General

Service areas are drawn using time standards. Time is calculated based on distance and speed, generally:

$$Time\ (min.) = \frac{Distance\ (mi.)}{Speed\ (mi./min.)}$$

Driving

The driving network is based off the *Streets* feature class provided by Arlington County.

Assumptions:

- On average, drivers can attain 80% of the maximum speed (speed limit) on a given road taking into account traffic, stops, and turns.
- Playgrounds within 500 feet of the driving network are considered connected to the network.oo

Time calculation:

- *Distance* – length of street segment in 3D space *Length* (from shape geometry) based on segment length and elevation, converted to mi.
- *Speed* – speed limit of street segment *SpeedLimit* (attribute from feature class), converted to mi. per min., adjusted based on assumption above *AdjustmentFactor*

$$Minutes = \frac{\frac{Length}{5280}}{AdjustmentFactor \times \frac{SpeedLimit}{60}}$$

Walking

The walking network is based off the *Walking_Network* shapefile provided by Arlington County.

Assumptions:

- Service area is calculated in the direction going towards the facility.
- Walking speed varies by slope, using Tobler's hiking function.

Time calculation:

- *Distance* – length of walking network segment in 3D space *Length* (from shape geometry), converted to mi.
- *Speed* – speed based on percent slope of the walking network segment *PctSlope* (from shape geometry) and Tobler's hiking function, converted from km per hour to mi. per min.

$$Minutes = \frac{\frac{Length}{5280}}{\frac{6\frac{e^{-3.5\left|\frac{PctSlope}{100}+0.05\right|}}{1.60934}}{60}}$$

Biking

The biking network is based off the *Bike_Routes* shapefile provided by Arlington County.

Assumptions:

- Service area is calculated in the direction going towards the facility.
- Biking speed varies by slope, using a modified version of Tobler's hiking function that more closely fits the analysis done by Nourian, et al. (p. 78:5).

Time calculation:

- *Distance* – length of bike network segment in 3D space *Length* (from shape geometry), converted to mi.

- *Speed* – speed based on percent slope of the bike network segment *PctSlope* (from shape geometry) and modified Tobler's hiking function (as described in assumptions), converted from km per hour to mi. per min.

$$Minutes = \frac{\frac{Length}{5280}}{\frac{29\, e^{-15\left|\frac{PctSlope}{100}+0.05\right|}}{1.60934}}{60}$$

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA | DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

ARLINGTON POPS

A Plan for Our Places and Spaces

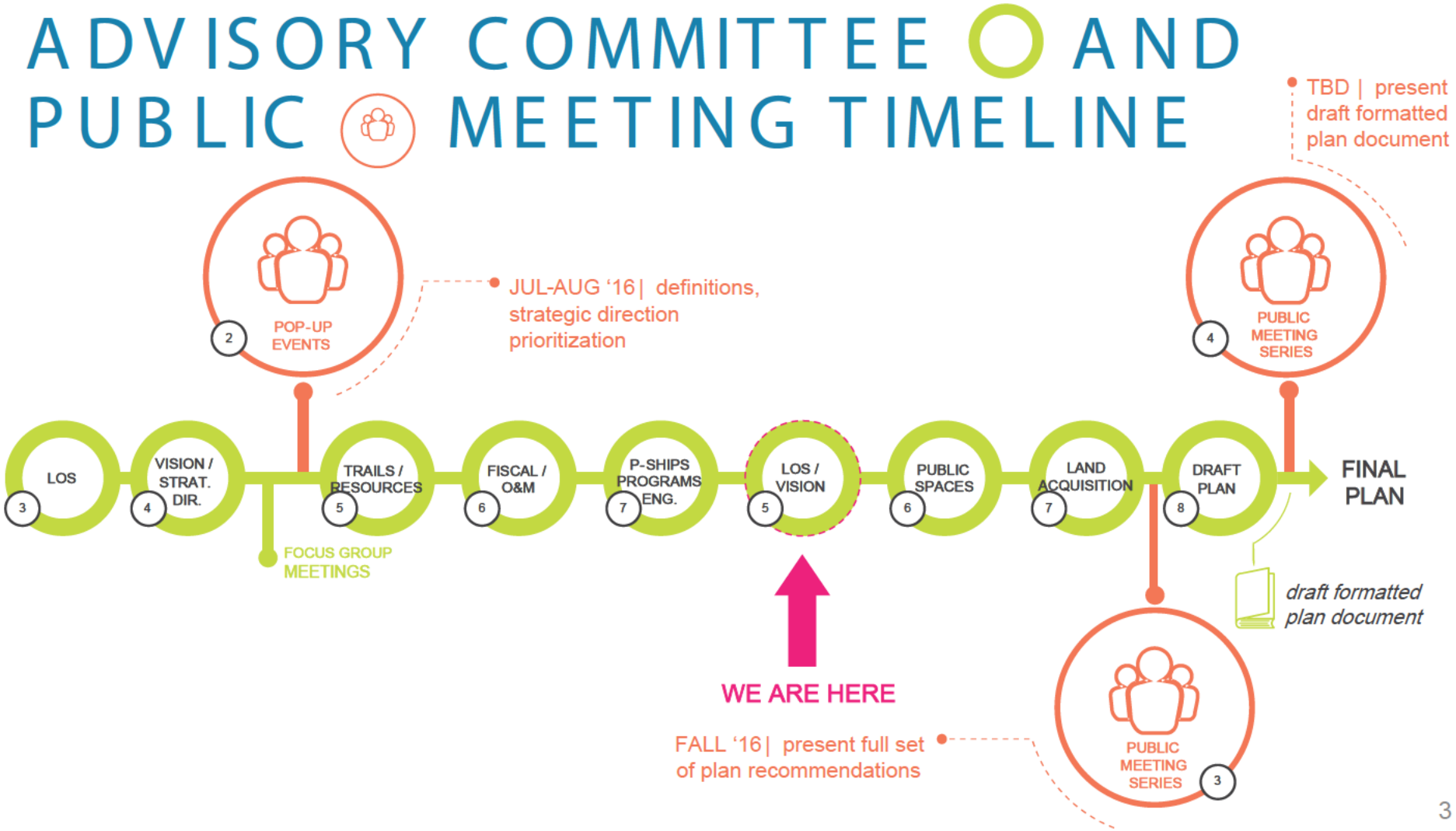
LEVEL OF SERVICE / VISION STATEMENT

WRT | pros consulting | Barth Associates | vhb | The Trust for Public Land | etc Institute | Mary Means & Associates | recreation accessibility consultants, llc

AGENDA

- (Re-)Introduction to Level of Service
- Public Spaces System Overview
- Level of Service Standards
- Unprogrammed Open Spaces
- Vision Statement Options
- Visioning Charrette
- Discussion

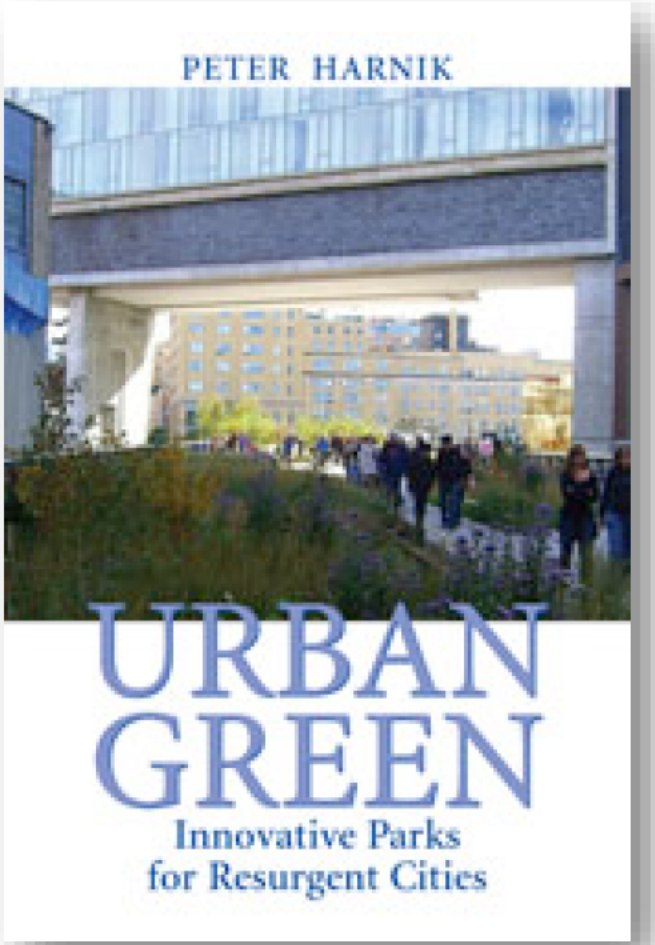
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC MEETING TIMELINE



PLAN ORGANIZATION

- Introduction
  - Vision Statement
- Planning Context
  - Previous Planning Efforts
  - 2005 PSMP
    - Successes
  - Relation to Ongoing Efforts
  - Demographic Trends
  - Recreation Trends
  - Summary of Engagement
- Existing Conditions
  - Parks
  - Trails
- Analysis and Standards
  - Benchmarking
  - Access / Level of Service Standards
  - Applied Standards
- Strategic Directions
  - Policy Recommendations + Rationale
- Action Plan
  - Implementation Responsibilities
  - Partners
  - Potential Funding Sources
  - Timeframes
- Vision Plan
  - Physical Manifestation of Action Plan

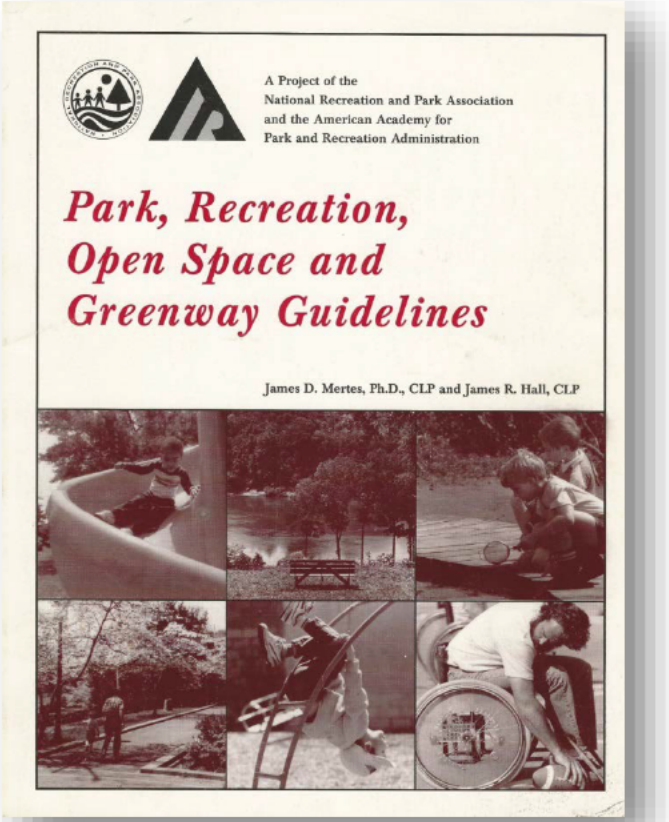
PURPOSE OF PARKS SYSTEM MODELS AND LOS METRICS



More Complex

"A major problem for [park] advocates and managers is that parks seem relatively simple and straight forward. People frequently say , "It's not rocket science, it's just a park" No! For rockets… you need to be good at math. Parks require math plus horticulture, hydrology, psychology, sociology and communication". They are immensely complicated."

No Standards



"A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal, nor can one city be compared with another even though they are similar in many respects"

Expanded Role and Responsibilities

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New and Emerging Trends

- Aging in Place
- Improved Connectivity
- Access to Nature
- Sports Tourism and Travel Ball
- Place-making
- Virtual Reality

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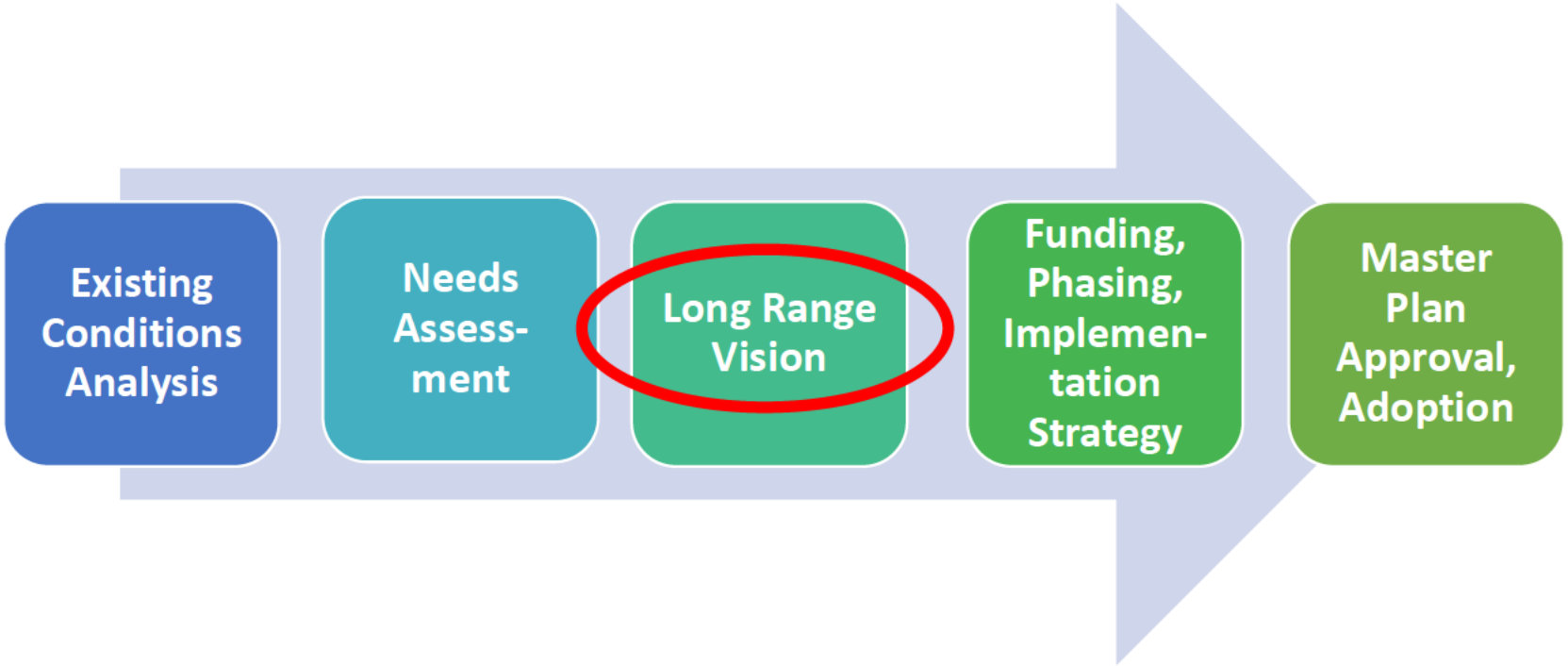
Dimensions of a Parks and Recreation System

- Residents' Needs and Priorities
- Programs
- Capital Improvements
- Trends
- Operations and Maintenance
- Funding, Fiscal Sustainability
- Political Priorities
- Level-of-Service
- Comprehensive Plan Goals
- Service-Delivery Models
- Mission, Role
- Branding
- Partnerships
- Staffing
- Land Development Codes
- Resource Protection
- Impact Fees
- Park Classifications
- Economic Development
- Social Equity
- Environment, Green Infrastructure
- Agency Accreditation
- Cost Recovery
- Aging-in-Place
- Design Standards
- Marketing
- Tourism
- Health and Wellness
- Quality of Life
- Crime, Safety
- Redevelopment

Typical Parks and Recreation System Master Planning Process



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SUBSYSTEMS AND SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS

Parks and Recreation Subsystems

- Parks
- Recreation Centers
- Athletic Facilities
- Greenways and Trails
- Playgrounds
- Dog Parks
- Aquatics Facilities
- Programs
- Environmental Lands
- Museums, Historic, Cultural Facilities
- Water Access
- Civic Spaces
- Streets, Transit
- Stormwater Facilities, Utility Corridors
- Others

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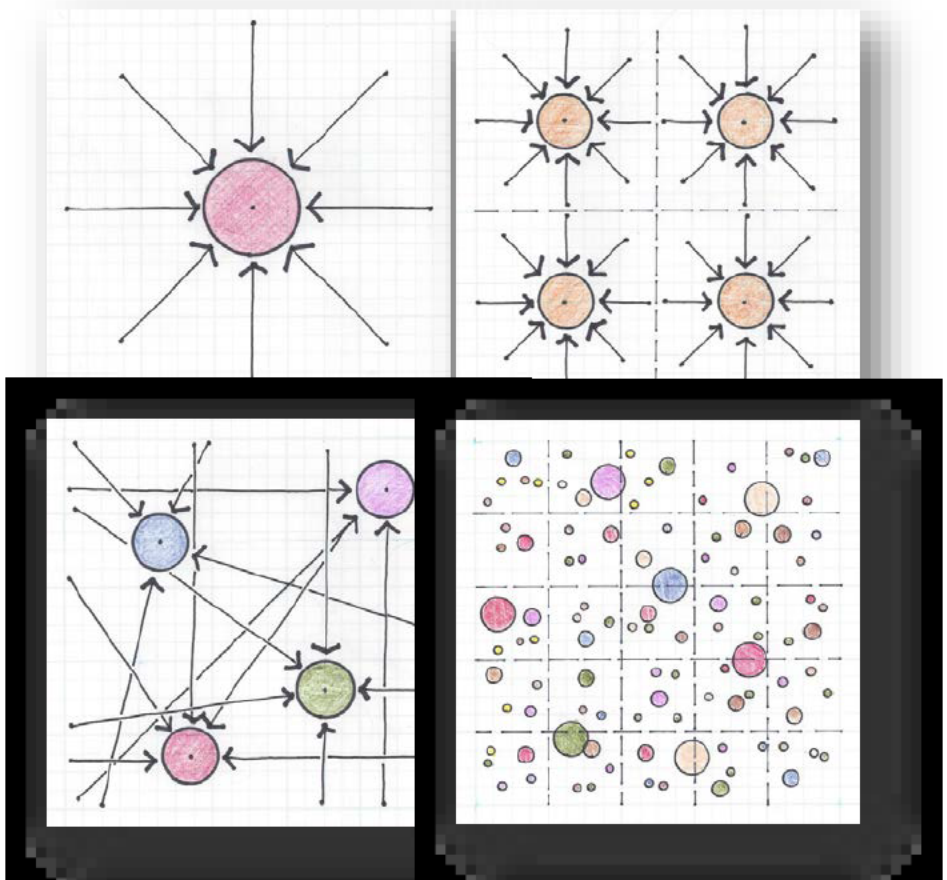
Select Service Delivery Model(s)



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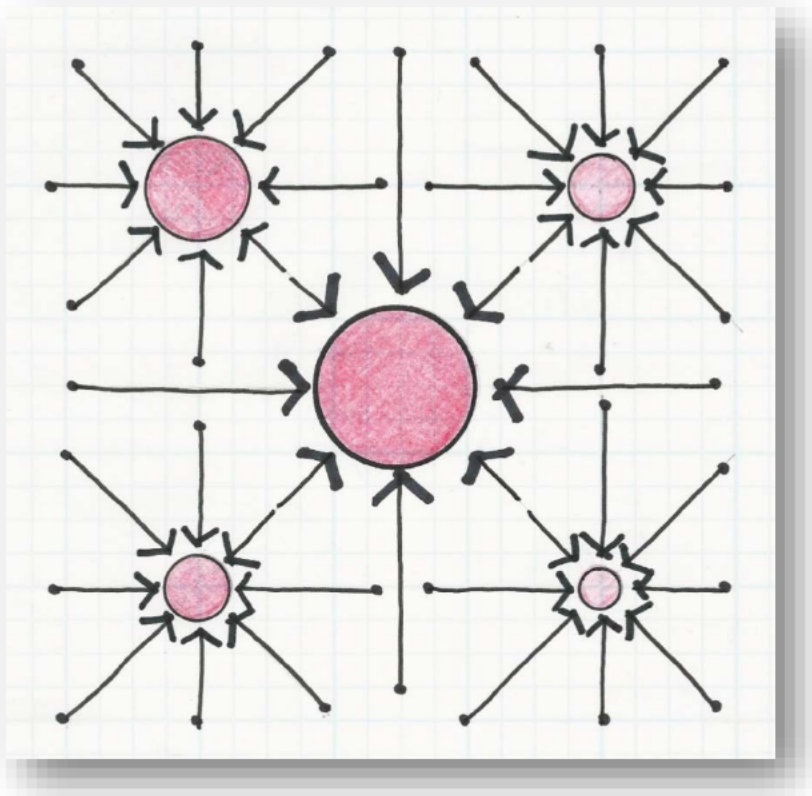
Hub & Spoke Model



Example: Dog Parks

Dog Parks

Traditional Classifications - NRPA, 1996

The following table provides an overview of the classifications for parks, recreation areas open space, and pathways.

Parks, Open Space, and Pathways Classifications Table

Parks and Open Space Classifications

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Application of LOS
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size	Yes
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	Yes
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable—depends on function	Yes — but should not count school only uses.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	Yes
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.	Yes
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	No
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components	Resource availability	Variable.	No

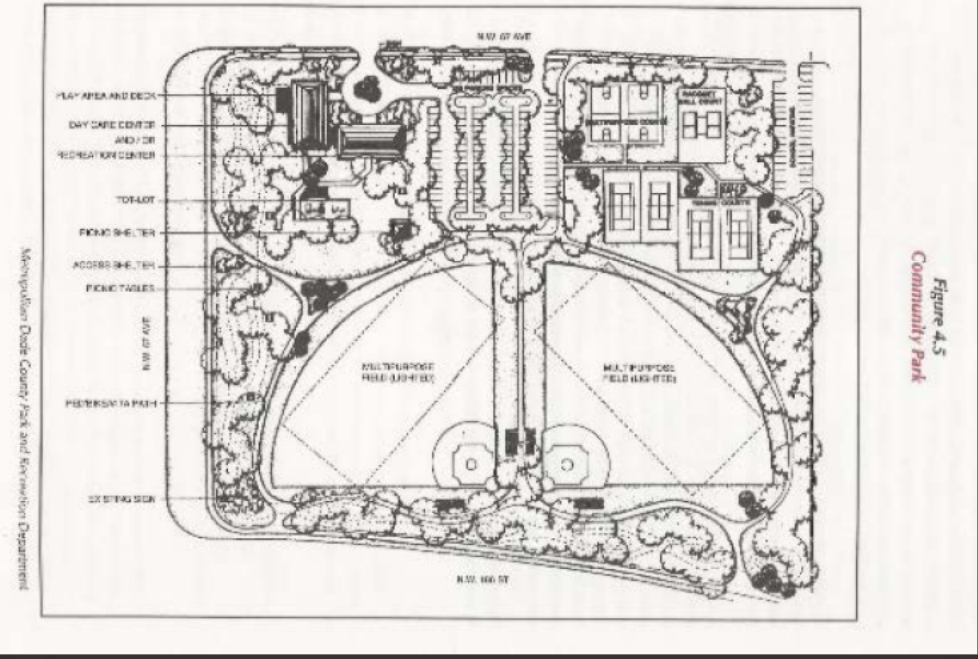


Figure 4.5
Community Park

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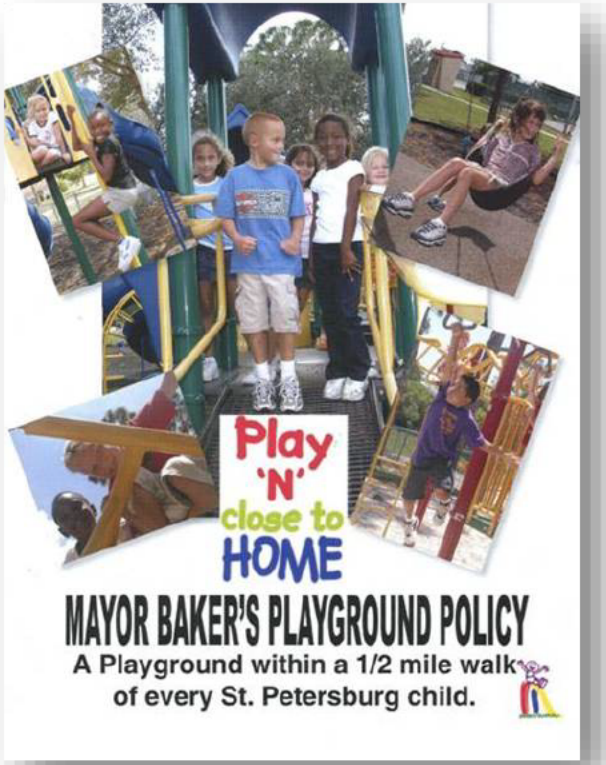
LOS METRICS

Common LOS Metrics

each “necessary but not sufficient”

- **Acres per 1000 residents** – Do we have enough land? Community-wide? Equitably distributed?
- **Facilities per 1000 residents (public, private)** – Do we have enough facilities? Community-wide? Equitably distributed?
- **Square footage per capita** – Do we have enough indoor recreation space? Community-wide? Equitably distributed?
- **Access by transit, car, bike, foot** – Can I get there safely, easily, and comfortably? Regardless of age, income, ability? Urban or rural?
- **Quality of facilities** – Is quality consistent and equitable across the system?
- **Operating expenditures per acre managed** – Do we have enough money to operate effectively?
- **Operating expenditures per capita** - Ditto
- **Revenue per capita** – Are we generating adequate revenues that meet expectations?
- **Revenue as a percentage of total operating expenditures (cost recovery)** - Ditto

Access LOS



Facility Type:	Urban/ Suburban Access:	Rural/ Village Access:
All Parks + Active County Parks	½ mile / 1 mile	½ mile / 1 mile
Baseball/softball Fields	3 miles	5 miles
Football/ Soccer Fields	3 miles	5 miles
Playgrounds	½ mile	3 miles
Pickleball Courts	1 mile	3 miles
Tennis Courts	1 mile	3 miles
Basketball Courts	½ mile	3 miles
Dog Parks	1 mile	5 miles
Indoor Recreation Centers	2 miles	10 miles
Therapeutic Recreation Centers	3 miles	10 miles
Swimming Pools/ Aquatic Complexes	3 miles	10 miles

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Calculate Supply/Demand:
Community-wide, Geographic, Special Interest

- Calculate existing LOS (supply)
- Determine needs via analysis, observations, surveys, focus group meetings, interviews, benchmarking, visioning (demand)
- Add demand to supply
- Calculate new LOS
- Re-evaluate, re-calculate

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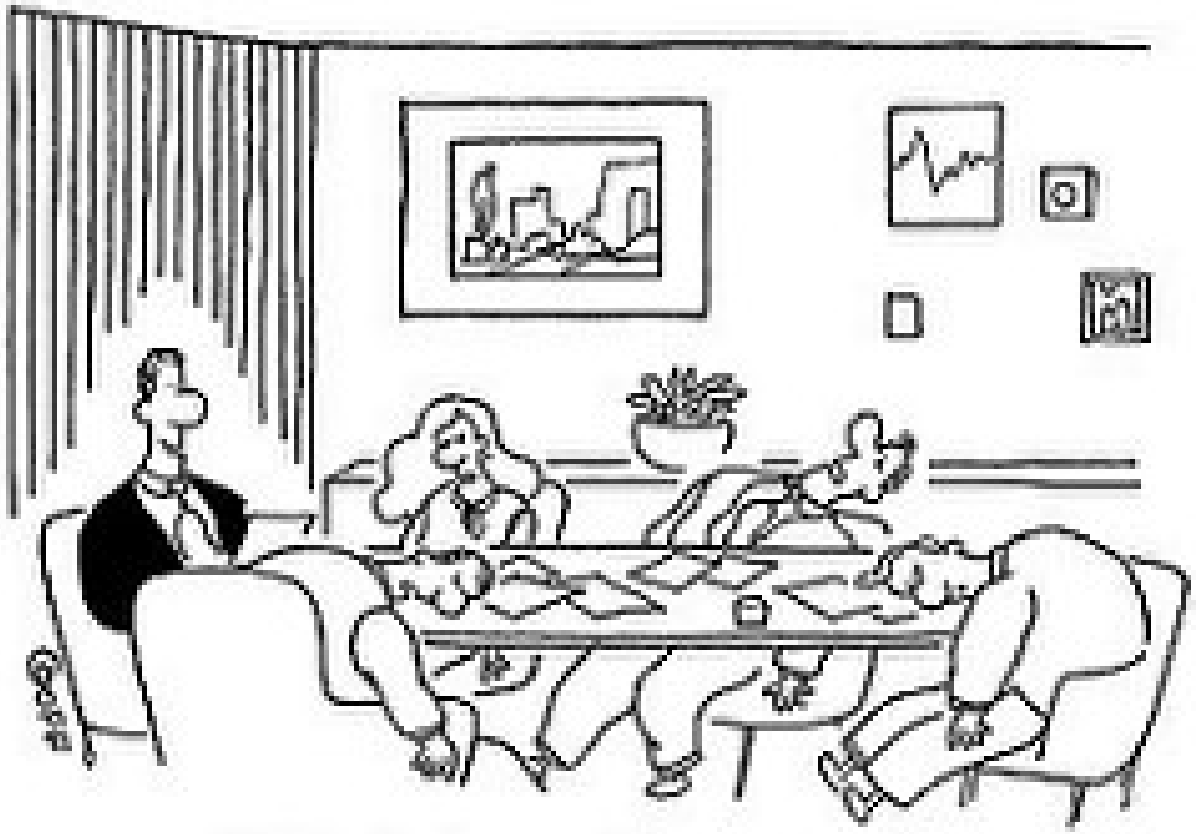
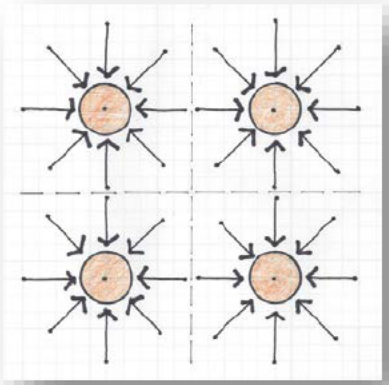


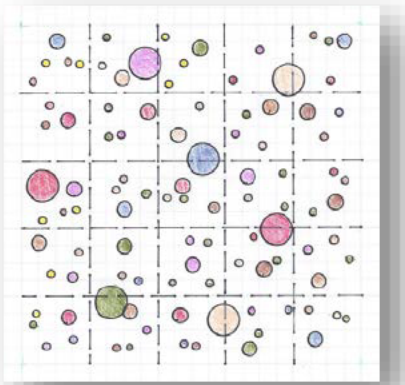
“At last we’ve reached a consensus!”

MAY 11 CONSENSUS

Service Delivery Model

A decentralized, context-sensitive, activity-based Service Delivery Model (SDM)





- **DECENTRALIZED:** Parks and recreation facilities are equitably distributed throughout the County, based on geographic areas and population densities.
- **CONTEXT SENSITIVE:** New parks and/or recreation facilities – and improvements to existing parks – are designed to be compatible with adjacent/ surrounding land uses and community character areas.
- **FACILITY-BASED:** Proposed improvements will be designed to meet the needs for specific activities and facilities (e.g. a multi-purpose lawn for playing ball, a fitness trail, a dog park) rather than in accordance with pre-determined park type or standard.

Classification and LOS Criteria

- "neighborhood", "community", "regional', "urban", and "suburban" should not be used to classify parks or recreation facilities provided within this SDM

- all publicly-owned facilities can "count", regardless of ownership
- character areas, density, and context should be used as basis for differential LOS

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Population-Based Standards

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

+

Access Standards

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

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

PUBLIC SPACES SYSTEM OVERVIEW

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Population-Based Standards

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

+

Access Standards

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

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

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

How many does Arlington have?

Inventory

Unit	County	APS	Pub. Eas.	Other	Total
each	47	40			87

How did we arrive at a recommended standard?

Level of Service

Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey	Recm. Std.
each	[1/] 2,547	[1/] 2,132	[1/] 3,000	High	[1/] 3,000

How does growth affect the standard?

Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
each	[1/] 2,547	[1/] 3,000	[1/] 2,811	[1/] 3,059	[1/] 3,325

What does that translate into?

Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
each	87	+0	+0	+2	+10

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

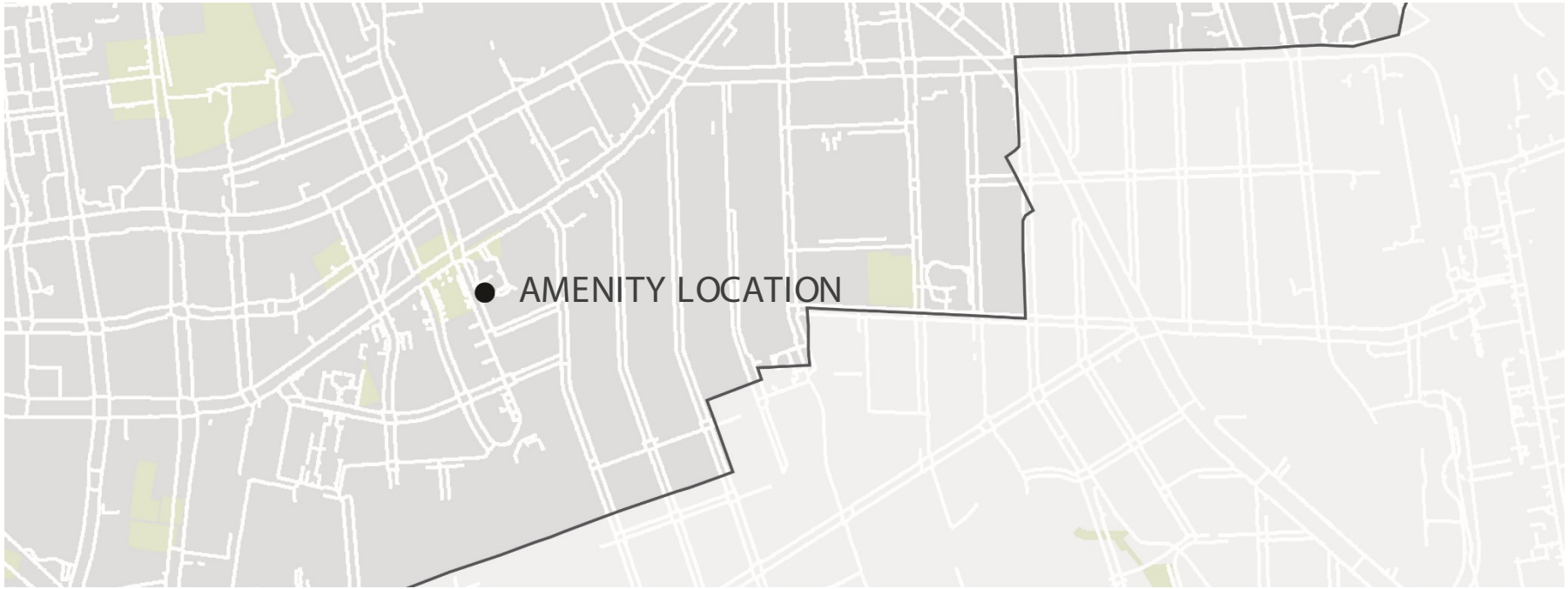
Walking Network

Biking Network

Transit Network

Driving Network

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)



ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

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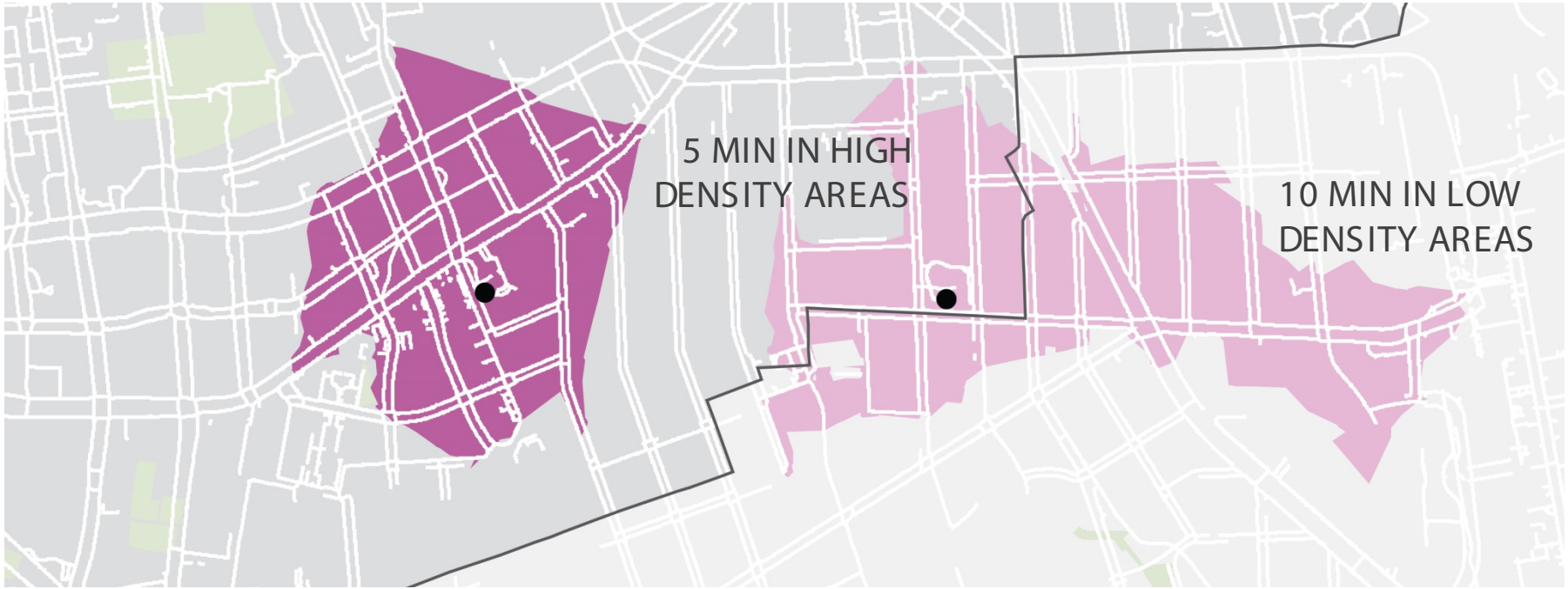


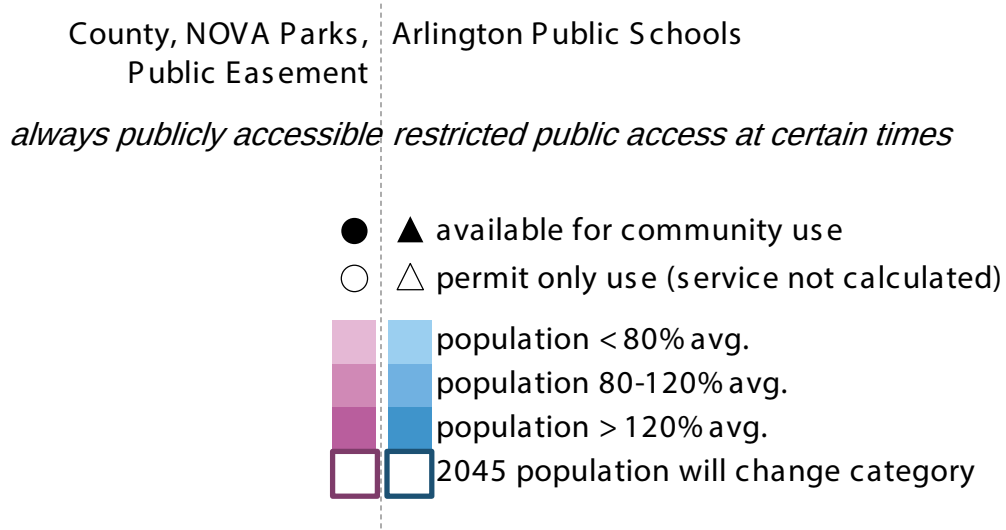
ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

population < 80% avg. population 80-120% avg. population > 120% avg.

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)



Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

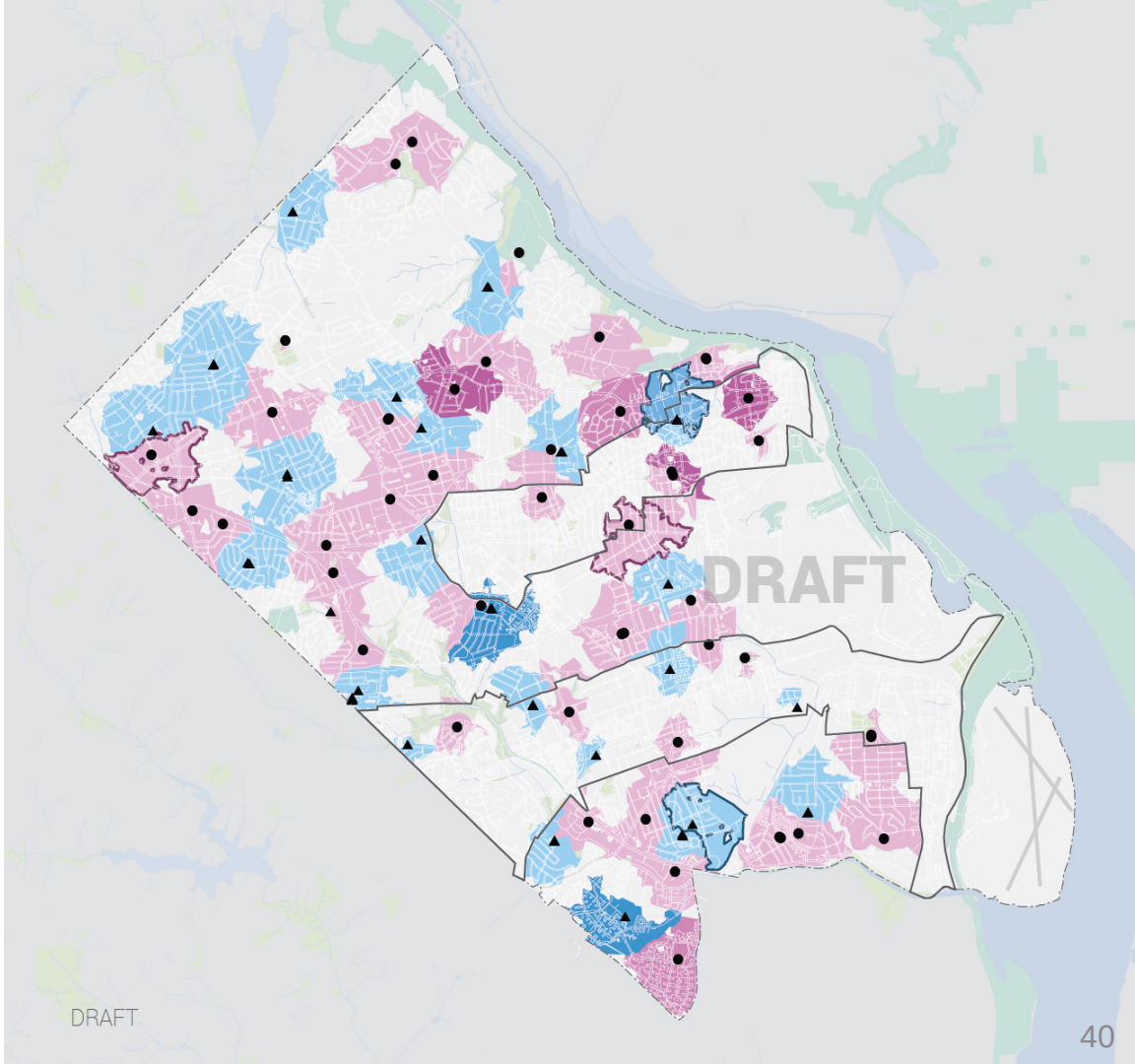
County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

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

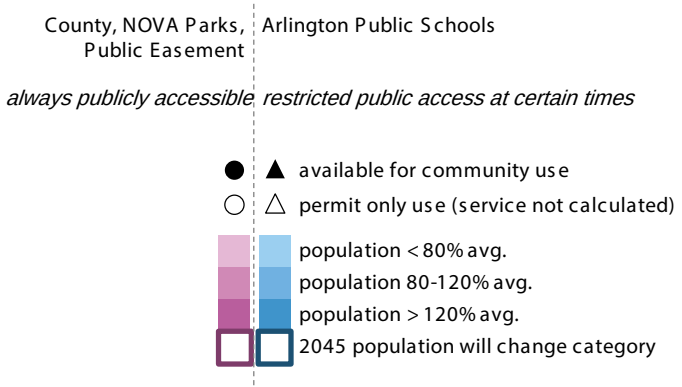
Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min



DRAFT

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)



Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min

Access Ranking

accessible

population > 120% avg.	+1
2045 population will change category	+2

not accessible

2045 population density < 20 people/acre	+3
2045 population ≥ 20 people/acre	+4

modes walking, biking, transit, driving x4

ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)

