public Spaces Master Plan*.

## Open Spaces Master Plan (1994)

This *Public Spaces Master Plan* is the second update to the Comprehensive Plan element focused on public spaces. The first, the *Open Spaces Master Plan*, was adopted in 1994. It built on the work of earlier documents addressing public space in the County—the *Future of Arlington Plan* (1986) and the *Report of the Task Force on Arlington Open Space* (1990), among others. The *Open Spaces Master Plan* provided an inventory of the County's public space system and a general framework for future growth and decision making.

## Public Spaces Master Plan (2005)

The *Open Spaces Master Plan* was replaced in 2005 with the *Public Spaces Master Plan*. The *Public Spaces Master Plan* sought to identify the community's most pressing public space needs while introducing new policies and stronger guidance for County agencies. The plan was structured around six objectives:

1. Balance acquisition and development of public spaces
2. Preserve and enhance the environment
3. Improve access and usability
4. Enhance arts, culture and history
5. Develop and enhance partnerships
6. Manage assets effectively

The 2005 plan highlighted five priority actions, many of which have been partially or completely accomplished in the past 10 years. (See facing page.)

**#048**

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **12:27pm**

Suggestion

...the Open Spaces Master Plan was adopted in 1994 as a tool to implement the Open Space Policy adopted by the County Board on September 26, 1992.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# STATUS OF 2005 *PSMP* PRIORITIES

The 2005 *PSMP* focused on five high priority actions, which have been partially or completely accomplished over the past 10 years.

## 1. Fully implement the North Tract Master Plan.

**049** most notable and visible accomplishment of the previous plan is the ongoing development of Long Bridge Park (formerly known as the North Tract), a substantial new addition to the public space system in Crystal City. A park master plan was developed and adopted by the County Board in 2004 and updated in 2013. The master plan and associated design guidelines guide the phased build out of the park. The first phase of this substantial project opened in 2011 and included three lighted synthetic fields, an esplanade, parking, and restrooms. More recently, children's play areas were added to the park in 2016. The County is currently in development of the next major phase, an aquatics, health, and fitness facility with the development of ten acres of the park that will continue the esplanade and add public gathering spaces. Future phases will include additional park amenities and connections to the Mount Vernon Trail.

## 2. Develop a land acquisition policy.

The groundwork was laid for a comprehensive land acquisition policy was developed, but a final framework was not adopted. The land acquisition criteria and framework laid out in this plan completes the policy.

## 3. Focus on public space as a key aspect of the current planning efforts for Four Mile Run.

Along Four Mile Run, recent and ongoing planning efforts have prioritized opportunities along the waterfront to bolster existing public spaces and create new public spaces. For example, the County is undertaking a park master plan for a small new

park currently referred to as South Park, which was set aside as public space as a result of the Potomac Yard Phased Development Plan. The plan will implement the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan (2006) and Design Guidelines (2009), which were developed jointly with the City of Alexandria in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers.

A new focus is the Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) Initiative, which will provide a strategy for future development in an area bounded by Shirlington and Nauck that includes some of Arlington's only remaining industrial land as well as a sensitive waterfront zone. The plan is being developed in close coordination with a park master plan for Jennie Dean Park, Shirlington Dog Park, and Shirlington Park, which are located within the planning area. The transitional character of the planning area will provide further opportunities for public space, recreational facilities, and an emerging arts and cultural hub.

## 4. Inventory the County's natural resources and create a natural resource policy and management plan.

The County successfully created a new framework for addressing natural resources, in the form of the Natural Resources Management Plan, adopted in 2010.

## 5. Maximize the partnership with Arlington Public Schools (APS).

New initiatives and collaborations with APS have been created in the last ten years, like the expanded Wilson School property in Rosslyn, and the addition of synthetic fields at the Williamsburg/Discovery School Campus and the new Wilson High School. Operating and maintenance agreements have been developed and formalized. Finally, land is being

#049

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **6:37pm**

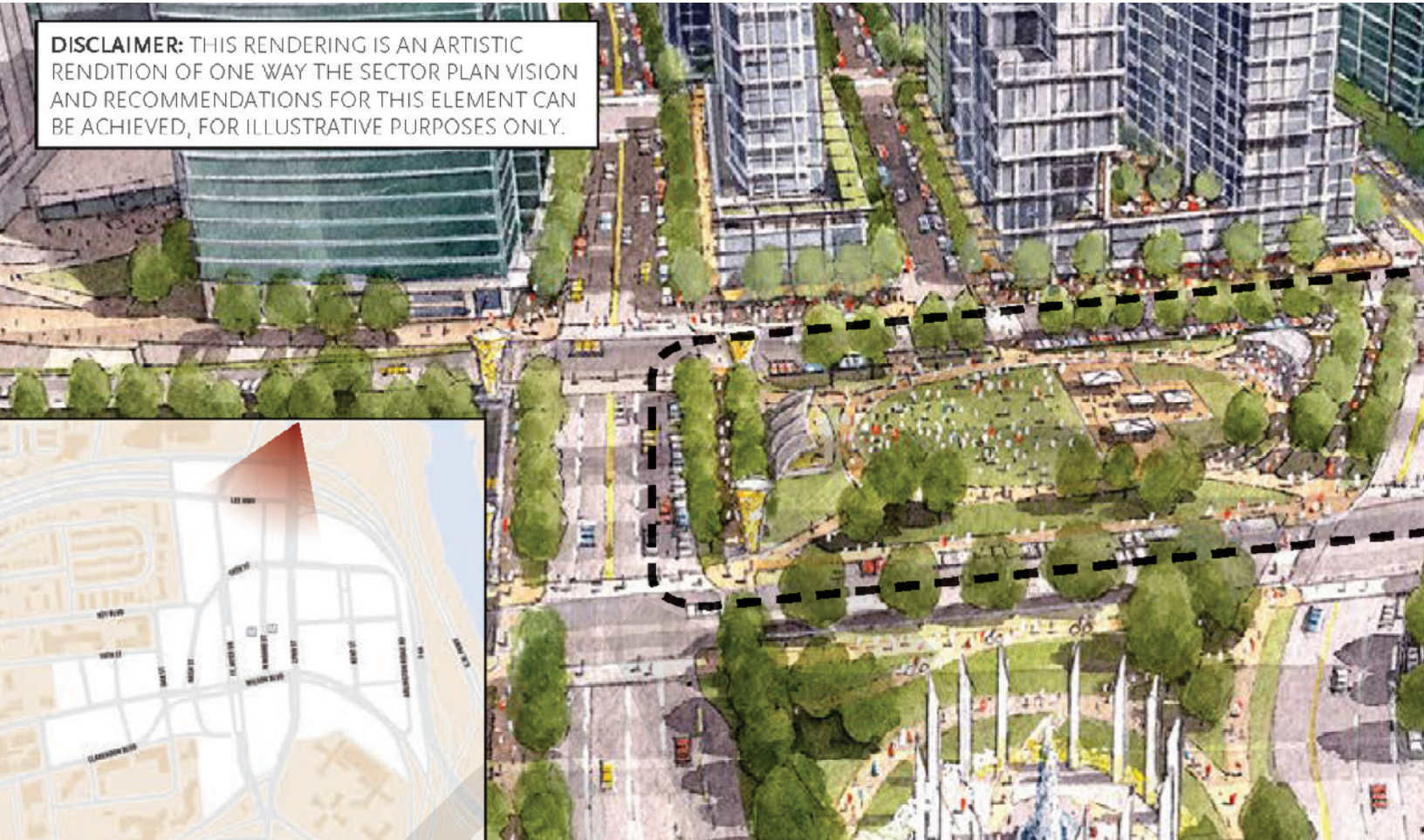
Question

North Tract/Long Bridge is the lowest point of land in ArlCo. Isn't it part of a riparian corridor? What restoration efforts have been made to repair the environmental degradation? See item 3.3. Why hasn't the plan included the planting of trees and improving habitat rather than adding impervious surfaces (or semi-pervious astroturf surfaces) and built infrastructure? As a former brownfields site that is prone to flooding and has a very high water table, why hasn't there been a greater effort to naturalize and restore this sensitive area?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



**DISCLAIMER:** THIS RENDERING IS AN ARTISTIC RENDITION OF ONE WAY THE SECTOR PLAN VISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS ELEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED, FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.



## OTHER PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED PLANS

Many of Arlington's adopted plans have direct and indirect relationships to public space. The following plans most directly relate to the *PSMP*.

### Sector, Area, and Revitalization Plans

Sector, Area, and Revitalization plans address the physical form and development of specific geographic areas within Arlington. From the *Ballston Sector Plan* (1980) to the *Rosslyn Sector Plan* (2015), many Sector, Area, and Revitalization plans include recommendations for the locations and characteristics of public space acquisitions and improvements that are based on community-driven processes. While the *PSMP* does not supplant or replace any recommendations of these plans, it does provide direction on how to prioritize the public space improvements called for in these plans and will be used to guide the development of future Sector, Area, and Revitalization plans.



Imagining a renewed Gateway Park.  
Rosslyn Sector Plan

## Community Facilities Study (2015)

A *Community Facilities Study* was completed to evaluate Arlington's evolving facility and resource needs across County government and Arlington Public Schools. The study led to the creation of the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC). The *PSMP* provides guidance on how to plan for the existing and future Arlington population and its public facilities including an assessment of facility needs over time. It provides more specific details and actions to the recommendations in the *Community Facilities Study*.

## NPS Paved Trail Study (2016)

The National Park Service's National Capital Region completed a *Paved Trail Study* in August 2016, which addresses the 95-mile network of federally owned trails that wind through Washington, D.C., Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church. The plan sets a number of goals and specific project recommendations. In Arlington, these include improving safety and access at the intersection of the Mount Vernon and Custis Trails, developing connections from the Mount Vernon Trail to Long Bridge Park and the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge, and improving access to the Mount Vernon Trail from Ronald Reagan National Airport.

## RELATED ONGOING EFFORTS

### Joint Facilities Advisory Commission

Created in 2016, the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC) is an advisory body of up to 20 members jointly appointed by the County Board and the School Board. Members are residents with experience in planning, education, or other community participation organizations. They provide input to the Boards on capital facilities needs assessments, capital improvement plans, and long range facilities planning. There are currently two subcommittees studying the Buck and Carlin Springs properties.

### Master Transportation Plan Updates

Like the *PSMP*, the *Master Transportation Plan* is an element of Arlington's Comprehensive Plan. The Bicycle Element of the plan is currently being updated. The current element was adopted in 2008. There have been significant changes in technologies, facilities, and best practices since 2008 that warrant an update to the County's bicycle policies. A working group has been convened and will meet for a period of 10–15 months.

## Lee Highway Planning

The ongoing community planning process for Lee Highway is aimed at creating long-term goals for the corridor and surrounding neighborhoods. The process builds on a grassroots visioning effort that led to the Lee Highway Visioning Study, which was completed in May 2016. Nine guiding principles formed the basis of the visioning study, of which the community felt the most important was to “establish a welcoming, vibrant and attractive corridor of neighborhood places.” The vision is for the corridor to be more “green” by incorporating street trees and improved landscaping in public spaces. Achievement of frequent, high quality landscaped public spaces will be considered along the corridor at key intersections and mixed-use nodes.

## Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV)

The Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) area represents a combination of diverse uses not found elsewhere in the County – the convergence of an environmental stream corridor, parkland, cultural facilities, roads, trails, County facilities, industrial and service-oriented businesses, and residential uses. The initiative seeks to maximize the benefits of these various uses and characteristics while creating a clear vision for an improved and cohesive future.

DRAFT

**Views of the Washington Monument over completed and future phases of the park.**  
*Long Bridge Park*







# Trends

***National, regional, and local trends affect Arlington's public spaces. The most impactful is Arlington's projected forecast for the continuation of population growth, which affects the number of facilities needed over the coming years and puts pressure on the need to preserve natural resources and provide casual use spaces. These trends informed the recommendations of this plan and will continue to guide the implementation of this plan.***

050

Admiring the snow.  
Crystal City Courtyard Green

A brilliant sunrise over a very cold,  
snow covered Crystal City.  
© Joseph Gruber  
Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

#050

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:36pm**

Suggestion

. “need to preserve natural resources and provide casual use spaces.” In the Route 1 corridor of Pentagon City, where growth and density have accelerated, this is essential. This need should figure into acquisition of property, easements on private land, and revised use of existing facilities in this area, including Virginia Highlands Park.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

## Metropolitan Area Demographic Trends

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is growing. In 2015, it surpassed the Philadelphia metropolitan area as the sixth largest in the United States, with about 6.1 million residents. The latest regional cooperative forecasts (Round 9.0) show 28 percent population growth (1.5 million people) for the metropolitan area and 31 percent population growth (69,000 people) for Arlington between 2015 and 2045. While this puts Arlington in the middle of regional localities in terms of absolute and percent growth, this is a tremendous amount of growth for a geographically limited county that is nearly built out.

## Arlington Demographic Profile and Trends

According to the Arlington County Profile, as of January 2017 Arlington had an estimated 220,800 residents. Arlington’s residents tend to be younger, better educated, and earn higher annual incomes than residents of the metropolitan area as a whole.

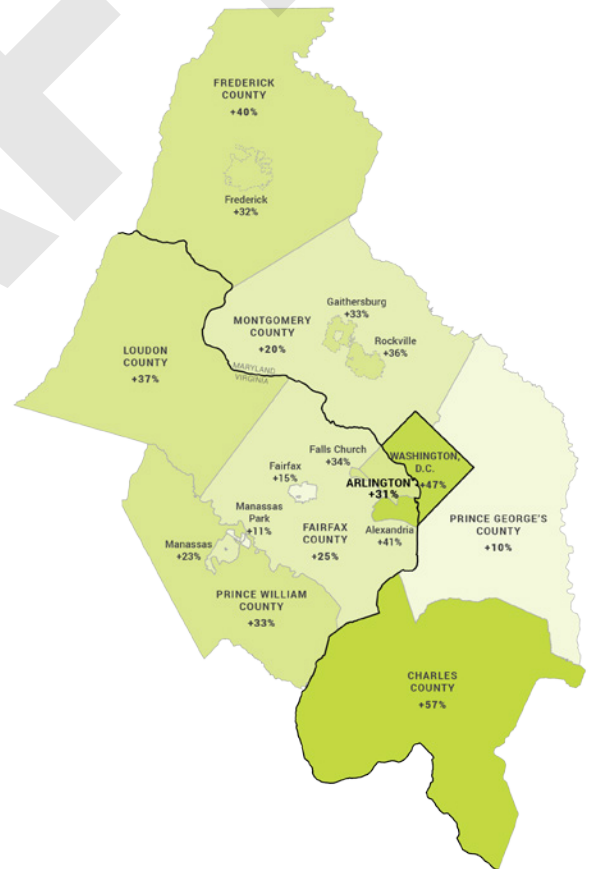
For most age, race, ethnicity, and income cohorts, the population is relatively evenly distributed across Arlington. However, there are a few significant patterns, noted below. These patterns can be used to target engagement to ensure appropriate representation in public input processes.

### GROWTH CORRIDORS

Arlington’s General Land Use Plan directs growth to the Rosslyn-Ballston, Jefferson Davis, and Columbia Pike corridors, taking advantage of Metro infrastructure. As a result, more multifamily apartments and condominiums are replacing lower density development in these areas, and that trend is likely to continue. This change in density suggests that Arlington will have to prepare to accommodate additional users at already successful public space amenities and provide additional public space amenities to serve existing and new residents.

**Figure 2. Arlington Is in the Center of a Region Expected to Grow by 28 Percent**

Forecasted Population Growth, 2015–2045



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Arlington County Profile 2016, MWCOC Round 9 Cooperative Forecast

*Arlington’s residents tend to be younger, better educated, and earn higher annual incomes than residents of the metropolitan area as a whole.*



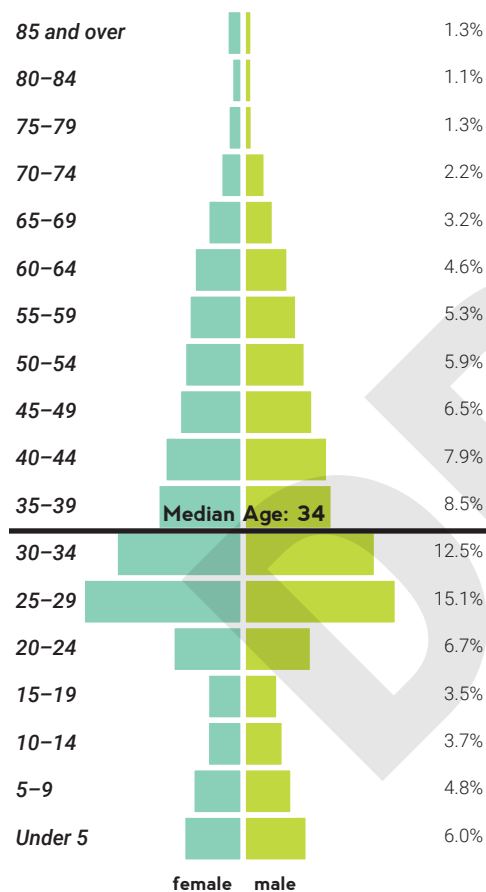
#051

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **12:18pm**

Is unrestrained growth good for Arlington County? Is this question being considered by anyone or is it assumed that growth "will / should happen to us, no matter the costs?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**Figure 3. More than 25 Percent of Arlington's Population is Between 25 and 34 Years Old**  
Age by Sex, 2015



Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates B01001

**AGE**

The median age of Arlington’s residents is 34 years, slightly less than the 36 year median age of metropolitan area residents and the same as the median age of residents in the District. However, there is a striking difference in the number of residents that fall into different age groups. Arlington has over 77 percent more residents between the ages of 25 and 34—a cohort often referred to as millennials—and 12 percent more residents between the ages of 35 and 44 compared with the metropolitan area, offset by having fewer residents than the metropolitan area in all other age cohorts.

2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP05

**PREK-12 POPULATION**

Arlington’s school-aged population is projected to grow by approximately 20% over the next ten years. According to Arlington Public Schools projections, total enrollment for fall 2017 is projected to be 27,197 students. By 2025 enrollment is projected to be 32,493 students.

**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

The majority (54 percent) of households in Arlington are non-family households, which is also true of Alexandria (52 percent) and the District (57 percent). However, non-family households are only about a third of the region’s households. Nearly four in five of non-family households in Arlington are single people living alone. This correlates with the high number of young residents between the ages of 25 and 34.

2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP02

**RACE / ETHNICITY**

Arlington has a larger share (72 percent) of white residents and a smaller share (8.5 percent) of black residents compared to the metropolitan area (56 and 25 percent, respectively), Alexandria (64 and 21 percent, respectively), Fairfax County (63 and 9.4 percent, respectively), or the District (40 and 49 percent, respectively).

The share of residents who are black in Arlington View, Columbia Heights, and Nauck and parts of Douglas Park and Radnor/Fort Myer Heights

is more than four times the share of Arlington's residents as a whole who are black. The share of black residents is over twice as high as the County average at both the eastern and western ends of Columbia Pike and around John M. Langston/Glebewood.

A similar share of residents in Arlington is Asian (9.9 percent) compared to the metropolitan area as a whole, yet Arlington has more Asian residents than the District (3.7 percent) and Alexandria (6.6 percent) and nearly half the Asian residents of Fairfax County (18 percent).

There are small pockets of Arlington with over four times the average share of Asian residents, including north of the Iwo Jima Memorial and at the northern end of Arlington Ridge. Areas along the high-density corridors, in the East Falls Church area, and around Arlington Hall have more than twice the County's share of Asian residents.

Hispanic or Latino residents of any race make up 15 percent of both Arlington's and the metropolitan area's population. Buckingham, Barcroft, and Arlington Mill have areas with over 4 times the County average share of Hispanic residents, and a significant portion of the neighborhood around Columbia Pike west of George Mason Drive have more than twice the County average share of Hispanic residents.

2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP05

**INCOME**

The median annual household income in Arlington is over \$105,000, nearly 15 percent higher than the median annual household income for the region (\$92,000). Arlington's median annual household income is also higher than the median annual household incomes for the District (\$71,000) and Alexandria (\$89,000) but slightly lower than that for Fairfax County (\$113,000). Median income is higher on average in the northern half of Arlington than in the southern half of Arlington.

2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP03

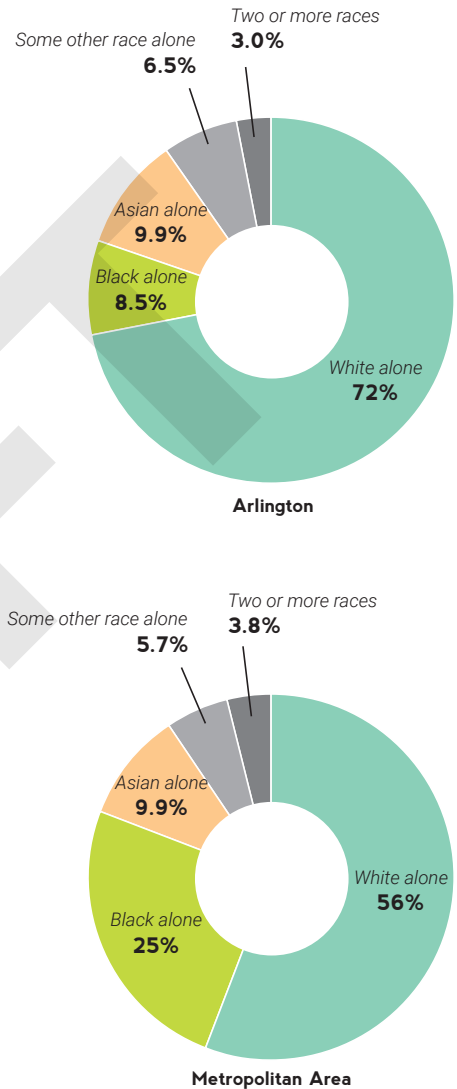
**HOUSING**

The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Arlington is \$608,000, 60 percent greater than the median value of owner-occupied housing units in the metropolitan area and over 21 percent greater than that of Alexandria, the District, and Fairfax County. A larger share of housing units in Arlington has been built since 2010 (2.7 percent) than in the metropolitan area as a whole (2.0 percent), and this is nearly double the share of housing units built since 2010 in Alexandria and Fairfax County. Housing values are higher on average in the northern half of Arlington than in the southern half of Arlington.

2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP03

**Figure 4. Arlington has a larger share of white residents and a smaller share of black residents compared to the metropolitan area.**

Percent Share of Race, 2015



Source: US Census American Community Survey

**TOP**  
**10%**

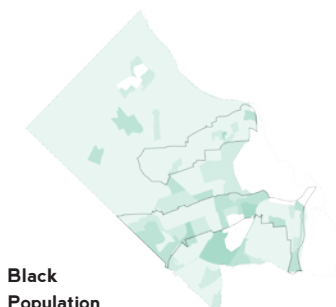
of counties nationwide for physical activity and access to places to exercise.

Printed 10/05/2017

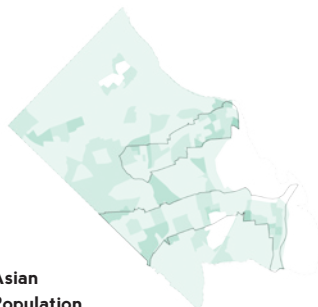
**Figure 5. Arlington Has a Few Significant Demographic Spatial Patterns**

Share of 2015 Population Compared to the Countywide Share

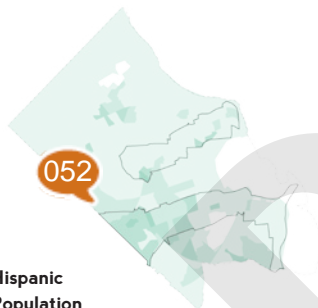
- 4+ times Countywide share
- 2-4 times Countywide share
- 1-2 times Countywide share
- less than or equal to Countywide share



**Black Population**



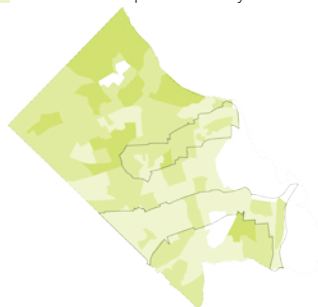
**Asian Population**



**Hispanic Population**

2015 Median Household Income Compared to Countywide Median Household Income

- 4+ times Countywide median
- 2-4 times Countywide median
- 1-2 times Countywide median
- less than or equal to Countywide median



Source: US Census American Community Survey  
Public-Spaces-Master-Plan-Preliminary-Draft.pdf

**HEALTH**

Arlington ranks among the healthiest counties in Virginia according to the 2017 County Health Rankings. Adult obesity is currently estimated to be at 16 percent, which places the County in the 10 percent of counties with the lowest adult obesity prevalence nationwide. Also, obesity appears to be trending downward.

Similarly, Arlington ranks in the top 10 percent of counties nationwide for its level of physical activity and access to places to exercise. Currently, 87 percent of persons living in Arlington report some leisure-time physical activity.

Because of the current good health of the County, population-level metrics of obesity and physical activity may not be expected to show large movement as a result of improvements to the public space system. However, analyses of specific target populations, such as minorities or low-income persons, may show larger improvements.

2017 County Health Rankings | Arlington VA

**RECREATION TRENDS**

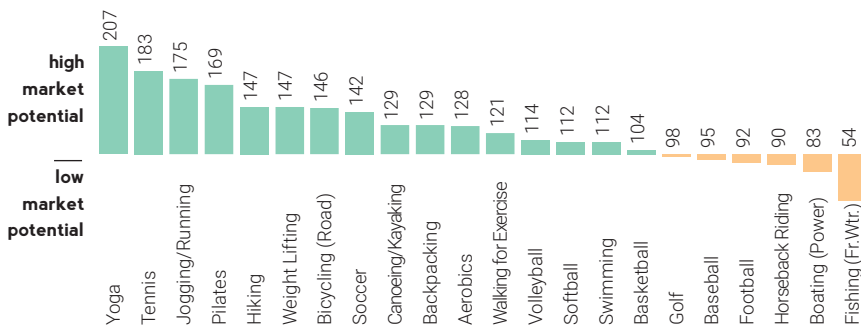
**Local Sport and Market Potential**

Esri's Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the likelihood that an adult resident of a particular location will participate in a particular activity when compared to the national average. Numbers greater than 100 indicate high potential compared to the national average, while numbers less than 100 indicate low potential.

Arlington has high market potential in many recreational activities (Figure 6). This is particularly noticeable in fitness activities such as yoga, jogging/running, and pilates. Because High MPI scores indicate higher than average participation rates, the County might consider this market potential when organizing special events or changing program offerings.

**Figure 6. Arlington Has High Market Potential Across Recreation Categories**

Market Potential Index for Participation



Page 68

Source: ESRI

Printed 10/05/2017

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

#052

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **12:45pm**

Suggestion

The most important trend is that in the statistically valid survey referenced later in this document Arlingtonians selected hiking trails and natural areas as the first and second priorities for investment in outdoor facilities.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## Arlington Recreation Offerings

### AGE-BASED SERVICES

Arlington strives to provide unique programming opportunities for all ages and abilities. The Department of Parks and Recreation's Age Based Services Section provides programs and resources that foster healthy and active lifestyles, asset development, successful aging and community engagement in an inclusive environment. These programs support individual growth and development and promote enjoyable and accessible leisure opportunities that enhance satisfaction in community life by benefiting individuals emotionally, socially, physically and cognitively. Age based programs are organized into five categories: early childhood recreation, youth and family recreation, teens, 55+ programs, and therapeutic recreation. They span sports, classes, camps, special events, and other recreational opportunities, including teen skating nights, youth internships, 55+ fitness, adapted aquatics, and early childhood playgroups.

### ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Residents of all ages are heavily involved in team and individual sports year-round. Both formal league sports and drop-in activities are extremely popular and some are often over-subscribed, with more interested

Playing baseball at Tucker Field, built in partnership with George Washington University. Barcroft Park



Arlington County

*There is currently a lack of facility capacity to accommodate everyone interested in some of the most rapidly expanding athletic programs.*

*Many of Arlington's youth and adult sports programs are steadily growing*

**15%**  
054

**INCREASE**

*in registrations for sports programs since 2013*

*Aquatics and gymnastics account for nearly half of the annual class participation.*

participants than available slots. Offerings include more traditional sports like basketball and tennis, as well as unique opportunities like ultimate frisbee and cheer. Some of the increasingly popular athletics programs are soccer, lacrosse, aquatics and tennis. There is currently a lack of facility capacity to accommodate everyone interested in some of the most rapidly expanding programs.

### **NATURE, ART, AND OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Arlington provides a diverse set of nature-based programs, most of which are offered at the three nature centers in the County—two owned by the County and one owned by NOVA Parks. These centers enable residents to experience hands-on education and interpretation throughout the year with activities like local ecology explorations, birding, and nature walks. In the realm of community art, the County offers camps, workshops, and classes for all ages in a variety of different art forms, from watercolor painting to pottery.

Arlington also offers a broad range of summer camps and abbreviated camps during school winter and spring break periods. Camp offerings are available for pre-schoolers through high school students and include interests such as creative arts, adventure and exploration, nature education, sports, and music.

### **Arlington Recreation Trends**

Many of Arlington's youth and adult sports and recreation programs are steadily growing. Within the large class, camp, and sports programs, the County has seen a 15% increase in registrations since FY 2013. Total registration is over 30,000 for classes, 40,000 for sports, and 12,000 for camps—nearly 90,000 total registrations annually.

Aquatics and gymnastics account for nearly half of the annual class participation. As classes increase in popularity, additional classes are offered in a wide variety of program areas, both by staff instructors and contracted partners. The number of contracted partners has increased by 21% since FY 2013. Additionally, classes for seniors have increased about 62% over the past three years.

While camp registration is popular for all types of camps, sports camps such as basketball, soccer, and multi-sport continue to see high registration growth. In order to keep up with this demand, Arlington contracts with 40 summer camp providers—a 48% increase since FY 2013.

Within sports leagues, soccer drives participation in Arlington with over half of all sports registrations in soccer programs. While soccer continues to grow, increasing 25% since FY 2013, sports such as

## #053

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **12:41pm**

An effort is needed to examine participation in organized sports programs in relation to income and to ensure that sufficient effort is devoted to locating facilities and investing in programs that provide equal opportunity to residents, especially children, who are in greatest need. Partnerships should be sought out, encouraged and supported by County staff to help lift opportunities for disadvantaged kids to gain the health, achievement and other benefits of participating in organized sports. Right now, the most attention appears to be devoted to neighborhoods with the highest household incomes and the lowest proportion of minority students.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #054

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **12:49pm**

Care should be taken to avoid triple counting based on newly-instituted separate counting of the same child who belongs to a travel soccer team, and also signs up for one or more single shot or weekend clinics and skills training sessions. Nationally, there has been an 8.9% decline in the number of people playing soccer, which is reinforced anecdotally by Wash Post news coverage of children rebelling against over-programming of their lives.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee and flag football have more than doubled in recent years to nearly 700, over 800, and over 1,000 annual registrations respectively.

Outside of classes, camps, and sports leagues, Arlington has seen increasing trends in specific recreation areas:

- Increases to therapeutic recreation service demand participation grew from 559 to 667, a nearly 20% increase
- DPR teen participation in recreation based leadership programs has increased 20% in FY 2016 showing a trend for programs in which teens are valued and make a difference in their community
- Demand for services that provide youth opportunities when school is not in session (teacher work days, parent conferences, etc.) has increased and Arlington continues to offer more opportunities to help parents “fill the gap” during breaks
- Demand for early childhood programs such as preschool has increased, with enrollments up 9% from FY 2015 to FY 2016
- Membership in senior services has grown 18% in the last year to almost 7,000 participants in Arlington’s 55+ program

*Soccer represents over 50% of all sports registrations and has increased 25% since 2013.*

**18%**  
**INCREASE**  
*in membership in senior services*

**Helping seniors stay fit.**  
*Arlington Mill Community Center*



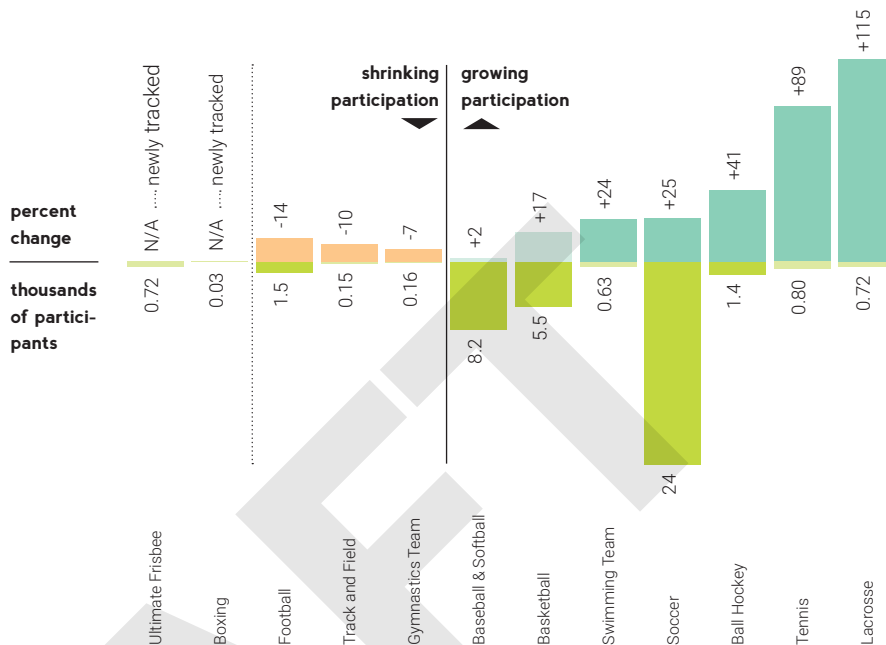
#055

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **1:19pm**

There appears to be serious triple counting in the number of soccer participations with only 9000 ASA members and <7000 adult soccer players. The count should not be based on the same individual participating in "add on" / one time activities.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**Figure 7. Soccer Participation in Arlington Dwarfs Participation in Other Programs, But Both Niche and Traditional Sports Have Seen Strong Growth**  
 2016 Participation Numbers and FY2011–2016 Percent Change in Participation



In addition to classes, camps, and sports programs, Arlington's public recreation spaces are frequently used for a variety of other uses such as fitness programs, senior citizen activities, community and civic association meetings, drop in use (e.g., art studios, fields, courts, gyms, game rooms, computer labs), preschool and early childhood programs, after school programs, wellness education, birthday parties, and numerous other scheduled and unscheduled uses. Arlington's community centers have experienced a 19% increase in reserved room hours since FY 2013 to accommodate the numerous requests. Arlington also has high demand for outdoor rentals of fields, courts, picnic shelters, and trails. In addition to classes, camps, and sports leagues, outdoor reservations are used for festivals, picnics, birthday parties, family reunions, running races, and tournaments.

Other recreational demands in Arlington include offerings such as its programs and services in urban agriculture, nature centers, and environmental and cultural awareness. As part of its Parks and Recreation services, Arlington provides the opportunity to garden through community garden plots. Demand for these plots has increased almost 20% from FY 2014 to FY 2016, with the waitlist increasing to over 500 people. Visits to Arlington's two nature centers reached over 20,000 and environmental awareness activities participation reached nearly 16,000 in FY 2016. Interest in these outdoor recreational opportunities is expected to increase in future years.

056  
**20% INCREASE**

*in demand for community garden plots between 2014 and 2016 with over 500 people on the wait list.*

## #056

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:39pm**

Sports trends: Baseball/softball constitutes a very small proportion of participation. In fact, fast- and slow-pitch softball and baseball have all declined significantly since only 2010.

Yet there remain almost as many diamond fields as rectangular fields. This demographic shift needs to be considered in the planning for public space. Diamond fields take up large amounts of space to accommodate a small and declining fraction of sports participants and an even smaller fraction of total users of public spaces.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

As the population increases in Arlington, the demand for recreational spaces and programs is expected to continue to climb. Arlington envisions an increase in the demand for both active recreational space such as courts and fields as well as passive space such as picnic shelters and meeting rooms.

## National Trends

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) 2016 Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report reveals that the most popular activities include fitness walking, treadmill, running/jogging, free weights, and road bicycling. Most of these activities appeal to both young and old, can be done in varied environments, are enjoyed regardless of level of skill, and have minimal economic barriers to entry. These activities also have appeal because of their social aspects.

057

Fitness walking has remained the most popular activity over the past decade by a large margin in terms of total participants, at nearly 110 million Americans in 2015, despite a small (2.4 percent) decrease from the previous year. The decline in fitness walking, paired with upward trends in a variety of other activities, particularly in fitness and sports, suggests that active individuals are finding new ways to exercise and diversifying their recreational interests. In addition, many outdoor adventure and water-based activities have grown in participation, though many have a small user base.

In traditional team sports, basketball ranks highest, with approximately 23.4 million participants in 2015. Nearly every sport with available data experienced an increase in participation, which is a reversal from the five-year trend of declining participation in sports. Sports with significant growth in participation are squash, boxing, lacrosse, rugby, roller hockey, and field hockey—all of which experienced growth in excess of 30 percent over the last five years. Between 2014 and 2015, roller hockey, racquetball, indoor soccer, boxing, and flag football grew most rapidly.

The number of inactive individuals—those who do not participate in any physical activity—increased 7.4 percent to 81.6 million between 2010 and 2015. However, between 2014 and 2015, there was a slight decrease of 0.6 percent in inactive individuals. Although this recent shift is promising, it is significant that over a quarter (28 percent) of the population continues to be inactive.

**#057**

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:09pm**

Suggestion

Compare the importance of walking to the fact that Arlington still has many streets without a sidewalk on either side of the street!

Note also that walking is a primary means of reaching other outdoor activities.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

66%  
INCREASE

in squash between 2010-2015

Significant growth in participation in boxing, lacrosse, rugby, and roller hockey.

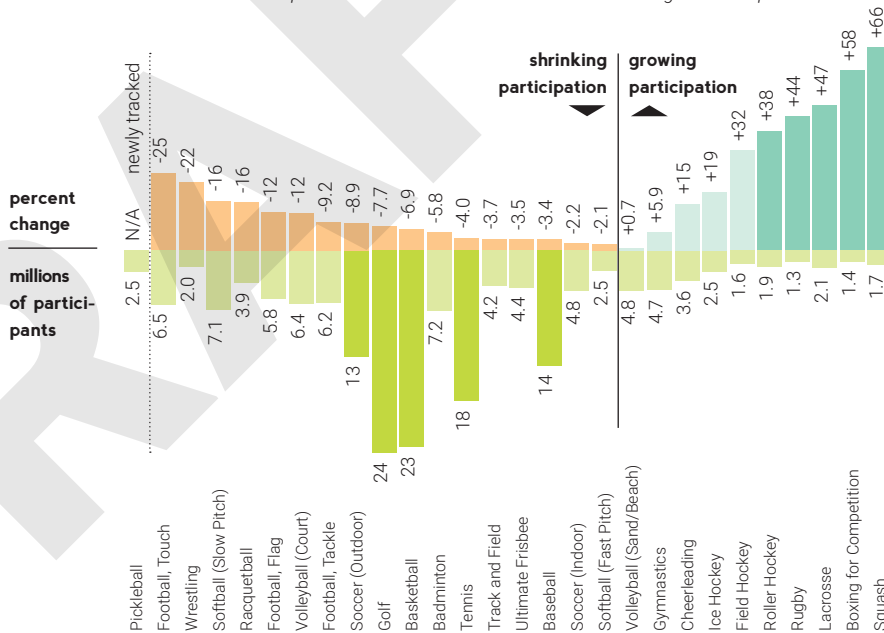
058

**SPORTS**

Participation in golf and basketball is well in excess of the other sports. Their popularity can be attributed to the relatively small number of participants needed to compete. Golf also benefits from its appeal to wide age segments, and it is considered a life-long sport. Basketball's popularity can be attributed to limited equipment and space requirements. It is the only traditional sport that can be played as a pickup game in a driveway.

Between 2010 and 2015, squash and other niche sports, like boxing, lacrosse, and rugby, have seen strong growth (Figure 8), while sports such as touch football, wrestling, slow pitch softball, and racquetball have seen the greatest declines in participation.

**Figure 8. Niche Sports Have Seen Strong Growth**  
2015 National Participation Numbers and 2010–2015 Percent Change in Participation



Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association

**AQUATICS**

Swimming is unquestionably a lifetime sport, and all aquatic activities have grown in participation. In 2015, fitness swimming led in overall participation (26 million), due in large part to its broad, multigenerational appeal. In 2015, competition swimming grew the most (7 percent) among aquatic activities, followed by fitness swimming (4 percent) and aquatic exercise (1 percent). [Starting in 2011, recreational swimming was broken into competition and fitness categories in order to better identify key trends.]

Aquatic exercise also has a strong participation base and has experienced steady growth since 2010. Aquatic exercise is a less

Aquatic exercise has experienced steady growth since 2010.

#058

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **2:38pm**

Note significant decline in outdoor soccer.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



stressful form of physical activity that provides similar benefits to land based exercises, including aerobic fitness, resistance training, flexibility, and balance. Doctors now recommend aquatic exercise for injury rehabilitation, mature patients, and patients with bone or joint problems because it puts less stress on weight-bearing joints, bones, and muscles and because the water reduces swelling from injuries.

**FITNESS**

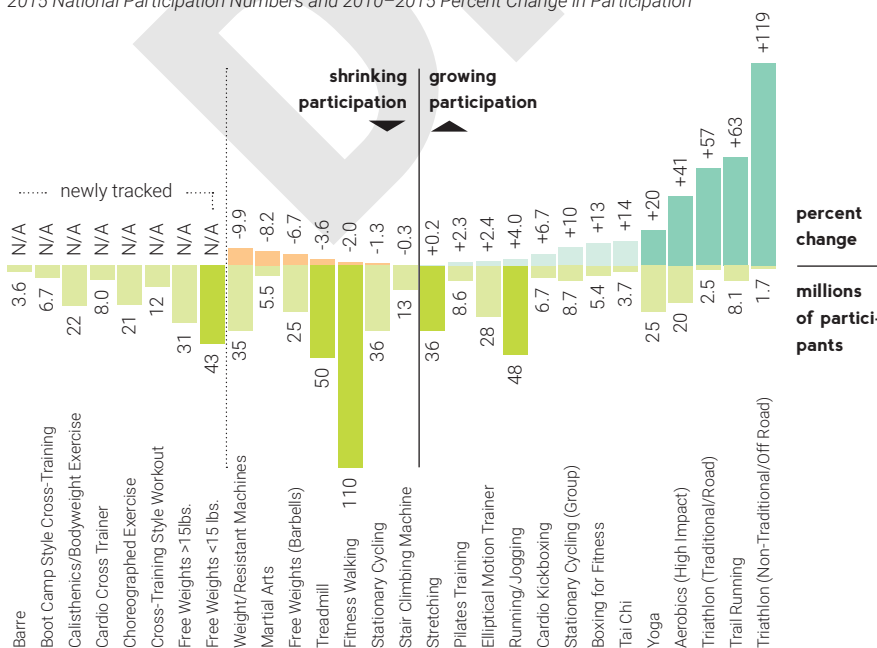
Fitness has experienced strong growth in recent years due to the connection between active lifestyles and health (Figure 9). Fitness activities also have very few barriers to entry, with low financial and time costs for participation.

The most popular fitness activity by far is fitness walking, which had nearly 110 million participants in 2015—a 2.4 percent decrease from the previous year. Other leading fitness activities based on participation include treadmill, running/jogging, hand weights, stretching, and stationary cycling.

Between 2010 and 2015, the fitness activities with the largest growth in participation were non-traditional / off-road triathlons, trail running, traditional road triathlons, high impact aerobics, and yoga. Many of these activities have a low user base, which accounts for drastic rates of change. But, the growth in these activities and the decline in extremely popular activities such as fitness walking and running / jogging suggests that people are actively looking for new forms of exercise.

*Fitness walking is the most popular fitness activity.*

**Figure 9. Fitness Activities Have Grown Due to Interest in Active Lifestyles and Health**  
2015 National Participation Numbers and 2010–2015 Percent Change in Participation

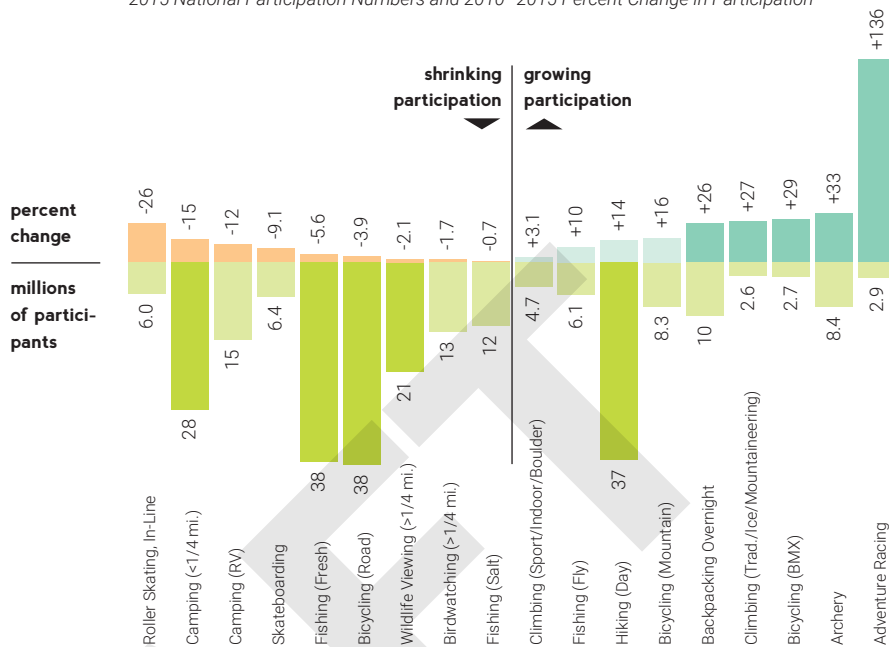


110  
MILLION

*fitness walking participants in 2015*

Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association

**Figure 10. There is a Split Between Growth and Attrition Among Outdoor / Adventure Activities**  
 2015 National Participation Numbers and 2010–2015 Percent Change in Participation



Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association

**OUTDOOR / ADVENTURE RECREATION**

There is a split between growth and attrition among outdoor / adventure recreation activities (Figure 10). Much like general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or with a group, and are not limited by time restraints. In 2015, the outdoor / adventure activities with greatest participation included road bicycling, freshwater fishing, day hiking, and camping within a quarter mile of the participant’s vehicle or home. From 2010 to 2015, the largest growth was seen in adventure racing, archery, BMX bicycling, traditional climbing, and backpacking overnight, while in-line roller skating, camping within a quarter mile of the participant’s home or vehicle, and recreational vehicle camping saw the most rapid declines.



# Existing Public Space System

*Arlington's system of public spaces includes spaces of various sizes, characters, and ownership structures. The system is not simply a number of isolated spaces and facilities, but rather a network of amenities connected by trails and streets. Arlington should strive to reinforce and improve that network to ensure all residents, visitors, and workers are easily connected to the public spaces they want to visit.*

Connecting with nature in Rosslyn.  
Hillside Park  
Arlington County

# PUBLIC SPACE FRAMEWORK

## The River & The Run

The Potomac River and Four Mile Run, Arlington’s two largest natural features, flank the County and form the armature of its public space system. Nearly two-thirds of Arlington’s public space is connected to the River and the Run. Along the Potomac River, the Mount Vernon Trail offers views of the water and of Washington, D.C., while the Potomac Heritage Trail provides Arlington’s longest hiking trail experience. Over 880 acres of public space line the Potomac River and its tributaries. To the west, Four Mile Run, Four Mile Run trail, and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail link together 580 acres of public space, including major parks like Bon Air, Bluemont, Glencarlyn, Barcroft, and Jennie Dean.



## The Green Corridors

Major east-west corridors throughout the County provide public space linkages between the Potomac River and Four Mile Run. Some, like the Custis Trail, are major multimodal corridors that are used for recreation and transportation. Some have the potential to host expansions of the County’s trail network. Some provide visually green connections between major public space destinations. Others connect important natural resources.



## The Green Fabric

Between and connected to the River, the Run, and the Green Corridors are the public spaces that are knitted into the fabric of Arlington: parks that are embedded in residential areas, plazas that are integrated into mixed-use, high-density development, trails within and leading to parks, indoor facilities that allow for year-round recreation, streets that incorporate vegetation and spaces for pedestrians, and even cemeteries that serve as public space in some neighborhoods.

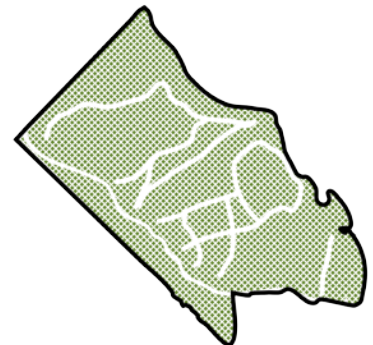


Figure 11. Arlington Has 142 County-owned parks that represent the heart of the public spaces system.  
Public Spaces in Arlington

UP NEXT:  
ENGAGEMENT



#059

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **12:56pm**

Suggestion

Add "Natural Areas" and "Wildlife Habitats"

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

060

# ARLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION AT A GLANCE



**NATURE CENTERS  
(1 REGIONAL)**



**PUBLIC POOLS  
(1 REGIONAL)**



**COMMUNITY  
GARDENS**



**COMBINATION  
FIELDS**



**PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS**



#060

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **12:58pm**

Suggestion

How many miles of hiking trails?

How many miles of multi-use trails?

How many acres of unprogrammed natural areas and wildlife habitats?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

14 

COMMUNITY CENTERS

35 

DIAMOND FIELDS (2 SYNTHETIC)

126 

PLAYGROUNDS

42 

061

RECTANGULAR FIELDS (14 SYNTHETIC)

40% 

TREE CANOPY

#061

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **7:01pm**

Suggestion

Shouldn't there be a graphic capturing number of off leash Dog parks

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# PARKS

Arlington has over 2,000 acres of parkland, both County- and non-County owned, that represent the heart of the public space system. Parks vary in size and character. While sizes range from under 1 acre to over 30 acres, about 65% of parks in Arlington are under 5 acres and 45% are under 2 acres. Some, like Mosaic Park, are small, located in mixed-use, high density areas, and have more designed features and equipment. Others, like Gulf Branch Nature Center, provide nature-based experiences. Linear parkland along Four Mile Run and the George Washington Memorial Parkway, for example, offer opportunities to see and interact with the Arlington’s waterways. Some of Arlington’s larger parks, including Long Bridge Park and Barcroft Park, are able to provide a wide range of experiences, including nature-based activities, cultural experiences, and athletics. Throughout the system of parks are sitting and picnic areas, play equipment, athletic fields, and many other amenities. While some parks tend to attract users in close proximity and others tend to be destinations for all Arlingtonians, all of Arlington’s parks are open and available to all residents, workers, and visitors of Arlington.