Access Ranking

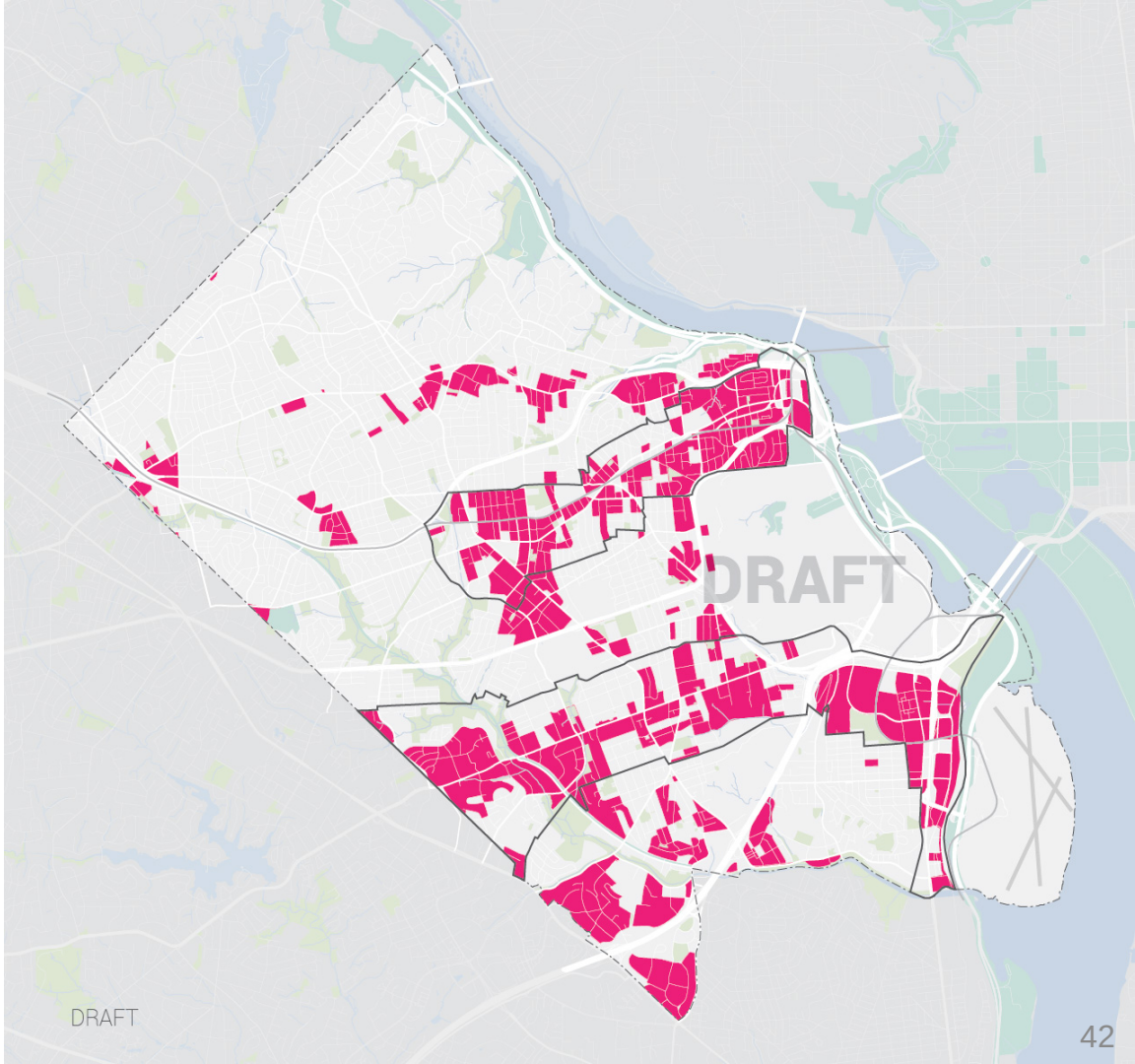
access ble

population > 120% avg.	+1
2045 population will change category	+2

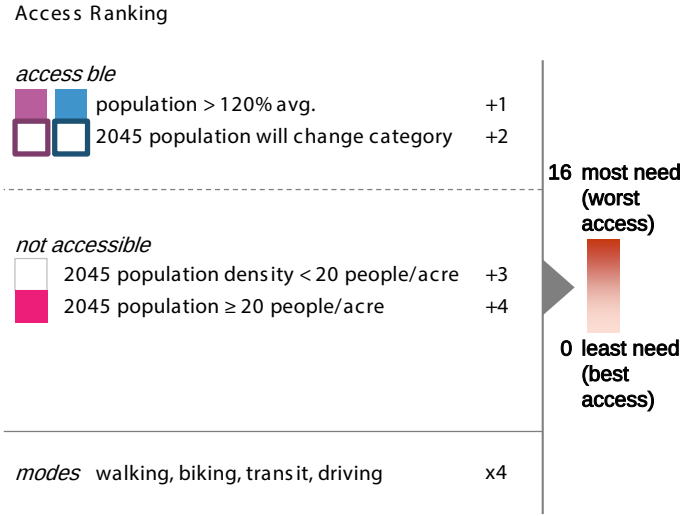
not accessible

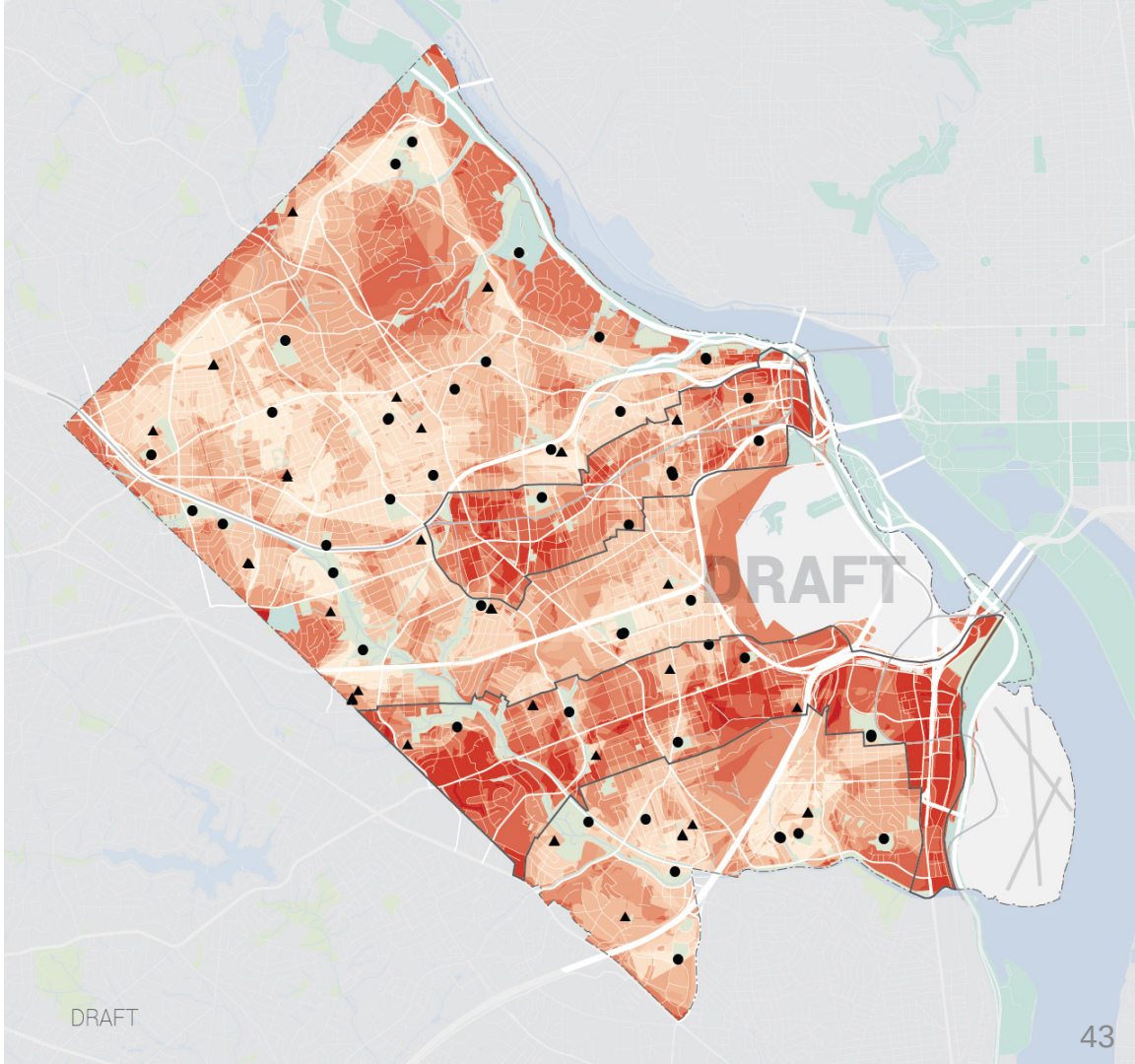
2045 population density < 20 people/acre	+3
2045 population ≥ 20 people/acre	+4

modes	walking, biking, transit, driving	x4

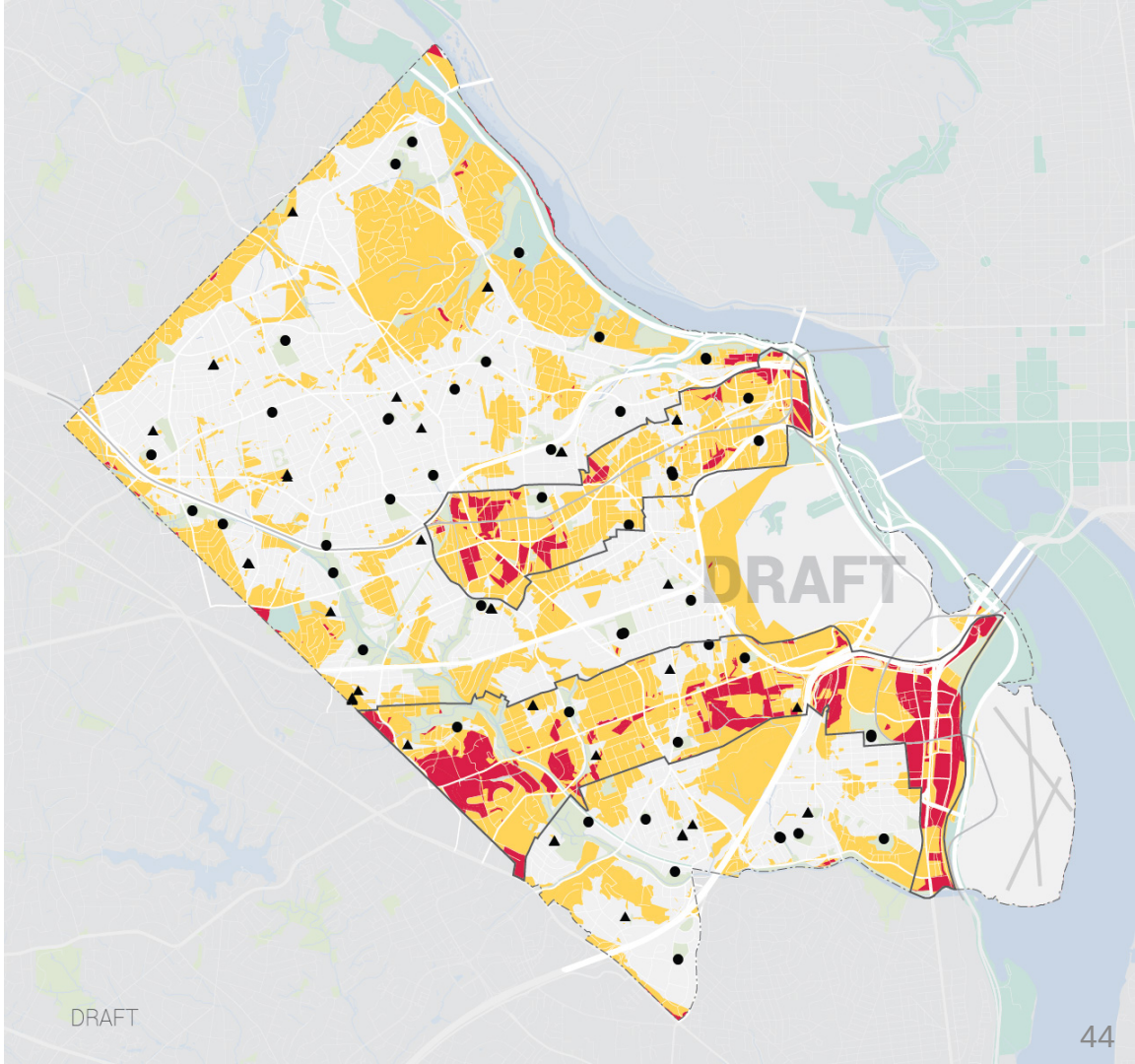


ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)





ACCESS ANALYSIS (METHOD)



ACCESS STANDARDS

5 min high density 10 min low density	10 min high density 20 min low density	no access standards
Basketball Courts	Diamond Fields	Comm., Rec., and Sports Ctrs.
Community Gardens	Tennis Courts	Hiking Trails
Unprogrammed Open Spaces	Picnic Areas	Indoor and Outdoor Pools
Multi-Use Trails	Rectangular Fields	Natural Resource Cons. Areas
Off-Leash Dog Parks	Volleyball Courts	Nature Centers
Playgrounds		Skate Parks
		Small Game Courts
		Spraygrounds
		Tracks

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Inventory					
	Unit	County	APS	Pub. Eas.	Other	Total
Basketball Courts (includes half courts)	each	47	40			87
Community Gardens	each	4		1	2	7
Unprogrammed Open Spaces	each					
Multi-Use Trails	miles					48.4
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	8				8
Playgrounds	each	68	50	6	2	126

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Level of Service						
	Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey	Recm. Std.
Basketball Courts (includes half courts)	each	1/ 2,547	1/ 2,132	1/ 6,000	Medium	1/ 2,500
Community Gardens	each	1/ 31,651	1/ 37,205	1/ 30,000	Medium	1/ 27,500
Unprogrammed Open Spaces	each	1/		1/		1/
Multi-Use Trails	miles	1/ 4,577	N/A	1/ 2,500	High	1/ 3,333
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	1/ 27,695	1/ 59,426	1/ 40,000	Medium	1/ 26,000
Playgrounds	each	1/ 1,758	1/ 3,101	1/ 3,500	Medium	1/ 1,750

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Unit	Level of Service: Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
Basketball Courts (includes half courts)	each	1/ 2,547	1/ 2,500	1/ 2,811	1/ 3,059	1/ 3,325
Community Gardens	each	1/ 31,651	1/ 27,500	1/ 34,939	1/ 38,013	1/ 41,326
Unprogrammed Open Spaces	each	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Multi-Use Trails	miles	1/ 4,577	1/ 3,333	1/ 5,052	1/ 5,497	1/ 5,976
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	1/ 27,695	1/ 26,000	1/ 30,572	1/ 33,261	1/ 36,161
Playgrounds	each	1/ 1,758	1/ 1,750	1/ 1,941	1/ 2,112	1/ 2,296

standard met
standard not met

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Unit	Level of Service				
		Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
Basketball Courts (includes half courts)	each	87	+2	+11	+20	+29
Community Gardens	each	7	+2	+2	+3	+4
Unprogrammed Open Spaces	each					
Multi-Use Trails	miles	48.4	+19	+25	+32	+39
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	8	+1	+2	+3	+4
Playgrounds	each	126	+1	+14	+27	+40

standard met
standard not met

AREAS WITH ACCESS TO BASKETBALL COURTS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	87	+0	+0	+2	+10

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

● ▲ available for community use

○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

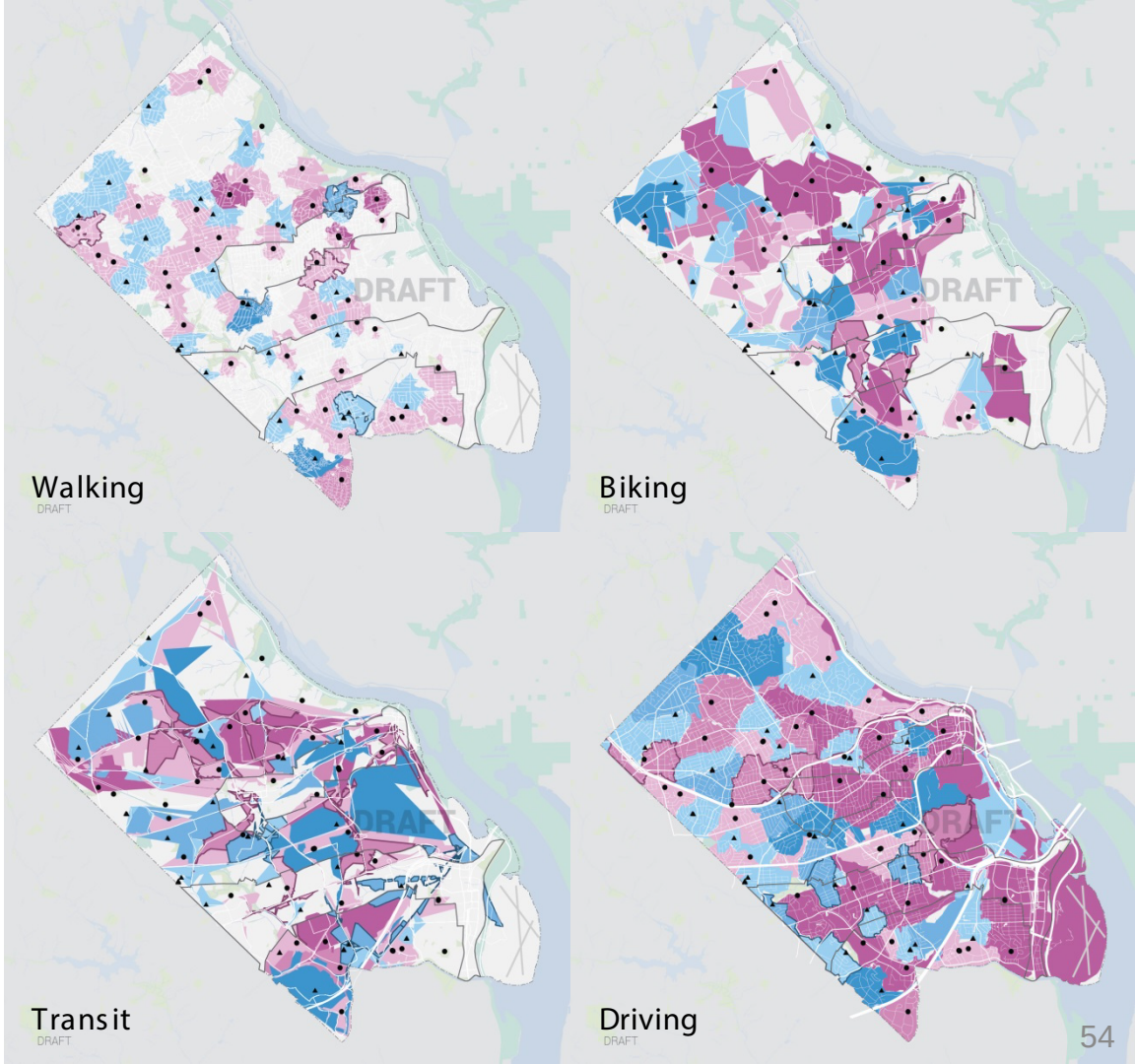
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO BASKETBALL COURTS

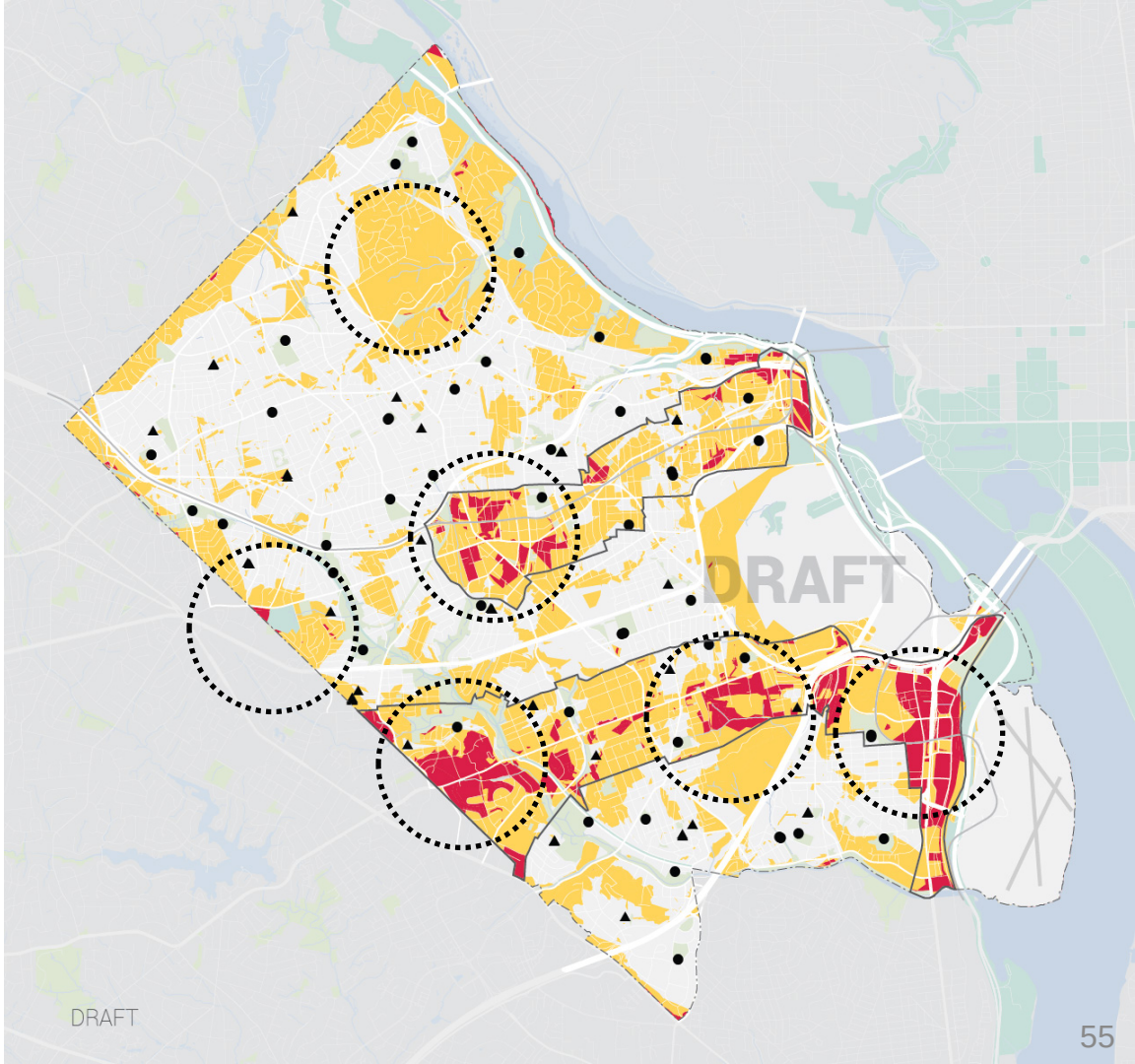
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	87	+0	+0	+2	+10

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO COMMUNITY GARDENS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	87	+0	+0	+2	+10

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

● ▲ available for community use

○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

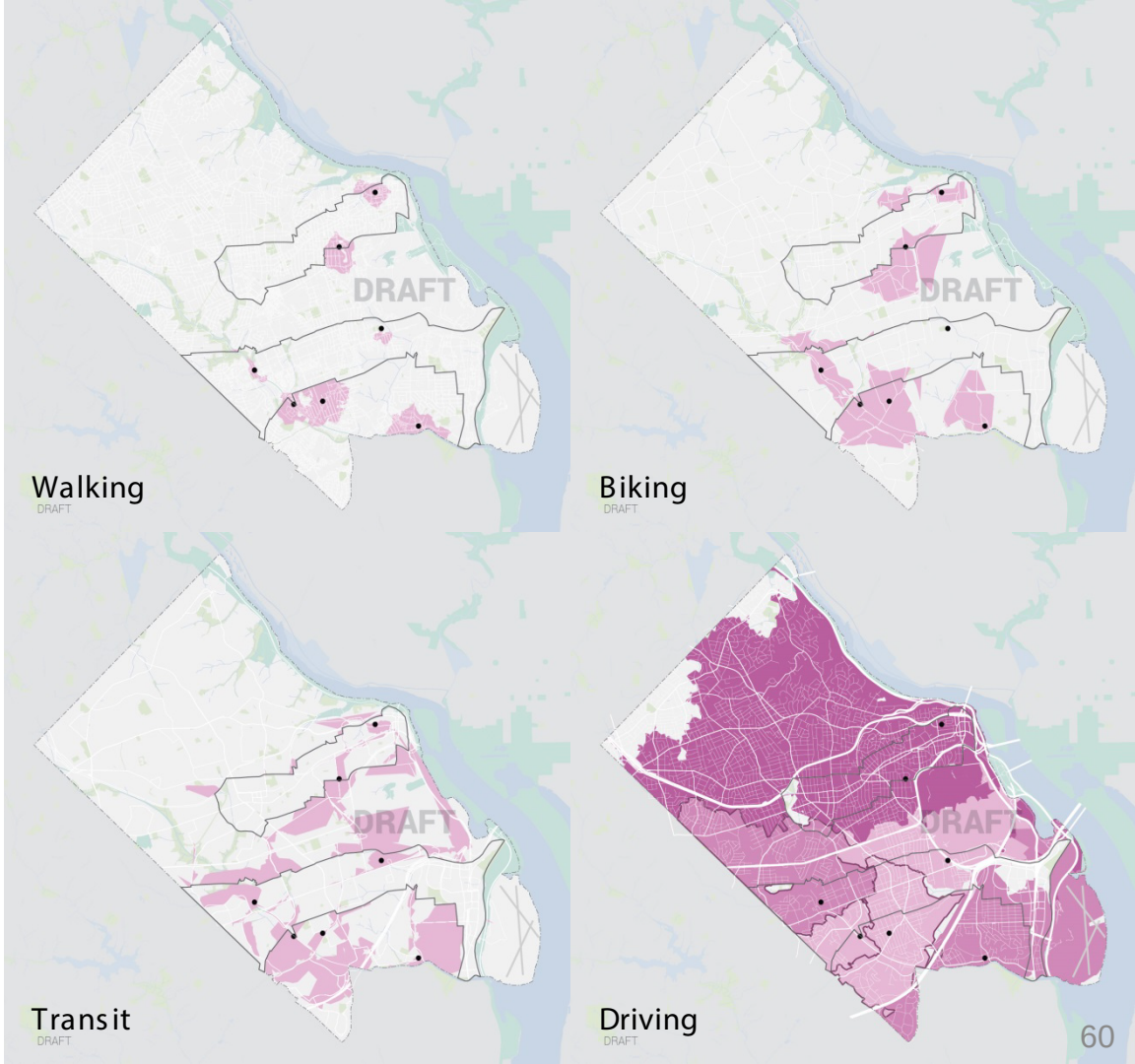
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO COMMUNITY GARDENS

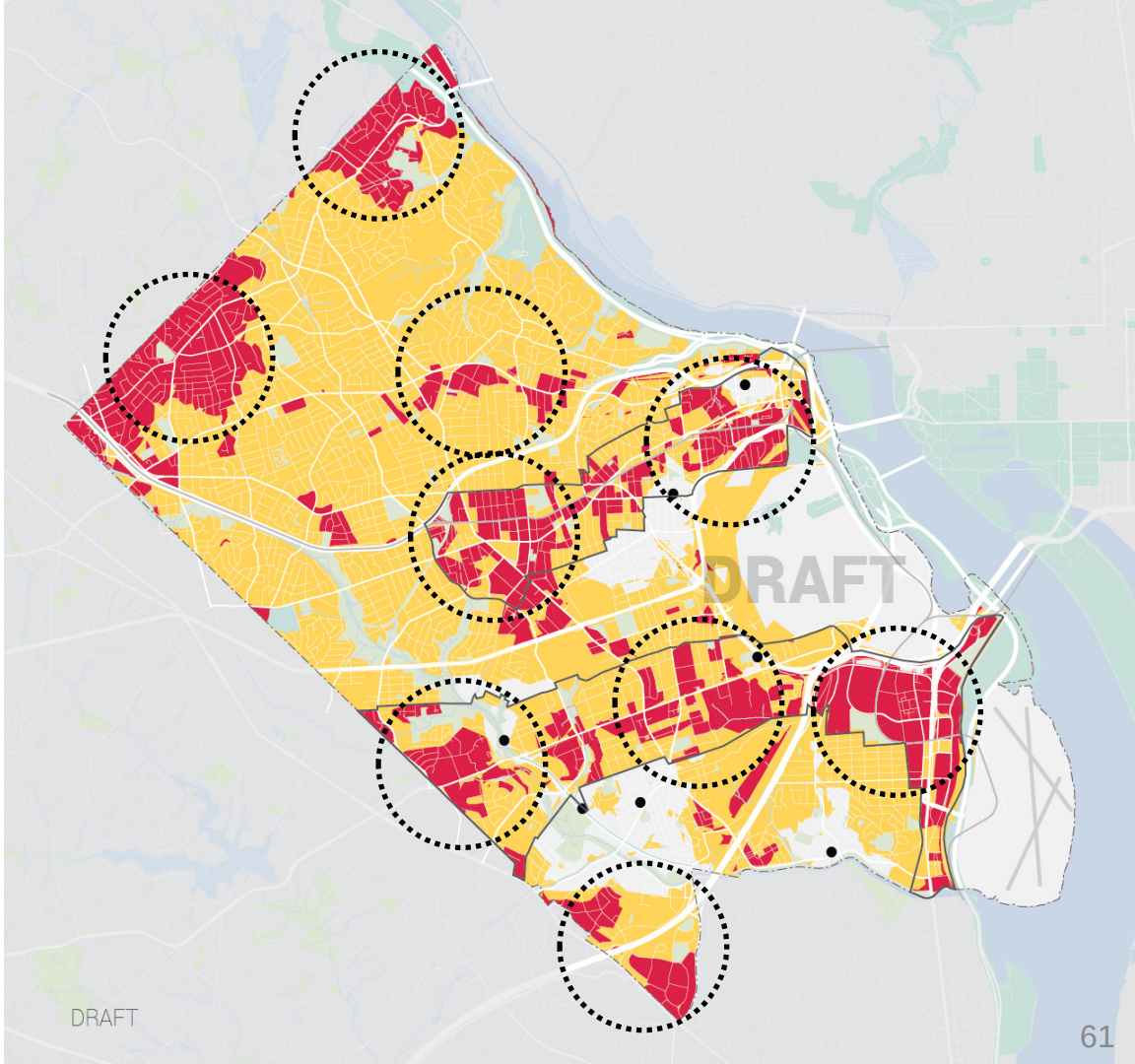
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	87	+0	+0	+2	+10

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
miles	48.4	+19	+26	+33	+40

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

● ▲ available for community use

○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

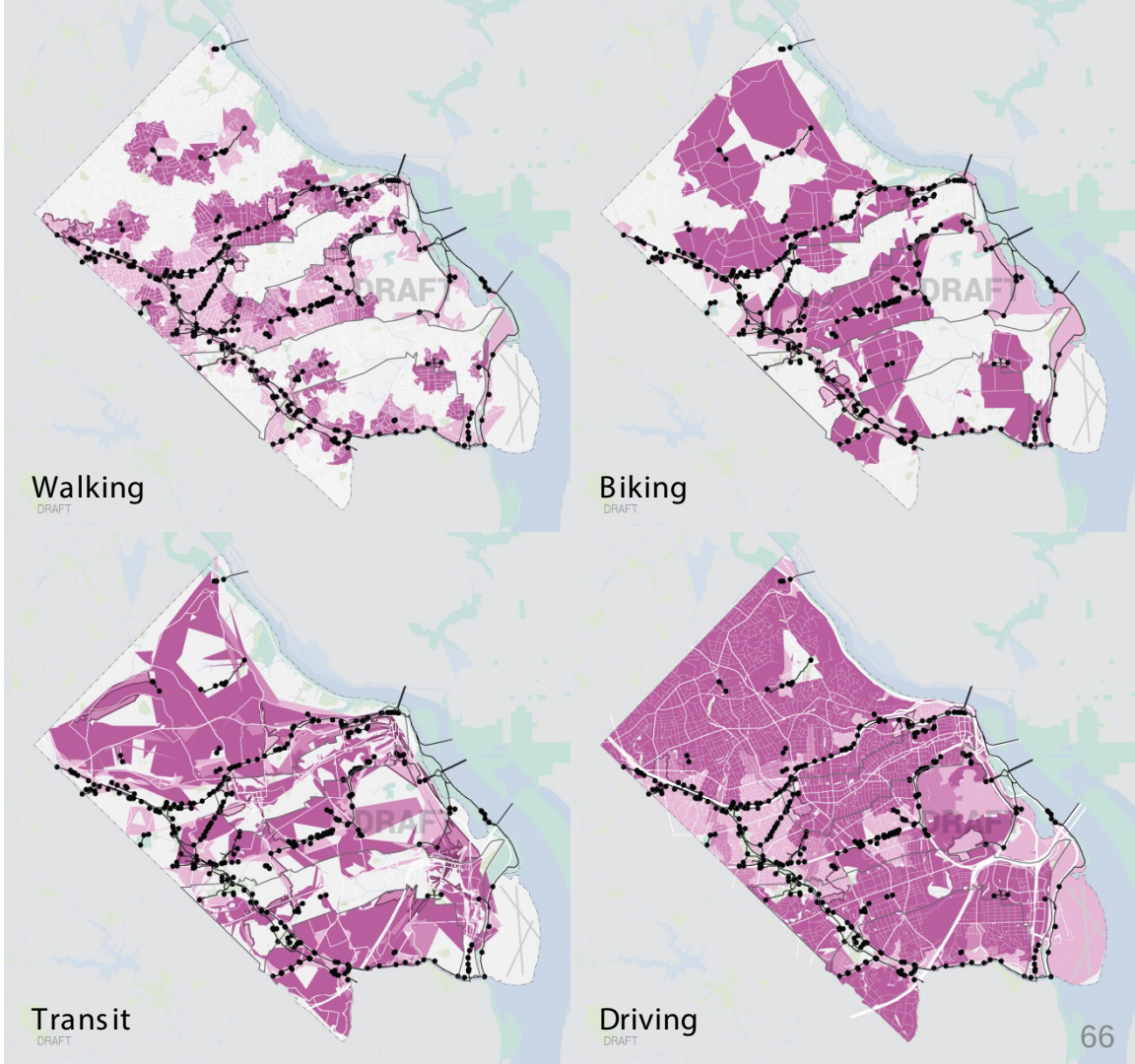
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

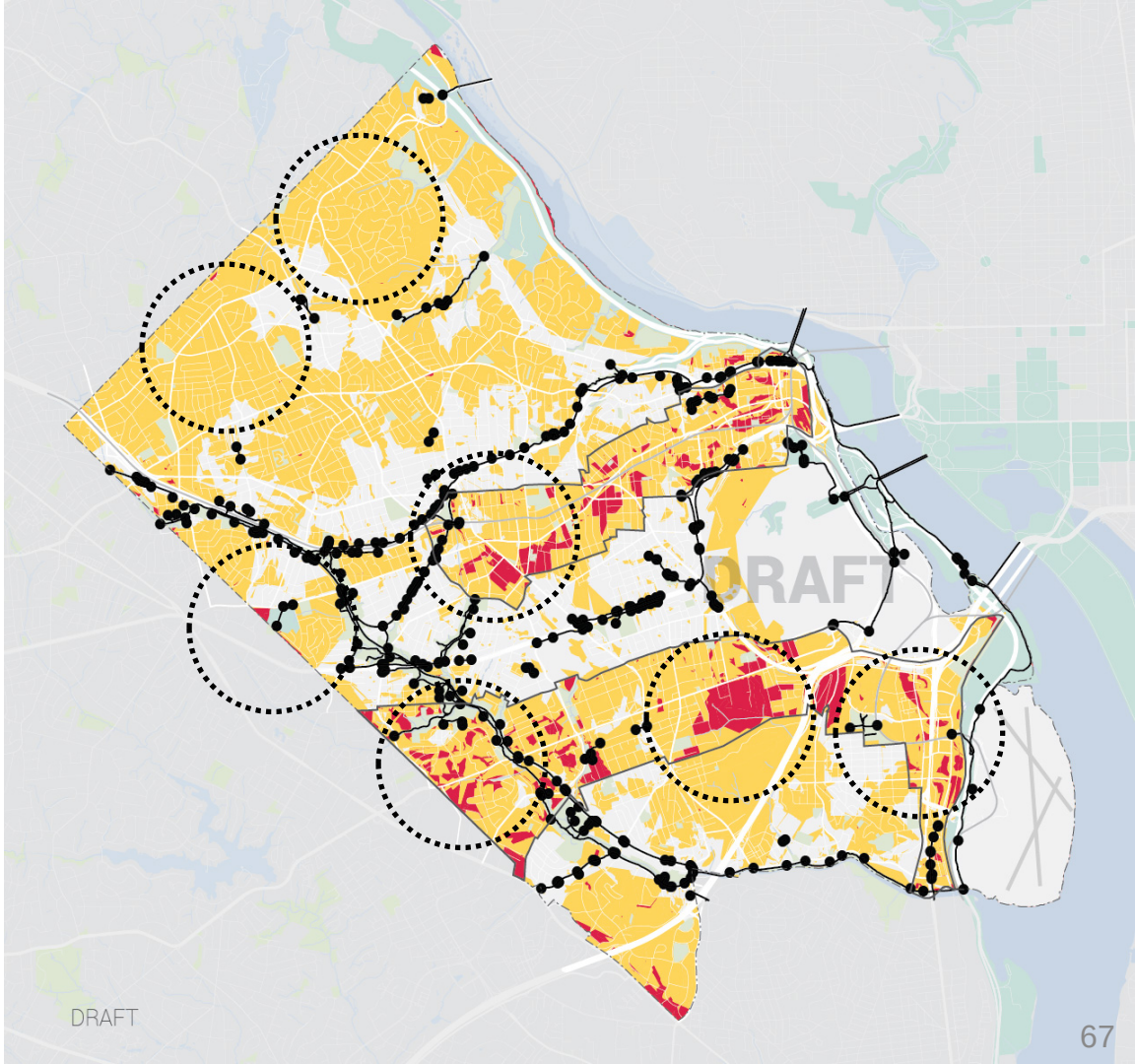
Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
miles	48.4	+19	+26	+33	+40



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	8	+1	+2	+3	+4

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

● ▲ available for community use

○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

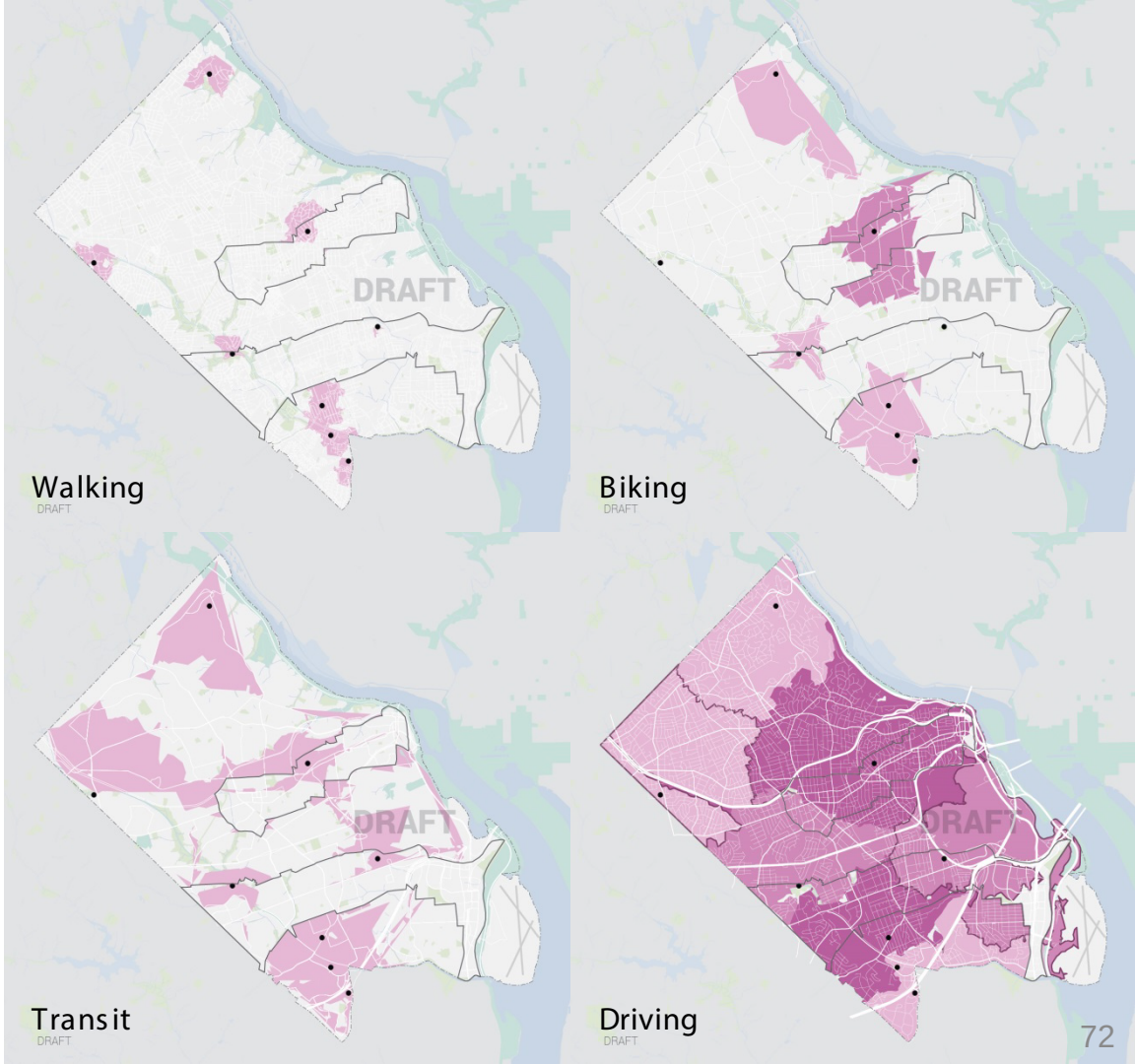
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

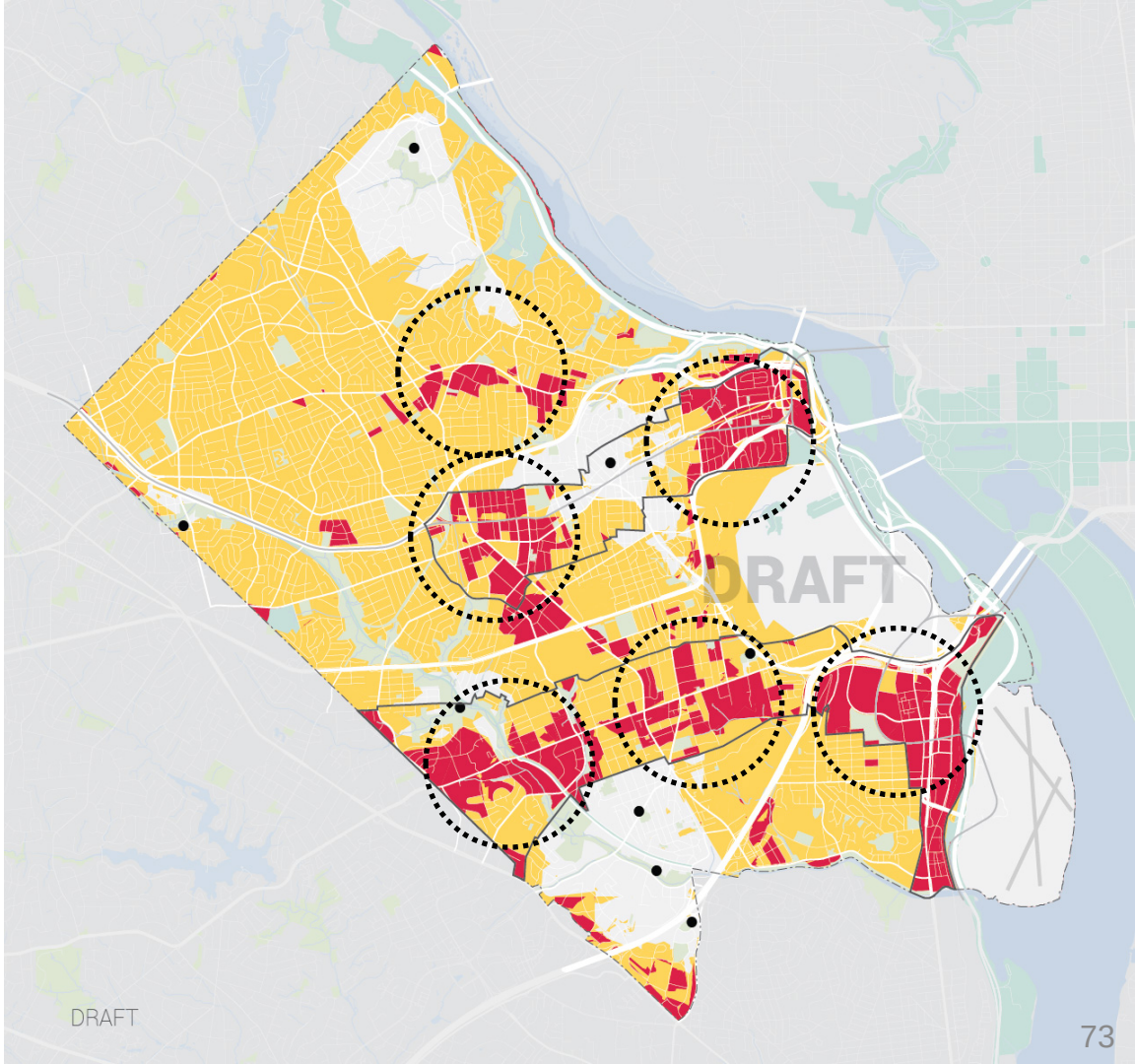
Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	8	+1	+2	+3	+4



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO PLAYGROUNDS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	126	+1	+14	+27	+40

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

● ▲ available for community use

○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

population 80 -120% avg.