063

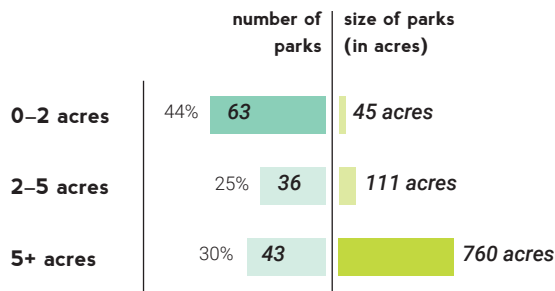


Arlington County



Arlington County

064 **Figure 12. The majority of County-owned parks in Arlington are under 5 acres.**  
 County-Owned Parks in Arlington by Size and Count



Arlington County

## #062

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:43pm**

### Suggestion

"Throughout the system of parks are sitting ... areas." Arlington's parks universally have a dearth of casual sitting opportunities. Benches are usually either picnic tables or by sports fields. The demand for more casual use space needs to be accompanied by more seating opportunities in desired places, which should include movable seating. This is essential to making public spaces work. Recommended listening is NYC Parks Commissioner Amanda Burden's TED Talk How Public Spaces Make Cities Work  
Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #063

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/09/2017** at **6:25pm**

### Suggestion

I second natashaatkins' comment about seating in public spaces. Casual, social seating (moveable) is critical to people's enjoyment of public spaces, whether it's a park or a plaza.  
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #064

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **2:45pm**

Please note neighborhoods that have no parks >1 acre.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**5 SMALLEST COUNTY-OWNED PARKS**

- 23rd St South and South Eads St Park:** 258 sq ft
- Oakland Street Park:** 242 sq ft
- 3501 18th St South Park:** 338 sq ft
- 18th St North and North Lincoln St Park:** 347 sq ft
- Arlington View Park:** 369 sq ft

**5 LARGEST COUNTY-OWNED PARKS**

- Glencarlyn Park:** 100 ac
- Barcroft Park:** 63 ac
- Bluemont Park:** 51 ac
- Long Bridge Park:** 36 ac
- Lubber Run Community Center and Park:** 30 ac

Using a bridge as informal seating.  
Lucky Run Park



Arlington County

## #065

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:40pm**  
Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #066

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:41pm**  
Suggestion

Smallest Parks. 23rd and S. Eads "Park" is a small patch of pavement approx. 12 feet x 20 feet by a sidewalk on the corner of two very busy streets. This and possibly several others should be excluded as functional parks for the purposes of your public spaces inventory.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Indoor recreation facilities include Arlington’s Community Centers (gyms, conference/meeting rooms, multipurpose rooms, game rooms, arts and wellness studios and fitness rooms); Arlington Public School facilities (pools, gyms, cafeterias and theaters); Gunston Bubble (indoor turf field); Senior Centers and Nature Centers. Out of the 14 community centers Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation operates, five of them are joint use facilities with Arlington Public Schools (community center integrated as part of the APS building) and nine of them are County run and operated buildings.



# 5 JOINT USE FACILITIES

*operated with Arlington Public Schools*





# PLAZAS

In high density areas, plazas can serve as places of respite amid bustling streets and buildings. They are places to sit and relax and may, depending on their design, serve as small gathering and event spaces. For example, Welburn Square in Ballston hosts farmers markets, and Penrose Square is used for movie nights. Plazas often include a balance of paved and natural or landscaped areas, providing visitors a small connection with nature while also accommodating a wide variety of uses and activities. Because high density areas have fewer natural areas, the inclusion of natural lands, trees, and other plantings is especially important in plazas. They can include small recreational amenities, such as bocce, table tennis, and water or play features, but usually do not include larger athletic amenities.



067 Calligraphic Moebius, Charles Perry / Evert Barnes Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

## #067

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **1:09pm**

A hardscape plaza devoid of people.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #068

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **1:07pm**

An almost empty hardscape plaza

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

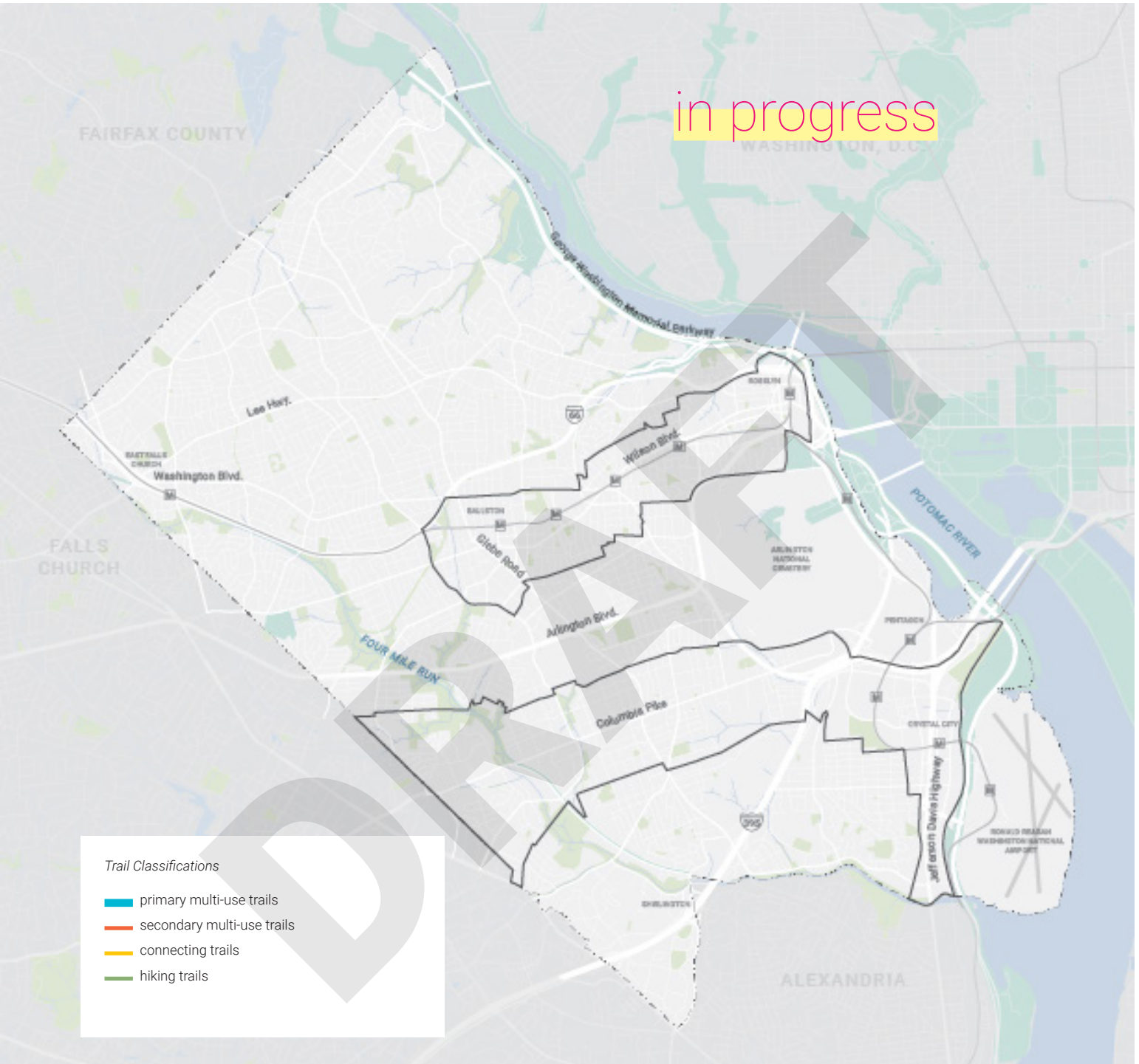
## #069

Posted by **kkumm** on **08/09/2017** at **6:02pm**

Suggestion

Plazas and small urban spaces usually don't have space for "natural lands". Adding greenery to these spaces, however, is very important and can be done in a variety of ways such as green walls, planters, and trellis covered with flowering vines. But, shade trees are perhaps the most important "green" element in a plaza because they provide shade, clean the air, provide wildlife habit in the urban setting, and soak up storm water.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



070 Figure 14. Over 50 miles of paved multi-use trails wind through Arlington, in Arlington by Classification

#070

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **2:48pm**

Please note neighborhoods that have no trails or casual recreational areas within walking distance.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



# TRAILS

Over 50 miles of paved off-street trails wind through Arlington. These trails can be categorized into the following classifications.

## 071 Primary Multi-Use Trails

Primary multi-use trails are key off-street recreation and transportation corridors, and many connect Arlington to surrounding jurisdictions and the larger regional trail network. They are paved, should be at least 10 feet wide, and usually striped to separate directions or types of travel. They may include seating areas, signage, and trail-specific lighting. The user base for primary multi-use trails is broad, including users of different skill levels, ages, and abilities.

## 072 Secondary Multi-Use Trails

Secondary multi-use trails are off-street corridors that primarily serve recreation purpose. They are paved and should be at least 8 feet wide. Secondary multi-use trails may be linear, connecting multiple neighborhoods, other trails, public spaces, or loops, providing recreational circuits within one public space. They may include seating areas, signage, and trail-specific lighting. The user base of secondary multi-use trails is broad, including users of different skill levels, ages, and abilities.

## Connecting Trails

Connecting trails are short segments of paved trails that provide connections between primary and secondary trails, streets, neighborhoods, park elements, and other destinations. They should be at least 6 feet wide and may include seating areas and lighting.

Figure 15. Spectrum of Arlington Trails  
Arlington trail classifications

## #071

Posted by **haserodtjr** on **08/09/2017** at **4:26pm**

### Suggestion

In addition to setting a standard for trail width, as a bike commuter, it would be great for there to be a standard for trail grade as well. To the extent possible, limiting grades on trails like the Custis Trail would encourage greater use by bike riders.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #072

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **11:58am**

### Suggestion

The existing trails don't fit the classifications they've been assigned - the Bluemont Junction trail, for instance, has been classified as a "Secondary" trail which primarily serves a "recreation" purpose - and yet according to Arlington's trail counters it generally sees more traffic on weekdays than weekends and there are clear traffic spikes during regular commute hours. The same holds true for the 110 Trail. Arlington is so starved for comfortable, low-stress bike infrastructure that any trail we build, if it connects two places that people want to go, is going to be used heavily for transportation purposes unless there is a parallel, equally good or better piece of infrastructure. This is why the Four Mile Run Trail west of Walter Reed is able to function as a "primarily recreational trail", because the W&OD is parallel and clearly superior for most transportation purposes.

Trail widths should be set based on observed and/or expected usage, not based on "classification".

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## Side Paths

Side paths are primary, secondary, or connecting trails that are located alongside roadways and are physically separated from vehicular traffic.

## Hiking Trails

074 073 Located primarily along streams and stream valleys, hiking trails are paved and may include signage and seating areas. These trails are used primarily by pedestrians and hikers.

**Biking and walking a major east-west route.**  
*Custis Trail*



Arlington County

**#073**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **2:49pm**

Please note neighborhoods that have no hiking trails or side paths within walking distance

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**#074**

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **1:20pm**

Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



# STREETS

Although streets often bring to mind cars, and have a specific legal definition, non-vehicular zones within street rights of way are an integral part of Arlington’s public space network. Streets also accommodate pedestrians and cyclists as they move around the County for recreation or to get from place to place. Planting zones, furniture zones, pedestrian zones, and café zones provide opportunities for walking, sitting, relaxing, and people watching. They are locations for adding trees and plantings into the built environment.

On a temporary, recurring, or permanent basis, even parts of vehicular zones may serve as public spaces. Parklets are public spaces built in parking spaces, usually with materials that allow the parklet to be removed if necessary in the future. Streets may also be closed temporarily or closed on a recurring basis to accommodate different events or provide additional routes for cyclists.



076  
WRT



077  
WRT



075  
Arlington County

## #075

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:13pm**

It should be noted that because of the warm summers in Arlington, it is very difficult to use streets as public spaces without trees. One primary example of Lee Highway west of Glebe, which has virtually no pedestrian traffic because of its inhospitable atmosphere. This is simply unacceptable and should be a high priority for correction.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #076

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **1:12pm**

Use an example from Arlington

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #077

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **1:11pm**

Yet another hardscape plaza devoid of people

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## RELATION TO ADJACENT COMMUNITIES

Many of Arlington's public spaces reach beyond the County's boundaries and continue into neighboring communities. For example, the W&OD Trail stretches from Shirlington in Arlington to Purcellville in Loudon County, crossing multiple jurisdictions. For this reason, coordination and alignment of priorities among neighboring communities is essential to providing the region with a high-quality and seamless public space network. An example of this coordination is the Joint Four Mile Run Task Force, created in 2003 by Arlington and Alexandria to oversee the master planning process for the parks on both the Arlington and Alexandria sides of Four Mile Run.

## OWNERSHIP

Arlington's over 2,000 acres of public space are owned and managed by different entities. While much of this public space is always open and available to the public, some of these lands have limited access or limited opportunities for recreation and leisure activities.

### County

Arlington's County-owned public spaces are managed by a variety of entities. Over 900 acres of County-owned parks are managed by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Arlington Public Schools manages recreational facilities that are part of its over 350 acres of school campuses (including buildings), though the Department of Parks and Recreation manages and maintains their athletic fields. Arlington's local roadways are managed by the Department of Environmental Services.

078

### Regional

NOVA Parks is a regional park authority that has preserved over 12,000 acres of parkland across Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. In Arlington, NOVA Parks manages the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, Potomac Overlook Regional Park and Upton Hill Regional Park.

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust works to purchase and conserve land that has natural, historical, or cultural value. It holds easements to over 3,200 acres of land in Arlington, Caroline, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties, and in Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg,

**#078**

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:15pm**

Suggestion

Clarify which agency is responsible for the maintenance of green spaces around schools (as compared to recreational facilities at schools). This relates to the poor maintenance and invasive species on school property.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Manassas, and Manassas Park – about 16 acres of which is in Arlington. This land provides benefits to natural systems within Arlington. Since there is no public access, it is not counted as part of Arlington’s public space system.

**State**

The Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for surface and sign maintenance on roads such as I-66, I-395, Lee Highway, Arlington Boulevard, Glebe Road, and segments of other major roads.

**Federal**

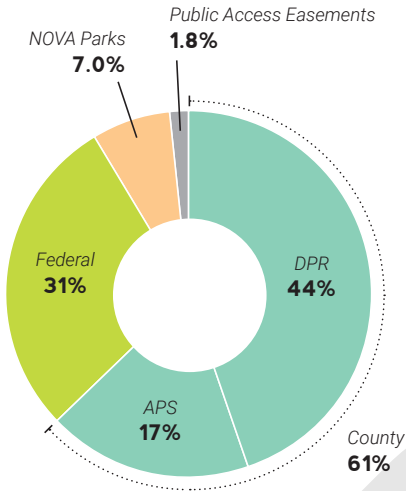
The National Park Service manages the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) in Arlington. While thought of primarily as a roadway, the Parkway also encompasses two trails along the Potomac waterfront – the highly used, paved, multi-use Mount Vernon Trail and the unpaved Potomac Heritage trail. There are also several parks, including Theodore Roosevelt Island, Gravelly Point, and Columbia Island.

The Department of the Army manages Arlington National Cemetery. While an important and symbolic location for the country that attracts many visitors, the cemetery does not serve local public space needs and is not counted as part of Arlington’s public space system.

**Privately-Owned Public Spaces**

About 33 acres of public spaces in Arlington are privately owned. Created through private development, these spaces remain under private ownership and are often privately maintained, but are publicly accessible through public easements. Some of the public easements have been obscured over time and the County is working to develop a system to inventory existing easements and ensure that future easements are properly recognized and identified for public use. There is currently no County-wide inventory or tracking system for these types of spaces. Some of the major privately-owned public spaces include Welburn Square in Ballston, Grace Murray Hopper Park in Pentagon City, and Barton Park.

**Figure 16. Most of Arlington’s public space is controlled by County or Federal entities.**  
*Percent Share of Public Space Ownership*





# Summary of Engagement

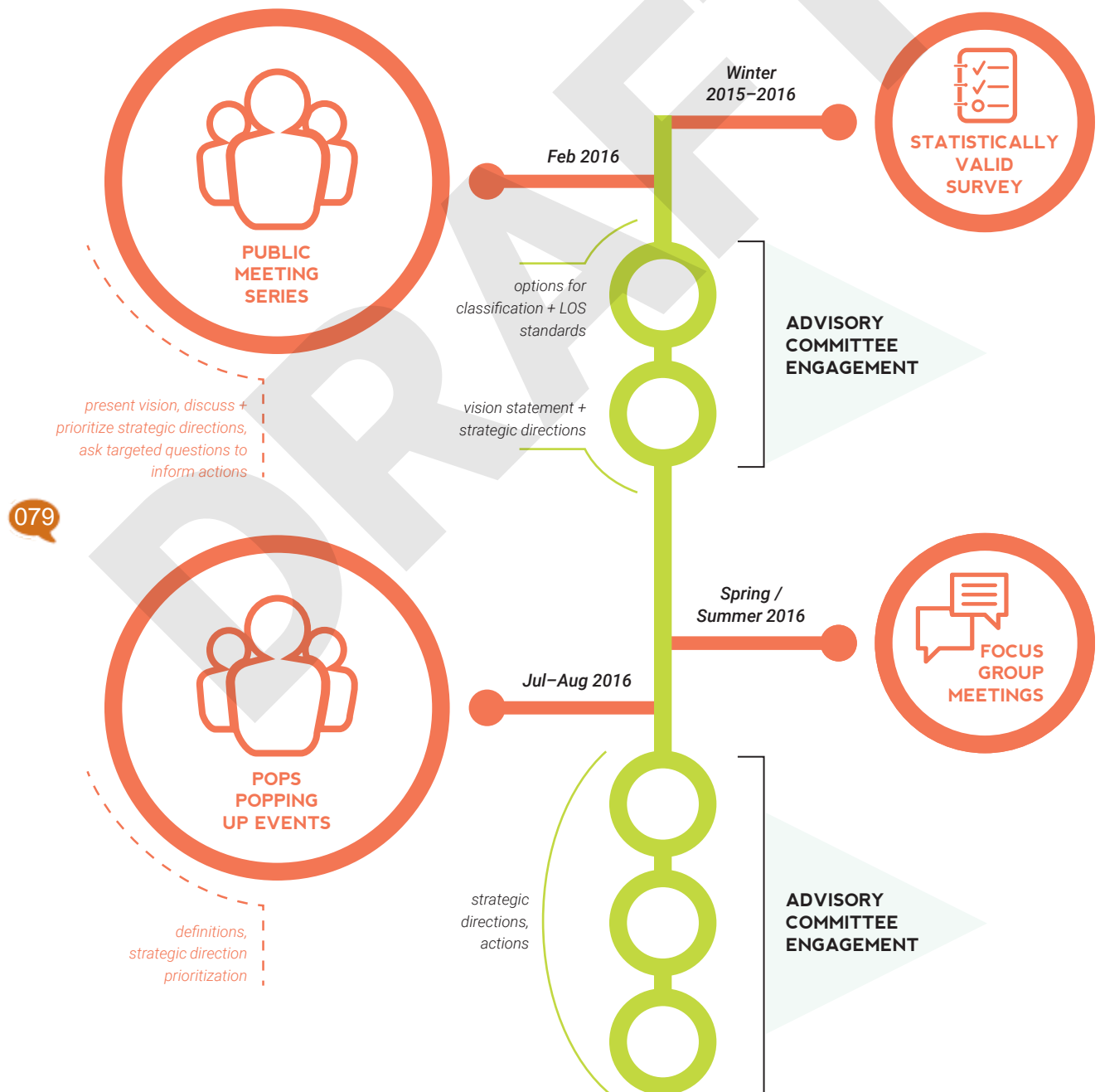
*In the spirit of the “Arlington Way,” the process of updating the Public Spaces Master Plan—called Arlington POPS— included opportunities for Arlingtonians to provide their input into the planning process across a variety of locations, using different media and activities, and in large and intimate settings.*



Helping to define public space terms.  
Pop-Up Engagement at Pike Park

Arlington County

# ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



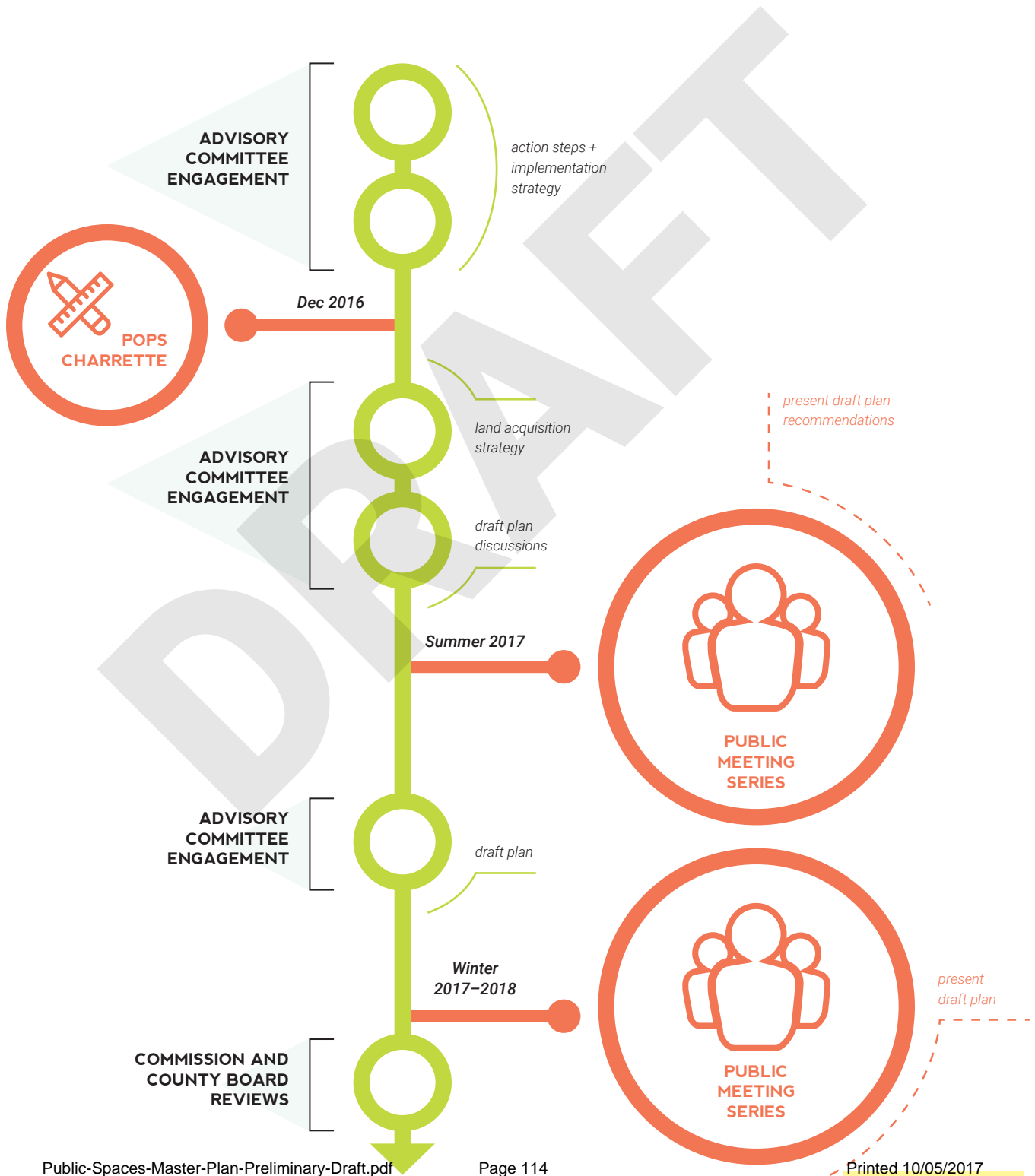


**#079**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **3:04pm**

The statistically valid survey is the only portion of the engagement activities that was fully transparent and not subject to manipulation by organized groups pushing for specific actions by the County. Attendance at public meetings held in July 2017 was very low as could be expected in mid-summer with very little time to read the 272 page document that was posted 49 hours before the first meeting. This user has spent 5 hours trying to read and post comments on the first 1/3 of the draft report. Community members did not have an opportunity to raise questions and express views on the draft plan open meetings - instead they were asked to post "post it" notes on poster boards. This process seems designed to obscure rather than share information about people from various parts of the County with various concerns and interests care about.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



UP NEXT:

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

## STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

Arlington County conducted a statistically valid Community Interest and Opinion Survey to collect a large amount of citizen input about County needs and priorities when it comes to public space. The goal was to obtain 800 completed surveys from residents spread throughout the County. A total of 1,470 surveys were completed, far surpassing the goal.

The survey covered topics including outdoor facilities, indoor facilities, programs, cultural resources, public art, and other specific issues like amenities at Long Bridge Park and concessions sales in public spaces. Households were asked to what degree their needs were being met for a large number of amenities, including hiking trails, dog parks, playgrounds, and many more. They were also asked to rate each amenity in terms of importance. This information was then used to create a Priority Investment Rating for each amenity.

*Full survey results are available on the Arlington County website.*

## PUBLIC MEETING SERIES 1

In February 2016, four public meetings were held to introduce the planning process, present preliminary analysis results, gauge participants' perception of Arlington's current public spaces, and ask participants how they envision Arlington's public spaces in the future. The meetings were held at Langston-Brown Community Center, Arlington Mill Community Center, Whitlow's on Wilson restaurant, and Courthouse Plaza.

The two meetings held at community centers started with a presentation for context. All of the meetings followed an open house format with different information/feedback stations. Feedback stations used an interactive dot exercise, map-based activities, "money game" budgeting, and open-ended comments. The open house format allowed participants

1470  
SURVEYS

*were completed to collect citizen input about County needs and priorities for public space*

**Figure 17. Priority Investment Areas**  
*High Priority Areas by Category, 2016 Survey*

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Outdoor Facilities</b>         |
| Hiking Trails                     |
| Natural Areas & Wildlife Habitats |
| Paved, Multi-Use Trails           |
| <b>Indoor Facilities</b>          |
| Swimming Pools                    |
| Exercise & Fitness Equipment      |
| <b>Programs</b>                   |
| Nature                            |
| Fitness / Wellness                |
| Special Events / Festivals        |
| Classes                           |
| Seniors                           |

*“Increase walking opportunities to recreation and gathering spaces.”*

– Public Meeting Participant

to provide input, see other participants' points of view, and ask questions.

Participants were asked to give input on topics such as travel mode and travel time to various types of public spaces, the most important amenities and programs, and their spending priorities.

**Providing input on the future of Arlington's public spaces.**

*Public Meeting Series 1 at Arlington Mill Community Center*



WRT

#080

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **3:14pm**

To add to transparency, the demographics regarding participants in and summaries of results of the focus groups should be posted for community review.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# FOCUS GROUPS

Four focus groups were conducted as part of the 2017 Arlington POPS process. The intent of focus groups was to reach audiences and age segments that normally do not participate in broader community outreach efforts and to gain insights from them that can inform policies and programs that might improve the County's offerings. Focus groups were held with teens, millennials, Gen Xers, and older adults.

*"Need more programming that is drop-in and easy to find for people who cannot commit to a set schedule."*

– Millennial Focus Group Participant

# STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

081 Up interviews were held with key advocates and partners to better understand how they use Arlington's public spaces and to learn how they would like to see Arlington's public space system change in the future. Meetings were held with the Advisory Committee, Arlington Public Schools, aquatics program participants, Business Improvement Districts and other partners, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, dog park sponsor groups and users, gymnastics program participants, natural resource advocates, urban forestry advocates, and sports organizations.

**Voicing their generation's opinions about the future of Arlington's public spaces.**  
Millennial Focus Group



Arlington County

**#081**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **3:16pm**

Was an organized effort made to meet with Civic Association leaders as part of this process? If not, why not?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



Stopping to provide input while buying groceries.  
Arlington POPS "Popping Up" at Arlington Farmers' Market

## POPS "POPPING UP"

In the summer of 2016, Arlington POPS "popped up" at Arlington's July 4th celebration, Central Library, and six farmers' markets. Participants were asked how they define different public space terms and how they would prioritize a preliminary version of the plan's recommendations.

*"People need to be out as a family – why not have a playground that includes something for all ages to be able to spend a day in the park"*

– Stakeholder Interview Participant

## DESIGN CHARRETTE

On December 9, 2016, Arlington County engaged a wide variety of design and planning professionals in a visioning charrette focused on providing physical and geographic context to some of the major themes and goals of this plan. About 90 attendees focused on the system level rather than ideas for any individual park. Participants included experts in landscape architecture, planning, engineering, urban design, and community advocacy; County staff; and the POPS Advisory Committee. Breakout sessions focused on six themes: enhancing recreation and sports facilities, reclaiming parking and highways, expanding waterfront access, leveraging temporary public space, improving trails and connectivity, and defining unprogrammed spaces.



DRAFT

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

**086**  
ARLINGTON NEEDS MORE PUBLIC SPACE

With the number of residents expected to grow 30% by 2045, Arlington's public space system will need to grow to keep up. This was echoed in stakeholder and staff interviews and in public meetings. When asked to describe Arlington's public spaces in a few words, the most common phrase used by public meeting participants was "need more."

**083**  
Arlington's public spaces lack amenities such as nearby food options, electrical hookups that would allow for events to take place, and adequate seating. Stakeholders and focus groups — particularly millennials — indicated that adding such amenities would make them more likely to use Arlington's public spaces.

**082**  
PEOPLE WANT TO CONNECT WITH WATER AND NATURAL LANDS

The Potomac River and Four Mile Run are the two biggest natural features in Arlington, and they form the armature of its system of public spaces. Public meetings and stakeholder interviews indicated that the Potomac riverfront is difficult to access and that Four Mile Run lacks a cohesive identity.

**085**  
ADDITIONAL AMENITIES WOULD ENCOURAGE GREATER USE

**Strategic Direction 1**  
**PUBLIC SPACES**

*Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying 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.*

**088**  
CONNECTIVITY NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED

Currently, everyone funnels into Arlington's major trails because they provide the best continuous, connected experiences. Expanding the trail system and upgrading existing trails will increase options people will have, reducing conflicts. People cited specific barriers to trail connectivity, including I-395 and the Army Navy Country Club.

**087**  
PEOPLE WANT MORE TRAILS

A statistically valid survey found that multi-use trails and hiking trails were the most and third most desired outdoor amenities in Arlington. This mirrors trends nationally. In stakeholder interviews and public meetings, people bemoaned the traffic on Arlington's trails.

In stakeholder interviews and public meetings, people indicated that wayfinding along Arlington's trail network is difficult because signage is unclear and inconsistent among trail owners and because trail names, or lack thereof, lead to ambiguity in giving directions. Users also indicated that they are interested in knowing how Arlington's trails connect to those in surrounding jurisdictions.

**SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING COULD BE IMPROVED**

## #082

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:36pm**

Natural space like Four Mile Run does not require a cohesive identity. I do not believe this statement accurately reflects what public meetings and stakeholders said. This is natural green space and should be left in its natural state.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #083

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:36pm**

I'm confused here. Is the point here that there are too many people and too few recreational opportunities? Or are we going to use tax dollars to create more facilities and then use tax dollars to sell them? Are we trying to meet residents needs or are we trying to enhance the power and resources of the County Department of Parks and Recreation?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #084

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:25pm**

Suggestion

The safety of trails should be the highest priority. The Intersection of Death, where the bike trail on Lee Hwy crosses N. Lynn St., should be mentioned prominently as an urgent problem to be resolved.

It is unacceptable that this situation is allowed to continue at the "Gateway to Arlington" which is surrounded by multimillion dollar skyscrapers. The people who paid to build those skyscrapers probably don't want to look down on a horrific, and entirely preventable, accident at this intersection.

Although it may be that resolution of this life threatening intersection requires coordination with federal and state authorities, that is no excuse for the County's failure to address this situation through means such as a bridge or tunnel. It is County residents who would primarily benefit, so it is up to the County to get moving!

Incidentally, correcting this hazard would also help to make the Potomac River more accessible - a high priority.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #085

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:31pm**

First, growth in Arlington is not just something that happens. The County makes choices about development and those choices have consequences. County Government is portraying growth in Arlington as something beyond its control. This is disingenuous.

Second, I'm confused about the goals of this project. Is the point here that there are too many people and too few recreational opportunities? Or are we going to use tax dollars to create more facilities and then use tax dollars to sell them? Are we trying to meet residents needs or are we trying to enhance the power and resources of the County Department of Parks and Recreation?

Finally, natural space like Four Mile Run does not require a cohesive identity. I do not believe this

statement accurately reflects what public meetings and stakeholders said. This is natural green space and should be left in its natural state.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #086

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:35pm**

Growth in Arlington is not just something that happens. The County makes choices about development and those choices have consequences. County Government is portraying growth in Arlington as something beyond its control. This is disingenuous.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #087

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:39pm**

If these trails are the most and third most desired amenity, then why are trails not a priority action for the County?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #088

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **3:51pm**

Please be more specific about the kinds of public spaces where stakeholders and focus group participants / millennials were asking for electrical hook ups (is this to boost noise / what purpose?) and nearby food options. Note that some parts of the County have no restaurants or mom & pop stores based on the zoning ordinance.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The path forward for Arlington’s public spaces is captured within the following strategic directions. Each strategic direction is a broad goal that is a reflection of survey results, stakeholder and public input, and analysis, and each is supported by a series of actions that will move Arlington closer to achieving the goal.

### Strategic Direction 3 RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

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

**NATURAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND ENHANCED** 092

The statistically valid survey found that natural areas were the second most desired outdoor amenities. The public meetings confirmed that these were top priorities. With the growth that is occurring in high-density corridors, which have few natural lands, the preservation and restoration of natural lands is of growing importance.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH RESOURCES SHOULD BE EXPANDED** 089 090

The statistically valid survey found that nature programs were the most desired types of programs in Arlington. Residents want not only to ensure that natural resources are protected, but to find better ways to interact with and appreciate these resources.

**THE COUNTY NEEDS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH APS, NPS, AND OTHER PARTNERS ON PUBLIC SPACES** 096

Arlington County already collaborates extensively with Arlington Public Schools. Yet, both recognize that as they face increasing demand there is room for even better coordination and collaboration. In addition, the Potomac River and the Mount Vernon Trail play an important role in Arlington’s public space system. The County should continue to make the connection from Long Bridge Park to the Mount Vernon Trail, build the boathouse near Theodore Roosevelt Island, and enhance other partnerships with NPS.

**PARTNERSHIPS SHOULD BE FAIR AND EQUITABLE** 093

There is a latent desire among volunteer programs, business improvement districts, and sports groups, among others, to pitch in and improve Arlington’s public spaces. The County recently revised its donation policy. Streamlined permitting processes and clearer agreements could further unlock this potential.

### Strategic Direction 4 PARTNERSHIPS

Expand and clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources creatively and effectively.

UP NEXT:  
ACTIONS

## #089

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:42pm**

It will hard to have nature programs if there are no natural places. I don't think the children will find lots of wild life to examine on soccer fields and tennis courts.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #090

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:27pm**

Suggestion

And yet, only a few years ago, we were told that Arlington County just couldn't scrape together the funds to continue the nature programs at Gulf Branch.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #091

Posted by **Anonymized User** on **08/31/2017** at **4:40pm**

The County's top priority should be the protection of the trees that are already here. The second priority should be to plant more trees.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #092

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:41pm**

The County's top priority should be the protection of the trees that are already here. The second priority should be to plant more trees.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #093

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:56pm**

This streamlined permitting process must not be at the expense of the environment. Getting to environmental degradation faster does not help the community.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #094

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **3:56pm**

Given the 2 and 3 to 1 preference among Arlingtonians for more nature access and emphasis on environmental stewardship, please be wary of partnerships with groups that are earning revenue via use of the County's athletic fields and then donating a portion of the proceeds to create more programmed / lighted / artificial public places. In forming partnerships, the number one priority should be on those that deal with the dearth of resources for maintenance of natural areas and green space. Let partners donate time to clean out invasive species and provide credit to employers and employees who donate time and resources for this purpose.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #095

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **8:30pm**

This comment is on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. Additional amenities would encourage greater use. Long Bridge is a good example--while it is a cluster of fields, it has trails, bike paths, playgrounds, views and is used by a variety of community members from throughout the county and Crystal City.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #096

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:47pm**

Suggestion

How about creation -- not just the preservation -- of "natural" areas (small meadows, bog gardens, etc.) in high-density corridors?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



EXISTING SYSTEM

ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

ACTIONS

**098** UNWARE OF ALL THE PARK AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THEM

public meetings and focus groups, participants were aware of facilities and activities that are closest to them but not the full range of facilities and activities that are available across the County.

**099** USERS

**097** In the spirit of the Arlington Way, public meeting participants and stakeholders indicated that they would like to have more of a say in the future of Arlington's public spaces. While the 2017 POPS engagement activities provided an opportunity to talk about the future of the public space system as a whole, there are ongoing opportunities to engage with residents on particular spaces.

USERS WANT TO BE MORE ENGAGED IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES

**103** Strategic Direction 6  
**ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION**

*Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction and foster support for public spaces.*

**Strategic Direction 5**  
**PROGRAMS**

*Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.*

**101** **102** ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING COULD HELP ACTIVATE PUBLIC SPACES

While some of Arlington's public spaces are so overused that they are hard to maintain, others are not used to their full potential. Though some spaces should intentionally have little or no programming, others should leverage materials, amenities, and programs to support and encourage use. Special events and festivals were the third most desired type of programs and activities according to the statistically valid survey.

**PROGRAM VARIETY AND AVAILABILITY SHOULD RESPOND TO DEMAND**

The statistically valid survey found that nature programs were the most sought after programs in Arlington, followed closely by fitness and wellness programs. By conducting regular needs assessment surveys, monitoring program registration, and keeping an eye on programming trends, the County can respond to changing interests.

## #097

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:58pm**

This works only if calling up the "Arlington Way" is not used as a means to silence dissent!

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #098

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:57pm**

This sounds like a failure on the part of the Department of Parks and Recreation to communicate the facilities and resources available to the community. Perhaps DPR should spend less time enhancing its power and prestige and more time serving the public.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #099

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:50pm**

Suggestion

special events and festivals:

Virginia Highlands Park needs a space where such events for social gatherings could be held. It is an ideal location, in a walkable, metro-accessible, high-density neighborhood.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #100

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **3:59pm**

Tread carefully when it comes to more programming of Arlington's public spaces. With the exception of initiating more programs to demonstrate and teach good environmental stewardship, the statistically valid survey and recent experience in many neighborhoods (Aurora Highlands, Bluemont, Shirlington, Williamsburg - the list goes on - shows people want less - not more programming of parkland and green space.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #101

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:52pm**

Suggestion

special events and festivals:

Virginia Highlands Park needs a space where such events for social gatherings could be held. It is an ideal location, in a walkable, metro-accessible, high-density neighborhood.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #102

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:59pm**

The County needs to specify exactly which public spaces are underused and demonstrate this underuse with numbers.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #103

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:01pm**

I am now beginning hour 6 of trying to comment on this draft plan. Yet I have yet to see the comments of any other individuals. Has no one else commented? Why are comments not shared with members of the community. This openness and transparency are essential to genuine engagement and communication.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## Strategic Direction 7 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

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

**MAINTENANCE STANDARDS NEED CLARIFICATION**

Site evaluations found inconsistent levels of maintenance among Arlington's public spaces. Clear, tiered standards can be tied to usage and visibility and ensure that maintenance expectations are clear.

104

**SUSTAINABILITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED**

Arlington's environmental regulations have pushed its public spaces forward in terms of stormwater management and building sustainability. Recent work at Long Bridge Park demonstrates a commitment to using native plantings. Yet, many stakeholders indicated that the County could be doing more – particularly in the area of managing non-native invasive species.

105

## Strategic Direction 8 FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

*Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.*

**PUBLIC SPACES HAVE VALUE THAT COULD BE BETTER LEVERAGED**

There is a common perception that the County has unlimited resources to spend. However, demands for public space outweigh the resources that are available. The County could be taking better advantage of the revenue-generating potential of public spaces – from the property value premiums that public space proximity provides to events and enhanced experiences that public meeting participants indicated they would be willing to pay for.

**ONGOING COSTS AND BENEFITS NEED TO BE WEIGHED IN CAPITAL DECISIONS**

As the County brings new facilities and spaces online, it must be willing to commit to the ongoing maintenance of those facilities and spaces. Without ongoing operating resources, the benefits of capital investments can be short-lived.

UP NEXT:

ACTIONS

## #104

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:03pm**

Maintenance should be at the top not the bottom of the list of strategic directions. Specific, actionable proposals should be included.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #105

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **4:59pm**

The County would have a greater positive environmental impact if it prioritized preservation of the tree canopy.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0





# 1. PUBLIC SPACES

ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SPACES FOR RECREATION, PLAY, AND ENJOYING NATURE BY ADDING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC SPACES.

Arlington already has a substantial network of high quality parks, trails, and natural resources where people relax, exercise, socialize, commute, and attend events. But as Arlington continues to grow, the County should consider how to meet the needs of existing and new residents. With practically no undeveloped land remaining in Arlington, the County will need to be innovative in making the best use of existing public spaces and strategic about acquiring new land for public space – particularly with many competing needs for space. The County should pay particular attention to access to public space in the high density corridors.

## 106 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1. Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years.
- 1.2. Make better use of existing public spaces through system-wide planning and investments in facilities.
- 1.3. Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature.
- 1.4. Use a context-sensitive, activity-based approach to providing amenities.
- 1.5. Provide more support services and amenities for public space users.
- 1.6. Ensure high-quality visual and physical access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries.
- 1.7. Strive for universal access.
- 1.8. Strive for a more attractive and sustainable public space system.
- 1.9. Enhance spaces with temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.
- 1.10. Coordinate the construction of new or replacement recreational facilities with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Leaving space for casual use.  
Big Walnut Park  
Arlington County

## #106

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:01pm**

Increasing the tree canopy in Arlington should be a priority action.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #107

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:14pm**

Note: some civic associations have no accessible parks, nature trails, hiking trails, etc. within their boundaries. The County needs to refrain from destroying what limited areas there are for casual recreation (e.g. lighting the WMS soccer fields) in places that lack access to parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #108

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:54pm**

Suggestion

Virginia Highlands Park does not have "equitable access" -- right now it is heavily tilted to organized recreational sports. Many areas are off limits to the public during all or some periods, even when the facilities are not being used for sports. DPS needs to create a more "equitable" balance between organized sports and casual use space.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



# ACTIONS

**PRIORITY ACTION**

109

**110 Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years.**

In public meetings, the most common phrase used to describe Arlington’s public spaces was “need more.” Over half of public survey respondents indicated that they would support acquisition to develop passive facilities. New public space should include a combination of additional land acquired by the County, public space developed by other public entities, privately developed spaces with public easements, and the addition of rooftop or similar spaces. Over the past 20 years, the County has acquired an average of approximately 3.25 acres of new parkland per year.

**1.1.1. Acquire land where feasible according to acquisition guidelines.**

One of the key recommendations of the 2005 *Public Spaces Master Plan* was to develop a land acquisition policy. Having clear guidelines for land acquisition, used in coordination with the County’s level of service analysis for public space amenities, provides the County with a way to objectively evaluate acquisition opportunities against public space goals. (See Appendix A) The County can also use the place-based criteria in the guidelines to proactively identify areas where acquisition will have the most impact and thus should be priority areas for acquiring new public space.

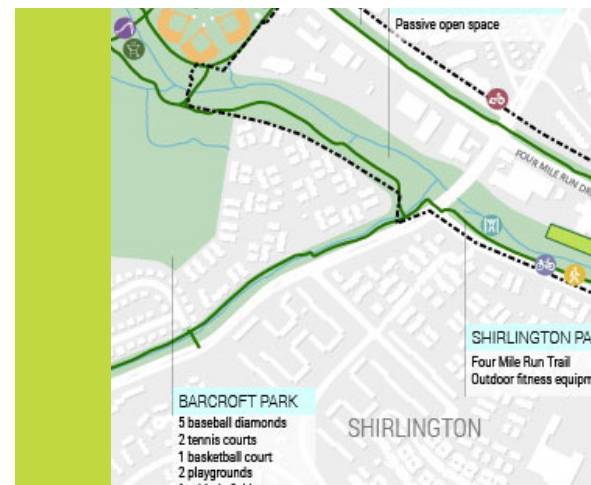
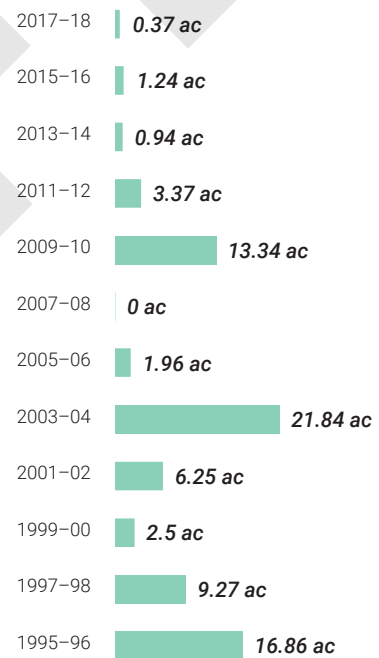
**PRIORITY ACTION**

**1.1.2. Secure or expand the public spaces envisioned by sector, corridor, and other plans adopted by the County Board – including the Clarendon Sector Plan, Virginia Square Plan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, Crystal City Sector Plan, and Columbia Pike Form Based Codes – and ensure they provide amenities that meet County needs.**

Adopted County plans provide direction at an urban design scale about where new public spaces will be located. While the size and general function of these spaces may be defined in such plans, the level of service

*In public meetings, the most common phrase used to describe Arlington’s public spaces was “need more.”*

**Figure 18. The County has acquired an average of 3.25 acres of new parkland per year over the past 20 years.**  
Acres of Land Acquired through FY 2016



Printed 10/05/2017

**#109**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:47pm**

Yes, yes! But where and how?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**#110**

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:12pm**

This does not seem sufficient for a County as dense as Arlington is predicted to become.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

standards set in this *PSMP* will guide and complement the selection of amenities to be built in these spaces. As an example, the Courthouse Sector Plan envisions a new Courthouse Square as the premier place for Arlingtonians to gather for conversation, recreation, relaxation, and to celebrate important events. It will provide a centralized civic center and public open space that will engage Arlington's residents, workers, and visitors, and better represent the goals, values, and ideals of the County. As these plans are updated, the *PSMP* should be used to guide future recommendations.

**1.1.3. Incorporate the recommendations of this plan into future sector, corridor, and other County plans, and use County-wide needs and level of service analyses to guide the inclusion of additional public space in those plans.**

As part of the *Comprehensive Plan*, this plan sets overarching policy for public spaces in Arlington. As other plans are revised or replaced, they will look to this plan for guidance to inform their public space elements. The level of service standards set in this plan, and thereafter regularly updated, will guide the identification of new public spaces in future County plans.



Public-Spaces-Master-Plan-Preliminary-Draft.pdf

**IN PROGRESS:**

## FOUR MILE RUN VALLEY INITIATIVE

The Four Mile Run Valley Initiative, and the Parks Master Plan process for Jennie Dean Park, will guide public and private investment in the area, including long-term County operations, property acquisitions, and facilities development. The plans will also explore natural resource protection, connectivity, and transportation upgrades.

**1.1.4. Ensure that public space amenities proposed in site plans are informed by level of service analyses and include well-designed, clearly defined public easements that are regularly maintained.**

Private development will continue to contribute to the expansion of the County's public space system. The level of service standards set in this plan will also guide the site plan review process. As private development projects go through the site plan review process, the County will proactively analyze and recommend the inclusion of specific needed amenities based on this *PSMP*. While these amenities will be located on private property, their design, signage, maintenance, hours, and use will clearly indicate that they are for public use.



**1.1.5. Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to County waterways, particularly Four Mile Run. (see also 1.5.2.)**

Since the adoption of the 2005 *Public Spaces Master Plan*, the County has expanded access to and amenities around waterways including Four Mile Run. The County will continue this process to further enhance the Run and other waterways, as appropriate, as natural resources and destinations.

**1.1.6. Explore strengthening and expanding the use of the County's Transfer of Development Rights policy as a tool to create and consolidate future public space.**

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) is a program that allows a landowner in a designated sending zone to sell development rights to a landowner in a designated receiving zone. Land that is desirable for future public spaces can be designated as sending zones, which enables landowners of these spaces to get value out of their properties while achieving land use development goals — namely the preservation of public space. Arlington County currently has a TDR program, but it could be used more broadly in the realm of public space creation. For example, creating a TDR “bank” could help facilitate broader use of the TDR program by allowing owners of land where future public space is desired to immediately sell and be compensated for their development rights

## #111

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:14pm**

Also require a minimum number of trees be planted and cared for.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #112

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:15pm**

Preserve existing trees.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #113

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:14pm**

Preserve existing trees.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



© Klyde Warren Park

## BEST PRACTICE: DECK PARKS

### 118 KLYDE WARREN PARK, DALLAS, TX

With financial assistance from the local philanthropic community, the City of Dallas decked over a section of the Woodall Rogers Freeway to create much-needed public open space in the downtown area and stitch two neighborhoods back together.

### PLACES TO START: DECK PARKS

119 Rehab existing deck park over I-66 at Washington-Lee High School and expand to the east

- Over I-66 and Metro on both sides of N Washington Street near East Falls Church
- Over I-395 directly east of Shirlington and extending southwest to connect Shirlington and Fairlington
- Over the George Washington Memorial Park

121

### PLACES TO START: MINIMIZING SURFACE PARKING

- Between the Clarendon and Virginia Square Metro stations
- In the commercial area around Lee Highway and N. Harrison Street
- Four Mile Run corridor, including County bus parking
- Columbia Pike

120

#### 1.1.7. Work with the Commonwealth to create new deck parks over I-66 or other highways, to mitigate highway widening and to reclaim public space.

Highways are single-use land uses. In a location as land-constrained as Arlington, it is imperative that space serve multiple uses where possible. Highways also often act as physical and perceived barriers, hindering connections across them, and the impact of the barrier tends to increase with the width of the highway. Gateway Park is an example of decking over I-66 to “create” public space. Many other cities are also using deck parks over highways to create additional open space and stitch communities back together — including Dallas’ Klyde Warren Park, Phoenix’s Margaret T. Hance Park, Glendale’s Space 134, and Atlanta’s The Stitch.

#### 1.1.8. Seek opportunities through the site plan review process to reduce surface parking and maximize ground and roof space in order to create additional public space in high-density corridors.

#### 114 1.1.9. Identify and evaluate potential surplus public properties, and determine if they should be disposed of or incorporated into the public space system.

115  
116 With little undeveloped land, the easiest way for Arlington to create additional public space is by utilizing land the County already owns. Surplus properties in locations with poor access to public space and of the right size to site needed amenities will be considered for use as public space. Surplus properties that are not suitable as public

## #114

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:16pm**

What surplus properties does the County have? Why are these not listed somewhere for the public to see?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #115

Posted by **rotharigen** on **07/14/2017** at **10:48am**

Suggestion

These can be great areas for micro-parks. Micro-parks are small slivers of green space in otherwise hard to develop land. Consider the corner of Columbus Street and Columbia Pike as a great location for a micro-park.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #116

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **7:28pm**

Suggestion

County should also reclaim property that has been encroached particularly where it is adjacent to Parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #117

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **8:38pm**

This comment is made on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. ASA strongly supports different play space types (like deck parks). We suggest piloting this idea to see how it works.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #118

Posted by **rotharigen** on **07/14/2017** at **10:46am**

Suggestion

These parks are amazing. They also build in space for things like food trucks and other transformative ideas, so that the park is able to be a living and breathing thing.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #119

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:15pm**

How will you address the noise and the air pollution? How will you protect trees planted on such "deck parks" from decimation from the car exhaust?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #120

Posted by **rotharigen** on **07/14/2017** at **10:47am**

### Suggestion

Consider removing the parking lot at Four Mile Run Drive and Columbia Pike, and replacing with a deck style park, that is open, transformative and inviting.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #121

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:51pm**

Deck parks, widely separated from nearby homes and apartment buildings are a great place to add to school and sports user capacity.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



### 1.1.10. Consider the acquisition of defunct private indoor and outdoor recreation facilities using acquisition guidelines.

**122** Defunct private recreation facilities, such as indoor gyms and fitness centers or outdoor swim clubs or golf courses, provide a unique opportunity to potentially acquire properties that are already designed for recreation use. While the County may have to upgrade such facilities to ensure they meet design standards, such endeavors may be less costly than demolishing existing uses and building new facilities from scratch.

## 1.2. Make better use of existing public spaces through system-wide planning and investments in facilities.

**124** **23** In addition to looking for opportunities to grow Arlington's system of public spaces, the County must also make the best use of the space that it currently has through system-wide planning and investments in facilities.

### **125** 1. Complete the remaining elements of Long Bridge Park.

The first priority recommendation of the 2005 *Public Spaces Master Plan* was to fully implement the "North Tract Master Plan," which became Long Bridge Park. A park master plan was developed and adopted by the County Board in 2004 and updated in 2013. The master plan and associated design guidelines guide the phased build out of the park. The first phase of Long Bridge Park opened in 2011 and has been a major success — with 3 full-size, lighted, synthetic rectangular athletic fields, an esplanade for walking and bike riding with views of Washington and National Airport, rain gardens, picnic lawns, public art, trails, an overlook, parking, and restrooms. Another phase, including children's play areas, was completed in 2016. The County is currently developing the next major phase, an aquatics, health, and fitness facility with the development of ten acres of the park that will continue the esplanade and add public gathering spaces. In the public survey, 70 percent **127** households felt it was important to add at least one amenity to Long Bridge Park, with the highest priority amenities being a 50-meter pool, health and fitness space, and a leisure pool. Future phases will include additional

## #122

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **8:36pm**

This comment is on behalf of Arlington Soccer Association. ASA strongly supports facility development or renovation that encourages multi-sport access.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #123

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:54pm**

Take great care not to overload residential neighborhoods with totally inappropriate high Kelvin field lights and noise levels extending well past children's and adults' bedtimes.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #124

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:38pm**

Suggestion

The complete lack of planning and coordination regarding the field lights at Williamsburge MS should be included in this discussion as an example of what NOT to do.

Throughout the many years of this process, Arlington never considered the question of WHERE field lighting would be most important. Instead, Arlington simply asked whether or not lights should be installed at WMS, which deviously pitted residents against field users.

The better approach is simple, and should be discussed. In this situation, Arlington should make a list of all the rectangular fields, and the pros and cons of installing synthetic turf or lights at each one. After public discussion, a decision can be made about where to prioritize investment.

Over and over, whether the issue is fields lights or dog parks or sidewalks, Arlington fails to conduct this simple initial step, which leads to leads to years of argument.

The solution, which should be discussed here, is better planning and coordination about where to prioritize an investment. The question is not whether some facility is a good idea or not (because all facilities are good for something) , but what priority should be given to that facility as compared to others and, if the facility is a high priority, where it should be located.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #125

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:55pm**

This is must do. There should be a new lighted rectangular field at Long Bridge park, an affordable aquatics center and workout facilities that attract users from Central and North as well as South Arlington.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #126

Posted by **rotharigen** on **07/14/2017** at **12:55pm**

Suggestion

Please stop the non-sense of this aquatics facility. We can't afford it. We don't need it. And there are

other areas of the county in desperate need of that funding.  
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #127

Posted by **rotharigen** on **07/14/2017** at **12:56pm**

### Suggestion

Look at the numbers of that public survey again. Where did the numbers come from? Was it the whole county? Put it to a public vote like you did our street car.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# MULTI-USE ACTIVITY CENTERS

*growing participation in team sports means there is a need for more facilities dedicated to team sports and tournaments*

**Maximizing the use of public space with structured parking and synthetic turf fields.**

*Barcroft Park*

## PRIORITY ACTION

### 1.2.2. Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans.

The County Board has adopted a number of park-specific master plans that show the location and type of park elements as well as design guidelines. The County

**128** should continue to implement the adopted park master plans for Mosaic Park, Penrose Square, Four Mile Run, Rosslyn Highlands Park, and Jennie Dean Park.

### **129** 2.3. Consolidate recreation facilities and activities that are currently distributed throughout community centers into fewer, larger recreation centers.

DPR currently operates 14 community centers, which support a wide range of programs, including recreation, sports, education, and health programs. Five of these facilities are joint use facilities with Arlington Public Schools and have use limitations, and three are old school buildings not originally designed or built to accommodate the needs of recreational programs and services, but through creative programs and services we continue to provide successful recreational



Arlington County

## #128

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **2:29pm**

### Suggestion

Virginia Highlands Park is conspicuously absent. As one of the largest parks, and one with competing needs in a densely populated area, it should have a master plan.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #129

Posted by **Helluvagardener** on **08/31/2017** at **5:17pm**

Larger facilities in residential areas is completely inappropriate. What will the County do with the spaces that are closed? The surrounding community must have input in these decisions and their wishes should be honored by the County.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

programming to the community. Our current community centers vary significantly in size, design, and layout, and some facilities are aging and in need of significant renovation or rebuilding. Some have very limited capacity for programming. Given Arlington's high demand for recreation programs and services, community centers with multi-use space that can accommodate multiple recreation program and services are needed. Recreation centers will include multi-use space and amenities that allow the greatest flexibility and community access. For example, Lee, Langston and Madison Community Centers have similar programs and services. However each facility is limited in size, community access, amenities, or age and design of building to support contemporary recreation programming. A thoughtful renovation of Madison Center, an old elementary school, with the intent purpose of redesigning the facility to serve a diversity of recreational programs, for instance, could house a consolidated senior, preschool, and co-op programs – a larger variety of summer camps, classes, and drop in opportunities.

**1.2.4. Designate and expand 4 sports-specific complexes that will provide access to prime recreational amenities and will accommodate sports tournaments.**

132

The operation, management, and maintenance of athletic fields is more efficient when they are grouped together. In addition, grouped fields are more conducive to hosting tournaments, which offers an opportunity to generate revenue. Expanded sports complexes will be located at Long Bridge Park (rectangular field complex), Bluemont Park (tennis complex), Barcroft Park (diamond field complex), and Powhatan Springs Park (skate complex).

**1.2.5. Construct 2 new multi-use activity centers to provide year-round access to indoor athletic courts and fields.**

The youth and adult sports community in Arlington is at a disadvantage by not having access to appropriate indoor court and field space year round. The conversion of the Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center gymnasium to address the gymnastic demand decreased the inventory of gyms, which impacted drop in and other indoor and outdoor sports and camps offerings. Currently there

## #130

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **8:52pm**

This comment is on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. ASA agrees that grouping fields is the most efficient for maintenance and believe it helps create community parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #131

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:00pm**

What specific kinds of summer camps and drop in opportunities are envisioned at the Madison Center?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:00pm**

What specific kinds of summer camps and drop in opportunities are envisioned at the Madison Center?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #132

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:00pm**

What specific kinds of summer camps and drop in opportunities are envisioned at the Madison Center?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

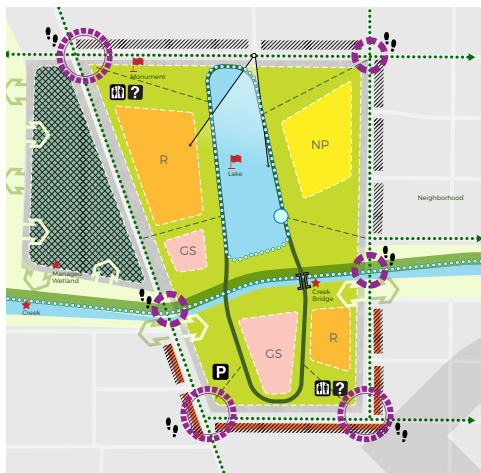
Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:00pm**

What specific kinds of summer camps and drop in opportunities are envisioned at the Madison Center?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## 133 EST PRACTICE: PARK FRAME- WORK PLANS

### FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS DAYTON, OH



- Seamless Open Space Connection
- Trail System Connections
  - Clear Trail Hierarchy
    - Primary Trail
    - Secondary Trail
  - Continuous Waterfront Trail
  - Water Access
- Gateways
  - Primary Gateway
  - Secondary Gateways
- Visitor Facilities
  - Restrooms
  - Parking Areas
  - Information Kiosks
- Intensive Use Zones
  - Programmable Gathering Spaces
  - Recreation Areas
  - Nature Play Spaces
- Identity Features
  - Cultural Features
  - Viewshed
- Natural System Enhancements
- Managed Conservation
- Mixed Land Use
- Building Frontages
- Streetscape Enhancements
- Public Transit
- Pedestrian Access

are two indoor facilities that can accommodate outdoor sports needs year round but are far from the ideal. The Gunston Bubble can only accommodate one small sided game and has a limited capacity due to its small footprint. It also does not have the appropriate HVAC to use year round and has deflated a few times during winter storms, causing a major impact to the leagues scheduled there with no alternatives to put them. The newly installed rink at Arlington Mill Community Center used for indoor soccer and ball hockey leagues is only available evenings and weekends during specific periods of time, which limits league participation and creates waitlists. With high demand for organized team sports and athletic seasons being extended year round, there is a need for more facilities that are dedicated to supporting team sports and tournaments. Currently diamond and rectangular sports teams utilize limited gym space available in Arlington Public Schools around the ever popular and expanding County's youth basketball and class programs. These gymnasiums are not designed for outdoor sports and use is often costly due to repair damages that occur as a result of use. One multi-use activity center was envisioned as a future phase of Long Bridge Park. Multi-use activity centers will include multi-use facilities that allow for the greatest flexibility for diamond and rectangular sports as well as provide indoor court opportunities for tennis, pickleball, volleyball, basketball, etc. In addition, by consolidating the outdoor sports needs into these multi-use facilities it allows for more community recreation and drop in use by freeing up space in other community centers.

#### 1.2.6. Develop park framework plans with community input for all public spaces that identify intended uses and in what zones those uses are intended to occur.

Park framework plans that clearly describe the intended use zones and character of public spaces are intended to guide future planning, design, investment, and development of the County's public spaces. Types of zones include places for play, casual use, athletics, conservation, and natural and historic resources. They will also enable the County to identify spaces that will change over time to meet needs.



**#133**

Posted by **Jane Siegel** on **07/24/2017** at **6:12pm**

Suggestion

List parks that need Framework Planning including Virginia Highlands Park. Due to its size and importance to the County park system, it should be on the Master Park List.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**PRIORITY ACTION**

**1.2.7. Develop park master plans, to be adopted by the County Board, for approximately 10 parks that are of high importance to the park system.**

A park master plan provides the County with a road map for the layout of park facilities and accompanying design guidelines for the future of a particular park. The ten parks identified at right focus on the creation of new parks or the complete overhaul of major existing parks.

**1.2.8. Convert an additional 12 existing rectangular fields and 4 existing diamond fields to synthetic turf as funding is available.**

Arlington's fields are heavily used, and demand is growing. Due to high demand, the County is unable to let natural turf fields adequately rest, which degrades the quality of the fields. While some athletes would prefer to play on natural turf, there was consensus among the sports user groups interviewed as part of the 2017 Arlington POPS process that synthetic turf is necessary to maximize field use and maintain field conditions. (See Appendix B for more on synthetic turf fields).

**1.2.9. Add lighting to synthetic fields and other multi-use fields, according to field lighting guidelines.**

In addition to converting fields from natural to synthetic turf, lighting is a critical way to extend the number of

**PLACES TO START:  
PARK MASTER PLANS**

- Quincy Park
- Bon Air Park
- Bluemont Park
- 15th Street (Crystal City)
- South Park (in the process)
- Rosslyn Plaza
- Maury/Herselle Milliken/New Properties
- Courthouse Square
- Thomas Jefferson Park
- Future parks in Crystal City & Columbia Pike

142  
143

**BEST PRACTICE:  
ROOF SPACES**

**WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, WORCESTER, MA**

While roofs are sometimes thought of for recreation amenities that require a small footprint, such as basketball or tennis courts, they can also be used for larger amenities. At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a full-size rectangular field and a full-size diamond field sit atop a parking structure.



## #134

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:11pm**

Please identify the specific candidates for conversation of grass to synthetic turf fields - both rectangular and diamond. Failure to identify the candidate locations is unacceptable. It's clear that candidates known to DPR staff and sports user groups. It's unfair to keep this information shielded from affected neighborhoods.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #135

Posted by **jah** on **07/31/2017** at **10:03pm**

Question

1.2.8.

Which fields will be converted to syn turf? I would like to know the location of the fields. When are each of the fields scheduled to be converted?

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #136

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:44pm**

As I commented on the introduction to section 1.2, the County should carefully consider the pros and cons of converting a particular field to synthetic turf, and make a system-wide plan. Ad hoc conversion of fields without a plan will only cause disagreements and arguing, as has been the past experience.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #137

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **9:09pm**

This comment is on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. ASA strongly supports adding synthetic turf to maximize field use when grass fields are wet.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #138

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:31pm**

People would support use of roof spaces for nighttime as well as day time sports. Less noise and light pollution affecting neighborhoods and no needless sacrifice of natural values, including trees, wildlife and green space.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #139

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **1:51pm**

Question

What "field lighting guidelines" does this refer to? Is this the 1 foot candle mentioned in Appendix B

and/or the bullet points listed just after it? There is no mention of deciding which fields would be lit based on the community character, zoning, or proximity of homes. Is this recommendation to light any field anywhere in Arlington? I suggest adopting the guidelines provided in the WFWG report. While there was no consensus on the particular site, the guidelines on siting lights were a consensus recommendation. I suggest the POPS committee meet with the WFWF members to discuss this issue.  
Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #140

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:17pm**

If lighting is made a precondition for installing synthetic turf on natural gas fields, many neighborhoods will adamantly oppose synthetic turf, depriving the County of 700 additional hours/field (excluding additional time for outdoor PE on APS sites) that could be achieved via turf alone. Adult field use is declining - existing lighted fields are almost half empty after 9 pm. More playing time for kids can be achieved by moving up the start of the fall and spring soccer seasons. Lights are the poison pill that will bring progress on adding playing capacity for children to a screeching halt.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #141

Posted by **rng** on **08/02/2017** at **3:34pm**

More on the "field lighting guidelines:" One foot-candle is appropriate for some fields and totally inappropriate for others. Whoever says that one foot-candle should be the rule is not considering the setting. It's a blank check for putting lights some places where they don't belong.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #142

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:51pm**

### Suggestion

This section 1.2.9 is a blanket and summary statement that must be reconsidered and fleshed out. There is no evidence that installing lighting would, as a practical matter, significantly increase the number of hours that fields are used.

Installing more synthetic fields will greatly increase the number of hours that fields are available, and just as importantly, reduce aggravation over closures due to rain.

The incremental benefit of adding lights to a synthetic field is much smaller.

As a first step, Arlington should complete the installation of synthetic fields where they are appropriate. Only AFTER that is done, and IF there is still unmet demand for field space, should Arlington proceed to the next step of adding lights.

Quite simply, the number of people who NEED to use fields after dark (mainly because they are working during the day) is relatively small. The reason people are using fields at night right now is because there are not enough fields available for day use, which is because the fields are closed when wet.

Making more synthetic fields available for use during the day will meet the demand, and lights will not be necessary.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**#143**

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **9:04pm**

This comment is on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. Adding lighting to synthetic fields will benefit kids and their families by reducing cross-county traffic (as currently lighted fields are clustered in South Arlington), expanding overall field capacity (allowing more playing time--between 415-600 additional hours of use per year), and reducing field crowding to improve practice session quality.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

*“Make more green space by moving tennis, [basketball], pickleball onto roofs.”*

– Public Meeting Participant

hours of play Arlington can get on its fields. Advances  
 144 lighting technology have allowed the County to use  
 directional lights that provide ample light on fields while  
 145 minimizing light pollution in the sky and intrusion onto  
 surrounding properties. (See Appendix B for more on  
 synthetic field conversions and lighting.)

#### 1.2.10. Review and study possible modifications to the

146 **County’s regulations and codes – including zoning  
 and other requirements related to setbacks, lighting,  
 parking, signage, height, and temporary use of public  
 and private property as public space – to allow more  
 flexibility in park planning and respond to high-  
 density contexts.**

The County’s zoning ordinance and other regulations should be updated to reflect Arlington’s modern conditions. Requirements for setbacks, lighting, height, water features, signage, parking, and fencing, among other items, need to be updated and changed to reflect County policies.

#### 1.2.11. For larger parks or parks with buildings, evaluate

147 **replacing on-site surface parking with structured,  
 underground, or on-street parking to maximize space  
 for ground-level uses.**

While many Arlingtonians walk, bike, and take public transit to parks, driving is still a necessary mode of transportation to get to certain amenities or to participate in league activities. As such, parking remains a necessary requirement at many parks. Parking can be relocated underground or stacked vertically to reduce its footprint. Doing so can free up space for additional park amenities. Barcroft Park is an example where the County used structured parking to make space for additional recreational amenities. Need and feasibility for replacing surface parking with structured parking will be determined during park master planning processes or in conjunction with large renovations. In addition, the ability to reuse parking structures for other purposes in the future should be considered in their design. For smaller parks, the use of on-street parking can free up space for additional park amenities.

148



permission requested

## #144

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:33pm**

The County's sole source sports lighting vendor is overselling the ability of LED technology to control glare and light scatter. The Next Gen Luminaire LED lighting competition found that technology is not yet good enough to limit pole heights, glare & light spill on high school (non-pro) and recreational fields

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #145

Posted by **Arlington Soccer Association** on **08/11/2017** at **9:12pm**

This comment is on behalf of the Arlington Soccer Association. ASA encourages the county to consider a practice of installing lighting for synthetic turf fields.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #146

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:36pm**

Any zoning changes should be approached with great caution. Some vocal residents think all of Arlington should be a big city, but most neighborhoods, including those in our urban corridors, adamantly disagree.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #147

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:54pm**

Suggestion

Add a qualification that money should not be spent on parking structures until all the streets in the surrounding neighborhood have sidewalks.

Sidewalks are much less expensive than parking structures, and should be the priority.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #148

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **1:53pm**

Question

What county policies should be reflected in these recommended updates? This is vague, can you be more specific? Or if you mean that the policies should be changed, please say which ones and how they should be changed?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**BEST PRACTICE:****WALL SPACES****HIGH POINT CLIMBING, DOWNTOWN CHATTANOOGA, TN**

High Point Climbing is a rock climbing gym with locations in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Birmingham, Alabama. The location in downtown Chattanooga features a climbing wall mounted on the façade of the building. The integration of vertical recreation on a façade wall allows for more spaces and services to occur within the building. The unique design shows that exterior walls and facades can be included in the public realm as recreation spaces.



**1.2.12. Explore opportunities to add or relocate recreational amenities above structured parking and on roofs and walls of County buildings.**

Roofs of buildings and parking structures have flat surfaces upon which athletic courts or other amenities can be built – taking advantage of these often underused spaces. For example, the new Wilson School will include outdoor terraces on the roofs of buildings for both public and student use. At the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., a rectangular field with a track is located on top of campus parking. When putting amenities on roofs, the County will ensure the amenities are easy to locate and access from ground level and that safety is maximized. Another notable use of underused space could be a rock climbing wall installed on the exterior wall of a building.

**1.2.149 Explore opportunities to improve public spaces that are underground or underneath infrastructure.**

Creative design solutions can enhance subsurface public spaces. Elements such as lighting and public art can be utilized in existing underground passageways to improve safety and the user experience. Architectural solutions that improve natural light and thoughtful programming can allow for increased functionality of tunnels and passageways.

**PLACES TO START:  
ROOF SPACES**

- Barcroft Park parking garage
- East Falls Church Metro parking garage

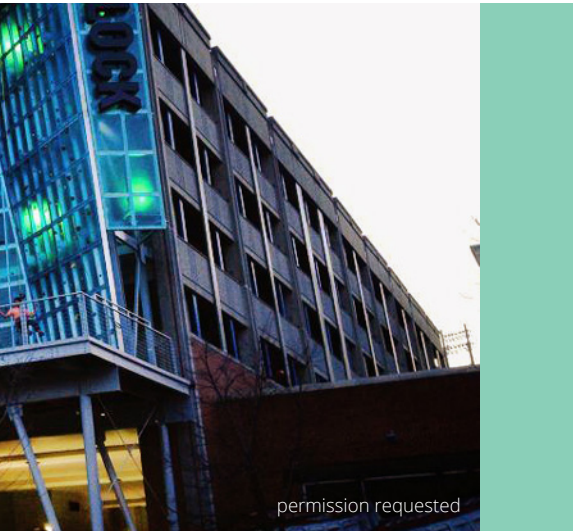


#149

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:55pm**

A tunnel beneath the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N. Lynn St. should be included here as an example of an underground structure that would be not only attractive, but life-saving!

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



**1.2.14. Provide all-season access to athletic fields, commensurate with demand, through the use of temporary or permanent structures.**

Historically, athletic programs were more seasonal, with different sports' seasons having less overlap. In recent years, the seasons are being extended and some are played year-round. However, Arlington's climate is not always conducive to outdoor winter athletics. Temporary, climate controlled "bubbles" around outdoor athletic fields or permanent, indoor recreation centers with full-size athletic fields could be possible solutions to providing all-season access.

**1.2.15. Include transportation planning in the park master planning process to increase accessibility by walking, biking, driving, and transit.**

Maximizing the utility of existing public spaces means not only adding or reconfiguring amenities to make them more useful but also increasing access to existing spaces. The site master planning process provides an opportunity to incorporate multi-modal access improvements into plans for modifying individual public spaces.

**1.2.16. Develop a network of green streets that connect public spaces.**

Streets are often thought of as necessary infrastructure that should be designed to support quick and efficient transportation. However, as a large percentage of the County's land area, streets have the potential to transform the feeling of the public realm. A tree-lined street, perhaps with a median, offers pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers a more attractive travel experience, provides shade in the heat, blocks wind in the cold, and can integrate stormwater management features. Seating along streets can also enhance their value as public space. A network of green streets provides a visual cue that there is a public space destination along the path of travel. The County will incorporate these concepts with the Master Transportation Plan's strategies for a network of green streets.

152

*"A beautiful tree-lined street will encourage me to walk to parks."*

– Public Meeting Participant

## #150

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **9:52am**

What are the analytics that would support the use of bubbles? Is there evidence of excess demand for climate controlled bubbles during summer and winter seasons that would justify the expense. Children play on the WMS fields even when it's snowing.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #151

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **10:57pm**

This should be moved to a much higher priority!

While a nice street may not be as eye-catching as a large parking structure or synthetic field, it is going to be used over time by many more people. As noted, trees are necessary to making a street usable during the summer.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #152

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **9:55am**

Finding ways for children in south and central Arlington to get to and from existing fields should be a high priority. It appears that lower-income children are underserved by organized sports user groups in relation to population density and by the County in terms of access to fields

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**BEST PRACTICE:****PRIVATELY-OWNED PUBLIC SPACES****NEW YORK CITY, NY**

In 2007 New York City amended its zoning text to implement new design standards on privately owned public spaces. The new code addresses the need for appropriate signage at these locations. This includes consistent wayfinding features such as a standardized logo, font, and materials. Additionally, there are requirements for entry plaque visibility, information on amenities offered, hours of operation, and management.

**1.2.17. Include park access planning in transportation**

**planning efforts in order to ensure sufficient transit service to major parks and trails.**

**1.2.18. Develop design guidelines for privately-owned public spaces.**

Guidelines should consider all the “negative spaces” around our built environment, including the streets and sidewalks, and how these spaces can be aggregated into a more intentional and more usable open space system. 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.**

In public spaces that are privately-owned and maintained, the County will have oversight related to how those spaces are promoted so that they can be used to their full potential.



**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.**

Privately-owned public spaces, while intended to function the same as public spaces, sometimes are less accessible due to their design, signage, and hours of access. The County will strive to create a complete picture of all of these types of spaces and ensure that all of them operate as intended. Contact information for the managers of the space will also be included if possible.

**Taking advantage of privately-owned public space.**

*Welburn Square*



Arlington County



Arlington County

**Interpreting natural resources.**  
Fort Bennet Palisades

**1.2.21. Interpret the “Federal Arlington,” “Historic Arlington,” and “Global Arlington” themes as described in the 2004 Public Art Master Plan and “Innovative Arlington” and “Environmental Arlington” as described in the 2017 update.**

These themes provide a rich subtext about patterns of development, open space, and activity in the County. Each theme has the potential to influence decisions about which public art projects are developed, as well as the approaches artists might consider for those projects.

**1.2.22. Incorporate new and interactive technologies into public spaces.**

Interactive technology can be used to enhance public spaces. Dynamic lighting and wayfinding can create a more welcoming and adaptive space for different users and functions. Public art, water features, and signage can also be programmed to interact with users and create new and unique experiences for visitors.



Arlington County

**Sprouting up from individual gardening spaces.**  
Four Mile Run Garden

### 1.2.23. Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture.

Existing community gardens are heavily used. As the County looks to grow its public space system, community gardens and urban agriculture are amenities that can be located in untraditional locations, such as on roofs.

153

#### PRIORITY ACTION

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

156

Throughout the 2017 POPS process, the community expressed a strong need to preserve and create spaces that can be used for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities – what this plan refers to as “casual use” spaces. These spaces are essential to a public space system that supports the whole community. (See following callout pages for more on casual use spaces.)

## #153

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **8:09pm**

### Suggestion

Not included in this section is the need for restroom facilities in Parks. Even smaller Parks with fields and playgrounds need facilities. Portapotties are just not an acceptable option where hundreds of kids can be playing soccer on any given weekend. Specifically thinking of Arlington Hall Park.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #154

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **9:59am**

This is an important priority but, as stated, it is aspirations, not specific, measurable or actionable. It lies at the heart of what Arlingtonians say they want - a cosy, not walled canyon - community.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #155

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **1:29pm**

### Suggestion

In the Route 1 corridor of Pentagon City, where growth and density have accelerated, this is essential. This need should figure into acquisition of property, easements on private land, and revised use of existing facilities in this area, including Virginia Highlands Park.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #156

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:03pm**

### Suggestion

Sidewalks are a key element of casual use. If people cannot walk out their door and down a sidewalk, they can't interact with nature or their community in the many ways noted in the rest of this document.

It all comes back to sidewalks. Until Arlington completes its sidewalk network, it can't claim to be a world-class community.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



still under development

# CASUAL USE SPACES

**157** Like other localities, including Alexandria and Bellevue, Washington, are also finding a need to address these types of spaces, there is no clear or consistent terminology or definition in use. In this plan, these spaces are referred to as casual use spaces. The intent is to ensure that casual use spaces are considered to be an intentional, integral part of Arlington’s public space system. This means not just calling spaces left over after accommodating other amenities casual use spaces, but purposefully designating and designing these spaces as part of public space system.

Some casual use spaces, such as forested or landscaped areas, are available at all times, while others, such as amphitheaters and schoolgrounds, are available for casual use when they are not being used for other purposes.

**INTEGRAL PART OF THE SYSTEM**

*casual use spaces should be intentional parts of the system, not just spaces that are “left over”*

## What Types of Spaces Support Casual Use?

### CASUAL USE SPACES INCLUDE

*some available always, some at times*

- open lawn with/without seating
- grill/picnic areas (including shelters)
- accessible forested areas
- accessible landscaped areas
- plazas
- esplanades
- fields with community use
- amphitheaters
- schoolgrounds

### CASUAL USE SPACES DO NOT INCLUDE

- multi-use, paved courts
- community gardens
- parking lots
- spraygrounds
- batting cages, dugouts
- indoor or outdoor pools
- permit only fields
- skateparks
- playgrounds
- disc golf
- outdoor tracks

**#157**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:50pm**

Casual use spaces should be defined at least in part as publicly owned spaces that may be used to take walks and appreciate nature. They need not contain cement or other paved walkways, nor benches nor other structures. Just trees, wildlife and people who would like to enjoy them.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



**EXAMPLE CASUAL USES**

- Strolling through a treed area
- Sitting on a bench
- Laying on a lawn
- Picnicking
- Reading a book
- People watching
- Bird watching
- Playing catch



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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Park Framework Plans</b></p>         | <p><b>158</b> The County develops framework plans for public spaces (1.2.2), casual use spaces will be identified as areas distinct from those that support more formal recreation programs.</p>  |
| <p><b>Access Standards</b></p>             | <p><i>If these spaces can be inventoried:</i></p> <p><b>159</b> 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.</p> |
| <p><b>Park Master Planning Process</b></p> | <p>Resident input during the park master planning process will inform whether casual use spaces should be enhanced or added. (1.3.2)</p>  |
| <p><b>Park Master Plans</b></p>            | <p>Any casual use spaces identified in 10 new park master plans to be developed by the County (1.2.3) will be purposefully designed.</p>  |
| <p><b>160 Community Engagement</b></p>     | <p>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.</p>  |



## #158

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **10:04am**

Please provide information that will assist the County Board in acting on the goal of creating more casual use spaces, identifying #, location, and unique needs of the surrounding neighborhoods - e.g. comparison between % of public land devoted to programmed vs casual use activities.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #159

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:52pm**

Some casual spaces are too small to comply with ADA standards. Common sense is needed. The perfect should not be the enemy of the good.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #160

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **10:08am**

Better community engagement processes are needed. It's important to involve the community before staff reach a conclusion. Use of multiple channels, including "Next Door" websites, as well as the County's email network, Civic Associations and signage should be utilized. Every individual who has served on a County advisory committee should receive information about decisions affecting their neighborhood - they can opt out if they wish to do so.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #161

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **8:13pm**

Question

Dog walking?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #162

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **2:36pm**

Suggestion

(lying [not laying] on a lawn)

These can also be small spaces--a bench in a small planted garden area at the periphery of recreational space. Just use a little creativity in designing plantings and seating.

Arlington's acquisition criteria do not seem to envision the value of pocket parks on small lots. These are important in crowded areas.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #163

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **2:40pm**

"continue to monitor amenities" -- in some cases, this approach tends to mean replacing perfectly functional amenities such as playgrounds, simply because they are not the most up-to-date. We do not always need the newest, snazziest things.

On the other hand, the County has used the "we never remove facilities" argument (e.g., with underused softball fields), even in the face of changing demand.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

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

164

*2005 Public Spaces Master Plan recommended that Arlington develop a “clustering philosophy” for providing amenities. Clustering was intended to move the County away from thinking of individual parks or facilities as having to provide all of the amenities a community needs and instead move the County in the direction of thinking about groups of sites together providing the appropriate mix of amenities within a defined boundary. The activity-based approach to providing amenities envisioned in this plan takes the clustering idea further by eliminating the idea of defined boundaries for analyzing groups of amenities. Instead, each amenity will be treated individually when defining what level of service is being provided. In addition, this plan recognizes that access to amenities will not necessarily be the same 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 the County will be explicit about what level of service can be expected in these contexts. (For more details, see the callout that starts on the facing page.)*

### 1.4.1. Identify opportunities during park master planning to add or change amenities or enhance multi-modal access based on County-wide needs and resident input.

166

The level of service and access analyses done as part of the 2017 POPS process can be used together as a tool to understand how many of a particular amenity is needed in the County and where. The park master planning process provides an opportunity to reevaluate how the current amenities at — and access to — a particular public space relate to defined standards.

### 1.4.2. Continue to monitor recreation trends and incorporate new and innovative amenities to increase and sustain community participation.

165

Staying up-to-date on the latest amenities being offered in public spaces around the country will ensure that the County can anticipate evolving needs and interests.

## #164

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **10:11am**

When so many children the County appear to be underserved by organized sports activities, it makes more sense for staff to devote effort to giving children from families and neighborhoods that are underserved basic access to sports / exercise opportunities before worrying about amenities for communities that are highly engaged in using the County's existing public spaces.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #165

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:57pm**

In some cases it seems as if proposed investments are meant to induce rather than follow demand. In Arlington, people are overwhelmingly asking for more access to nature. Concession stands and electrical hook ups for boom boxes or other "non-natural amenities seems to be contrary to what the majority of our residents want.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #166

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **5:54pm**

Can you be more specific about what is meant by this clause and how it would be interpreted if it were included in the final master plan?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# ARLINGTON'S CONTEXT-SENSITIVE, ACTIVITY-BASED APPROACH TO PROVIDING AMENITIES

While some localities have park systems that were planned well in advance of development and helped shape the way they grew, Arlington's network of parks and public spaces have largely been retrofitted into neighborhoods as space and funding has become available. As a result, different areas of the County have different levels of access to recreational amenities. In some parts of the County, residents are able to walk to a basketball court within 5 minutes, for example, while in other parts of the County, residents cannot feasibly walk to a court at all.

No uniform service standards exist for parks or recreational amenities. However, there are generally two types of standards that communities use to analyze service: population-based standards and access standards. The *PSMP* defines both population-based and access standards by amenity.

All amenities for which there is a standard include a population-based standard. A subset of these amenities also has access standards. The amenities with access standards are those that must be close to people to be well-used and those that are cost-effective to replicate across the County. The amenities with only population-based standards are those that people will travel longer to use or that are cost-prohibitive to replicate across the County. Both the population-based and access standards take into account all amenities with public access—including those owned by the County, Arlington Public Schools, NOVA Parks, and private owners

where there are public access easements.  
Public-Spaces-Master-Plan-Preliminary-Draft.pdf



# POPULATION-BASED STANDARDS

**167** Population-based standards are expressed as a ratio of amenities to people.

A current or projected ratio is compared to a target recommended ratio, which indicates whether more or fewer parks or amenities are needed. The population-based standards below take into account Arlington's current service by amenity, the degree to which residents indicated in the public survey they have a need for an amenity that is not currently being met, the level of service provided by peer cities, and national averages. More detail on the process for setting recommended standards can be found in Appendix E.

still being updated

|  | Population-Based Standards |             |             |                 |                          |         |      |        |        |                    | Access Standards  |        |        |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|------|--------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|
|  | Units                      | Inventory   | Current LOS | Recommended LOS | Incremental Units Needed |         |      |        | Total  | High Density Areas | Low Density Areas |        |        |
|  |                            |             |             |                 | 2016                     | 2025    | 2035 | 2045   |        |                    |                   |        |        |
| <b>Basketball Courts</b>               | each                       | 87          | 1/          | 2,547           | 1/                       | 3,000   | 0    | 0      | 2      | 8                  | 10                | 5 min  | 10 min |
| <b>Community Gardens</b>               | each                       | 7           | 1/          | 31,651          | 1/                       | 30,000  | 1    | 1      | 0      | 1                  | 3                 | 5 min  | 10 min |
| <b>Multi-Use Trails</b>                | miles                      | 48.4        | 1/          | 4,577           | 1/                       | 3,300   | 19   | 7      | 7      | 7                  | 40                | 5 min  | 10 min |
| <b>Off-Leash Dog Parks</b>             | each                       | 8           | 1/          | 27,695          | 1/                       | 25,000  | 1    | 1      | 1      | 1                  | 4                 | 5 min  | 10 min |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>                     | each                       | 126         | 1/          | 1,758           | 1/                       | 3,000   | 0    | 0      | 0      | 0                  | 0                 | 5 min  | 10 min |
| <b>168</b> <b>Special Use Spaces</b>   |                            | in progress |             |                 |                          |         |      |        |        |                    |                   |        |        |
| <b>169</b> <b>Baseball Fields</b>      | each                       | 43          | 1/          | 5,153           | 1/                       | 6,000   | 0    | 0      | 2      | 4                  | 6                 | 10 min | 20 min |
| <b>Tennis Courts</b>                   | each                       | 92          | 1/          | 2,408           | 1/                       | 3,000   | 0    | 0      | 0      | 5                  | 5                 | 10 min | 20 min |
| <b>Picnic Areas</b>                    | each                       | 45          | 1/          | 4,924           | 1/                       | 5,000   | 0    | 4      | 5      | 4                  | 13                | 10 min | 20 min |
| <b>170</b> <b>Softball Fields</b>      | each                       | 53          | 1/          | 4,180           | 1/                       | 4,200   | 0    | 6      | 5      | 5                  | 16                | 10 min | 20 min |
| <b>Volleyball Courts</b>               | each                       | 10          | 1/          | 22,156          | 1/                       | 20,000  | 2    | 1      | 1      | 1                  | 5                 | 10 min | 20 min |
| <b>Comm., Rec., and Sports Centers</b> | sq. ft.                    | 386,223     | 1/          | 0.57            | 1/                       | 0.57    | 0    | 39,333 | 37,443 | 40,356             | 117,132           |        |        |
| <b>Hiking Trails</b>                   | miles                      | 14.5        | 1/          | 15,242          | 1/                       | 10,000  | 8    | 2      | 3      | 2                  | 15                |        |        |
| <b>Indoor and Outdoor Pools</b>        | each                       | 4           | 1/          | 55,390          | 1/                       | 40,000  | 2    | 1      | 0      | 1                  | 4                 |        |        |
| <b>Natural Lands</b>                   | acres                      | 1,127       | 1/          | 197             | 1/                       | 200     | 0    | 96     | 108    | 116                | 320               |        |        |
| <b>Nature Centers</b>                  | each                       | 3           | 1/          | 73,853          | 1/                       | 75,000  | 0    | 1      | 0      | 0                  | 1                 |        |        |
| <b>Skate Parks</b>                     | each                       | 1           | 1/          | 221,560         | 1/                       | 120,000 | 1    | 1      | 0      | 0                  | 2                 |        |        |
| <b>Small Game Courts</b>               | each                       | 14          | 1/          | 15,826          | 1/                       | 8,000   | 14   | 3      | 3      | 3                  | 23                |        |        |
| <b>Spraygrounds</b>                    | each                       | 5           | 1/          | 44,312          | 1/                       | 45,000  | 0    | 1      | 0      | 1                  | 2                 |        |        |
| <b>Outdoor Tracks</b>                  | each                       | 2           | 1/          | 73,853          | 1/                       | 35,000  | 4    | 0      | 1      | 1                  | 6                 |        |        |

Access standards do not apply

## #167

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **9:21pm**

The problem with population based standards is that they do not appear to take into account access in relation to average household income. The issue is not the LOS we provide to the highest but to the neediest parts of our County. So the data need to be reworked to take into account need. If you look at rectangular fields, for example, the locations most in need of easier access to facilities is in Central and South and not North Arlington. Families in North Arlington tend to have at least 2 cars and a family member or caregiver who can take children to activities. This is less true in Central and South Arlington. As examples: average income per household in in 22204 \$76,000; average income in 22207 \$170,000. Why is the County proposing to spend so much money on playing fields in North Arlington?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #168

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **1:34pm**

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #169

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **1:58pm**

What are the candidates for new lighted diamond fields

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #170

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **1:55pm**

What are the candidates for new synthetic / lighted rectangular fields?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## ACCESS STANDARDS

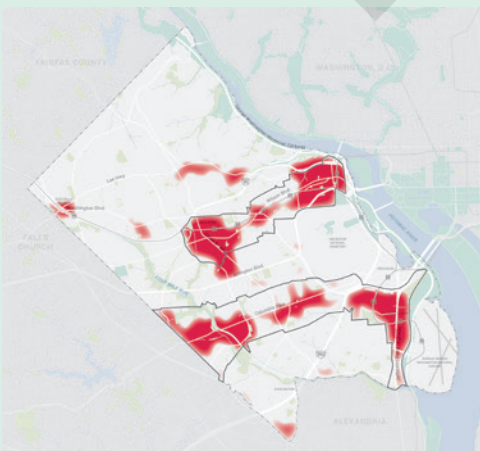
The access standards in the table on the previous page are based on times rather than distances. Because Arlington has robust road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian networks, residents indicated that travel time is more important than distance as they can cover different distances in the same amount of time with different transportation options.

Because high density areas generally have more fine-grained street networks, smaller parcels of land, and more compact development forms than low density areas, there is an expectation that amenities can be reached in a shorter amount of time than in low density areas. Thus, the access standards incorporate different times for high density areas and low density areas for each amenity.

Amenities with access standards are grouped into two categories: those that should be reachable within 5 of minutes of travel in a high density area and 10 minutes of travel in a low density area, and those that should be reachable within 10 minutes of travel in a high density area and 20 minutes of travel in a low density area. More detail on the process for mapping access and the resulting access maps for each amenity can be found in Appendix D.

## PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREAS

Overlaying the maps that result from applying the access standards, several hotspots come into focus, where access gaps exist for several amenities. The most severe gaps exist in Rosslyn, Ballston, and Crystal City and along Columbia Pike.



## HOW THE STANDARDS WILL BE USED

**171** population-based standards and access standards will be used together by the County as a planning tool. The population-based standards indicate *how many* of each amenity Arlington needs, whether the County needs more of or has a surplus of a particular amenity. The access standards indicate where Arlington needs more or fewer amenities. Used in combination, the population-based and access standards provide a snapshot of the level of service provided by current public space system amenities and a roadmap to providing additional amenities. For example, the population-based standards show a need for an additional 10 basketball courts by 2045. Looking at the applied access standards, there are gaps in access, particularly in the Ballston and Crystal City areas and along Columbia Pike. These areas may be targeted for additional courts. The County will update inventory and current level of service metrics annually and reexamine recommended level of service standards as the needs assessment is updated.

*Applied in combination, the population-based and access standards together provide a snapshot of the level of service provided by current public space system amenities and a roadmap to providing additional amenities.*

**#171**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **1:27pm**

While this entails gathering qualitative, not quantitative information, it would be useful to gain additional insight as to why children who live in some high density, lower income neighborhoods are under-represented on organized sports teams and what responsibility and means the County has to actively assist through sliding scale fee structures and improved transportation access in enabling these kids to play on recreational and travel teams.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## BEST PRACTICE:

## DOG RUNS

WEST LOOP DOG PARK  
CHICAGO, IL

Situated in a dense downtown neighborhood, this dog park is just one-tenth of an acre in size. It still includes popular amenities and provides urban dog owners a convenient place to let their pets run around freely.



South Loop Dog PAC

## 172 PRIORITY ACTION

**1.4.3. Based on level of service, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community.**

There are locations where there is a duplication or clustering of one type of amenity, resulting in low usage rates for each. At the same time, these areas may be lacking another type of amenity. This represents an opportunity to better balance the system. By replacing a duplicate with a different amenity, the County can offer a full array of recreation amenities.

**1.4.4. Site new amenities in locations that are or will be made accessible by as many modes of transportation as possible.**

Throughout the 2017 POPS process, the Advisory Committee and stakeholders expressed the importance of multi-modal movement throughout the County and the idea that public space should be accessible to everyone, no matter what mode of transportation they choose to use.

**1.4.5. Implement revised standards for dog parks and new standards for smaller dog runs that may be more**

**173 appropriate in high density areas or areas where dog parks are not feasible.**

In stakeholder interviews, residents reported that many more people have pet dogs and the existing dog parks are suffering from overuse. Given that finding large tracts of land is increasingly difficult, especially in high density neighborhoods, siting dog runs in these areas will create a more decentralized network and enable the County to keep up with demand. The County will also explore changing regulations to allow for siting dog parks and dog runs that meet County standards on privately-owned property with or without public easements – which will be encouraged particularly for developments that are dog-friendly. (See Appendix C for dog park and dog run standards.)

## #172

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:10pm**

### Suggestion

It should be acknowledged that, in the past, Arlington has not engaged in the rigorous planning described in this section 1.4. (Rather, the County has made a series of ad hoc decisions about public improvements.) The plan should emphasize the benefits of, first, considering the pros and cons of each proposed new facility and, second, considering the pros and cons of the possible locations for the facility.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #173

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **8:31pm**

Beyond this point about new small Dog runs, it is likewise Important to preserve Shirlington Dog Park which attracts users from all over the county because of its unique size and length.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## 1.5. Provide more support services and amenities for public space users.

**174** Stakeholder and public meetings, participants indicated that they would use public spaces more often if they had amenities to make their visit more comfortable – including seating,

**175** drinking fountains, restrooms, public art, and concessions. Concessions could include permanent or temporary structures that sell food and alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages, rent equipment such as bicycles, or offer services such as dog washing. The County should also strive for spaces that are multigenerational and multi-use.

### 1.5.1. Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in programmed public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at special events. (See also 8.4.1.)

**176** Current park rules and regulations do not preclude the County from allowing concessions at park and recreational facilities, but the practice is currently limited to a few parks. Some parks are served by informal concession arrangements, with vendors parking on streets adjacent to parks. Recognizing that concessions can enhance the user experience, spur additional use of public spaces, and even generate proceeds to reinvest in public spaces, the County will revise zoning regulations as needed in order to expand its permitting of concessions.

### 1.5.2. Revise County regulations to allow the County to issue permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages in programmed public spaces at specified times at permitted special events as well as in high density corridors.

Nearly 60% of survey respondents indicated that they would be supportive of the sale of food and beverages, at least on a temporary basis, in all parks and public spaces. This rises to over 60% when asked about the sale of food and beverages in the County's high density corridors or certain designated parks and plazas. However, the County currently allows the sale of alcoholic beverages in only 3 parks: Gateway Park, Clarendon Central Park, and Fort C. F. Smith Park.



*What would encourage you to use public spaces more?*

*“Food and/or beverage café style – either permanent or temporary.”*

*– Public Meeting Participant*



## #174

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **2:23pm**

The County should set priorities among things people want versus need. Sale of alcohol or dog washing in public parks is definitely a want and not a need. Creating opportunities for disadvantaged kids to play sports and have access to green space is a need. Surveys show millennials don't pick communities to live in based on concessions in parks - they look for affordable housing, access to good quality day care and, to some extent, nightlife that is not subsidized by the community.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #175

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **2:50pm**

### Suggestion

Virginia Highlands Park would benefit from having a space that allowed gatherings and events where such amenities could be provided—much like the private Crystal City Waterpark. Right now, many Pentagon City residents walk to Crystal City to attend the music and beer/wine tastings. This sort of activity could revitalize the struggling Pentagon Row area as well as being a place for high-rise residents to mingle with each other and with single-family residents.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #176

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **2:24pm**

I would save this issue for a time when other, higher priority needs have been met.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #177

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **3:00pm**

What are the costs & benefits to AC of allowing booze in parks, especially programmed spaces where noise problems, trash & inappropriate behavior are likely to increase.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



## BEST PRACTICE:

# CONCESSIONS & ALCOHOL

## PARKS ON TAP, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Parks on Tap is a program that brought a traveling beer garden, featuring craft beer and food, to a different Philadelphia park each week for the summer season. Due to its success, funding was secured to continue the program in 2017. [parksontap.com](http://parksontap.com)

Section 17-2 of the Arlington County Code, which addresses alcoholic beverages on certain County property, does not currently allow more widespread sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in public spaces.

### 1.5.3. Ensure that indoor public restrooms in facilities adjacent to public spaces are available to public space users, and use signage to inform users of their availability.

It is not feasible to construct new restrooms at all public spaces. However, the County could take advantage of existing public restrooms that may be adjacent to public spaces. For example, while Quincy Park does not currently have restroom facilities, the adjacent Central Library does. Visitors to the park will be made aware that restroom facilities are available nearby.

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

Currently, some restrooms are not publicly accessible in colder weather because the plumbing is not winterized. However, public spaces are used year round.

### 1.5.5. Install additional seating and drinking fountains near facilities and trails.

Seating and drinking fountains are basic amenities that enhance the experiences of novice and avid users.

*"Keep bathrooms open in winter. All parks should have one."*

— Public Meeting Participant



Strolling along the banks of Four Mile Run.  
Barcroft Park

1. **179 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.**

Public internet access could allow public space users to find out more about the spaces they are using, increase safety, attract younger users, and allow visitors to instantly share their experiences via social media.

- 1.5.7. **Reconfigure or add infrastructure to public spaces to support programming such as events and classes. (see also 5.1.3.)**

Some public spaces may be able to support more programming based on community interest, but are not configured or outfitted to carry out the desired activities. For example, a plaza could be renovated with electric outlets in order to support live music or other entertainment.

## #178

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **3:06pm**

A want not a need

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #179

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:12pm**

Wi-Fi should be moved to a much lower priority. This shouldn't even be considered unless data shows that the current availability of wi-fi at libraries and other public locations is insufficient.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# 64%

## OF PEOPLE

indicated they would support maintaining and preserving existing trees and natural areas – the highest rated improvement to the parks and recreation system

“Clean up Four Mile Run and extend the restoration.”

– Public Meeting Participant

### PLACES TO START: WATERWAY ACCESS

- additional stretches of Lubber Run
- Spout Run
- Long Branch

#### 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.)

Attractive and cohesively designed signage present at all County-owned public spaces and privately-owned public spaces will help brand the system. Creating a brand for Arlington’s public space system will help elevate it as part of the County’s identity.

#### 180 PRIORITY ACTION

#### 1.6. Ensure high-quality visual and physical access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries.

The 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan emphasized planning for Four Mile Run. In the 2017 Arlington POPS process, half of survey respondents indicated that natural areas and wildlife habitats are most important to their households – the second highest rated outdoor amenity. In addition, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents indicated they would support maintaining and preserving existing trees and natural areas – the highest rated improvement to the parks and recreation system. The Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries are the heart of the County’s natural framework. They have been the subject of numerous efforts, including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, Stormwater Management Ordinance, Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan, Four Mile Run Valley initiative, and Arlington Boathouse Feasibility Study. Building on this work to create better public spaces along Arlington’s waterways will enhance their ecological value and promote access to nature.

#### 181

#### 1.6.1. Continue to enhance public access to and along waterways.

The County’s waterways are some of its biggest natural and recreational assets, yet they are only intermittently accessible to users, often due to obstructions caused by roadways. Increasing points of access to these amenities through trails and other means will make them more equitably accessible to all potential users. Increased access will also better stitch these amenities into their surrounding neighborhoods. Specific priorities include improving pedestrian and bike access to the

## #180

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **3:14pm**

Unlike alcohol sales or WiFi, here is a core mission of DPR that is also an ultra high priority of community members. What are the specific, actionable steps planned for maintaining existing trees and natural areas?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #181

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:16pm**

Suggestion

Correcting the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N Lynn St. is not an "enhancement," it is a necessity.

It currently is not safe to walk or bike from Rosslyn to the Key Bridge or Teddy Roosevelt Island, because there is no safe place to cross N. Lynn St, or to avoid the high volume of traffic coming off I-66.

A bridge or tunnel should be of the highest priority to allow Arlingtonians worry-free access to the Potomac river.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

IN PROGRESS:

# UNIVERSAL DESIGN PLAYGROUND

Following universal design and inclusive play principles, the playground at Quincy Park is designed to be an environment where children of all abilities play side-by-side. The playground has elevated play features (but no ramps); climbers, swings, berms, and open areas; extra wide pathways; seating; picnic areas; a “quiet” area; interpretive signage; story book quotes; mosaics; and musical instruments that create a safe and fun experience.



**1.6.2. Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to both sides of Four Mile Run. (see also 1.1.6.)**

Since the adoption of the 2005 PSMP, the County has expanded access to and amenities around Four Mile Run. The County will continue this process to further enhance the Run as a natural resource and destination.

**1.6.3. Develop a boathouse facility as part of improved riverfront access and potential new waterfront park for Rosslyn between Theodore Roosevelt Island/ Little River and Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge, as recommended by the Water-Based Recreational Facility Task Force and the Rosslyn Sector Plan.**

182

Physical access to the Potomac River includes access for water-based recreation, and the proposed boathouse facility would greatly enhance the ability of the County to offer both unstructured and structured boating activities, namely team rowing. Additionally, the Rosslyn Sector Plan identified the need for a follow-up effort to define a new, comprehensive vision that addresses the relationship among several key areas, including the Esplanade, riverfront access and boathouse opportunities, and Gateway Park improvements, to name a few. As part of efforts around implementing a boathouse, the County should work in close collaboration with our neighbors and regional partners towards better connecting Rosslyn with the riverfront and providing an attractive park experience fitting for its location.



## #182

Posted by **Robert Swennes** on **07/23/2017** at **8:22pm**

The text of the master plan would be much enhanced if it acknowledged the transformative impact that the proposed boathouse would have on recreation in the county if it were built. It would not simply offer Arlington youth and adults the ability to paddle and row on the Potomac River adjacent to the county, important as that goal is. A functioning boathouse would more importantly offer to residents the ability to recreate on thousands of acres of river water both upstream and downstream from Rosslyn. The costs of acquiring land for the creation of new playing fields, tennis courts, and the like within the county are prohibitively high. Maintenance costs for these overused fields and courts are significant as well. Recreation on the ever-flowing river has few maintenance costs. Development of the needed boathouse and its facilities on one acre of land in Rosslyn is all that is needed to open up the thousands of acres of river to explore and enjoy. From a cost-benefit perspective, getting Arlington residents onto the water to recreate will cost a very small fraction of the expense of enlarging the county's land-based sports facilities as our local population grows.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0





#### 1.6.4. Provide opportunities for recreational boating and fishing.

Recreational access is necessary for structured team activities as well as for casual boating, sailing, kayaking, rowing, and fishing. This would broaden the range of recreational opportunities available in Arlington and help connect users with natural areas — a priority for survey respondents. NPS' *Paved Trails Study* references the need to coordinate with the County on safety and access improvements at the intersection of the Mount Vernon and Custis Trails related to the development of the future boathouse facility.