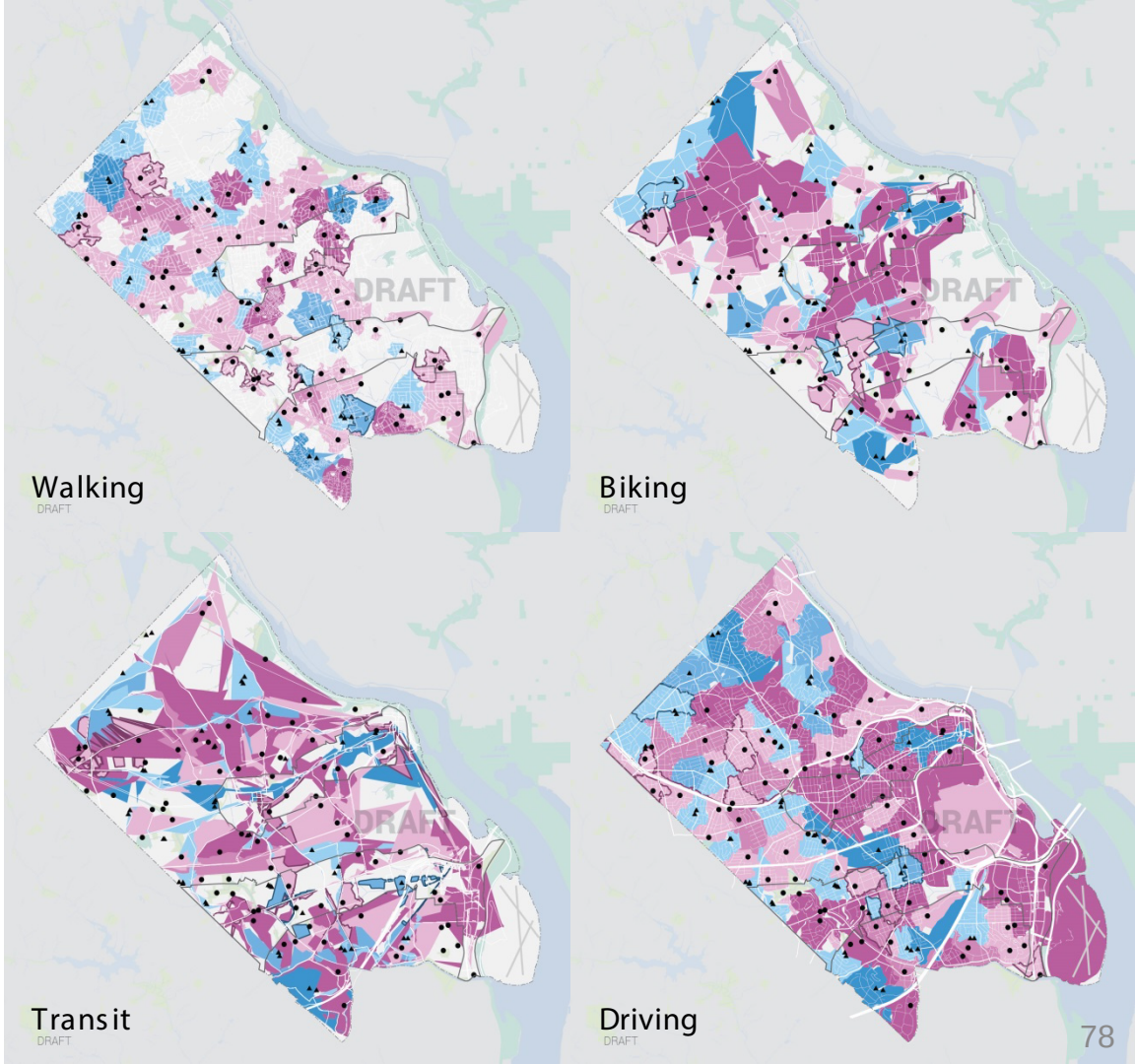
population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas 5 min

Low Density Areas 10 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO PLAYGROUNDS

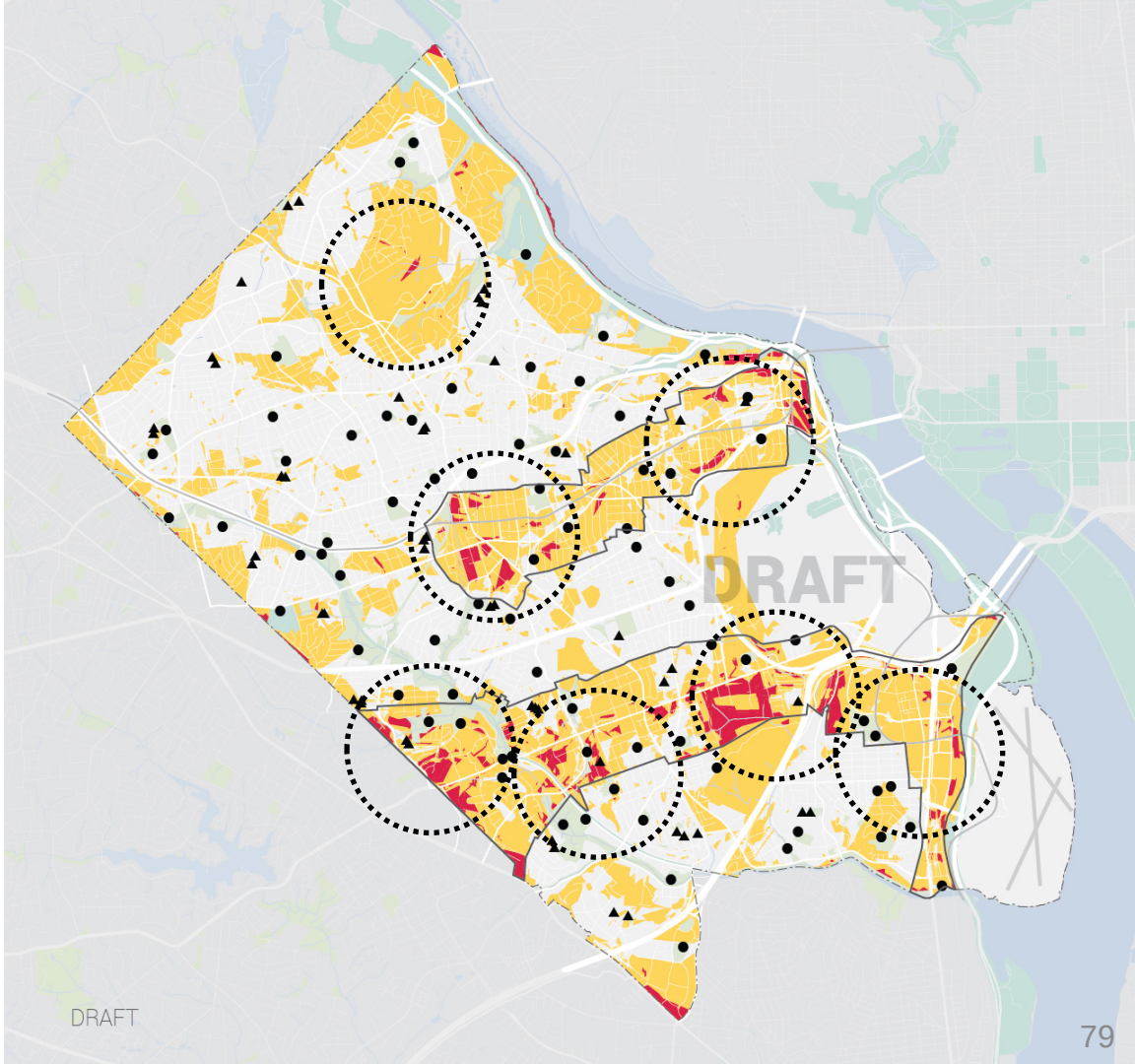
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	126	+1	+14	+27	+40

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Inventory					
	Unit	County	APS	Pub. Eas.	Other	Total
Diamond Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	29.5	13.5			43
Tennis Courts (includes half courts)	each	72	20			92
Picnic Areas	each	42		1	2	45
Rectangular Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	28.5	22.5	1	1	53
Volleyball Courts	each	10				10

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Level of Service					
	Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey	Recm. Std.
Diamond Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	[1/] 5,152	[1/] 4,107	[1/] 6,000	Low	[1/] 5,100
Tennis Courts (includes half courts)	each	[1/] 2,408	[1/] 3,768	[1/] 4,000	Medium	[1/] 2,400
Picnic Areas	each	[1/] 4,924	N/A	[1/] 6,000	Medium	[1/] 4,500
Rectangular Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	[1/] 4,180	[1/] 3,643	[1/] 6,000	Medium	[1/] 4,000
Volleyball Courts	each	[1/] 22,156	N/A	[1/] 12,000	Low	[1/] 14,000

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Level of Service					
	Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
Diamond Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	[1/] 5,153	[1/] 5,000	[1/] 5,688	[1/] 6,188	[1/] 6,728
Tennis Courts (includes half courts)	each	[1/] 2,408	[1/] 2,400	[1/] 2,658	[1/] 2,892	[1/] 3,144
Picnic Areas	each	[1/] 4,924	[1/] 4,500	[1/] 5,435	[1/] 5,913	[1/] 6,429
Rectangular Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	[1/] 4,180	[1/] 4,000	[1/] 4,615	[1/] 5,021	[1/] 5,458
Volleyball Courts	each	[1/] 22,156	[1/] 14,000	[1/] 24,457	[1/] 26,609	[1/] 28,928

standard met
standard not met

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Level of Service					
	Unit	Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
Diamond Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	43	+1	+5	+10	+14
Tennis Courts (includes half courts)	each	92	+1	+10	+19	+29
Picnic Areas	each	45	+5	+10	+15	+20
Rectangular Fields (includes ½ combination fields)	each	53	+3	+9	+14	+20
Volleyball Courts	each	10	+2	+3	+4	+5

standard met
standard not met

AREAS WITH ACCESS TO DIAMOND FIELDS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	43 (33)	+2	+6	+11	+15

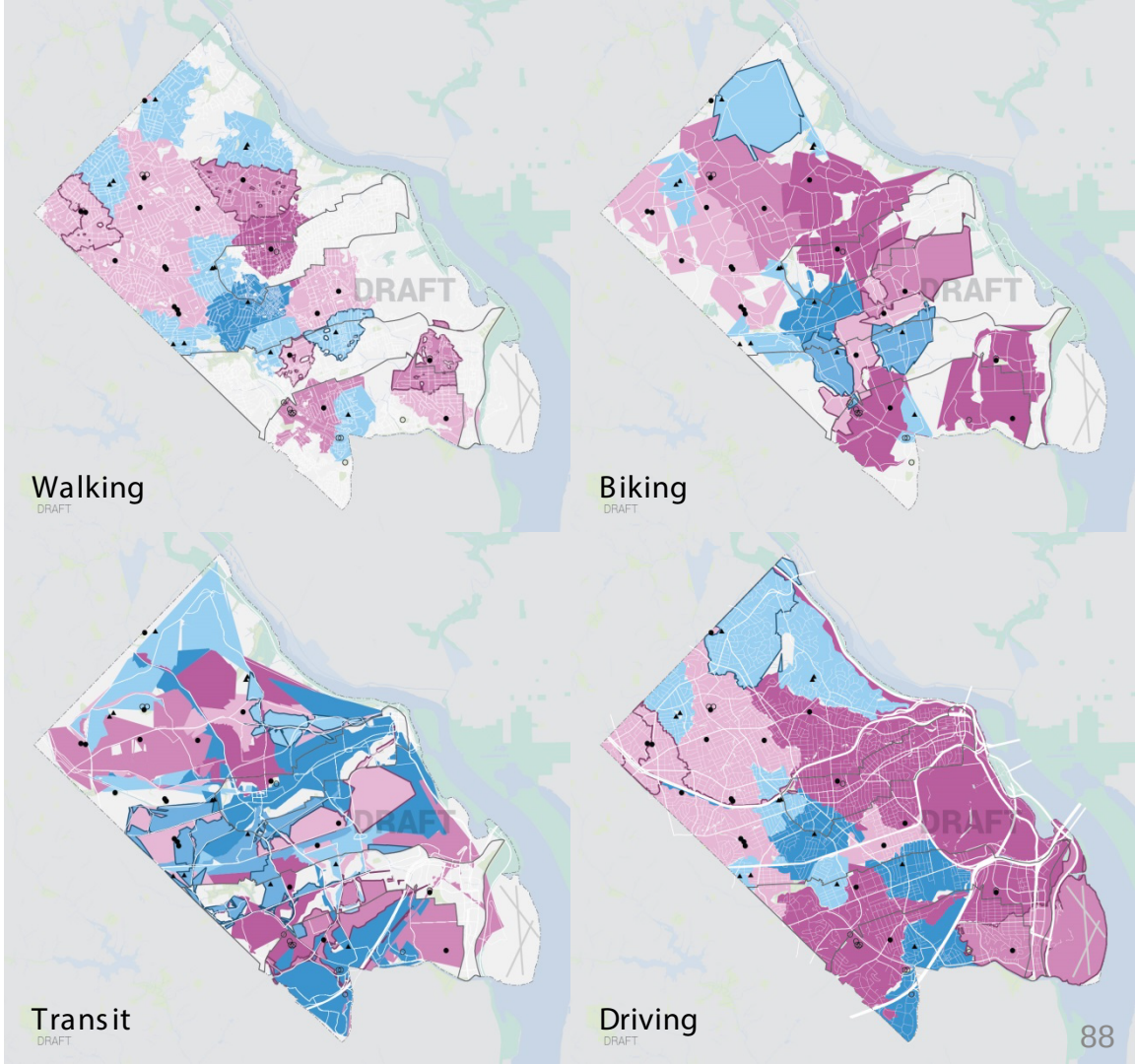
County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

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

Travel Time

High Density Areas	10 min
Low Density Areas	20 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO DIAMOND FIELDS

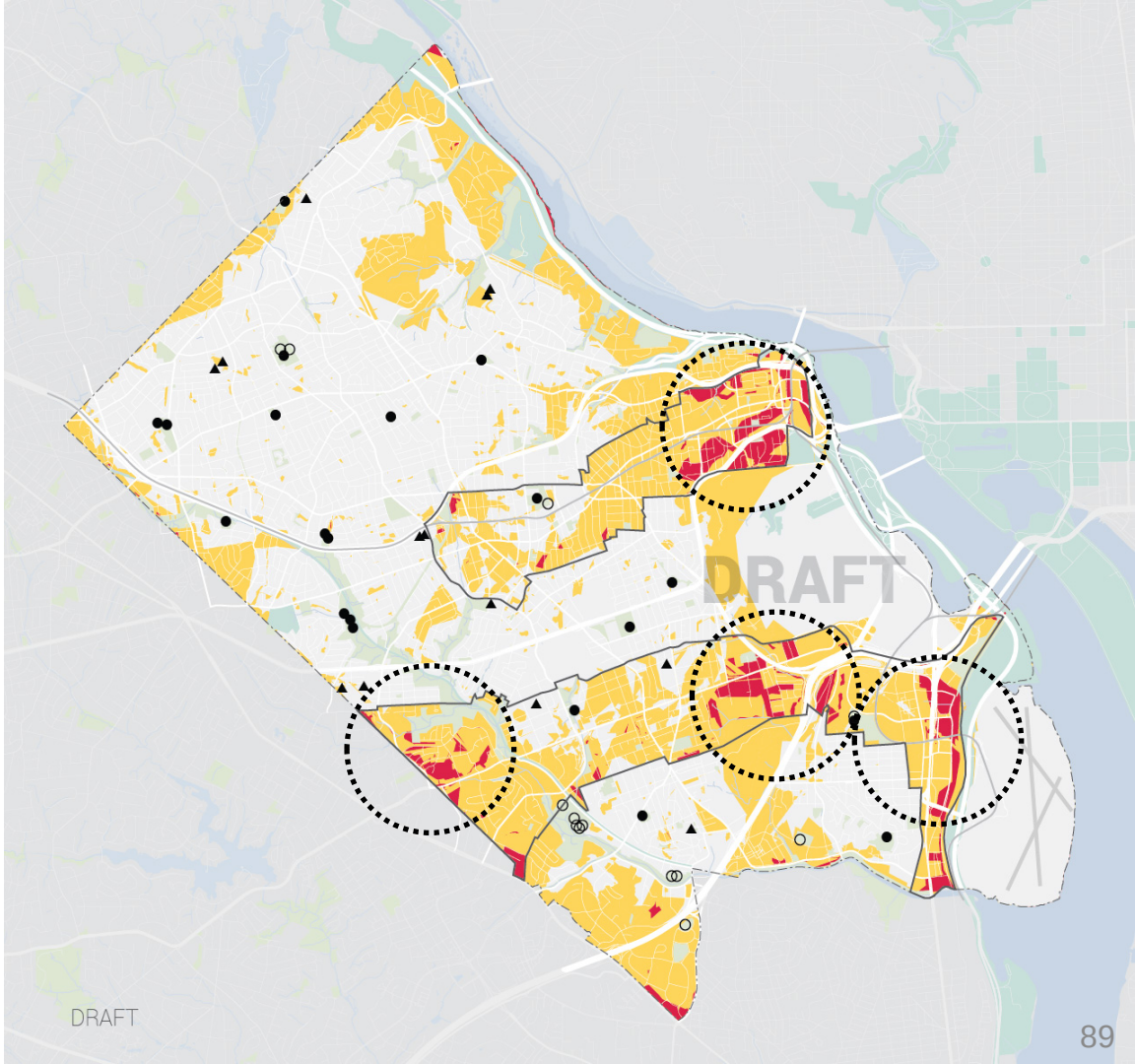
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	43 (33)	+2	+6	+11	+15

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



DRAFT

AREAS WITH ACCESS TO TENNIS COURTS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	92	+1	+10	+19	+29

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

● ▲ available for community use

○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

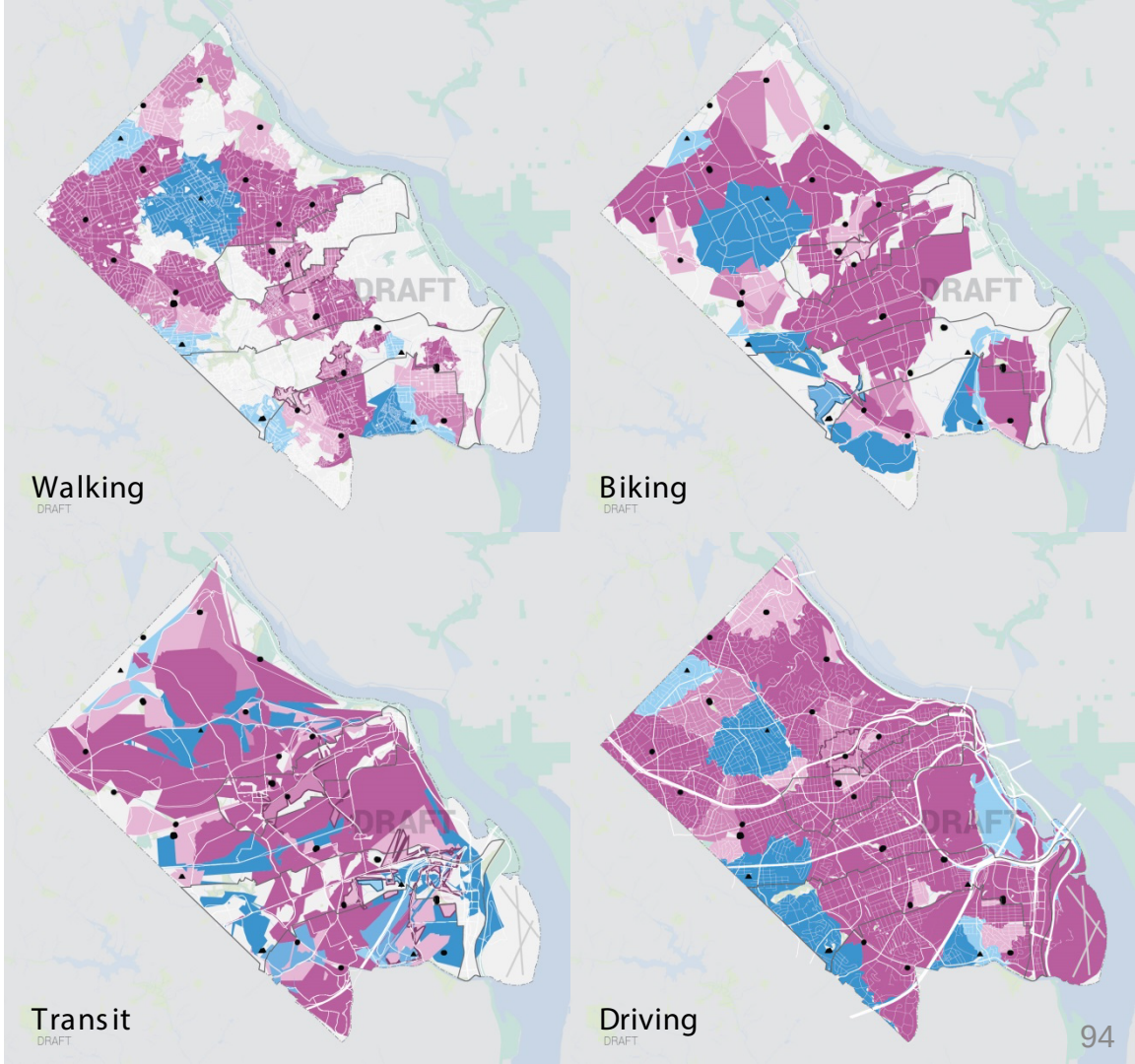
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas	10 min
Low Density Areas	20 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO TENNIS COURTS

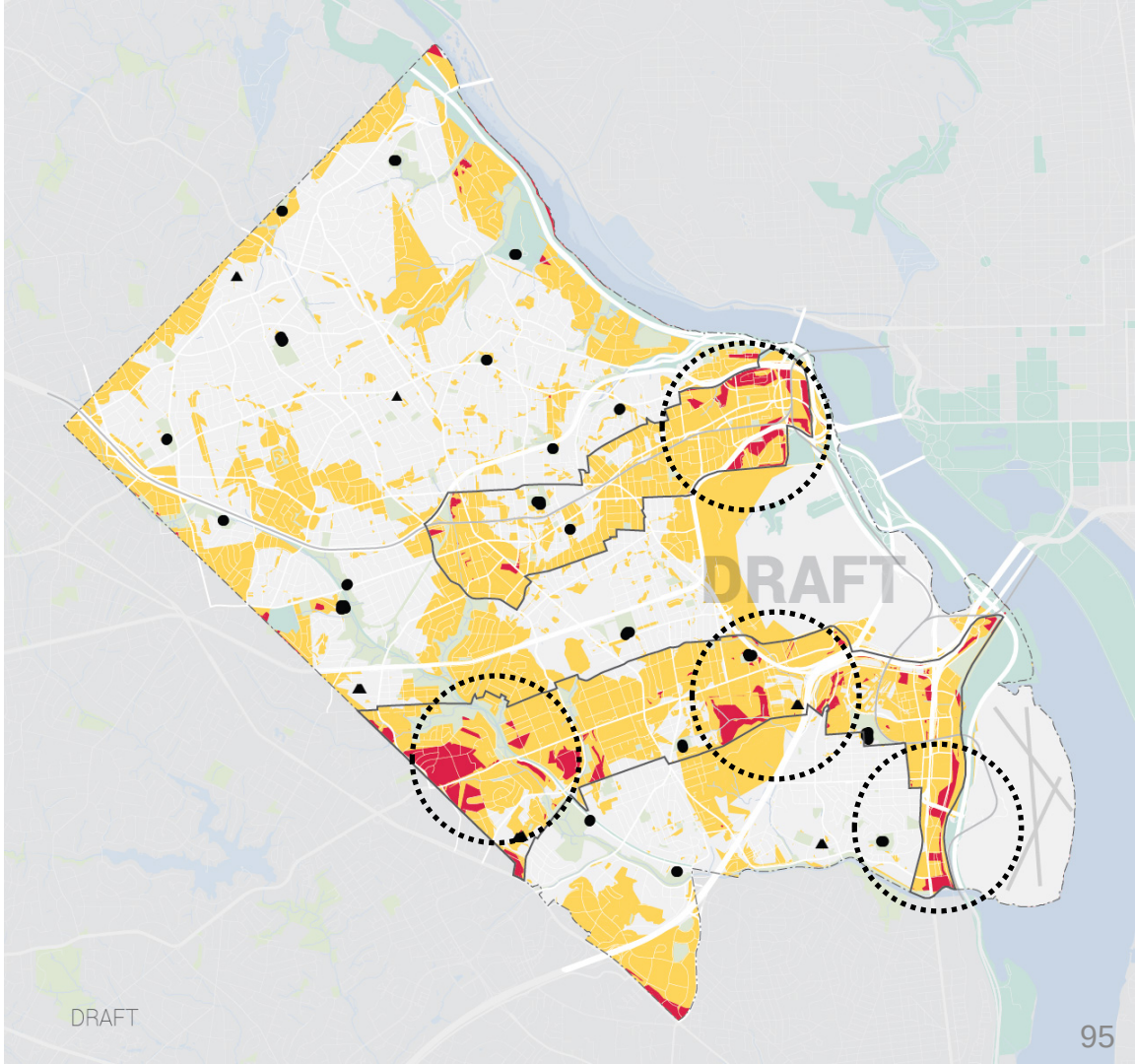
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	92	+1	+10	+19	+29

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



DRAFT

AREAS WITH ACCESS TO PICNIC AREAS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	45	+5	+10	+15	+20

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

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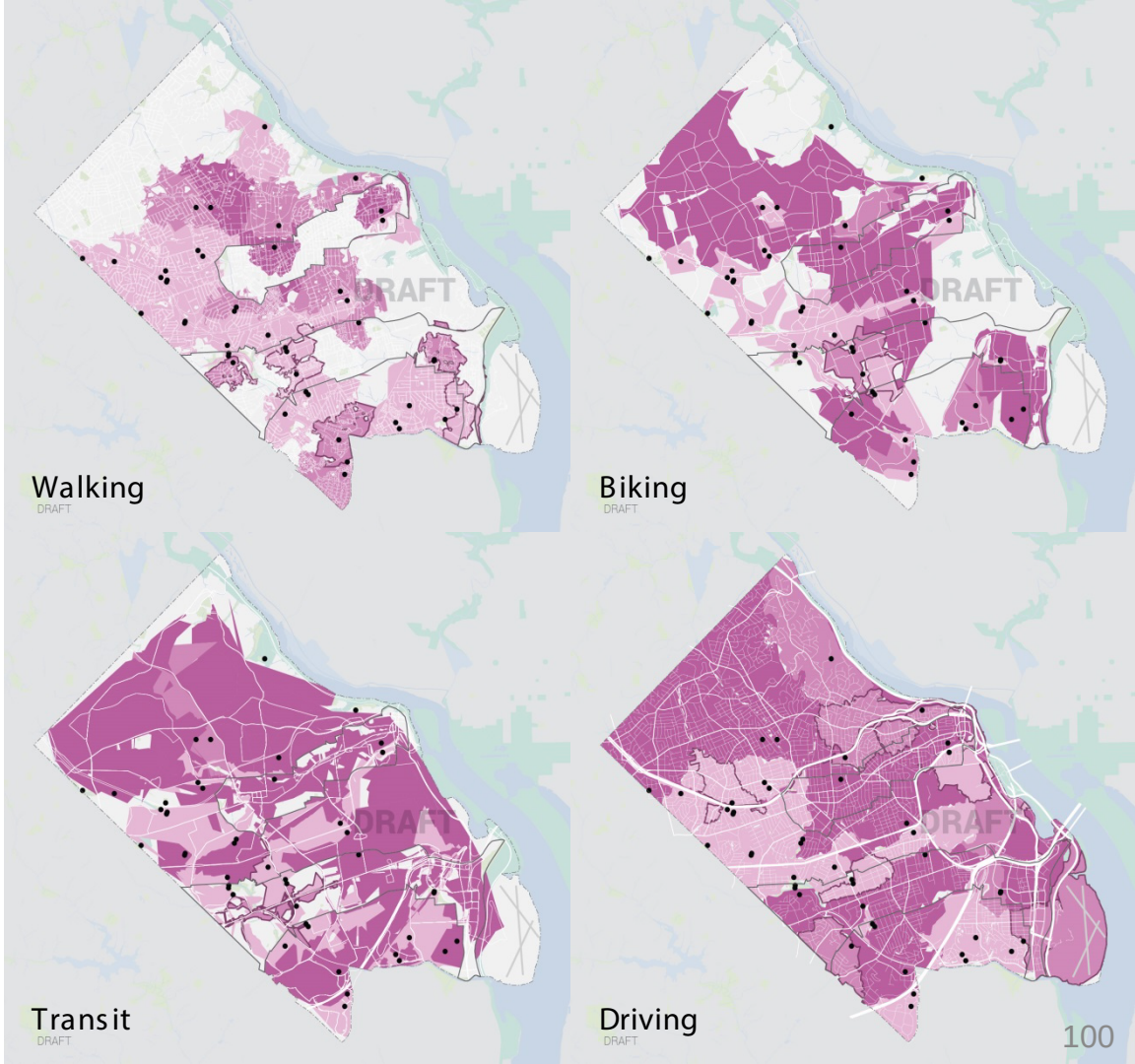
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas	10 min
Low Density Areas	20 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO PICNIC AREAS

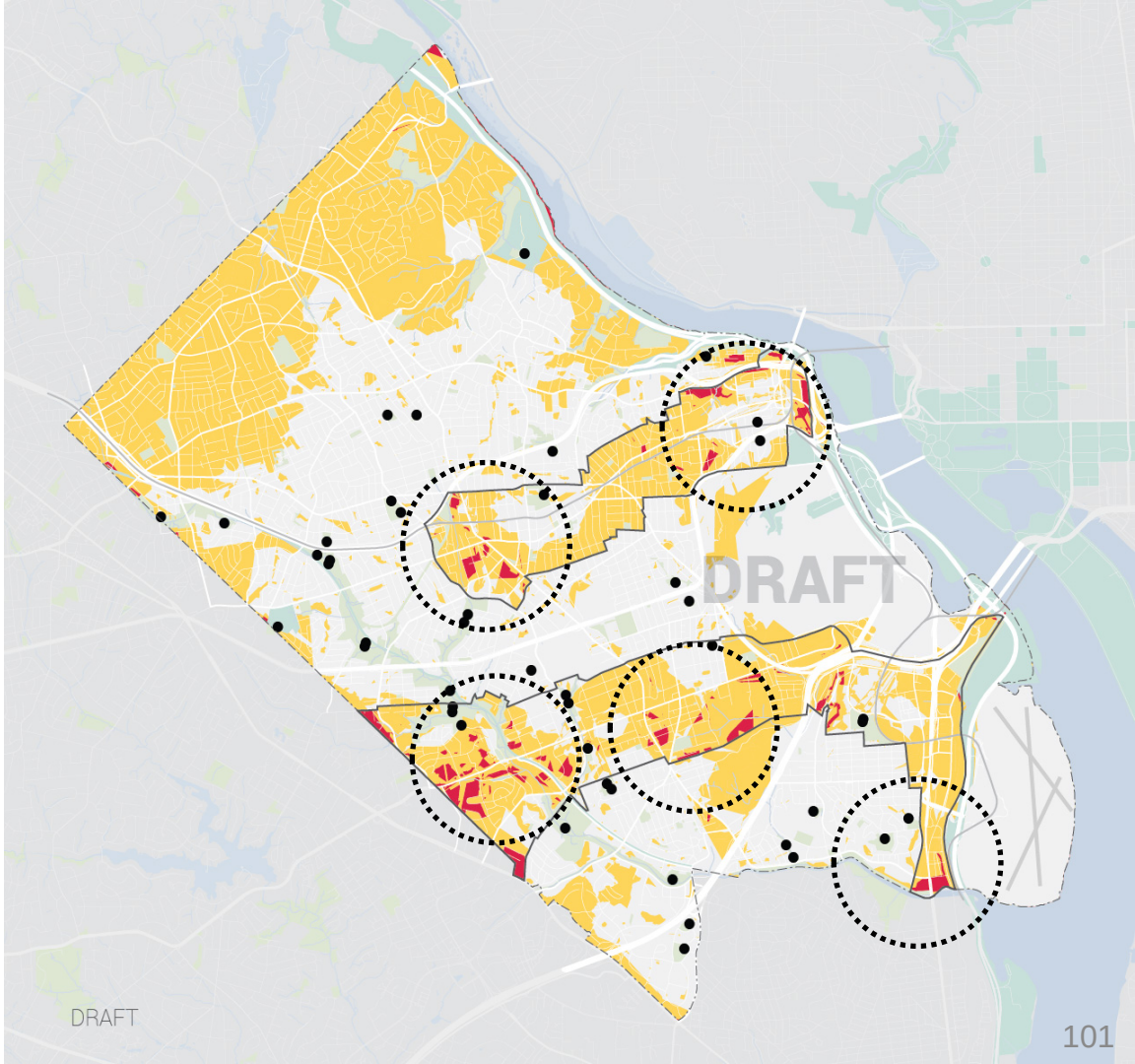
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	45	+5	+10	+15	+20

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO RECTANGULAR FIELDS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	53 (51)	+3	+9	+14	+20

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

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population < 80% avg.

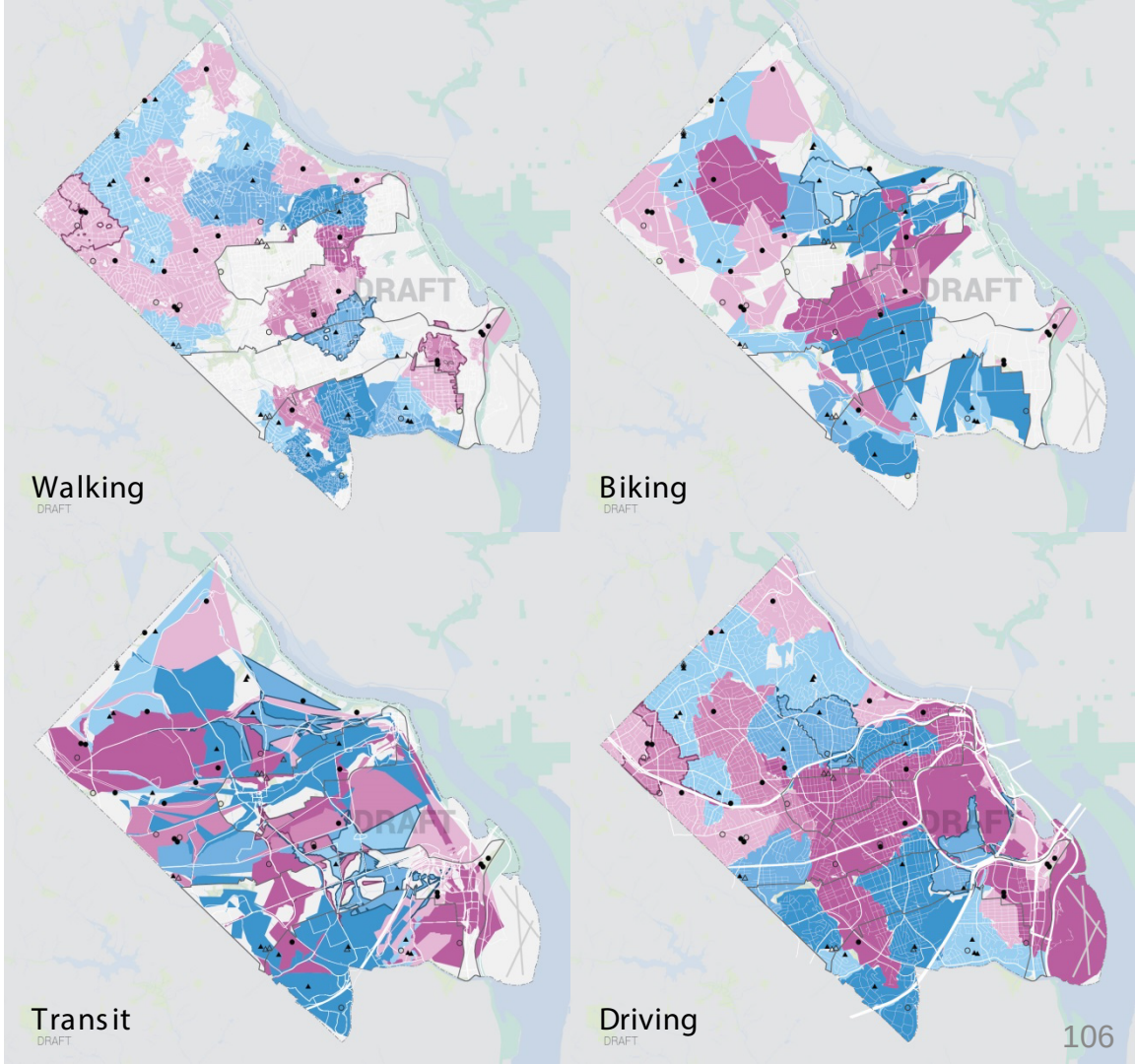
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas	10 min
Low Density Areas	20 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO RECTANGULAR FIELDS

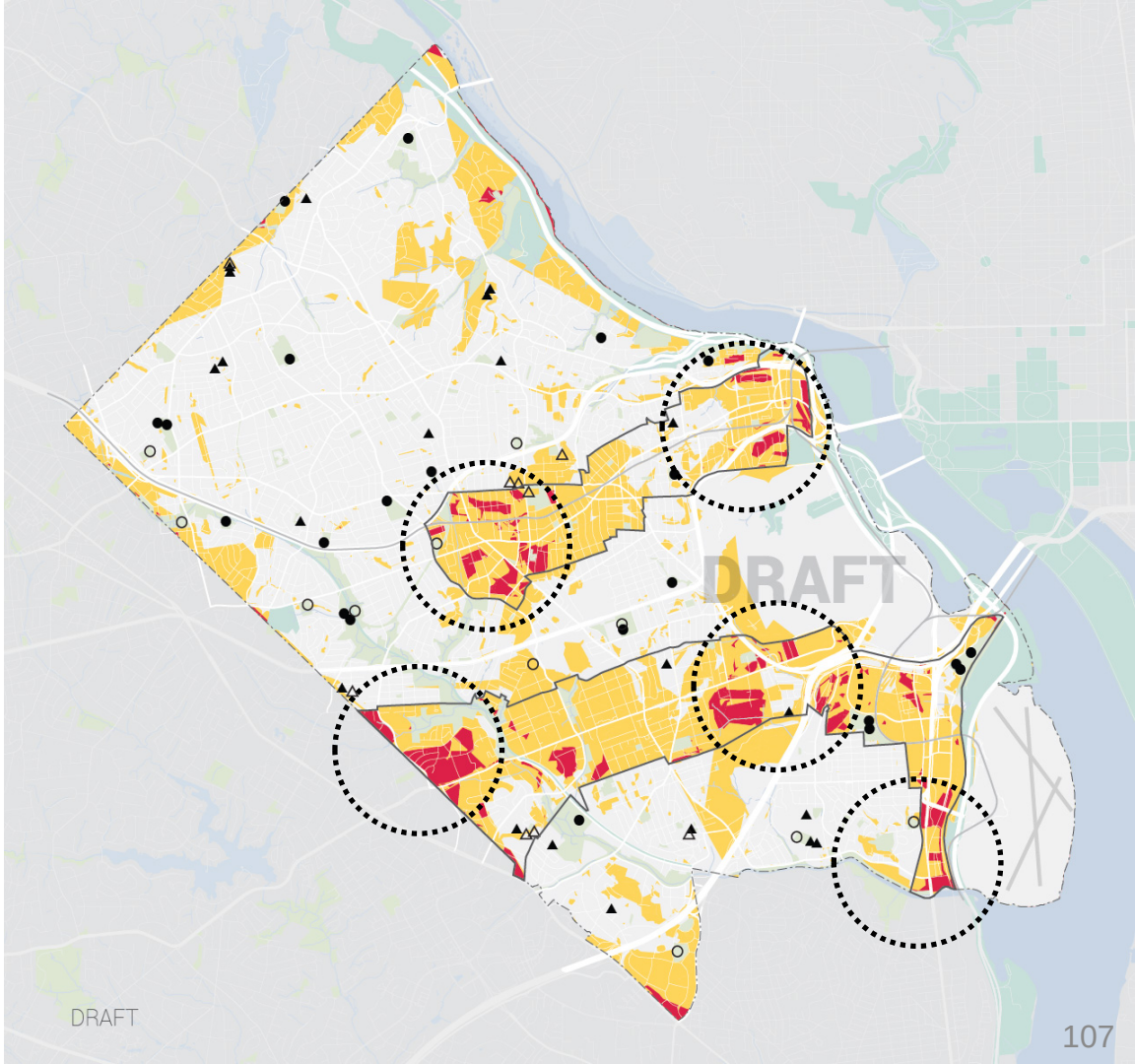
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	53 (51)	+3	+9	+14	+20

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO VOLLEYBALL COURTS

Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	10	+6	+8	+10	+11

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

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○ △ permit only use (service not calculated)

population < 80% avg.

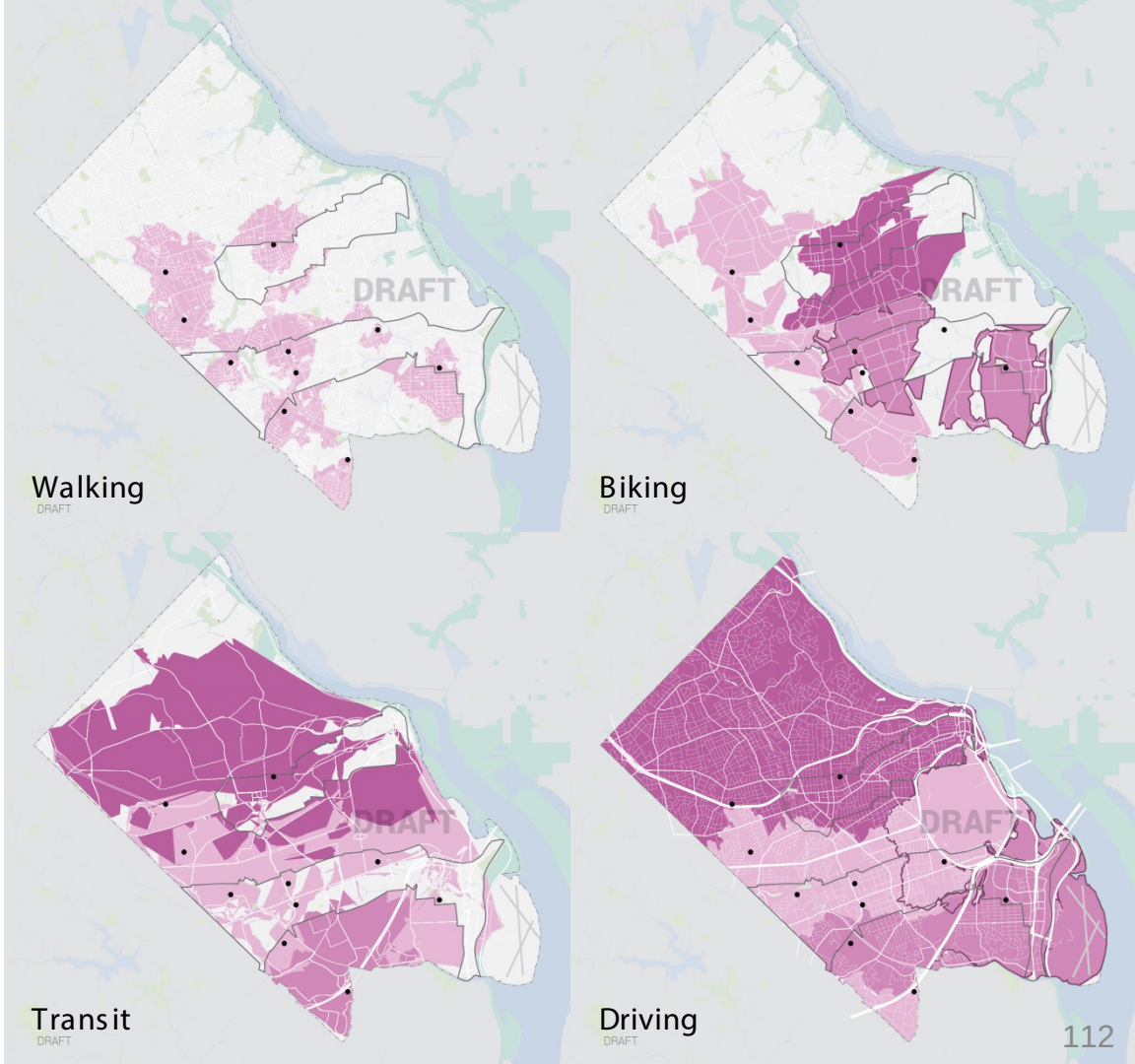
population 80 -120% avg.

population > 120% avg.

2045 population will change category

Travel Time

High Density Areas	10 min
Low Density Areas	20 min



AREAS WITH ACCESS TO VOLLEYBALL COURTS

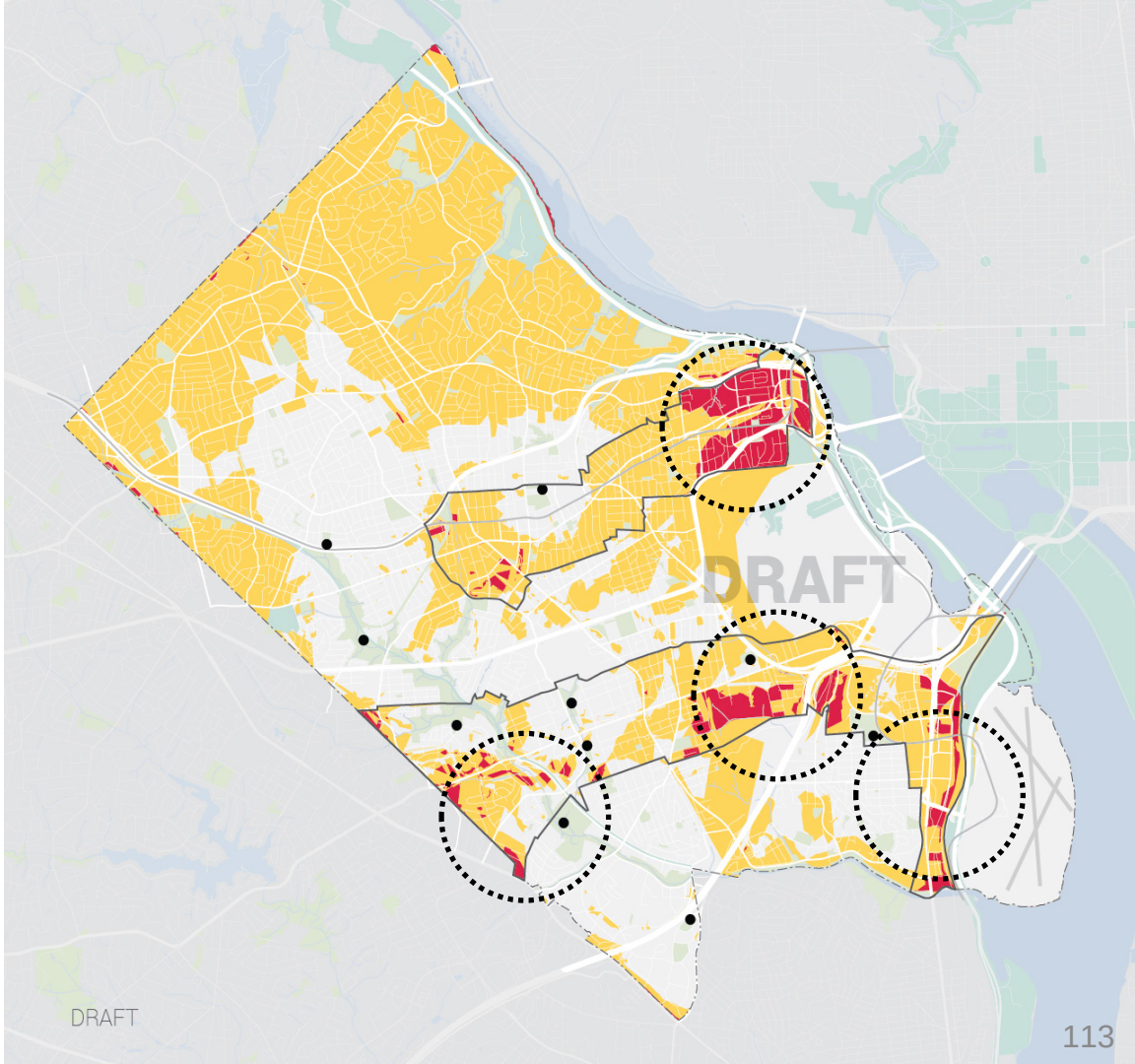
Unit	Current	RecmStd	2025	2035	2045
each	10	+6	+8	+10	+11

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



DRAFT

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Inventory					
	Unit	County	APS	Pub. Eas.	Other	Total
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	each	15				15
Hiking Trails	miles					14.5
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each		3		1	4
Natural Resource Conservation Areas	acres	129.6				129.6
Nature Centers	each	2			1	3
Skate Parks	each	1				1
Small Game Courts (bocce, h-ball, petanque, multi, unmk.)	each	13		1		14
Spraygrounds	each	4	1			5
Tracks (includes indoor track at TJ)	each	3	2			5

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Level of Service					
	Unit	Current	Peer Med.	Typical	Survey	Recm. Std.
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	each	[1/] 14,771	[1/] 15,483	[1/] 30,000	Medium	[1/] 15,000
Hiking Trails	miles	[1/] 15,242	N/A	[1/] 10,000	High	[1/] 10,000
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	[1/] 55,390	N/A	[1/] 40,000	High	[1/] 40,000
Natural Resource Conservation Areas	acres	[1/] 1,710	N/A	[1/] 333	High	[1/] 1,538
Nature Centers	each	[1/] 73,853	[1/] 110,900	[1/] 50,000	Medium	[1/] 65,000
Skate Parks	each	[1/] 221,560	[1/] 118,851	[1/] 40,000	Low	[1/] 100,000
Small Game Courts (bocce, h-ball, petanque, multi, unmk.)	each	[1/] 15,826	N/A	[1/] 6,000	Low	[1/] 14,000
Spraygrounds	each	[1/] 44,312	N/A	[1/] 45,000	Medium	[1/] 42,500
Tracks (includes indoor track at TJ)	each	[1/] 44,312	N/A	[1/] 45,000	N/A	[1/] 44,000

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Unit	Level of Service: Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	each	1/ 14,771	1/ 15,000	1/ 16,305	1/ 17,739	1/ 19,286
Hiking Trails	miles	1/ 15,242	1/ 10,000	1/ 16,825	1/ 18,306	1/ 19,901
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	1/ 55,390	1/ 40,000	1/ 61,143	1/ 66,523	1/ 72,321
Natural Resource Conservation Areas	acres	1/ 1,710	1/ 1,538	1/ 1,887	1/ 2,053	1/ 2,232
Nature Centers	each	1/ 73,853	1/ 65,000	1/ 81,524	1/ 88,697	1/ 96,428
Skate Parks	each	1/ 221,560	1/ 100,000	1/ 244,572	1/ 266,091	1/ 289,284
Small Game Courts (bocce, h-ball, petanque, multi, unmk.)	each	1/ 15,826	1/ 14,000	1/ 17,469	1/ 19,007	1/ 20,663
Spraygrounds	each	1/ 44,312	1/ 42,500	1/ 48,914	1/ 53,218	1/ 57,857
Tracks (includes indoor track at TJ)	each	1/ 44,312	1/ 44,000	1/ 48,914	1/ 53,218	1/ 57,857

standard met
standard not met

LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Amenity	Unit	Level of Service: Current	Recm. Std.	2025	2035	2045
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	each	15	+0	+2	+3	+5
Hiking Trails	miles	14.5	+8	+10	+13	+15
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	4	+2	+3	+3	+4
Natural Resource Conservation Areas	acres	129.6	+15	+30	+44	+59
Nature Centers	each	3	+1	+1	+2	+2
Skate Parks	each	1	+2	+2	+2	+2
Small Game Courts (bocce, h-ball, petanque, multi, unmk.)	each	14	+2	+4	+6	+7
Spraygrounds	each	5	+1	+1	+2	+2
Tracks (includes indoor track at TJ)	each	5	+1	+1	+2	+2

■ standard met
■ standard not met

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Population-Based Standards

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

+

Access Standards

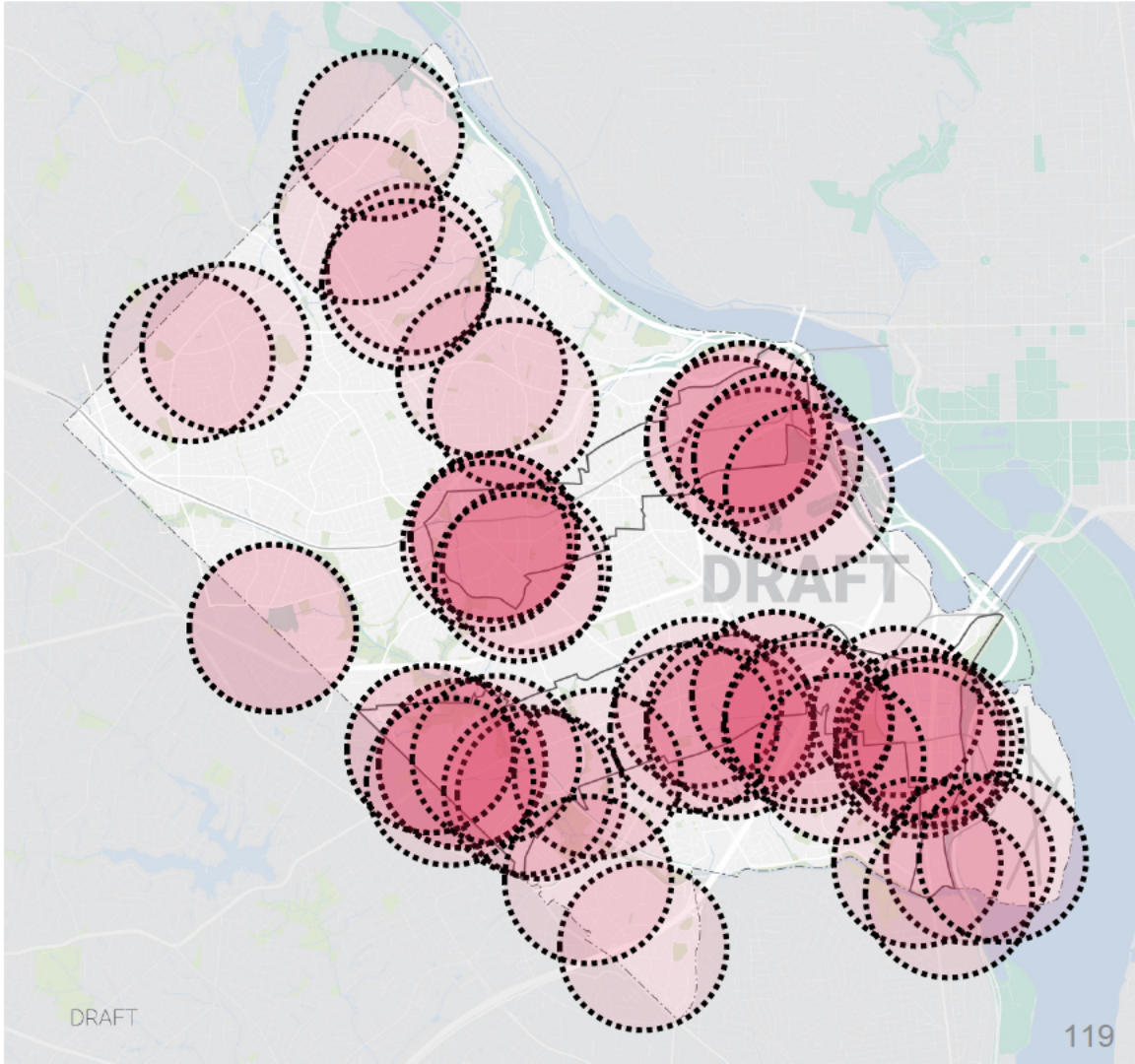
- How close should residents be to a type of facility?
- How does that compare with where the facilities are?