### 1.7. Strive for universal access.

*As public spaces are improved, reconfigured, or created, the County will always strive to ensure these spaces are accessible and usable by people of all ages and abilities. This idea goes beyond merely following ADA guidelines to encourage the County to utilize cutting-edge strategies and create spaces that are welcoming and safe for people of varying abilities to interact.*

#### 1.7.1. Implement the recommendations of the Department of Parks and Recreation Transition Plan.

As part of the 2017 Arlington POPS process, access audits and site reports were conducted for 148 parks in Arlington. Based on these audits, a Department of Parks and Recreation Transition Plan was developed to identify accessibility issues and satisfy requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### BEST PRACTICE:

## PUBLIC ART

#### DOUG HOLLIS' WAVE ARBOR, LONG BRIDGE PARK, ARLINGTON, VA

Part of the successful remediation and development of Long Bridge Park, a former industrial site, was the inclusion of public art. The kinetic sculpture developed by Doug Hollis is both art as well as a shading element that is responsive to the wind. Wave Arbor brings together natural forces such as wind and light, art, and public spaces to create a well-designed park.



© Jesse Snyder Photography

**1.7.2. Incorporate state-of-the-art and creative approaches to designing for universal access.**

The County will strive to go beyond ADA requirements to incorporate cutting-edge, high quality strategies to achieve maximum accessibility. These strategies will also be monitored over time for performance.

**1.7.3. Develop playgrounds, where feasible, that incorporate universal design principles and integrates a variety of experiences where people of all abilities can interact.**

Universal design refers to spaces that are built to be accessible and usable for people of all ages and abilities. Quincy Park Playground is the first in the County to utilize universal design principles. The County will continue to create playgrounds where all can play together with siblings, friends, and peers.

**1.8. Strive for a more attractive and sustainable public space system.**

*While Arlington County already has many well-designed spaces and sustainability policies guiding its public spaces, continuing to improve in these areas will instill pride in the system and help create a cohesive identity for the County's public realm.*

**1.8.1. Create facility design standards.**

In order to ensure a predictable process for facility design that results in high-quality spaces and supports placemaking, standards will be set that utilize best management practices, account for operations and maintenance costs, and meet accessibility and sustainability requirements.

**1.8.2. Strive for design excellence in the development and reconstruction of parks and facilities.**

Design excellence requires an attention to the quality of design in built structures, landscapes, the way they interact with each other, and how they interface with their surroundings. Considerations may include the sensitive and appropriate use of materials, plant palettes, and the inclusion of horticulture.



WRT

**Using private land to temporarily expand public space.**  
Clarendon-Barton Pop-Up Park

## LEED BUILDINGS + SITES

*Rating systems like LEED and SITES provide best practices and guidance for creating sustainable buildings and places*

### 1.8.3. Pursue Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) or similar certification of building facilities in alignment with the County's Policy for Integrated Facility Sustainability and the Community Energy Plan.

Arlington County's Policy for Integrated Facility Sustainability, created in 2008, states that its purpose "is to demonstrate Arlington's commitment to environmental, economic, and social stewardship, to reduce costs through energy and water efficiency, to provide healthy work environments for staff and visitors, and to contribute to the County's goals of protecting, conserving, and enhancing the region's environmental resources. Additionally, the County helps to set a community standard of sustainable building practices." The policy references pursuing LEED Silver Certification or similar performance. The Community Energy Plan encourages energy-efficient buildings and facilities.

**1.8.4. Use rating systems such as the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) rating system as guidance in designing sustainable landscapes.**

While the County's Policy for Integrated Facility Sustainability focuses on buildings, the purpose of the policy can also be applied to designing highly performative landscapes. The SITES rating system is a landscape-focused corollary to the LEED rating system for buildings.

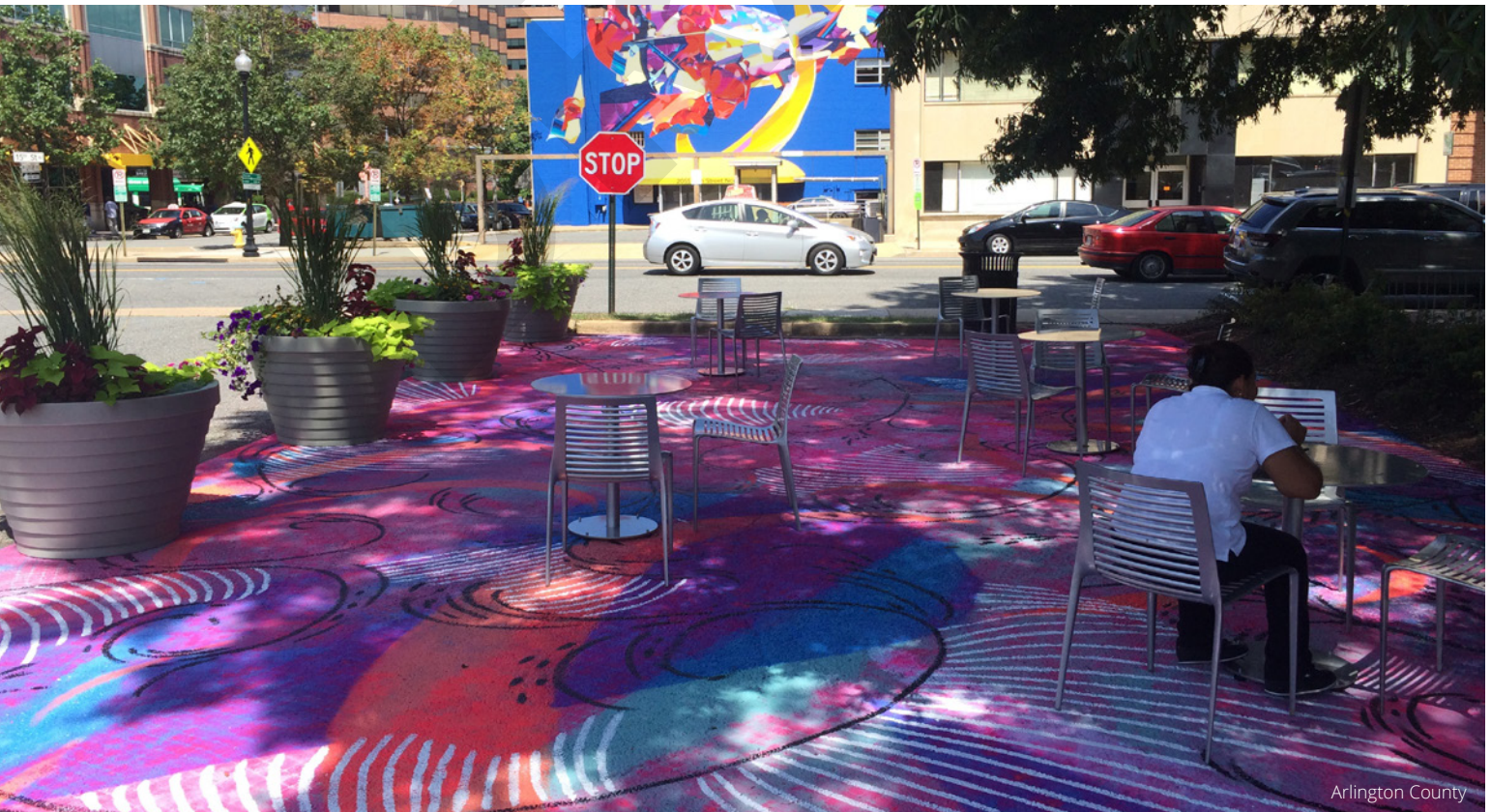
**1.8.5. Opt for sustainable design elements in all capital investments where feasible.**

Sustainable design elements may include those made with recycled or locally produced materials, those that consume few resources, or those that produce or are powered by renewable resources.

**1.8.6. Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees on public and private land.**

184  
83  
Arlington's tree canopy provides many economic and environmental benefits; increasing tree cover will also help advance the goals laid out in the *Urban Forest Master Plan*. (See also 3.2.2.)

**Converting parking to pop-up public space with public art and street furniture.**  
*Pop-Up Plaza at the Grove*



Arlington County

## #183

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:23pm**

The County (including APS) is simply not adequately protecting mature canopy on its own sites much less pressing as hard as it should for best practices on privately-owned lands. Newly planted trees take decades to grow and these are often treated as expendable. This should not be happening in Arlington. Before any County sponsored work group is asked to approve an action on a site, it should be given full information/complete answers to their questions about the impacts on adjacent tree canopy. Developers and architects should perhaps receive ratings based on their commitment to protect canopy.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #184

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:20pm**

Discussion of planting more trees should be secondary to preserving the existing canopy. It's always nice to plant a tree, but a young tree, no matter how lovely, simply cannot make up for the loss of a mature tree.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



"Race294.Friday5K.CrystalCity"  
Elvert Barnes  
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**Temporarily expanding public space into the street for a 5k run.**

Crystal City

*Temporary public spaces can be used for special events and can bring attention to the need for more public space.*

**1.8.7. Incorporate public art into public spaces in alignment with the Public Art Master Plan.**

The Public Art Master Plan states that public art should be a force for placemaking and a key factor in the creation of places of civic distinction. Public art can reflect local history, culture, and neighborhoods. It can enliven and enrich public spaces, drawing more users and making for a more attractive and interesting experience.

**1.9. Enhance spaces with temporary uses and "pop-up" programming.**

*Public input during the 2017 POPS process revealed a desire for more temporary programming and special events. Temporary uses add an exciting dynamic to public spaces and would enable the County to do more with the space it has. In addition, temporary uses can act as a bridge for areas needing more open space during the time in which those new open spaces are being designed and constructed. The County will*

*explore expanding temporary uses on both public and private land. This idea has already been included in the Rosslyn Sector Plan. While the County does currently allow temporary uses in public spaces, changes may be needed to the zoning code and other County regulations in order to expand and streamline this type of activity.*

**1.9.1. Continue to allow and actively encourage the activation of public spaces and other publicly and privately owned property through temporary activities like parklets, special events, seasonal markets, and pop-up events.**

As temporary uses become more popular and useful in a space-constrained community, Arlington will be more proactive in seeking opportunities to activate spaces in this way. Temporary public spaces used for special events, whether on public or private property, can add excitement and bring attention to the need for more public space. For example, Park(ing) Day is an annual event where street parking spots are transformed into temporary public parks or “parklets” in order to spark conversations about how public spaces are used. Expanding County participation in the event would speak to the County’s commitment to vibrant public spaces. Existing County events include Clarendon Arts Day and the Food Festivals.

**BEST PRACTICE:**

## SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Martin Luther King Drive, which runs along the scenic Schuylkill River, closes to automobile traffic every weekend in warmer months in order to provide abundant recreational space to pedestrians and cyclists.



**#185**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:25pm**

Please make sure that such activities are consistent with neighborhood character by reaching out and listening to affected civic associations.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



## PLACES TO START: TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

- to be determined

189

### 1.9.2. Continue to allow and encourage temporary activities on vacant or other periodically unused private property.

Properties that are unused during certain times of the year, as well as lots that are awaiting development, can be activated on a temporary or seasonal basis before more permanent development moves in.

### 1.9.3. Streamline the process of permitting temporary spaces on both public and private lands.

While it is currently possible to create temporary spaces and pop-up events, the process could be refined and formalized to make it predictable and enable broader participation in the creation of these spaces.

### 186 4. Expand the use of temporary road closures to create public spaces that can be used for the community at large or for special events.

Many cities are embracing temporary road closures to create, for example, additional bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly routes on weekends, or to support linear festivals that may include food, drinks, music, and activities.

Temporary road closures may also be used by groups that sponsor walks or races. The County sometimes closes roads for special events—such as Clarendon Day, the Columbia Pike Blues Festival, and Marine Corps Marathon—but the practice could be greatly expanded to include more regular closures in the future, such as the first Saturday of every month in spring and summer.

### 1.9.5. Ensure dedicated funding is available to support temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.

## 1. 187 Coordinate the construction of new or replacement recreational facilities with the Capital Improvement Plan.

*As part of the Comprehensive Plan, this plan sets overarching policy for public spaces in Arlington. All recommendations for new facilities that result from the level of service analysis and other considerations will be considered in future CIP updates.*



## #186

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:00pm**

Yes, strongly support this!

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #187

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:27pm**

Suggestion

Coordination is key and should be discussed more fully. Instead of an ad hoc decision on each proposed facility, Arlington should include decision making about which facilities to construct as part of its capital improvement plan. That way, everyone can participate in decisions about how to prioritize all the good ideas we have, and where the facilities should be located. Once we all agree on the plan, we can proceed to construction of the facilities.

The County should not engage in any more arguments about whether or not to construct a particular facility at a particular location (or proceed with construction) until an overall plan is completed.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #188

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:29pm**

It has become increasingly difficult to get from one place to another in Arlington. The combination of road maintenance, storm sewer and neighborhood conservation projects has increased the amount of disruption, causing County residents to head to McLean, instead of Lee Harrison or Cherrydale or other locations in Arlington to buy groceries, go to restaurants, etc. Please be mindful of the impact on the County's consumers and merchants of making it difficult to do business in Arlington

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #189

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **07/30/2017** at **4:31pm**

Please provide specifics of how the dotted line areas in the outer loop would be constructed. What streets would be affected and how would they be changed to accomplish the stated goal?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



191

## 2. TRAILS

IMPROVE THE NETWORK OF TRAILS TO, WITHIN, AND BETWEEN PUBLIC SPACES TO INCREASE ACCESS AND ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY.

Hiking trails and paved, multi-use trails are the highest and third highest priorities for investment in outdoor facilities, respectively, based on responses from the statistically valid survey. This follows a national trend of trails being the most desired amenities. The County recognizes that trails are used for both transportation and recreation—sometimes simultaneously—and more work is needed to create better access, better connectivity, and a greater variety of experiences for recreational purposes. Key trail connections will also be emphasized to connect schools, community centers, and transit stops with public spaces.

190

### ACTIONS:

- 2.1. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails.
- 2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.
- 2.3. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.
- 2.4. Develop and implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system.
- 2.5. Better coordinate planning for and management of trails.

Catering to various trail users.  
Washington & Old Dominion Trail

"Before the Ride"  
© Limarié Cabrera  
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## #190

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:29pm**

Making the existing trails safe is not even mentioned here, but it should be the highest priority. Fixing unsafe conditions, such as the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N. Lynn St, should be made a new Action Number One in this section.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #191

Posted by **ThomasMD** on **08/06/2017** at **1:43pm**

Suggestion

If hiking trails were the public's highest priority for investment in outdoor facilities, shouldn't hiking trails be the first priority in this section, rather than third?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# ACTIONS

## PRIORITY ACTION

192

### 1. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails.

Arlington has an extensive trail system that connects many of its public spaces. A trail network that is easily accessible and creates connections among different public spaces can result in a more widely used system of public spaces. Cyclists have more opportunities to stop and use public space amenities, and public space users have protected routes that allow them to discover what amenities are available in other public spaces across the County. Protected routes increase safety and encourage more novice users to participate. Many of the strategies listed below tie into recommendations in the Master Transportation Plan.

#### 2.1.1. Complete an "inner loop" of protected routes that connects the Custis, Four Mile Run, Arlington Boulevard, and Mount Vernon Trails.

The Arlington Loop is a local precedent for a connected loop trail. Via portions of the Custis, Washington & Old Dominion, Four Mile Run, and Mount Vernon Trails, users can travel off-street continuously for 16 miles. Upgrading and completing the existing trail along the entire length of Arlington Boulevard would extend trail access to additional communities in one of the densest parts of Arlington and create shorter loops, inviting new users who may not be comfortable with completing the full 16-mile loop.

194

#### 2.1.2. Complete an "outer loop" of protected routes that connects the Four Mile Run, Mount Vernon, and Zachary Taylor Trails.

The Arlington Loop is not easily accessible from the northern part of Arlington. A new "outer loop" that takes advantage of the Potomac Heritage Natural Scenic Trail and incorporates new trail segments along planned bike routes would extend access to the north and provide additional loop options, including a longer, 19-mile loop.

*Paved multi-use trails were the most important types of outdoor facility, while hiking trails were the second most important, to survey respondents.*

# 16 mi OF TRAILS

*where users can travel off-street continuously on the Arlington Loop*

## #192

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:06pm**

### Suggestion

This action should be concrete and have a timeline like 1.1 does, for instance "build 15 new miles of trail in the next 10 years".

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #193

Posted by **kmacalt** on **08/09/2017** at **5:07pm**

### Suggestion

Upgrading and wayfinding seems critical to this project. It's a great idea, and cooperation with federal agencies will make or break it. The area around Arlington Cemetery seems particularly problematic in terms of upgrading given the current discontinuity between the existing trail and the entrance to the Cemetery. The area around Memorial Bridge is also a mess, lacking trail connections and requiring crossing multiple lanes when you can access trails.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #194

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:33pm**

As noted, the much-praised Arlington Loop cannot be completed safely under current conditions. The Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N Lynn St is a notable choke point, as is the area at Memorial Bridge.

It is aggravating, to say the least, that Arlington is considering wi-fi at public parks, but there is no prominent mention of these life-threatening situations.

While the area at Memorial Bridge may be under federal jurisdiction, Arlington County should make it the highest priority to lobby federal officials and offer funding to correct these situations.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #195

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:00pm**

Please be more specific about where and how will the dotted blue areas of the outer loop completed?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

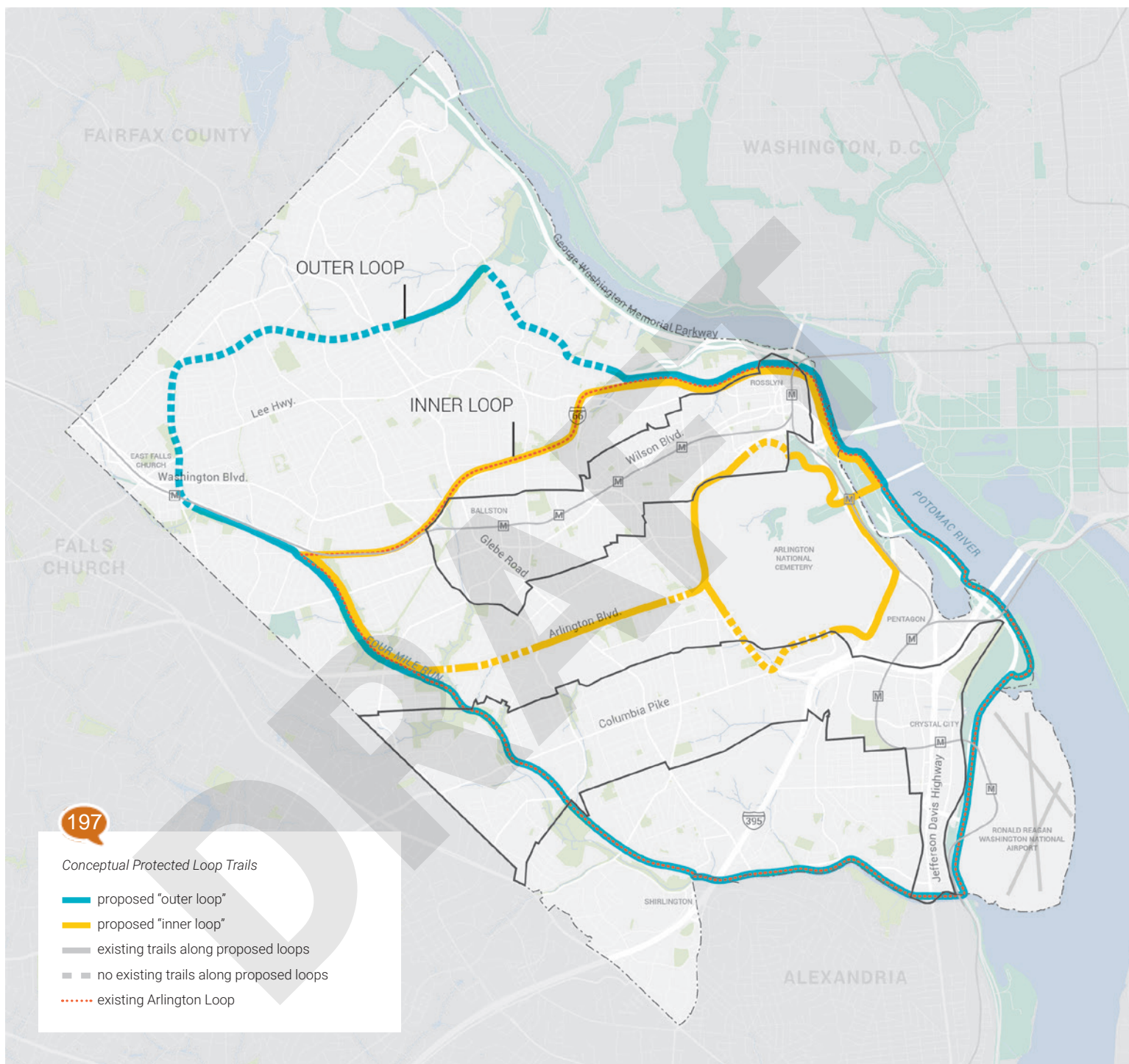


Figure 19. Creating Different Length Loops that Build on the Arlington Loop

197

Conceptual Protected Loop Trails

- proposed "outer loop"
- proposed "inner loop"
- existing trails along proposed loops
- no existing trails along proposed loops
- ⋯ existing Arlington Loop



## #196

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:03pm**

### Suggestion

Given status of Navy Annex land swap, the inner loop should probably now follow realignment of Columbia Pike not Southgate Road which will likely go away.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #197

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:04pm**

### Suggestion

Inner Loop should also include trail connection to TR bridge as envisioned in the Rosslyn Sector Plan.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

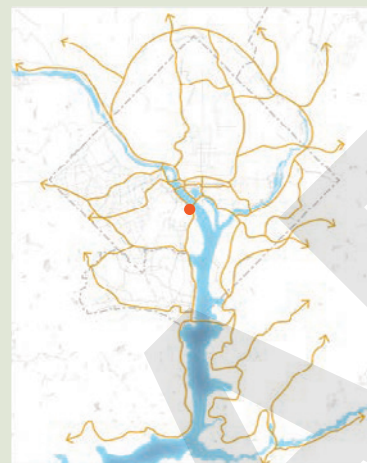
## Connection from 14th Street Bridge to Boundary Channel Drive and Long Bridge Park

### Arlington County, VA

The project addresses a bridge connection and a trail gap by establishing a formal connection from the 14th Street Bridge to the Pentagon by way of Boundary Channel Drive and also connecting the trail network to the recently constructed Long Bridge Park in Arlington County. This connection would greatly improve access to the Mount Vernon Trail and link to major parks in Virginia to Downtown D.C. Because this connection is adjacent to NPS property, NPS should coordinate with Arlington County and the Department of Defense in defining appropriate access points.

An existing connection beneath the Humpback Bridge on the George Washington Memorial Parkway provides a link to the east side of the Pentagon Lagoon, but the off-street trail segment currently terminates. This trail should be extended with the cooperation of the Pentagon Reservation to directly connect to Boundary Channel Drive on the southwest side of the Lagoon. An on-street trail facility should then be provided along Boundary Channel Drive to create a direct connection east under Interstate 395 to Long Bridge Drive.

**Map Reference:** G2.3  
**Project Type:** Bridges  
**Park Unit:** GWMP  
**Status:** Proposed  
**Primary Responsibility:** Arlington County  
**ROM Cost:** \$\$\$  
**Potential Funding Source:** Non-NPS



Arrows indicate proposed connections to improve access  
 Aerial Image Source: Google Earth Pro

**Connecting the Mount Vernon Trail to Long Bridge Park.**  
 from the NPS National Capital Region Paved Trails Study

**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.**

198

The George Washington Memorial Parkway and I-395 are wide, vehicular routes with few places for pedestrians and cyclists to cross them safely. Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Army Navy Country Club are large properties with limited or no public access that also hinder connections for pedestrians and cyclists.

*What improvements would encourage you to walk or bike more to parks?*

*“Sidewalks, better connected paths, better connected bike lanes.”*

*—Public Meeting Participant*

#198

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:34pm**

Add to this list the crossing of N. Lynn St at Lee Hwy.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**200** 4. **Connect Long Bridge Park to the Mount Vernon Trail.**

Only about a quarter mile separates Long Bridge Park from the locally and regionally significant Mount Vernon Trail. The Long Bridge Park Master Plan proposed developing a regional trailhead for the Mount Vernon Trail at Long Bridge Park. This was also included in the National Park Service's 2016 *Paved Trails Study*. A direct connection to the Mount Vernon Trail, and a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Potomac River, would further integrate Long Bridge Park into the regional trail system.

**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.**

Sidewalks and trails are key to increasing access to public spaces. With facilities designed specifically to enable pedestrians and cyclists to reach public spaces from homes and other neighborhood anchors, public spaces become more desirable to visit. Coordination with the Safe Routes to School program will be critical.

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

**203** Surrounding jurisdictions are home to a number of unique recreational experiences that cannot be replicated within Arlington. For example, Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC has hiking trails—one of the most desired amenities in Arlington — that cannot be replicated within the County. Connecting to adjacent trail systems will expand the range of opportunities available to Arlington residents and visitors from the region.

**206**  
**205**

## #199

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:18pm**

### Suggestion

2.1.4. should call for connection LBP not just to the MVT, but also to DC's Anacostia Riverwalk trail via a rebuilt Long Bridge. This is being explored as part of the Long Bridge Study and Arlington should be explicitly supporting it. <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/long-bridge-project>

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #200

Posted by **elf55** on **08/09/2017** at **9:10pm**

### Suggestion

This should lead to proposed Long Bridge trail over the Potomac.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #201

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:18pm**

### Suggestion

The County (either as a whole, or DPR, or DES or both) should JOIN THE CAPITAL TRAILS COALITION <http://capitaltrailscoalition.org/>. This is the best way to ensure that trail planning is coordinated region-wide.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #202

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:19pm**

### Suggestion

Plan should explicitly call for a new trail connection over the Potomac River to the C&O Canal Towpath and Capital Crescent Trail from the new Outer Loop Trail.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #203

Posted by **kmacalt** on **08/09/2017** at **5:17pm**

### Suggestion

Please prioritize improving bridge crossings. The Key Bridge is often crowded and has difficult intersections on both the Arlington and DC side. The Roosevelt Bridge has a very narrow pathway with minimal protection from falling into traffic. Both potentially give great access to DC, including Rock Creek Park, but I try to avoid them if I can.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #204

Posted by **Connellka** on **07/28/2017** at **3:22pm**

### Suggestion

Please add sidewalks everywhere where possible and have the county be responsible for clearing and taking care of them instead of relying on home or office owners.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #205

Posted by **Connellka** on **07/28/2017** at **3:24pm**

### Suggestion

Please be aware that some people commute by walking, not everyone drives. I think that should be taken into account when sidewalks and trails are being thought about.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #206

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:38pm**

Move this paragraph 2.1.5 from page 111 of the report to Page One.

It is embarrassing that something as simple as the completion of sidewalks is buried in this report.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## 2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.

207

*Some of Arlington’s trails are seeing very heavy usage. The more multi-use trails are used, the more potential there is for conflicts between different types of users – including cyclists, skateboarders, pedestrians, and runners of all ages. Through education and trail design, conflicts between different types of users can be minimized.*

### 2.2.1. Compile and clarify design standards for all types of trails.

Design standards may include clearing width and height, lighting, landscaping, tread width, tread surface material, striping, slope, cross slope, turning radii, passing spot intervals, rest area intervals, tree planting and preservation, and road crossing treatments.

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

Introducing striping on two-way trails enhances the safety of all users by explicitly demarcating areas for each direction of travel.

*What improvements would encourage you to walk or bike more to parks?*

*“Separate bike and pedestrian paths.”*

*—Public Meeting Participant*

208  
209

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

Wider trails allow users of different speeds and abilities to safely utilize the same trail. Any trail widening will attempt to minimize impacts on natural resources.

#### BEST PRACTICE:

# MODE SEPARATION

## HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY, NEW YORK, NY

On the heavily used trail system along the Hudson River, a parallel walkway and bikeway separates walkers and runners from cyclists and skaters in order to improve safety for all users.



## #207

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:40pm**

### Suggestion

The first point in this section should be safety. Discuss locations where existing trails are not safe, such as the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N Lynn St.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #208

Posted by **kmacalt** on **08/09/2017** at **5:22pm**

### Suggestion

Take a lane away from Lee Highway, remove/move the sound wall, and widen the Custis at least to Scott Street.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #209

Posted by **elf55** on **08/09/2017** at **9:14pm**

### Suggestion

Maintain at least a ten foot trail width at all locations.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0





Arlington County

Giving novice riders a place to learn to ride.  
Glencarlyn Park

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

Separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the most heavily used routes will enhance the safety of all users, particularly during peak commuting times.

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

While there are established rules about trail etiquette — where in the lane to stay if you are going fast, for example — users may not be aware of or remember the rules. Trails function more safely when all users understand the range of other users they may encounter and area aware of the “rules of the road.” Trail etiquette messaging may be coordinated with BikeArlington, WalkArlington, and other campaigns.

211

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

Arlington has a learning loop at Glencarlyn Park that can serve as a model for this type of facility.



Jim Henderson

## #210

Posted by **palthainon** on **08/10/2017** at **9:09am**

### Suggestion

Don't get too wrapped up in this. Trail edicate is a more natural phenomenon that will be heavily influenced through the design. Separating bikes and pedestrians is likely the most straightforward way to influence this. This can be done mostly by creating protected bike lanes and leaving large sidewalks/paths for pedestrians and children.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #211

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:42pm**

### Suggestion

This is a very good idea. It should be emphasized and expanded.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

- 212** 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.**

Currently, some major trails are monitored to determine general trail usage. Expanded monitoring can shed light on different ways people use the trail system.

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

Wi-Fi at trailheads will enable users to access mobile information about their location, nearby amenities and other trail connections, as well as enabling communication during an emergency.

### 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. (See also 3.3.4.)**

While it is critical to preserve our natural resource areas, public input during the 2017 POPS process did reveal a strong desire for more hiking trails. The County will attempt to satisfy both goals by strategically placing new trails in areas that will minimize impacts to the surroundings.

- 2.3.2. Improve the quality of and increase access to Four Mile Run and Potomac tributary trails. (see also 3.3.1.)**

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

In such a space-constrained and densely developed area as Arlington, it is prudent to make residents aware of other hiking amenities that might be a very short distance away, despite being located outside of the County.

#### IN PROGRESS:

## TRAIL USE MONITORING

Arlington currently monitors bicycle and pedestrian usage with approximately 40 counters along selected trails and bike lanes. Data captured by the counters is publicly available on the web and can be accessed through an interactive map of counter locations.



## #212

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:19pm**

### Suggestion

trail counters are currently being maintained by Transportation Planning, this should be transitioned to Operations which already maintains a large stable of in-the-field equipment like permanent traffic counters, traffic signals, signs, etc for efficiencies.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #213

Posted by **elf55** on **08/09/2017** at **9:18pm**

### Suggestion

The mandate for trail based internet service doesn't belong here unless it provides navigation or wayfinding services. This should only be about trails and navigating trails.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## BEST PRACTICE:

# REGIONAL TRAIL SIGNAGE

## MIAMI RIVER VALLEY, OH

Regional trails in the Miami River Valley use standardized trail signs that incorporate location identifiers, directions and distances to amenities and connecting trails, and information on the entity that controls and maintains the trails. Since installation of the standardized signs, other groups have adopted the same signage standards.



214

## 2.4. Develop and implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system.

*Consistent signage will instill pride in the trail system and help create a cohesive identity for the variety of trails spread throughout the County. It will also enable users to more confidently and safely navigate the trail system.*

### 2.4.1. Name all trail segments using descriptive names.

Currently, a number of trail segments in Arlington are unnamed, which makes it difficult for users to provide directions or report emergencies. Using descriptive and unique terms for trail segments will make it easier for users to navigate the trail system, especially if they relate to their location in the County or nearby landmarks.

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

Using different signage systems on a single trail that crosses jurisdictional boundaries can be jarring to users and cause confusion. Common trail signage and wayfinding standards create a more seamless experience and better promote a connected regional trail network.

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

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

Integrated location information will help trail users identify where they are relative to their intended destination or mileage goal.

### 2.4.5. Improve wayfinding signage at trailheads.

#214

Posted by **Zachary Schrag** on **08/09/2017** at **10:54pm**

Suggestion

All of these ideas would increase the value of the trails for transportation. Some years back, I was taking my daughter to a class at the Arlington Mill Community Center, which is right off the W&OD and Four Mile Run trails. Finding the right turn offs, none of them marked in any way, was much more difficult than any other part of the trip.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## 2.16 Better coordinate planning for and management of trails.

*A variety of County and non-County entities manage trails in Arlington. The best trail user experience can be achieved by ensuring all entities are working in partnership to achieve common planning and management goals.*

DRAFT

Hiking through Arlington's natural areas.  
*Potomac Heritage Trail*



Arlington County

## #215

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:03pm**

This would be helpful. Also, most people I know in Arlington have no idea of where the trails are, what makes them interesting, etc.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #216

Posted by **Urbanismo4U** on **08/09/2017** at **1:44pm**

Suggestion

This is a critical piece, I'd really like to see this developed further. Including potential solutions to problems that have historically been an issue.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0







## 217. 3. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

PROTECT, RESTORE, EXPAND, AND ENHANCE NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, AND INCREASE RESOURCE-BASED ACTIVITIES.

Natural and historic resources are irreplaceable assets. Prioritizing their protection for recreation and conservation will ensure continued access to them. The 2017 POPS public engagement process revealed a high unmet need for natural areas and connection with nature. Half of survey respondents indicated that natural areas and wildlife habitats are most important to their households—the second highest rated outdoor amenity. In addition, nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated they would support maintaining and preserving existing trees and natural areas—the highest rated improvement to the parks and recreation system.

### ACTIONS:

- 3.1. Update the Natural Resources Management Plan.
- 3.2. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan.
- 3.3. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources, particularly in riparian corridors along County waterways.
- 3.4. Integrate natural resources and natural resource interpretation into the design of public spaces.
- 3.5. Foster, develop, and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programming across ages and skill levels.
- 3.6. Promote conservation stewardship volunteerism that enables individuals and organizations to leave a positive legacy in the park system.
- 3.7. Capitalize on existing historic resources in public spaces, and evaluate the potential of protecting additional historic resources.

Taking a closer view of natural resources.  
Four Mile Run

"Four Mile Run - Moss Cleanup"  
© Mrs. Gemstone  
Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

**#217**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:10pm**

This is the most important priority of Arlington residents, yet the content of Section 3 is largely aspirational. It needs to be more specific, measurable and actionable. Maintenance must become a much higher priority. Sports User groups earn money from use of programmed spaces and then turn around and try to use this money (generated through use of taxpayer owned public lands) to obtain investment in more synthetic fields and lights. We need to shift the focus to emphasize partnerships with local employers and others to support maintenance, through volunteer efforts and philanthropic contributions. It does little good to buy or own land only to see native species overrun by invasives, trash strewn around, and the condition of casual use spaces as well as natural areas continually deteriorate. Please make this a top priority.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# NATURAL RESOURCE ACTIONS

## PRIORITY ACTION

### 3.1. Update the Natural Resources Management Plan.

**219** *Natural Resources Management Plan was last updated in 2010. It identifies significant natural resources found in Arlington and provides recommendations and best practices in order to enhance, preserve and protect the County's natural resources. The process for updating the Natural Resources Management Plan, which is expected to begin following the completion of this plan, shall take into consideration how to move the actions in this plan forward.*

## PRIORITY ACTION

### 3.2. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan.

**223** *Urban Forest Master Plan was last updated in 2004. The plan includes an inventory of street trees and an analysis*

**224** *f the County's full forest canopy. It provides strategies to preserve and enhance the urban forest in a comprehensive manner. The process for updating the Urban Forest Master Plan, which is expected to begin following the completion of this plan, shall take into consideration how to move the actions in this plan forward.*

*"Restore our natural areas by removing invasives, restoring streams, planting natives, etc."*

*– Public Meeting Participant*

### 3.3. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources, particularly in riparian corridors along County waterways.

**226** *While natural resources may be located anywhere in the County, the majority of the sites recommended to be included as Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCAs) in the 2010 Natural Resources Master Plan are adjacent to waterways. Riparian corridors are important natural and recreational amenities. Therefore, preserving and enhancing natural resources within the County will primarily entail focusing on riparian corridors. Improvements to waterways in Arlington are under the purview of the Chesapeake Bay Protection Ordinance and Arlington County stormwater management policies.*

## #218

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:12pm**

Make sure it contains specific actions that can be taken and measured.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #219

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **4:54pm**

Again, I strongly support updating the Natural Resources Management Plan. However, I have NEVER actually witnessed this plan being implemented in conjunction with ANY public or private development project. It is as if it doesn't exist. Thus, we are seeing ongoing degradation and extermination of Arlington's remaining natural resources and natural infrastructure. Part of the problem is the developer mindset of staff and elected officials who see every tree, every bit of natural parkland and space as "underutilized" if something serving human beings is not built upon it. Until staff and elected officials change that mindset and are willing to implement the NRM and UFM Plans — approved as legitimate parts of the county's Comprehensive Plan — then they won't be worth the "paper" that they are written on.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #220

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:13pm**

We are losing canopy on private and public lands. Set a dates for the start and completion of the inventory and provide the resources required to complete it.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #221

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **4:49pm**

Though I support the updating of the Urban Forest Master Plan, I have never seen its goals applied to any commercial/private development project nor to any park, school or county project. Having plans is great, and updating is good. But this effort is useless when the county refuses to implement these plans.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #222

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **4:49pm**

Though I support the updating of the Urban Forest Master Plan, I have never seen its goals applied to any commercial/private development project nor to any park, school or county project. Having plans is great, and updating is good. But this effort is useless when the county refuses to implement these plans.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #223

Posted by **ArlingtoniansforaCleanEnvironment** on **08/11/2017** at **11:46am**

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) wholeheartedly supports prioritizing the Urban Forest Master Plan. Having updated tree coverage data is critical to enhancing our community's ability to manage our tree resources. This initiative will be especially useful for our management of the Tree Canopy Fund program.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #224

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:21pm**

Suggestion

Too many huge, beautiful, old trees are being lost in residential tear down projects. We need stricter standards on to protect existing mature trees rather than letting them be cut down and replaced with little more than shrubs.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #225

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:15pm**

I do not know what these improvements are except there are doubts about phase 2 of the plan for Donaldson Run. Please provide specifics of what's being proposed.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #226

Posted by **SSSundburg** on **08/07/2017** at **5:00pm**

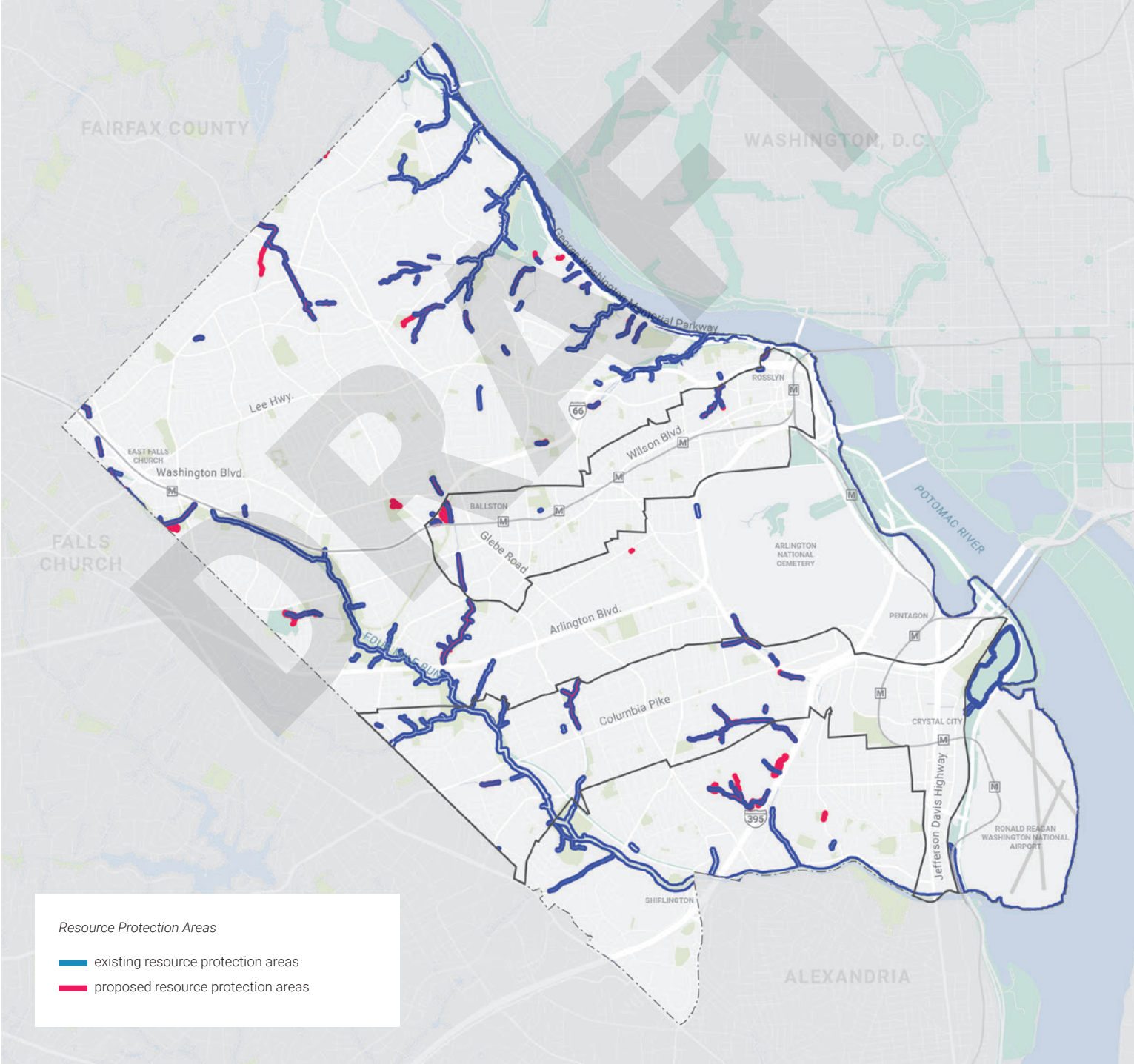
Again, county staff, APS and elected officials consistently ignore and refuse to respect and protect riparian corridors — even those defined on the county's Chesapeake Bay Act RPA map.

Staff looks for loopholes in Virginia DEQ regulations that enable them to encroach into the RPAs, cutting trees and add lots of impervious surfaces and even buildings. You cannot simultaneously build on and destroy your riparian corridors to "save" or "restore" them any more than the U.S. could "save" villages in Vietnam by burning them. When will staff and elected officials get serious and implement goals and priorities like 3.3? If the answer is "never," then why are DPR and elected officials asking us to waste our time entering comments on this infernal form.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

**Figure 20. Map of Resource Protection Areas**

A Resource Protection Area (RPA) includes streams, rivers, and other water bodies and environmentally sensitive lands within 100 feet of these water resources





**3.3.1. Address the protection, restoration, and expansion of natural resources in Four Mile Run planning and site master plans for parks along Four Mile Run, as well as others leading to riparian areas.**

The Four Mile Run corridor and other riparian areas throughout the County have been compromised due to rapid development and densification of surrounding communities. Moving forward, park framework plans and park master plans will emphasize the restoration and long-term protection of these important resources.

228

**3.3.2. Explore opportunities to participate in and join the Biophilic Cities movement.**

Biophilic cities, where a commitment to natural space and natural features is at the core of planning and design, provide abundant and varied opportunities to connect residents with the natural world. In a biophilic city, natural space is everyday space, and the opportunity to experience nature is both readily available and regularly practiced.

229

230

**3.3.3. Pursue easements to protect natural areas and heritage resources.**

Public easements on land that is crucial for natural or historic resource purposes ensures it will not be developed. Easements are an important preservation strategy even if the land is not publicly accessible.

**3.3.4. Coordinate the protection and expansion of natural resources with the provision of new hiking trails. (See also 2.3.2.)**

The 2017 POPS survey revealed a high priority need for more hiking trails in the County. Potential new hiking trails will be considered in coordination with the Natural Resources Master Plan.

**3.3.5. Collaborate with the National Park Service to develop master plans for Roaches Run, Gravelly Point, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and other NPS areas.**

The National Park Service oversees a number of public spaces in the County. These spaces will be planned for in a collaborative manner so that they fit seamlessly within



**MORE  
HIKING  
TRAILS**

*high priority need for more hiking trails was noted in the 2017 POPS survey.*

## #227

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:23pm**  
Suggestion

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #228

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:27pm**

3.3.1 there is significant positive public use of these areas that needs to be prioritized and cannot be sacrificed for restoration.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #229

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **2:58pm**

Suggestion

All new private and public developments should be incorporating "biophilic" elements into design. Should be emphasized in every site plan.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #230

Posted by **ArlingtoniansforaCleanEnvironment** on **08/11/2017** at **11:56am**

As our County grows, incorporating Biophilic City concepts into development plans will allow residents to increase connections to the natural world, providing tremendous benefits to our health, especially young people. Research has shown that opportunities for youth to experience nature improves health and well-being and enhances social-emotional learning.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #231

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:01pm**

Better access to Roach's Run would be a good way of connecting Arlington park visitors with the water and providing educational opportunities about the importance of the waterfowl sanctuary. It should be a destination for bird walks and other nature-oriented programming that the POPS process has documented as highly desired.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #232

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:47pm**

Coordination with the NPS is extremely important and should be better highlighted in this document. Safe access to the river requires better coordination with NPS.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



Arlington County

**Crossing over a valley in the palisades.**  
Fort Bennett Park

the County’s broader public space system. Other projects requiring collaboration with NPS include an enhanced connection to the Mt. Vernon Trail (see 2.1.4.) and a proposed boathouse on the banks of the Potomac River (see 1.5.3.).

- 233** 6. **Work with Arlington Public Schools to identify, preserve, and develop enhancement and management plans for natural and historic resources in school site planning.**

There are often natural and historic resources located on APS property, which are usually maintained by APS staff but should meet clear standards for enhancement and management set by the County.

- 234** 7. **Develop an agreement with Arlington Public Schools to increase shared resources for management of natural resources on school property.**

Arlington Public Schools does not have sufficient staff or other resources to manage sensitive habitats, trees, and other critical natural resources that

## #233

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:17pm**

Yes. This is important to do.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #234

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:28pm**

Clearly APS lacks the resources to care for wooded areas and plantings on school property. However, from this resident's perspective it's not clear that DPR would be a better steward. This master plan is extremely ambitious with concrete/specific proposals weighted toward programmed use of County and school property. Is there a way to separate a worthy desire to make sure trees and green space on school property are preserved without exposing schools to more pressure for programmed use?

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #235

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:03pm**

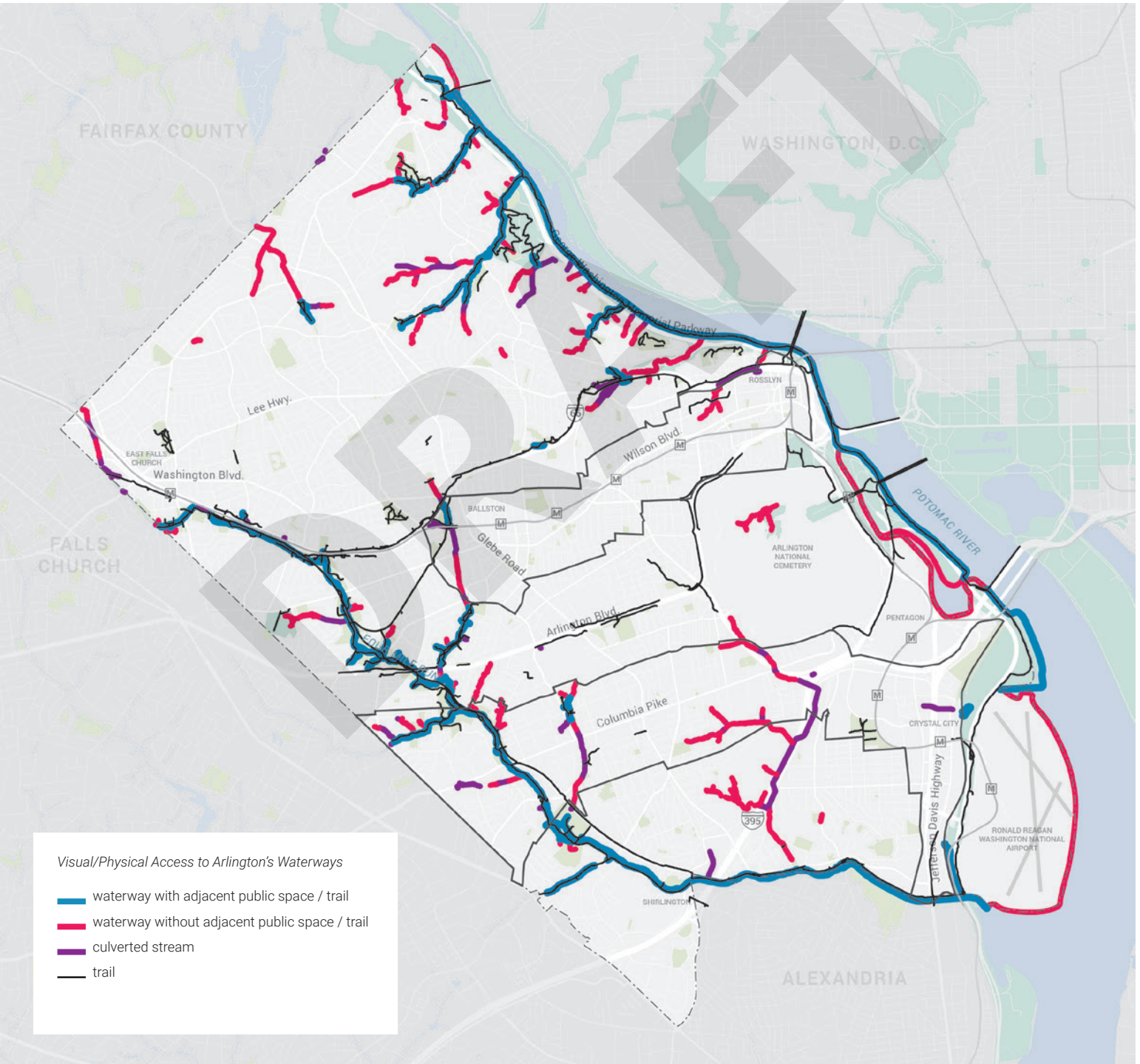
Suggestion

work with APS to determine ability of community service projects or clubs to enhance natural elements and plant/maintain trees; work with teachers to integrate these spaces/resources into lesson plans.

see <https://caseytrees.org/plant/school-tree-planting/>

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Figure 21. Tributaries to the Potomac River and Four Mile Run lack continuous access.



## PLACES TO START: DAYLIGHTING

- Doctor's Run
- Nauck Branch

### 3.3.8. Identify opportunities for daylighting streams

**236** in public spaces that are currently part of the underground stormwater system.

Daylighting, the process of reopening waterways that had previously been buried or channelized, enhances the natural functioning of water bodies and can also provide economic development or placemaking opportunities in the surrounding context.

### 3.3.9. Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential natural resources will be added to the public space system.

(See Appendix A for land acquisition criteria.)

## 3.4. Integrate natural resources and natural resource interpretation into the design of public spaces.

### 3.4.1. Expand natural areas within high density corridors.

Arlington's high density corridors have few natural areas, and few opportunities to connect residents, workers, and visitors with the natural world. As park framework plans and park and master plans are created and updated for public spaces in high density corridors, zones will be identified within those public spaces for natural areas.

### 3.4.2. Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees on public and private land.

**237** Arlington's tree canopy provides many economic and environmental benefits; increasing tree cover will also help advance the goals laid out in the *Urban Forest Master Plan*.

### 3.4.3. Expand and work with partners to extend non-native invasive species management and public education campaigns. (See also 7.2.5.)

**238** Non-native invasive species are detrimental to the local ecology by competing with native species for resources and disrupting established ecological cycles. It is important not only for the County to effectively manage non-native invasive species on public space but also to educate private property owners so they can do the same.

## #236

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:50pm**

### Suggestion

This is a very good idea that should be given a higher priority. The ability to see the streams that are running through our neighborhoods (and currently covered by concrete) would foster the health and emotional benefits of nature that are discussed at the front of the report.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #237

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:10pm**

### Suggestion

Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund, which now plants trees free on private land, could stretch its funding and induce greater commitments from homeowners if they followed Casey Tree's models, whereby homeowners (1) pay \$50 for a tree to be planted or (2) receive a rebate for a tree they purchase themselves. People tend not to be as responsible about something they've received free.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #238

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:12pm**

### Suggestion

We need better data collection about such tree-planting efforts. There was a large volunteer effort at planting small trees on VHP about 5 years ago, but few appear to have survived.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #239

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:33pm**

This needs to go to the top of the priority list.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #240

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:32pm**

No brainer. We need to do this.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #241

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **4:45pm**

Please do this.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #242

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:09pm**

Suggestion

Make sure to include Virginia Highlands Park, which has been overlooked in planning for this.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**#243**

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:11pm**

Suggestion

Arlington needs to strengthen its efforts to promote maintenance of trees on private and public land, not just planting. The increase in planting cannot keep up with the loss of trees caused by private development and new public facilities. Existing trees should be considered an asset to be integrated into planning where possible, not a dispensable element. It takes many decades to recover tree cover and the remaining spaces are usually insufficient.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0



**3.4.4. Evaluate opportunities to enhance stormwater management features with natural resources.**

**3.4.244 Add interpretive signage within public spaces that highlight the natural resources within those spaces and the benefits those resources provide.**

**3.4.6. Expand and promote official recognition programs for important natural resources, such as the Notable Tree and Champion Tree programs.**

**3.246 Increase the diversity of habitats for critical species and develop maintenance guidelines.**

As Arlington becomes more and more developed, less space and fewer types of spaces are available for critical species to inhabit. The County will preserve what habitats currently exist and seek to add to them in order to balance the continuing urbanization of the region.

**3.4.8. Explore opportunities to use public art to interpret natural resources.**

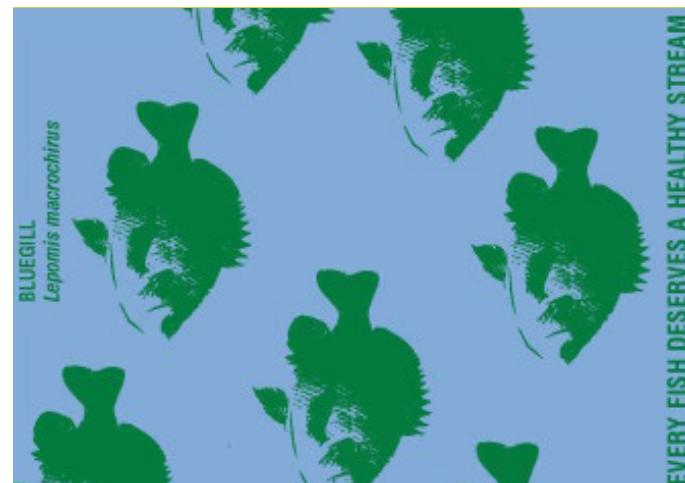
Natural resources and projects that enhance them offer good opportunities for infusing public art into public space, as in the “Cultivus Loci: Suckahanna” installation at Powhatan Springs and the “Watermarks” project at Four Mile Run.

## IN PROGRESS:

# PUBLIC ART

**WATERMARKS BY D.I.R.T. STUDIO, FOUR MILE RUN, ARLINGTON, VA**

Seventeen “watermarks” will be installed as part of the Four Mile Run Restoration project. Watermarks will be installed on the asphalt pathway to symbolically depict underground culverts in an effort to bring attention to stormwater outfalls and highlight the need for environmental stewardship.



## #244

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:14pm**

### Suggestion

interpretive signage should appear with the stormwater retention gardens, and other plantings such as pollinator gardens. These would be good sites for nearby school or daycare groups to learn about the natural world

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #245

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:15pm**

### Suggestion

connectivity of habitats throughout the county is key to many species. Arlington should plan to provide small spaces that can interconnect, between parks, through neighborhoods, so important habitats remain available for movement of birds, insects, and other species.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #246

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:53pm**

### Suggestion

Maintenance of mature trees should be a higher priority than planting of new trees. Only mature trees can provide the health and economic benefits discussed at the beginning of this report.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



Interpreting brownfield remediation.  
Long Bridge Park

A high priority was placed on nature programming for all ages during public input.

**3.5. Foster, develop, and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programming across ages and skill levels.**

Public input during the 2017 Arlington POPS process placed a high priority on nature programs for all ages.

**3.5.1. Enhance and expand nature-based interpretive opportunities for children, starting at pre-school age, as well as adults and seniors.**

**3.5.2. Foster additional integration of nature-based education provided by nature centers into public school curriculums.**

**3.5.3. Provide outdoor leadership training to better connect residents of all ages to nature.**

Outdoor leadership training often teaches outdoor ethics, such as the “Leave No Trace” principles, and skills such as map reading, plant and animal identification, and tool usage.



## #247

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:17pm**

Suggestion

collaborate with APS to find H.S. apprenticeships that will introduce students to landscaping and environmental jobs.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #248

Posted by **Connellka** on **07/28/2017** at **3:31pm**

Suggestion

Yes! Please have more nature programs for young adults and mature adults below 55 without children, that would be great!

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

### **3.6. Promote conservation stewardship volunteerism that enables individuals and organizations to leave a positive legacy in the park system.**

*Encouraging consistent volunteer participation on behalf of natural resource conservation will provide the County with a steady stream of assistance in managing these resources and will engender ownership and pride in the County's conservation efforts.*

**3.6.1** <sup>249</sup> **Continue to identify opportunities for conservation stewardship activities, such as removing garbage from waterways or parks, planting trees or native plants, removing non-native invasive plants, or recycling at large events.**

**3.6.2. Continue to collaborate with community groups, service clubs, and businesses on conservation stewardship events.**

**3.6.3. Review and revise background check requirements and volunteer waivers to reduce volunteers' liability and encourage latent volunteerism.**

*Removing extra barriers to volunteering may encourage would-be volunteers to get involved and stay involved.*

## **HISTORIC RESOURCE ACTIONS** will be updated further

### **3.7. Capitalize on existing historic resources in public spaces, and evaluate the potential of protecting additional historic resources.**

*A number of Arlington's historic resources are linked with public spaces—for example, Fort C.F. Smith Park and Fort Ethan Allen Park. In accordance with the Historic Preservation Master Plan, the County will preserve historic resources, including those that are public spaces, and allocate funds for their repair and maintenance. The action steps below are a way of integrating preservation values and goals from the Historic Preservation Master Plan with Arlington's public spaces.*

#249

Posted by **natashaatkins** on **08/07/2017** at **3:19pm**

Suggestion

Use models such as DC's Casey Trees' programs, which partner with students and other volunteers

<https://caseytrees.org/plant/>

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



**Walking amongst historic resources.**

*Fort C.F. Smith Park*

- 3.7.1. Complete an inventory of historic structures and landscapes in existing, planned, or proposed public spaces that are designated as local historic districts or that are listed on or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register.
- 3.7.2. Identify critical historic resources that may need protection and have potential educational and interpretive components.
- 3.7.3. Determine the feasibility of adding services and amenities to existing historic properties.
- 3.7.4. Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential historic resources will be added to the public space system. (See Appendix A for land acquisition criteria.)
- 3.7.5. Develop long range goals and strategies for the appropriate preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historic sites, objects or landscapes within public spaces.







Arlington County

- 3.7.6. **Coordinate with federal preservation agencies to better leverage and expand visitor experiences.**
- 3.7.7. **Seek out new local and regional partnerships and agreements with groups that support history, education, and cultural resources.**
- 3.7.8. **Create internal County working groups to better conduct and coordinate long-term planning for historic resources.**
- 3.7.9. **Explore the need for additional staff resources to support the challenges of preserving historic resources and facilities.**

For example, a new Historic Resources and Facilities Manager might maintain, oversee and update survey documentation for County-wide historic buildings, structure and cultural landscapes, as well as develop requests for proposal for the historic preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, treatment and mitigation activities for County-owned historic buildings, structures and landscapes.

- 3.7.10. **Expand historical resource programming to connect residents and visitors with Arlington's heritage.**

**Learning about Arlington's history.**  
Fort C.F. Smith Park

# CHRISTMAS 5K FRIDAY



## 4. PARTNERSHIPS

EXPAND AND CLARIFY PARTNERSHIPS TO SET MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS AND LEVERAGE RESOURCES CREATIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY.

Arlington benefits from continued coordination between the County and other government agencies including Arlington Public Schools and the National Park Service. These relationships should be enhanced and clarified in order to most effectively serve public space users. The County also maintains partnerships with local organizations to maintain, improve, and activate public spaces and must strive to make these crucial relationships as effective and mutually beneficial as possible. There is also an opportunity to develop new partnership with more types of groups and agencies.

### ACTIONS:

- 4.1. Work with Arlington Public Schools (APS) to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces.
- 4.2. Work with the National Park Service and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate the attention paid to their facilities and land in Arlington and ensure consistent experiences.
- 4.3. Regularly revise or create new agreements with partner organizations to ensure fair and equitable relationships.
- 4.4. Support and strengthen the County's volunteer programs for public spaces and trails.

Getting ready to race.  
Crystal City 5k

"OnTheMark42.Friday5K.CrystalCity"  
Elvert Barnes  
Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



Arlington County

Participating in arts and crafts camp.  
Fairlington Community Center

## ACTIONS

### 4.1. Work with Arlington Public Schools (APS) to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces.

*In such a space-constrained County, maximizing the potential for public use of APS spaces is critical to fully utilizing all of the County's assets.*

#### 4.1.1. Identify additional existing Arlington Public Schools facilities that could be used as public space.

250

The County currently has agreements to ensure APS facilities are available for public use at certain times, but the practice could be expanded to improve access to other amenities throughout the County.



BIG

#250

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:11pm**

The big problem is that kids from different parts of the County are not getting to participate on an equal basis with kids from other parts of the County in organized sports activities. So the first challenge is to make sure that resources are directed at helping children in greatest need.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

*The County will work with Arlington Schools to find opportunities for publicly accessible amenities during planning and design.*

- 4.1.2. Explore opportunities for the development of new joint-use facilities to maximize public access to 251 amenities and use land and other resources more efficiently.**

In addition to creating joint use agreements for existing facilities, when new facilities are created they should be designed and operated with joint use capabilities in mind to the greatest extent feasible.

- 4.1.3. Work jointly to annually analyze program participation and adjust scheduling of facilities accordingly.**

- 252 4. Expand participation in planning for publicly-accessible amenities on Arlington Public Schools property.**

Rather than consider facilities for public access after they are built, the County will strive to coordinate and find opportunities for publicly accessible amenities during the master planning and site planning processes.

- 4.1.5. Use design solutions to overcome security concerns about the use of public school facilities by the public outside of school hours.**

Schools with shared use facilities may, for example, be designed with separate means of access for the school and the public so that the public can access shared facilities after hours without providing public access to entire schools.



**IN PROGRESS:**

## **WILSON SCHOOL**

Arlington is in the process of redesigning an expanded Wilson School in the Rosslyn neighborhood. The current plan features an innovative design with active rooftops and communal spaces.

**#251**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:12pm**

Put disadvantaged children's needs first!

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**#252**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:14pm**

This is the preferred way to plan and, if the process is transparent, it has the advantage of engaging the community from the very beginning of the study effort.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

- 4.1.6. Ensure the contributions to capital costs and maintenance of public spaces on County and Arlington Public Schools sites are commensurate with use.
- 4.1.7. Continue to collaborate with Arlington Public Schools to preserve natural resources, playing fields, and other public space when designing and building new schools.
- 4.1.8. Share and coordinate operations with APS for trails that jointly support access to schools, community centers, and neighborhoods.

**4.2. Work with the National Park Service and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate the attention paid to their facilities and land in Arlington and ensure consistent experiences.**

*The County will continue to recognize the benefits, opportunities, and challenges provided by Arlington’s prime location in the National Capital region, and promote an appropriately high quality of resource protection, sound design of public spaces and facilities, and cooperative planning.*

- 4.2.1. Establish and maintain effective communications and cooperative planning with the National Park Service and others to ensure that Arlington’s interests are fully considered in their decisions about public spaces and natural resources in and adjacent to the County.
- 4.2.2. Create more seamless connections between County spaces and those managed by other bodies.
- 4.2.3. Advocate for National Park Service trails to be connected to County trails and maintained to the agreed upon maintenance standards.
- 4.2.4. Collaborate with other entities to improve maintenance, erosion control, control of non-native invasive species, signage, and trail markers.

In order to create a seamless public space system, these activities and design elements will be consistent with Arlington County policies.

Cycling alongside the Potomac.  
Mount Vernon Trail



permission requested - Kim Szarmach





### 4.3. Regularly revise or create new agreements with partner organizations to ensure fair and equitable relationships.

*As circumstances change, partnership agreements may need to be periodically updated to accurately reflect roles and responsibilities.*

#### 4.3.1. Develop a guide to the partnership agreement and onboarding processes.

The process of becoming a partner organization with the County should be easy to navigate for any interested organization.

- 253.2. Assign a liaison to work with each partner, and ensure each partner assigns a liaison to work with the County to improve communication and collaboration.

# 17 yr FORMAL PARTNER- SHIP

*between Arlington County and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) to preserve resources in Arlington and region-wide*

**Selling flowers and produce.**  
Clarendon Farmers Market



Arlington County

#253

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:23pm**

It is important to make sure that well funded, partner constituencies do not have "captive" relationships with staff designed to work with them. Arlington has only so much land and every partner has an agenda. The question is whether that agenda dovetails with the wishes of most County residents.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**4.255 Track and regularly share information and measurable outcomes of partnership agreements.**

More comprehensive tracking of partnership agreements will assist the County in evaluating what partnership structures work best and what partnership agreements need adjusting.

**4.256 4. Look for opportunities to revise memorandums of agreement with sports groups to address, and ultimately improve, field access and responsibilities for field maintenance.**

**4.3.5. Develop a preapproval process for partners that have recurring events to streamline approvals.**

For groups that host recurring events or other regularly occurring functions, a preapproval process would save time for both the partner and County staff by eliminating the need for the group to go through the entire approval process repeatedly.

**4.3.6. Streamline and effectively communicate approval processes for partners that work to improve public spaces.**

**4.3.257 Enhance and develop partnerships with universities, foundations, friends groups, businesses, and other organizations.**

**4.4. Support and strengthen the County's volunteer programs for public spaces and trails.**

*The County will continue to seek ways to make it as easy as possible to volunteer to improve public spaces and to increase the number of opportunities that exist. This includes expanding and improving existing volunteer programs – such as the successful Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners programs – and seeking new opportunities for engaging volunteers.*

**4.4.1. Explore strategies to improve coordination with volunteers to assist them with resources, allocations, and repairs.**

**4.258 2. Look for opportunities and strategies to improve on the recruitment of volunteers.**

**EXPAND  
VOLUNTEER  
PROGRAMS**

## #254

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:33pm**

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #255

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/09/2017** at **11:57pm**

Suggestion

This is a key point and should be emphasized. Arlington currently has too little data about how various organizations are actually using facilities. This hampers decision-making.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #256

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:26pm**

These discussions need to be fully transparent to members of the community who are affected by such MOA's

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #257

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:35pm**

Suggestion

Allow for donations of memorial benches, picnic tables, artwork by local residents as a way to fund amenities and create bonds to Parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #258

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:35pm**

Please focus on access to outdoor recreational opportunities for low income children

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #259

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:36pm**

It is a good idea in this context to define the term "improve".

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #260

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:01am**

This is a key point, buried on page 138 of the report.

Arlington should be much more transparent about how it will allow universities and other organizations to use public spaces.

Arrangements with Bishop O'Connell and Marymount University immediately spring to mind, since they have caused so much controversy in past years.

What are Arlington's plans on these topics. Discuss more fully here.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



Volunteering to celebrate local and national history.  
Civil War Day 2017



Arlington County

**4.4.3. Improve the system for volunteer registration and tracking.**

An improved volunteer information system will enable the County to measure involvement and promote upcoming opportunities to those most interested.

**4.4.4. Periodically identify, evaluate, or revise the focus of volunteer programs to better support public spaces and to ensure volunteers are adequately supported by staff.**

**4.4.5. Expand the reward and recognition system for volunteers.**

**4.4.6. Continue to regularly update volunteer position descriptions and durations.**

**4.4.7. Promote and encourage expansion of “Adopt-a-” programs (e.g., Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Stream, Adopt-a-Field, Adopt-a-Trail).**

These programs enable groups, businesses and individuals to sponsor a park, stream or field, reporting needed repairs and maintenance and also possibly taking on projects in coordination with County staff.

**4.4.8. Encourage volunteer days with companies, institutions, non-profits, and other large organizations.**

Relationships with universities and friends groups, in particular, play important advocacy roles for their neighborhoods and the public spaces within them.

**4.4.9. Encourage volunteerism through County-wide events.**

Events like “It’s My Park Day” and bioblitzes will increase the County’s volunteer capacity and will increase awareness of the public space system.





## 5. PROGRAMS

ENSURE PROGRAM OFFERINGS CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO CHANGING USER NEEDS.

Programs are formally structured activities that take place in public spaces, including but not limited to sports, fitness, nature, art, and special events. Arlington offers a wide variety and breadth of programs in its public spaces and facilities, but can struggle to keep up with demand. (See Trends chapter.) Public input strongly suggested that capacity issues create intense competition for program slots and can hinder skill progress for participants. The need for more capacity is even more critical given projected future population growth. In order to best serve County needs, the Department should diligently track all programs, adjusting offerings if needed, and stay at the forefront of emerging programming trends.

### ACTIONS:

- 5.1. Regularly evaluate program demand and adjust offerings.
- 5.2. Implement best practices in program life cycles to maintain a culture of quality program delivery.
- 5.3. Periodically evaluate each program's participation, finances, and outcomes.
- 5.4. Periodically evaluate programmed uses of indoor and outdoor spaces to identify needs for additional space and opportunities to reallocate space.
- 5.5. Continue to strengthen the County's commitment to improving public health and wellness through public space programming.
- 5.6. Use programming to activate parks and public spaces.

Developing core gymnastics skills.  
Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center

Arlington County

**#261**

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **5:58pm**

We need to have a bigger conversation about our goals. Are we trying to program or preserve, attract growth and spur demand or provide opportunities for people in all parts of the County to relax and enjoy nature. Give all kids an equal chance to succeed or foster programs and tournaments for elite athletes?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# ACTIONS

## 5.1. Regularly evaluate program demand and adjust offerings.

*In order to provide the most up-to-date offerings best suited for residents' needs and interests and population growth trends, program offerings will be periodically adjusted.*

- 5.1.1. **Undertake a demand and capacity analysis of existing programs offered by DPR and program partners in Arlington County.**
- 5.1.2. **Continue to monitor national recreation trends and best practices and incorporate new and innovative recreation programs to sustain community participation.**

Arlington County will strive to stay at the forefront of national trends and emerging ideas about recreation and programming in order to best serve its residents. For current trends, see the Trends section.

- 5.1.3. **Conduct public input processes to assess and implement new program innovations.**

By eliciting public input, the County can avoid spending time and resources on new programs that may not be popular, and the process will give the public a stronger sense of ownership and inclusion in the future of programming in Arlington.

*Keeping an eye on national trends and emerging ideas about recreation and programming will help the County best serve Arlington residents.*

- 5.1.4. **Diversify and increase availability of senior programming to serve more active seniors.**
- 5.1.5. **Promote and increase the availability of programming that caters to diverse ages, interests, and abilities.**

## 5.2. Implement best practices in program life cycles to maintain a culture of quality program delivery.

*Program life cycles indicate the different stages a program moves through during its lifetime. It is a best practice to have a healthy mix of programs at different stages in order to consistently be bringing new programs into operation while retiring ones that are no longer popular.*



Arlington County

**Keeping an eye on the ball.***Adult Softball at Quincy Park*

- 5.2.1. Document the program development process to maintain program consistency and assist in training staff.**

Maintaining a replicable program development process will enable a quick turnaround from the idea stages to implementation of new programs.

- 5.2.2. For each program area, update key service attributes to reflect what is most important to users.**

- 262 3. Periodically evaluate each program's participation, finances, and outcomes.**

- 5.4. Periodically evaluate programmed uses of indoor and outdoor spaces to identify needs for additional space and opportunities to reallocate space.**

#262

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **6:17pm**

Periodically evaluate each program's effectiveness in serving communities in greatest need of access to green space, opportunities to participate in sports and other physical fitness programs and in engaging volunteers to assist with outreach, maintenance, trash pick up, etc.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**5.5. Continue to strengthen the County’s commitment to improving public health and wellness through public space programming.**

*In both the survey and in stakeholder and staff interviews, fitness, wellness and nature programs were high priorities.*

- 5.5.1. Enhance fitness, wellness, and healthy lifestyle programming and facilities.**
- 5.5.2. Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials. (see also 6.2.3.)**
- 5.5.3. Work with local healthcare providers to expand the park prescription program.**

For patients struggling with chronic disease or other issues that could be ameliorated by physical activity, doctors can “prescribe” or recommend they spend time being active in a park or other public space. Time spent in natural or green areas has been shown in many studies to improve health outcomes.



**FITNESS,  
WELLNESS  
& NATURE**

*high priority was placed on fitness, wellness, and nature programming throughout the process*

**Listening to an afternoon of jazz.**  
*Rosslyn Jazz Fest*



Rosslyn Business Improvement District

*Fitness and wellness programs are especially popular among older residents, while nature programs have broad appeal across age groups.*

**5.5.4. Track public space usage indicators over time to determine the positive health impacts of public space system improvements.**

Indicators such as percentage of adults who bike or engage in active commuting are available as part of routine national surveillance systems (e.g., the American Community Survey) and are recommended by the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Evaluating Progress on Obesity Prevention Efforts. Such indicators can also be triangulated with directly observed and validated data on park or trail use. The System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) results in counts by key demographic characteristics and levels of physical activity and has been used to measure changes in park usage and physical activity levels accompanying renovations.

**5.6. Use programming to activate parks and public spaces.**

**5.6.1. Set usage targets to identify parks and public spaces where programming could bolster lower-than-desired usage.**

While some of the County's public spaces are intended to have little or no programming, others may be suitable for new or expanded programming. Setting usage targets for public spaces will enable the County to target certain spaces for additional programming as needed and desired by the public, while keeping other spaces unprogrammed as desired.

**5.6.2. Employ lessons learned from past experiences with activating public spaces (e.g., at Gateway Park) to develop program plans for spaces that are meant for or could accommodate additional usage.**

**5.6.3. Consider reconfiguring or adding amenities to public spaces to support flexible programming. (see also 1.4.8.)**

Adding electrical outlets, lighting, Wi-Fi, concessions, or other elements can make a public space usable for a wide variety of programming.

**90k  
PROGRAM  
REGISTRATIONS**

*on an annual basis including over 30,000 for classes, 40,000 for sports, and 12,000 for camps*







## 6. ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

IMPROVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION TO ENHANCE USER SATISFACTION AND FOSTER SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SPACES.

A successful public space system hinges on user awareness, enthusiasm, and participation. The County should continue to improve its ongoing engagement and communication practices by embarking on a comprehensive marketing strategy and broadening outreach tactics to reach new potential users. The County could also expand its methods of receiving input and feedback from users.

### ACTIONS:

- 6.1. Engage users, partners, and County staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks and public spaces.
- 6.2. Update and develop new marketing and communication materials and programs that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of public spaces, recreation facilities, programs, and services and inspire users to participate more often.
- 6.3. Annually review and update a marketing plan for public spaces and programs.
- 6.4. Monitor and evaluate trends in communication and engagement tools and platforms that can increase public space users' interaction with the County.
- 6.5. Include public spaces in economic development and tourism messaging.
- 6.6. Evaluate and enhance the County's online and social media presence in relation to public spaces.
- 6.7. Regularly measure and report on the progress of plan implementation.



Stopping at a POPS “popping up” event to provide feedback.  
Ballston Farmers Market

Arlington County

#263

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **6:28pm**

We should be wary of spending taxpayer dollars to build demand for taxpayer-funded programs. It is not clear why a County with very limited public land would need or want to have a marketing program except when aimed at segments of the population who would otherwise be left behind. What would be the specific goals of the marketing plan?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

# ACTIONS

## 6.1. Engage users, partners, and County staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks and public spaces.

**264** 2017 POPS public engagement process revealed that residents desire more input into public space planning and program development processes. Maximum involvement and participation by all stakeholders will engender ownership, interest and pride in the public space system.

**265** 1. **Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, at least every 5 years.**

**266** 6.1.2. **Develop public engagement guidelines for park planning and recreation program planning.**

In creating clear guidelines, there will be a clear process and defined parameters so that both the County and the public have an understanding of what to expect.

6.1.3. **Use inclusive, transparent, and creative community engagement practices that encourage participation by all community members.**

6.1.4. **Engage users on an ongoing basis to evaluate the success of public spaces and programming in order to establish a meaningful feedback loop between the County and its residents.**

## 6.2. Update and develop new marketing and communication materials and programs that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of public spaces, recreation facilities, programs, and services and inspire users to participate more often.

6.2.1. **Develop materials that communicate the range of facilities and experiences available across the County to all Arlington residents, workers, and visitors.**

6.2.2. **Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials. (see also 5.4.1.)**

**MORE  
INPUT IN  
PLANNING**

*residents want more opportunities to be engaged in planning and program development for public spaces*

**1470  
SURVEYS**

*were completed to collect citizen input about County needs and priorities for public space*

## #264

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **7:21pm**

The 2017 POPS process revealed that consultants are a barrier to effective communication between citizens and public servants. It should not be so difficult / time-consuming (20 hours and counting) to provide online feedback, nor should County employees waste time at public meetings wherein they outnumber citizens by 2 or 3 to 1 (Public Meetings), nor should formats, like the public meetings held in July 2017 preclude an opportunity for group discussion with staff. The result of the process is to make citizens feel that their views (presented on post it notes) may disappear into space.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #265

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **7:15pm**

This is the only reliable way to obtain community-wide information.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #266

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:07am**

Ending ad hoc decision-making, which pits various interest groups against each other, would go a long way towards fostering public engagement.

A comprehensive planning process where different groups have an opportunity to discuss the relative priorities of their ideas is key to this plan.

Arlington should never raise the question of "should we build facility X at location Y."

Instead, it should ask "what is the relative merit of facilities like X, as compared to other facilities, and where would be the best place to put facilities like X, if they are desirable."

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

The County will work to notify residents of free or low-cost ways to engage with public spaces.

6.2.3. Highlight facilities with historic and natural program elements as well as public art both in marketing materials and through on-site interpretation and engagement.

6.2.4. Communicate the availability of physically and financially accessible facilities and programs.

The County will work to ensure that potential users are aware of free or low-cost ways to engage with the public space system as well as facilities that are universally accessible.

6.2.5. Ensure materials are written in relatable language and are accessible to non-English speakers and the visually impaired.

Offering input on programming needs. Public Meeting Series 1 Event at Langston-Brown Community Center



WRT



Considering the future of Lubber Run Community Center.  
Public Meeting



Arlington County

- 6.2.6. **Improve messaging about the environmental, social, and economic benefits of public spaces.**
- 6.2.7. **Proactively engage communities adjacent to public spaces about the benefits of public space programs, facilities, and services.**

While Arlington residents should be encouraged to utilize public spaces and facilities across the entire County, it is also crucial for residents to be fully aware of and engaged in the opportunities that exist within their own neighborhoods.

- 6.2.8. **Regularly communicate the progress of PSMP implementation.**
- 6.2.9. **Improve signage for all County-owned public spaces so as to effectively brand the system and enhance the appeal of individual spaces as part of a cohesive whole. (see also 1.4.8.)**

Attractive and cohesively designed signage present at all County-owned public spaces will help brand the system. Creating a brand for Arlington’s public space system will help elevate it as a significant piece of the County’s identity.

- 6.2.10. **Pursue state and national awards on an annual basis from organizations such as the Virginia Recreation and Park Society, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Planning Association, Americans for the Arts, the Center for Active Design, and AARP.**

267

### 6.3 **Annually review and update a marketing plan for public spaces and programs.**

*While various County, regional, and federal entities already market their respective public spaces, marketing the complete set of public space offerings throughout Arlington would give residents and visitors a seamless and comprehensive view of the public space network.*

- 6.3.1. **Coordinate across departments and with partners to integrate messages about the benefits of public space and programs.**



## #267

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:43pm**

Awards should be a byproduct of excellent Parks not a goal in and of themselves. And "pursuing" awards seems particularly ridiculous

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #268

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **7:29pm**

Examine the cost and benefit of such a plan against getting 20 low income children into sports programs. Twenty lives changed versus ?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**6.4** <sup>269</sup> **Monitor and evaluate trends in communication and engagement tools and platforms that can increase public space users' interaction with the County.**

*The County will strive to stay at the forefront of communication and public engagement techniques, including technology-based tools.*

**6.5. Include public spaces in economic development and tourism messaging.**

*Public space is a critical component of placemaking and the physical development of key economic zones. Arlington will champion its wide variety of public spaces when seeking to attract new business and new visitors.*



#269

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **7:03pm**

The public engagement process for the POPS process suggests that the County might do better to work on direct communication with and open exchange of views among community members and County officials instead of utilizing outside consultants whose proposals and programs end up costing money, causing frustration and erecting barriers.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

Cooling down at the sprayground.  
Virginia Highlands Park



Arlington County

**6.5.1. Market public spaces and events as attractions for visitors from the region and beyond.**

Events like the Clarendon Arts Festival, annual marathons and 5Ks, and bicycling races are fun events that people from the region and beyond can participate in and see Arlington from a unique perspective. The County can work with local hotels to educate guests about public space opportunities.

**6.5.2. Cross-market public spaces with other regional attractions to encourage visitors to spend time and money in Arlington.**

**6.5.3. Market the public space system as an asset to potential employers and workers.**

**6.6. Evaluate and enhance the County's online and social media presence in relation to public spaces.**

270

**6.6.1. Use online and social media regularly to solicit input and feedback from residents.**

**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.**

The My Arlington app provides mobile users with information including a schedule of County Board and commission meetings and County-sponsored events, permitting information, real estate and assessment information, news and alerts.

**6.6.3. Ensure web and app design maximizes usability by those with disabilities.**

**6.7. Regularly measure and report on the progress of plan implementation.**

**6.7.1. Communicate progress to staff and the public in a clear way that is consistent with strategies for engagement and communication.**

#270

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:45pm**

County should interact with organic community sites, like Facebook pages that have been developed by Park users.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



## 7. OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

ENSURE COUNTY PUBLIC SPACES AND FACILITIES ARE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED EFFICIENTLY AND TO DEFINED STANDARDS.

Evaluating maintenance standards and operations procedures across the public space system will help the County realize new efficiencies, alignment with other Department and County priorities laid out in this plan and elsewhere, and may result in cost savings as well.

### **ACTIONS:**

- 7.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.
- 7.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

Examining the details of nature.  
*Crystal City Connector*

"35.CrystalCityConnector.Arlington.Va.26April2013"  
© Elvert Barnes  
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## ACTIONS

### 7.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.

**271** Through site analysis, the public survey, and stakeholder interviews, it was reported that similar public spaces are maintained to different standards. Clarifying and regularizing maintenance standards will ensure high-quality spaces across the entire system.

7. **272** Define and regularly update levels of maintenance standards for each type of indoor and outdoor facility to revise existing maintenance policies and guidelines.

Different types of facilities see different levels of utilization and require different maintenance strategies and schedules, which may need to be updated if a facility begins to see a change in utilization.

- 7.1.2. Establish levels of maintenance for public spaces based on usage and visibility as well as special needs or sensitive habitats.

- 7.1.3. Improve interdepartmental coordination to ensure **273** short- and long-term maintenance and planning activities are well coordinated and appropriately scoped during all project phases.

- 275** 7.1.4. Review and revise trail maintenance standards to address trimming, repaving, snow removal, and safety.

- 7.1.5. Identify opportunities to share maintenance responsibilities with partner organizations and groups for efficiency, and encourage others to share maintenance responsibilities.

- 7.1.6. Ensure maintenance safety checklists include obstacles to universal access.

- 7.1.7. Continue to train maintenance staff in accessibility concepts.

## MAINTAIN SPACES ACROSS THE SYSTEM

*residents and stakeholders want similar public spaces maintained to set standards*



## #271

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **6:31pm**

This is of paramount importance in view of our limited and admittedly inadequately maintained natural areas. Specific timetables, funding sources and accountability are needed.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #272

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:10am**

Maintenance of existing trees on county property is sorely lacking. One specific example is the invasive vines near Williamsburg MS at the north end of Harrison St.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #273

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:15pm**

Acknowledge up front and identify dedicated resources to pay for maintenance not just funds in CIP to pay for capital projects

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #274

Posted by **Zachary Schrag** on **08/09/2017** at **10:57pm**

Suggestion

Along with maintenance standards, communication about snow and ice conditions would help a great deal. I'd like to know whether I can bike on a trail, whether the answer is yes or no. Thanks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #275

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:12am**

Revise this to read "to address SAFETY, trimming, and snow removal."

The first priority should always be safety.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**7.1.8. Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities based on industry standards, and budget for replacement and renovation. (See also 8.3.2.)**

276

**7.1.9. Review tree maintenance needs and resources, and update tree maintenance standards as needed.**

**7.1.10. Develop maintenance standards for historic properties that protect and enhance the architectural and/or historical significance of the property.**

All maintenance, rehabilitation, and new construction standards will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for all new work. In the case of local historic districts, all work will also conform to the County Board's adopted Historic District Design Guidelines for each property.

**7.1.11. Establish review procedures to ensure all maintenance standards are being met.**

**Clearing snow to make facilities accessible.**

*Thomas Jefferson Community Center*



Arlington County

#276

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:12am**

Make this priority 7.1.1.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## 7.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

**277** Resource consumption has a direct impact on natural resources within Arlington and beyond. By elevating the environmental profile of public spaces, the County has an opportunity to lead by example and preserve and conserve natural resources. Incorporating best sustainability practices into park and recreational facility maintenance can decrease the County's environmental footprint, reduce costs, and serve as a model to other organizations and citizens for how to change their own practices.

**7.2.1. Optimize operations and maintenance standards to ensure fiscal sustainability. (see also 7.5.3.)**

**7.2.2. Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy usage, reduced water consumption, and light pollution.**

**7.2.3. Conduct pilot projects to test effectiveness for County-wide usage.**

**Admiring the flowers.**  
Lacey Woods Trail



## #277

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **6:39pm**

This is so much more important than sports marketing plans in increasing taxpayer satisfaction and the appeal of Arlington to companies and highly talented young people. If Arlington earns a reputation as an environmental "Mecca" that would make the community proud (based on surveys) and attractive not only as a short but as a long term destination for highly educated young people.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #278

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **9:48pm**

All athletic fields should have multiple recycling trash bins. Arlington Hall has none around field and there are so many plastic water bottles thrown in the regular trash for lack of a recycling bin.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

*Employing sustainable practices can decrease the County's environmental footprint and also reduce the overall cost of maintenance.*

**7.2.4. Continue to utilize native plant species and water-wise plant materials as recommended in the Natural Resources Management Plan.**

Native plant species are adapted to the local climate of Arlington and provide better wildlife habitat while generally requiring less watering and maintenance to thrive, as is the case with most water-wise plants.

**7.2.5. Continue and enhance non-native invasive species management as recommended in the Natural Resources Management Plan. (See also 3.4.3.)**

Non-native invasive species are detrimental to the local ecology by competing with native species for resources and disrupting established ecological cycles.

**7.2.6. Use environmentally friendly products – including cleaners and chemical treatments – where feasible.**

**7.2.7. Make use of available planting spaces for trees and other vegetation on public lands such as traffic islands and curb bump-outs.**

**7.2.8. Continue to educate staff and the public on the County's sustainability efforts and on environmental practices they can employ themselves.**

**7.2.9. Stay up to date with sustainability best practices and incorporate innovative strategies.**

**7.2.10. Provide training for staff for evaluating costs and benefits of existing facilities and for using that information in decision-making.**

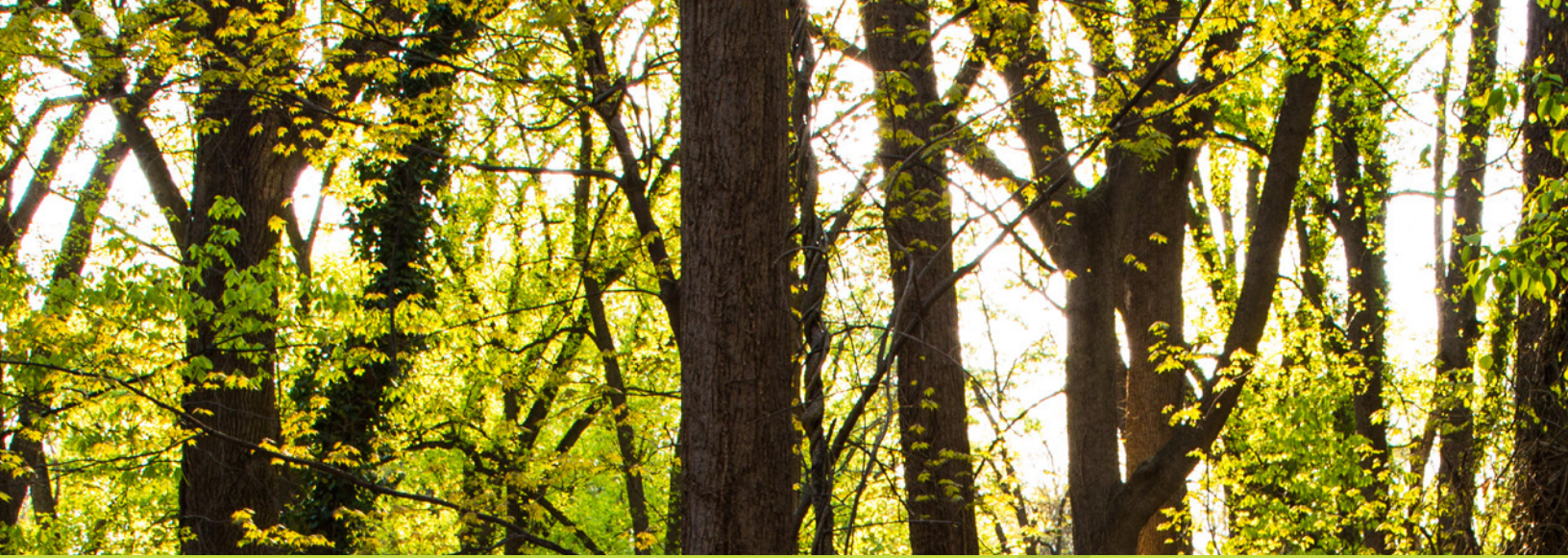
**7.2.11. Train maintenance staff in management of sensitive natural areas and green stormwater infrastructure maintenance.**

#279

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:17pm**

Invasive species are a huge threat to Arlington's green space and natural areas. This problem is explosive given the costs and difficulties of eradicating bamboo and ivy. Goals need to be specific and actionable.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0





## 8. FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

ENHANCE THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF ARLINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES.

Arlington County strives to make the best use of taxpayer dollars spent on public spaces. To do this, the County seeks to supplement its investments with outside funding and leverage the opportunities public spaces provide to generate revenue and value. The County will also strive to improve its processes of capital investment and facilities planning, as well as major cyclical maintenance, which are intended to promote long-term planning and systematic identification of priorities.

### ACTIONS:

- 8.1. Secure funding to support development and maintenance of public spaces and that those public funds are efficiently and wisely spent.
- 8.2. Identify and pursue non-County funding sources to supplement County funds in order to support capital improvements and programs.
- 8.3. Increase consideration of up-front and ongoing costs and benefits in maintenance and capital decisions.
- 8.4. Permit revenue generating uses in public spaces.
- 8.5. Leverage the value of public spaces.
- 8.6. Regularly update a recreational fees and charges policy based on a defined pricing philosophy.
- 8.7. Ensure that maintenance techniques and standards are consistent between APS, DPR, and DES for landscaping and other natural features on school grounds as well as structures like benches and lighting.

Finding refuge from the built environment.

Fort C.F. Smith Trail

Arlington County

## #280

Posted by **jah** on **07/31/2017** at **10:09pm**

Give examples of "revenue generating uses."

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #281

Posted by **jah** on **07/31/2017** at **10:15pm**

I'm very concerned about supplementing County investments with "outside funding and leverage the opportunities public spaces provide to generate revenue and value." The loss of control over our limited park space, limited community use of space/facilities due to outside investments in Arlington concerns me very much..

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #282

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **6:49pm**

Caution! Every outside investment comes with a price tag. There has been an implicit bargain, "give us more sports fields and we will offer you free synthetic turf or manage scheduling or provide other financial or "in kind" resources. The catch: the benefits extracted by the "partners" may foreclose opportunities for the majority of residents who have an equal right to public lands and access to staff help and support.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## 283 ACTIONS

### 8.1. Secure funding to support development and maintenance of public spaces and that those public funds are efficiently and wisely spent.

*First and foremost, the public space system needs to be adequately funded and efficiently managed by the County so that residents, workers, and visitors continue to have access to high-quality spaces and programs. A park and open space system that is responsive to the County's growing needs will require sufficient and consistent County funding, including annual maintenance and programming budget support and long-term capital investments.*

### 8.2. Identify and pursue non-County funding sources to supplement County funds in order to support capital improvements and programs.

**284** *ditionally, the County has relied almost exclusively on bond programs to fund capital improvements and programs. As with other park and recreation service providers across the country,*

**Kicking around a soccer ball.**  
Barcroft Park



Arlington County

## #283

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:23am**

This is where the rubber hits the road, and it's ironic (at best) that this point merits only one paragraph in this report.

The key question in this plan is how to prioritize all the good ideas in this plan, and on this key question Arlington's process has failed.

The multi-year debate about lights at the Williamsburg MS field is simply one example of this overall process failure.

Wouldn't it be reasonable to ask, "So, Arlington County, I want to make sure public funds are efficiently and wisely spent. What is the relative merit of spending money on lighting the field vs. improving sidewalks? And better yet, what is the relative merit of lighting the Williamsburg field vs. lighting some other field?"

The County never addressed these questions. Instead, the County called for an ad hoc, up or down decision on whether to install the lights or not.

Again, this problem is not "light-specific." The long debate about the aquatic center is another example.

The County must lay out all these great ideas, publicly, in a big spreadsheet (figuratively speaking). Give an estimate of how much each one will cost. Then open the floor to public debate on which of the ideas we should pursue first, and where we should pursue them.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #284

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/01/2017** at **6:54pm**

The public has never been reluctant to support bonds for parks and recreation. Why the drive to privatize a function the public enthusiastically supports??

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0



# RESPONSIVE & EFFICIENT SYSTEM

*requires adequate funding and management by the County and outside sources and partners*

*the County is trying to stretch and leverage public funding. Increasingly, cities and parks agencies are exploring outside funding sources to supplement their budgets, for example through partnerships with corporations and foundations and local fundraising.*

**285** **8.2.1. Identify and acknowledge partnerships with corporations and foundations to support defined projects in parks and public spaces.**

For certain upgrades or other projects in public spaces, corporations and foundations may wish to provide financial support as part of their mission or community improvement goals.

**8.2.2. Support the establishment of non-profit groups or umbrella foundations dedicated to public space advocacy, fundraising, and implementation of public spaces and programs.**

New organizations could further support public spaces by enabling citizens to get involved as well as enabling individual and families to include Arlington's public spaces in their planned giving and bequests.

**8.2.3. Develop sponsorship proposals to help underwrite and offset operating costs for programs and services.**

**8.2.4. Develop a donor engagement strategy (including community-based donors).**

The County has an opportunity to further promote the public space system and engage with the community through defined philanthropic opportunities.

**8.2.5. Develop a cohesive naming rights policy and strategy for donor recognition.**

A streamlined process would provide predictability and could increase donor participation.

**8.2.6. Pursue applicable state and federal funds.**

**8.2.7. Where available, pursue historic preservation tax credits or other financial incentives for renovation or rehabilitation of historic resources.**

286

## #285

Posted by **jah** on **08/01/2017** at **11:50am**

### Suggestion

I am strongly opposed to partnerships that cause the County to lose community use of county facilities, fields, or any other county resources. I also feel strongly that such partnerships interfere or eliminate community members' ability to communicate and understand the use, schedule, rules, etc. for county facilities and property that are scheduled, maintained, etc. by corporate, foundations, etc. partners. We're already have a shortage of field and facility time for county youth and adults and must not lose more to bring in \$\$.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #286

Posted by **jah** on **08/01/2017** at **11:56am**

### Suggestion

8.2.3 - 8.2.5

Sponsorships and partnerships must not cause a loss of county youth or adult use of a field or facility. And the use cannot be limited to youth or adults in organized, skilled sports and activities. We need to maintain adequate "drop in" time for county facilities and fields.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

### 8.3. Increase consideration of up-front and ongoing costs and benefits in maintenance and capital decisions.

*Arlington County's Policy for Integrated Facility Sustainability not only requires environmental sustainability of County buildings but encourages budget planning and life cycle cost analysis. This will extend to decisions surrounding public space investments. The County should be sure to only move forward with capital projects that it can afford to maintain.*

- 8.3.1. Set levels of maintenance standards and associated schedules for park and recreation facilities (e.g., attendance, revenue) and share information with those managing privately-owned public spaces.**
- 8.3.2. Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities and ensure that ongoing costs are appropriately budgeted. (See also 7.1.8.)**
- 8.3.3. Establish lifecycle replacement standards and projected costs based on industry standards.**

### 8.4. Permit revenue generating uses in public spaces.

**287** *County's public spaces have untapped potential as a source of revenue. Leasing rights of way or permitting concessions (including food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages) can generate revenue while at the same time providing amenities for users.*

- 8.4.1. Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in programmed public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at special events. (See also 1.5.1.)**

Current park rules and regulations do not preclude the County from allowing concessions at park and recreational facilities, but the practice is currently limited to a few parks. Some parks are served by informal concession arrangements, with vendors parking on streets adjacent to parks. Recognizing that concessions can enhance the user experience, spur additional use of public spaces, and even generate proceeds to reinvest in public spaces, the County will revise zoning regulations as needed in order to expand its permitting of concessions.

**Watching Fourth of July fireworks.**  
Longn Bridge Park



Arlington County

#287

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:28pm**

Approach with caution. Revenue generating uses bring more noise, more litter, and commercialization. People want and are willing to pay taxes / support bonds for green and natural spaces. Already there is a huge conflict between the amount and type of land dedicated to programmed uses versus quiet enjoyment of nature. Concession stands are likely to intensify these conflicts.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0





**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.**

**288** **8.4.3. Develop a process for leasing easements that do not interfere with public space use to generate revenue.**

Currently, the County allows utilities and other entities to bury electric, water, and other infrastructure underneath public spaces for free. Leasing subsurface rights for a fee is a national best practice aimed at leveraging the full value of public space.

**8.4.4. Develop appropriate mechanisms to invest revenue generated in public spaces back into public spaces.**

**8.5. Leverage the value of public spaces.**

*Public spaces are increasingly valuable for surrounding property values, providing a boost to both residential and commercial areas. Particularly in high density areas, public space is essential to attracting businesses and talent. The added value provided by public spaces will be harnessed effectively to provide additional investment and public benefits.*

**8.5.1. Identify locations where the creation or improvement of public space could spur economic development or redevelopment.**

**290** **8.5.2. Work with existing BIDs and businesses to establish dedicated park funding streams to enable businesses that benefit from parks to contribute to maintenance and capital improvements.**

**8.6. Regularly update a recreational fees and charges policy based on a defined pricing philosophy.**

*As the County grows and changes, the relationship of fees and charges to funding levels fluctuates and creates inconsistencies across the public space system. A defined pricing philosophy will provide predictability and consistency across the department, enabling staff to objectively evaluate fee structures periodically.*

**54%**  
**SUPPORT THE SALE OF FOOD & ALCOHOL**

**289** *of designated parks and plazas, according to the statistically valid public survey*

**LEVERAGE BENEFITS**

*added value from public spaces can stimulate investment and attract new businesses and residents*

## #288

Posted by **Chris** on **08/08/2017** at **12:24pm**

100% support this. My understanding is that the W&OD is largely revenue-neutral for NOVAParks because of utility lease agreements.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #289

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:36pm**

Again, be careful re: alcohol. 54% might also support sale & use of pot in designated parks & plazas, but this does not mean we should do it.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #290

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:44pm**

Throughout this draft POPS report there is a singular emphasis on using parks and open space to earn revenue rather than to meet the needs of residents with special concern for residents who live in apartment buildings with very little access to green space or opportunity take part in classes and programs that are beyond their transportation access and budget limitations. Businesses should be creating plazas and casual recreational areas to attract the best talent and support the community. The County should not be spending limited Parks & Rec funds to attract business.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

- 8.6.1. Continue to refine cost recovery standards and ensure consistent methods of calculating cost recovery.
- 8.6.2. Continue to set cost recovery targets for each program area based on defined direct and related costs and the degree to which the program provides a public versus private benefit.
- 8.6.3. Periodically reevaluate fee structures to ensure equity across demographic groups.