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

POTENTIAL AREAS OF FOCUS

Access Ranking

potential
areas of focus



UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACES

- minimally improved
- may include constructed amenities, such as a picnic shelter or athletic court
- minimally programmed, available and open for public use at least 50% of the year
- accessible to the public by public right-of-way or paved/unpaved paths
- large enough to accommodate a range of recreational activities
- free of structures or materials that limit activities to one very specific type of recreational use
- available for public use, which includes sites that are privately owned with public access easements.

UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACES?

Alcova Heights Park Basketball Court

Barcroft Park NRCA

UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACES?

Rocky Run Park Community Field

Palisades Trail

UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACES?

Community Garden (South 9th and Rolfe Streets)

Big Walnut Park

AREAS WITH ACCESS TO UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACES

Unit	Current	Rec. Std.	2025	2035	2045
each					

County, NOVA Parks, Public Easement | Arlington Public Schools

always publicly accessible | *restricted public access at certain times*

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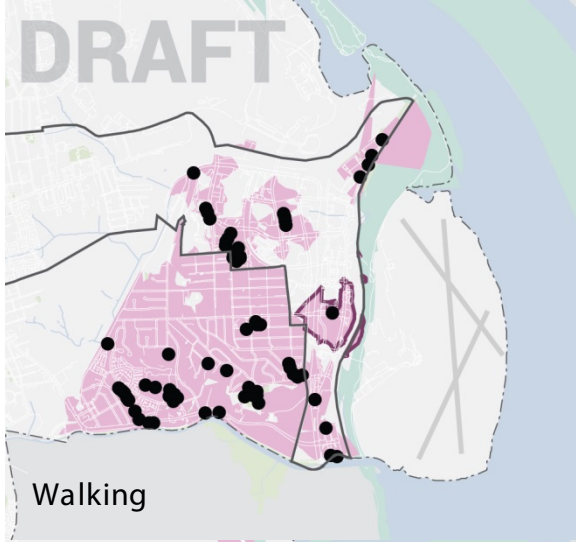
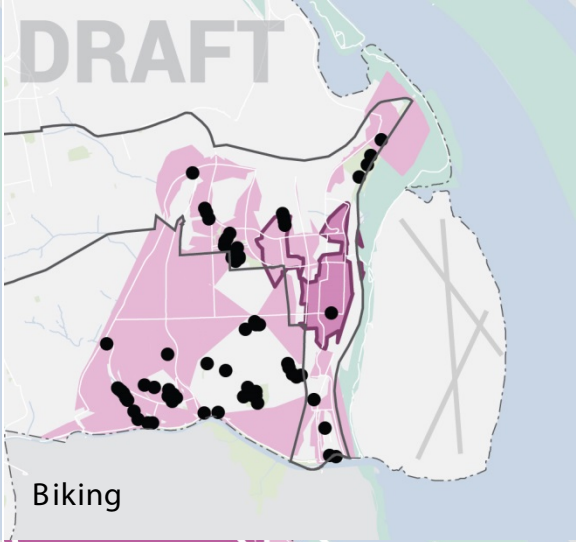
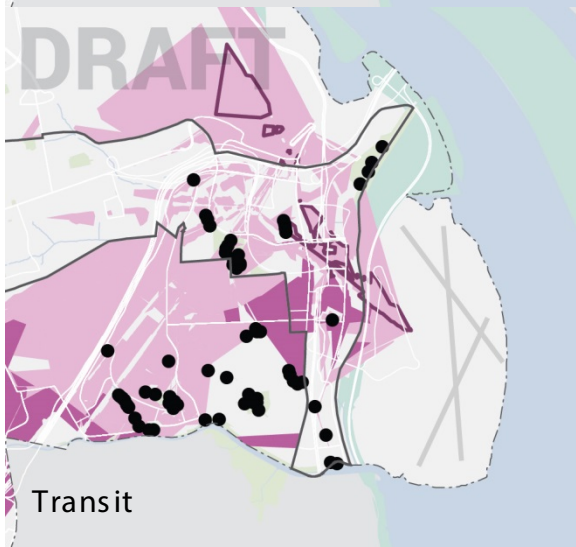
- population 80-120% avg.
- population > 120% avg.
- 2045 population will change category

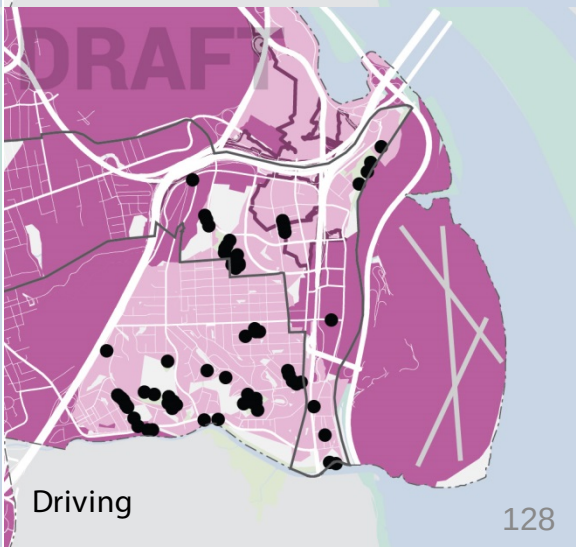
Travel Time

High Density Areas	5 min
Low Density Areas	10 min









AREAS WITH ACCESS TO UNPROGRAMMED OPEN SPACES

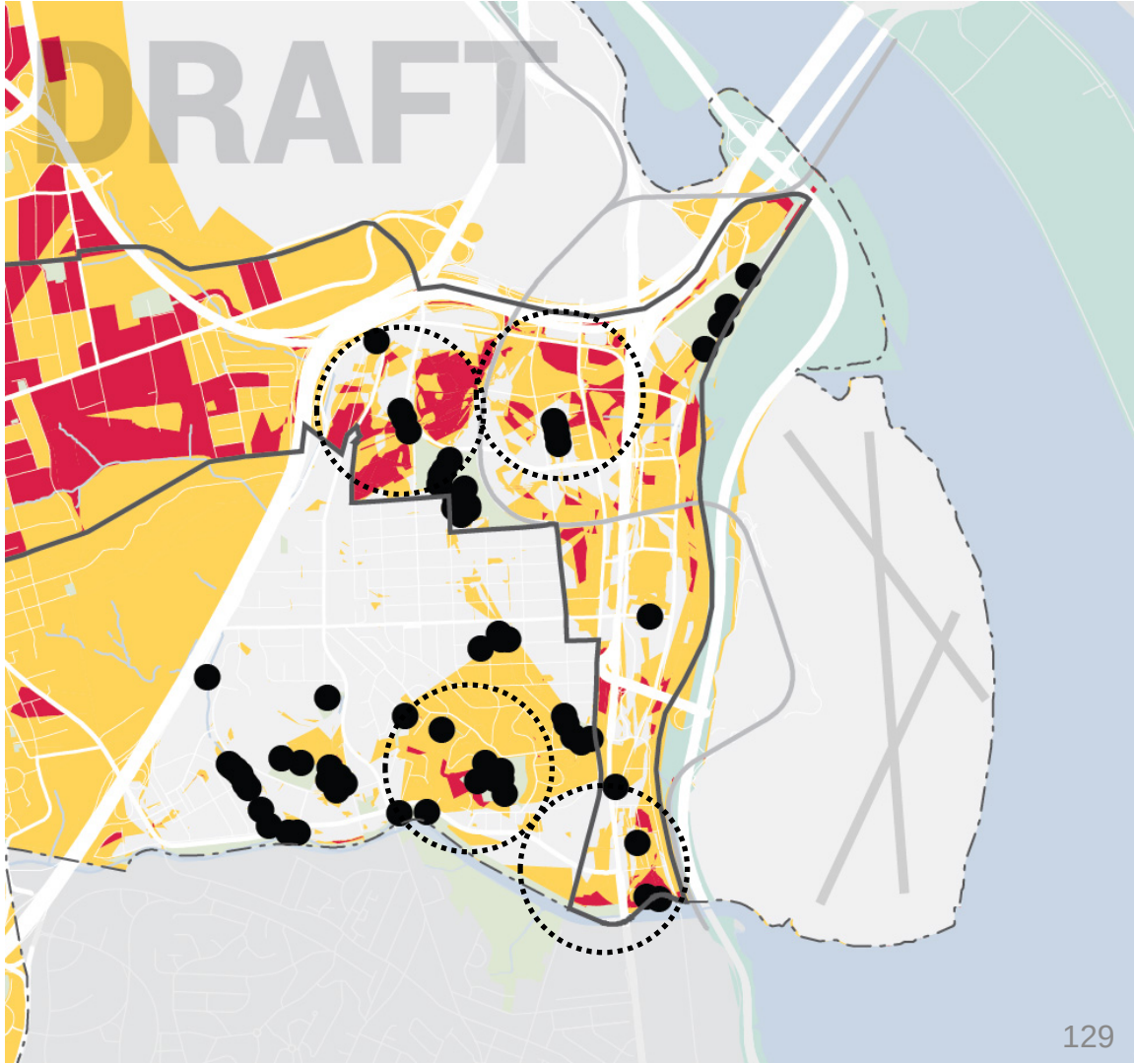
Unit	Current	Rec. Std.	2025	2035	2045
each					

Access Ranking

most need (worst access)

least need (best access)

potential areas of focus



SHOULD THESE SPACES INCLUDE?

2	1. Amphitheaters
7	2. Areas with Picnic Shelters
3	3. Aux Buildings (restrooms, concessions)
0	4. Batting Cages, Dugouts, Bullpens
3	5. Community Athletic Fields
2	6. Community Gardens
5	7. Disc Golf

SHOULD THESE SPACES INCLUDE?

6	1. Fire Rings
6	2. Forested Areas w/wo Seating
8	3. Grill / Picnic Areas
0	4. Indoor Pools
6	5. Landscaped Areas w/wo Seating
6	6. Large Tracts of Land with Trails
1	7. Multi-Use, Paved Athletic Courts

SHOULD THESE SPACES INCLUDE?

7	1. Natural Land w/o Access to ROW
6	2. Natural Land w/o Trails
7	3. Natural Resource Conservation Areas
8	4. Open Lawn w/wo Seating
4	5. Outdoor Fitness Stations
0	6. Outdoor Pools
0	7. Outdoor Storage Sites

SHOULD THESE SPACES INCLUDE?

3	1. Outdoor Tracks
2	2. Parking Lots
0	3. Permit Only Athletic Fields
4	4. Playgrounds
0	5. Skateparks
1	6. Spraygrounds

WHAT IS A VISION STATEMENT?

It describes a desired future and should be:

VISION STATEMENT OPTIONS

1. Arlington County's parks, recreation spaces, natural areas, urban spaces, and trails enhance the community's quality of life and instill pride by connecting people to nature and to each other.

VISION STATEMENT OPTIONS

2. Arlington County envisions a diverse, connected system of parks, trails, natural resources, and recreation spaces that enriches the lives of all residents, workers, and visitors.

VISION STATEMENT OPTIONS

3. Arlington County's vision is for enhanced quality of life and civic participation inspired by a network of public spaces that connect people to natural areas and provide opportunities for recreation.

VISION STATEMENT OPTIONS

1. Arlington County's parks, recreation spaces, natural areas, urban spaces and trails enhance the community's quality of life and instill pride by connecting people to nature and to each other.

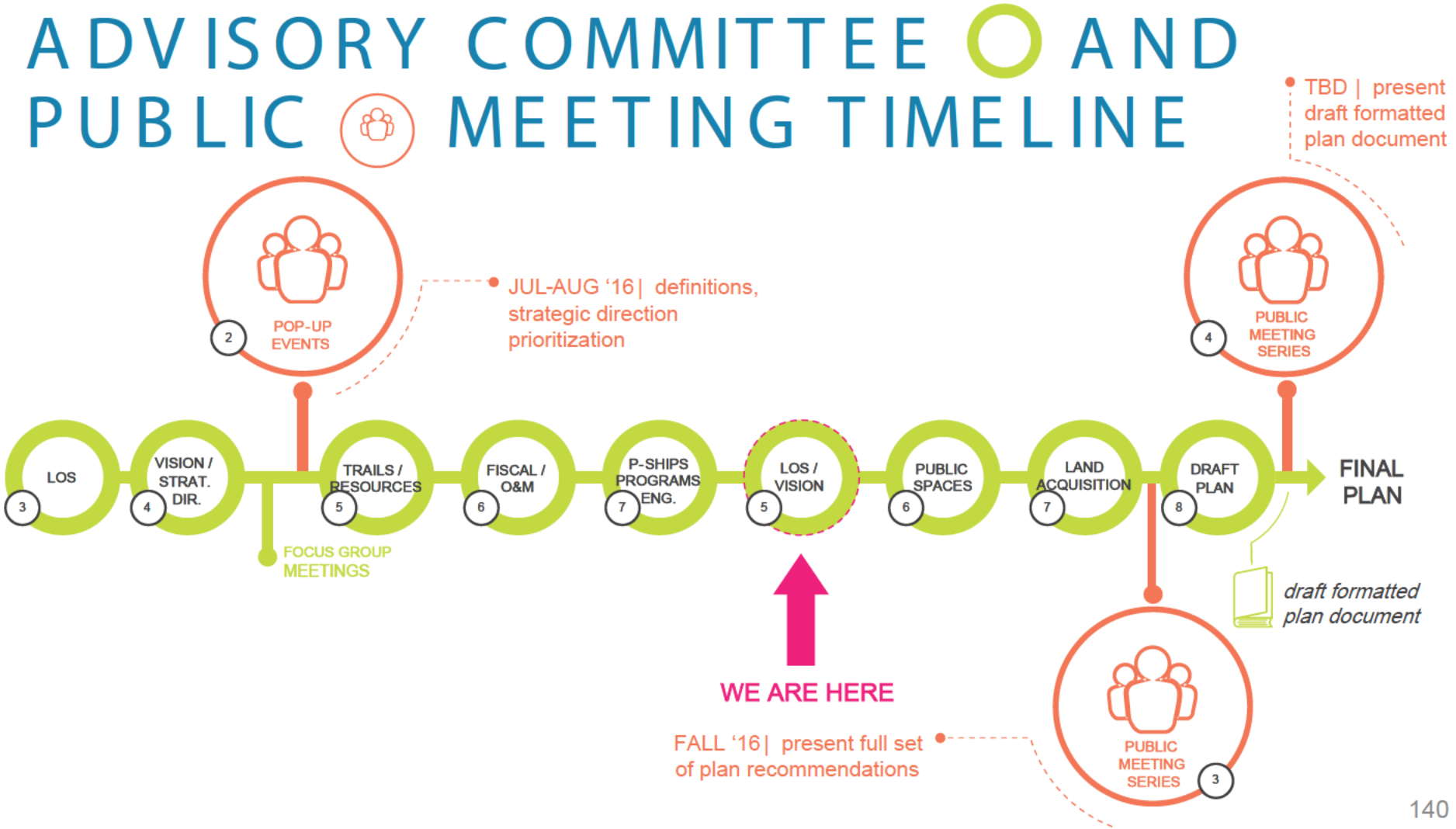
2. Arlington County envisions a diverse, connected system of parks, trails, natural resources, and recreation spaces that enriches the lives of all residents, workers, and visitors.

3. Arlington County's vision is for enhanced quality of life and civic participation inspired by a network of public spaces that connect people to natural areas and provide opportunities for recreation.

WHICH OPTION DO YOU PREFER?

25%	1. Vision Statement 1
38%	2. Vision Statement 2
38%	3. Vision Statement 3

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUBLIC MEETING TIMELINE



VISIONING CHARRETTE

Purpose

- An invited event devoted to a call for ideas for the physical form of Arlington's public spaces system

Goals

- Provide a different mode of engagement
- Seek informed input on the form or Arlington's public spaces
- Brainstorm ideas that may not otherwise rise to the surface
- Test prior ideas that may be of interest but have no organized public support
- Reach different target audience (physical designers, advocates, community leaders)
- Focus on different aspect of POPS: the physical plan
- Challenge the community to add value to the process by providing physical design input
- Provide more visibility for POPS
- Add energy to the POPS process and generate excitement about Arlington's spaces

VISIONING CHARRETTE

Timeframe

- 9am–3pm on a Thursday or Friday (early December)

Format

- Presentations followed by hands-on sketch workshop and synthesis

Potential Invitees

- POPS Advisory Committee
- Other commissions (HALRB, BAC, PAC, etc.)
- POPS Core Team
- DPR Staff
- Landscape architects
- Architects
- Planners/UDs
- Engineers
- Naturalists
- Artists
- Press?

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA | DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

ARLINGTON POPS

A Plan for Our Places and Spaces

LEVEL OF SERVICE / VISION STATEMENT

WRT | pros consulting | Barth Associates | vhb | The Trust for Public Land | etc Institute | Mary Means & Associates | recreation accessibility consultants, llc

Public Spaces Master Plan

PRELIMINARY DRAFT
6/28/2017

ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

AN ELEMENT OF ARLINGTON COUNTY'S
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN AT A GLANCE

Arlington's network of parks and public spaces that support recreation and leisure 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 co tinues to grow.

Arlington County envisions a rk of publicly- and privately-owned p spaces that connec ounty's established neighbo ods owing corridors to natural ar pr t able natural s, provi portunities for s tured casual reation, and ens cces Potomac River, Four Mile Ru their tr utaries.

Th n see o provide the foundation for a -integrated and robust network of publi aces to support that goal.

SECTION 1:

CONTEXT (P. 5)

The baseline conditions of and trends for Arlington's public ace system and a summary o esident and stakeholder engagement.

- VALUE OF PUBLIC SPACES
- PLANNING CONTEXT
- TRENDS
- EXISTING PUBLIC SPACE SYSTEM
- SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

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SECTION 2:

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (P. 63)

Eight high level policy statements that form the framework for actions that the County can take to better i public space system.

01 PUBLIC SPACES
02 TRAILS
03 RESOURCE STEWARDSH
04 PARTNERSHIPS
05 PROGRAMS
06 ENGAGE NT & MUNIC N
07 OPER NS & M TENANC
08 FISCAL S AI

SECTION 3:

ACTION PLAN (P 171)

A plementation plan showing wh esponsible for moving each action ard, along with estimated timefram nd cost.

SECTION 4:

PHYSICAL VISION PLAN (P. 203)

A comprehensive vision for what Arlington's public space system may look like in the future.

SECTION 5:

APPENDICES (P. 205)

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

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PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN PRIORITY ACTIONS

Within the strategic directions are a number of actions that stand out as priorities. These actions can be identified by the PRIORITY ACTION ***header.***

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

In public meetings, the most common phra ed to describe Arlington's public spaces was " more." Ove half of public survey respondents indicated e ld support acquisition to develop passive facilities ublic space could include additio d acquired by the public space developed by p ies privately developed spaces with publi ments, ion of vertical space. Over the past ar Coun has acquired a y 3.25 acr ew parkland per year.

» 1.1. *cure o nd the public spaces envisi ec dor, and other ns ado by the County Board — in ng the endon Sector Plan, Virginia Squ lan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rossly ector Plan, and Crystal City Sector Plan — nd ensure they provide amenities eet County needs. (p. 70)*

Ad pted 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 selection of amenities to be built in these spaces. As an example, the Courthouse Sector Plan envisions ew Courthouse Square as the premier place for onians to gather for conversation, recreation, rela and to celebrate important events. It will provide ralized 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.

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

Adopted park master plans exist but have not been fully implemented for Mosaic Park, Penrose Square, Four Mile Run, Rosslyn Highlands Park, and Jennie Dean Park.

» 1.2.7. *Update or develop park master plans with community input, to be adopted by the County Board, for approximately 10 parks that are in need of capital upgrades or are of high importance to the park system. (p. 78)*

A park master plan provides the County with a roadmap for the future of a particular park. A park

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master plan is a refined landscape and architectural plan with specific dimensions, materials, and facilities that identifies park expansion areas, elements that need to be fixed or restored, or elements that need to be completely overhauled. Where possible and desired, the County will prioritize multi-use spaces over single-use spaces.

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

Throughout the POPS process, the Advisory Committee and stakeholders expressed a strong need to preserve and create spaces that the community can use for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities—what this plan refers to as "casual use" spaces. Sometimes referred to as "unprogrammed" spaces, these spaces are as essential to a functioning public space system as spaces that support organized sports and recreation programs.

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

There may be occasions where there is a duplication or clustering of one type of amenity, resulting in ates for each. This represents an inefficient use of p sp As long as it would not overburden the remaining nities, the replacement of a duplicate with a different am help the County maximize th ting publi e.

1.6. *Ensure high-q visu hysical access to the Potom , Four Run, and thei s (p.*

The 2 Public Spac ter Plan hasized planning for Fo Run. In the A on POPS process, half of survey re nts indica hat natural areas and wildlife habitats are m por to their households—the second highest ra door 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. *Complete an "Arlington Circuit" of connected, protected multi-use trails. (p. 108)*

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 inc e safety and encourage more novice users to pa ate. Many of the strategies listed below tie into r dations in the Master Transportation Plan.

3.1. *Updat Natural Resources Management (p. 120)*

Natural Resources Management Plan was last updated in 2010. It names significant natural resources found in Arlington and provides recommendations and best ctices in order to enhance, preserve and protect the unty'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.

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PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN

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

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

to be provided by County

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

to be provided by County

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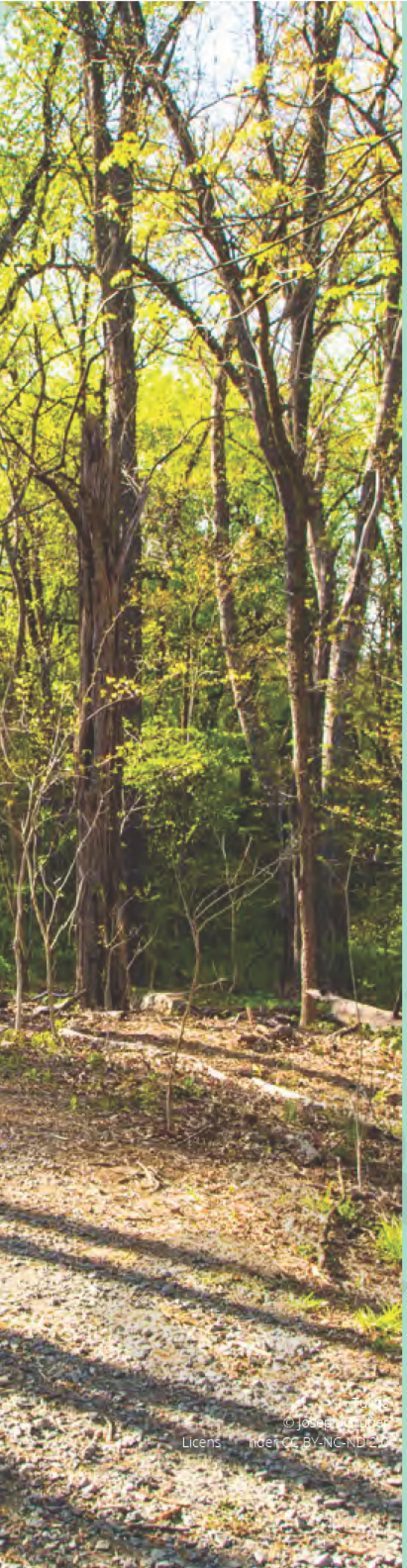
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Introduction

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 amenities, 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 more inclusive, more equitable, and m able. This plan seeks to provide the foundation for well- d and robust network of public spaces to t that goal.

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ARLINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN

Arlington's *Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)* is a plan for our places and spaces. As an 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?

Though the term "public spaces" may connote a broad range of spaces with public access, the *PSMP* focuses on spaces that support recreation and leisure and that are accessible and usable by all of Arlington's residents, workers, and visitors.

Public spaces are the tree-covered parks b ere you can read or throw a ball. They are the stream c rs and nds that make up the County's unique resources a spor courts where you can play bask nis, or tea child to ride a bike. They are the school nds and where yo kick a ball or see the next generat hletes ho eir skills in m sports. They are the sidewalks, street a troll, run, bike, or hike for recreatio get from place. They are the gathering spaces for and events. e the indoor spaces for leisure, s and fitness ies. They e spaces that host gatherings, p nces, and p art. Public spaces can be on the ground, on or und es, or o roofs of buildings. They can be temporary or permanen c e in high- or low-density neighborhoods. Together, these public sp 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

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

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CONTEXT

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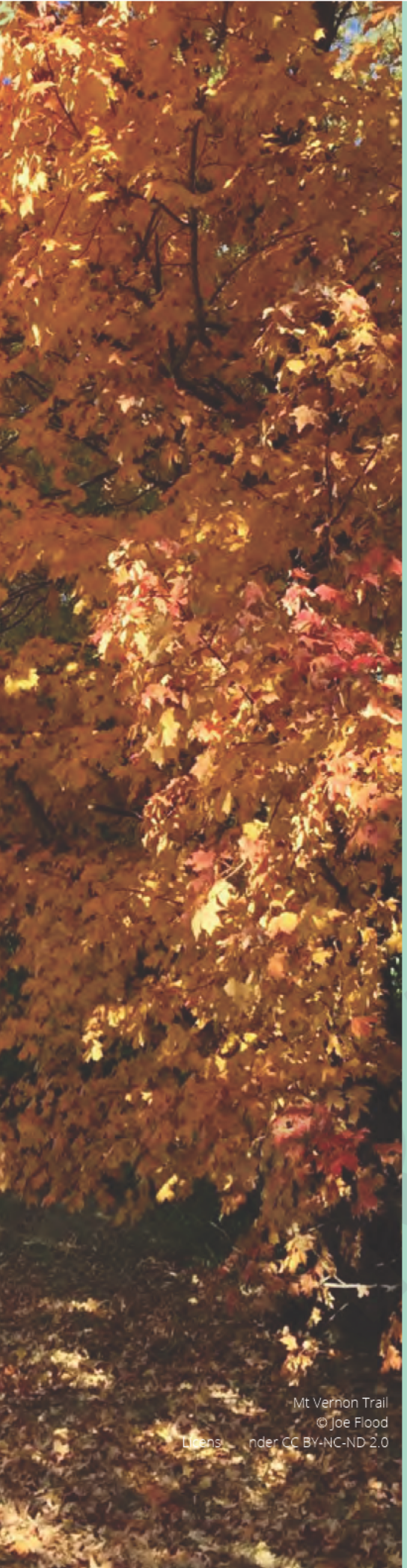

Mt Vernon Trail
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The Value of Public Spaces

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. This will be key to managing infrastructure costs and maximizing return on investment.

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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.

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.

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.

HEALTH BENEFITS

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 outsi e in a natural environment.

Green space provides opportunities for t duration activities, such as walking, cycling, and ga g. Suc are universally supported for addressing the h p ms o n increasingly sedentary lif uding diab art disease and obesity (TPL 200 HO 19 milarly, st have shown that when peopl have acce open spac r parks, they go without exercise, esp th ford membership in private gyms. Finally, a r udy found that an hour or two of regular exposure to outdoor dayligh es against development of myopia (Economist 2014 p.48.)

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.

Creative 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

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

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that mental health is related to residential distance from parks, with those living closest to parks reaping the greatest mental health benefits (Sturm and 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.)

"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.

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, Tyrvainen 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.)

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

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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 effects, and value to communities.

The study found 755,400 trees in Arlington, of 121 different species, worth $1.38 billion. Arlington's trees:

- 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

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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.

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.

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view from a hospital room
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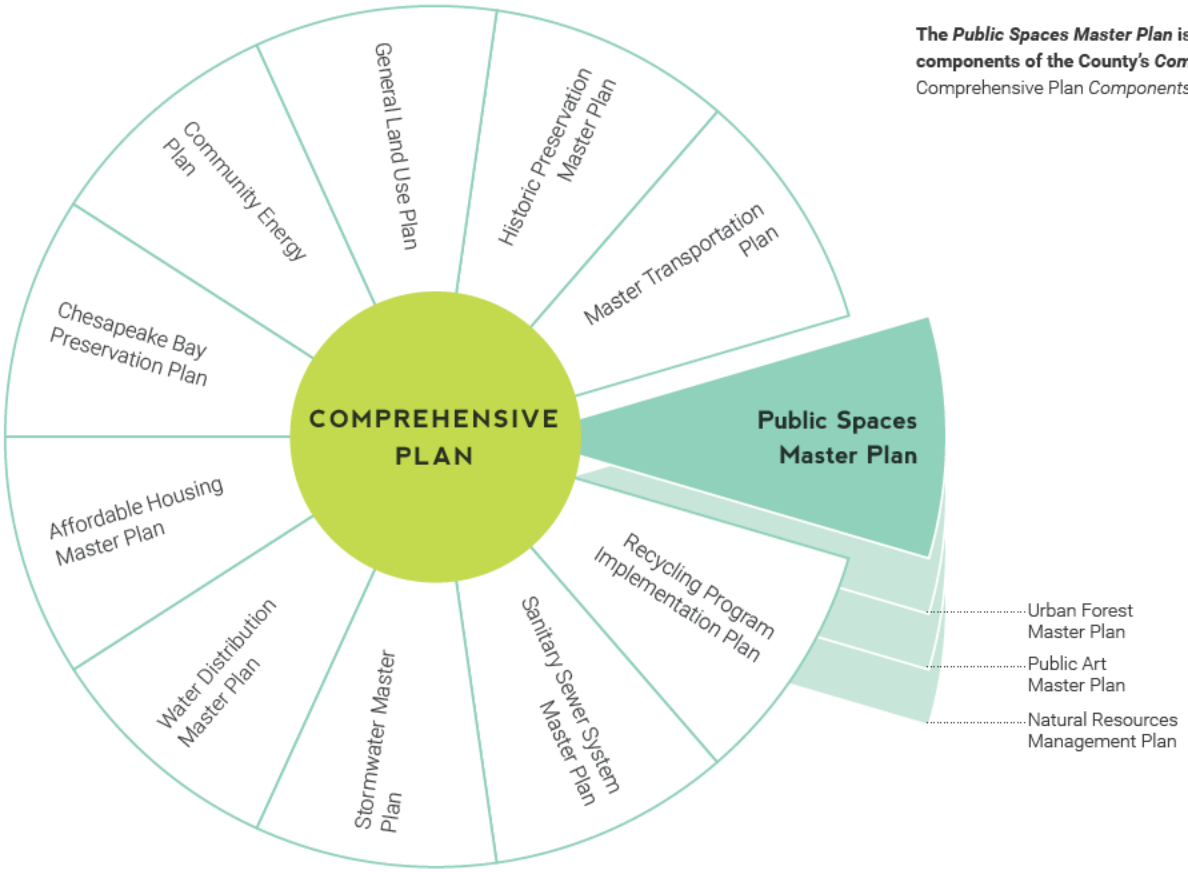
Planning Context

Arlington has a rich history of planning, as evidenced by its nearly 50 current adopted plans. While these plans span different geographic scales and topics, all 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.

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*.



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

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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 expected to include the themes of Innovate Arlington and Environmental Arlington.

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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*.

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.)

STATUS OF 2005 PSMP PRIORITIES

The 2005 *PSMP* highlighted five priority actions, which have been partially or completely accomplished in the past 10 years.

1. **Fully implement the North Tract Master Plan.**
   The 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. The first phase of this substantial project opened in 2011. More recently, children's play areas were added to the park. Currently under review by the County Board and the community are an additional section of esplanade, public gathering areas, aquatic facilities, and various health and fitness spaces. Future phases will include completion of outdoor park facilities, additions to the aquatics and fitness facility, and completion of the esplanade. Various phases have also included public art projects.

2. **Develop a land acquisition policy.**
   The groundwork was laid for a comprehensive land acquisition policy but a final framework was not adopted. The new land acquisition policy laid out in this plan seeks to build on the substantial work done previously.

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.

   Also ongoing is the Four Mile Run Valley Initiative, which seeks to 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 master plan for Jennie Dean Park, located within the planning area. The transitional character of the planning area may 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, although more work can be done to strengthen the relationship with APS and other local, regional, and federal entities.

Sector, Area, and Revitalization Plans

Sector, area, and revitalization plans address the physical from 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 guidance for developing future sector, area, and revitalization plans.

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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. 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, which is consistent with and provides more specificity 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 a connection from the Mount Vernon Trail to 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 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.

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.

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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 and bike 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.

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

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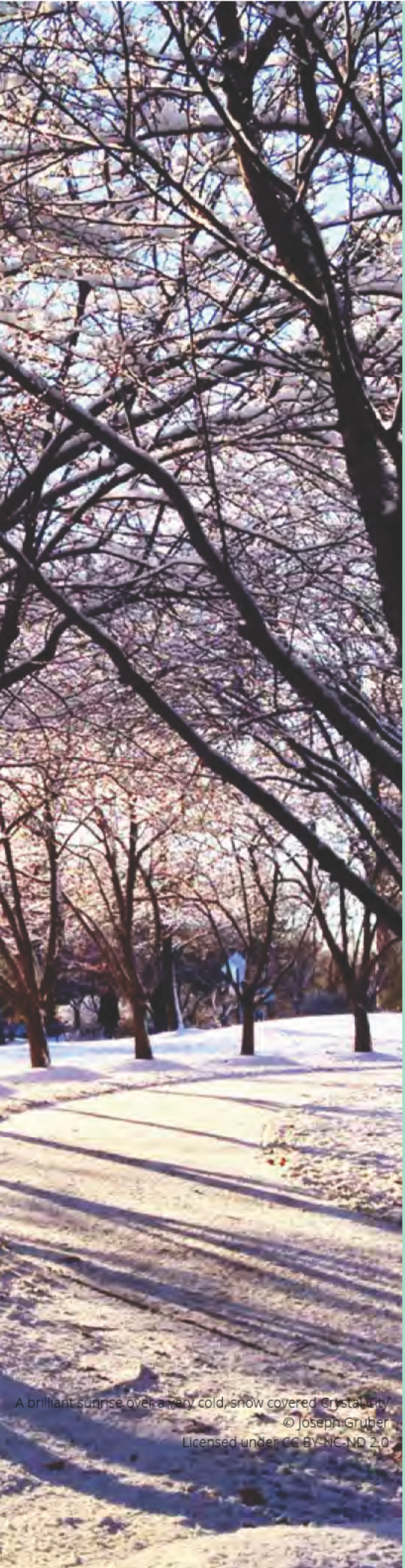

A brilliant sunrise over a very cold, snow covered Crystal City
© Joseph Gruber
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Trends

National, regional, and local trends affect Arlington's public spaces—from a forecasted continuation of population growth to which recreational activities have become more and less popular. These trends informed the recommendations of this plan and will continue to guide the implementation of this plan.

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

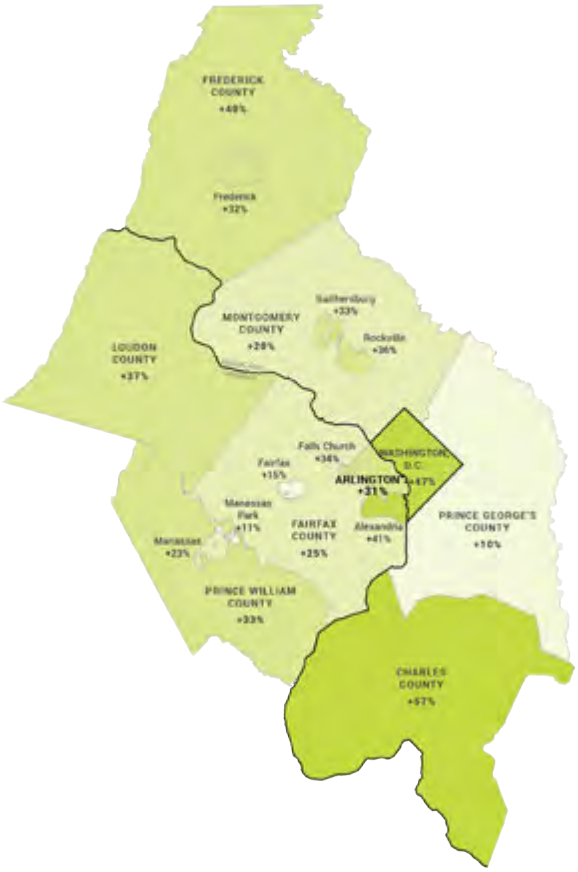
According to the Arlington County Profile, as of January 2017 Arlington had an estimated 220,800 residents. Arlington's residents tend to be younger, better educated, and earn higher annual incomes than residents of the metropolitan area as a whole.

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 and Jefferson Davis corridors, taking advantage of Metro infrastructure, and the Columbia Pike corridor. 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.

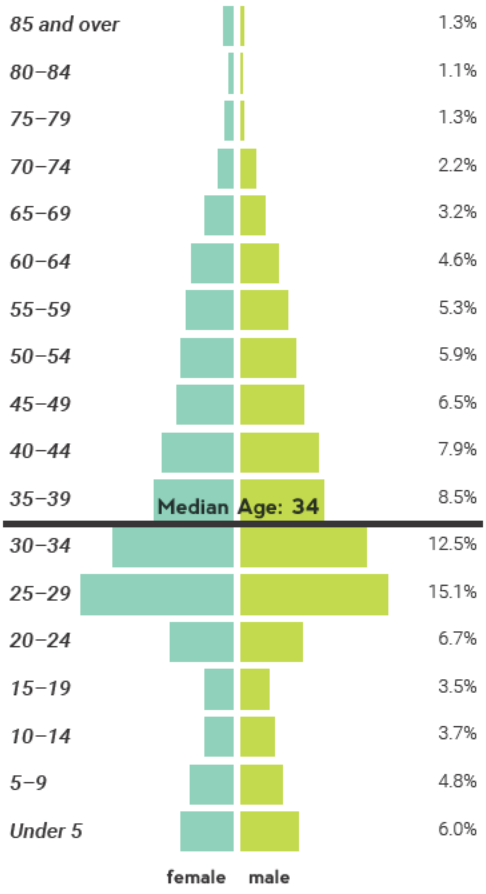
Figure 2. Arlington Is in the Center of a Region Expected to Grow by 28 Percent
Forecasted Population Growth, 2015–2045



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Arlington County Profile 2016, MWCOG 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.

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 is more than four

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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.

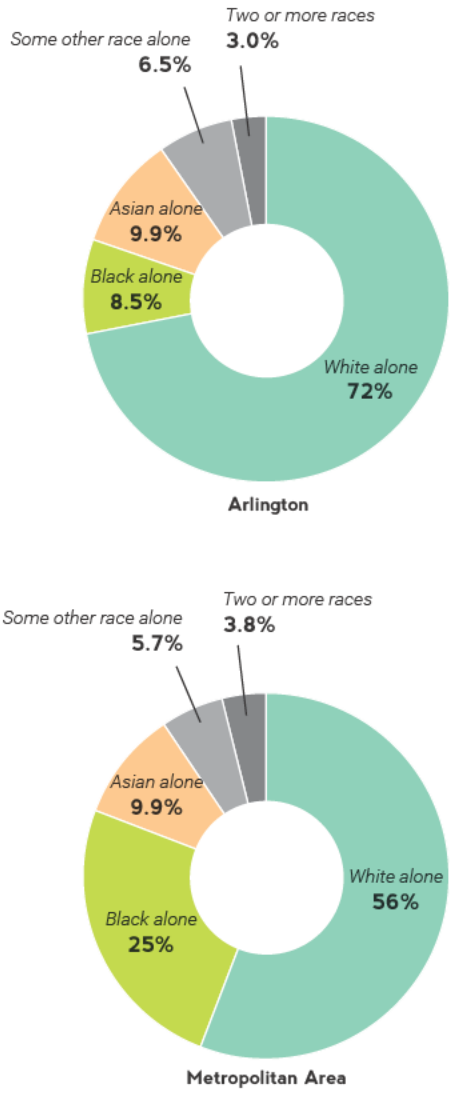
2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP03

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

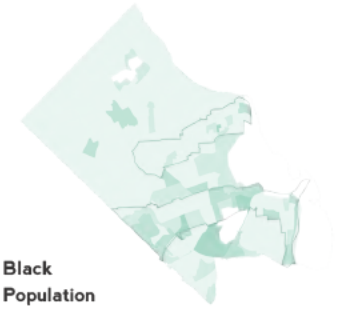
10%

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

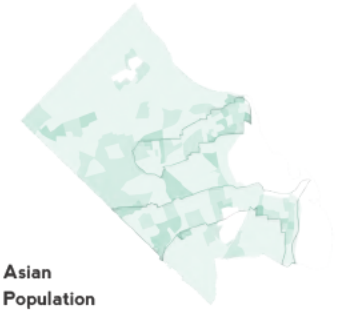
Figure 5. Arlington Has a Few Significant Demographic Spatial Patterns

Share of 2015 Population Compared to the Countywide Share

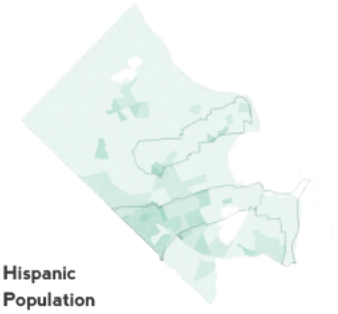
- 4+ times Countywide share
- 2–4 times Countywide share
- 1–2 times Countywide share
- less than or equal to Countywide share



Black Population



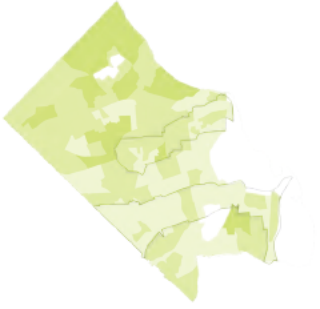
Asian Population



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

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

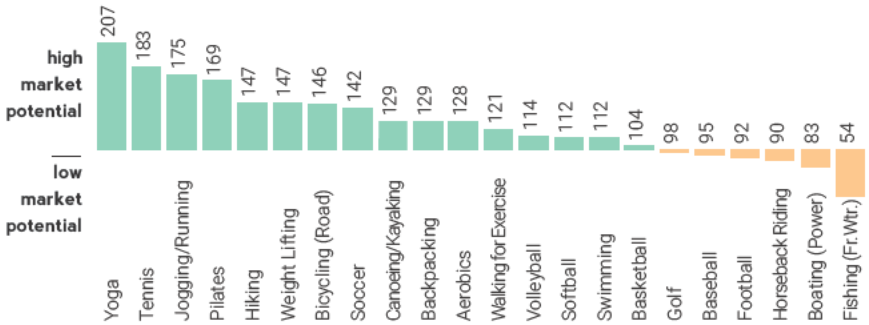
Local Sport and Market Potential

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



Source: ESRI

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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

Caption
Caption

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%

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. 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 internal 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

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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.

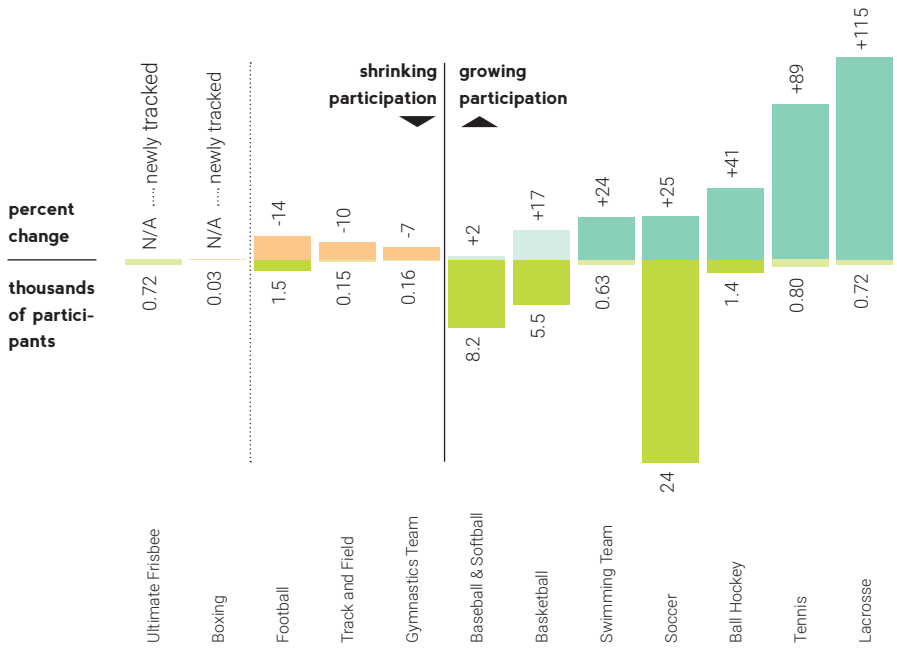
18%

INCREASE

in membership in senior services

Caption
Caption

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.