**8.7. Ensure that maintenance techniques and standards are consistent between APS, DPR, and DES for landscaping and other natural features on school grounds as well as structures like benches and lighting.**

*Defining a pricing philosophy will provide predictability and consistency for residents and County staff.*

DRAFT

DRAFT

# ACTION PLAN

DRAFT

## ACRONYMS

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>DPR</b>   | Department of Parks and Recreation           |
| <b>CPHD</b>  | Community Planning, Housing & Development    |
| <b>AED</b>   | Arlington Economic Development               |
| <b>DES</b>   | Department of Environmental Services         |
| <b>APS</b>   | Arlington Public Schools                     |
| <b>DMF</b>   | Department of Management and Finance         |
| <b>CAO</b>   | County Attorney's Office                     |
| <b>UFC</b>   | Urban Forestry Commission                    |
| <b>NRJAC</b> | Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group       |
| <b>HALRB</b> | Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board |

## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

**bold** indicates primary responsibility

## TIME FRAMES

**short term** 0–5 years

**medium term** 0–10 years

**long term** 0–20 years

**COST RANGE ESTIMATE**

**\$** less than \$25,000  
achievable with existing or part-time additional staff

**\$\$** \$25,000–50,000

**\$\$\$** \$50,000–100,000

**\$\$\$\$** \$100,000–1,000,000  
likely to require outside expertise (consultants)

**\$\$\$\$\$** \$1,000,000+  
likely to require outside expertise (consultants),  
capital planning, construction monies, or other  
significant financial outlay

DRAFT



in progress

**292 Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by adding and improving public spaces.**

**Action 1.1. Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years.**

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners  | Potential Funding Sources                        | Performance Measures                      | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.1.1. Acquire land where feasible according to acquisition guidelines.<br>DPR   |   | Capital budget, bonds, general fund, grants      | 30 acres acquired over the next 10 years. | continuous               | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.1.2. Secure or expand the public spaces envisioned by sector, corridor, and other plans adopted by the County Board – including the Clarendon Sector Plan, Virginia Square Plan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, Crystal City Sector Plan, and Columbia Pike Form Based Codes – and ensure they provide amenities that meet County needs.<br>DPR, CPHD, AED | Planning Commission, Park and Recreation commission, BIDs, community organizations, civic and citizen associations, developers        | Capital budget, bonds, general fund, developers  |   | continuous               | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.1.3. Incorporate the recommendations of this plan into future sector, corridor, and other County plans, and use County-wide needs and level of service analyses to guide the inclusion of additional public space in those plans.<br>CPHD, DES, DPR, AED, HALRB  | Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, BIDs, community organizations, civic and citizen associations, developers, HALRB |  |   | continuous               | \$              |
| 1.1.4. Ensure that public space amenities proposed in site plans are informed by level of service analyses and include well-designed, clearly defined public easements that are regularly maintained.<br><b>293</b> DPR, CPHD  | Developers  |  |   | continuous               | \$              |
| 1.1.5. Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to County waterways, particularly Four Mile Run. (see also 1.5.2.)<br>CPHD, DPR   | DES, NVCT, Adjacent property owners   | Capital budget, bonds, general fund, grants      |   | continuous               | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.1.6. Explore strengthening and expanding the use of the County's Transfer of Development Rights policy as a tool to create and consolidate future public space.<br>CPHD, DPR, CAO  | AED, Private property owners  |  |   | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.1.7. Work with the Commonwealth to create new deck parks over I-66 or other highways, to mitigate highway widening and to reclaim public space.<br><b>291</b> CPHD, DPR  | VDOT  | Capital budget, bonds, state and federal sources |   | long term (0–20 years)   | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.1.8. Seek opportunities through the site plan review process to reduce surface parking and maximize ground and roof space in order to create additional public space in high-density corridors.<br>CPHD  | developers  |  |   | continuous               | \$              |

## #291

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:55pm**

agree

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #292

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:30am**

Emphasize a fix to the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N Lynn St as part of point 1.1.2. (Rosslyn Sector Plan)

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #293

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:53pm**

And ensure that these amenities are also supported by near neighbors.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

in progress

## 294 Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by creating and improving public spaces.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners                                | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---|---|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1.1.9. Identify and evaluate potential surplus public properties, and determine if they should be disposed of or incorporated into the public space system.<br>DPR, AED |   |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |
| 1.1.10. Consider the acquisition of defunct private indoor and outdoor recreation facilities using acquisition guidelines.<br>DPR                                       | capital budget,<br>bonds, general fund,<br>grants |                           |                      | continuous | \$\$\$          |

## Action 1.2. Make better use of existing public spaces through system-wide planning and investments in facilities.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners  | Potential Funding Sources                                     | Performance Measures   | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.2.1. Complete the remaining elements of Long Bridge Park.<br>295  |   | capital budget, bonds,<br>general fund, non-County<br>sources | Successful completion<br>of Phase 2 according to<br>project schedule | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.2. Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans.<br>DPR   |   | capital budget, bonds,<br>general fund                        | number of completely<br>implemented park<br>master plans             | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.3. Consolidate recreation facilities and activities that are currently distributed throughout community centers into fewer, larger recreation centers.<br>DPR     |   | capital budget  |  | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.4. Designate and expand 4 sports-specific complexes that will provide access to prime recreational amenities and will accommodate sports tournaments.<br>DPR      |   | capital budget  |  | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.5. Construct 2 new multi-use activity centers to provide year-round access to indoor athletic courts and fields.<br>DPR   |   | capital budget  |  | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.6. Develop park framework plans with community input for all public spaces that identify intended uses and in what zones those uses are intended to occur.<br>296 | Parks and Recreation<br>Commission,<br>civic and citizen<br>associations                              |   |  | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.2.7. Develop park master plans, to be adopted by the County Board, for approximately 10 parks that are of high importance to the park system.<br>DPR                | Parks and Recreation<br>Commission, other<br>County departments,<br>civic and citizen<br>associations |   |  | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$\$\$        |

## #294

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:56pm**

Agree. Also consider creative ways - e.g. use of Uber, Lyft - to enable children who lack transportation access to recreational opportunities/

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #295

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:57pm**

Agree

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #296

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:17pm**

Create and employ neutral criteria as part of holistic planning process to determine, with community input and full transparency, which public spaces are suitable for which uses.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

**Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by adding and improving public spaces.**

|  | Responsible Parties | Potential Partners                          | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures       | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.2.8.  Convert an additional 12 existing rectangular fields and 4 existing diamond fields to synthetic turf as funding is available.   |                     | sports groups                               | Capital budget            | Number of fields converted | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.   Install lighting to synthetic fields and other multi-use fields, according to field lighting guidelines.  |                     | sports groups                               | Capital budget            |                            | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.2.10.   Review and study possible modifications to the County’s regulations and codes – including zoning and other requirements related to setbacks, lighting, parking, signage, height, and temporary use of public and private property as public space – to allow more flexibility in park planning and respond to high-density contexts. | DPR, DES            |   |                           |                            | medium term (0–10 years) | \$              |
| 1.2.11. For larger parks or parks with buildings, evaluate replacing on-site surface parking with structured, underground, or on-street parking to maximize space for ground-level uses.   | DPR, CPHD, DES      | adjacent private and public property owners | Capital budget            |                            | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.2.12. Explore opportunities to add or relocate recreational amenities above structured parking and on roofs and walls of County buildings.   | DPR                 | private property owners                     | Capital budget            |                            | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$\$      |
| 1.2.13. Explore opportunities to improve public spaces that are underground or underneath infrastructure.  | DPR, DES            |   |                           |                            | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 1.2.14. Provide all-season access to athletic fields, commensurate with demand, through the use of temporary or permanent structures.  | DPR                 | sports groups                               | Capital budget            |                            | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 1.2.15.  Include transportation planning in the park master planning process to increase accessibility by walking, biking, and transit.   | DPR                 | transit and bicycle advocacy groups         |                           |                            | continuous               | \$              |

## #297

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:43pm**

Such conversions should not be permitted until the specific fields have been identified, neutral siting criteria for have been agreed upon, a full and transparent analysis of existing and projected needs and alternatives has been made available and subject to community-wide discussion, and a finding has been made by affected civic associations and the County Board that the sites selected meet the criteria for conversation to synthetic turf and/or lights. As part of this finding, proponents must demonstrate that synthetic turf and/or lights can be installed without significant harm to neighborhood character and quality of life for nearest neighbors.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #298

Posted by **rng** on **08/02/2017** at **3:22pm**

Suggestion

This makes sense if not connected to the proposed rule that all synthetic fields should be lighted. If that additional rule were adopted, then some of the rectangular fields should not be converted. Realize that if all synthetic fields must be lighted, then some neighborhoods that would welcome synthetic fields will fiercely oppose them because they hate the negative impacts of lights on nighttime noise, light, traffic, wildlife, etc.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #299

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:46pm**

No. Lights should not be installed on the WMS soccer fields per the 2-1 opposition of the WFWG work group and numerous process flaws as part of the 2005 PMSP, the 2013 DES Use Permit processes, and the County Manager's decision to recommend a lighting option for the WMS fields that the work group was never given an opportunity to discuss or evaluate. There should be no automatic link between installation of synthetic turf and installation of field lights.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #300

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **2:14pm**

No automatic tie between synthetic turf and lights. Per prior comment, publicly identify fields and subject each to comprehensive needs analysis (including detailed information on utilization of existing fields & accessibility of 16 fields identified in this section to underserved children in Arlington). Consistent criteria & holistic planning process should be employed/

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #301

Posted by **rng** on **08/02/2017** at **3:18pm**

If this refers to the guidelines in Appendix B, then this is much too broad. The 1 foot-candle at the boundary rule there may be fine for commercial areas, but it is much too high for quiet residential

areas with homes very close to fields. Don't let the vendors cherry pick the standards without regard to the nature of the community. This isn't a one-size fits all situation. A different standard should apply in areas near major, heavily-traveled roads with 10 story buildings nearby than for quiet, dark-at-night areas.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #302

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:33am**

As I commented above, no lighting at synthetic fields should be added until all the synthetic fields are completed.

Completion of synthetic fields should address the need for field space, because it will not only make fields available for more hours, but also allow for more reliable scheduling of field use.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #303

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **2:19pm**

Approach zoning changes with great caution. If all of Arlington becomes a brightly lit, city it will become less - not more attractive - to the best businesses and the tax base will decline as homeowners flee from the destruction of their neighborhoods.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #304

Posted by **rng** on **08/02/2017** at **3:12pm**

This recommendation is not helpful without specific criteria. One could read it as an invitation to relax zoning regulations in ways that would negate the purpose of those regulations. If any such changes are made, they should be individually reviewed and approved by the County Board, not buried in a large document that the Board does not review and approve in detail.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #305

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:35am**

Modifications should also be considered where necessary to install sidewalks.

Sidewalks should be mandatory on all streets.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #306

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **12:59pm**

agree & also support creative ways (Uber, etc.) to provide access for low income kids.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #307

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:01pm**

Caveat, lets focus on creating and maintaining the parks and open space before the "green streets to get to them.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



in progress

### 310 Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by building and improving public spaces.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners  | Potential Funding Sources     | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.2.16. Develop a network of green streets that connect public spaces.<br>DPR, DES  | community organizations, civic and citizen associations, pedestrian advocacy groups | Capital budget, bonds, grants |                      | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.2.17. Include park access planning in transportation planning efforts in order to ensure sufficient transit service to major parks and trails.<br>DPR, DES  |   |                               |                      | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.2.18. Develop design guidelines for privately-owned public spaces.<br>CPHD, DPR   |   |                               |                      | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 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.<br>CPHD | owners of privately-owned public spaces   |                               |                      | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$            |
| 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.<br>AED, DPR, HALRB, CPHD, Historic Preservation       |   |                               |                      | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 1.2.21. Interpret the “Federal Arlington,” “Historic Arlington,” and “Global Arlington” themes as described in the 2004 Public Art Master Plan and “Innovative Arlington” and “Environmental Arlington” as described in the 2017 update.<br>CPHD, DPR, HALRB  |   |                               |                      | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.2.22. Incorporate new and interactive technologies into public spaces.<br>DPR   |   | Capital budget                |                      | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 1.2.23. Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture.<br>DPR  |   |                               |                      | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |

### 308 Direction 1.3. Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature.

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DPR, CPHD           |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |

## #308

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:04pm**

agree. This costs a lot less too.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #309

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:37am**

Add Action 1.3.1: Construct sidewalks on all streets so that residents have the opportunity to connect with nature.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #310

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:03pm**

Caveat, let's focus on the creation & maintenance of parks & open spaces before investing in the green streets to get to them. Let's think carefully about the allocation of resources in relation to population and think about the equities in addressing core needs before wants.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

## 314 Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by providing and improving public spaces.

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

|        | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners                  | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.4.1. | Identify opportunities during park master planning to add or change amenities or enhance multi-modal access based on County-wide needs and resident input.                     |                                     |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|        | DPR  | DES, civic and citizen associations |                           |                      | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.4.2. | Continue to monitor recreation trends and incorporate new and innovative amenities to increase and sustain community participation.  |                                     |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|        | DPR  |                                     | Operational budget        |                      | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.4.3. | Based on level of service, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community.                        |                                     |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|        | DPR  |                                     |                           |                      | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 1.4.4. | Site new amenities in locations that are or will be made accessible by as many modes of transportation as possible.  |                                     |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|        | DPR  | DES                                 |                           |                      | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.4.5. | Implement revised standards for dog parks and new standards for smaller dog runs that may be more appropriate in high density areas or areas where dog parks are not feasible. |                                     |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|        | DPR  | various dog park advocacy groups    | Operational budget        |                      | short term<br>(0-5 years) | \$              |

### Action 1.5. Provide more support services and amenities for public space users.

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners     | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 311 1. | Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in programmed public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at special events. (See also 8.4.1.)   |                        |                           |                      |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, CAO, AED   | Local businesses, BIDs |                           |                      | short term<br>(0-5 years)   | \$\$            |
| 313 2. | Revise County regulations to allow the County to issue permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages in programmed public spaces at specified times at permitted special events as well as in high density corridors. |                        |                           |                      |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, CAO, AED   | Local businesses, BIDs |                           |                      | short term<br>(0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 1.5.3. | Ensure that indoor public restrooms in facilities adjacent to public spaces are available to public space users, and use signage to inform users of their availability.   |                        |                           |                      |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, APS  |                        |                           |                      | short term<br>(0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 1.5.4. | Retrofit restrooms and build new restrooms so they are open and usable year round.  |                        |                           |                      |                             |                 |
|        | DPR   |                        | Capital budget            |                      | medium term<br>(0-10 years) | \$\$            |

## #311

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:50pm**

No. Communities will not be receptive to new and/or improved sports fields if concessions are included.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #312

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:11pm**

Very low priority. Likely to create backlash against park designations and upgrading grass fields to synthetic turf.. Residential neighborhoods surrounding sports fields do not want concession stands.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #313

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:12pm**

No. Brings noise, litter, and conflict between neighbors and those who buy not just 1 but many more alcoholic beverages.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #314

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:08pm**

Yes. Top priority.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

### 317 Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by finding and improving public spaces.

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners       | Potential Funding Sources                                     | Performance Measures | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.5.5. DPR           |                          | Capital budget  |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 1.5.6. DPR           | Potential Wi-Fi sponsors | Corporate sponsorships, operational budget, private donations |                      | short term (0–5 years)   | \$\$            |
| 315. 1.5.7. DPR, AED |                          | Capital budget, private donations                             |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 1.5.8. DPR           |                          | Capital budget  |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |

### Action 1.6. Ensure high-quality visual and physical access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources                   | Performance Measures | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|-----------------------|--|---|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.6.316 DPR, DES, PHD | NPS, adjacent private land owners                            |   |                      | continuous               | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.6.2. DPR            | DES, NVCT, Adjacent property owners                          | Capital budget, bonds, general fund, grants |                      | continuous               | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.6.3. DPR, DES       | NPS  | Capital budget, bonds, general fund         |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 1.6.4. DPR            | NPS, Boating/fishing recreation organizations, Alexandria VA | Operational budget, sponsorships            |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |

## #315

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:54pm**

This recommendation would do nothing to increase equitable access.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #316

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:39am**

Emphasize here safe access from Rosslyn, across N Lynn St, to the Potomac River, which likely requires coordination with NPS.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #317

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **1:53pm**

Per DPR's own analysis (p. 237 of this report) residents of major areas in Central and South Arlington lack equitable access to spaces for recreation, plan and enjoying nature. Drinking fountains and WiFi do nothing to rectify this problem.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

## Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by adding and improving public spaces.

### Action 1.7. Strive for universal access.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources                              | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---|--|--|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.7.1. Implement the recommendations of the Department of Parks and Recreation Transition Plan.<br>DPR  |  | Capital budget,<br>operational budget,<br>general fund |                      | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 1.7.2. Incorporate state-of-the-art and creative approaches to designing for universal access.<br>DPR   |  |  |                      | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 1.7.3. Develop playgrounds, where feasible, that incorporate universal design principles and integrates a variety of experiences where people of all abilities can interact.<br>DPR | various<br>commissions,<br>civic and citizen<br>associations | Capital budget   |                      |                           | \$\$\$          |

### Action 1.8. Strive for a more attractive and sustainable public space system.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources            | Performance Measures  | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.8.1. Create facility design standards.<br>DPR   |  |                                      | Facility design<br>standards policy<br>adopted and regularly<br>revised | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$            |
| 1.8.2. Strive for design excellence in the development and reconstruction of parks and facilities.<br>DPR   |  |                                      |   | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.8.3. Pursue Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) or similar certification of building facilities in alignment with the County's Policy for Integrated Facility Sustainability and the Community Energy Plan.<br>DPR |  |                                      |   | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.8.4. Use rating systems such as the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) rating system as guidance in designing sustainable landscapes.<br>DPR  |  |                                      |   | continuous                | \$              |
| 1.8.5. Opt for sustainable design elements in all capital investments where feasible.<br>DPR  |  |                                      |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 1.8.6. Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees on public and private land.  |  |                                      |   |                           |                 |
| 1.8.7. Incorporate public art into public spaces in alignment with the Public Art Master Plan.<br>DPR, AED  | community<br>organizations,<br>civic and citizen<br>associations | Capital budget, private<br>donations |   | continuous                | \$\$\$          |

in progress

**Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by adding and improving public spaces.**

**Action 1.9. Enhance spaces with temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.**

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.9.1. Continue to allow and actively encourage the activation of public spaces and other publicly and privately owned property through temporary activities like parklets, special events, seasonal markets, and pop-up events.<br>DPR, CPHD, AED | BIDs, local businesses, community organizations, civic and citizen associations                          |                           |                      | continuous             | \$\$            |
| 1.9.2. Continue to allow and encourage temporary activities on vacant or other periodically unused private property.<br>DPR, CPHD, AED   | BIDs, local businesses, community organizations, civic and citizen associations                          |                           |                      | continuous             | \$              |
| 1.9.3. Streamline the process of permitting temporary spaces on both public and private lands.<br>CPHD, DPR, DES   |  | Operational budget        |                      | short term (0-5 years) | \$\$            |
| 1.9.4. Expand the use of temporary road closures to create public spaces that can be used for the community at large or for special events.<br>DPR, CPHD, DES  | BIDs, local businesses, private property owners, community organizations, civic and citizen associations |                           |                      | continuous             | \$\$            |
| 1.9.5. Ensure dedicated funding is available to support temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.<br>DPR, CPHD, AED, DES  | BIDs, local businesses, private property owners, community organizations, civic and citizen associations |                           |                      | continuous             | \$\$            |

**Action 1.10. Coordinate the construction of new or replacement recreational facilities with the Capital Improvement Plan.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DPR                 |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |



in progress

**Strategic Direction 2. Improve the network of trails to, within, and between public spaces to increase access and enhance connectivity.**

**Action 2.1. Expand Arlington’s network of connected multi-use trails.**

|                   | Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources               | Performance Measures | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|---|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 2.1 <b>318</b>    | DES, DPR            | Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, bicycle advocacy organizations | Capital budget, grants                  |                      | long term (0–20 years)   | \$\$\$\$        |
| 2.1.2.            | DES, DPR            | Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, bicycle advocacy organizations | Capital budget, grants                  |                      | long term (0–20 years)   | \$\$\$\$        |
| 2.1.3.            | DES, DPR            | adjacent property owners   | Capital budget, state and federal funds |                      | long term (0–20 years)   | \$\$\$          |
| 2.1.4.            | DPR, DES            | Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Friends of Long Bridge Park         | Capital budget, grants                  |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 2.1.5. <b>319</b> | DES, DPR            | VDOT   |   |                      | continuous               | \$\$\$\$        |
| 2.1.6.            | DES, DPR            | Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Washington, D.C.                 | Capital budget, grants                  |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$\$        |

**Action 2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.**

|        | Responsible Parties | Potential Partners                                 | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2.2.1. | DES, DPR            | NPS, NOVA Parks, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees |                           |                      | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |
| 2.2.2. |                     |  |                           |                      |                        |                 |

## #318

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:43am**

Correction of the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N. Lynn St. should be a high-priority, short term project, not long term.

Specifically, a safe crossing in the form of a bridge or tunnel.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #319

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:45am**

The wording of this point raises the question of why the creation of "safe routes to parks and other public spaces" is not an urgent priority.

Why are we willing to tolerate gaps in sidewalks that create unsafe routes?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

## Strategic Direction 2. Improve the network of trails to, within, and between public spaces to increase access and enhance connectivity.

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources                                     | Performance Measures                              | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| DES, DPR            |  | Capital budget  |   | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$              |
| 2.2.3.              | <b>Ensure paved, multi-use trails are wide enough for passing and that there is sufficient space alongside trails for pulling over.</b>            |   |   |                             |                 |
| DES, DPR            | NOVA Parks   | Capital budget  |   | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 2.2.4.              | <b>Separate modes, where space allows, on high traffic trail routes and where user conflicts commonly occur.</b>                                   |   |   |                             |                 |
| DES, DPR            |  | Capital budget  |   | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 2.2.5.              | <b>Explore creative and efficient ways to educate users about trail etiquette.</b>   |   |   |                             |                 |
| DPR, DES            | Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, trail/recreation advocacy groups, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, BikeArlington, WalkArlington  |   |   | continuous                  | \$              |
| 2.2.6.              | <b>Continue to develop “learn to ride” areas that provide protected spaces for novice users to learn to bicycle.</b>                               |   |   |                             |                 |
| DPR                 | DES  | Capital budget  |   | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 2.2.7.              | <b>Expand trail use monitoring to track usage across all major trails by mode, and use gathered data to help guide the trail planning process.</b> |   |   |                             |                 |
| DES, DPR            |  | Operational budget  | Trail use database compiled and regularly updated | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$\$            |
| 2.2.8.              | <b>Use Wi-Fi to provide public internet access at trailheads where feasible.</b>   |   |   |                             |                 |
| DPR, DTS            | sponsors   | Corporate sponsorships, operational budget, private donations |   | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$\$            |

### Action 2.3. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources     | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 2.3.1.              | <b>Weigh the benefits of adding hiking trails to protected natural areas against the impacts to natural resources. (See also 3.3.4.)</b> |                               |                      |                           |                 |
| DPR                 | NPS, Adjacent property owners  | Capital budget, federal funds |                      | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$              |
| 2.3.2.              | <b>Improve the quality of and increase access to Four Mile Run and Potomac tributary trails. (see also 3.3.1.)</b>                       |                               |                      |                           |                 |
| DPR, DES            |  |                               |                      | continuous                | \$\$\$          |

in progress

**Strategic Direction 2. Improve the network of trails to, within, and between public spaces to increase access and enhance connectivity.**

|        | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2.3.3. | <b>Show connections to hiking trails in neighboring jurisdictions on signage and in communication materials.</b> |  |                           |                      |                        |                 |
| DPR    |  | Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Washington, D.C., other nearby jurisdictions |                           |                      | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |

**Action 2.4. Develop and implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system.**

|          | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|----------|---|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 2.4.1.   | <b>Name all trail segments using descriptive names.</b>   |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
| DPR      |   |  |                           |  | short term (0–5 years)   | \$              |
| 2.4.2.   | <b>Work with trail owners within Arlington and neighboring jurisdictions to develop common trail signage and wayfinding standards for major regional trails.</b>            |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
| DES, DPR |   | Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Washington, D.C., other nearby jurisdictions | Operational budget        | Regional trail signage standards developed                     | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 2.4.3.   | <b>Develop a County design standard for trail signage and wayfinding that addresses hierarchy, connections, destinations, landmarks, identity, and areas of congestion.</b> |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
| DES, DPR |   |  | Operational budget        | County trail design standards developed and regularly reviewed | medium term (0–10 years) | \$              |
| 2.4.4.   | <b>Add location identifiers, potentially integrated into wayfinding signage, at regular intervals along trails for issues/emergencies as well as mile markers.</b>          |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
| DES, DPR |   |  | Capital budget            |  | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$\$          |
| 2.4.5.   | <b>Improve wayfinding signage at trailheads.</b>  |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
| DPR, DES |   |  | Capital budget            |  | short term (0–5 years)   | \$\$            |

**Action 2.5. Better coordinate planning for and management of trails.**

|  | Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
|  | DPR, DES            | NPS                | Capital budget            |                      | continuous | \$              |

in progress

### Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

#### Action 3.1. Update the Natural Resources Management Plan.

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| DPR, DES            |                    | Capital budget            |                      | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$\$          |

#### Action 3.2. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan.

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| DPR, DES            |                    | Capital budget            |                      | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$\$          |

#### Action 3.3. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources, particularly in riparian corridors along County waterways.

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources          | Performance Measures                                      | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.3.1. Address the protection, restoration, and expansion of natural resources in Four Mile Run planning and site master plans for parks along Four Mile Run, as well as others leading to riparian areas.<br>CPHD, DES, DPR | NVCT, NRJAG, not-for-profits, NOVA Parks, Alexandria, civic associations | Capital budget, operational budget |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 3.3.2. Explore opportunities to participate in and join the Biophilic Cities movement.<br>DPR  | Park and Recreation Commission   |                                    |   | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 3.3.3. Pursue easements to protect natural areas and heritage resources.<br>DPR  | NRJAG, NVCT, private land owners   | Capital budget                     |   | continuous                | \$              |
| 3.3.4. Coordinate the protection and expansion of natural resources with the provision of new hiking trails. (See also 2.3.2.)<br>DPR, DES   | NRJAG, NPS, NOVA Parks   |                                    |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 3.3.5. Collaborate with the National Park Service to develop a master plans for Roaches Run, Gravelly Point, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and other NPS areas.<br>DPR   | NPS  | Operational budget, federal funds  |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 3.3.6. Work with Arlington Public Schools to identify, preserve, and develop enhancement and management plans for natural and historic resources in school site planning.<br>DPR, APS, DES, CPHD                             |  | Operational budget                 |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 3.3.7. Develop an agreement with Arlington Public Schools to increase shared resources for management of natural resources on school property.<br>DPR, DES   |  | Operational budget                 | Resource sharing agreement adopted and regularly reviewed | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$            |

in progress

### Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

|                    | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners       | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.3 <sup>320</sup> | Identify opportunities for daylighting streams in public spaces that are currently part of the underground stormwater system. |                          |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|                    | DPR, DES, APS   | adjacent property owners | Capital budget, bonds     |                      | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$\$\$        |
| 3.3.9.             | Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential natural resources will be added to the public space system.              |                          |                           |                      |                           |                 |
|                    | DPR   |                          |                           |                      | continuous                | \$              |

### Action 3.4. Integrate natural resources and natural resource interpretation into the design of public spaces.

|        | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners                    | Potential Funding Sources                         | Performance Measures   | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.4.1. | Expand natural areas within high density corridors.  |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, DES   | private land owners                   | Capital budget, operational budget, private funds |  | continuous                  | \$\$\$          |
| 3.4.2. | Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees on public and private land.  |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, DES, CPHD   | UFC, private land owners              | Capital budget, operational budget, private funds |  | continuous                  | \$\$            |
| 3.4.3. | Expand and work with partners to extend non-native invasive species management and public education campaigns. (See also 7.2.5.)                 |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, DES   | NVCT, environmental organizations     | Operational budget, capital budget                | non-native invasive species management policy adopted and regularly reviewed | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$\$            |
| 3.4.4. | Evaluate opportunities to enhance stormwater management features with natural resources.   |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, DES   |                                       |   |  | continuous                  | \$              |
| 3.4.5. | Add interpretive signage within public spaces that highlight the natural resources within those spaces and the benefits those resources provide. |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR  | APS, DES, environmental organizations | Capital budget                                    |  | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$\$            |
| 3.4.6. | Expand and promote official recognition programs for important natural resources, such as the Notable Tree and Champion Tree programs.           |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR  | UFC, environmental organizations      | Operational budget                                |  | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 3.4.7. | Increase the diversity of habitats for critical species and develop maintenance guidelines.  |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, DES   | NRJAG                                 | Operational budget, capital budget                |  | long term<br>(0–20 years)   | \$\$\$          |
| 3.4.8. | Explore opportunities to use public art to interpret natural resources.  |                                       |   |  |                             |                 |
|        | DPR, DES, CPHD   |                                       |   |  | continuous                  | \$              |

#320

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:48am**

This should be medium term, as streams provide significant health and emotional benefits as noted earlier in this report.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

### Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

#### Action 3.5. Foster, develop, and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programming across ages and skill levels.

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures  | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.5.1. | Enhance and expand nature-based interpretive opportunities for children, starting at pre-school age, as well as adults and seniors.<br>DPR, APS |                    | Operational budget        | Nature-based programs annually reviewed for expansion opportunities | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 3.5.2. | Foster additional integration of nature-based education provided by nature centers into public school curriculums.<br>DPR, APS                  |                    | Operational budget        |   | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 3.5.3. | Provide outdoor leadership training to better connect residents of all ages to nature.<br>DPR, APS  |                    | Operational budget        | Outdoor teen leadership program established                         | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$            |

#### 321 Action 3.6. Promote conservation stewardship volunteerism that enables individuals and organizations to leave a positive legacy in the park system.

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners                                    | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|---|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.6.1. | Continue to identify opportunities for conservation stewardship activities, such as removing garbage from waterways or parks, planting trees or native plants, removing non-native invasive plants, or recycling at large events.<br>DPR, DES | Neighborhood and environmental organizations          |                           |                      | continuous             | \$              |
| 3.6.2. | Continue to collaborate with community groups, service clubs, and businesses on conservation stewardship events.<br>DPR   | Neighborhood organizations, service clubs, businesses | Operational budget        |                      | continuous             | \$              |
| 3.6.3. | Review and revise background check requirements and volunteer waivers to reduce volunteers' liability and encourage latent volunteerism.<br>DPR   |   |                           |                      | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |

#### Action 3.7. Capitalize on existing historic resources in public spaces, and evaluate the potential of protecting additional historic resources.

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures                  | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.7.1. | Complete an inventory of historic structures and landscapes in existing, planned, or proposed public spaces that are designated as local historic districts or that are listed on or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register.<br>CPHD, DPR, HALRB |                    | Operational budget        | Historic property inventory completed | short term (0–5 years) | \$\$            |



#321

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **2:37pm**

Yes, this is important to do

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

### Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

|         | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners                                 | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---------|--|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 3.7.2.  | <b>Identify critical historic resources that may need protection and have potential educational and interpretive components.</b>   |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | CPHD, HALRB  | DPR  | Operational budget        |  | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$            |
| 3.7.3.  | <b>Determine the feasibility of adding services and amenities to existing historic properties.</b>   |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | DPR, CPHD  |  |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 3.7.4.  | <b>Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential historic resources will be added to the public space system. (See Appendix A for land acquisition criteria.)</b>                       |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | DPR, CPHD, HALRB   |  |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 3.7.5.  | <b>Develop long range goals and strategies for the appropriate preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historic sites, objects or landscapes within public spaces.</b> |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | DPR, CPHD, HALRB   |  | Operational budget        | Long range goals and strategies developed and annually evaluated | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 3.7.6.  | <b>Coordinate with federal preservation agencies to better leverage and expand visitor experiences.</b>  |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | DPR, AED   | Federal preservation agencies                      |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 3.7.7.  | <b>Seek out new local and regional partnerships and agreements with groups that support history, education, and cultural resources.</b>  |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | CPHD, DPR  | HALRB, applicable local and regional organizations | Operational budget        |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 3.7.8.  | <b>Create internal County working groups to better conduct and coordinate long-term planning for historic resources.</b>   |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | CPHD, DPR  | HALRB  |                           |  | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 3.7.9.  | <b>Explore the need for additional staff resources to support the challenges of preserving historic resources and facilities.</b>  |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | DPR, CPHD  |  | Operational budget        |  | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$\$            |
| 3.7.10. | <b>Expand historical resource programming to connect residents and visitors with Arlington’s heritage.</b>   |  |                           |  |                           |                 |
|         | DPR, CPHD  |  | Operational budget        |  | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |

in progress

## Strategic Direction 4. Expand and clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources creatively and effectively.

### 322 Action 4.1. Work with Arlington Public Schools (APS) to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces.

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures  | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 4.1.1. Identify additional existing Arlington Public Schools facilities that could be used as public space.<br>DPR, APS  |                    |                           |   | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 4.1.2. Explore opportunities for the development of new joint-use facilities to maximize public access to amenities and use land and other resources more efficiently.<br>DPR, APS           |                    | Capital budget, bonds     |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 4.1.3. Work jointly to annually analyze program participation and adjust scheduling of facilities accordingly.<br>DPR, APS   |                    | Operational budget        | Program participation report developed and annually updated | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 4.1.4. Expand participation in planning for publicly-accessible amenities on Arlington Public Schools property.<br>DPR, APS  |                    |                           |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 4.1.5. Use design solutions to overcome security concerns about the use of public school facilities by the public outside of school hours.<br>DPR, APS                                       |                    |                           |   | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 4.1.6. Ensure the contributions to capital costs and maintenance of public spaces on County and Arlington Public Schools sites are commensurate with use.<br>DPR, APS                        |                    |                           |   | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.1.7. Continue to collaborate with Arlington Public Schools to preserve natural resources, playing fields, and other public space when designing and building new schools.<br>DPR, APS, DES | BLPC, PFRC         | Operational budget        | Comprehensive maintenance strategy developed                | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.1.8. Share and coordinate operations with APS for trails that jointly support access to schools, community centers, and neighborhoods.<br>DPR, APS, DES                                    | BLPC, PFRC         | Operational budget        |   | continuous                | \$              |

### Action 4.2. Work with the National Park Service and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate the attention paid to their facilities and land in Arlington and ensure consistent experiences.

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures                          | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 4.2.1. Establish and maintain effective communications and cooperative planning with the National Park Service and others to ensure that Arlington's interests are fully considered in their decisions about public spaces and natural resources in and adjacent to the County.<br>DPR | NPS                |                           | Liaisons identified at DPR and other agencies | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.2.2. Create more seamless connections between County spaces and those managed by other bodies.<br>DPR  | NPS, NOVA Parks    | Capital budget            |   | long term<br>(0–20 years) | \$\$            |

## #322

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **2:42pm**

First, make it clear that private money doesn't buy the right to dictate or exert disproportionate influence over the use of County & APS owned lands. Second, ask private donors and APS to put highest priority on improving access to sports programs for disadvantaged children.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #323

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:50am**

Coordination with NPS or other federal authorities is likely necessary to address the Intersection of Death at Lee Hwy and N Lynn St., which is an urgent priority.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

**Strategic Direction 4. Expand and clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources creatively and effectively.**

|        | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources             | Performance Measures | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 4.2.3. | Advocate for National Park Service trails to be connected to County trails and maintained to the agreed upon maintenance standards.<br>DPR, DES          | NPS                |                                       |                      | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$              |
| 4.2.4. | Collaborate with other entities to improve maintenance, erosion control, control of non-native invasive species, signage, and trail markers.<br>DPR, DES | NPS                | Capital budget,<br>operational budget |                      | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$              |

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**Strategic Direction 4.3. Regularly revise or create new agreements with partner organizations to ensure fair and equitable relationships.**

|        | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners                           | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|--|--|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 4.3.1. | Develop a guide to the partnership agreement and onboarding processes.<br>DPR  |  | Operational budget        | Partnership guide developed and regularly reviewed           | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 4.3.2. | Assign a liaison to work with each partner, and ensure each partner assigns a liaison to work with the County to improve communication and collaboration.<br>DPR                 |  |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.3.3. | Track and regularly share information and measurable outcomes of partnership agreements.<br>DPR  |  |                           | Costs and outcomes tracked and shared biannually or annually | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.3.4. | Look for opportunities to revise memorandums of agreement with sports groups to address, and ultimately improve, field access and responsibilities for field maintenance.<br>DPR | Sports groups                                |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.3.5. | Develop a preapproval process for partners that have recurring events to streamline approvals.<br>DPR  | BIDs   |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.3.6. | Streamline and effectively communicate approval processes for partners that work to improve public spaces.<br>DPR  | BIDs   |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |
| 4.3.7. | Enhance and develop partnerships with universities, foundations, friends groups, businesses, and other organizations.<br>DPR   | universities,<br>foundations, friends groups |                           |  | continuous                | \$              |

## #324

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **2:49pm**

It is very difficult for taxpayers to understand what, if any, benefits Arlington County gets out of agreements with GW and Marymount. We see no evidence that County residents have any access to those fields. They are never discussed in documents relating to field utilization. All of Arlington's partnerships with sports user groups should be revisited to determine if the rents collected by the County versus the fees charged by user groups to participate on teams are appropriate. Also, since kids from lower income neighborhoods appear to be seriously under-represented on recreational and travel teams, it also appears that the County should consider requesting a sliding scale of fees charged to kids and additional investments by user groups (paying Uber bills) to get children into programs that are not currently reaching them.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

**Strategic Direction 4. Expand and clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources creatively and effectively.**

**Action 4.4. Support and strengthen the County’s volunteer programs for public spaces and trails.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures                | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 4.4.1. DPR          |  | Operational budget        |                                     | short term (0–5 years) | \$\$            |
| 4.4.2. DPR          | volunteer programs (e.g., Volunteer Arlington, Americorps) | Operational budget        |                                     | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |
| 4.4.3. DPR          |  | Operational budget        |                                     | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |
| 4.4.4. DPR          |  |                           | Volunteer program reviewed annually | continuous             | \$              |
| 4.4.5. DPR          |  | Operational budget        |                                     | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |
| 4.4.6. DPR          |  |                           |                                     | continuous             | \$              |
| 4.4.7. DPR          |  |                           |                                     | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |
| 4.4.8. DPR          | companies, institutions, non-profits, large organizations  |                           |                                     | continuous             | \$              |
| 4.4.9. DPR          |  |                           |                                     | continuous             | \$              |

in progress

**Strategic Direction 5. Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.**

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**Action 5.1. Regularly evaluate program demand and adjust offerings.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 5.1.1. DPR          | Undertake a demand and capacity analysis of existing programs offered by DPR and program partners in Arlington County.<br>Program partners                   | Operational budget        | Demand and capacity analysis report completed and annually updated | short term (0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 5.1.2. DPR          | Continue to monitor national recreation trends and best practices and incorporate new and innovative recreation programs to sustain community participation. |                           |  | continuous               | \$              |
| 5.1.3. DPR          | Conduct public input processes to assess and implement new program innovations.<br>CPHD  | Operational budget        |  | continuous               | \$\$            |
| 5.1.4. DPR          | Diversify and increase availability of senior programming to serve more active seniors.<br>DHS, senior advocacy groups                                       | Operational budget        |  | medium term (0-10 years) | \$\$            |
| 5.1.5. DPR          | Promote and increase the availability of programming that caters to diverse ages, interests, and abilities.  | Operational budget        |  | medium term (0-10 years) | \$\$            |

**Action 5.2. Implement best practices in program life cycles to maintain a culture of quality program delivery.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 5.2.1. DPR          | Document the program development process to maintain program consistency and assist in training staff. |                           |                      | short term (0-5 years) | \$              |
| 5.2.2. DPR          | For each program area, update key service attributes to reflect what is most important to users.       |                           |                      | continuous             | \$              |

**Action 5.3. Periodically evaluate each program's participation, finances, and outcomes.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DPR                 |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |



## #325

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:00pm**

Each group recognized by Arlington, as a local sports user group should report by season participation by name, age, zip code and number & type of participations, e.g. what team, what clinics, skills training sessions etc. This will help to determine where additional investments in facilities, transportation access, etc. are most needed and whether the number of participants in any given area is growing and by what % or whether the same participants are taking part in more clinics and training sessions.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #326

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **12:53am**

This is a very high priority. Decisions about public spaces should be based on data, not who shows up at meetings or who has influence with politicians.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

**Strategic Direction 5. Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.**

**Action 5.4. Periodically evaluate programmed uses of indoor and outdoor spaces to identify needs for additional space and opportunities to reallocate space.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DPR                 |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |

**Action 5.5. Continue to strengthen the County's commitment to improving public health and wellness through public space programming.**

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners         | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 5.5.1. Enhance fitness, wellness, and healthy lifestyle programming and facilities.<br>DPR, DHS  |                            |                           |                      | continuous             |                 |
| 5.5.2. Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials. (see also 6.2.3.)<br>DPR, DHS             |                            |                           |                      | short term (0-5 years) | \$              |
| 5.5.3. Work with local healthcare providers to expand the park prescription program.<br>DPR, DHS   | Local healthcare providers |                           |                      | short term (0-5 years) | \$\$            |
| 5.5.4. Track public space usage indicators over time to determine the positive health impacts of public space system improvements.<br>DPR, DHS |                            |                           |                      | continuous             | \$\$            |

**Action 5.6. Use programming to activate parks and public spaces.**

| Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners               | Potential Funding Sources         | Performance Measures | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 5.6.1. Set usage targets to identify parks and public spaces where programming could bolster lower-than-desired usage.<br>DPR  | Neighborhood organizations       |                                   |                      | short term (0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 5.6.2. Employ lessons learned from past experiences with activating public spaces (e.g., at Gateway Park) to develop program plans for spaces that are meant for or could accommodate additional usage.<br>DPR | BIDs, neighborhood organizations |                                   |                      | medium term (0-10 years) | \$              |
| 5.6.3. Consider reconfiguring or adding amenities to public spaces to support flexible programming. (see also 1.4.8.)<br>DPR   | CPHD                             | Capital budget, private donations |                      | medium term (0-10 years) | \$              |

in progress

### 328 Strategic Direction 6. Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction and foster support for public spaces.

#### Action 6.4. Monitor and evaluate trends in communication and engagement tools and platforms that can increase public space users' interaction with the County.

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 6.1.1. | Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, at least every 5 years.<br>DPR   |                    |                           |                      | continuous                | \$\$            |
| 6.1.2. | Develop public engagement guidelines for park planning and recreation program planning.<br>DPR, CPHD  |                    |                           |                      | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |
| 6.1.3. | Use inclusive, transparent, and creative community engagement practices that encourage participation by all community members.<br>DPR, other County departments                         |                    |                           |                      | continuous                | \$              |
| 6.1.4. | Engage users on an ongoing basis to evaluate the success of public spaces and programming in order to establish a meaningful feedback loop between the County and its residents.<br>DPR |                    |                           |                      | continuous                | \$              |

### 327 Action 6.2. Update and develop new marketing and communication materials and programs that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of public spaces, recreation facilities, programs, and services and inspire users to participate more often.

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures  | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 6.2.1. | Develop materials that communicate the range of facilities and experiences available across the County to all Arlington residents, workers, and visitors.<br>DPR                  | AED, BIDs          | Operational budget        | New and enhanced marketing materials developed and annually updated | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$              |
| 6.2.2. | Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials. (see also 5.4.1.)<br>DPR, DHS   |                    |                           |   | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$              |
| 6.2.3. | Highlight facilities with historic and natural program elements as well as public art both in marketing materials and through on-site interpretation and engagement.<br>DPR, CPHD |                    | Operational budget        |   | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$              |
| 6.2.4. | Communicate the availability of physically and financially accessible facilities and programs.<br>DPR, APS  |                    |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |
| 6.2.5. | Ensure materials are written in relatable language and are accessible to non-English speakers and the visually impaired.<br>DPR   |                    |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |
| 6.2.6. | Improve messaging about the environmental, social, and economic benefits of public spaces.<br>DPR   |                    |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |

## #327

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:12pm**

We don't need more marketing materials; we need more insight into who is and isn't able to access programs & resources and why.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #328

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:11pm**

The POPS process does not bode well as an example. A better approach would be for DPR to notify residents before making decisions on actions that could have a serious impact on their daily lives. As one example, DPR knows and user groups undoubtedly know which 16 fields in the County are being targeted for synthetic turf and lights. But citizens do not have this information. Genuine citizen engagement would require that this list be revealed now - not after the master plan is approved. The veil only makes decisions and conflicts more costly and protracted over the long run.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

in progress

## Strategic Direction 6. Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction and foster support for public spaces.

|         | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources                  | Performance Measures | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|---------|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 6.2.7.  | <b>Proactively engage communities adjacent to public spaces about the benefits of public space programs, facilities, and services.</b>   |                    |  |                      |                          |                 |
| DPR     | Neighborhood organizations   | Operational budget |  |                      | continuous               | \$              |
| 6.2.8.  | <b>Regularly communicate the progress of PSMP implementation.</b>  |                    |  |                      |                          |                 |
| DPR     | DTS  | Operational budget | Plan implementation update issued annually |                      | continuous               | \$              |
| 6.2.9.  | <b>Improve signage for all County-owned public spaces so as to effectively brand the system and enhance the appeal of individual spaces as part of a cohesive whole. (see also 1.4.8.)</b>   |                    |  |                      |                          |                 |
| DPR     | DES  | Capital budget     |  |                      | medium term (0–10 years) | \$\$            |
| 6.2.10. | <b>Pursue state and national awards on an annual basis from organizations such as the Virginia Recreation and Park Society, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Planning Association, Americans for the Arts, the Center for Active Design, and AARP.</b> |                    |  |                      |                          |                 |
| DPR     |  |                    |  |                      | continuous               | \$              |

### Action 6.3. Annually review and update a marketing plan for public spaces and programs.

|          | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|----------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 6.3.1.   | <b>Coordinate across departments and with partners to integrate messages about the benefits of public space and programs.</b> |                    |                           |                      |            |                 |
| DPR, AED |   |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |

### Action 6.4. Monitor and evaluate trends in communication and engagement tools and platforms that can increase public space users' interaction with the County.

|  | Responsible Parties           | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
|  | DPR, other County departments |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |

### Action 6.5. Include public spaces in economic development and tourism messaging.

|          | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|----------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 6.5.1.   | <b>Market public spaces and events as attractions for visitors from the region and beyond.</b>                                |                    |                           |                      |            |                 |
| DPR, AED | Neighboring jurisdictions, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Capital Region USA   |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |
| 6.5.2.   | <b>Cross-market public spaces with other regional attractions to encourage visitors to spend time and money in Arlington.</b> |                    |                           |                      |            |                 |
| DPR, AED | Neighboring jurisdictions, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Capital Region USA   |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |

in progress

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**Strategic Direction 6. Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction and foster support for public spaces.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 6.5.3. DPR, AED     | Market the public space system as an asset to potential employers and workers.<br>BIDs |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |

**Action 6.6. Evaluate and enhance the County's online and social media presence in relation to public spaces.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners  | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 6.6.1. DPR          | Use online and social media regularly to solicit input and feedback from residents.   |                           |                      | continuous                  | \$              |
| 6.6.2. DPR          | 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.<br>DTS |                           |                      | medium term<br>(0-10 years) | \$              |
| 6.6.3. DPR, DTS     | Ensure web and app design maximizes usability by those with disabilities.   |                           |                      | medium term<br>(0-10 years) | \$              |

**Action 6.7. Regularly measure and report on the progress of plan implementation.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 6.7.1. DPR          | Communicate progress to staff and the public in a clear way that is consistent with strategies for engagement and communication. |                           |                      | continuous | \$              |



#329

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:17pm**

It makes sense to take a step back and consider what you are selling. If someone wants a ham sandwich, you're wasting time trying to sell them on a salad. If you start with what people tell you they want - all not just a vocal few - which is a closer connection to nature and deliver that, they will be much happier than if you try to sell them on intensified programming of public spaces which most say they do not want/nor feel they need.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

in progress

## Strategic Direction 7. Ensure County public spaces and facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.

### Action 7.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.

|         | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners                                   | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|---------|--|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 7.1.1.  | Define and regularly update levels of maintenance standards for each type of indoor and outdoor facility to revise existing maintenance policies and guidelines.                       |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR, DES, APS  |  | Operational budget        | Comprehensive maintenance standards policy developed and annually reviewed | continuous               | \$              |
| 7.1.2.  | Establish levels of maintenance for public spaces based on usage and visibility as well as special needs or sensitive habitats.  |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR, DES   |  | Operational budget        |  | short term (0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 7.1.3.  | Improve interdepartmental coordination to ensure that short-and long-term maintenance and planning activities are well coordinated and appropriately scoped during all project phases. |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR, DES, CPHD, APS  |  |                           |  | short term (0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 7.1.4.  | Review and revise trail maintenance standards to address trimming, repaving, snow removal, and safety.   |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR, DES   |  | Operational budget        | Comprehensive trail maintenance standards developed and annually reviewed  | short term (0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 7.1.5.  | Identify opportunities to share maintenance responsibilities with partner organizations and groups for efficiency, and encourage others to share maintenance responsibilities.         |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR  | BIDs, sports and recreation associations and leagues |                           |  | medium term (0-10 years) | \$              |
| 7.1.6.  | Ensure maintenance safety checklists include obstacles to universal access.  |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR  |  |                           |  | short term (0-5 years)   | \$              |
| 7.1.7.  | Continue to train maintenance staff in accessibility concepts.   |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         |  |  |                           |  |                          | \$              |
| 7.1.8.  | Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities based on industry standards, and budget for replacement and renovation. (See also 8.3.2.)                  |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR  |  | Operational budget        |  | continuous               | \$\$            |
| 7.1.9.  | Review tree maintenance needs and resources, and update tree maintenance standards as needed.  |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | DPR, DES   | UFC  | Operational budget        | Tree maintenance standards developed and regularly reviewed                | short term (0-5 years)   | \$\$            |
| 7.1.10. | Develop maintenance standards for historic properties that protect and enhance the architectural and/or historical significance of the property.                                       |  |                           |  |                          |                 |
|         | CPHD   | DPR, HALRB   | Operational budget        | Historic property maintenance guidelines developed and regularly reviewed  | medium term (0-10 years) | \$\$            |



in progress

### Strategic Direction 7. Ensure County public spaces and facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame                | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 7.1.11. DPR         |                    |                           | Establish review procedures to ensure all maintenance standards are being met. | short term<br>(0–5 years) | \$              |

#### Action 7.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources             | Performance Measures   | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------|
| 7.2.1. DPR            |                    |                                       | Optimize operations and maintenance standards to ensure fiscal sustainability. (see also 7.5.3.)   | continuous | \$              |
| 7.2.2. DPR, DES       |                    |                                       | Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy usage, reduced water consumption, and light pollution. | continuous | \$              |
| 7.2.3. DPR            |                    | Operational budget                    | Conduct pilot projects to test effectiveness for County-wide usage.  | continuous | \$\$            |
| 7.2.4. DPR, DES       |                    |                                       | Continue to utilize native plant species and water-wise plant materials as recommended in the Natural Resources Management Plan.           | continuous | \$\$            |
| 7.2.5. DPR, DES       |                    | Operational budget,<br>capital budget | Continue and enhance non-native invasive species management as recommended in the Natural Resources Management Plan. (See also 3.4.3.)     | continuous | \$\$            |
| 7.2.6. DPR, DES       |                    |                                       | Use environmentally friendly products – including cleaners and chemical treatments – where feasible.                                       | continuous | \$              |
| 7.2.7. DPR, DES       |                    | Operational budget                    | Make use of available planting spaces for trees and other vegetation on public lands such as traffic islands and curb bump-outs.           | continuous | \$\$            |
| 7.2.8. DPR, DES       |                    |                                       | Continue to educate staff and the public on the County's sustainability efforts and on environmental practices they can employ themselves. | continuous | \$              |
| 7.2.9. DPR, DES       |                    |                                       | Stay up to date with sustainability best practices and incorporate innovative strategies.  | continuous | \$              |
| 7.2.10. DPR           |                    | Operational budget                    | Provide training for staff for evaluating costs and benefits of existing facilities and for using that information in decision-making.     | continuous | \$              |
| 7.2.11. DPR, DES, APS |                    | Operational budget                    | Train maintenance staff in management of sensitive natural areas and green stormwater infrastructure maintenance.                          | continuous | \$              |

in progress

**Strategic Direction 8. Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington’s public spaces.****Action 8.1. Secure funding to support development and maintenance of public spaces and that those public funds are efficiently and wisely spent.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| DPR, DES, APS       |                    |                           |                      | continuous | \$\$            |

**330 Action 8.2. Identify and pursue non-County funding sources to supplement County funds in order to support capital improvements and programs.**

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners  | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures                                      | Time Frame                  | Cost Range Est. |
|---|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 8.2.1. Identify and acknowledge partnerships with corporations and foundations to support defined projects in parks and public spaces.<br>DPR   | Corporations, foundations, neighborhood groups, universities, not-for-profits |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |
| 8.2.2. Support the establishment of non-profit groups or umbrella foundations dedicated to public space advocacy, fundraising, and implementation of public spaces and programs.<br>DPR | Corporations, foundations, neighborhood groups, universities, not-for-profits |                           |   | long term<br>(0–20 years)   | \$              |
| 8.2.3. Develop sponsorship proposals to help underwrite and offset operating costs for programs and services.<br>DPR  |   |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |
| 8.2.4. Develop a donor engagement strategy (including community-based donors).<br>DPR   | AED   |                           | Donor engagement strategy developed and annually reviewed | short term<br>(0–5 years)   | \$              |
| 8.2.5. Develop a cohesive naming rights policy and strategy for donor recognition.<br>DPR   | AED   |                           | Naming rights policy developed and annually reviewed      | medium term<br>(0–10 years) | \$              |
| 8.2.6. Pursue applicable state and federal funds.<br>DPR  |   |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |
| 8.2.7. Where available, pursue historic preservation tax credits or other financial incentives for renovation or rehabilitation of historic resources.<br>CPHD                          | DPR   |                           |   | continuous                  | \$              |

#330

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:20pm**

Every potential partnership has a benefit and a cost. Please carefully evaluate and be transparent with the public about pluses and minuses.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

in progress

**Strategic Direction 8. Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.****Action 8.3. Increase consideration of up-front and ongoing costs and benefits in maintenance and capital decisions.**

|        | Responsible Parties  | Potential Partners  | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures                                    | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|--|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 8.3.1. | Set levels of maintenance standards and associated schedules for park and recreation facilities (e.g., attendance, revenue) and share information with those managing privately-owned public spaces. |   |                           |   |                          |                 |
|        | DPR  | Entities responsible for maintenance of privately-owned public spaces |                           |   | medium term (0–10 years) | \$              |
| 8.3.2. | Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities and ensure that ongoing costs are appropriately budgeted. (See also 7.1.8.)  |   |                           |   |                          |                 |
|        | DPR  |   |                           | Renovation study completed and updated every five years | medium term (0–10 years) | \$              |
| 8.3.3. | Establish lifecycle replacement standards and projected costs based on industry standards.   |   |                           |   |                          |                 |
|        | DPR  |   |                           |   | medium term (0–10 years) | \$              |

**Action 8.4. Permit revenue generating uses in public spaces.**

|        | Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners     | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures   | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|--------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| 8.4.1. | Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in programmed public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at special events. (See also 1.5.1.) |                        |                           |  |                        |                 |
|        | DPR, AED  | Local businesses, BIDs |                           |  | continuous             | \$              |
| 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.                 |                        |                           |  |                        |                 |
|        | DPR, AED  | Local businesses, BIDs |                           |  | short term (0–5 years) | \$\$            |
| 8.4.3. | Develop a process for leasing easements that do not interfere with public space use to generate revenue.  |                        |                           |  |                        |                 |
|        | DPR   |                        |                           | Revenue-generating easement policy developed and annually reviewed | short term (0–5 years) | \$              |
| 8.4.4. | Develop appropriate mechanisms to invest revenue generated in public spaces back into public spaces.  |                        |                           |  |                        |                 |
|        | DPR, DMF  |                        |                           |  | continuous             | \$              |

in progress

**Strategic Direction 8. Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.****331 Action 8.5. Leverage the value of public spaces.**

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners     | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame               | Cost Range Est. |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 8.5.1. Identify locations where the creation or improvement of public space could spur economic development or redevelopment.<br>DPR, AED, CPHD   |                        |                           |                      | continuous               | \$              |
| 8.5.2. Work with existing BIDs and businesses to establish dedicated park funding streams to enable businesses that benefit from parks to contribute to maintenance and capital improvements.<br>DPR, CPHD, AED | BIDs, local businesses |                           |                      | medium term (0-10 years) | \$\$            |

**Action 8.6. Regularly update a recreational fees and charges policy based on a defined pricing philosophy.**

| Responsible Parties   | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures                      | Time Frame | Cost Range Est. |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---|------------|-----------------|
| 8.6.1. Continue to refine cost recovery standards and ensure consistent methods of calculating cost recovery.<br>DPR  |                    |                           | Cost recovery standards annually reviewed | continuous | \$              |
| 8.6.2. Continue to set cost recovery targets for each program area based on defined direct and related costs and the degree to which the program provides a public versus private benefit.<br>DPR |                    |                           |   | continuous | \$              |
| 8.6.3. Periodically reevaluate fee structures to ensure equity across demographic groups.<br>DPR  |                    |                           |   | continuous | \$              |

**Action 8.7. Ensure that maintenance techniques and standards are consistent between APS, DPR, and DES for landscaping and other natural features on school grounds as well as structures like benches and lighting.**

| Responsible Parties | Potential Partners | Potential Funding Sources | Performance Measures | Time Frame             | Cost Range Est. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| DPR, DES, AES       |                    |                           |                      | short term (0-5 years) | \$              |

#331

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:22pm**

Let the Economic Development folks deal with economic development. DPR needs to worry about protection of Arlington's natural resources.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

DRAFT

# PHYSICAL VISION PLAN



DRAFT

# APPENDICES

DRAFT

DRAFT

## APPENDIX A

# Land Acquisition Criteria

***Priority Action 1.1 of this plan calls for adding at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years. Having clear guidelines for public space land acquisition, used in coordination with the County's level of service analysis for public space amenities, provides the County with a way to objectively evaluate potential acquisition opportunities against the broader public space goals of this plan.***

# ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for the County to acquire park land typically come about in three ways:

- sites identified in adopted County plans such as this *PSMP* or one of the other comprehensive plan elements, sector plans, corridor plans, area plans, site plans, phased development site plans, park master plans, or other specialty plans
- sites strategically identified by the County to meet a particular need that supports the actions identified in this *Public Spaces Master Plan*
- opportunities identified by the public, either individually, through an organized group, or through a civic association

332


## ACQUISITION CRITERIA

In order to weigh these opportunities, acquisition criteria have been developed to guide the County's evaluation and decision making process.