20%
INCREASE
in demand for community garden plots between 2014 and 2016 with over 500 people on the wait list.

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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.

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.

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66%

INCREASE

in squash between 2010-2015

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

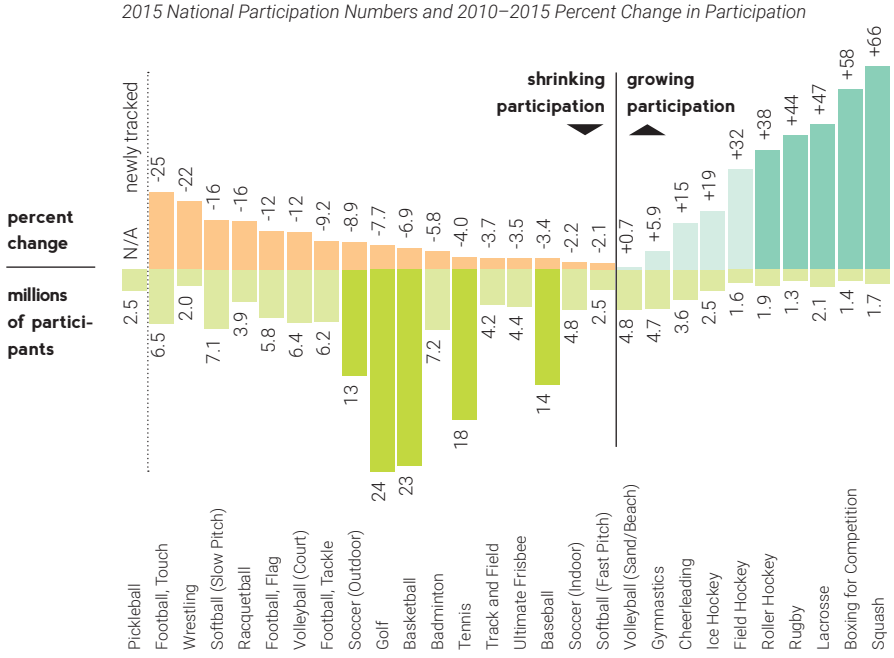
SPORTS

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 has experienced steady growth since 2010.

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

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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

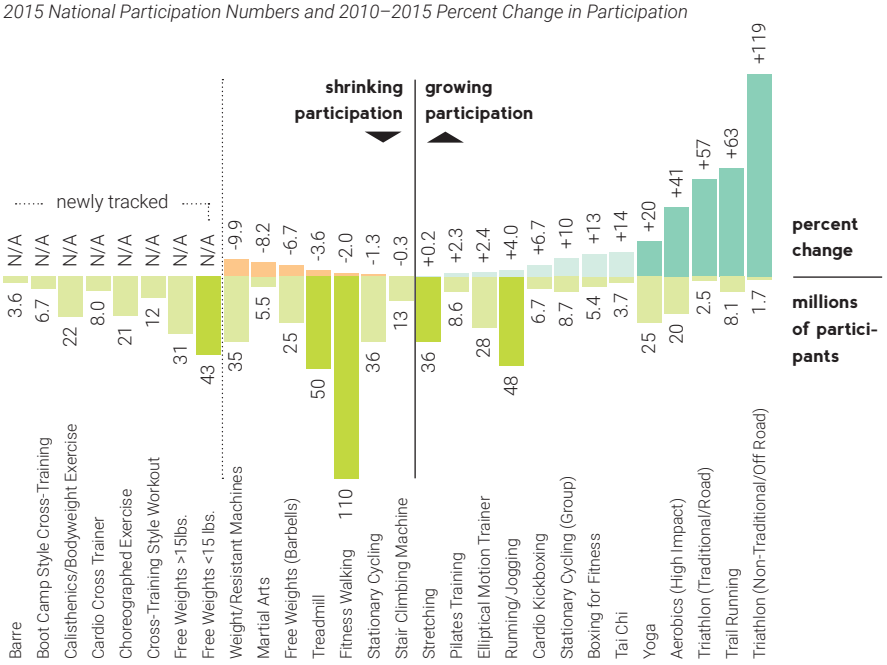
Fitness has experienced strong growth in recent years due to the connection between active lifestyles and health (Figure 9). Fitness activities also have very few barriers to entry, with low financial and time costs for participation.

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.

Fitness walking is the most popular fitness activity.

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.

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

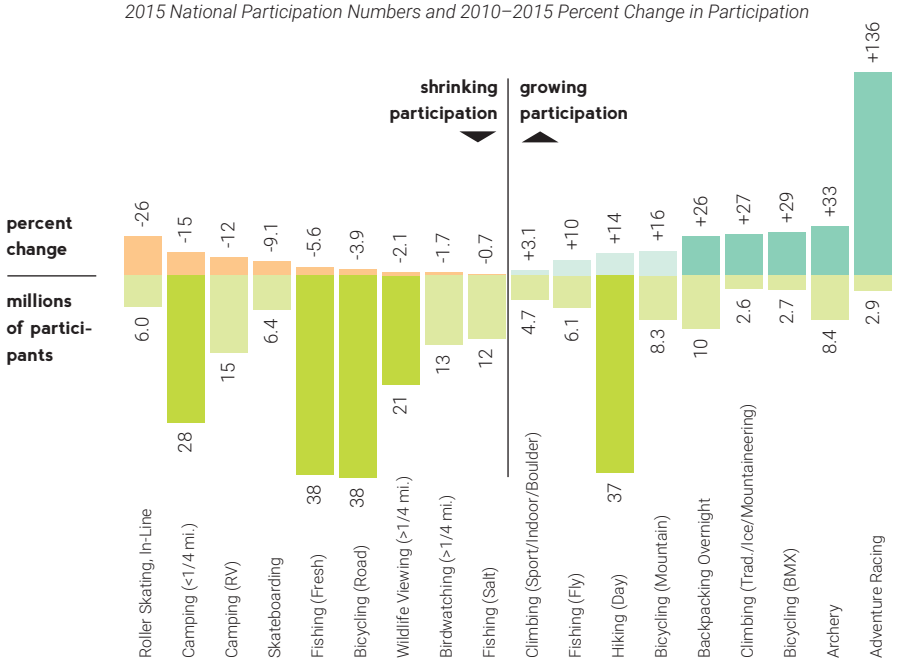


Source: Sports & Fitness Industry Association

110 MILLION

fitness walking participants in 2015

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.

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Arlington County

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.

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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 armiture 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, its eponymous trail, and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail link together 580 acres of public space.

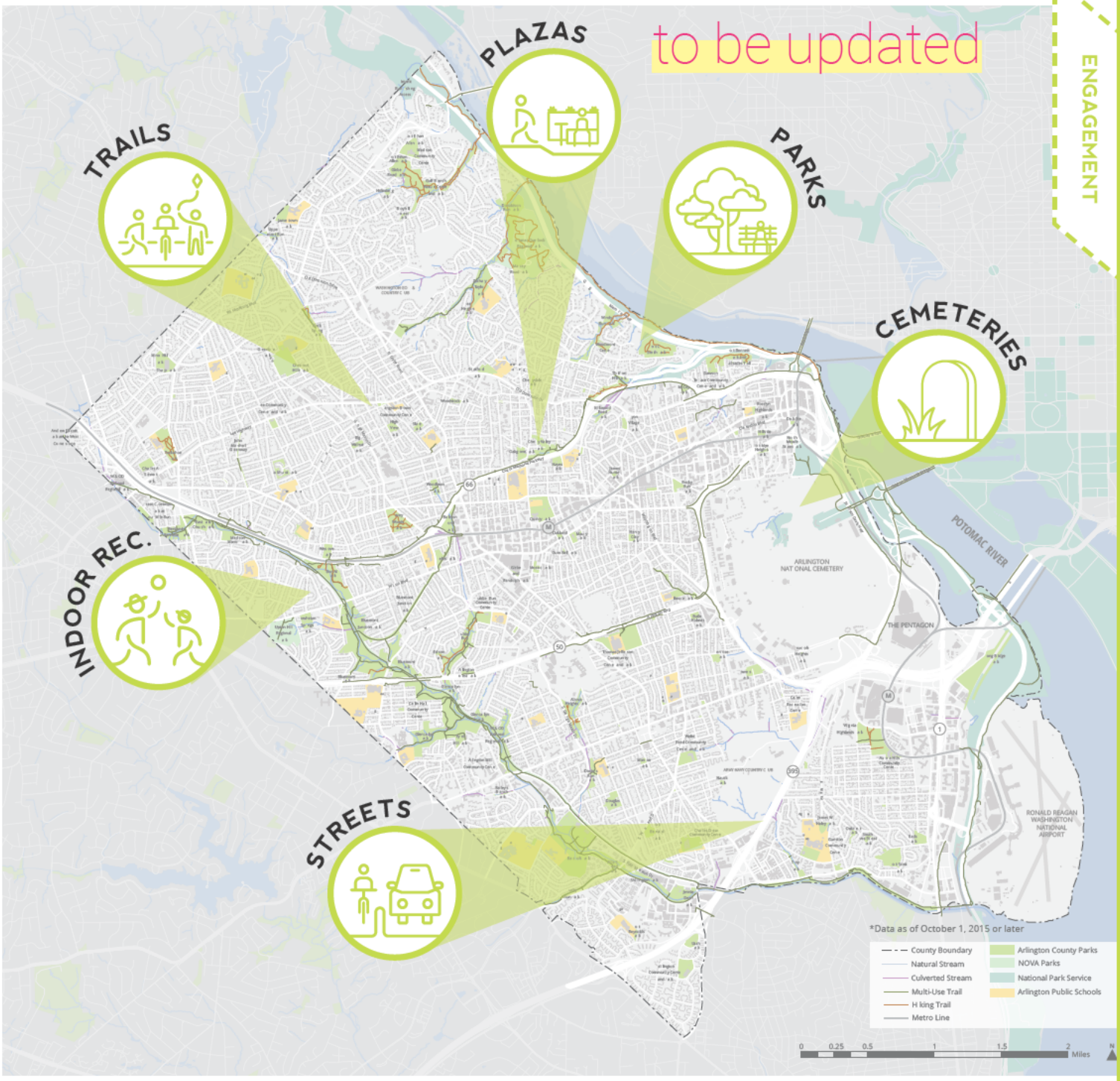
The Green Corridors

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 to the County's trail network. Others provide visually green connections between major public space destinations.

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 parks in some neighborhoods.

Figure 11. Arlington Has 142 parks that Represent the Heart of the Public Spaces System
Public Spaces in Arlington



AT A GLANCE:

ARLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION

3

NATURE CENTERS (1 REGIONAL)

4

PUBLIC POOLS REGIONAL)

7

COMMUN Y GAR ENS

19

COMBINATION FIELDS

90,000

PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS

DRAFT

14

COMMUNITY CENTERS

35

DI MOND FIELDS (1 S THETIC)

126

PLAYG OUND

42

RECTANGLE FIELDS (14 SYNTHETIC)

40%

TREE CANOPY

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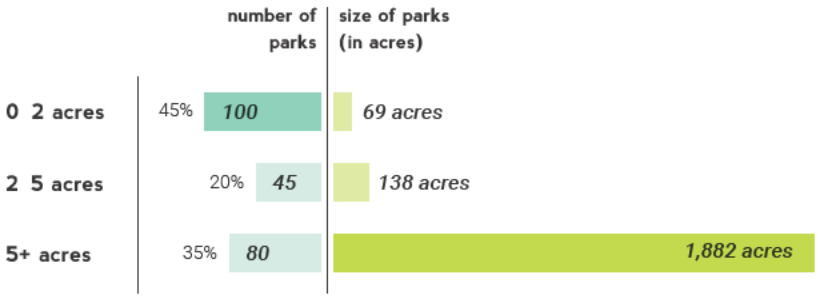
PARKS

Arlington has over 2,000 acres of parkland, both County- and non-County owned, that represent the heart of the public space system. Arlington's 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 Potomac Overlook Regiona rovide nature-based experiences. Linear parkland along Four George Washington Memorial Parkway, for example, offe ortunit to see and interact with the Arlington's waterways. Some o gt larger parks, including Long Bridge Par oft Park, a o provide a wide range of experience uding -based a s, cultural experiences, and athle oughout ystem of pa are sitting and picnic areas, play equip thl ny other amenities. While some p k tend to a ers in close proximity and others tend to be at Arling all of Arlington's parks are open and ble to all resi workers visitors of Arlington.

Figure 12. The majority of parks in n are under 5 acres.
Parks in Arlington by size and count.



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2,000+
ACRE OF PARKLAND

5 SMA ARKS	
23rd St	d South Eads St Pa ft
	Street Park:
501 18	rk: 338 sq ft
18th St North	orth Li 47 sq ft
	l View Pa k: 369 sq ft

5 BIGGEST PARKS

George Washington Memorial Parkway: 638 ac
Glencarlyn Park: 100 ac
Potomac Overlook Regional Park: 67 ac
Barcroft Park: 63 ac
W&OD Railroad Regional Park: 55 ac

Caption
Caption

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INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Indoor recreation facilities include Arlington's community centers (gyms, conference/meeting rooms, multipurpose rooms, game rooms, arts a wellness studios and fitness rooms); Arlington Public School faciliti (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 operat m are joint use facilities with Arlington Public Schools (co nity integrated as part of the APS building) and nine of them a unty ru and operated buildings.

5

JOINT USE FACILITIES

operated with Arlington Public Schools

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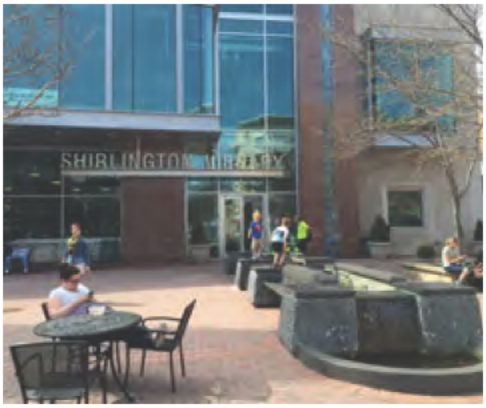

PLAZAS

In high density areas, plaz can serv ces of respite amid bustling streets and building ey are places to s elax and may, depending on their design as small gathering and paces. For example, Welburn Sq Ballston farmers markets in warmer months, and Penrose S or movie nights in summer. Plazas often include a balance o and natural or landscaped areas, providing a small connec h nature while also accomodating a wide ty nd activitie cause high density areas have fewer n l areas, n of natural lands, trees, and other plantings is e ally orta n plazas. They can include small recreational amen uch as bocce, table tennis, or play features, but usually do not include r amenities.

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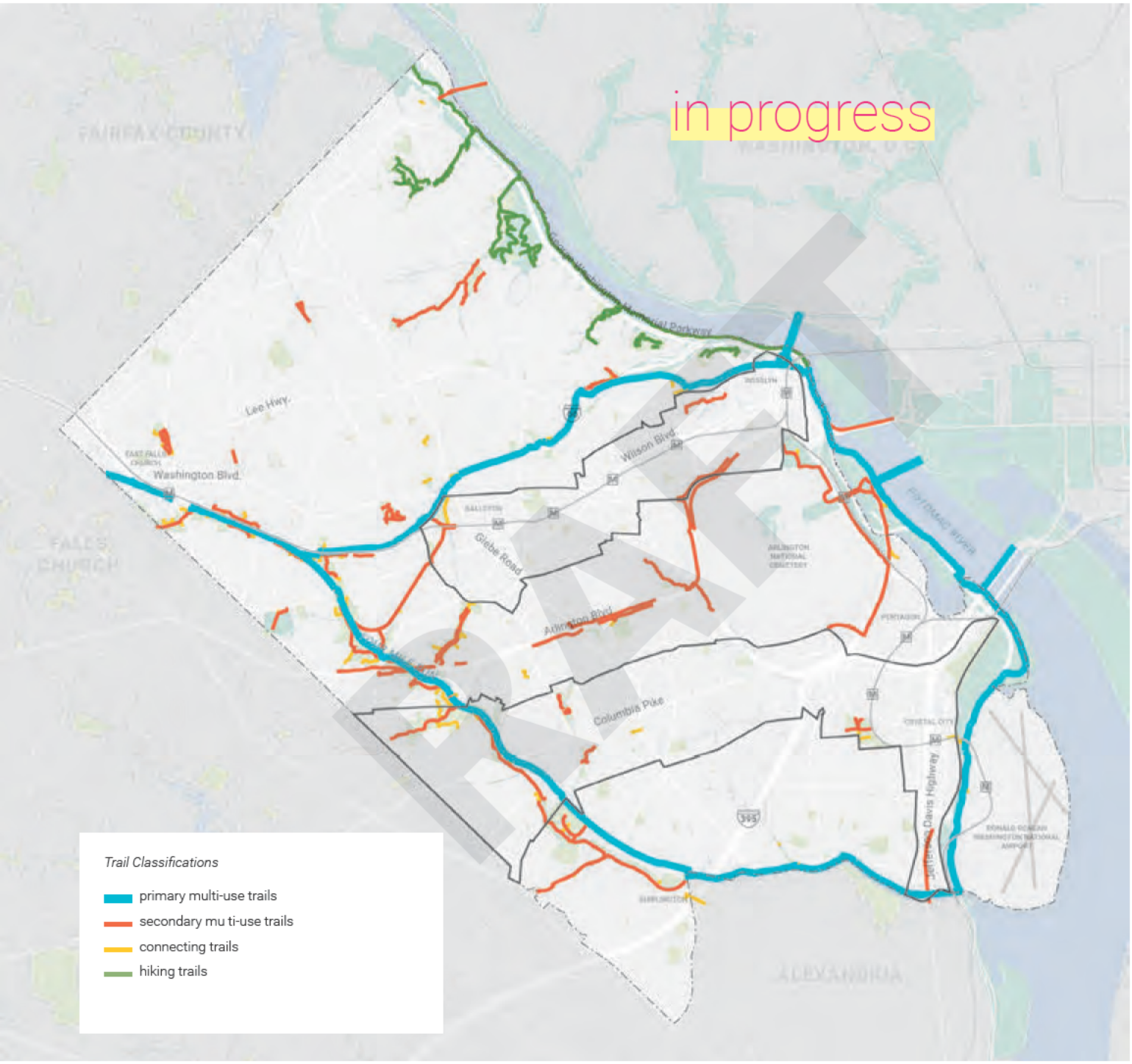

Figure 13. Over 50 miles of paved multi-use trails wind through Arlington
Trails in Arlington by Classification

Figure 14. Spectrum of Arlington Trails
Arlington trail classifications

TRAILS

Over 50 miles of paved of eet trail hrough Arlington. These trails can be catego into the following fications.

Primary lti-Us rails

Primary multi-u key off-street recreation and transportation corridors, and many ct Arlington to surrounding jurisdictions and r regional trail They are paved, at least 10' wide, and ed te direction travel. They may include seating areas, s e, and t lighting. The user base for primary multi-use tra ro cluding pedestrians, runners, joggers, cyclists, dog walke skaters.

Secon ary Multi-Use Trails

dary multi-use trails are off-street corridors that primarily serve a recreation purpose. They are paved, at least 8' wide. Secondary multi-use trails may be linear, connecting multiple neighborhoods, other trails, public spaces, or loops, providing recreational circuits within one public spaces. They may include seating areas, signage, and trail-specific lighting. The user base of secondary multi-use trails is broad, including pedestrians, runners, joggers, cyclists, and skaters.

Connecting Trails

Connecting trails are short segments of paved trails that provide connections between primary or secondary multi-use trails, between primary or secondary trails and neighborhoods, or between primary or secondary trails, signage, and parking areas. They are at least 5' wide and may include seating areas and lighting.

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Protected On-Street Trails

Protected on-street trails are combinations of parallel pedestrian and cycling facilities that are protected from vehicular traffic (a protected bike route with adjacent sidewalk), located within street rights of way, and together serve similar functions to off-street trails.

Hiking Trails

Located primarily along the Potomac River, Four Mile Run and their tributaries, hiking trails are unpaved and may include s The user base of hiking trails includes pedestrians and hiker

Taking a water break
Custis Trail

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STREETS

Although streets often bri o mind c d have a specific legal definition, non-vehic ones within stre of way are an integral part of Arlington blic space network. Stree accommodate pedestrians yclists as move around the County for recreation or to get from p p Planting zones, furniture zones, pedestrian zones, and café zo vide opportunities for walking, sitting, relaxing, ople watching. T locations for adding trees and plantings ironment.

On mpora or permanent basis, even parts of vehicular zon ve as public spaces. Parklets are public spaces built in par paces, usually with materials that allow the parklet to be remove cessary in the future. Streets may also be temporarily l sed or closed on a recurring basis to accommodate events or provide onal routes for cyclists.

CEMETERIES

INSERT DESCRIPTION HERE....

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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, Virginia, 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 Run.

OWNERSHIP

County

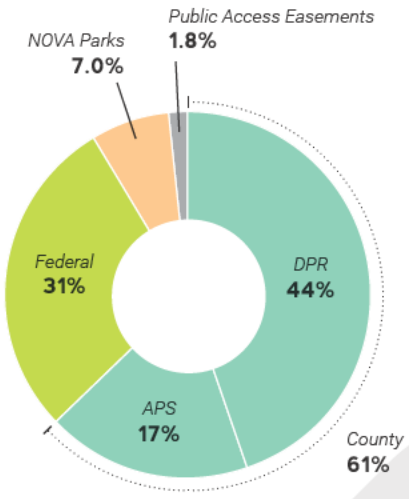
Arlington's County-owned public spaces are managed a entities. Over 900 acres of County-owned parks are man by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Arlington Public Scho a s the recreational facilities that are part 0 acres o l campuses. Arlington's local roadw e man by the Dep nt of Environmental Services.

Regional

NOVA Parks is a regional parks authority tha reserved over 12,000 acres of land across Arlington, Fairfax County, L doun 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, Manassas, and Manassas Park – about 16 acres of which is in Arlington. While this land provides benefits to natural systems within Arlington, it has no public access and thus is not counted as part of Arlington's public space system.

Figure 15. Most of Arlington's public space is controlled by County or Federal entities.
Percent Share of Public Space Ownership



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 in Arlington. While thought marily as a tangle of roadways, the Parkway also encompasses ails along the Potomac waterfront – the highly used, paved, m Vernon Trail and the unpaved Potomac Heritage trail

The Department o Army manages Arling tional Cemetery. While an imp t and symb ic location for th ountry that attracts many visitors mete es not serve local public space needs and is not counted as rlington's public space system.

ly-Owne blic Spaces

A 33 a lic spaces in Arlington are not owned by the Co Crea h private development, these spaces remain und ownership and are privately maintained, but are supposed to be p y accessible due to public easements. Some of the public easeme ave been obscured over time and the County is working to lop a system to inventory existing easements and ensure that future e ments are properly recognized and identified for public use. There is currently no County-wide inventory or tracking system for these types of spaces.

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Caption

Summary of Engagement

In the spirit of the "Arlington W ***the process of updating*** ***the*** **Public Spaces Master** **n—** ***d Arlington POPS—*** ***included opportunities for Arlington*** ***o provide their input into the planning process across a*** ***ty of locations, using different media and activities, and in large and intimate settings.***

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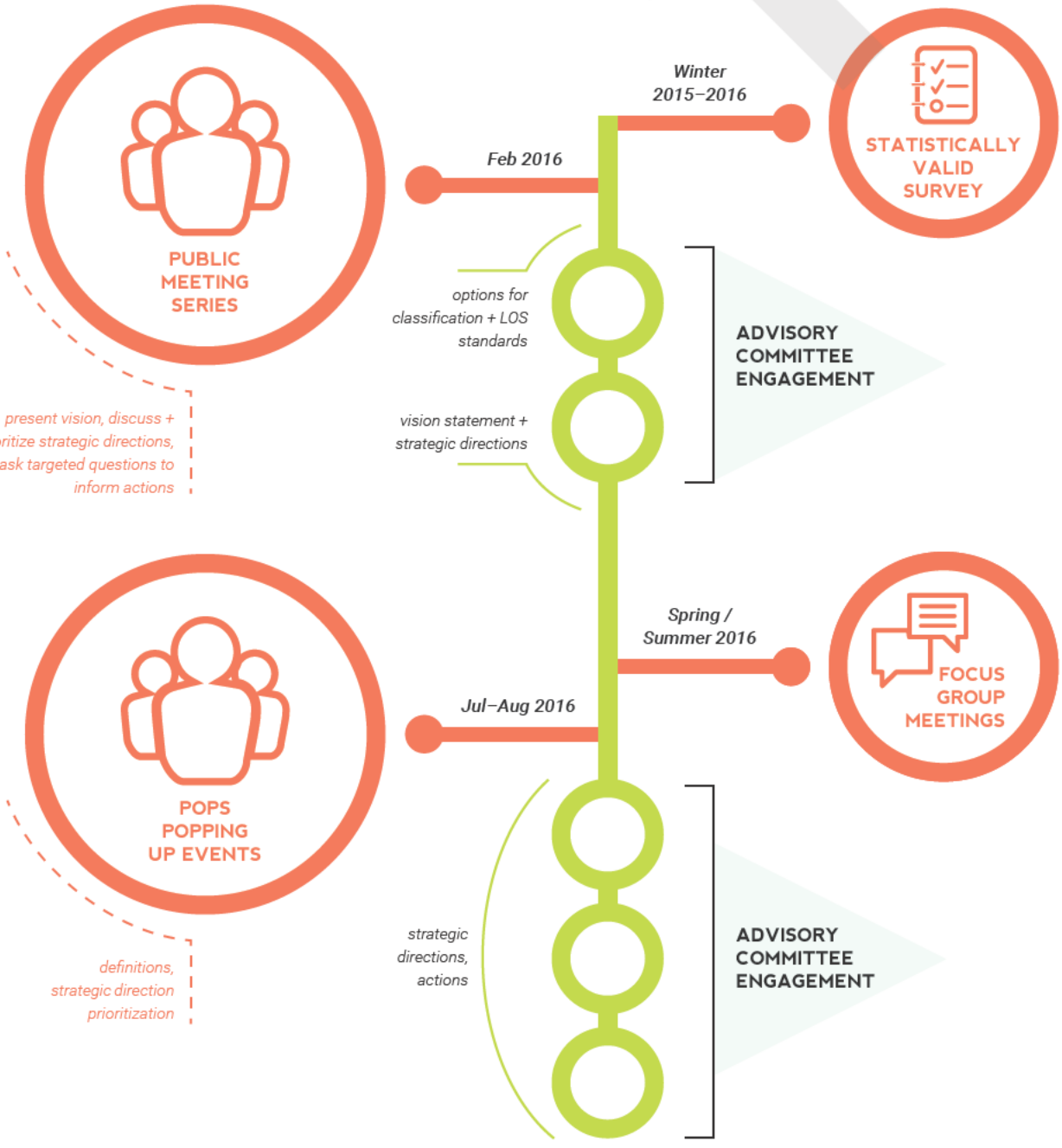
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



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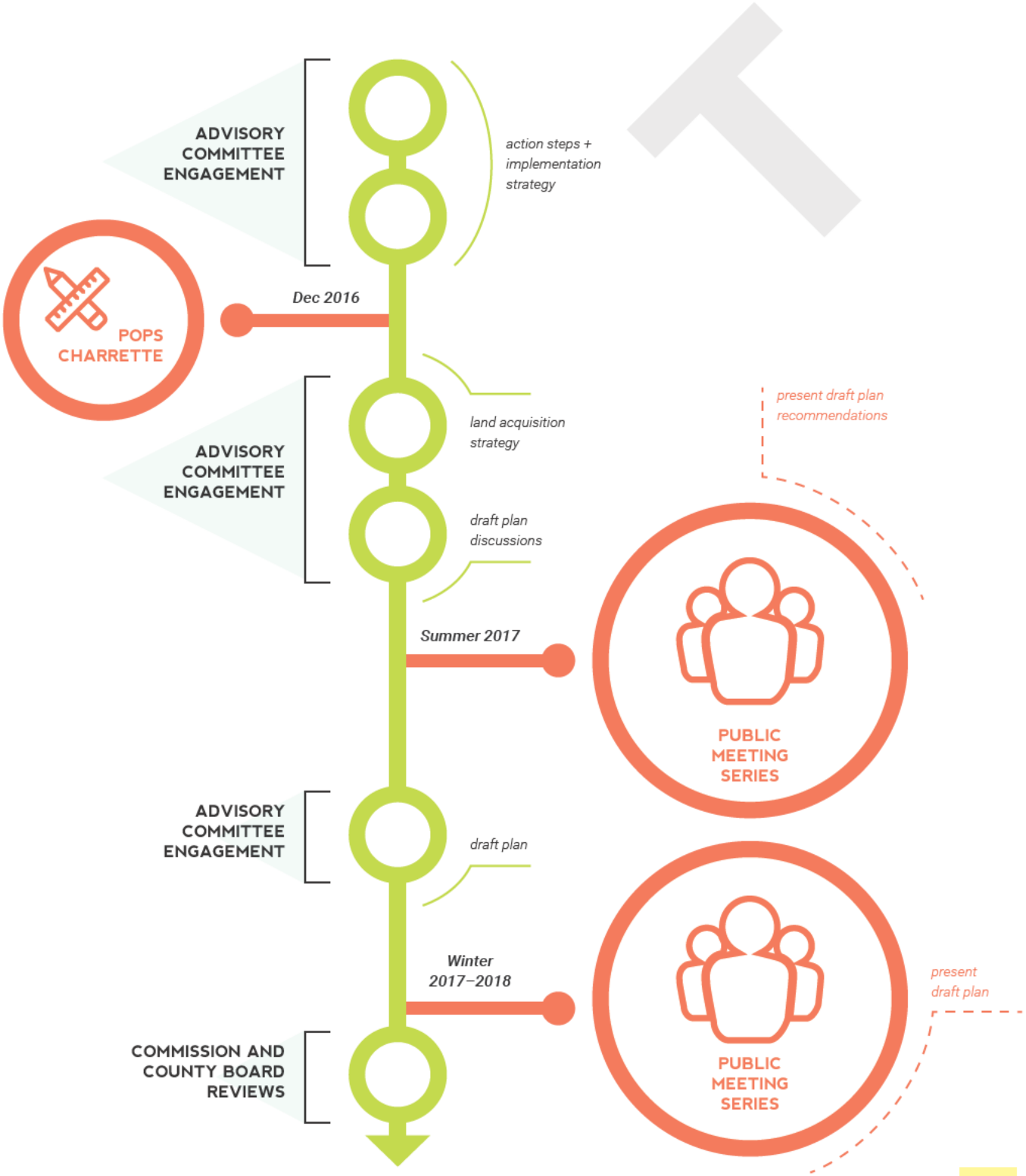

UP NEXT:

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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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 eventually 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.

1470

SURVEYS

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

Figure 16. Priority Investment Areas
High Priority Areas by Category, 2016 Survey

Outdoor Facilities
Hiking Trails
Natural Areas & Wildlife Habitats
Paved, Multi-Use Trails

Indoor Facilities
Swimming Pools
Exercise & Fitness Equipment

Programs
Nature
Fitness / Wellness
Special Events / Festivals
Classes
Seniors

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 20-minute presentation. All of the meetings followed an open house format with different information/feedback stations. Feedback stations used "dot

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"Increase walking opportunities to recreation and gathering spaces."

— Public Meeting Participant

voting," map-based activities, "m game" budgeting, and open-ended comments. The open house ed participants to provide their own input, see other partic nts' poin ew, and ask questions.

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

Providing input on the future of Arlington's public spaces.
Public Meeting at Arlington Mill Community Center

WRT

FOCUS GROUPS

Four focus groups were conducted as part of the 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."

— M nial Focus Group Participant

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Group 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

WRT

Arlington County

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. The pop-up events asked participants 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 professionals in a visioning charrette focused on providing physical and geographic context to some of the major themes and goals of this plan. There were about 90 attendees. The event 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 also participated. 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.

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STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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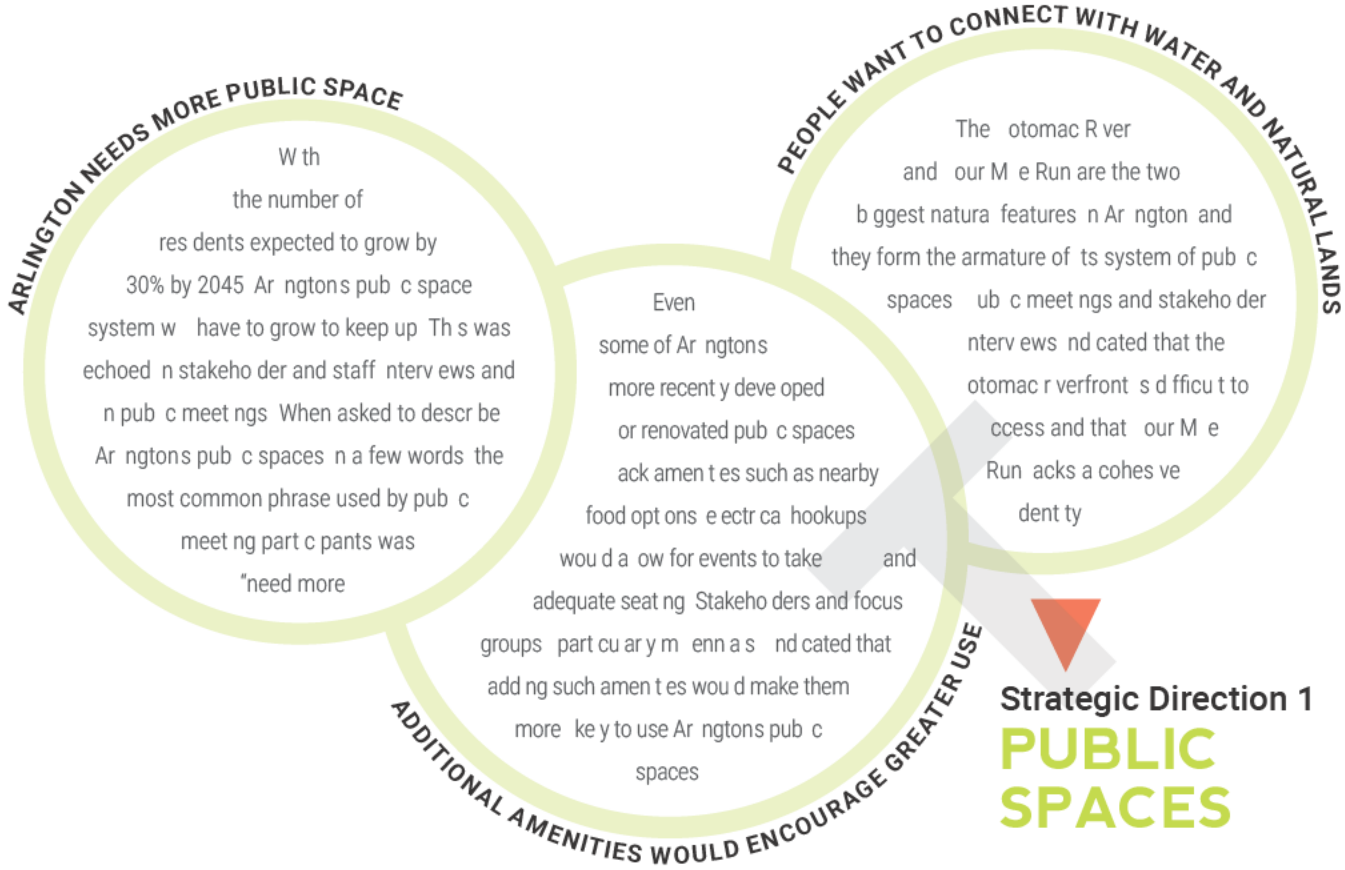

Strategic Direction 1

PUBLIC SPACES

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

Strategic Direction 2

TRAILS

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

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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.

Strategic Direction 4
PARTNER-SHIPS

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

UP NEXT: ACTIONS

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Strategic Direction 5
PROGRAMS

Ensure program fferings continue to ond to changing user needs.

Strategic Direction 6
ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

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

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Strategic Direction 7

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

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

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS NEED CLARIFICATION

S te
eva uat ons
found ncons stent eve s of
ma ntenance among Ar ngtons
pub c spaces C ear t ered standards
can be t ed to usage and v s b ty
and ensure that ma ntenance
expectat ons are c ear

SUSTAINABILITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED

Ar ngtons
env ronmenta
regu at ons have pushed ts pub c
space ard n terms of stormwater
m ment and bu d ng susta nab ty
Re ong Br dge ark demonstrates a
m tme ng nat ve p ant ngs Yet many
stakeho ders d that the County cou d
be do ng more ar y n the area
of manag ng no nat ve nvas ve
spec es

Strategic Direction 8

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.

PUBLIC SPACES HAVE VALUE THAT COULD BE BETTER LEVERAGED

There
s a common
percept on that the County has
un m ted resources to spend However
demands for pub c space outwe gh the resources
that are ava ab e The County cou d be tak ng better
advantage of the revenue generat ng potent a of pub c
spaces from the property va ue prem ums that
pub c space prox m ty prov des to events
and enhanced exper ences that pub c
meet ng part c pants nd cated they
wou d be w ng to pay for

ONGOING COSTS AND BENEFITS NEED TO BE WEIGHED IN CAPITAL DECISIONS

As
the County br ngs
new fac t es and spaces
on ne t must be w ng to comm t
to the ongo ng ma ntenance of those
fac t es and spaces W thout ongo ng
comm tments the benefits of cap ta
nvestments can be short ved

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1. PUBLIC SPACES

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

Caption

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 left in the County, 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.

ACTIONS:

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.

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ACTIONS

PRIORITY ACTION

1.1. 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 could include additional land acquired by the County, public space developed by other public entities, privately developed spaces with public easements, or the addition of vertical space. Over the past 20 years, the County has acquired approximately 3.25 acres of new parkland per year.

ublic meetings, the most co on phrase used to desc Arlington's public spaces "need more."

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, and Crystal City Sector Plan — 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 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 repr nt the goals, values, and ideals of the County.

1.1.3. Incorporate e ndations of this plan into future sect , corridor, her County plans, and use County-wide needs and le ervice analyses to advocate for the inclusion of onal 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.

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

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.

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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 recommend the inclusion of specific needed amenities rather than respond to a set of proposed amenities. While these amenities will be located on private property, their design and signage 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. Strengthen and expand 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 without needing to have a receiving site identified.

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BEST PRACTICE:

DECK PARKS

KLYDE WARREN PARK, DALLAS, TX

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

PLACES TO START:

DECK PARKS

- Rehab and eastward expansion of existing deck park over I-66 at Washington-Lee High School
- 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 Parkway

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

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. At Washington-Lee High School, Arlington already has an example of decking over I-66 to "create" space , some of which is used for recreational purposes. 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.

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.

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 space or other County uses may be disposed of.

1.1.10. Consider the acquisition of defunct private recreation facilities using acquisition guidelines.

Defunct private recreation facilities, such as gyms and fitness centers, provide a unique opportunity to potentially acquire properties that are already designed for recreation use. While the County may have to ensure that such facilities 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.

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.

1.2.1. Complete Phase 2 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. The first phase of Long Bridge Park was completed in 2011 and has been a major success — with 3 full-size, lighted rectangular athletic fields, an esplanade for walking and bike riding with views of Washington and National Airport, rain gardens, picnic lawns, public art, trails, and an overlook. Another phase, including a children's play area, was completed in 2016. The County is moving forward with Phase 2 of the park master plan. In the public survey, 70 percent of 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.

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MULTI-USE ACTIVITY CENTERS

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

PRIORITY ACTION

1.2.2. Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans.

Adopted park master plans exist but have not been fully implemented for Mosaic Park, Penrose Square, Four Mile Run, Rosslyn Highlands Park, and Jennie Dean Park.

1.2.3. Consolidate recreatio cilities and activities that are currently distribut hroughout community centers into fewer, lar ation centers.

Communi nters s a wide range of County programs, including recre ducation, and health programs. They also vary sig ly in size, design, and layout, and some facilities ar aging and in need of significant renovation or rebuilding. Some have very limited capacity for programming. With high demand for recreation programs, centers that have dedicated space for recreation are needed. Recreation centers will include multi-use facilities that allow for the greatest flexibility and have a high degree of community access. By consolidating recreation programs at recreation

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

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centers, community centers can be freed up to support other County programs and activities. As an example, Lee Community Center and Langston-Brown Community Center are near to each other and support similar uses.

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

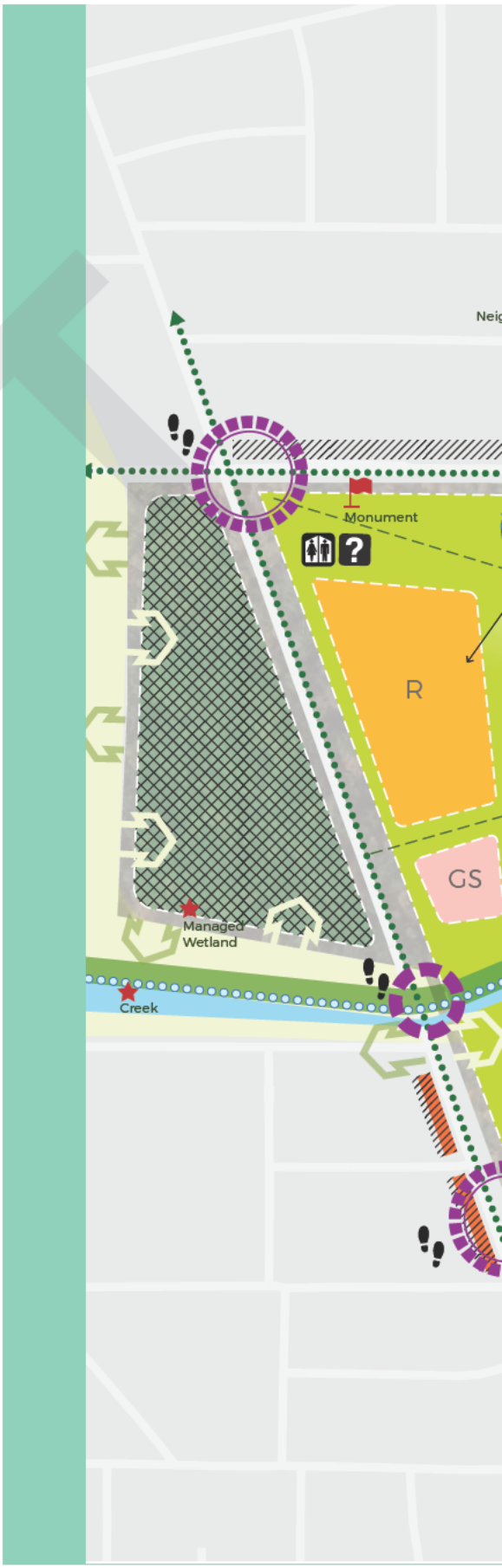
The operation, management, and maintenance of athletic fields is more efficient if they are grouped in fewer locations. In addition, grouped fields are more conducive to hosting tournaments, which offers an opportunity to generate revenue. Expanded sports complexes will be located at Long Bridge Park (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.

With high demand for organized team sports and athletic seasons being extended into colder months, there is a need for more facilities that are dedicated to supporting team sports and tournaments. 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.

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.

Clearly describing the intended use zones and character of public spaces will enable the County to identify spaces that are not being effectively utilized according to the community's needs and input. Park framework plans 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.



BEST PRACTICE:

PARK FRAMEWORK PLANS

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS, DAYTON, OH

Seamle p ce Connection

Trail System Conne

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
GS Programmable Gathering Spaces
R Recreation Areas
NP Nature Play Spaces

Identity Features
Cultural Features
Viewshed
Natural System Enhancements
Managed Conservation

Mixed Land Use
Building Frontages
Streetscape Enhancements
Public Transit
Pedestrian Access

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PRIORITY ACTION

1.2.7. Update or develop park master plans with community input, to be adopted by the County Board, for approximately 10 parks that are in need of capital upgrades or are of high importance to the park system.

A park master plan provides the County with a roadmap for the future of a particular park. A park master plan is a refined landscape and architectural plan with specific dimensions, materials, and facilities that identifies park expansion areas, elements that need to be fixed or restored, or elements that need to be completely overhauled. Where possible and desired, the County will prioritize multi-use spaces over single-use spaces.

1.2.8. Convert an additional 12 existing rectangular fields and 10 existing diamond fields to synthetic turf as funding is available. numbers will be updated

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 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).

PLACES TO START:

PARK MASTER PLANS

- Quincy Park
- Bo Air Park
- emont Park
- th Street (Crystal City)
- Park (in the process)
- Ross a
- Maury/He e Milliken/New Properties
- Courthouse Square
- Thomas Jefferson Park
- Future parks in Crystal City & Columbia Pike

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.

"Make more green space by moving tennis, bball, pickleball onto roofs."

— Public Meeting Participant

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

1.2.10. Modify the County's re ns and codes — including zoning and othe ements related to setbacks, lighting, parking, nage, 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.

Regulations related to setbacks, lighting, height, and parking, among other items, impact how parks can be developed and maximized or used most efficiently. Signage can also welcome or deter a potential user depending on its quality.

1.2.11. Replace on-site surface parking with structured, underground, or on-street parking, where feasible and needed, to maximize space for ground-level uses.

Despite many Arlingtonians' willingness to 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. However, parking, unlike athletic fields, 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 amenities requested by the community. 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.

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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.

1.2.13. 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

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"A beautiful tree-lined street will encourage me to walk to parks."
— Public Meeting Participant

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 o r winter athletics. Temporary, climate controlled bles" around outdoor athletic fields or perm oor recreation centers with full-size at field be possible solutions to providing all-season acc

1.2.15. Include transportation plannin 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.

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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 design, signage, and hours of access. The Co will strive to create a complete picture of all of pes of spaces and ensure that all of them op e as i Contact information for the managers of the space w be included if possible.

Caption
Welburn Square

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Caption
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.

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Caption
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.

PRIORITY ACTION

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

Throughout the POPS process, the Advisory Committee and stakeholders expressed a strong need to preserve and create spaces that the community can use for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities — what this plan refers to as "casual use" spaces. Sometimes referred to as "unprogrammed" spaces, these spaces are as essential to a functioning public space system as spaces that support organized sports and recreation programs. (See following callout pages for more on casual use spaces.)

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still under development

CASUAL USE SPACES

While 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
- outdoor tracks
- 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

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EXAMPLE CASUAL USES

- Strolling through a tree a
- 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

Park Framework Plans	As the County develops framework plans for all public spaces (1 2.2), casual use spaces will be identified as areas distinct from those that support more formal recreation programs.
Access Standards	*If these spaces can be inventoried:* As part of its context-sensitive activity-based approach to providing amenities (1.3), the County will use accaess standards to determine where access is lacking to casual use spaces.
Park Master Planning Process	Resident input during the park master planning process will inform whether casual use spaces should be enhanced or added. (1.3.2)
Park Master Plans	Any casual use spaces identified in 10 new park master plans to be developed by the County (1 2.3) will be purposefully designed.
Community Engagement	Through inclusive and transparent community engagement practices (6.3.3) and ongoing public space evaluations (6.3.4), users will be empowered to advocate for casual use spaces.

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

The 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.

The level of service and access analyses done as part of the 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.

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.

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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.

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POPULATION-BASED STANDARDS

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	2016 Needed	2025 Needed	2045 Needed	High Density Areas	Low Density Areas
Basketball Courts	each	87	1/	2,547	1/	3,000	0	0	10	5 min	10 min
Community Gardens	each	7	1/	31,651	1/	25,000	2	3	5	5 min	10 min
Multi-Use Trails	miles	48.4	1/	4,577	1/	3,300	19	26	40	5 min	10 min
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	8	1/	27,695	1/	25,000	1	2	4	5 min	10 min
Playgrounds	each	126	1/	1,758	1/	3,000	0	0	0	5 min	10 min
Casual Use Spaces											
Diamond Fields	each	43	1/	5,153	1/	6,000	0	0	6	10 min	20 min
Tennis Courts	each	92	1/	2,408	1/	3,000	0	0	5	10 min	20 min
Picnic Areas	each	45	1/	4,924	1/	5,000	0	4	13	10 min	20 min
Rectangular Fields	each	53	1/	4,180	1/	4,200	0	6	16	10 min	20 min
Volleyball Courts	each	10	1/	22,156	1/	20,000	2	3	5	10 min	20 min
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers	sq. ft.	386,223	1/	0.57	1/	0.57	0	39,333	117,132	Access standards do not apply	
Hiking Trails	miles	14.5	1/	15,242	1/	10,000	8	10	15		
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	4	1/	55,390	1/	40,000	2	3	4		
Natural Areas	acres	1,127	1/	197	1/						
Nature Centers	each	3	1/	73,853	1/	75,000	0	1	1		
Skate Parks	each	1	1/	221,560	1/	75,000	2	3	3		
Small Game Courts	each	14	1/	15,826	1/	8,000	14	17	23		
Spraygrounds	each	5	1/	44,312	1/	45,000	0	1	2		
Tracks	each	2	1/	110,780	1/	35,000	5	5	7		

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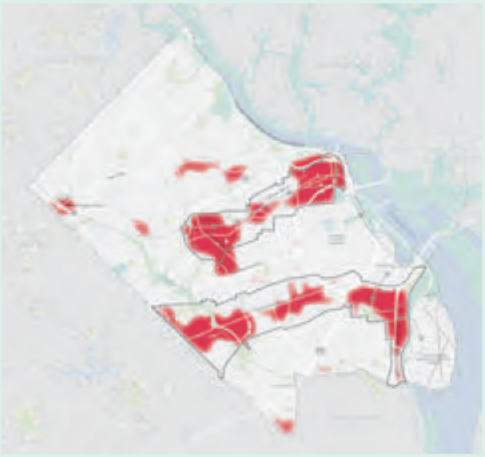
ACCESS ST NDARDS

The access standards in t table on ious page are based on times rather than distances. Because Arlin s robust road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian networks, residents in 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

The 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 mbination, 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.

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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.

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 may be occasions where there is a duplication or clustering of one type of amenity, resulting in low usage rates for each. This represents an inefficient use of public space. As long as it w not overburden the remaining amenities, the rep ment of a duplicate with a different amenity can h nty maximize the utility of existing p space

1.4.4. Site new amenities in loca at are or will be made accessible by as many m des of transportation as possible.

Throughout the 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 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.)

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

In 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, 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.

What would encourage you to use public spaces more?

"Food and/or beverage café style — either permanent or temporary."

— Public Meeting Participant

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.)

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.

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BEST PRACTICE:

CONCESSIONS & ALCOHOL

PARKS ON TAP, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Parks on Tap is a program that brou traveling beer garden, featuring craft beer and food, to erent Philadelphia park each week for the summer season s success, funding was secured to continue the program 17. p ap.com

"Keep bathrooms open in winter. All parks should have one."

— Public Meeting Participant

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.

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Caption
Caption

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

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.

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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 spac tem will help elevate it as part of the County's ide

PRIORITY ACTION

1.6. Ensure high-quality al and physical access to the Potomac er, Four Mile Run, and their tributarie

The 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan emphasized planning for Four Mile Run. In the 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.

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 Potomac River bridges.

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

PLACES TO START:

WATERWAY ACCESS

- additional stretches of Lubber Run
- Spout Run
- Long Branch

"Clean up Four Mile Run and extend the restoration."

— Public Meeting Participant

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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.

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.

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 wit County on safety and access improvements at t tersection of the Mount Vernon and Custis Tra to the development of the future boathouse ity.

1.7. Strive for universal ac

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 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

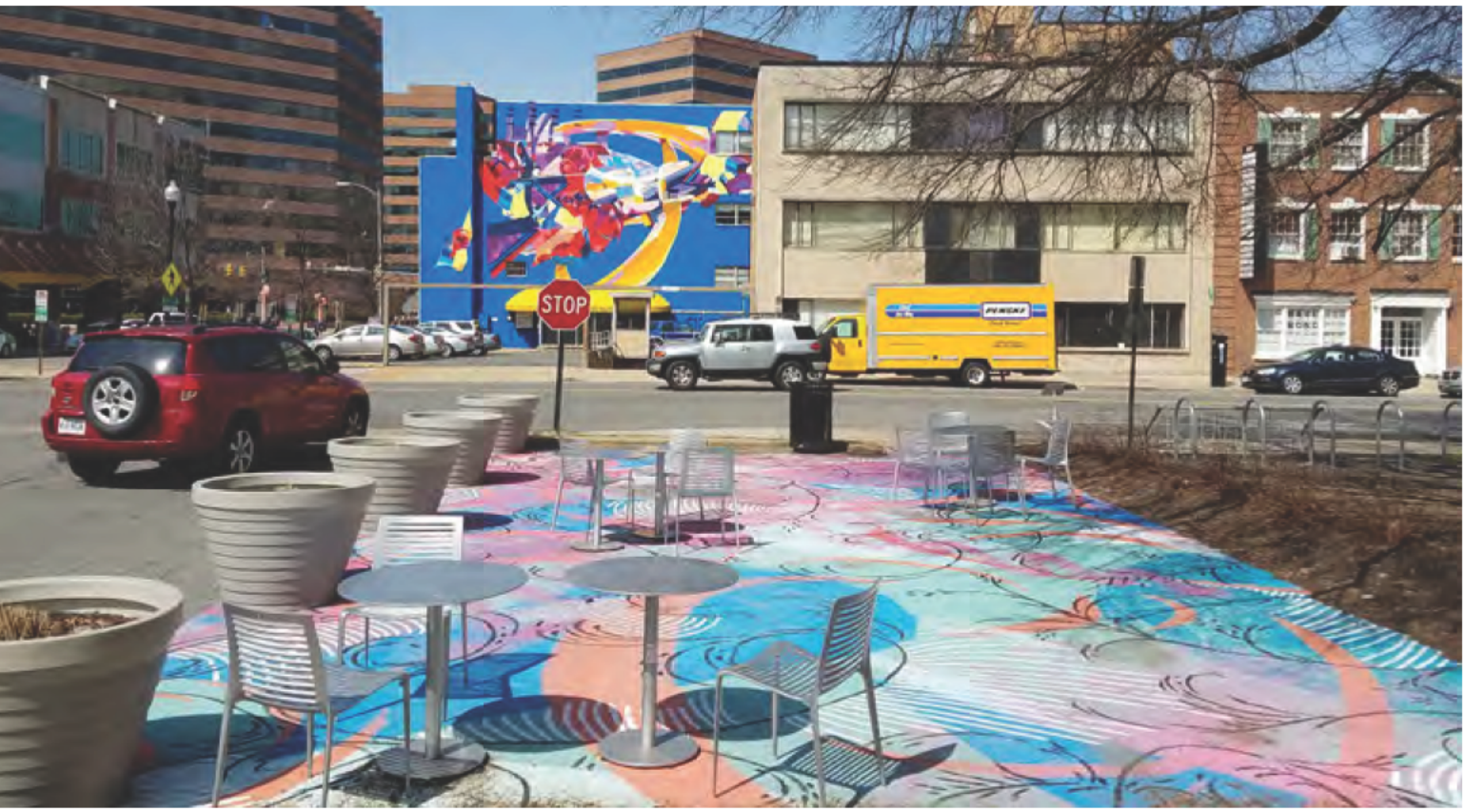
1.8.5. Opt for sustainable design elements in all capital investments where feasible.

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.

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.)

Utilizing County property for pop-up space.
Converting parking to pop-up public space with public art and street furniture. Pop-Up Plaza at the Grove



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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 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

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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

WEST RIVER DRIVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA

West River 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.

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 pro of permitting temporary spaces on both and private lands.

While it is ntly p to create temporary spaces and pop-up events, the p could be refined and formalized to make it predic d enable broader participation in the creation of th e spaces.

PLACES TO START:

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

- to be determined

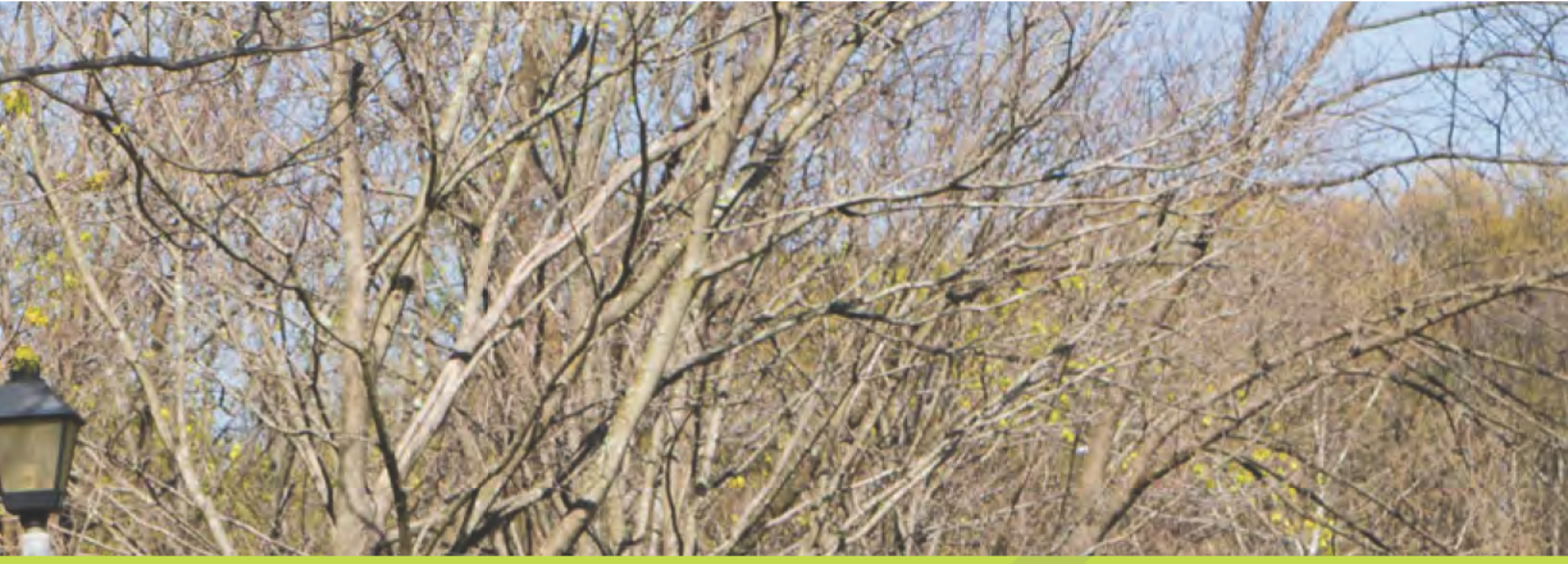
1.9.4. Expand the use of temporary road closures to create public spaces that can be used for the community at large or for special events.

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.

1.10. 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.



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2. TRAILS

IMPROVE THE NETWORK OF TRAILS TO, WITHIN, AND BETWEEN PUBLIC SPACES TO INCREASE ACCESS AND ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY.

Before the Ride
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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.

ACTIONS:

2.1. Complete an "Arlington Circuit" of connected, protected 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.

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ACTIONS

PRIORITY ACTION

2.1. Complete an "Arlington Circuit" of connected, protected multi-use trails.

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.

H ng trails and paved, multi- ails are the highest and thir hest priorities for invest in outdoor facilities, respectiv ased on survey responses.

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.

16mi
OF TRAILS
where users can travel off-street continuously on the Arlington Loop

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.

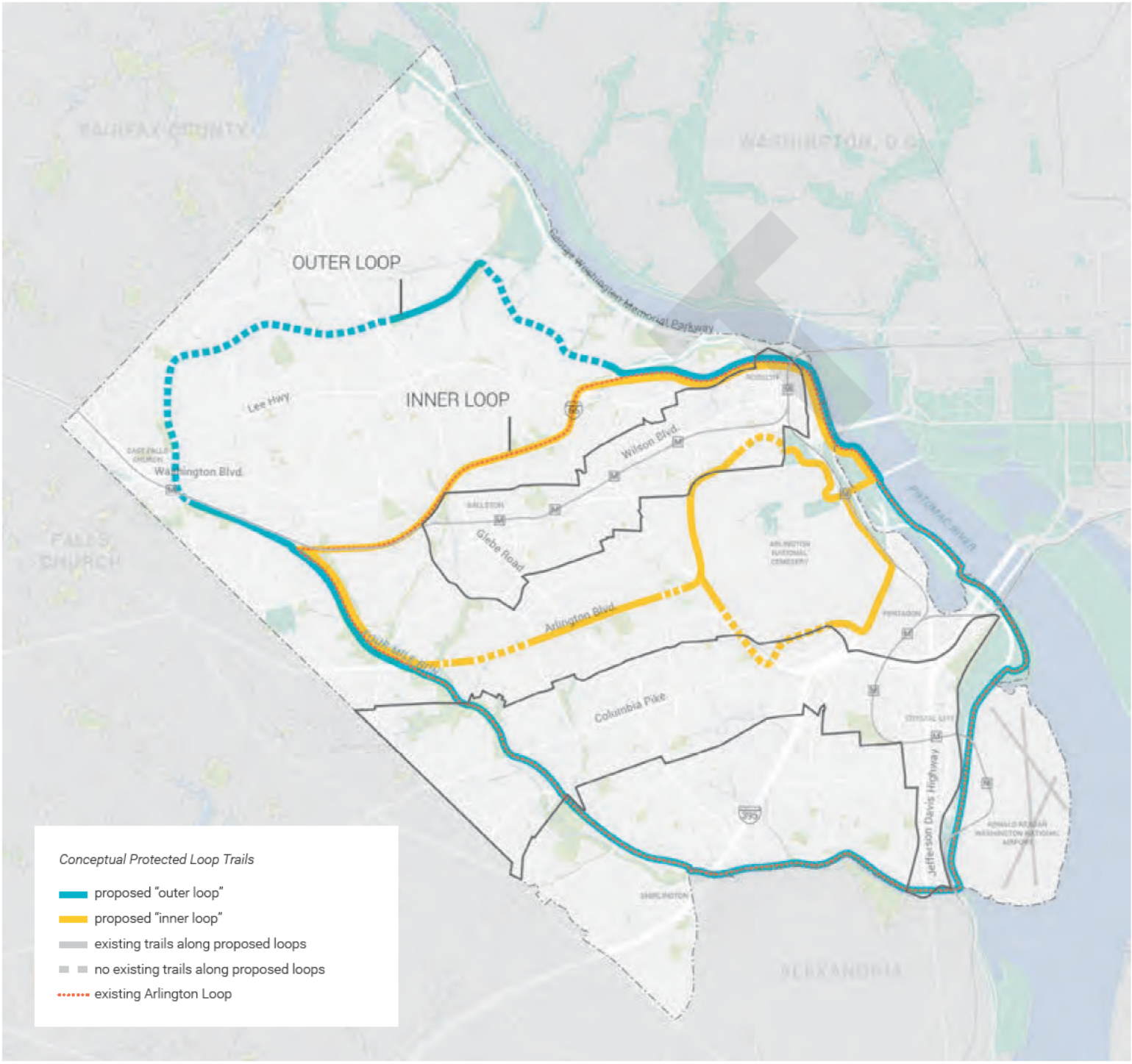

Figure 17. Creating Different Length Loops that Build on the Arlington Loop

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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.

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

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IN PROGRESS:

TRAIL USE MONITORING

Arlington currently monitors bicycle and pedestrian usage with 32 permanent and 6 portable 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.

2.1.4. 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 Trail, an ew bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the P mac River, would further integrate Long Bridge P e broader system.

2.1.5. Create safe routes to p nd other public spaces by filling gaps in sidewalk n- and off-street trails that connect public spa o 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.

2.1.6. Improve and add connections to adjacent trail systems beyond the County.

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.

2.1.7. 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 how different types of trail users use the trail system.

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2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.

Some of Arlington's trails, such as the Custis Trail, 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 paved trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

Introducing striping on two-way trails enhances the safety of all users by explicitly demarcating areas for each direction of travel.

2.2.3. 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.

What improvements would encourage you to walk or bike more to parks?

"Separate bike and pedestrian paths."

—Public Meeting Participant

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.

Giving novice riders a place to learn to ride.
Glencarlyn Park

2.2.4. 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.

2.2.5. 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.

2.2.6. 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.

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Hiking through Arlington's natural areas.
Potomac Heritage Trail

2.2.7. 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 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.

What improvements would encourage you to walk or bike more to parks?

"Better signs and maps along trails to discover new areas."
— Public Meeting Participant

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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.

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.

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 connective 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.

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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.

2.5. 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 tandem to achieve common planning and management goals.

The popularity of trails is universal for all ages and family types.

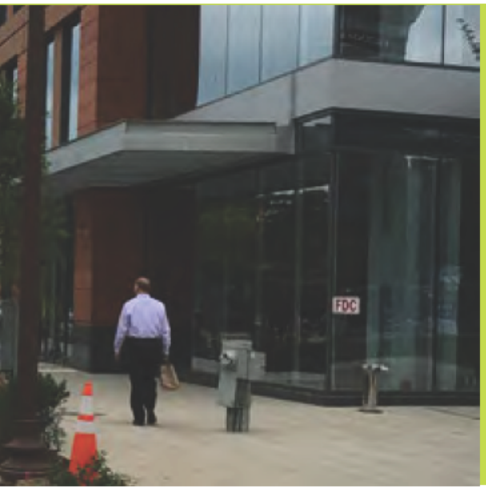
IN PROGRESS:

PROTECTED ON-STREET TRAILS

FAIRFAX DRIVE, ...

description

Trail signage in Arlington County
Credit:



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3. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

PROTECT, RESTORE, EXPAND, AND ENHANCE NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, AND INCREASE RESOURCE-BASED ACTIVITIES.

Four Mile Run - Moss Cleanup
© Mrs. Gemstone
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Natural and historic resources are irreplaceable assets. Prioritizing their protection for recreation and conservation will ensure continued access to them. The 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.

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NATURAL RESOURCE ACTIONS

PRIORITY ACTION

3.1. Update the Natural Resources Management Plan.

The Natural Resources Management Plan was last updated in 2010. It names 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.

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.

"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.

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.

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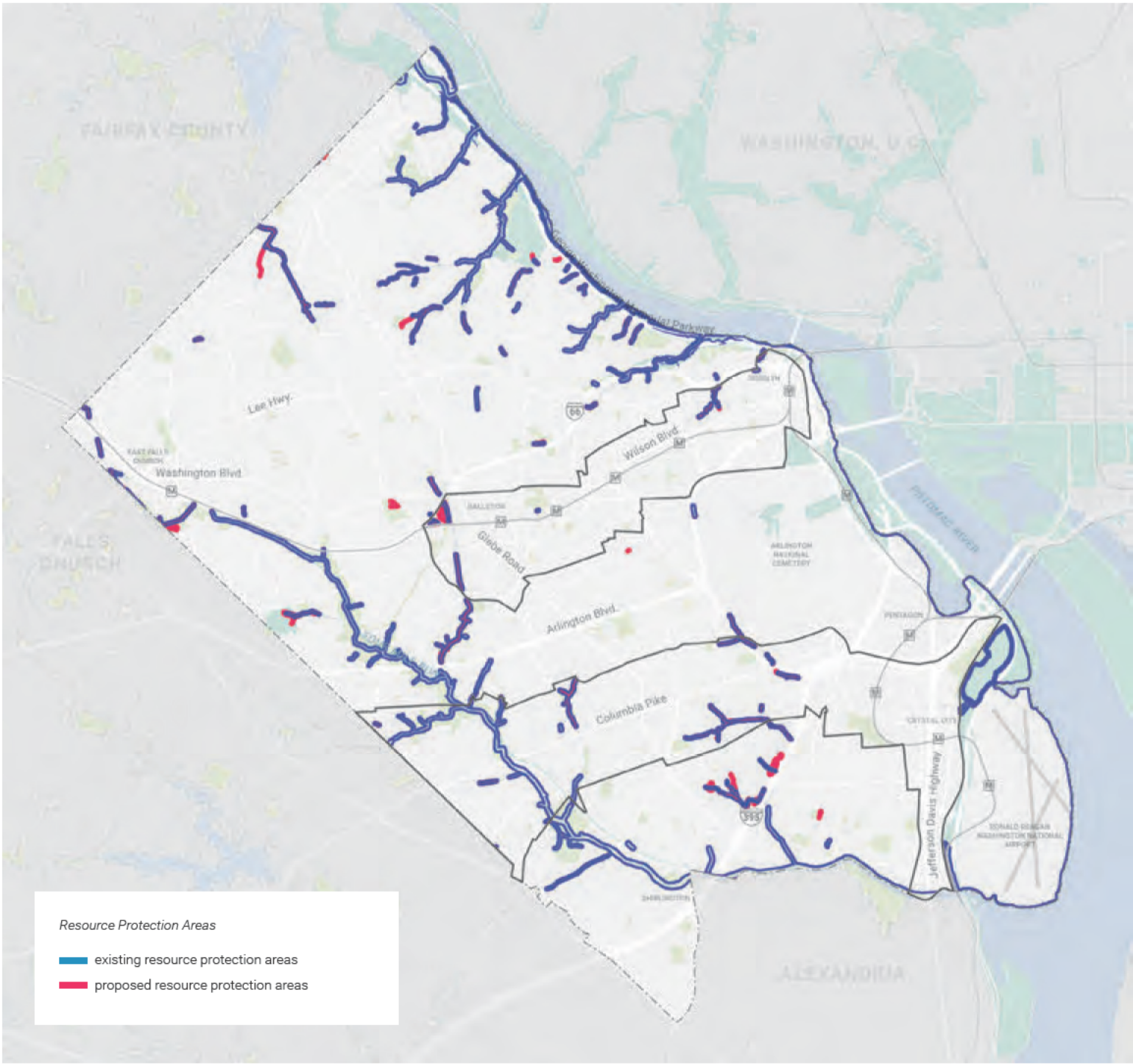
Figure 18. Map of Resource Protection Areas
A Resource Protection Area (RPA) includes streams, rivers, and other water bodies and environmentally sensitive lands within 100 feet of these water resources



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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.

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.

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 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 a 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 POPS survey.

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Caption
Caption

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.).

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.

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.

3.3.7. 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 require specific care

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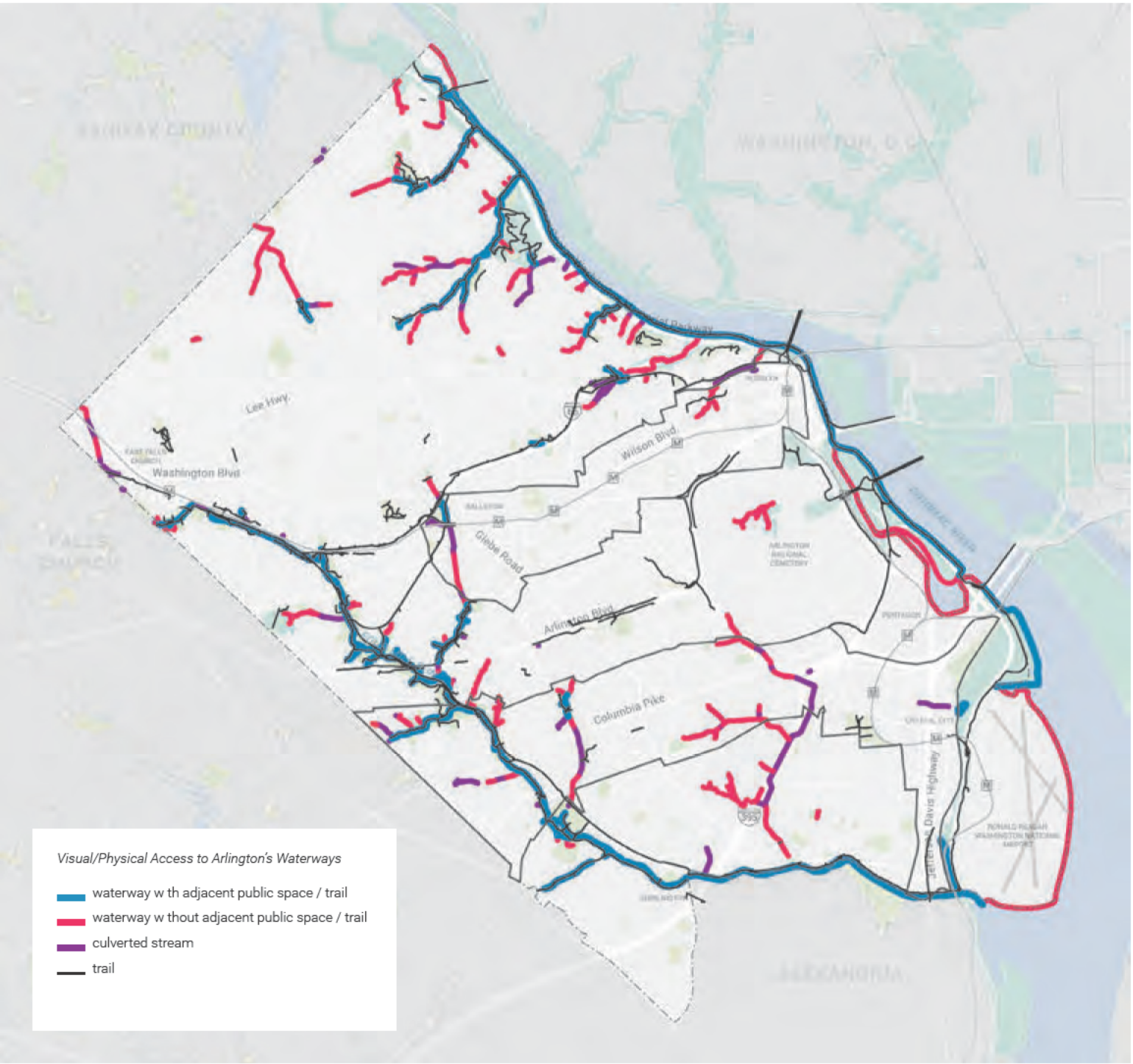
Figure 19. Tributaries to the Potomac River and Four Mile Run Lack Continuous Access



PLACES TO START:
DAYLIGHTING

- Doctor's Run
- Nauck Branch

3.3.8. Identify opportunities for daylighting streams 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.

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.)

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.

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3.4.4. Evaluate opportunities to enhance stormwater management features with natural resources.

3.4.5. 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.

3.4.7. 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 enviornmental stewardship.

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 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.

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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. 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.

Fort C.F. Smith Park
Caption

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.**

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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. Consider the creation of a "Resident Curator" program.

This program could identify stewards that would live in and maintain historic properties at their own expense while allowing public access to the properties. Fairfax County currently has a successful program.

3.7.10. 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.

3.7.11. Expand historical resource programming to connect residents and visitors with Arlington's heritage.

Caption
Fort C.F. Smith Park

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4. PARTNERSHIPS

EXPAND AND CLARIFY PARTNERSHIPS TO SET MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS AND LEVERAGE RESOURCES CREATIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY.

Brian W. Knight/Swim Bike Run Photography

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.

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Caption
Caption

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.

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.

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 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.

4.1.4. 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.

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 and sound design of public spaces and facilities. Creating a consistent public space experience throughout the County will enhance user experiences and promote a more cohesive identity for the County's public space system.

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

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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.

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.

Clarendon Farmers Market
Arlington

EXPAND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

4.3.3. 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.

4.3.4. Look for opportunities to revise memorandums of agreement with sports groups to address, and ultimately improve, field access and responsibilities for field maintenance.

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.

4.3.7. 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. Create a DPR liaison for volunteers to get assistance for resources, allocations, and repairs.

4.4.2. Look for opportunities and strategies to improve on the recruitment of volunteers.

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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).

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.

Learning about local history
Fort C.F. Smith Park

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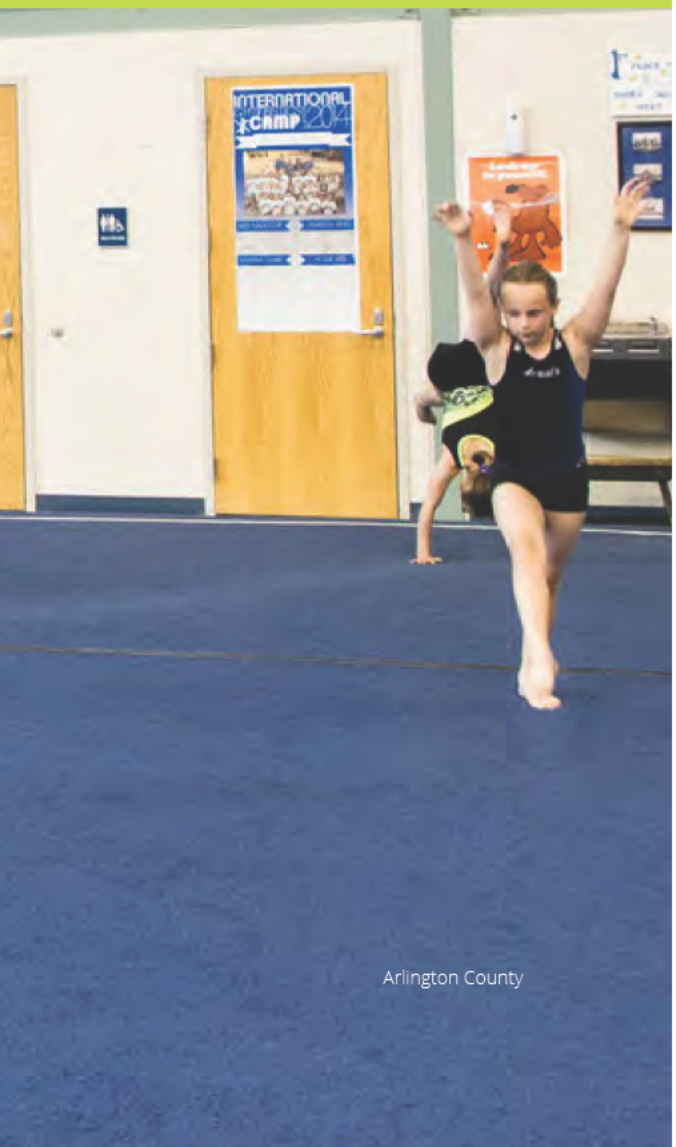
5. PROGRAMS

ENSURE PROGRAM OFFERINGS CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO CHANGING USER NEEDS.



Arlington County

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.

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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.

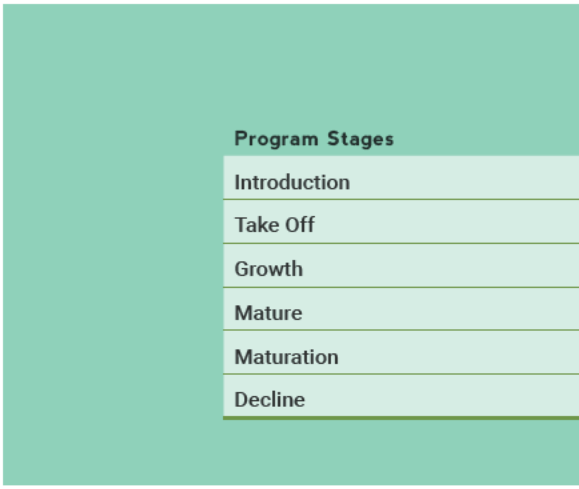
Arlington County will strive to stay at the forefront of national trends and emerging ideas about recreation and programming in order to best serve its residents. For current trends, see the Trends section.

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.

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.



Keeping an eye on national trends and emerging ideas about recreation and programming will help the County best serve Arlington residents.

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.

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Description	Best Practice Percentage of Programs
new, modest participation	50–60%
rapid growth	
moderate, consistent growth	
slow growth	40%
minimal growth, extreme competition	0–10%
declining participation	

BEST PRACTICE:

PROGRAM LIFE CYCLES

Fitness and wellness programs are especially popular among older residents, while nature programs have broad appeal across age groups.

5.2.1. Ensure a beneficial mix of programs in the introduction, take-off, and growth; maturation; and saturation and decline stages.

As a best practice, managing a diverse set of programs in different stages of growth will ensure the County is continuing to innovate and does not become overextended.

5.2.2. 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.

5.2.3. For each program area, update key service attributes to reflect what is most important to users.

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.

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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.

Enjoying an afternoon of jazz
Rosslyn Jazz Fest

FITNESS, WELLNESS & NATURE

high priority was placed on fitness, wellness, and nature programming throughout the process

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, WiFi, concessions, or other elements can make a public space usable for a wide variety of programming.

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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.

Arlington County

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 public spaces marketing plan.

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.

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ACTIONS

6.1. Engage users, partners, and County staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance of parks and public spaces.

The 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.

6.1.1. Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, at least every 5 years.

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

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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.

Arlingtonians provide input on programming needs.
Public Meeting Series 1: Courthouse

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Lee Highway Community Engagement
Location

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.

6.3. Annually review and update a public spaces marketing plan.

While various County, regional, and federal entities already market their respective public spaces, the complete set of public space offerings throughout Arlington are not marketed all together or in a coordinated manner. Doing so will 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.

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6.4. 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.

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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.

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.

Afternoon fun at the sprayground.
VA Highlands Park

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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.

35.CrystalCityConnector Arlington.Va.26April2013
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ACTIONS:

7.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.

7.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

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ACTIONS

7.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.

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.

7.1.1. Define and regularly update levels of maintenance standards for each type of indoor and outdoor facility to revise existing maintenance policies and guidelines.

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 that short-and long-term maintenance and planning activities are well coordinated and appropriately scoped during all project phases.

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

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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.)

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.

Maintenance crews at work.
Barcroft Park

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7.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

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.

Lacey Woods Trail
Arlington

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.

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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.

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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.

Traditionally, 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,

Caption
Caption

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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.

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.

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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.

The 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.

People on Esplanade
Caption

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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.

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.

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.

LEVERAGE BENEFITS

added value from public spaces can stimulate investment and attract new businesses and residents

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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.**

Defining a pricing philosophy will provide predictability and consistency for residents and County staff.

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.

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ACTION PLAN

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ACRONYMS

DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
CPHD	Community Planning, Housing & Development
AED	Arlington Economic Development
DES	Department of Environmental Services
APS	Arlington Public Schools
DMF	Department of Management and Finance
CAO	County Attorney's Office
UFC	Urban Forestry Commission
NRJAC	Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group
HALRB	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

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COST RANGE ESTIMATE

$	less than $25,000 achievable with existing or part-time additional staff
$$	$25,000–50,000
$$$	$50,000–100,000
$$$$	$100,000–1,000,000 llikely to require outside expertise (consultants)
$$$$$	$1,000,000+ llikely to require outside expertise (consultants), capital planning, construction monies, or other significant financial outlay

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in progress

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.**					
	DPR		Capital budget, bonds, general fund, grants	30 acres acquired over the next 10 years.	continuous	$$$$$
1.1.2.	**Secure or expand the public spaces envisioned by sector, corridor, and other plans adopted by the County Board — including the Clarendon Sector Plan, Virginia Square Plan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, and Crystal City Sector Plan — and ensure they provide amenities that meet County needs.**					
	DPR, CPHD, AED	Planning Commission, Park and Recreation commission, BIDs, community organizations, civic and citizen associations, developers	Capital budget, bonds, general fund, developers		continuous	$$$$$
1.1.3.	**Incorporate the recommendations of this plan into future sector, corridor, and other County plans, and use County-wide needs and level of service analyses to advocate for the inclusion of additional public space in those plans.**					
	CPHD, DES, DPR, AED, HALRB	Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, BIDs, community organizations, civic and citizen associations, developers, HALRB			continuous	$
1.1.4.	**Ensure that public space amenities proposed in site plans are informed by level of service analyses and include well-designed, clearly defined public easements that are regularly maintained.**					
	DPR, CPHD	Developers			continuous	$
1.1.5.	**Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to County waterways, particularly Four Mile Run. (see also 1.5.2.)**					
	CPHD, DPR	DES, NVCT, Adjacent property owners	Capital budget, bonds, general fund, grants		continuous	$$$$
1.1.6.	**Strengthen and expand use of the County's transfer of development rights policy as a tool to create and consolidate future public space.**					
	CPHD, DPR, CAO	AED, Private property owners			medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$
1.1.7.	**Work with the Commonwealth to create new deck parks over I-66 or other highways, to mitigate highway widening and to reclaim public space.**					
	DES, DPR	VDOT	Capital budget, bonds, state and federal sources		long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
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.**					
	CPHD	developers			continuous	$

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.
1.1.9.	**Identify and evaluate potential surplus public properties, and determine if they should be disposed of or incorporated into the public space system.**					
	DPR, AED				continuous	$
1.1.10.	**Consider the acquisition of defunct private recreation facilities using acquisition guidelines.**					
	DPR	capital budget, bonds, general fund, 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 Phase 2 of Long Bridge Park.**					
	DPR		capital budget, bonds, general fund, non-County sources	Successful completion of Phase 2 according to project schedule	short term (0–5 years)	$$$$$
1.2.2.	**Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans.**					
	DPR		capital budget, bonds, general fund	number of completely implemented park master plans	long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
1.2.3.	**Consolidate recreation facilities and activities that are currently distributed throughout community centers into fewer, larger recreation centers.**					
	DPR		capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
1.2.4.	**Designate and expand 4 sports complexes that will provide access to prime recreational amenities and will accommodate sports tournaments.**					
	DPR		capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
1.2.5.	**Construct 2 new multi-use activity centers to provide year-round access to indoor athletic courts and fields.**					
	DPR		capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
1.2.6.	**Develop park framework plans with community input for all public spaces that identify intended uses and in what zones those uses are intended to occur.**					
	DPR	Parks and Recreation Commission, civic and citizen associations			short term (0–5 years)	$$$$
1.2.7.	**Update or develop park master plans with community input, to be adopted by the County Board, for approximately 10 parks that are in need of capital upgrades or are of high importance to the park system.**					
	DPR	Parks and Recreation Commission, other County departments, civic and citizen associations			short term (0–5 years)	$$$$

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 10 existing diamond fields to synthetic turf as funding is available.**					
	DPR	sports groups	Capital budget	Number of fields converted	medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$
1.2.9.	**Add lighting to synthetic fields and other multi-use fields, according to field lighting guidelines.**					
	DPR	sports groups	Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$
1.2.10.	**Modify the County's regulations and codes — including zoning and other requirements related to setbacks, lighting, parking, signage, height, and temporary use of public and private property as public space — to allow more flexibility in park planning and respond to high-density contexts.**					
	CPHD, DPR				medium term (0–10 years)	$
1.2.11.	**Replace on-site surface parking with structured, underground, or on-street parking, where feasible and needed, to maximize space for ground-level uses.**					
	DPR, CPHD	adjacent private and public property owners	Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$$
1.2.12.	**Explore opportunities to add or relocate recreational amenities above structured parking and on roofs and walls of County buildings.**					
	DPR	private property owners	Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$$
1.2.13.	**Explore opportunities to improve public spaces that are underground or underneath infrastructure.**					
1.2.14.	**Provide all-season access to athletic fields, commensurate with demand, through the use of temporary or permanent structures.**					
	DPR	sports groups	Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$
1.2.15.	**Include transportation planning in the park master planning process to increase accessibility by walking, biking, driving, and transit.**					
	DES, DPR	transit and bicycle advocacy groups			continuous	$
1.2.16.	**Develop a network of green streets that connect public spaces.**					
	DPR, DES	community organizations, civic and citizen associations	Capital budget, bonds, general fund		long term (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.**					

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.
1.2.18.	Develop design guidelines for privately-owned public spaces.					
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.	**CPHD**	owners of privately-owned public spaces		short term (0–5 years)	$$
1.2.20.	Complete and routinely update a database of all privately-owned public spaces that includes an assessment of their quality, design, function, signage and accessibility, and create an interactive map to raise awareness of such spaces.	**AED**, DPR, HALRB, CPHD, Historic Preservation			continuous	$$
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.					$
1.2.22.	Incorporate new and interactive technologies into public spaces.					
1.2.23.	Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture.					

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

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	$$$

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.
1.4.5.	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 (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.
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.)					
	DPR, CAO, AED	Local businesses, BIDs			short term (0–5 years)	$
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.					
	DPR, CAO, AED	Local businesses, BIDs			short term (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 (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 (0–10 years)	$$$
1.5.5.	Install additional seating and drinking fountains near facilities and trails.					
	DPR		Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$
1.5.6.	Use Wi-Fi to provide public internet access in all public spaces that are programmed more than half of their time (e.g., community centers, sports fields) as well as in plazas and other public spaces in high-density corridors.					
	DPR	Potential Wi-Fi sponsors	Corporate sponsorships, operational budget, private donations		short term (0–5 years)	$$
1.5.7.	Reconfigure or add infrastructure to public spaces to support programming such as events and classes. (see also 5.1.3.)					
	DPR, AED		Capital budget, private donations		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$
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.)					
	DPR		Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$

in progress

Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by adding and improving public spaces.

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.
1.6.1.	**Continue to enhance public access to and along waterways.**					
	DPR, DES, PHD	NPS, adjacent private land owners			continuous	$$$$
1.6.2.	**Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to both sides of Four Mile Run. (see also 1.1.6.)**					
	DPR	DES, NVCT, Adjacent property owners	Capital budget, bonds, general fund, grants		continuous	$$$$
1.6.3.	**Develop a boathouse facility as part of improved riverfront access and potential new waterfront park for Rosslyn between Theodore Roosevelt Island/Little River and Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge, as recommended by the Water-Based Recreational Facility Task Force and the Rosslyn Sector Plan.**					
	DPR	NPS	Capital budget, bonds, general fund		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$
1.6.4.	**Provide opportunities for recreational boating and fishing.**					
	DPR	NPS, Boating/ fishing recreation organizations, Alexandria VA	Operational budget, sponsorships		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$

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.**					
	DPR		Capital budget, operational budget, general fund		long term (0–20 years)	$$$
1.7.2.	**Incorporate state-of-the-art and creative approaches to designing for universal access.**					
	DPR				continuous	$$
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.**					
	DPR	various commissions, civic and citizen associations	Capital budget			$$$

in progress

Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access to spaces for recreation, play, and enjoying nature by adding and improving public spaces.

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.					
	DPR			Facility design standards policy adopted and regularly revised	short term (0–5 years)	$
1.8.2.	Strive for design excellence in the development and reconstruction of parks and facilities.					
	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.					
	DPR				continuous	$$
1.8.4.	Use rating systems such as the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) rating system as guidance in designing sustainable landscapes.					
	DPR				continuous	$
1.8.5.	Opt for sustainable design elements in all capital investments where feasible.					
	DPR				continuous	$$$
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.					
	DPR, AED	community organizations, civic and citizen associations	Capital budget, private donations		continuous	$$$

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.					
	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.					
	DPR, CPHD, AED	BIDs, local businesses, community organizations, civic and citizen associations			continuous	$

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.
1.9.3.	**Streamline the process of permitting temporary spaces on both public and private lands.**					
	CPHD, DPR		Operational budget		short term (0–5 years)	$$$
1.9.4.	**Expand the use of temporary road closures to create public spaces that can be used for the community at large or for special events.**					
	DPR, CPHD	private property owners			continuous	$$
1.9.5.	**Ensure dedicated funding is available to support temporary uses and "pop-up" program**					
	DPR, CPHD, AED, DES	BIDs, local businesses, private property owners, community organizations, civic and citizen associations			ntinuous	

Action 1.10. Coordinate the construction of new or re lacement recrea facilities with the Capital Improvement Plan.

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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. Complete an "Arlington Circuit" of connected, protected multi-use trails.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Performance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.1.1.	**Complete an "inner loop" of protected routes that connects the Custis, Four Mile Run, Arlington Boulevard, and Mount Vernon Trails.**					
	DES, DPR	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, bicycle advocacy organizations	Capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
2.1.2.	**Complete an "outer loop" of protected routes that connects the Four Mile Run, Mou nd Zachary Taylor Trails.**					
	DES, DPR	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, bicycle advocacy organizations	Capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$$$$
2.1.3.	**Evaluate opportunities to create better connections across or arou nt b s, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway, I-395, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, the National Foreig ning Center, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Army Navy Country Club.**					
	DES, DPR	adjacent property owners	Ca dget, state and f		long term (0–20 years)	$$
2.1.4.	**Connect Long Bridge Park to the Mount Vernon Trail**					
	DPR, DES		Capita et		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$
2.1.5.	**Create safe routes to pa other publ aces by filling ps in sidewalks and on- and off-street trails that connect public spaces to neighborhoods, schools statio C unty facilities.**					
	DES, DPR	VDOT			continuous	$$$$
2.1.6.	**Improve d con o adjac systems beyond the County.**					
	DES D	A ia, Falls Ch airfax Cou ashington, D.C.	Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$$
2.1.7.	**Expand trail use mo track usage across all major trails by mode, and use gathered data to help guide the trail planning process.**					
	DES, DPR		Operational budget	Trail use database compiled and regularly updated	short term (0–5 years)	$$

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Strategic Direction 2. Improve the network of trails to, within, and between public spaces to increase access and enhance connectivity.

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.	Compile and clarify design standards for all types of trails.					
	DES, DPR	NPS, NOVA Parks, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees			short term (0–5 years)	$
2.2.2.	Use striping on paved trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions.					
	DES, DPR		Capital budget		short term 0–5 years)	$$
2.2.3.	Ensure paved, multi-use trails are wide enough for passing and that there is ent space alongside pulling over.					
	DES		Capital budget		me m (0–10 y ars)	$$$
2.2.4.	Explore creative and efficient ways to educate users about trail etiquette.					
	DPR, DES	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees, trail/ recreation advocacy groups, Washington Area Bicyclist Association			continuous	$
2.2.5.	Separate modes, where space allo high rail routes here user conflicts commonly occur.					
	DES, DPR		al budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$
2.2.6.	Continue to develop "l to ride" ar rovide protec ed spaces for novice users to learn to bicycle.					
	DPR		apital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$
2.2.7.	Use Wi-Fi to p ublic interne ss at trailheads where feasible.					
	DPR, DTS	ponsors	Corporate sponsorships, operational budget, private donations		short term (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.	Weigh the benefits of adding hiking trails to protected natural areas against the impacts to natural resources. (See also 3.3.4.)					
	DPR, DES	NPS, Adjacent property owners	Capital budget, federal funds		long term (0–20 years)	$
2.3.2.	Improve the quality of and increase access to Four Mile Run and Potomac tributary trails. (see also 3.3.1.)					
	DPR, DES				continuous	$$$

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

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Per mance M	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.4.1.	**Name all trail segments using descriptive names.**					
	DPR				erm (years)	$
2.4.2.	**Work with trail owners within Arlington and neighboring jurisdictions ommon trail signage and wayfinding standards for major connective trails.**					
	DES, DPR	Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Washington, D.C., other nearby jurisdictions	Ope nal budget	sta l trail signage developed	medium term (0–10 years)	$$
2.4.3.	**Develop a County design standar gnage and g that addresses hierarchy, connections, destinations, landmarks, identity, and areas of congesti**					
	DES, DPR		Operationa t	County trail design standards developed and regularly reviewed	medium term (0–10 years)	$
2.4.4.	**Add location i tential y ted into wayfinding signage, at regular intervals along trails for issues/emergencies as well as mile mark**					
	DES, DP		Capital budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$$
2.4.5.	**Improve way ignage a heads.**					
	DPR, DES		Capital budget		short term (0–5 years)	$$

Action 2.5. Better coordinate planning for and management of trails.