The criteria are divided into three parts:

- Part I assesses alignment with other County priorities. All the criteria in Part I apply to every potential acquisition.
- Part II assesses alignment with the strategic directions of this plan. All the criteria outlined for Part II apply to every potential acquisition.
- Part III assesses alignment with level of service analysis and goals particular to the intended eventual use of the site. There are three subsections of criteria for Part III based on the highest resource value for the proposed site: recreational resource value, natural resource value, or historic resource value. Each site will be evaluated using whichever of the three resource values is being considered.

To the right of each of the criteria is a point value. If a potential opportunity meets the criterion, it receives that number of points. The parcel must have a minimum final score of 20 and meet at least one of the criteria from each of Parts I, II, and III to be considered on the acquisition opportunity list. Each parcel's relative numeric ranking on that list will also be considered in evaluating opportunities.

Some of the criteria (indicated with a ) are place-based and can be met **only if** the parcel is located in a specifically designated area. These place-based criteria will be evaluated using corresponding maps and will be updated over time as land use conditions change.

80ac  
ACQUIRED  
SINCE 1995

*County park acquisitions from  
FY 1995 to FY 2016*

#332

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:37pm**

The criteria do not seem to devote much if any value to providing access to green space or recreational opportunities or nature for people in parts of the County that are underrepresented on teams and underserved in terms of the maps produced for this report showing areas of greatest need. Shouldn't need for access to nature & greater equity in participation in organized sports be important factors?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## Part I: Alignment with Other County Priorities

All criteria apply.

- The site is identified within an existing approved park master plan or park framework plan. +9
- The site is identified as future parkland in an adopted comprehensive plan element or sector, area, or corridor plan. +7
- The site is identified as future parkland in an existing neighborhood conservation plan. +6
- The site is in an area that is projected to grow (blocks projected to grow by at least 10% between 2015 and 2045). +5

## Part II: Alignment with PSMP Priorities

All criteria apply.

### CONTEXT

- The site shares at least 50% of its perimeter with a school, library, or transit station. +1
- The site is in a job center (a block projected to have at least 200 jobs in 2045). +1
- The site is vacant (not actively being used by the owner). +1

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: PUBLIC SPACES

- The site shares at least 50% of its perimeter with an existing public space and is essential to the expansion of an existing park, regardless of its inclusion in a park master plan. +1
- The site will improve or add walking accessibility. +1
- The site will improve or add bicycle accessibility. +1
- The site is or will be made accessible by public transportation. +1
- The site could facilitate adding amenities that maximize the appeal of an existing public space (e.g., seating, drinking fountains, rest rooms, concessions). +1
- The site is in a location that could provide high-quality visual or physical access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries. +1

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: TRAILS

- The site could include a segment of planned trail. +1
- The site could complete a portion of the "inner loop" or "outer loop" of protected trail routes. +1
- The site is in a location that could create better connections across or around current barriers, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway, I-395, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Army Navy Country Club. +1
- The site could improve connections to trail systems within or beyond the County. +1
- The site could widen trail rights of way to ensure enough space for passing and pulling over or to facilitate mode separation. +1

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

- The site could be used to preserve or increase tree canopy so that the site is at least 40% covered. +1
- The site could protect the health of a watershed or contribute to improvements in watershed health. +1
- The site could include green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff from surrounding sites or rights of way. +1
- The site could preserve a natural, cultural, or historic viewshed. +1

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: PARTNERSHIPS**

- The site is part of a planned joint-use facility with Arlington Public Schools. +1
- The site could facilitate more seamless connections between County and National Park Service or NOVA Parks spaces. +1

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5: PROGRAMS**

- The site could be used to provide a new program or expand an existing program. +1

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 7: FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY**

- Non-County funding sources are identified to support at least X% of capital improvement and program costs. +1
- The site will could generate revenue through concessions or user fees. +1
- The site is in a location identified to spur economic development or redevelopment. +1

**STRATEGIC DIRECTION 8: OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

- The site could reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to the existing site use. +1
- The site could reduce energy usage compared to the existing site use. +1
- The site could reduce water consumption compared to the existing use. +1

**Part III: Resource Value**

Use only the criteria from the subsection below that corresponds with the **primary** value of the site.

**RECREATIONAL RESOURCE VALUE**

- The site is in an area that does not meet access standards for one or more amenities, and could provide one or more of those amenities. +7  
(See "Arlington's Context-Sensitive, Activity-Based Approach to Providing Amenities" on page 89.)
- The site could facilitate the development of larger recreation centers or sports complexes. +4
- The site could be designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature. +4
- The site could be designed to support recreational uses identified in an approved park master plan. +4



- The site could provide opportunities for fitness or recreational sports. +4
- The site meets at least one of the natural resource value criteria below. +2
- The site meets at least one of the historic resource value criteria below. +2

Skip to the Final Score section.

**NATURAL RESOURCE VALUE**

- The site could protect or expand areas identified in the Natural Heritage Resource Inventory. +4
- The site could protect or expand a Natural Resource Conservation Area. +4
- The site could provide linkages between habitats / wildlife corridors. +4
- The site includes one or more of the following: +4
  - stream valley / floodplain
  - wetland
  - nesting site
  - champion tree site
  - natural outcrops
  - meadow
- The site has a resource that is at risk of deterioration. +3
- The site could protect, restore, or expand a Resource Protection Area along County waterways and tributaries. +2
- The site could increase the diversity of habitats for critical species. +2
- The site meets at least one of the recreational resource value criteria above. +2
- The site meets at least one of the historic resource value criteria below. +2

Skip to the Final Score section.

**HISTORIC RESOURCE VALUE**

- Acquisition of the site would be supported by the goals of the County's Historic Preservation Master Plan. +6
- The site is a locally designated historic district, or is eligible for listing as a locally designated historic district. +5
- The site is listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. +4
- The site is called out for acquisition based on its historical and/or cultural value by an adopted Neighborhood Conservation Plan. +4
- The site is listed on the County's Cemetery Inventory and/or the Arlington Genealogical Society's Cemetery List. +2
- The site is listed on the County's Large-Lot Survey. +2
- The site meets at least one of the recreational resource value criteria above. +2
- The site meets at least one of the natural resource value criteria above. +2

Continue to the Final Score section.

## Final Score

---

## Threshold

The site must have a final score of at least 20 and meet at least one of the criteria from each of Parts I, II, and III to be considered on the acquisition opportunity list.

# POTENTIAL PUBLIC SPACE ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES LIST

Placeholder

DRAFT

DRAFT



APPENDIX B

# Synthetic Turf Fields and Lighting



Level of service standards show Arlington will need an additional 16 rectangular fields and 6 diamond fields by 2045. At roughly 2 acres needed per field, Arlington would need to find and acquire 44 acres of land for new fields, which is not physically or financially practical.

As demand for fields continues to put pressure on current supply, field conditions will continue to be difficult to maintain. And, with limited room to create new natural grass fields, Arlington has been moving toward more synthetic turf to expand the use of its existing fields. Based on a report from the Synthetic Turf Council, synthetic turf is designed specifically to hold up under heavy use. Synthetic turf fields have:

- fewer weather-related cancellations
- lower maintenance and utility costs (i.e. water)
- more consistent playing surfaces
- year-round use
- more durability

The Department of Parks and Recreation estimates that a natural grass field without lights yields approximately 700 hours of usable time annually, taking into account maintenance and scheduling constraints, such as number of daylight hours. A synthetic turf field without lights, by comparison, yields about 1,400 hours of usable time annually.

|                  | No Lights | Lights |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| <b>Grass</b>     | 700       | 900    |
| <b>Synthetic</b> | 1,400     | 2,100  |

**333** While a synthetic turf field without lights can accommodate 700 more hours than a natural grass field, the number of usable hours on a synthetic field grows considerably when lights are added. A synthetic turf field with lights will yield

#333

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **1:04am**

As a matter of simple arithmetic, this is true. But the 700 hours gained from the addition of lights are at night, and inherently less desirable. By comparison, conversion of natural turf fields to synthetic turf gains more playability during the day.

Is there really demand to play on fields at night?

It is better to prioritize daytime playability through the conversion of natural fields to synthetic. Add lights only if this conversion does not address the need for fields.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

approximately 2,100 hours annually. Thus, converting a natural grass field without lights to a synthetic turf field with lights is like adding another two natural grass fields.

The County constructed its first synthetic field in 2002 at Gunston. Today, Arlington has 15 synthetic fields, of which 13 have lights. There are also 335 natural grass fields that have lights.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE still under development

Arlington currently has 1 rectangular field for every 4,180 residents and 1 diamond field for every 5,153 residents. The population-based standards for these amenities are 1 per 4,200 and 1 per 6,000, respectively.

## NEEDS still under development

336 Based on these standards, Arlington will need an additional 16 rectangular fields and 6 diamond fields by 2045. Instead of acquiring land to build new fields, Arlington could convert existing fields to synthetic turf fields to bolster level of service. If the recommended 12 rectangular and 4 diamond existing natural grass fields are converted to synthetic turf with lights, the increase in usable time will allow the County can meet its future needs without building any new fields.

2100  
**HOURS OF  
USABLE  
TIME WITH  
LIGHTS ON  
SYNTHETIC**

*compared to 700 hours of usable time natural grass fields with lights.*

# STANDARDS FOR SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS

## Replacement

Fields will be replaced every 8 years based on usage and Gmax tests.

## Lighting

337 New synthetic turf fields and synthetic field conversions will include

339 lighting.

Most of Arlington's parks are located in residential neighborhoods. The new field lighting light intensity condition will not increase the pre-existing

340 light intensity condition at the property line of the residential property by

342 more than a maximum of 1 foot candle.

## #334

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **2:12pm**

### Question

Recommendation 1.2.5 says convert 12 existing rectangular and 4 existing diamond fields to turf, If there are 24 grass fields with lights, why not convert all of them to turf before adding lights to any grass or turf fields where there is strong citizen opposition?

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #335

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **3:51pm**

I agree. Arlington could spend years fighting battles over lights, if it insists on lighting all synthetic turf fields. Or it could pocket the gains from installing synthetic turf on heavily used fields, while waiting for new/better lighting technology and for opportunities to redesign existing fields so that lights do not result in extremely high pole heights, glare and light scatter.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #336

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **4:56pm**

It is important to consider needs in light of the map on p.237 of the POPS report, showing the greater need for rectangular fields of all kinds is in Central and South, not in North Arlington. While more children play on travel teams that use fields at night live in 22207, more total children live in 22204 and lack access to fields at any time, day or night. First priority should be placed on providing field access to children who do not have it and on placing fields in areas that can reasonably be accessed by kids in underserved parts of South and Central Arlington.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #337

Posted by **vagregg** on **07/30/2017** at **11:35pm**

Not all locations will be conducive to lighting. Low density neighborhoods with very low existing ambient lighting levels will be going from 0 fc. or .1 fc to 30 fc, The current Arlington County street light standard generally hits between 1.5-3 fc. on average with some hot spots at 7 fc. and residents have problems with it. Besides the drastic increase in illumination, there is traffic and noise levels continuing beyond sunset.

Please look at the WFWG report, especially section four where there are considerations listed for sites being considered for lighting. This was done at the County Board's request and was compiled by all the members of the WFWG not just those against lighting the WMS fields.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #338

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **2:19pm**

### Suggestion



This proposed policy would be self-defeating if applied uniformly, as it seems to be intended. There are a number of sites where capacity could be doubled by converting grass to turf fields per the chart above, but some are situated so close to residences in quiet neighborhoods that this policy would yield strong neighbor opposition (e.g., WMS), so communities that would welcome turf may fight it if it automatically requires lights.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #339

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **4:06pm**

It is incumbent upon DPR to identify where it proposes to install new synthetic turf fields with lights. Neighborhoods would generally be willing to accept unlit synthetic turf but most will adamantly oppose lights. Synthetic turf alone on the 16 unlit grass fields would add over 11,000 hours to capacity. The County should pocket these gains and insist on lights only where neighborhoods approve - as is the case with Crystal City & Columbia Pike, who want a new lighted field at Long Bridge Park.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #340

Posted by **vagregg** on **07/30/2017** at **11:18pm**

1fc is a tremendous increase in illumination when the existing ambient illumination level is 0 or .1 fc as it is at the WMS fields and many other non-lighted possible future sites. Most lighting standards limit light trespass to less than .1fc.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #341

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **2:27pm**

### Suggestion

The proposed limit of 1 foot candle is much too high. You need to draw on experience other than vendors trying to sell lights. Draw on the WFWG discussions on this before buying into this number. Per the note just above, this will lead to more neighbor opposition to converting grass to turf with lights. Also, be aware that light intensities promised by vendors are sometimes violated in practice.

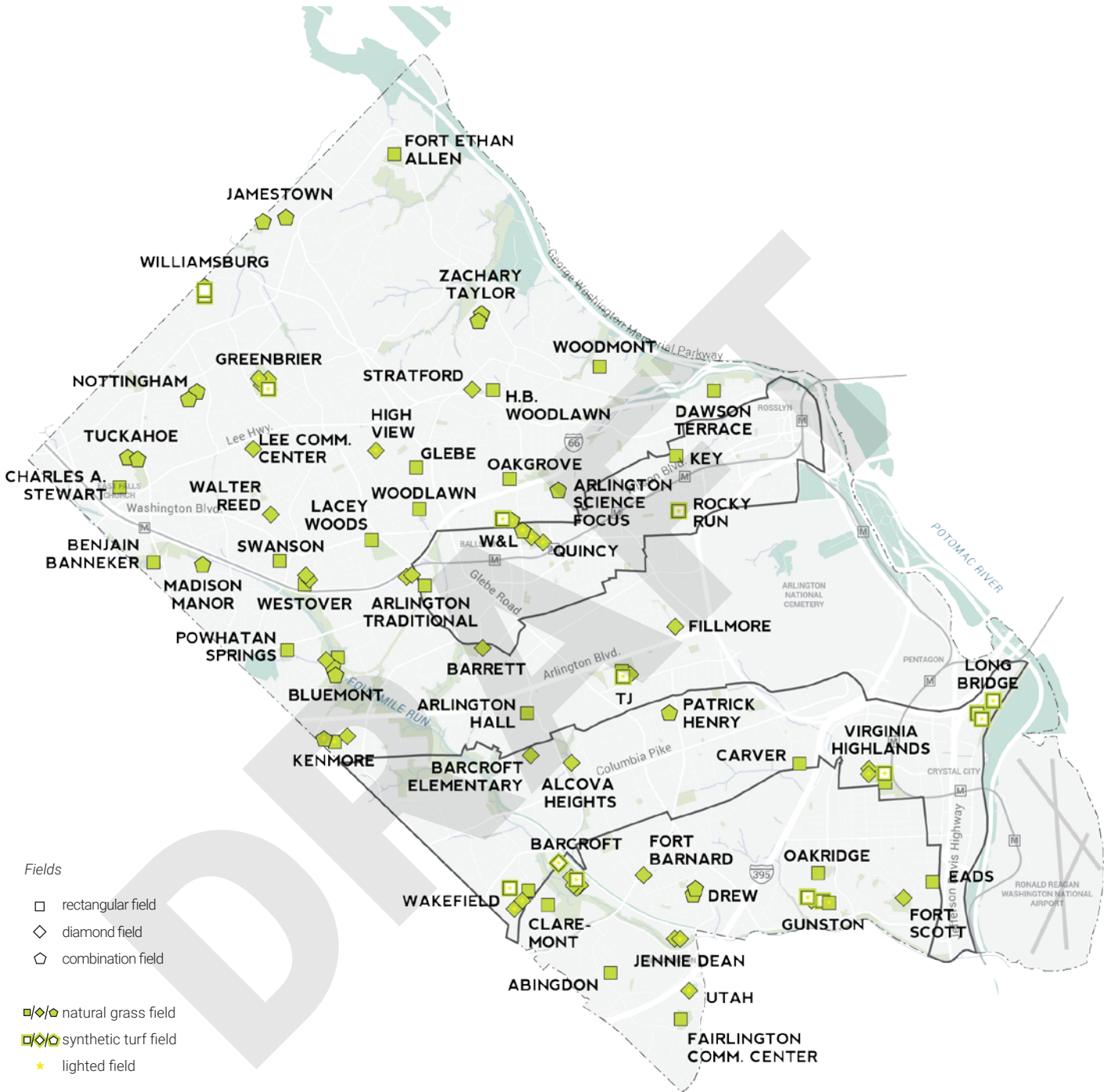
Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #342

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **4:15pm**

The Illuminating Engineering Society standard for light spill at the property line in neighborhoods like that surrounding Williamsburg Middle School is 0.1 foot candle or 1/10 the amount called for in the draft POPS report. One foot candle is a lot of light, equal to what exists almost directly beneath the non-LED street lights Arlington. Such a standard would mean that residential parts of Arlington would be changed overnight from suburban to urban in character.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0



To mitigate light intrusion, the County may use a variety of techniques

343 depending on the specific context, including:

- glare and spill reduction techniques, such as shielding, reflectors, 345 stages, beam types, mounting height, aiming angles, and dimming
- design techniques, such as planting, tree, or other physical buffers
- operational techniques, such as curfews, limiting special events, staff presence, no use of amplification, and seasonally-adjusted hours
- community agreements and standing committees

If the new synthetic turf field and synthetic turf field conversion cannot

348 meet the previously stated requirement of a maximum 1 foot candle

347 rise at the property line, a special exception process will be needed.

### 349 Conversions

Fields will be prioritized for conversion by taking into account:

- capacity calculations based on current maintenance standards and desired field conditions
- the availability of existing amenities (e.g., parking, lighting, restrooms)
- whether the park master plan calls for lights
- 353 352 site evaluation (e.g., topography, trees, location)

### Standard Amenities

Lights, water source, restrooms, shade, benches, information board, 354 trash and recycling receptacles, parking

### Use

Reservations for lighted fields must be for a minimum of 60 minutes.

Lighting will begin 20 minutes prior to sunset and will be turned off 15 minutes after the last scheduled activity has concluded, usually between 10 and 11 p.m. to follow lighting curfews.

*Arlington County continues to stay abreast of the latest research regarding the safety of synthetic turf and the latest lighting technologies.*

## #343

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **4:31pm**

Arlington uses a sole source vendor for sports field lighting. The vendor, Musco Lighting, refuses to provide photometric data essential to verify / replicate it's claims concerning glare and light spill. Pole heights will almost assuredly have to be 80', the equivalent of an 8 story building in neighborhoods where the maximum height of homes is often 35'. County staff have no in-house lighting expertise. As noted below 1 foot candle is an absurdly high standard for light spill. Newly planted trees are typically 2 inches in diameter. It would take decades for them to grow to heights necessary to block light from 80' poles. Let DPR identify the fields they wish to light so community members can decide for themselves if they think introduction of sports field lighting, with evening noise and traffic, would be acceptable in their neighborhoods.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #344

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **2:30pm**

Question

When/how would dimming be used? If dimming can be done without endangering the participants, why not just use the reduced intensity all the time and save energy and reduce impact on neighbors and participants with eye conditions?

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #345

Posted by **vagregg** on **07/30/2017** at **11:44pm**

Some mitigation techniques might work in some neighborhoods that already have high levels of ambient lighting and nighttime traffic such as sites in high density neighborhoods on or near major roadways. Mitigation may not be possible in low density neighborhoods with low levels of ambient lighting and low level traffic on residential streets. The charge for the WFWG was can there be sufficient mitigation to not degrade the quality of life and nature of the neighborhood.

Given the County and APS failure to follow through on promises and written restrictions, not sure many neighborhoods would trust any agreements.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #346

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **2:32pm**

Question

what kind of exception process? what criteria would be used? this sounds like a potential big loophole for the benefit of the vendors not the community. One footcandle is very high to start with, a much lower number should be the requirement with no exception.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #347

Posted by **vagregg** on **07/30/2017** at **11:48pm**

What is the special exception process?

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #348

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **1:13am**

Suggestion

Agreed with other commenters. This sentence comes out of nowhere.

But now that I know that there is a "special exception process," I suggest putting it to use to generate some special exceptions to finish the sidewalks on unsafe streets.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #349

Posted by **rng** on **07/13/2017** at **2:37pm**

Suggestion

This prioritization list is notably missing any consideration of the proximity of neighbors and character of the neighborhood, which are quite germane for lighted fields. The WFWG report provides a consensus recommendation on siting lights. The POPS principals (not just staff and consultants) should review the WFWG recommendations and meet with WFWG members to understand them and gain the context.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #350

Posted by **vagregg** on **07/30/2017** at **11:51pm**

Please read the WFWG report, especially section 4. This is missing a lot of items that should be considered.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #351

Posted by **rng** on **08/02/2017** at **3:47pm**

Suggestion

Adding to vagregg's comment, it is extremely important to consider the distance from the fields to the neighboring residences. Noise and light dissipate proportional to the square of the distance, so homes twice as far get 1/4 the noise and light. Homes three times farther get 1/9 the noise and light. Accordingly, fields with homes very close to fields are going to suffer from noise exceeding Arlington's evening noise standard (55dB) on a frequent, intermittent basis if sports with ref's whistles, and boisterous shouting by players and crowds are involved (e.g., soccer and football). Don't tell me that noise from a party at my neighbors is objectionable and must be stopped, but the same level of noise from a field at the same distance is OK. Don't light fields close to homes. If you look across the US overall, LED lights are not installed close to homes.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #352

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **4:33pm**

Surely DPR knows the top priority candidates for synthetic conversions and should disclose these before, not after, the new PSMP is approved.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #353

Posted by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **1:15am**

As commented earlier, the question of prioritization is an area where the process has failed in the past.

This is a very contentious process and must be approached systematically and rigorously, without ad hoc decision making.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #354

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **4:34pm**

Are concessions also under consideration? Electrical hook ups and WiFi?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

DRAFT





## APPENDIX C

# Dog Parks & Dog Runs

355

## DOG PARKS

The 2005 *Public Spaces Master Plan* included recommendations and standards for Community Canine Areas (CCA) – which are commonly referred to, and will be referred to moving forward, as dog parks. Dog parks continue to be popular in communities across the country. In fact, dog parks are included in many communities' level of service (LOS) analysis as a quantitative measure of service provision.

The first off leash dog parks in Arlington were established in 1986, and Arlington's first fenced dog park was established in Utah Park in 1997. This area was a pilot program and made use of the first partnership with a sponsor group, FAIR Dogs. Traditionally, the success of a dog park in Arlington has been based on a partnership with a sponsor group, which is responsible for monitoring use, handling neighborhood complaints, and coordinating maintenance and management. The prescribed rules for dog parks provide a reasonable code of conduct for users to correct infractions through information, education, and appropriate remedial action. The table below provides an overview of Arlington's current dog parks.

356

## DOG RUNS

Since the 2005 *Public Spaces Master Plan*, residents and County staff have identified a need for smaller dog parks. Such "dog runs" are being developed by many urban communities to meet the needs of growing populations with pets. Dog runs are to be treated separately from dog parks. They will require different design standards and will necessitate different maintenance standards and techniques. Dog runs typically include synthetic turf/artificial grass (in lieu of natural turf) and are generally more expensive per acre to maintain due to their smaller size.

357

## #355

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:05pm**

Dog Parks should be heading. That's what Arlington has.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #356

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:10pm**

Dog Parks are valued by the community and an attractive amenity for the County, the county should take more responsibility for signage, benches, waste disposal bags and containers in the dog Parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #357

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:16am**

Suggestion

The Parks Department needs take much more responsibility for dog parks -- routine maintenance and provision of supplies is an inherently government function that taxpayers demand and there is no reason only dog parks receive such degraded service.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

|   | Dog Parks:             |                        |                        |                          |  |                                |                                |                        |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Benjamin Banneker      | Fort Barnard           | Fort Ethan Allen       | Glencarlyn               | James Hunter                           | Shirlington                    | Towers                         | Utah                   |
| <b>Size</b>                             | 22,600 ft <sup>2</sup> | 22,800 ft <sup>2</sup> | 22,000 ft <sup>2</sup> | 14,000 ft <sup>2</sup>   | 15,500 ft <sup>2</sup>                 | 109,500 ft <sup>2</sup>        | 25,500 ft <sup>2</sup>         | 12,500 ft <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Capacity (450ft<sup>2</sup>/dog)</b> | 50                     | 51                     | 50                     | 31                       | 34                                     | 243                            | 57                             | 28                     |
| <b>Sponsorship</b>                      | Banneker Dogs          | Douglas Dogs           | Madison Dogs           | Jane Stevents            | Friends of James Hunter Park           | Shirlington Dogs II            | Towers Park CCA                | FAIR Dogs              |
| <b>Siting Process</b>                   |                        | 2000                   | 2004                   |                          |  |                                |                                | 1997                   |
| <b>Fencing</b>                          | Yes                    | Yes                    | Yes                    | No                       | Yes                                    | Yes                            | Yes                            | Yes                    |
| <b>Ground Cover</b>                     | Crushed stone          | Natural turf           | Crushed stone          | Natural sand and pebbles | Natural sand, pebbles, artificial turf | Crushed stone and natural turf | Crushed stone and natural turf | Stone dust             |
| <b>Parking</b>                          | Off-street             | On-street              | Off-street             | Off-street               | On-street                              | Off-street                     | Off-street                     | Off-street             |

## LEVEL OF SERVICE

Currently, Arlington has eight dog parks, at Benjamin Banneker Park, Fort Barnard, Fort Ethan Allen Park, Glencarlyn Park, Utah Park, Towers Park, Shirlington Park, and James Hunter Park. This level of service equates to 1 dog park for every 27,695 people. The recommended level of service is 1 dog park for every 26,000 people. Arlington currently needs one additional dog park to meet the recommended level of service. Based on the geographic distribution of existing dog parks, an additional dog park would best be located in the southeast part of the County.

360  
361

## #358

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/25/2017** at **6:23pm**

### Suggestion

Since 2005 it has been well established that a much larger carrying capacity than 450 square feet per dog is required for safety and other reasons.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Reply by **wych** on **07/31/2017** at **9:24pm**

### Suggestion

I agree with this comment. The Shirlington Dog Park has the potential to continue to be a leading feature for the neighborhood, the area and farther afield. Please do not destroy what makes this dog park special for residents and their high quality of life in Arlington Co.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #359

Posted by **bbell003** on **08/07/2017** at **12:45pm**

I would not like to see the size of the Shirlington Dog Park reduced. One of the main attractions of Shirlington is that walking to the end and back gives you and your dog a good workout. Also, it allows me to give my dog a little extra space because she is shy about being around other dogs.

Agree: 2, Disagree: 0

## #360

Posted by **wych** on **07/31/2017** at **9:22pm**

### Suggestion

May I suggest that the Ballston area is high capacity for dogs and has no dog park. Please consider adding dog park here.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

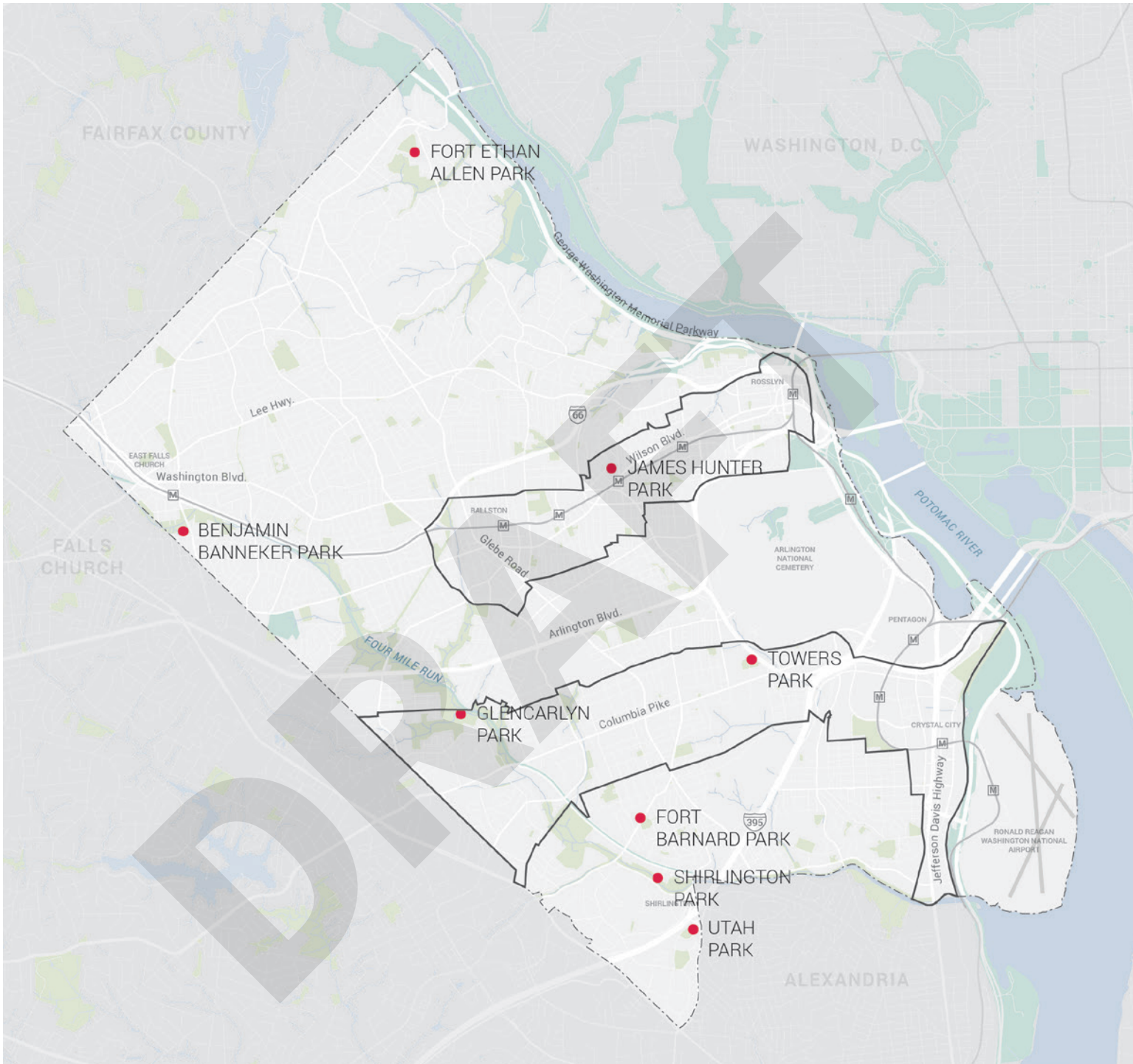
## #361

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:19am**

### Suggestion

It is entirely unclear what this level of service is based on. Several other progressive communities (e.g. Portland) have a much higher level of service and Arlington's current dog parks are among the most heavily used parks in the County. something closer to one per 15-20,000 would appear to be closer to best practices in the nation.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



**Figure 22. Dog Parks**  
Insert Description Here

# STANDARDS FOR DOG PARKS

## 364 Size

363  
369 Maximum: 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

## Hours

Open 7 days per week. The hours of operation vary and are posted at each location. Lighted facilities will be open from sunrise until 10:00pm. Unlighted facilities will be open from sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

## Use

All dogs must display current registration, license, and vaccination tags.

## Layout

370  
371 Dog parks will have separate areas for large and small dogs.

## Material

372  
376 Synthetic turf/artificial grass, sand, gravel, or a combination of materials  
377  
378 can accommodate high use.

## Lighting

389 Recommended.

## Drainage

379 Dog parks will be designed to eliminate any low spots or concentrated storm water flows and have a maximum slope of 5:1 (20 percent). Concentrated pedestrian or canine traffic areas or routes will not exceed a maximum slope of 20:1 (5 percent). Areas around water sources will be designed to capture run-off into a drain or drywell before the run-off reaches the surface material area. Steep slopes and embankments will be protected by fencing or erosion control materials if bare areas become noticeable in order to prevent them from eroding.

## Location

380  
385 Dog parks may only be developed outside of Resource Protection Areas.

## 387 Sponsorship

388 Required – with formal (written) agreement.

## #362

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:20pm**

There needs to be clear language about where these standards apply-- current dog parks need to clearly be grandfathered in.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #363

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/27/2017** at **5:33pm**

Suggestion

There is no mention if these standards are for new dog parks only or that existing dog parks would be grandfathered to the existing standards when they originated.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #364

Posted by **Jane Siegel** on **07/21/2017** at **6:19pm**

Suggestion

Add back the note included in 2005 PSMP regarding optimum size for Dog Park at 30,000 sq. feet.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #365

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/25/2017** at **6:31pm**

Suggestion

Arlington County standards dated May 1999 state dog parks "should be at least 30,000 square feet, with an optimal size of two to five acres." Since then it has been well established throughout the country that larger dog parks, several acres in size or more, are more successful as they provide more exercise opportunities, less chance of altercations, and are better environmentally sustainable. A dog park of only 10,000 square feet in size would be doomed to fail.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #366

Posted by **Lowell** on **07/30/2017** at **3:38pm**

Suggestion

The minimum 10,000 SF would only be useful for something associated with an apartment complex. Perhaps there should be a separate category for these "exercise areas" and then "dog park" should have minimum 30,000 ft and optimal several acres. County should be promoting larger dog parks which are healthier for all concerned. As written there is not sufficient guidance that at least 30,000 if not several acres is desired/optimal.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #367

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:15pm**

Larger dog Parks encourage fitness for dog owners and wider community use. Why would standard shrink from earlier 30,000 ft? And even larger is better. Shirlington at 109,000 ft is overcrowded on many weekend days.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #368

Posted by **bbell003** on **08/07/2017** at **12:54pm**

Per my previous comment, I would not like to see Shirlington Park reduced in size. It is the only park in the area with enough space so you can really exercise your dog by walking the trail.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #369

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:21am**

Suggestion

What is 10,000 feet based on. As a dog park user, this strikes me as a very small size insufficient for exercise or play. I strongly recommend that the size be increased to a recommended minimum of 30,000 except where there are space limitations that cannot be changed.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #370

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:16pm**

Dog Parks ideally should be large enough for play space, fetching and retrieving and a circuit for walking with your dog.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #371

Posted by **bbell003** on **08/07/2017** at **12:56pm**

My dog really likes the small dog area in Shirlington Park. I don't know of another park that offers that.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #372

Posted by **Jane Siegel** on **07/21/2017** at **6:23pm**

Suggestion

Do not exclude natural materials -- natural grass, soil, rock or just say "or natural materials as appropriate." Standard should be more performance based, not so prescriptive; technologies change.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #373

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/25/2017** at **6:42pm**

Suggestion



Natural grass, sod and dirt should be listed as at least an option. The most successful dog parks in the country are mostly composed of natural grass and other natural surfaces as they are best for health of the dogs and the immediate area of the park. Synthetic turf/artificial grass is very problematic as it is very expensive and requires weekly bleaching or unhealthy bacteria forms.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #374

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/26/2017** at **1:26am**

### Suggestion

I have observed that natural turf and sod is the best surface for dog parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #375

Posted by **Lowell** on **07/30/2017** at **3:41pm**

Agree with other commenters that natural turf should be on the list of appropriate materials. Grass can accommodate high use, especially in larger parks.

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #376

Posted by **bell003** on **08/07/2017** at **12:56pm**

### Suggestion

Why not use just grass and dirt? The dogs certainly prefer it, and it produces less dust than the pea gravel parks. Seems like it would be less expensive too.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #377

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:17pm**

Dogs and owners much prefer dirt, grass and natural surfaces.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #378

Posted by **Laurie Vikander** on **08/03/2017** at **4:26pm**

### Suggestion

At the Shirlington Dog Park, the humans walk on the asphalt walkway, and the dogs play on the natural dirt and grass. There is no need for artificial turf -- it is not a sports field where countless soccer games would destroy the grass.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #379

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:31am**

## Suggestion

This standard for concentrated pedestrian use is unrealistic given the small size of dog parks and should be increased to 25 percent. Dog parks receive very heavy usage due to their scarcity and foot traffic is extensive.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #380

Posted by **Jane Siegel** on **07/21/2017** at **6:31pm**

### Suggestion

Add language to clarify policy refers to "new" Dog Parks.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #381

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/25/2017** at **6:47pm**

### Suggestion

Change language to "New dog parks..." and indicate existing dog parks are grandfathered to the standards that were in effect when they originated.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #382

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/26/2017** at **1:24am**

### Suggestion

Need to clarify existing dog parks are exempt.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #383

Posted by **Slday64@gmail.com** on **08/02/2017** at **10:23pm**

### Suggestion

New dog Parks need to be specified. And why is this standard applied only to Dog Parks?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #384

Posted by **bbell003** on **08/07/2017** at **1:00pm**

### Question

Is this for new parks only? Or would existing parks be required to adhere?

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #385

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:33am**

### Suggestion

This restriction is unnecessarily restrictive, particularly given the concentration of county parks along streams that are RPAs. I recommend instead that the wording be changed to say that new dog parks should not be established in RPAs.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #386

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/26/2017** at **1:23am**

### Suggestion

Specific responsibilities of Sponsor Groups need to be stated.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #387

Posted by **bbell003** on **08/07/2017** at **1:03pm**

### Question

I volunteer at the Shirlington Park whenever I can. I would like to know what the county expects of the sponsoring groups and volunteers?

Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

## #388

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:36am**

### Suggestion

This requirement should be dropped unless it is a requirement for all other types of parks in Arlington.

This restriction reflects a deep bias against dog parks as opposed to other forms of recreation and a distancing of the county from its responsibility to provide dog parks and maintain them. I strongly recommend that this provision be revised to required within 6 months of proposal for a new dog park.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #389

Posted by **Jane Siegel** on **07/21/2017** at **6:30pm**

### Suggestion

Add language: "Look for new cost-effective tools to mitigate environmental impacts."

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #390

Posted by **KeithFred** on **07/26/2017** at **1:32am**

### Suggestion

This minimum size is way to small for an effective dog park. Nearly all current County dog parks are more than double this size. The larger the park the more room for dogs to exercise and less chance for confrontations.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #391

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:23am**

### Suggestion

Having separate areas should be a goal but for smaller dog parks further subdivision will just chop them into two parts that are way too small. I recommend that this be a requirement only for dog parks over 60,000 square feet.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## #392

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:27am**

### Suggestion

The standard for the surface for dog parks should be natural materials including dirt and turf, consistent with national best practices as is the preference of dog park users. Such surfaces are capable of absorbing high usage and are best for facilitating waste cleanup. Artificial surfaces should be an exception that is only allowed in exception and unique circumstances and with the concurrence of the dog park users group.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

## Evaluation

One year after a dog park is established or change in sponsorship; every three years thereafter

## Standard Amenities

Fencing (6-foot high), double gates, water source (for dogs and humans), shade, visual screens if needed, information board, benches, signage, trash and recycling receptacles, shed, dog waste receptacles, parking (on- or off-street).

## Maintenance

Sustainable maintenance will include surface material replenishment, trash pick-up, tree and shrub maintenance, and minor fence and surface repairs at least once each week.

**Exercising their dogs.**  
*Fort Barnard Dog Park*



# STANDARDS FOR DOG RUNS

## 393 Size

Minimum: 2,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

Maximum: 7,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

## Hours

Open 7 days per week. The hours of operation vary and are posted at each location. Dog runs are to be lighted facilities and will be open from sunrise until 10:00pm.

## Use

All dogs must display current registration, license, and vaccination tags.

## Material

Synthetic turf/artificial grass, sand, gravel, or a combination of materials that can accommodate high use.

## Lighting

Dog runs will be lighted facilities and will be open from sunrise until 10:00 pm.

## Drainage

Dog runs will be designed to eliminate any low spots or concentrated storm water flows and have a maximum slope of 5:1 (20%). Concentrated pedestrian or canine traffic areas or routes will not exceed a maximum slope of 20:1 (5%). Areas around water sources will be designed to capture run-off into a drain or drywell before the run-off reaches the surface material area. Steep slopes and embankments will be protected by fencing or erosion control materials if bare areas become noticeable in order to prevent them from eroding.

## Location

Dog runs may developed on public or private property.

## Sponsorship

Recommended.

#393

Posted by **PhilDolliff** on **08/10/2017** at **7:38am**

Suggestion

These sizes are tiny and too small for almost all forms of use such as walks or play. It is unclear how useful such tiny spaces would be and if devoting scarce county resources would be a good investment.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

394

## Distribution

Dog runs are to augment the current locations of dog parks. That is, a “hub and spoke model” is to be used for the County’s distribution of dog parks. Dog runs should serve as connection points to underserved pockets of high density populations. Typically, these would be placed adjacent to apartment buildings and other urban dwellings where green space is limited or unavailable. Dog runs and dog parks will be considered separate amenities when analyzing levels of service.

## Standard Amenities

Fencing (minimum 42" high), double gates, water source (for dogs), shade, benches, signage, trash and recycling receptacles, lights, dog waste receptacles.

## Maintenance

Sustainable maintenance will include surface material replenishment (if applicable), waste and trash pick-up, tree and shrub maintenance, and minor fence and surface repairs as needed.



#394

Posted by **Jane Siegel** on **07/21/2017** at **6:35pm**

Suggestion

Reevaluate current zoning to allow Dog Runs to be provided on private land with public easements.