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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.
					short term (0–5 years)	

Action 3.2. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Performance M es	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
					short term (0–5 years)	

Action 3.3. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources, partic y in riparian corridors County waterways.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Source rm	Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.3.1.	**Address the protection, restoration, and expansion of natural resources in Fo Run planning and site master plans for parks along Four Mile Run, as well as others leading to riparian areas**					
	CPHD, DES, DPR	NVCT, NRJAG, not-for-profits, NOVA Parks, Alexandria, civic associations	Capita operati u		continuous	$$
3.3.2.	**Explore opportunities to participate in Biophilic C ement.**					
	DPR	Park and R Commi			short term (0–5 years)	$
3.3.3.	**Pursue easements to protect nat s s.**					
	DPR	NRJAG, NV land ow	Capital bu t		continuous	$
3.3.4.	**Coordinat otection and on of na esources with the provision of new hiking trails. (See also 2.3.2.)**					
	DPR, DES	NRJAG, N Parks OVA			continuous	$$
3.3.5.	**Collaborate with the N Pa vice to develop a master plans for Roaches Run, Gravelly Point, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and other NPS**					
	DPR	NP	Operational budget, federal funds		continuous	$$
3.3.6.	**Work with Arlington Public Schools to identify, preserve, and develop enhancement and management plans for natural and historic resources in school site planning.**					
	DPR, APS, DES, CPHD		Operational budget		continuous	$$
3.3.7.	**Develop an agreement with Arlington Public Schools to increase shared resources for management of natural resources on school property.**					
	DPR, DES		Operational budget	Resource sharing agreement adopted and regularly reviewed	short term (0–5 years)	$$

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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.
3.3.8.	**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 (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 design of public spaces.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Pe ance M	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		nuous	$$$
3.4.2.	**Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees and private land.**					
	DPR, DES, CPHD	UFC, private land owners	Capital budget, o budget, p		continuous	$$
3.4.3.	**Expand and work with partners to extend non-native ve spec nt and public education campaigns. (See also 7.2.5.)**					
	DPR, DES	NVCT, environmental organiza	Operat u capital b	n-native invasive species management policy adopted and regularly reviewed	short term (0–5 years)	$$
3.4.4.	**Evaluate opportunities to storm ment features with natural resources.**					
	DPR, DES				continuous	$
3.4.5.	**Add inter sign public that highlight the natural resources within those spaces and the benefits those resources provid**					
	DPR	AP envi ntal orga ons	Capital budget		short term (0–5 years)	$$
3.4.6.	**Expand and promo cognition programs for important natural resources, such as the Notable Tree and Champion Tree programs.**					
	DPR	UFC, environmental organizations	Operational budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$
3.4.7.	**Increase the diversity of habitats for critical species and develop maintenance guidelines.**					
	DPR, DES	NRJAG	Operational budget, capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$$
3.4.8.	**Explore opportunities to use public art to interpret natural resources.**					

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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.					
	DPR, APS		Operational budget	Nature-based programs annually reviewed for expansion opportuniti	medium term (0–10 years)	$$
3.5.2.	Foster additional integration of nature-based education provided by nature centers into p ol curriculums.					
	DPR, APS		Operational budget		medium m (0–10)	$$$
3.5.3.	Provide outdoor leadership training to better connect residents of all age ature.					
	DPR, APS		Operational budget	utdoor tee dership ram lished	medium term (0–10 years)	$$

Action 3.6. Promote conservation stewardship volu that enables duals and organizations to leave a positive legacy in the park system.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential F g Source	nce Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.6.1.	Continue to identify opportunities for conservation stewards t , such as removing garbage from waterways or parks, planting trees or native plants, removing non-n e plants, or g at large events.					
	DPR, DES	Neighbo nd enviro al orga s			continuous	$
3.6.2.	Continue to collaborate with commu , service , and businesses on conservation stewardship events.					
	DPR	rhood o ns, servic busines	Operational budget		continuous	$
3.6.3.	Review and revise und che quirements and volunteer waivers to reduce volunteers' liability and encourage latent volunteerism.					
	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 lisiting on the National Register of Historic Places or the Virginia Landmarks Register.					
	CPHD, DPR, HALRB		Operational budget	Historic property inventory completed	short term (0–5 years)	$$

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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.	**Identify critical historic resources that may need protection and have potential educational and interpretive components.**					
	CPHD, HALRB	DPR	Operational budget		short term (0–5 years)	$$
3.7.3.	**Determine the feasibility of adding services and amenities to existing historic properties.**					
	DPR, CPHD				continuous	$
3.7.4.	**Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential historic resources will be added to blic space system. (See Appendix A for land acquisition criteria.)**					
	DPR, CPHD, HALRB				continuous	$
3.7.5.	**Develop long range goals and strategies for the appropriate preservatio abilitation, restoration nstruction of historic sites, objects or landscapes within public spaces.**					
	DPR, CPHD, HALRB		Operational bud	Long goals and str s developed and lly evaluated	s ort term (0–5 years)	$
3.7.6.	**Coordinate with federal preservation agencies to be verage and expan experiences.**					
	DPR, AED	Federal preservation agencies			continuous	$
3.7.7.	**Seek out new local and regional partnerships and agre s w oup support history, education, and cultural resources.**					
	CPHD, DPR	HALRB, local org ions	Operatio t		continuous	$
3.7.8.	**Create internal County wor ups t and coordinate long-term planning for historic resources.**					
	CPHD, DPR	HALR			short term (0–5 years)	$
3.7.9.	**Consi e creation of ent Cur ogram.**					
	CPHD		Operational budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$
3.7.10.	**Explore the need fo l staff resources to support the challenges of preserving historic resources and facilities.**					
	DPR, CPHD		Operational budget		short term (0–5 years)	$$
3.7.11.	**Expand historical resource programming to connect residents and visitors with Arlington's heritage.**					

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Strategic Direction 4. Expand and clarify partnerships to set mutual expectations and leverage resources creatively and effectively.

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.					
	DPR, APS				short term (0–5 years)	$
4.1.2.	Explore opportunities for the development of new joint-use facilities to maximize public access menities and use land and other resources more efficiently.					
	DPR, APS		Capital budget, bonds		continuous	$
4.1.3.	Work jointly to annually analyze program participation and adjust scheduling of f ilities according					
	DPR, APS		Operational budget	P m participation rt developed and nnually upda d	c us	$$
4.1.4.	Expand participation in planning for publicly-accessible amenities on Arl chools property.					
	DPR, APS				continuous	$$
4.1.5.	Use design solutions to overcome security concerns abo lic school faci he public outside of school hours.					
	DPR, APS				continuous	$$
4.1.6.	Ensure the contributions to capital costs and maintenance o ic es on C unty and Arlington Public Schools sites are commensurate with use.					
	DPR, APS				continuous	$
4.1.7.	Continue to collaborate with A Public S preserve n tural resources, playing fields, and other public space when designing and building new scho					
	DPR, APS, DES	BLPC, PFRC	Operationa udget	Comprehensive maintenance strategy developed	continuous	$
4.1.8.	Share and c e operations PS for trails that jointly support access to schools, community centers, and neighborhoods.					

Action 4.2. Work with the N ark Service and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate the attention paid to their facilities and lan 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.					
	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.					
	DPR	NPS, NOVA Parks	Capital budget		long term (0–20 years)	$$

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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.					
	DPR, DES	NPS			medium term (0–10 years)	$
4.2.4.	Collaborate with other entities to improve maintenance, erosion control, control of non-native sive species, signage, and trail markers.					
	DPR, DES	NPS	Capital budget, operational budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$

Action 4.3. Regularly revise or create new agreements with partn rganizations to fair and equitable relationships.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Fundin s	Perfo ce Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.3.1.	Develop a guide to the partnership agreement and onboarding proce					
	DPR		Operational budget	ership guide d and regularly rev	short term (0–5 years)	$
4.3.2.	Assign a liaison to work with each partner, and ensu h partn liaison to work with the County to improve communication and collaboration.					
	DPR				continuous	$
4.3.3.	Track and regularly share in ion and urable out of partnership agreements.					
	DPR			Costs and outcomes tracked and shared biannually or annually	continuous	$
4.3.4.	Look for o e mem ms of agreement with sports groups to address, and ultimately improve, field access and respon es for field ance.					
	DPR	Sp oups			continuous	$
4.3.5.	Develop a pr al proces partners that have recurring events to streamline approvals.					
	DPR	BI			continuous	$
4.3.6.	Streamline and effectiv y communicate approval processes for partners that work to improve public spaces.					
	DPR	BIDs			continuous	$
4.3.7.	Enhance and develop partnerships with universities, foundations, friends groups, businesses, and other organizations.					
	DPR	universities, foundations, friends groups			continuous	$

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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.	Create a DPR liaison for volunteers to get assistance for resources, allocations, and repairs.					
	DPR		Operational budget		short term (0–5 years)	$$
4.4.2.	Look for opportunities and strategies to improve on the recruitment of volunteers.					
	DPR	volunteer programs (e.g., Americorps)	Operational budget		short term (0–5 years)	$
4.4.3.	Improve the system for volunteer registration and tracking.					
	DPR		Operational budget		rm (0)	$
4.4.4.	Periodically identify, evaluate, or revise the focus of volunteer program er su public spaces and to ensure volunteers are adequately supported by staff.					
	DPR			V program revie ually	continuous	$
4.4.5.	Expand the reward and recognition system for voluntee					
	DPR		Operation get		short term (0–5 years)	$
4.4.6.	Continue to regularly update volunt riptions an tions.					
	DPR				continuous	$
4.4.7.	Promote and encourage expansi dop Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Stream, Adopt-a-Field).					
	DPR				short term (0–5 years)	$
4.4.8.	Encourag eer days with ies, inst ons, non-profits, and other large organizations.					
	DPR	compani institution on-profi niz ge s			continuous	$
4.4.9.	Encourage volunteerism thro gh County-wide events.					
	DPR				continuous	$

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Strategic Direction 5. Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.

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.	Undertake a demand and capacity analysis of existing programs offered by DPR and program partners in Arlington County.					
	DPR	Program partners	Operational budget	Demand and capacity analysis report completed and ann ally updated	short term (0–5 years)	$
5.1.2.	Continue to monitor national recreation trends and best practices and incorporate ne novative recreation programs to sustain community participation.					
	DPR				continuous	$
5.1.3.	Conduct public input processes to assess and implement new program ations.					
	DPR	CPHD	Operational budget		inuous	$
5.1.4.	Diversify and increase availability of senior programming to serve m i ors.					
	DPR	DHS, senior advocacy groups	Operational budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$$
5.1.5.	Promote and increase the availability of programm a diverse ages ests, and abilities.					
	DPR		Ope al budge		medium term (0–10 years)	$$

Action 5.2. Implement best pra s in am life c s to maintain a culture of quality program delivery.

	Responsible Parties	al Partne	Potential Fun g Sources	Performance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
5.2.1.	Ensure a beneficial mix of pr e-off, and growth; maturation; and saturation and decline stages.					
	DPR			Program life cycle tracking system developed and annually updated	continuous	$
5.2.2.	Documen ram develo nt process to maintain program consistency and assist in training staff.					
	DPR				short term (0–5 years)	$
5.2.3.	For each program area, pdate key service attributes to reflect what is most important to users.					
	DPR				continuous	$

Action 5.3. Periodically evaluate each program's participation, finances, and outcomes.

Action 5.4. Periodically evaluate programmed uses of indoor and outdoor spaces to identify needs for additional space and opportunities to reallocate space.

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Strategic Direction 5. Ensure program offerings continue to respond to changing user needs.

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.**					
	DPR, DHS				continuous	
5.5.2.	**Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation programs in informational materials. (s o 6.2.3.)**					
	DPR, DHS				short term (0–5 years)	$
5.5.3.	**Work with local healthcare providers to expand the park prescription program.**					
	DPR, DHS	Local healthcare providers			rm ( )	$$
5.5.4.	**Track public space usage indicators over time to determine the posit impac public space system improvements.**					
	DPR, DHS				continuous	$$

Action 5.6. Use programming to activate parks and ces.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential ng So	rmance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
5.6.1.	**Set usage targets to identify parks and public spaces wher ramm o ster lower-than-desired usage.**					
	DPR	Neighborhood organizatio			short term (0–5 years)	$
5.6.2.	**Employ lessons learned from periences activating pu spaces (e.g., at Gateway Park) to develop program plans for spaces that are meant for or co mmo l usage.**					
	DPR	BIDs, neig nizations			medium term (0–10 years)	$
5.6.3.	**Consider uring or adding ities to p lic spaces to support flexible programming. (see also 1.4.8.)**					
	DPR	CPHD	Capital budget, private donations		medium term (0–10 years)	$

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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.					
	DPR, other County departments				continuous	$$
6.1.2.	Develop public engagement guidelines for park planning and recreation program planni					
						$
6.1.3.	Use inclusive, transparent, and creative community engagement practices th t encourage par by all community members.					
						$
6.1.4.	Engage users on an ongoing basis to evaluate the success of pu aces and p mming in order to establish a meaningful feedback loop between the County and its residents.					
						$

Action 6.2. Update and develop new marketing nication ma and programs that increase awareness and highlight the benefits of public spaces, recr on program and services and inspire users to participate more often.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potent di urces	erformance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
6.2.1.	Develop materials that commun of facilitie experiences available across the County to all Arlington residents, workers, and visitors.					
	DPR	IDs	Operational et	New and enhanced marketing materials developed and annually updated	short term (0–5 years)	$
6.2.2.	Highligh ealth an ss bene creation programs in informational materials. (see also 5.4.1.)					
	DPR				short term (0–5 years)	$
6.2.3.	Highlight faci histor d natural program elements as well as public art both in marketing materials and through on-site interpretation an m					
	DPR, CPHD		Operational budget		medium term (0–10 years)	$
6.2.4.	Communicate the availability of physically and financially accessible facilities and programs.					
	DPR, APS				continuous	$
6.2.5.	Ensure materials are written in relatable language and are accessible to non-English speakers and the visually impaired.					
	DPR				continuous	$
6.2.6.	Improve messaging about the environmental, social, and economic benefits of public spaces.					
	DPR				continuous	$

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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.
6.2.7.	Proactively engage communities adjacent to public spaces about the benefits of public space programs, facilities, and services.					
	DPR	Neighborhood organizations	Operational budget		continuous	$
6.2.8.	Regularly communicate the progress of PSMP implementation.					
	DPR	DTS	Operational budget	Plan implementation update issued ann	continuous	$
6.2.9.	Improve signage for all County-owned public spaces so as to effectively brand the syst ce the appeal of individual spaces as part of a cohesive whole. (see also 1.4.8.)					
	DPR	DES	Capital budget		ium term ears)	$$
6.2.10.	Pursue state and national awards on an annual basis from organizatio h as the Vi a Recreation and ark Society, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Institute of Architects erican y of Landscape Architects, the American Planning Association, Americans for the Arts, the Center for Active Desig					
	DPR				continuous	$

Action 6.3. Annually review and update a public space arketin

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partn	Potential Fu s	Performance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
6.3.1.	Coordinate across departments an p integrate ges about the benefits of public space.					
						$

Action 6.4. Monitor and evaluate tre mmun n and engagement tools and platforms that can increase public space users' int with th ty.

Action 6.5. Incl blic spaces onomic development and tourism messaging.

	Responsible Pa	Potential ners	Potential Funding Sources	Performance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
6.5.1.	Market public space nts tractions for visitors from the region and beyond.					
	DPR, AED	ing ju ctions, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Capital Region USA			continuous	$
6.5.2.	Cross-market public spaces with other regional attractions to encourage visitors to spend time and money in Arlington.					
	DPR, AED	Neighboring jurisdictions, Virginia Tourism Corporation, Capital Region USA			continuous	$
6.5.3.	Market the public space system as an asset to potential employers and workers.					
	DPR, AED	BIDs			continuous	$

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Strategic Direction 6. Improve community engagement and communication to enhance user satisfaction and foster support for public spaces.

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.	Use online and social media regularly to solicit input and feedback from residents.					
	DPR				continuous	$
6.6.2.	Integrate information about public spaces (including public easements), such as locations, a ies, trail information, program information, and upcoming events, into the My Arlington app and other widely used apps atforms.					
	DPR	DTS			medium term (0–10 years)	$
6.6.3.	Ensure web and app design maximizes usability by those with disabilitie					
	DPR, DTS				m t m (0–10 years)	$

Action 6.7. Regularly measure and report on the progress of plan mentation.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	P Sources	Per e Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
6.7.1.	Communicate progress to staff and the public in a c ay th nt with strategies for engagement and communication.					
	DPR				continuous	$

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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 ds or sensitive habitats.**					
	DPR, DES		Operational budget		ort term years)	$
7.1.3.	**Improve interdepartmental coordination to ensure that short-and long-te aintenance and planning activ 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 addre ing, repaving, sn val, and safety.**					
	DPR, DES		Operat	Comprehe rail intenance standards d and annually re d	short term (0–5 years)	$
7.1.5.	**Identify opportunities to share main ibilities w ner organizations and groups for efficiency, and encourage others to share maintenance responsibil**					
	DPR	BID and re associat leagues			medium term (0–10 years)	$
7.1.6.	**Ensure main ce safety s includ les to universal access.**					
	DPR				short term (0–5 years)	$
7.1.7.	**Continue to train m ce sta 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)	$$

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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.	Establish review procedures to ensure all maintenance standards are being met.					

Action 7.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Performance M ures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
7.2.1.	Optimize operations and maintenance standards to ensure fiscal sustainability. (see a 3.)	DPR			continuous	$
7.2.2.	Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, red energy usage, r water consumption, and light pollution.	DPR, DES			nuous	$
7.2.3.	Conduct pilot projects to test effectiveness for County-wide usage	DPR	Operational budget		continuous	$$
7.2.4.	Continue to utilize native plant species and water aterials as reco ed in the Natural Resources Management Plan.	DPR, DES			continuous	$$
7.2.5.	Continue and enhance non-native invasive species ma men com ded in the Natural Resources Management Plan. (See also 3.4.3.)	DPR, DES	Operatio get, capital bu		continuous	$$
7.2.6.	Use environmentally friend cts — ers and chemical treatments — where feasible.	DPR, DES			continuous	$
7.2.7.	Make use ailable spaces and other vegetation on public lands such as traffic islands and curb bump-outs.	DPR	Operational budget		continuous	$$
7.2.8.	Continue t e staff and ublic on the County's sustainability efforts and on environmental practices they can employ themselves.	DPR, DES			continuous	$
7.2.9.	Stay up to date with sustainability best practices and incorporate innovative strategies.	DPR, DES			continuous	$
7.2.10.	Provide training for staff for evaluating costs and benefits of existing facilities and for using that information in decision-making.	DPR	Operational budget		continuous	$
7.2.11.	Train maintenance staff in management of sensitive natural areas and green stormwater infrastructure maintenance.	DPR, DES, APS	Operational budget		continuous	$

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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.

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 p s in parks and public spaces.					
	DPR	Corporations, foundations, neighborhood groups, universities, not-for-profits			continuous	$
8.2.2.	Support the establishment of non-profit groups or umbrella foundations ated to public space advocacy draising, and implementation of public spaces and programs.					
	DPR	Corporations, foundations, neighborhood groups, universities, not-for-profits			long term (0–20 years)	$
8.2.3.	Develop sponsorship proposals to help underwrite and of perating rograms and services.					
	DPR				continuous	$
8.2.4.	Develop a donor engagement strat mmunity-b onors).					
	DPR	AED		Donor engagement strategy developed and annually reviewed	short term (0–5 years)	$
8.2.5.	Develop a cohesiv ts policy ategy for donor recognition.					
	DPR	A		Naming rights policy developed and annually reviewed	medium term (0–10 years)	$
8.2.6.	Pursue applicable d federa ds.					
	DPR				continuous	$
8.2.7.	Where available, pursue hist c preservation tax credits or other financial incentives for renovation or rehabilitation of historic resources.					
	CPHD	DPR			continuous	$

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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 ensu going costs are appropriately budgeted. (See also 7.1.8.)					
	DPR			Ren tion study mpleted and upd ery five years	medium erm 10 years)	$
8.3.3.	Establish lifecycle replacement standards and projected costs b n industry ards.					
	DPR				medium term (0–10 years)	$

Action 8.4. Permit revenue generating uses in p c sp

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Pote unding	ormance Measures	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
8.4.1.	Expand the offering or permitting of sions in pro ublic spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at special events. (See also 1.5					
	DPR, AED	Lo sinesses			continuous	$
8.4.2.	Consider leasing, on a tempor en adjacent to trails at trailheads for concessions (e.g., cafes, bike rentals) to increase revenue					
	DPR, AED	l busin			short term (0–5 years)	$$
8.4.3.	Develop s for leasing ments 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	$

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Strategic Direction 8. Enhance the financial sustainability of Arlington's public spaces.

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.					
	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.					
	DPR, CPHD, AED	BIDs, local businesses			medium term (0–10 years)	$$

Action 8.6. Regularly update a recreational fees and charges policy ba on a defined philosophy.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Source	formance Measures	Tim me	Cost Range Est.
8.6.1.	Continue to refine cost recovery standards and ensure consistent m f calcula ost recovery.					
	DPR			ry standards eviewed	continuous	$
8.6.2.	Continue to set cost recovery targets for each program n defined dire lated costs and the degree to which the program provides a public versus private benefit.					
	DPR				continuous	$
8.6.3.	Periodically reevaluate fee structures to equity acros hic groups.					

Action 8.7. Ensure that mainten chniq tandards are consistent between APS, DPR, and DES for landscaping and other natural feat n as well as structures like benches and lighting.

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PHYSICAL VISION PLAN

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APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A

Land Acquisition

The following land acquisition delines give County staff and leadership an obj ive ework for seeking and responding to acq ition oppor ies that can grow Arlington's system ublic spaces. The ework and associated land isition teria encourage a strategic and transparent decisio ng process designed to help the County sure that its tments in acquisition align with the rec ions of th lan so that it can achieve the most pu spac its.

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ACQUISITION SCENARIOS

While there are ways in which the County can grow its public space system without actively acquiring land—most notably through the private development process—this land acquisition strategy focuses on the three scenarios in which Arlington can arrive at an opportunity for it to acquire additional land for public space:

- spaces identified in adopted County plans that are not tied to private development
- spaces opportunistically presented to the County for acquisition
- spaces the County proactively identifies for new public space

ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES LIST

The County will use the following objective criteria to isition opportunities. The County will maintain a list of acquisi pp that meet a minimum threshold of criteria. Based on fund vailabi from year to year, the County will pursue acquisition of the s ranked opportunities on the acquisitio s list, wit oval from the County Board.

The acquisition opportunities list t to e—not just because spaces on the list may b d but beca e the above acquisition scenari ount f ossibility of new opportunities t e.

ACQUISI ON CRITERIA

The acquisition criteria are di d into three parts:

- Part I gauges alignment with other County priorities.
- Part II gauges alignment with the strategic directions of this plan.
- Part III gauges alignment with goals particular to the intended use of the site.

All land acquisition opportunities will be evaluated by all three parts of the criteria. In Parts I and II, all criteria apply. Part III is divided into three sections, one for each of three areas in which the opportunity may primarily provide value to the County: recreational value, natural resource value, or historic resource value. Only one of these three subsections of

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Part III will be used to evaluate each opportunity.

Some of the criteria (indicated with a ⊞) are place-based and can be met only if the opportunity is located in a specific area. These place-based criteria will be evaluated using corresponding maps that may change from time to time as conditions change in Arlington.

To the right of each of the criteria is a point value. If an opportunity meets the criterion, it receives that num r of points. The total number of points an opportunity receives w used to determine if it belongs on the acquisition list and, if s on the list.

In addition to being used he Coun sess current acquisition opportunities, these ia can be used p ely in each of the three acquisition scen above:

- to infor Coun ns
- to give other into how the County will evaluate opportunistic acquisition oppo

  he County in ying new public space opportunities.

P I: A t with Other County Pri s

All crit pply.

☐	T site is identified as future parkland in an adopted sector, area, or corridor plan.	+9
	The site is identified within an existing approved park master plan or park framework 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

Criteria from all subsections 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

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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 is or will be made accessible by walking. +1
- ⊞ The site is or will be made accessible by bicycle. +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.
- ☐ The site could complete a portion of the "inner loop" or "outer loop" of protected trail routes.
- ☐ 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 My Henderson Hall, Arlington National Cemetery, and th Navy Country Club. +1
- ☐ The site could improve connections to trail systems with beyond the County.
- ☐ The site could widen trail rights of enough sp for passing and pulling over or t tate eparation. +1

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: R RCE SHIP

- ⊞ The site could be used to preserv e tree ca o that the site is a overed. +1
- ☐ The site c rotect th f a wat r contribute to impr nts in watersh h. +1
- ☐ The site c lude green inf cture to manage stormwater om surroun sites or rights of way. +1
- ☐ The site could p natu tural, 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 spaces. +1

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 7: FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

- ☐ Non-County funding sources are identified to support at least X% of capital improvement and program costs. +1
- ☐ Up-front and ongoing capital and maintenance costs are identified. +1
- ☐ The site will could generate revenue through concessions or user fees. +1

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☐	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 or produce energy through renewable sources.	+1
☐	The site could reduce water consu n compared to the existing use.	+1

Part III: Resource a

Use only the criteria from t e subsect w that corresponds with the **primary** value o site.

RECREATI RESOU VALUE

⊞	The site ar t does not meet access standards for one or mo s, and could provide one or more of those amenities.	+7
	The site could fac development of larger recreation or sports com	+4
	The designed to support casual, impromptu use and co ature.	+4
☐	could provide opportunities for recreational boating shing.	+4
☐	e could provide opportunities for fitness or recreational s .	+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 has a resource that is at risk of deterioration.	+3
⊞	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 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 could provide linkages between habitats / wildlife corridors.	+4

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- ☐ The site includes one or more of the following: +4
  - stream valley / floodplain
  - wetland
  - nesting site
  - champion tree site
  - natural outcrops
  - meadow
- ☐ 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

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ The site is listed on the County's Cemetery Inventory and/or the Arlington Genealogical Society's Cemetery List. +
- ☐ The site is listed on the County's Large-Lot Survey. +2
- ☐ Acquisition of the site would be supported by the goa he County's Historic Preservation Master Plan.
- ☐ The site is called out for acquisition based on its historic / or cultural value by an adopted Neighbo h d Conservatio Plan.
- ☐ The site meets at least one of creation urce value +2 criteria above.
- ☐ The site meets at least one o ural r +2 criteria above.

Continue to the Fi core

Final Scor

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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 included on the acquisition opportunity list.

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APPENDIX B

Synthetic Turf Fields and Lighting

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 looking to synthetic turf to extend the use of its existi g fields. Based on a report from the Synthetic Turf Council, synthetic turf is d ifically to hold up under heavy use. Synthetic turf fields have:

- fewer her-re llations
- lower m na nd uti y costs (i.e. water)
  more cons playing surfaces
- ar-round u
  bility

The Department of Parks and Recreation estimates that a natural grass field with hts has about 700 hours of usable time, taking into account maintenance a scheduling constraints, such as number of daylight hours. A synthetic turf field without lights, by comparison, has about 1,400 hours of usable time.

While a synthetic turf field without lights can accommodate more use than a natural grass field with less maintenance, the number of usable hours grows tremendously when lights are added. A natural grass field with lights has about 900 hours of usable time, while a synthetic turf field can have 2,100 or more hours of usable time. Thus, converting a natural grass field without lights to a synthetic turf field with lights gets additional usable time equal to that of adding another two natural grass fields without lights.

The County constructed its first synthetic fields in 2000 at the Thomas Jefferson upper field. Today, Arlington has 15 synthetic fields, of which 13 have lights. There are also 24 natural grass fields that have lights.

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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

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 10 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 with only one new rectangular field.

Arlington County continues to stay abreast of the latest research regarding the safety of synthetic turf and the latest lighting technologies.

STANDARDS FOR SYNTHETIC TURF FI LD

Replacement

Fields will be replaced every 8 yea sed on u

Lighting

All new synthetic turf fields and synthet onversions will include lighting.

Many of Arlington's parks are located in residential neighborhoods. The new field lighting light intensity condition will not increase the pre-existing light intensity condition at the property line of the residential property by more than a maximum of 1 foot candle.

To mitigate light intrusion, the County may use a variety of techniques depending on the specific context, including:

- glare and spill reduction techniques, such as shielding, reflectors, wattages, 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

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If the new synthetic turf field and synthetic turf field conversion cannot meet the previously stated requirement, the County will through a special process with the community determine if lighting can be implemented or the synthetic turf field not be lighted as per the above requirements.

Conversions

Fields will be prioritized for conversion by taking into account:

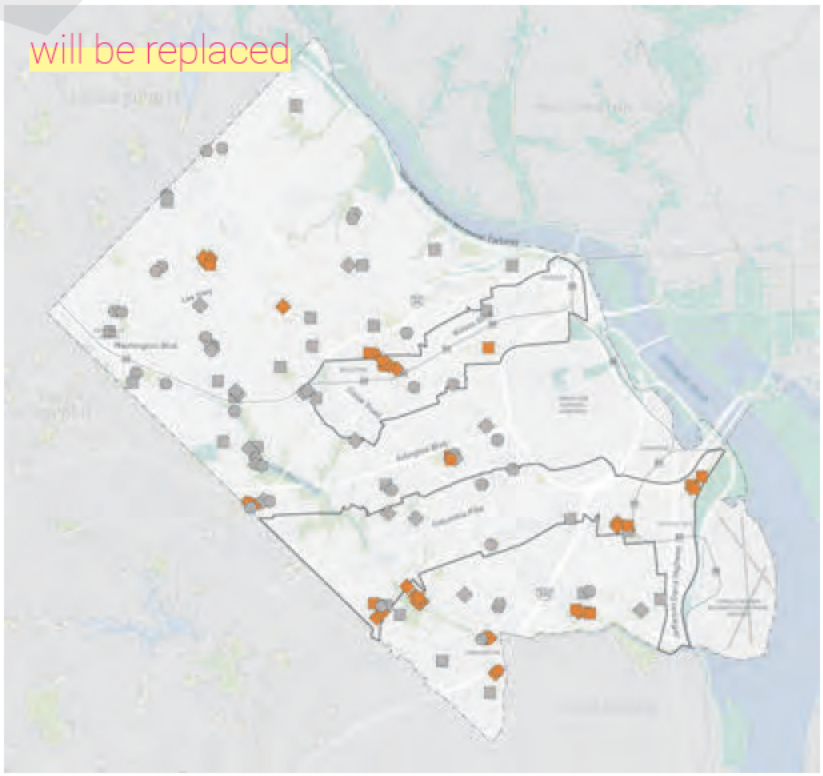
- capacity calculations based on current maintenance standards and desired field conditions
- the availability of existing amenities (e.g., parking, lighting, restrooms)
- whether the park master plan calls for lights
- site evaluation (e.g., topography, trees, location)

Standard Amenities

Water source, restrooms, shade, benches, information board, signage, t h and recycling receptacles, parking

U

Re tion ligh fields must be for a minimum of 60 minutes. Ligh begin 20 minutes prior to sunset and will be turned off 15 minute r the last scheduled activity has concluded, usually between 10 and 1 m. to follow lighting curfews.



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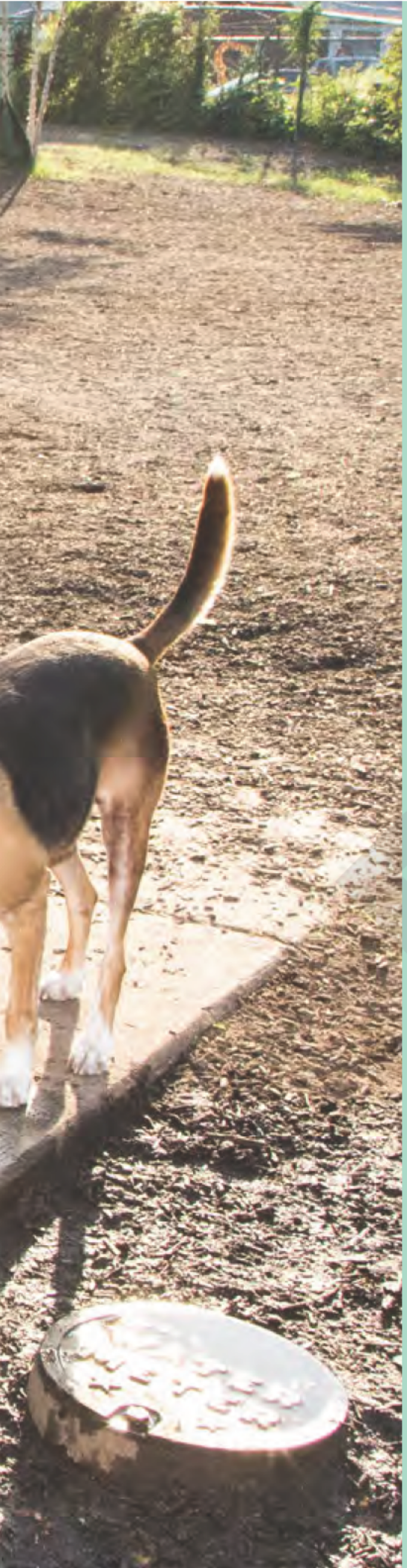

APPENDIX C

Dog Parks & Dog Runs

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 dog parks in Arlington were established in 1986, and Arlington's first fenc g stablished in Utah Park in 1997. This area was a pilot progr d mad first partnership with a sponsor group, FAIR Dogs. Tradit t ccess f a dog park in Arlington has been based partnersh a sponsor group, which is responsible for monitoring u ndling ne hood complaints, and coordinating maintenance and m ement. The escribed rules for dog parks provide a reasonable code sers to correct infractions through information, education, and ppropriate remedial action. The table below provides an overview of Arlington's nt dog parks.

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.

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	Dog Parks:							
	Benjamin Banneker	Fort Barnard	Fort Ethan Allen	Glencarlyn	James Hunter	Shirlington	Towers	Utah
Size	22,600 ft²	22,800 ft²	22,000 ft²	14,000 ft²	15,500 ft²	109,500 ft²	25,500 ft²	12,500 ft²
Capacity (450ft²/dog)	50	51	50	31	34	243	57	28
Sponsorship	Banneker Dogs	Douglas Dogs	Madison Dogs	Jane Stevents	Friends of James Hunter Park	Shirlington Dogs II	Towers Park CCA	FAIR Dogs
Siting Process		2000	2004					1997
Fencing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ground Cover	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
Parking	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 Ba er Barnard, Fort Ethan Allen Park, Glencarlyn Park, Utah Par ers Pa Shirlington Park, and James Hunter Park. This level of serv to 1 dog park for every 27,695 people. Th ded level ice is 1 dog park for every 26,000 peo rlington ntly needs additional dog park to meet the mended f service. B sed on the geographic distribution of existi a l dog park would best be located in the southeast p he County.

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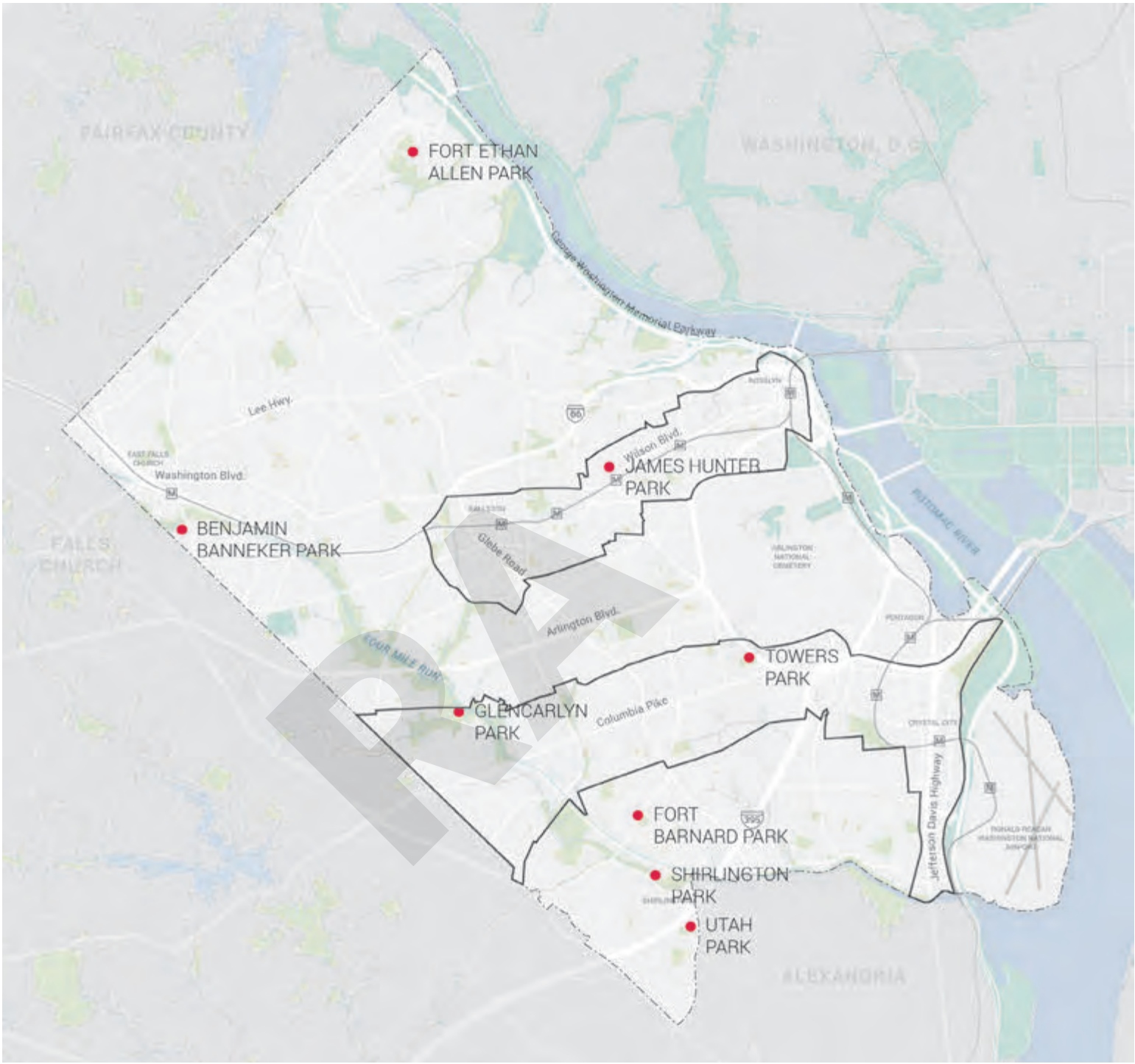

Figure 20. Dog Parks
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STANDARDS FOR DOG PARKS

Size

Minimum: 10,000 ft^2

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

Dog parks will have separate areas for large and small

Material

Synthetic turf/artificial grass, sand, gra bination erials that can accommodate high use

Lighting

Recommended.

Drainage

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

Dog parks may only be developed outside of Resource Protection Areas.

Sponsorship

Required – with formal (written) agreement.

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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.

Caption
Caption

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STANDARDS FOR DOG RUNS

Size

Minimum: 2,000 ft^2

Maximum: 7,500 ft^2

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 combina of m that can accommodate high use.

Lighting

Dog runs will be lighted facilities will be ope m sunrise 10:00 pm.

Drainage

Dog runs will be designed to eliminate any low 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.

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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 le) waste and trash pick-up, tree and shrub maintenance, and r f urface repairs as needed.

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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 amenitiy 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.

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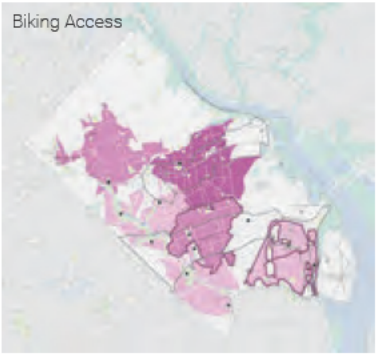

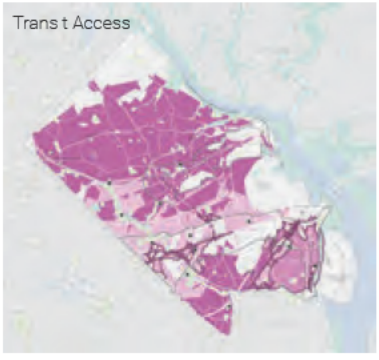

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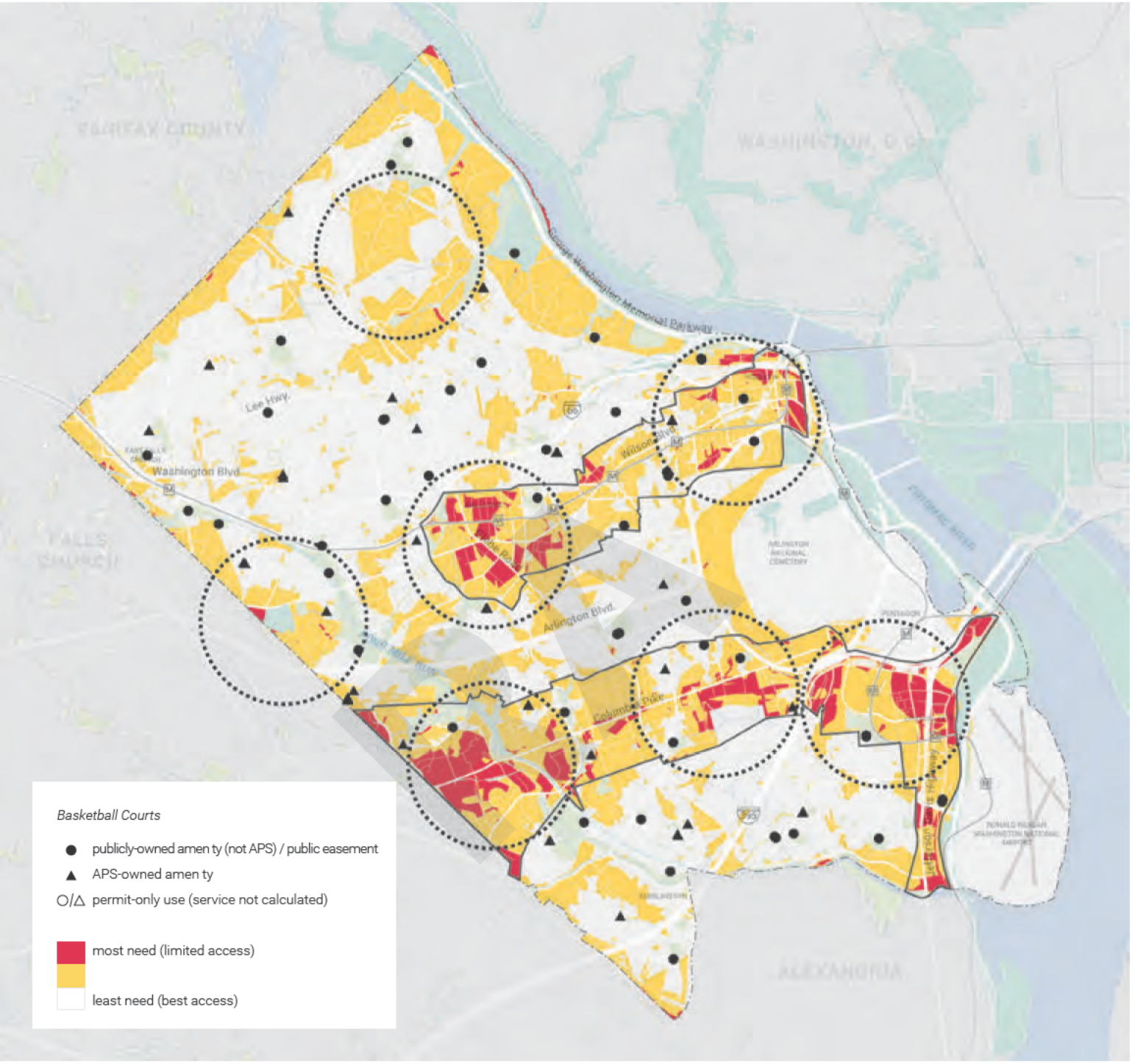
Basketball Courts
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)
Lee Hwy
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Arlington Blvd
Columbia Pike
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Jefferson Davis Highway
FAIRFAX COUNTY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
ALEXANDRIA

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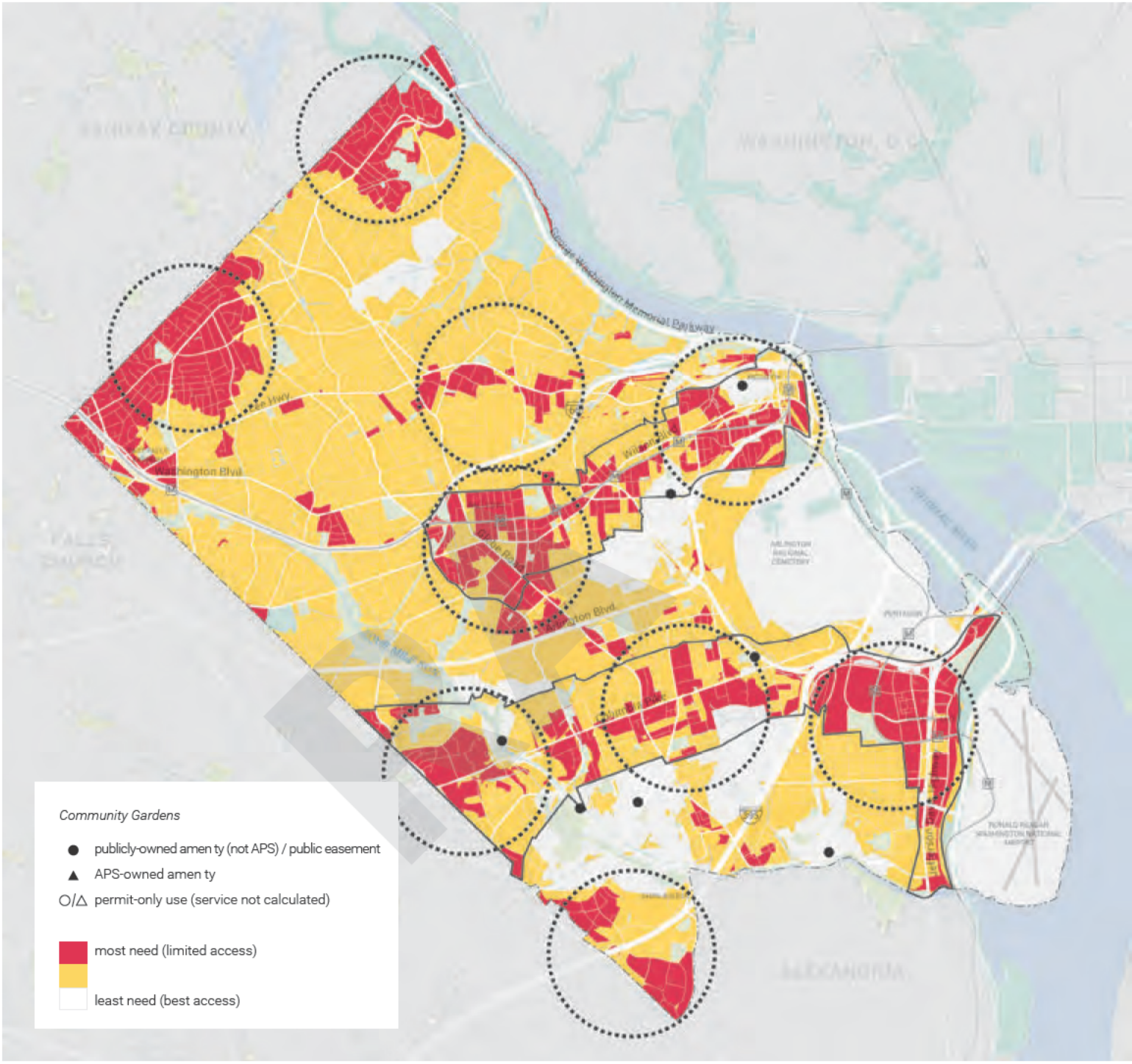
Community Gardens
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)