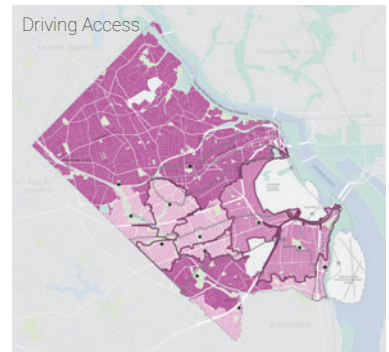
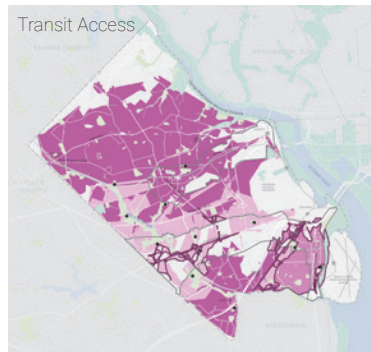
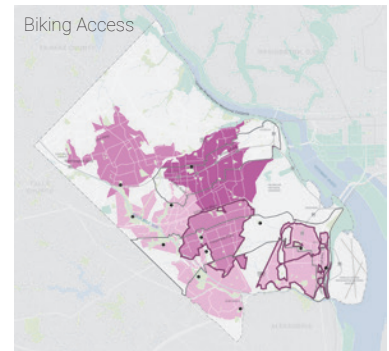
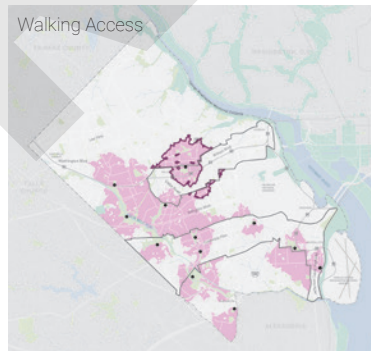
Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

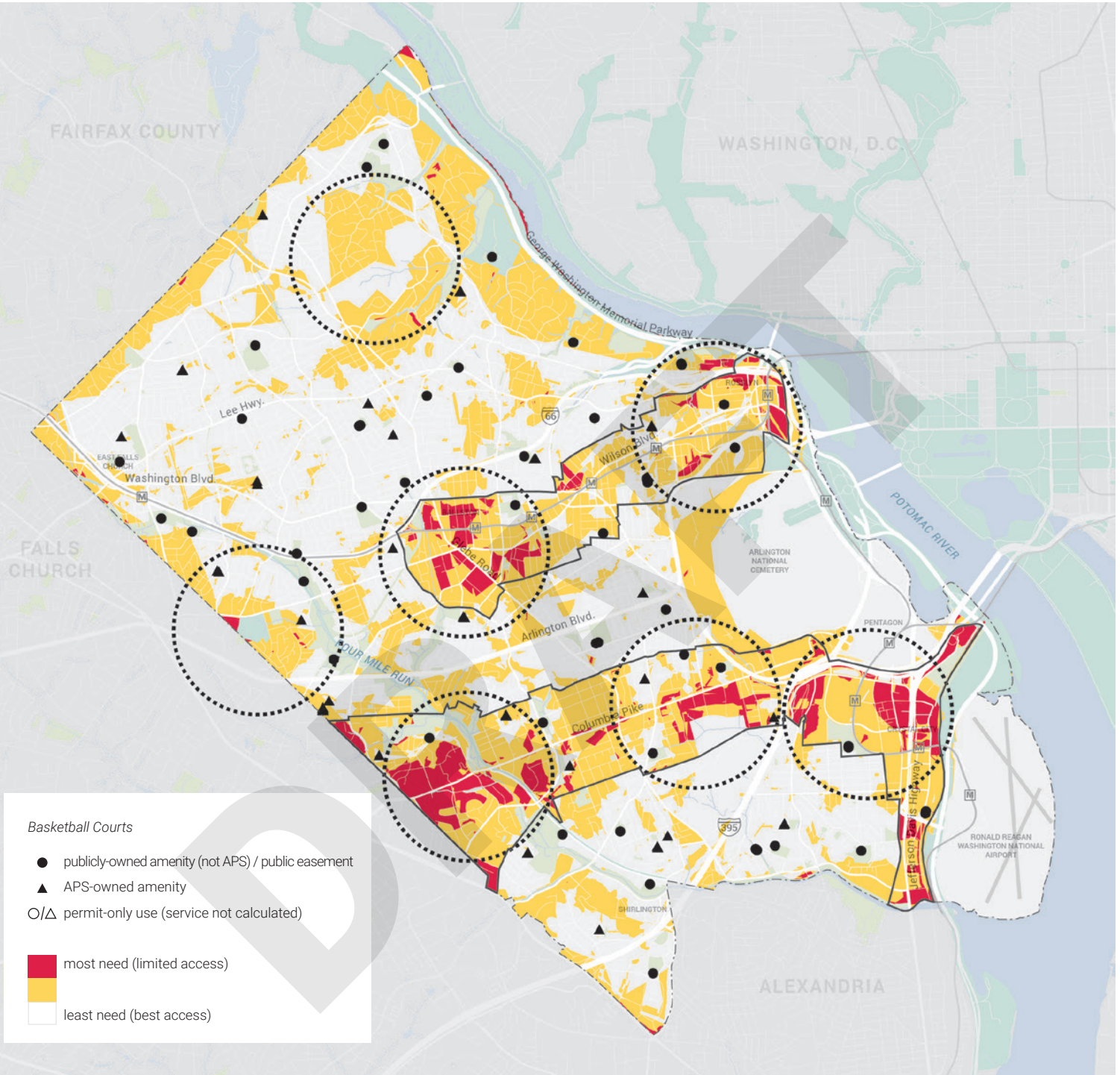
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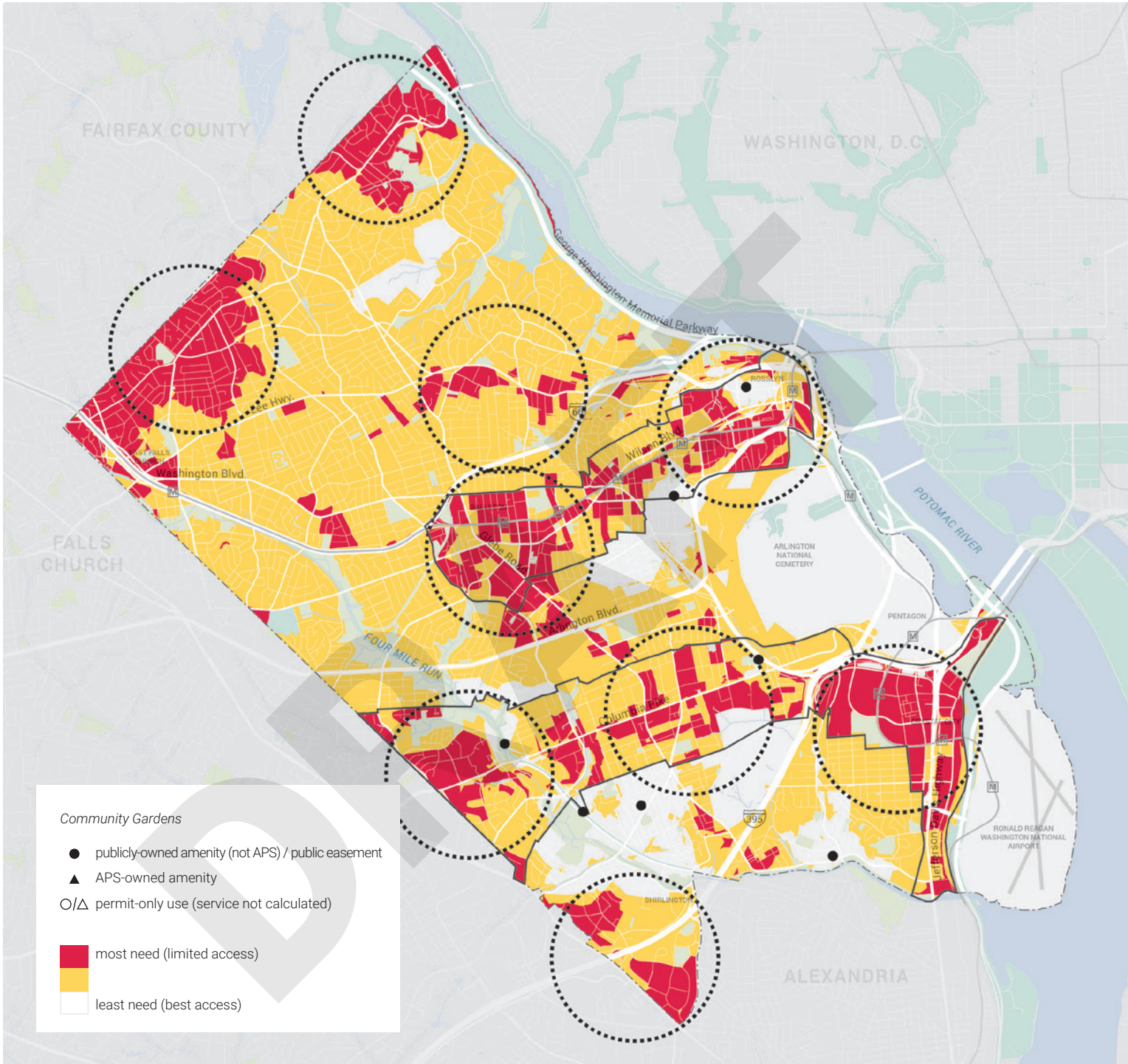
APPENDIX D

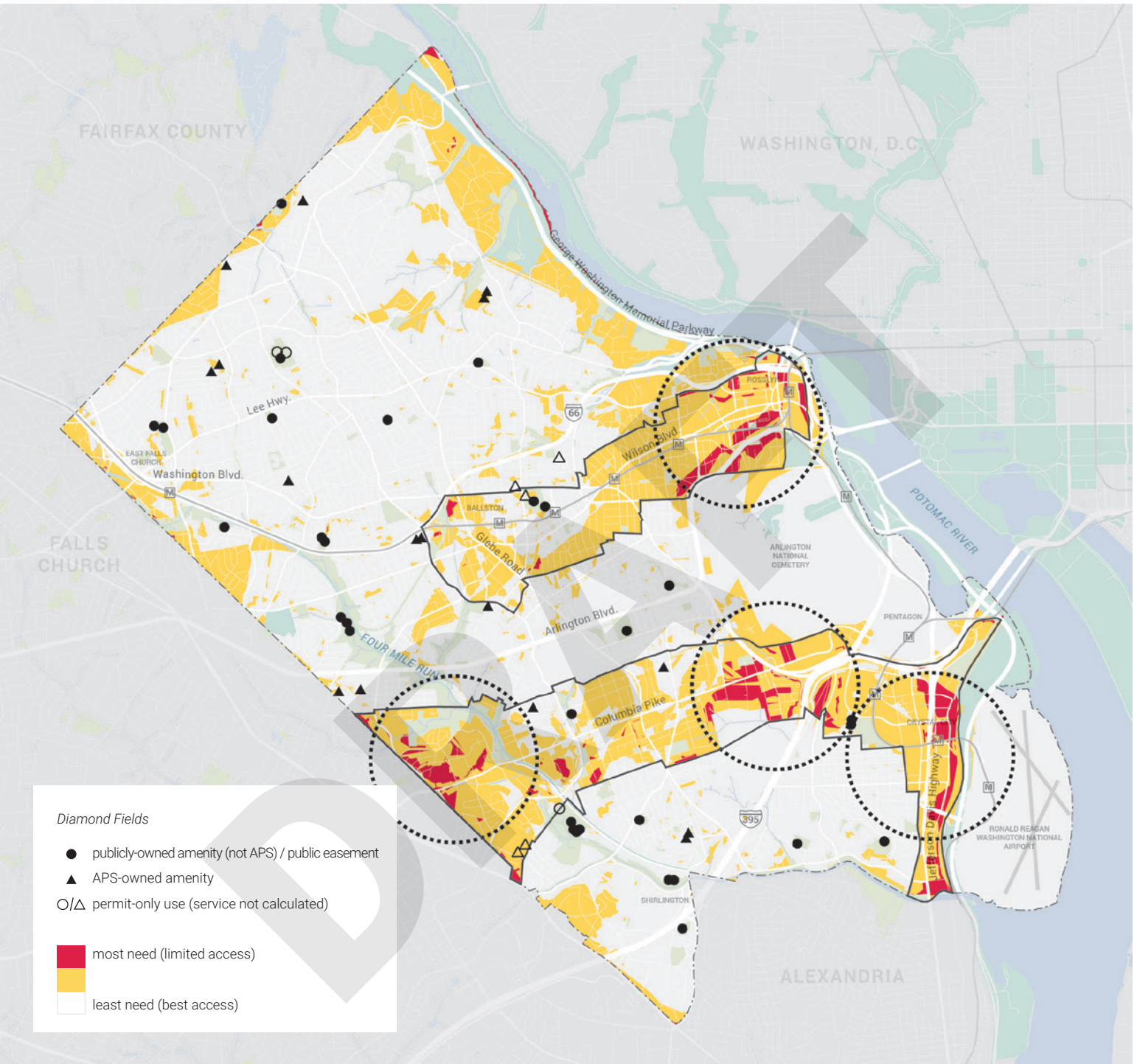
# Level of Service Maps

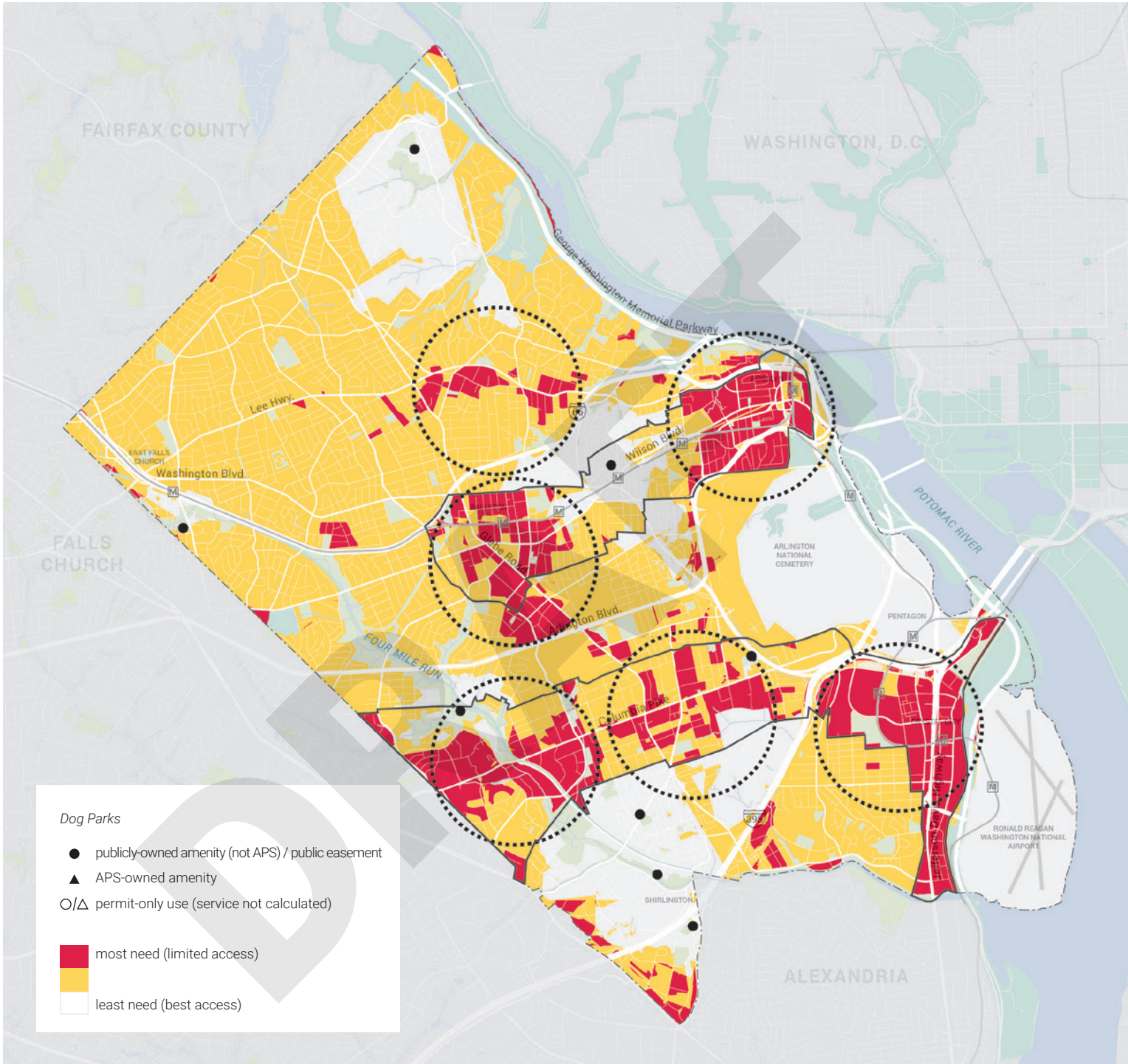
To determine what parts of the County meet and do not meet the recommended access standards, areas were drawn around each individual amenity (e.g., playground) within which one could reach that amenity within a specified time by walking, biking, transit, and driving. The resulting four maps by type of amenity (example below) were then overlaid to determine which areas have the best access and which have more limited access. These access maps follow.

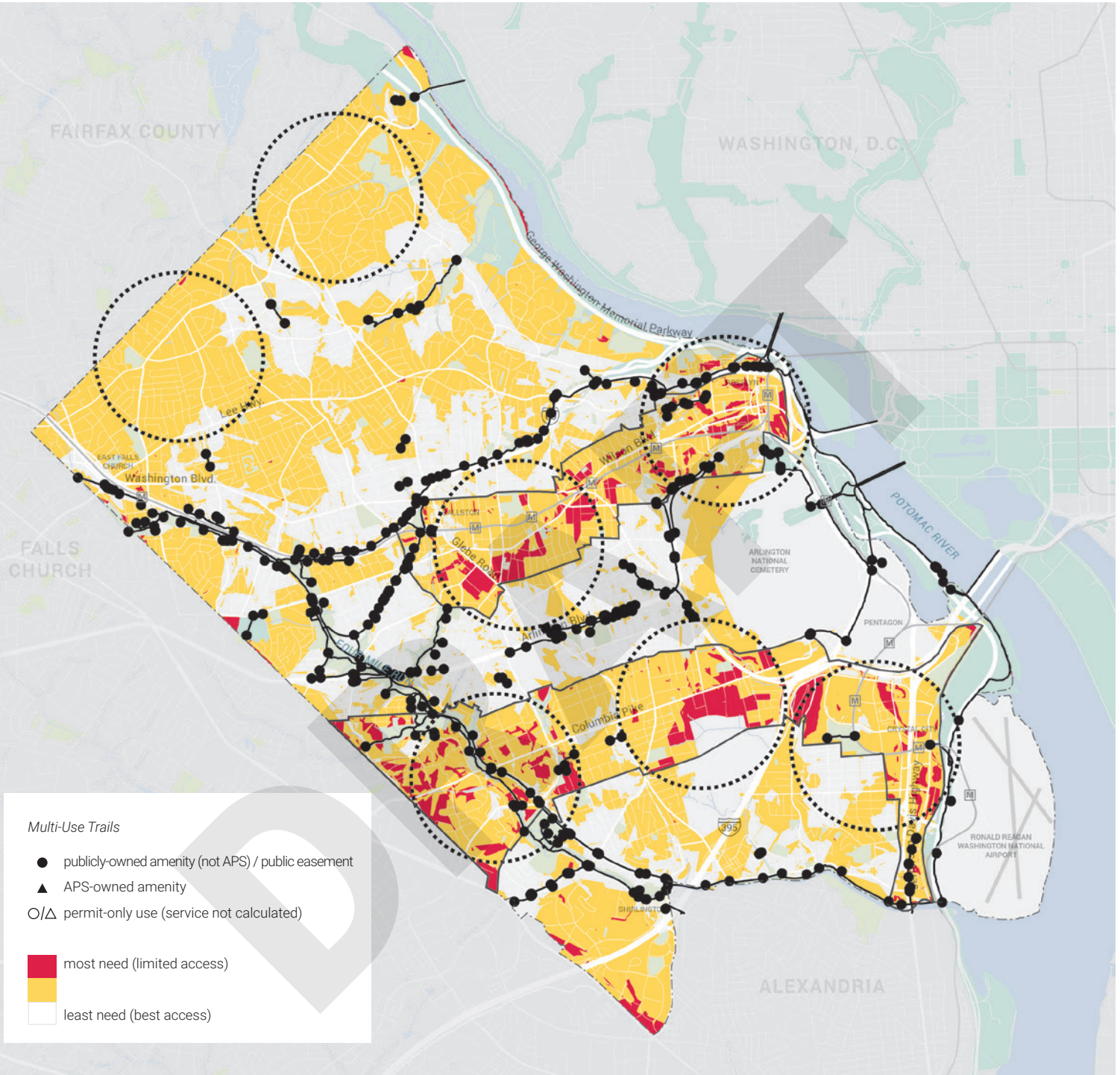




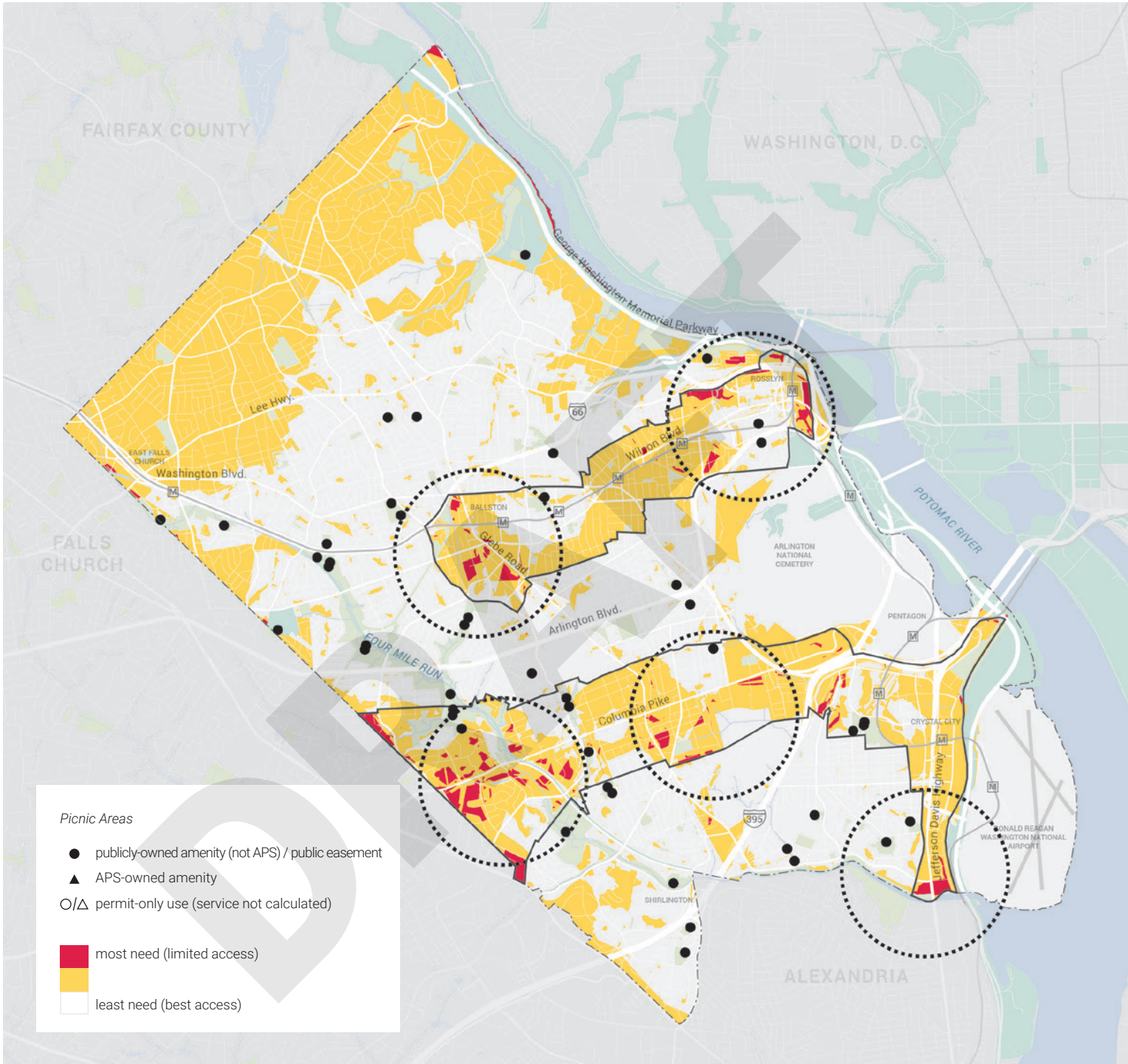


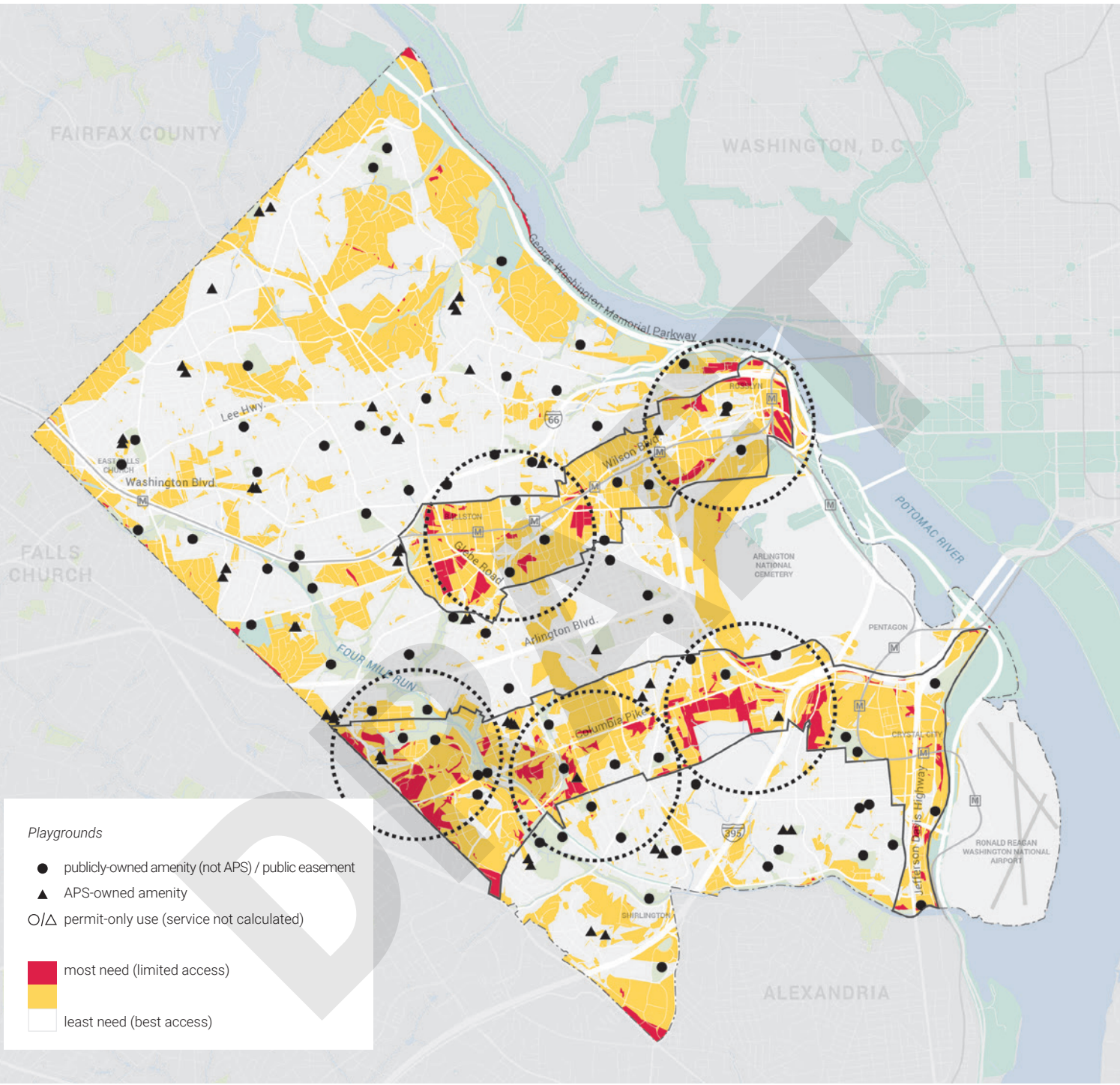


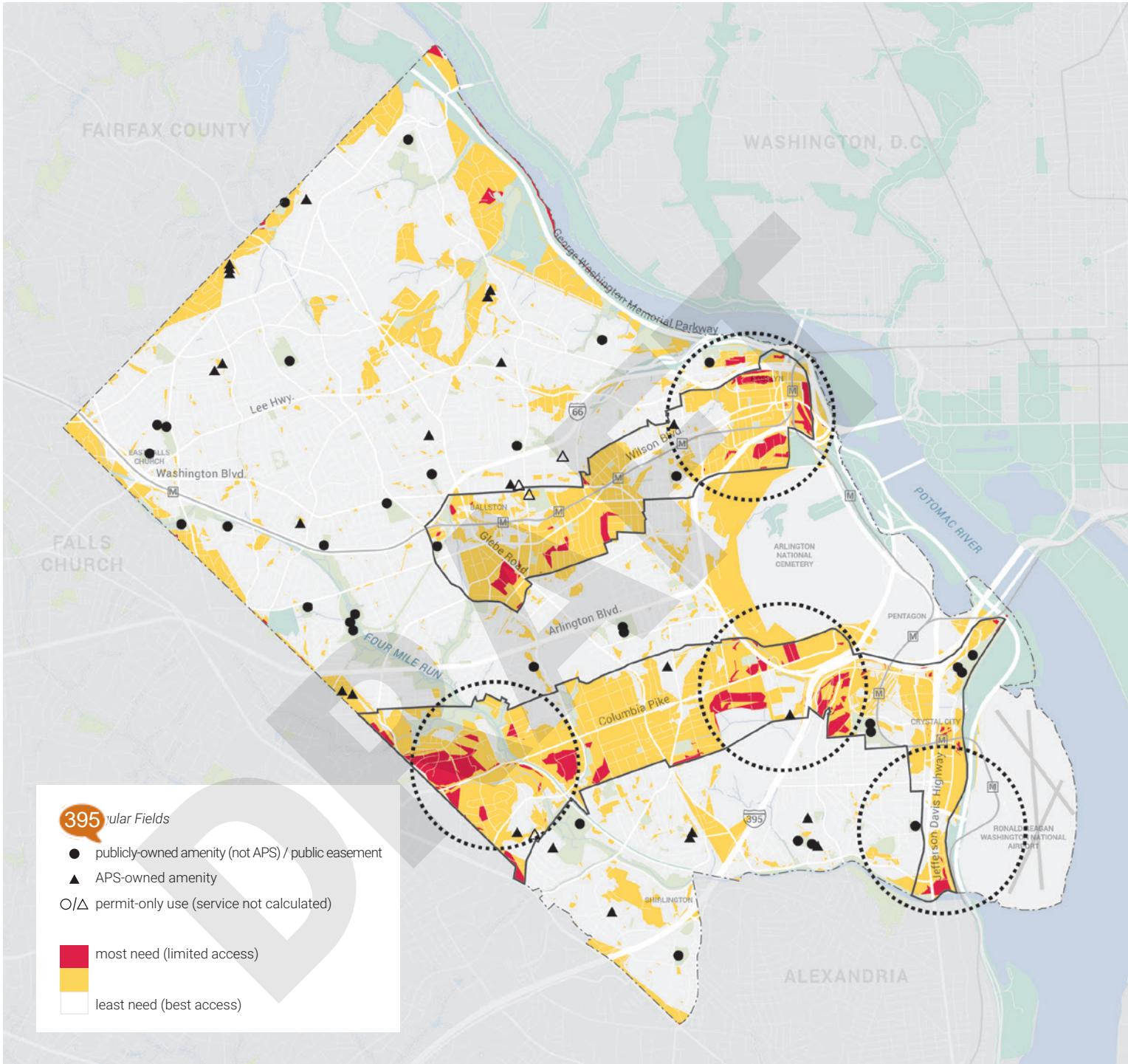












## #395

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/02/2017** at **5:10pm**

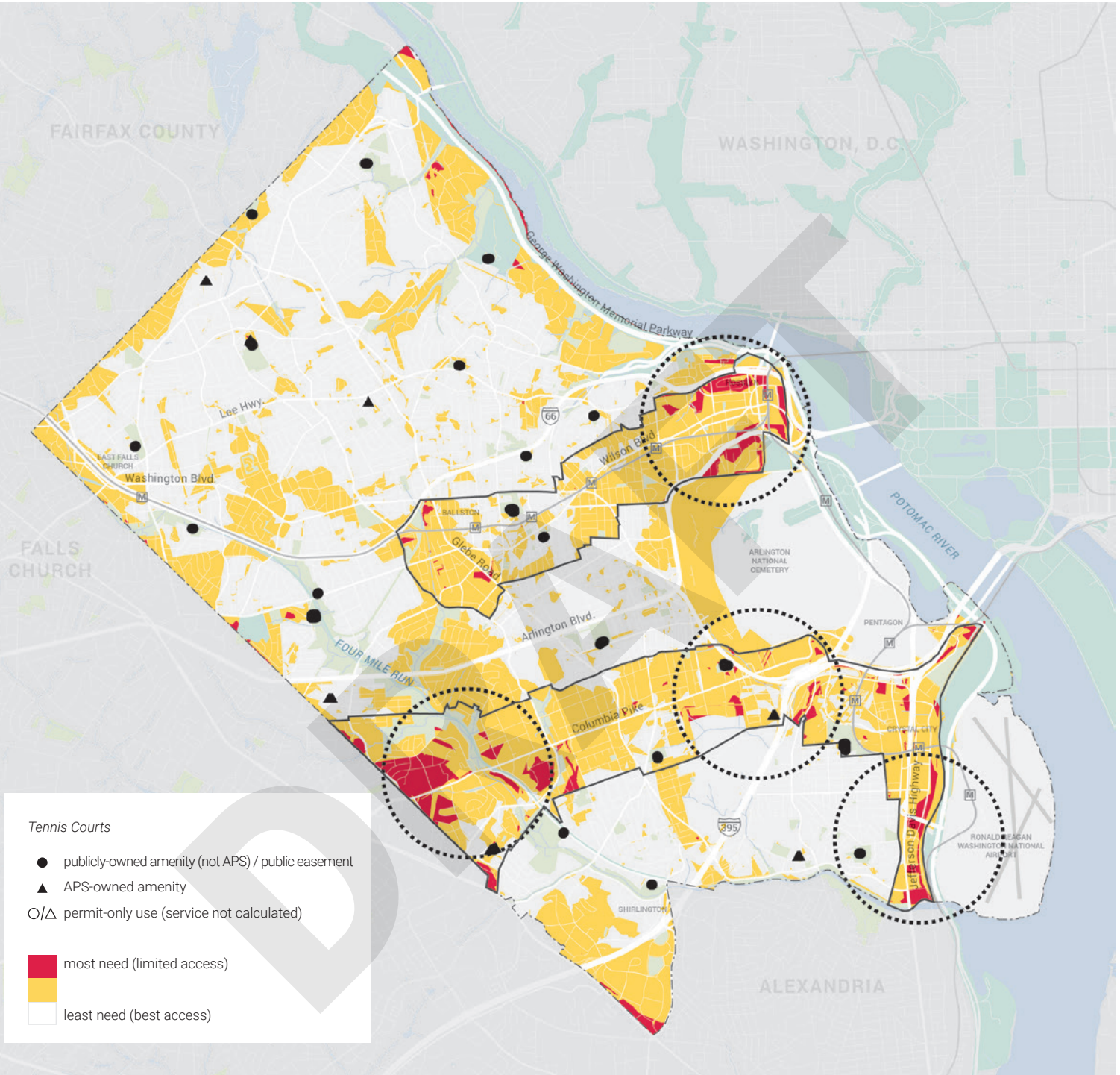
This is a vitally important map in making decisions about where to invest County resources in rectangular field capacity. 22204 - the Columbia Pike Corridor stretching out to Bailey's Crossroads has a population density of 12,000 per square mile and average household income of \$76,000, versus 22207, which has a population density of 5,000 and average household income of \$170,000. 22204 shows great need for rectangular fields, vs. 22207 who have little or no need based on this map. Families of kids who play at night from 22207 typically have two cars and a family member or caregiver willing to travel long distances - to Richmond, Baltimore and beyond to play in elite tournaments. In contrast,, there is no realistic way for kids and families in 22204 to get to soccer fields and Williamsburg Middle School via mass transit. First priority for investment in field capacity should go to areas marked in red, denoting great need, especially those surrounded by large blocks of yellow, denoting moderate need.

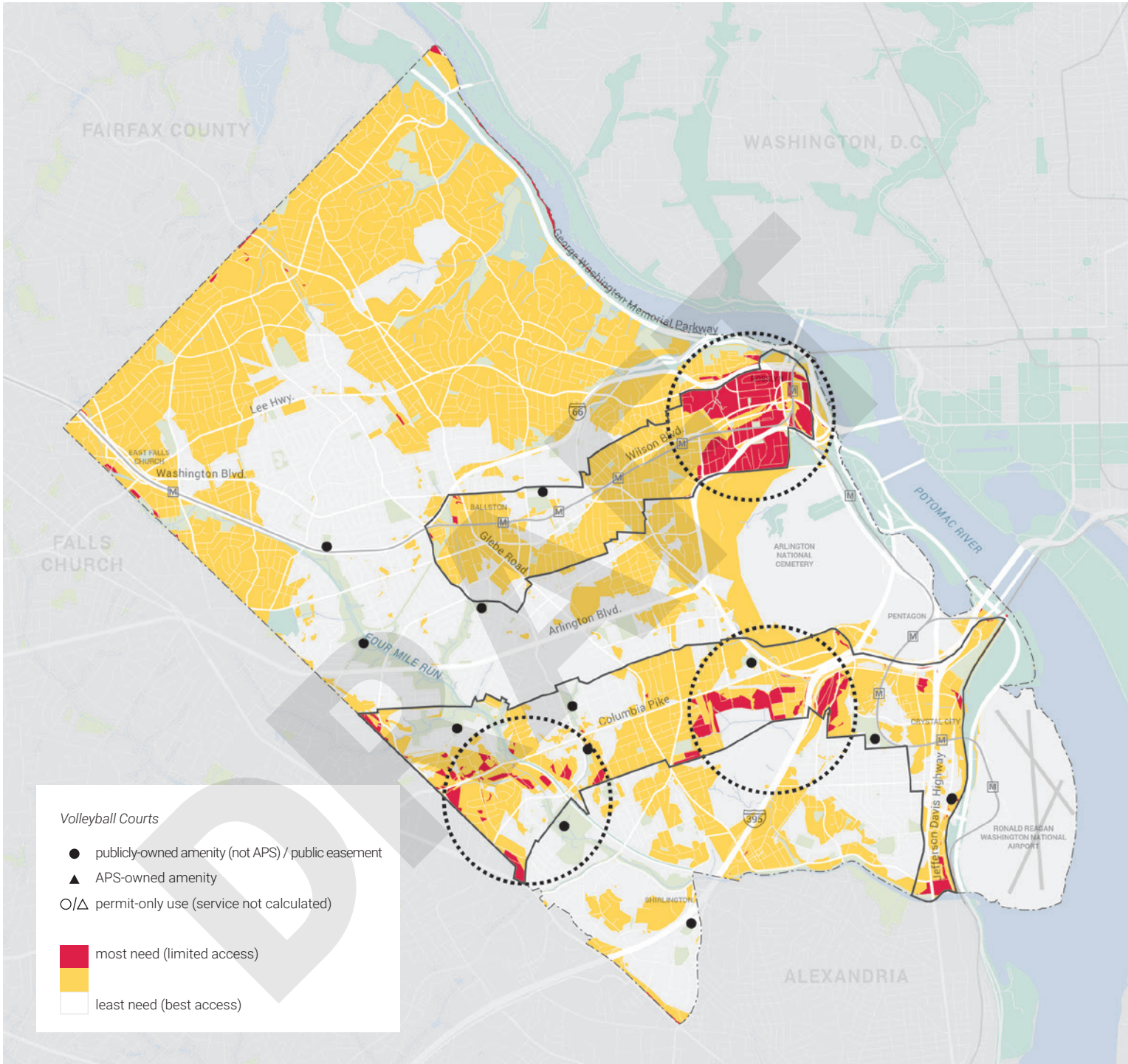
Agree: 1, Disagree: 0

Reply by **Mark Fajfar** on **08/10/2017** at **1:27am**

Agreed. This map seems to have been ignored in Arlington's decision-making about rectangular fields.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0





DRAFT

## APPENDIX E

# Population- Based Standards

## METHODOLOGY

As explained on p. 84, no uniform level of service standards exist for parks or recreational amenities. To set population-based standards, the County took into account:

- current level of service
- median level of service provided by Arlington County and four peer localities (where available)
- national averages
- statistically valid survey priority (where available)

In some cases, a holistic look at these factors supported raising the current level of service. In others, this information supported either keeping the current level of service unchanged or lowering the current level of service.

### Selected Peer Localities

The four peer localities were selected by the County because of similar demographic or economic characteristics, or for aspirational comparison. Some of the selected peer localities have also been used by the County for peer comparisons in other planning efforts.

- Alexandria, VA – Although somewhat smaller in size and population than Arlington, Alexandria has numerous demographic similarities, including a similar population density and median household income. Its geography and political climate are also similar to those of Arlington.



- Bellevue, WA – Located directly across the water from a major city, Bellevue has similar housing prices to Arlington and is the closest to Arlington in median household income.
- Berkeley, CA – While it has approximately half the population and half the land area of Arlington, Berkeley has a similar population density to Arlington and is also located across the water from a major city. Also like Arlington, Berkeley has high housing prices.
- St. Paul, MN – Despite having socioeconomic characteristics different from Arlington, St. Paul consistently ranks towards the top of the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore analysis and was chosen as a peer with a park system Arlington can aspire to.

## National Averages

**396** Having worked in 47 states and with over 100 combined years as former parks and recreation managers, consultants PROS Consulting provided national averages for population-based standards based on their experience.

## Statistically Valid Survey Priority

The statistically valid survey conducted as part of the 2017 POPS process asked people whether they or their households have a need for various outdoor and indoor amenities, and how well those needs are currently being met. Combining these metrics into a Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the survey report indicates the relative priorities for investing in these amenities.

Those amenities with a PIR of 30 or under were considered to be low priorities. Those with a PIR greater than 30 but less than or equal to 120 were considered to be medium priorities. Those with a PIR greater than 120 were considered to be high priorities.

#396

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/03/2017** at **9:29am**

More information would be useful on how PROS Consulting derived their population-based standards. At issue is the LOS in relation to the amount of land within a community's borders and also the source of growth in population in relation to the anticipated environment, if population growth is indeed a factor in creating LOS standards. In Arlington, immigration, the size of the federal workforce, and changes in the demand federal consultants would appear to have disproportion impact on population growth. As it stands, there is no way to tell of the PROS Consulting population-based standards are appropriate for Arlington.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

|   | Population-Based Standards |           |    |                |    |                |    |         |                    |    |                    |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|----|----------------|----|----------------|----|---------|--------------------|----|--------------------|
|   | Units                      | Inventory |    | Current<br>LOS |    | Peer<br>Median |    | Typical | Survey<br>Priority |    | Recommended<br>LOS |
| Basketball Courts                         | each                       | 87        | 1/ | 2,547          | 1/ | 2,132          | 1/ | 6,000   | Medium             | 1/ | 3,000              |
| Community Gardens                         | each                       | 7         | 1/ | 31,651         | 1/ | 37,205         | 1/ | 30,000  | Medium             | 1/ | 30,000             |
| Multi-Use Trails                          | miles                      | 48.4      | 1/ | 4,577          | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 2,500   | High               | 1/ | 3,300              |
| Off-Leash Dog Parks                       | each                       | 8         | 1/ | 27,695         | 1/ | 59,426         | 1/ | 40,000  | Medium             | 1/ | 25,000             |
| Playgrounds                               | each                       | 126       | 1/ | 1,758          | 1/ | 3,101          | 1/ | 3,500   | Medium             | 1/ | 3,000              |
| Casual Use Spaces                         | in progress                |           |    |                |    |                |    |         |                    |    |                    |
| Diamond Fields                            | each                       | 43        | 1/ | 5,153          | 1/ | 4,107          | 1/ | 6,000   | Low                | 1/ | 6,000              |
| Tennis Courts                             | each                       | 92        | 1/ | 2,408          | 1/ | 3,768          | 1/ | 4,000   | Medium             | 1/ | 3,000              |
| Picnic Areas                              | each                       | 45        | 1/ | 4,924          | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 6,000   | Medium             | 1/ | 5,000              |
| Rectangular Fields                        | each                       | 53        | 1/ | 4,180          | 1/ | 3,643          | 1/ | 6,000   | Medium             | 1/ | 4,200              |
| Volleyball Courts                         | each                       | 10        | 1/ | 22,156         | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 12,000  | Low                | 1/ | 20,000             |
| Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers | sq. ft.                    | 386,223   | 1/ | 0.57           | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 0.74    | Medium             | 1/ | 0.57               |
| Hiking Trails                             | miles                      | 14.5      | 1/ | 15,242         | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 10,000  | High               | 1/ | 10,000             |
| Indoor and Outdoor Pools                  | each                       | 4         | 1/ | 55,390         | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 40,000  | High               | 1/ | 40,000             |
| Natural Areas                             | acres                      | 1,127     | 1/ | 197            | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 333     | High               | 1/ | 200                |
| Nature Centers                            | each                       | 3         | 1/ | 73,853         | 1/ | 110,900        | 1/ | 50,000  | Medium             | 1/ | 75,000             |
| Skate Parks                               | each                       | 1         | 1/ | 221,560        | 1/ | 118,851        | 1/ | 40,000  | Low                | 1/ | 120,000            |
| Small Game Courts                         | each                       | 14        | 1/ | 15,826         | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 6,000   | Low                | 1/ | 8,000              |
| Spraygrounds                              | each                       | 5         | 1/ | 44,312         | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 45,000  | Medium             | 1/ | 45,000             |
| Outdoor Tracks                            | each                       | 3         | 1/ | 73,853         | 1/ | N/A            | 1/ | 45,000  | N/A                | 1/ | 35,000             |

#397

Posted by **gailharrison1@verizon.net** on **08/03/2017** at **9:33am**

Access to community gardens, like access to various kinds of fields, parks, natural areas, etc., depends on where you live in the County. as revealed by maps on the preceding pages.

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0



APPENDIX F

# Design Standards

*under development*

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Arlington County

DRAFT

## APPENDIX G

# Definitions

## under development

**athletic activity** – An activity that involves the use of physical skills or capabilities such as strength, agility, or stamina.

**casual use space** – Space that supports casual, impromptu use, including relaxation, reflection, informal activities, or connection with nature. May be generally available or only available at designated times.

**community center** – A building that is designed to accommodate a wide range of community-focused and civic programs and events, which may include recreation.

**connecting trail** – A small segment of paved trail that provides a connection between primary and secondary trails, streets, neighborhoods, park elements, and other destinations.

**green space** – A publicly accessible area with natural vegetation, such as grass, plants, or trees that may include built environment features, such as urban parks, as well as less managed areas, including woodland and nature reserves.

**green street** – A tree-lined street that is designed to serve as an extension of the public space system. Offers pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers a more attractive travel experience, provides shade in the heat, blocks wind in the cold, and may integrate stormwater management features.

**hiking trail** – An unpaved corridor that tends to be located primarily along streams and stream valleys in Arlington and is used primarily by pedestrians and hikers.

**historic resource** – An area with a defined historical architectural, archaeological, or cultural component. May be a County-owned historic building (community center, school, office), civil-war fort, cemetery, Native American site, structure (such as a bridge or road), or other site determined to have historical value or interest to the community.

**leisure activity** – An activity that involves free time relaxation, such as relaxation, reflection, informal activities, connection with nature, social interaction, hobbies, or games.

**multi-use activity center** – A facility or group of facilities that is designed for maximum flexibility to accommodate a wide range of athletic and recreational activities.



**natural land** — Land that has experienced minimal human alteration or has recovered from anthropogenic disturbance under mostly natural regimes of species interaction and disturbance. (Natural Resources Management Plan)

**park/parkland** — Land or other outdoor area, such as a waterway or rooftop, that is primarily used for recreation, leisure, or conservation of natural resources, including ancillary uses that support these primary uses (e.g., recreation facilities, storage, parking).

**park framework plan** — A conceptual diagram that identifies intended uses for a park and in what zones or areas those uses are intended to occur. Types of zones include places for play, casual use, athletics, conservation, gathering or events, service facilities, parking, and natural and historic resources. Key internal and external connections are also displayed.

**park master plan** — A detailed concept plan with specific materials and facilities that describes existing and proposed park boundaries, features, facilities, adjacencies, circulation, and gateways; identifies elements to be added, replaced, restored, or renewed through major maintenance; addresses transportation issues; and, where appropriate, includes a proposed timetable or phasing of improvements.

**plaza** — A pedestrian-oriented community gathering area — primarily in high-density areas amid bustling streets and buildings — to sit, play, and relax that may, depending on its design, also serve as an event space. Often includes impervious surfaces and has close physical and functional relationships to surrounding retail, food, and drink establishments.

**primary multi-use trail** — A key off-street recreation and transportation corridor with a broad user base that may connect Arlington to surrounding jurisdictions and the larger regional trail network.

**privately-owned public space** — A privately developed space that remains under private ownership but has an easement or license that guarantees it is open and accessible to the public.

**programs/programming** — Formally structured activities that take place in public spaces, including but not limited to sports, fitness, nature, art, and special events.

**public space** — Space that supports recreation and leisure, natural resources, casual use, and cultural resources and is either publicly owned or has guaranteed public access — including parks, plazas, trails, streets, and recreation facilities.

**recreation** – Athletic or leisure activity undertaken either in an organized or informal capacity.

**recreation center** – A building that is designed to accommodate indoor recreation.

**recreation facility** – A structure built, equipment installed, or space designed indoors or outdoors to accommodate one or more recreational activities.

**secondary multi-use trail** – An off-street corridor with a broad user base that primarily serves a recreation purpose. May be linear, connecting multiple neighborhoods, other trails, or public spaces, or loops, providing recreational circuits within one public space.

**side path** – A primary, secondary, or connecting trail that is located alongside a roadway and is physically separated from vehicular traffic.

**sports complex** – A facility or group of indoor and outdoor facilities that is designed to accommodate specific team or individual athletic activities, including tournaments.

**streetscape** – The urban element that establishes the major part of the public realm. The streetscape is composed of thoroughfares (travel lanes for vehicles and bicycles, parking lanes for cars), public frontage (sidewalks, shy zones) as well as the visible private frontages (building facades and elevations, yards, fences, awnings, etc.), and the amenities of the public frontages (street trees and plantings, benches, streetlights, etc.). (Crystal City Sector Plan)

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## APPENDIX H

# Adopted Park Master Plans

in progress

## Quincy Street Extension Plan (1992)

## Arlington Boathouse Feasibility Study (Adopted May 11, 1996)

This study determined the feasibility of locating a boathouse facility between Theodore Roosevelt Island/Little River and Key Bridge. The study concluded that the site is the most desirable location. The study recommends the boathouse will be for school-based rowing programs and related complementary activities open to the public. County funds will be used in combination with privately raised funds to construct the facility, and the County will work with the National Park Service to secure use of the site.

## Fort C.F. Smith Cultural Resources Master Plan (Adopted July 19, 1997)

This master plan is for a new 19-acre park located at 2411 North 24th Street. The plan was developed to meet the immediate goal of protecting the resources and addressing the long-term aspects of the park including public design participation, preservation and interpretation of the resources, public programs, maintenance and management. The plan includes goals and principle recommendations for stabilizing, maintaining, investigating and accessing the historic and natural resources on the property; renovation of the buildings; and site development, parking, interpretive exhibits and landscaping.

## Barcroft Sports Complex Siting (Adopted September 20, 1997)

This siting plan determined the location for a County sports complex to relocate the recreation and sports programs which were previously housed at Gunston Middle School. The major recommendation of the siting process is to locate an

approximately 24,000 net square foot sports complex to Barcroft Park to house the gymnastics, boxing and weight lifting programs and add a new flexible multi-purpose gymnasium.

### **Powhatan Springs Park Master Plan (Adopted January 23, 1999)**

This master plan is for a new 5.34-acre park located at 6008, 6016 and 6022 Wilson Boulevard. The plan includes something for all ages and provides a balance of active sports and recreation amenities at the north end of the park and preservation of the stream and natural area at the southern end of the park. Primary components include a lighted concrete skate park with various elements for skateboarding and in-line skating; youth-sized soccer field; children's nature area and preservation of half the site as a natural area. Other elements include restrooms; staff offices parking lot; pedestrian walkways; landscaping and site amenities.

### **Barcroft Park Master Plan (Adopted December 12, 1999)**

The master plan is for the 65.47-acre park located at 4100 South Four Mile Run Drive. The park is one of the County's oldest and most heavily used parks. The plan calls for redevelopment of the east side of Four Mile Run for active recreation while preserving the west side of the stream as a natural resource area. Major components include four lighted, fenced youth baseball/softball fields with dugouts, bleachers, and scorer's booths; one lighted, fenced 90' baseball diamond; 28,000 square foot Sports and Fitness Center; lighted synthetic turf community field; special events area (accommodates portable stage); two lighted tennis courts; one lighted basketball court; handball/tennis practice wall; two playgrounds; picnic pavilion; and trails. Other elements include 3-level parking structure; surface parking; landscaping and site amenities.

### **Westover Park Master Plan (Adopted December 9, 2000)**

The master plan is for a full renovation of the 4.36-acre park located at 1001 North Kennebec Street. The plan maximizes the use of the entire site without eliminating any of the previous uses. Facilities are relocated and upgraded and several new features are added. In addition, the plan incorporates solutions and remedies to site problems such as slope erosion, field drainage and worn turf. Major components include two youth-sized baseball fields with bleachers (one fenced); lighted half-court basketball; lighted sand volleyball; multi-use community field; picnic pavilion and playground. Other elements include restrooms; parking; pedestrian walkways; landscaping and site amenities.

### **Greenbrier Park Master Plan (Adopted May 18, 2002)**

The master plan is for major renovation (everything except the indoor swimming pool) of the 17.51-acre park located at 5201 S. 28th Street. The park is one of the most heavily used athletic field complexes in the County. Major components include lighted, fenced synthetic turf competition field with major bleacher seating and support facilities; lighted track; lighted, fenced baseball field and two lighted, fenced softball fields with dugouts, bleachers and support facilities; six tennis courts; lighted basketball court; and indoor swimming pool (no changes proposed). Other elements include parking; pedestrian pathways; restrooms; concession stand; ticket booth; landscaping and site amenities.

### **Tyrol Hill Park Master Plan (Adopted December 6, 2003)**

The master plan is for full renovation of the 1.5-acre park located at 5101 South 7th Road. One-half of the park will have recreation amenities and the other half consists of a heavily forested steep embankment. Major components include lighted basketball court; sand volleyball; grassy



open area; playground; picnic areas; two picnic pavilions and overlook deck. Other elements include restrooms; pedestrian pathways; fencing; retaining walls; signs; landscaping and site amenities.

### **North Tract Area Master Plan (Adopted February 21, 2004)**

The master plan is for a new 28-acre park at the north end of Crystal City in the block bounded by Old Jefferson Davis Highway, S. 10th Street, S. 6th Street and S. Ball Street. The plan includes a balance of programs for indoor and outdoor facilities. Major indoor components include an indoor state-of-the-art recreation center with a major focus on aquatics as well as significant fitness space, a multi-activity center (MAC) combining multiple sport courts, community use spaces, racquet sport courts, and support facilities. Major outdoor components include four synthetic grass rectangular athletic fields, more than one mile of on-site walking trails, open lawn areas, a connection across the railroad tracks to the Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, and opportunities for playgrounds and spray fountains.

### **Fort Ethan Allen Community Canine Area (December 11, 2004)**

The master plan is for relocation of the community canine area (CCA) to the east side of Madison Community Center at 3829 North Stafford Street. The dog exercise area needed to be relocated off the grounds of historic Fort Ethan Allen. The major components of the CCA include perimeter fencing; two double-gated entrances; low bollard lights for use in the evening hours during winter months; low wood deck; seating; water fountain; message board and landscaping.

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### **Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan (March, 2006)**

### **13th & Herndon Park Master Plan (December, 2007)**

#398

Posted by **kbeekman** on **07/13/2017** at **7:17pm**

Suggestion

It should be spelled "Restoration"

Agree: 0, Disagree: 0

**Penrose Square Master Plan (July 2008)**

**Mosaic Park (September 2009)**

**Long Bridge Park Master Plan (March, 2013)**

**PenPlace Open Space Design Guidelines  
Addendum (July 2014)**

**Three Oaks Park (2014)**

**Rosslyn Highlands Park Coordinated Open  
Space Plan (September, 2016)**

**DRAFT**



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