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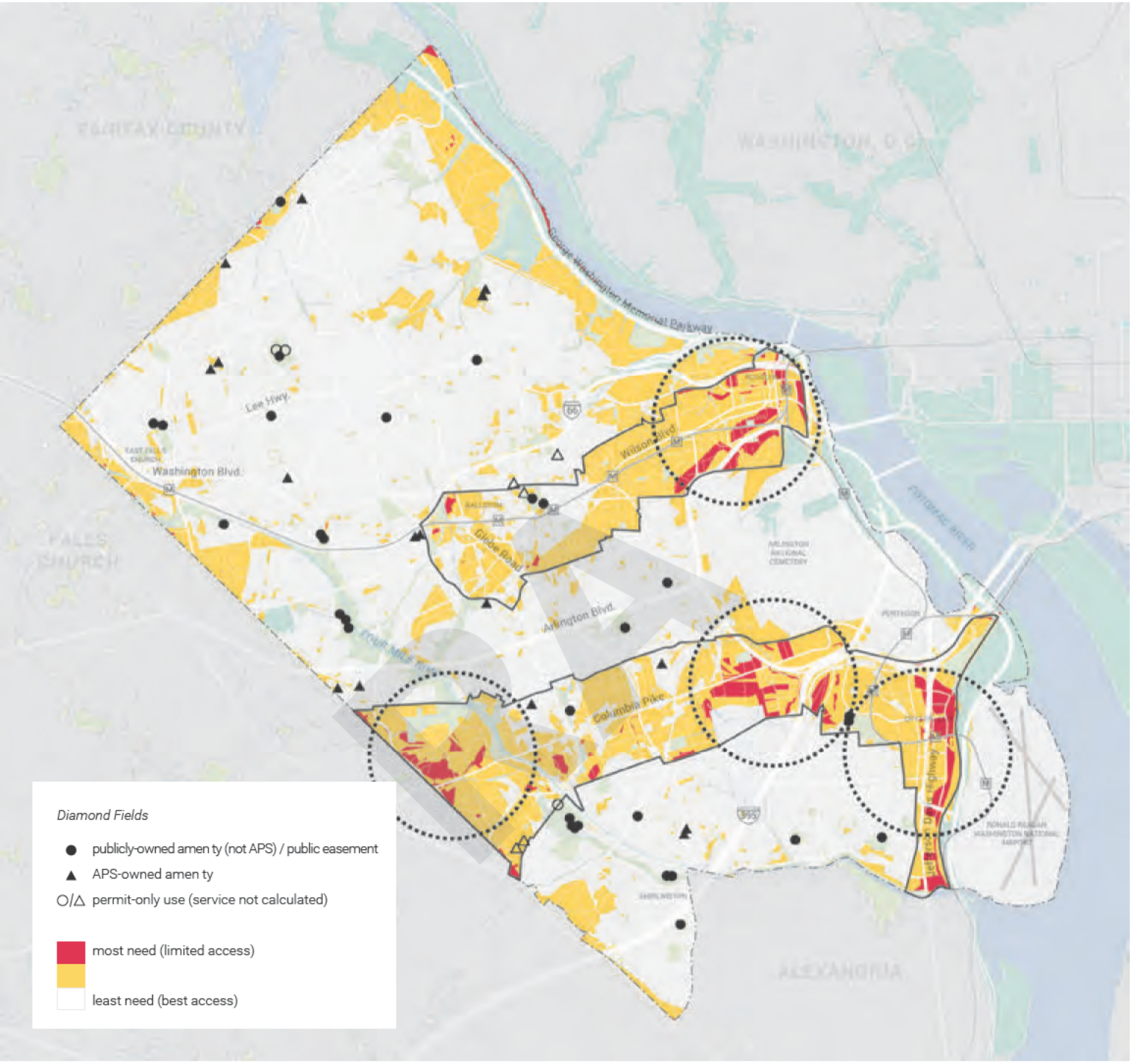
Diamond Fields
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Lee Hwy
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Glebe Road
Arlington Blvd
Columbia Pike
Potomac River
Jefferson Davis Highway
FAIRFAX COUNTY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FALLS CHURCH
ALEXANDRIA

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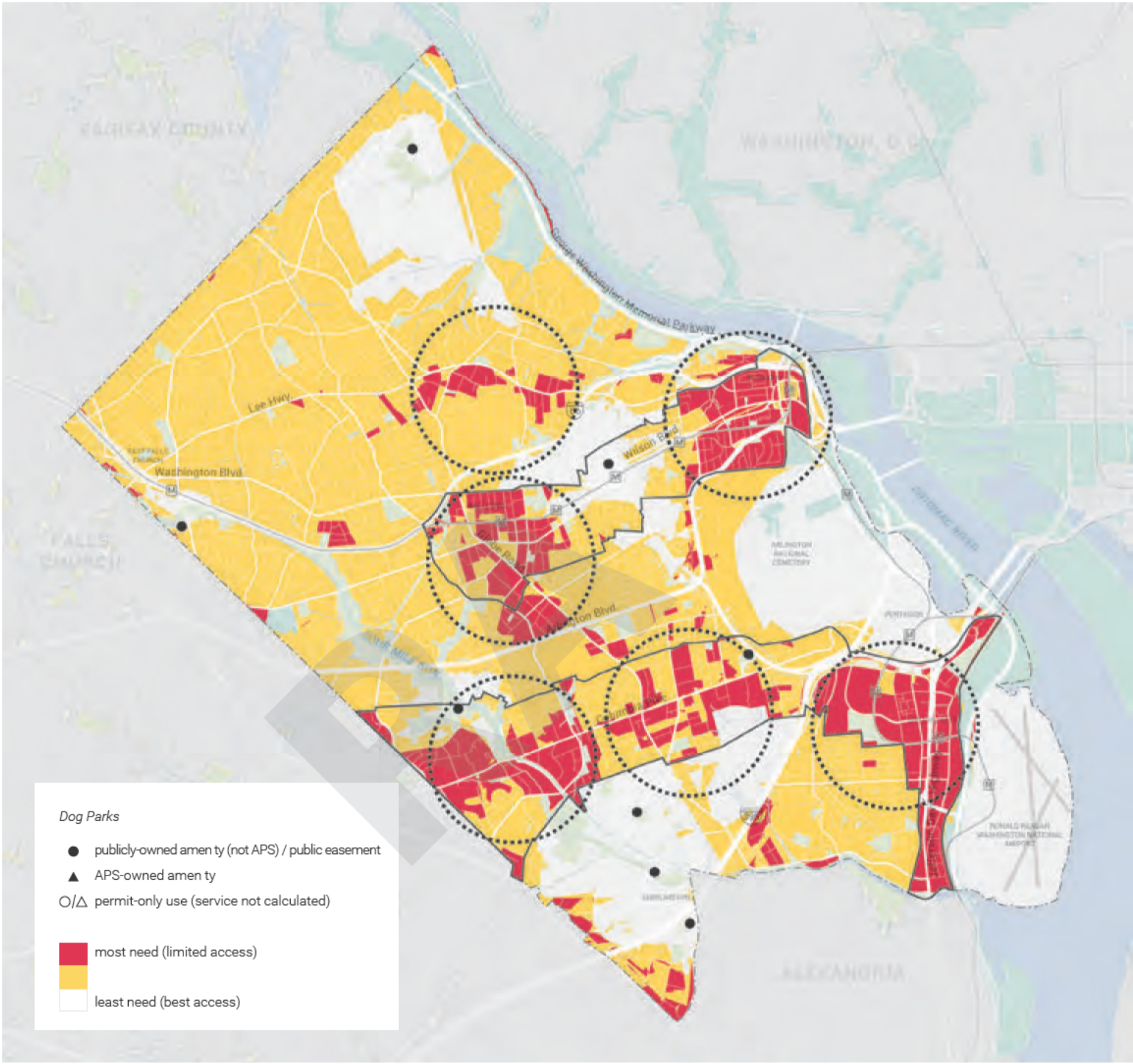
Lee Hwy
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Columbia Pike
Dog Parks
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APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)

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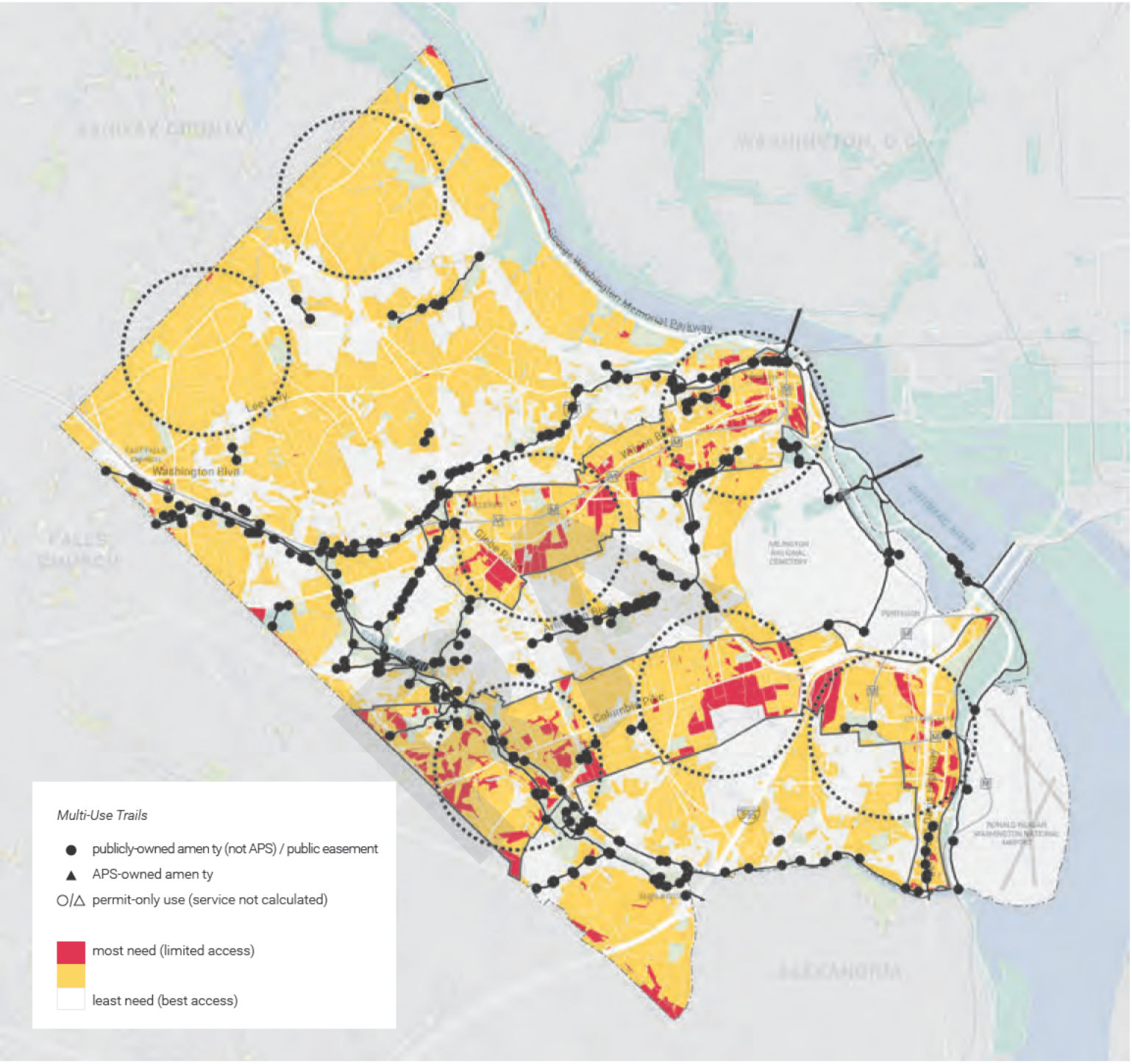
Multi-Use Trails
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)
Washington Blvd
Lee Hwy
Columbia Pike

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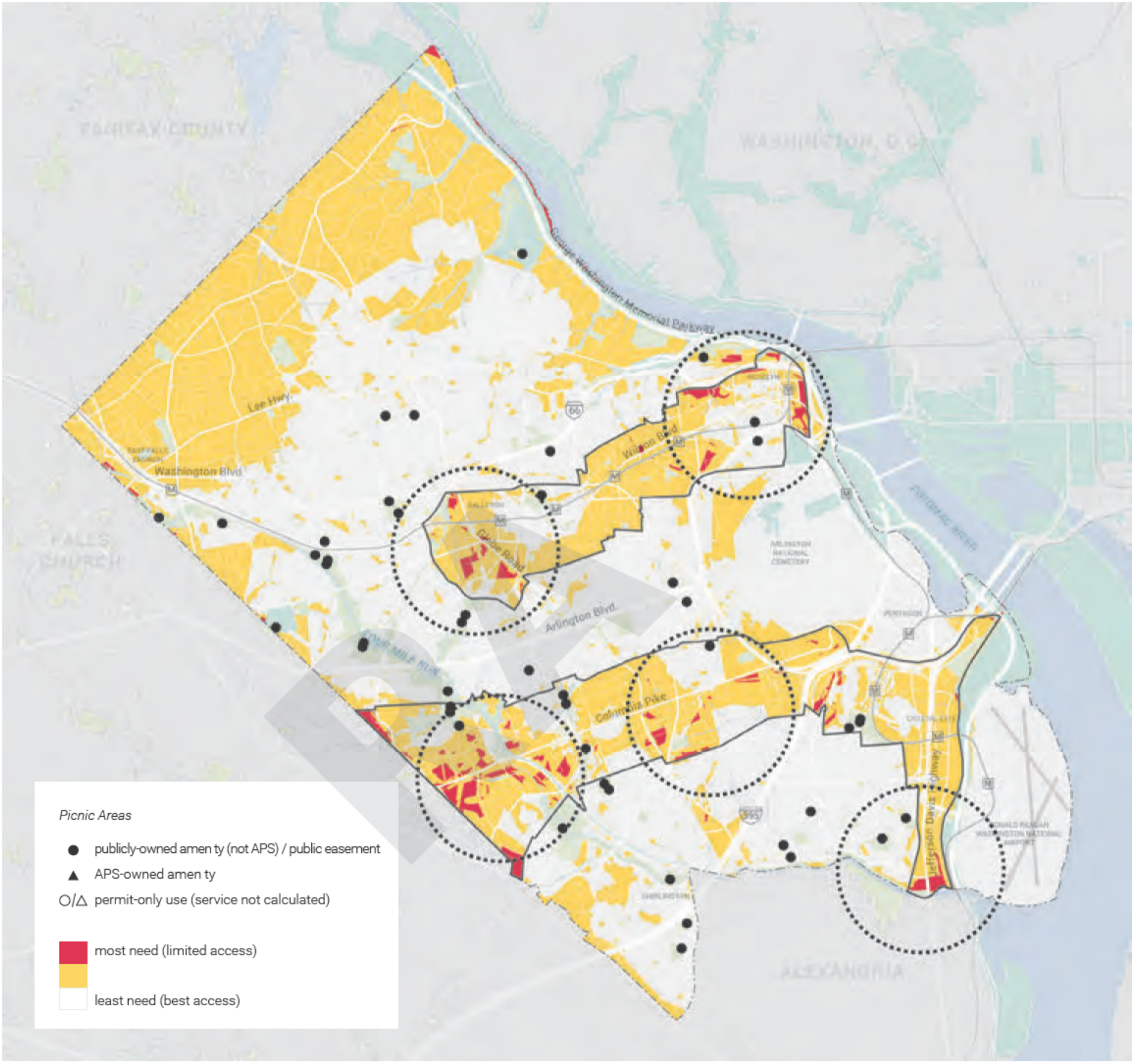
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Lee Hwy
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Glebe Road
Arlington Blvd
Columbia Pike
Jefferson Davis Highway
Picnic Areas
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)

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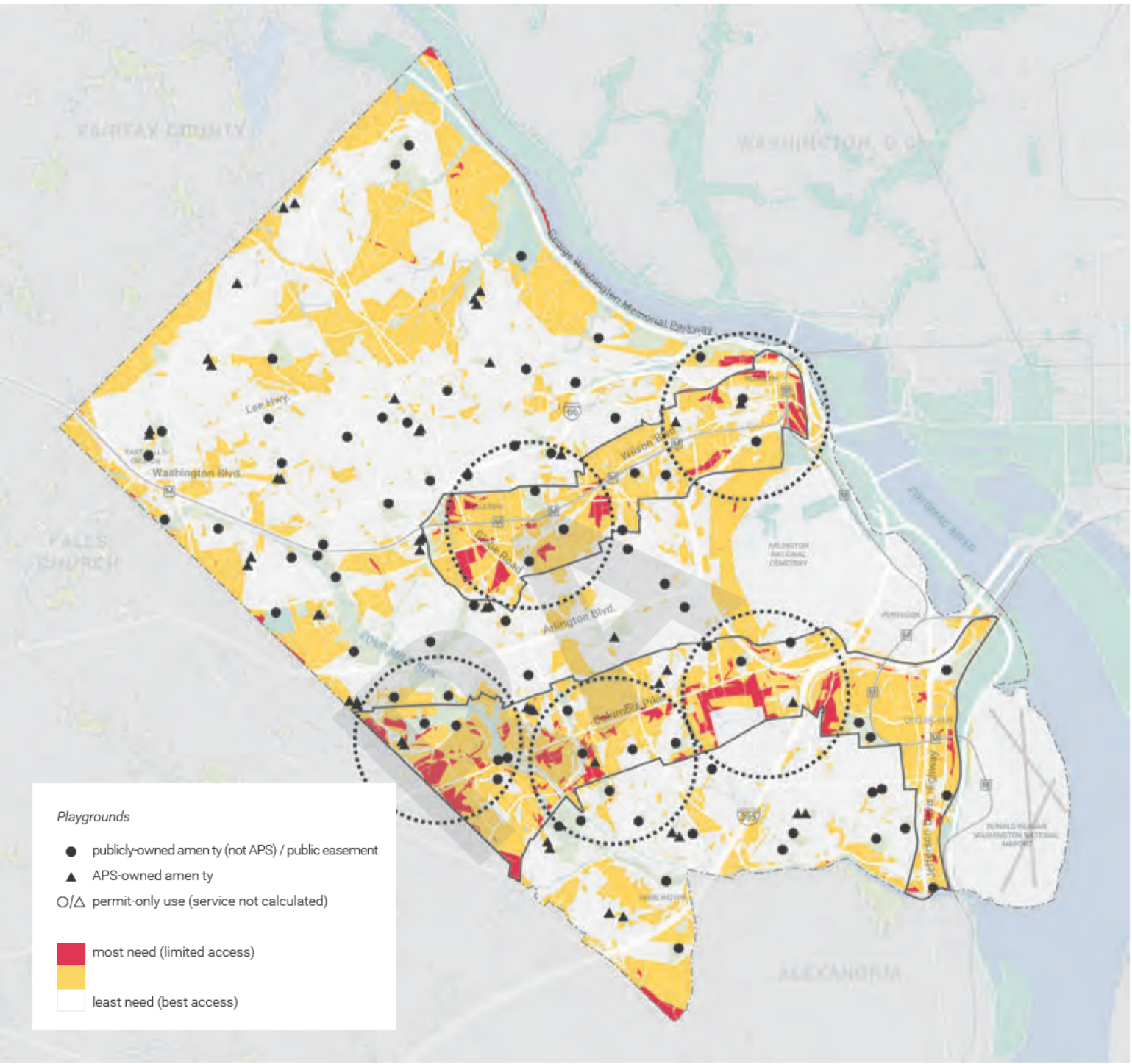
Playgrounds
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)
Washington Blvd
Lee Hwy
Wilson Blvd
Glebe Road
Arlington Blvd
Columbia Pike
Jefferson Davis Highway
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Potomac River
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
PENTAGON
RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT
FALLS CHURCH
ALEXANDRIA

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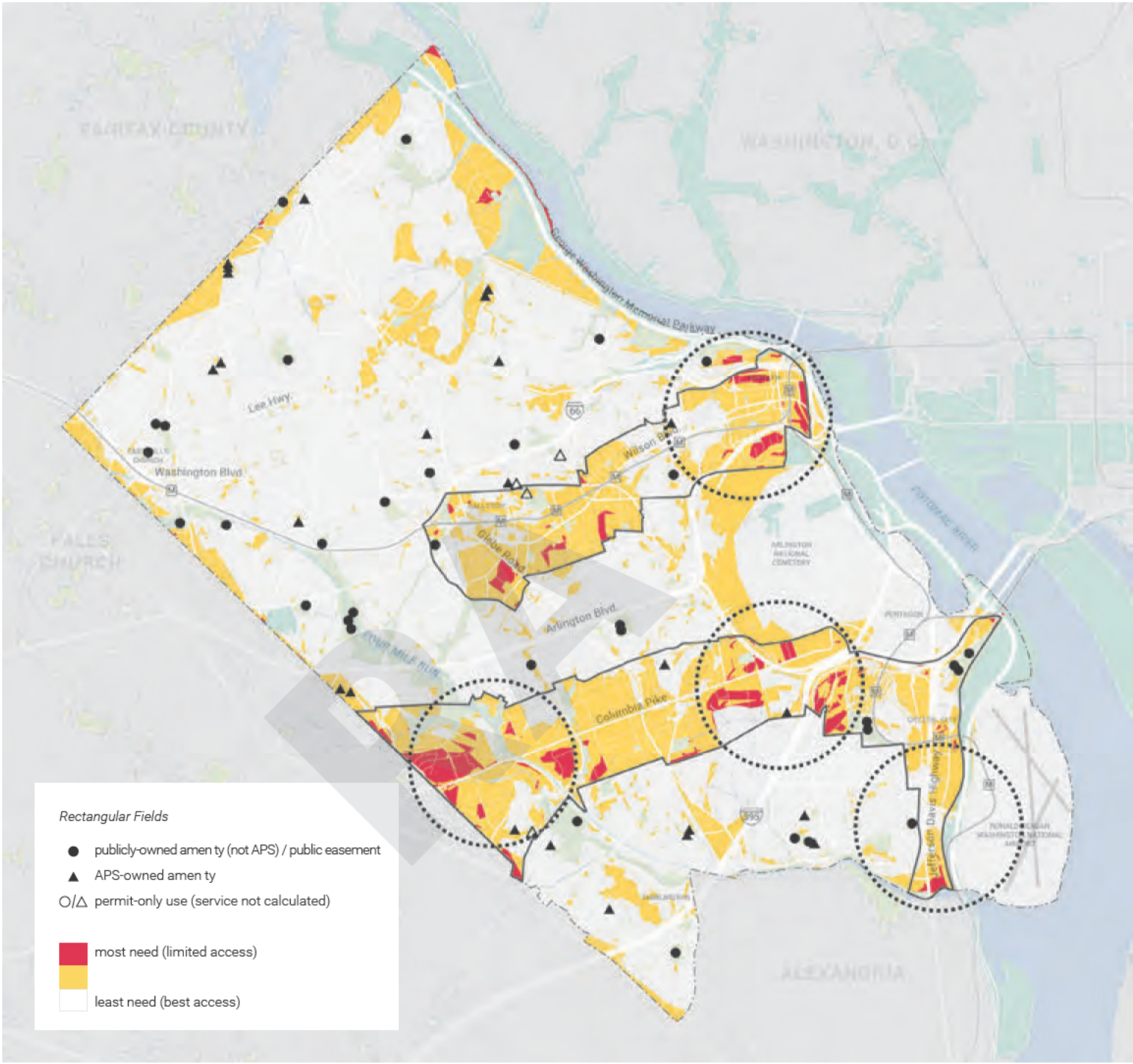
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Lee Hwy
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Glebe Road
Arlington Blvd
Columbia Pike
Jefferson Davis Highway
Potomac River
Rectangular Fields
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)

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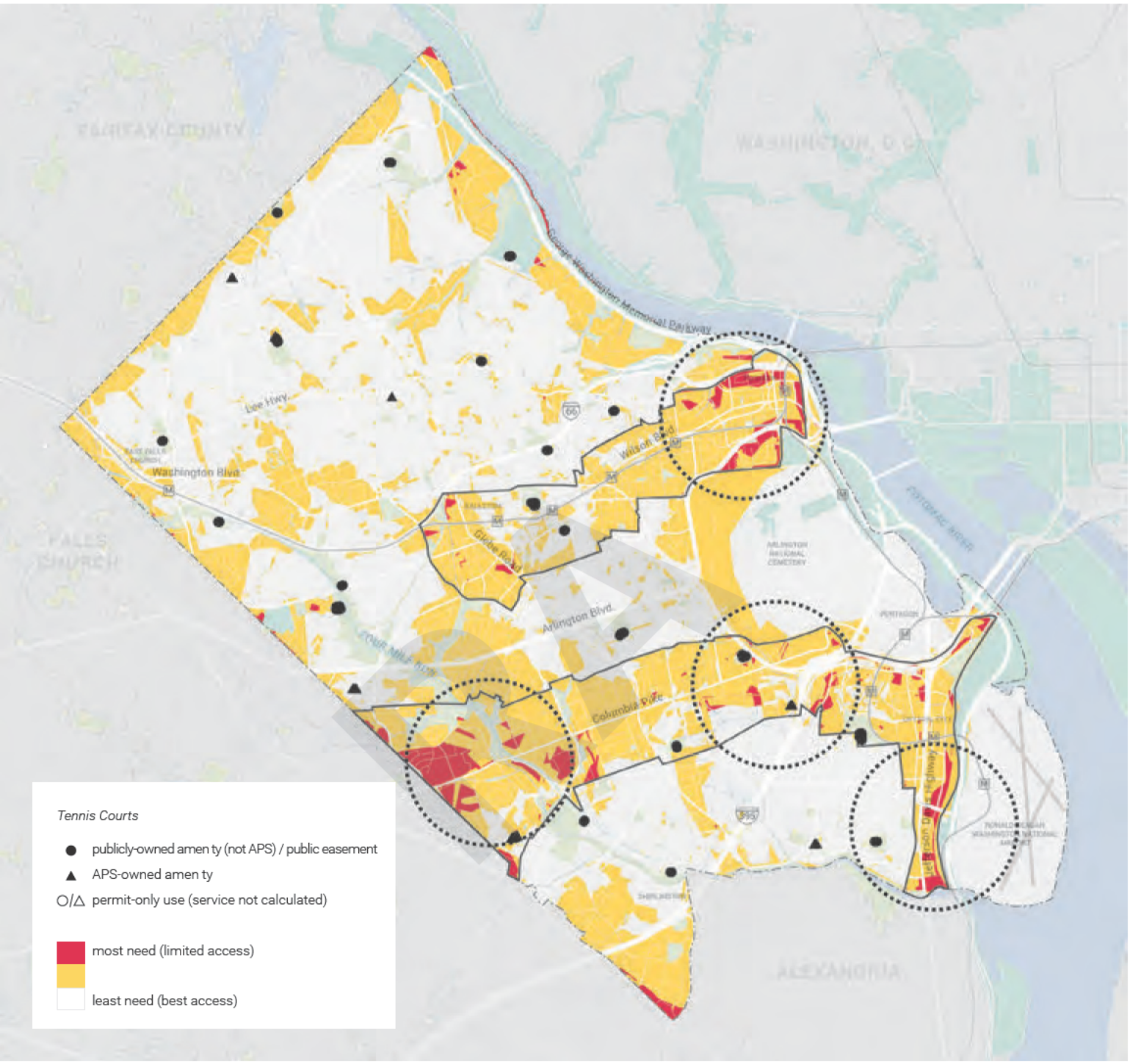
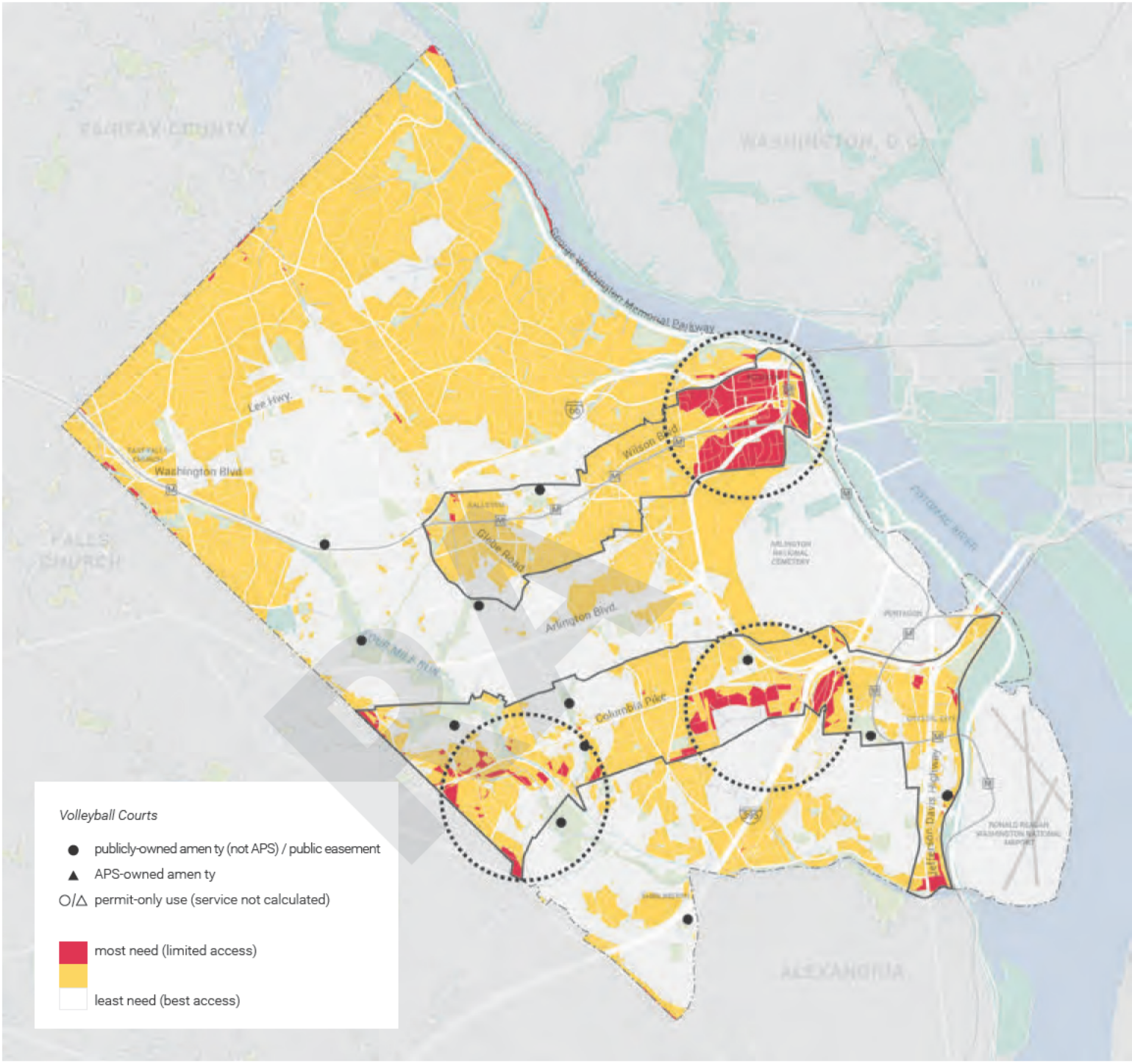

Tennis Courts
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)
Lee Hwy
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Arlington Blvd
Columbia Pike
Jefferson Davis Highway
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Potomac River
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
PENTAGON
FALLS CHURCH
ALEXANDRIA


FAIRFAX COUNTY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Lee Hwy.
Washington Blvd
Wilson Blvd
Glebe Road
Arlington Blvd.
Four Mile Run
Columbia Pike
Jefferson Davis Highway
Potomac River
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
PENTAGON
RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT
FALLS CHURCH
ALEXANDRIA
Volleyball Courts
publicly-owned amen ty (not APS) / public easement
APS-owned amen ty
permit-only use (service not calculated)
most need (limited access)
least need (best access)

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APPENDIX E

Population-Based Standards

METHODOLOGY

As explained on p. 84, no uniform level of service standards exist for parks or recreatio enities. To set population-based standards, the County took into account

- curren l of ser
  median vice provided by Arlington County and four peer localities where ava
- ational aver
  alid survey priority (where available)

some cases, a holistic look at these factors supported raising the current level vice. In others, this information supported either keeping the current level of se vice 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.

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- 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 rank the top of the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore analysis a s c a peer with a park system Arlington can aspire to.

National Averages

Having worked in 47 states and w er 100 c ned years mer parks and recreation managers, ants PR lting pr vided national averages for population-bas s ba heir experience.

Statistically Valid Survey Prio ity

The statistically valid survey conducted as part of the 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.

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	Population Based Standards									
	Units	Inventory		Current LOS	Peer Median		Typical	Survey Priority		Recommended 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/	25,000
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
Diamond Fields	each	43	1/	5,153	1/ 4,107	1/	6,000	Low	1/	5,500
Tennis Courts	each	9		2 408	1/ 3,768	1/	4,000	Medium	1/	3,000
Picnic Areas	each	4			/ N/A	1/	6,000	Medium	1/	5,000
Rectangular Fields	each	53		4,180	43	1/	6,000	Medium	1/	4,500
Volleyball Courts	each	10		2	1/ N/A	1/	12,000	Low	1/	20,000
Community, Recreation, and Sports Centers		6 223	1/	83	1/ N/A	1/	0.74	Medium		
Hiking Trails	miles	4.5	1/	2	1/ N/A	1/	10,000	High	1/	10,000
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	4	1/	90	1/ N/A	1/	40,000	High	1/	40,000
Natural Areas	s			197	1/ N/A	1/	333	High	1/	
Nature Centers		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/	75,000
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
Tracks	each	2	1/	110,780	1/ N/A	1/	45,000	N/A	1/	35,000

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Arlington County

APPENDIX F

Design Standards

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APPENDIX G

Definitions

under development

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APPENDIX H

Adopted Park Master Plans

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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 publi y funds will be used in combination with privately raised funds n facility, and the County will work with the National Park S e to sec use of the site.

Fort C.F. Smith Cultur Reso es Ma r Plan (Adopted July 1997)

This master plan is for a new 19-ac l th 24th Street. The plan was developed to e immediate goal of protecting the resources and addressing -term aspects of the park including public design participation, eservation 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 Barcorft Park to house the gymnastics, boxing and weight lifting programs and add a new flexible multi-purpose

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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 end of the park. Primary components include a lighted concrete e p arious elements for skateboarding and in-line skating; y sized so hildren's nature area and preservation of half the s ural ar a. Other elements include restrooms; staff offices parki pedestrian walkways; landscaping and site amenities.

Barcr t Park Master Plan (Adopted ember 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

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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 (Ado 18, 2002)

The master plan is for major renovation (everything except d swimming pool) of the 17.51-acre park 5201 S. 28 et. The park is one of the most heavil d athlet complex the County. Major components lighted, d synthetic f competition field with major bleach in ities; lighted track; lighted, fenced baseball fi two lighted, fenced softball fields with dugouts, bleachers and facilities; six tennis courts; lighted basketball court; and indoor swim ing 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.

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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 ort courts, community use spaces, racquet sport courts, and ort Major outdoor components include four synthetic gr ectang elds, more than one mile of on-site walking trai n areas, a connection across the railroad tracks to the Roac n Waterfowl Sanctuary, and opportunities for playgrounds and spr ntains.

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.

Four Mile Run Restauration Master Plan (March, 2006)

13th & Herndon Park Master Plan (December, 2007)

Penrose Square Master Plan (July 2008)

Mosaic Park (September 2009)

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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)

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Department of Parks and Recreation
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201
TEL 703.228.7529 FAX 703.228.3328

ARLINGTON POPS
ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL
September 21, 2016

SCHEDULE
The Arlington POPS process has required more extensive meetings with leadership, staff, and the Advisory Committee than anticipated. However, these meetings have been critical to adequately brief and solicit input from the people who will hopefully be advocates for and implement the plan. Due to this additional engagement, the timeframe of the planning process has been extended. The original schedule projected that the plan would be complete in July 2016. Currently, it is anticipated that the plan will be complete in ~~Spring~~ Summer 2017.

Commented [IL1]: I am not sure if this is realistic, so I would say summer, just in case.

TASK 1.
1.1. PROJECT COORDINATION
Additional coordination by phone and email with the Project Officer. It is projected that Coordination will~~has~~ required more frequent communication than the budgeted bi-weekly phone calls.

Commented [IL2]: I would suggest adding in all of these categories how much additional cost is estimated.

TASK 3. COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
3.1. Public Outreach Strategy
a. **Interviews, Focus Groups, Workshops**
Interviews/meetings with additional stakeholders ~~not yet engaged~~not anticipated in the original scope, ~~such as the National Park Service.~~

c. **Advisory Committee Meetings**
Preparation and coordination for and attendance at four future Advisory Committee meetings.
The Advisory Committee has taken on a more prominent role than originally anticipated. ~~Rather than being a body that simply gets briefed on milestones in plan progress, the Advisory Committee is involved in carefully reviewing and providing feedback on analysis strategy and plan recommendations point by point at every step of the process.~~ This process has been key to understanding the history behind previous plans' recommendations and ensuring the Committee's support of the current plan.

3.3. Standards Development
Continued refinement of standards and development of service areas based on leadership, staff, and Advisory Committee feedback.
~~There are no uniform national standards for the delivery of park and recreation services. The 1994 PSMP included park classifications and service standards, but the 2005 PSMP did not because the 1994 standards were difficult to explain and implement. The current County Board has expressed an interest in having standards that can justify the provision of park and recreation amenities.~~ The unique standards currently being developed for Arlington reflect the county's situation and are based on feedback from leadership, staff, and the Advisory Committee. Because the proposed standards are unique to Arlington, it has required further explanation and review to make certain all parties are in agreement about proceeding.

Commented [IL3]: We already have in the scope that you will develop standards that are tailored to the County, so I would focus on items that are anticipated to be different than in the original scope, such as

3.5. Additional Assessments
Additional meetings to develop policies on dog parks, synthetic turf fields, lighting, and land acquisition.

Dog parks, synthetic turf fields, lighting, and land acquisition are topics that have bubbled up in Arlington since the last PSMP, and there is considerable interest in the guidance the current plan will provide in these areas. Due to this interest, it will be important to craft clear policies that respond to concerns and are achievable. The evaluation and discussion of these polies is ongoing and will exceed the budgeted time assigned to these subtasks.

TASK 4. MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

a. **Updates Recommendations**
Additional phone calls and coordination with leadership and staff to get input on recommendations, and corresponding revisions based on this input and Advisory Committee feedback.

b. **Visioning Workshop**
Coordination for and conducting of the proposed visioning charrette, which expands on the originally proposed visioning workshop to be a full-day event that includes non-staff participants.
Staff and the Advisory Committee have expressed a strong interest in the physical and spatial aspects of the plan to a larger degree than originally expected. The proposed charrette builds on this interest and attempts to elevate the level of discourse about the physical components of the plan by engaging designers from the Arlington community.

c. **Conceptual Parks and Recreation Facilities Vision**
Additional synthesis of the outcomes of the proposed visioning charrette and coordination with leadership and staff on the representation of the conceptual vision. The conceptual vision will be an important tool to graphically represent and stitch together the results of the plan's analysis and the physical implications of the plan's policies.

i. **Public Meetings**
Additional preparation for and attendance at upcoming public meetings to ensure alignment of expectations among leadership, staff, and the Advisory Committee.

TASK 5. FINAL REPORT

c. **Revisions Based on County Review**
Additional time, if needed, to coordinate with staff on revisions based on input from commissions and advisory groups that will review the draft plan.

g. **County Board Meetings**
Additional briefings or workshops with the County Board, if needed, to present and get input on plan recommendations.

Commented [IL4]: I would perhaps elaborate here that the original scope envisioned this as a half-day charrette focused on staff & internal stakeholders (please use language from the scope).

Commented [IL5]: I am not sure what this implies?

Commented [IL6]: Perhaps add additional time to develop materials, reviews, etc.

Commented [IL7]: Does this include the CB work session in February (potentially)?

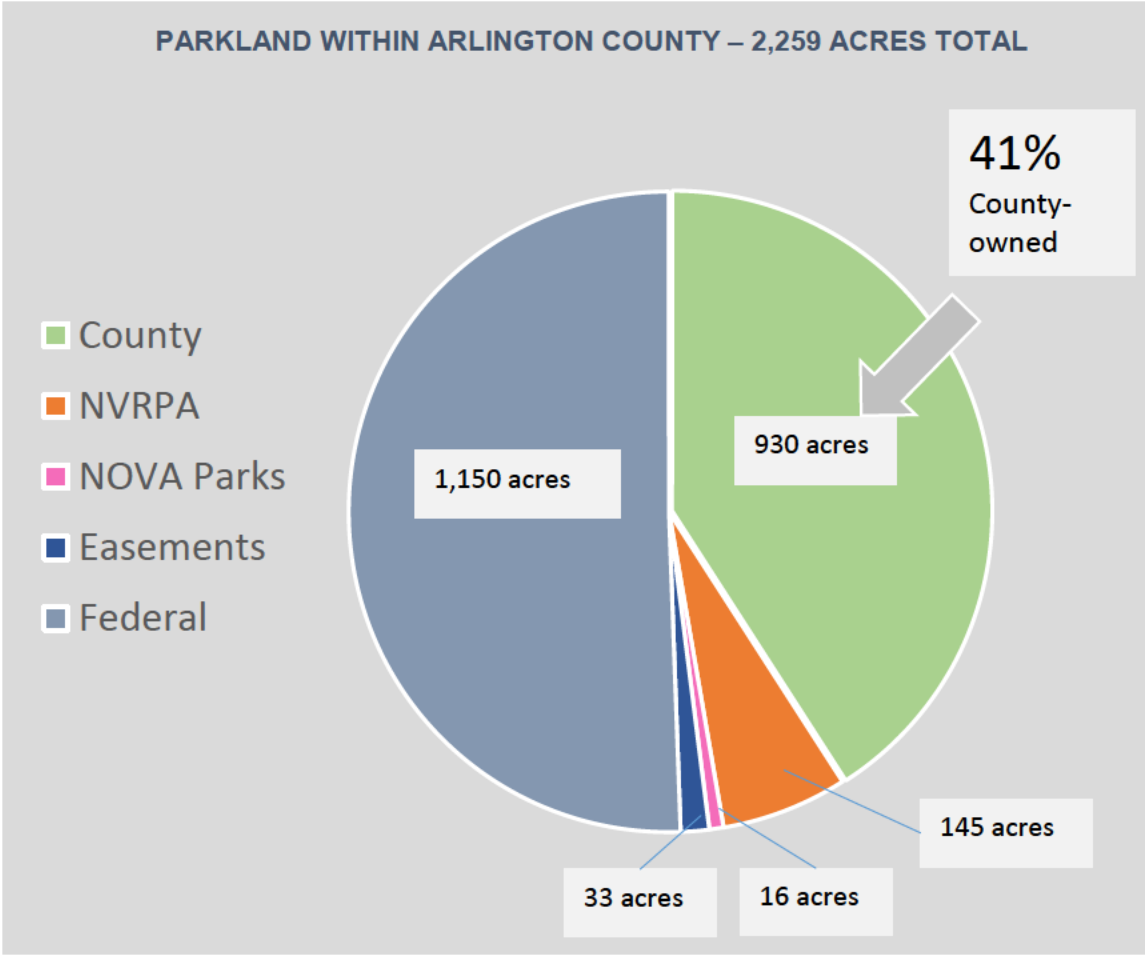
ARLINGTON POPS

A Plan for Our Places and Spaces

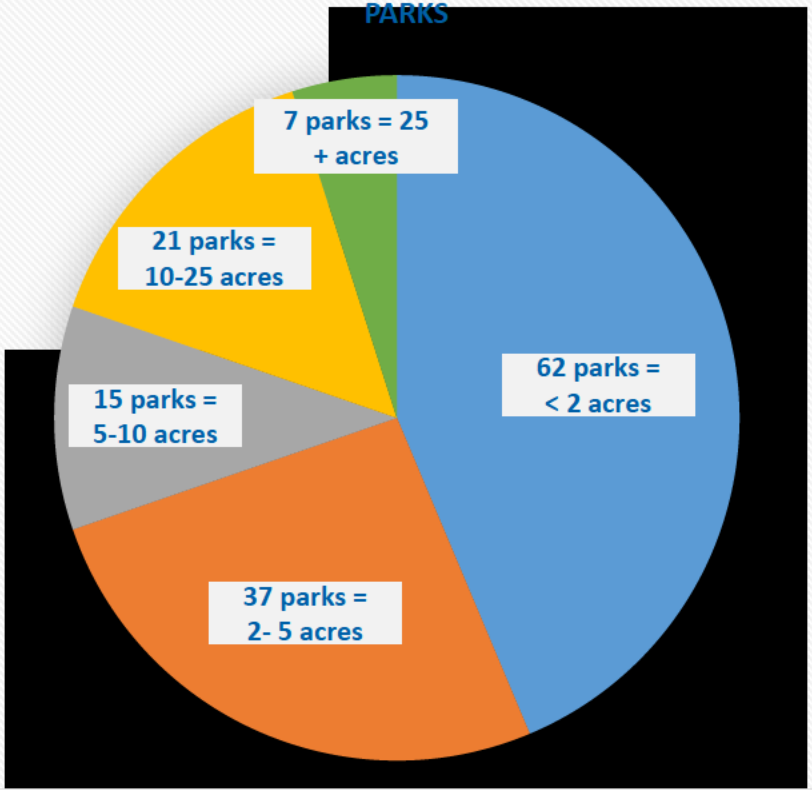
Arlington County Parkland & Assets Inventory

Parkland in Arlington County By The Numbers

- County-owned parkland: 930 acres
- Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks)-owned: 145 acres
- Federally-owned: 1,150 acres
  Includes:
  - Arlington Cemetery
  - George Washington Memorial Pkwy
  - Iwo Jima Memorial
  - Theodore Roosevelt Island
- Public Access Easements: 33 acres
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) Easements: (16 acres)



County-owned Parkland



- Natural Resource Conservation Areas: 130 acres (**14 %** of Total County-owned Parkland)
- Resource Protection Areas: 245 acres (**27 %** of Total County-owned Parkland)

Arlington County Assets

PARK & NATURAL RESOURCES FACILITIES

OUTDOOR ACTIVE FACILITIES & SPORTS

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

URBAN PUBLIC SPACES & STREETSCAPES

ART, CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

PARK & NATURAL RESOURCES FACILITIES

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AREAS

10
sites

- 130 acres

COMMUNITY GARDENS

7
sites

- 262 individual plots

PICNIC SHELTERS

30

- 16 Rentable
- 14 Non-rentable

TREES

- Street Trees (19,000 trees-estimate)
- County-wide Tree Canopy Coverage: 40%

PARK & NATURAL RESOURCES FACILITIES

PLAYGROUNDS

126

- **72** (Parks)
- **48** (APS)
- **4** (Public access easements)
- **2** (NOVA Parks)

SPRAYGROUNDS

4

DOG PARKS

8
sites

RESTROOMS

27

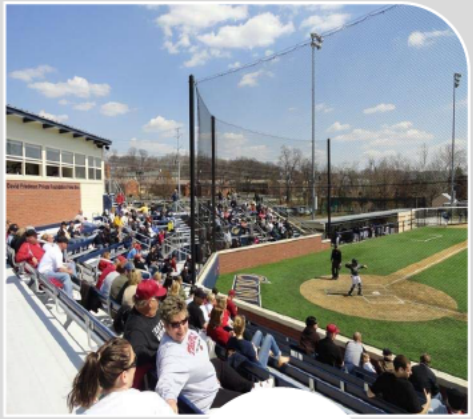
- Restroom structures

AMPHITHEATERS

6

OUTDOOR ACTIVE FACILITIES & SPORTS Fields

DIAMOND FIELDS



35

27 (Parks)
1 synthetic

8 (APS)

Fields Use For:
- Baseball
- Softball
- Kickball
- Drop-in play

RECTANGULAR FIELDS

43

25 (Parks)
9 synthetic

16 (APS)
4 synthetic

2 (Public access easements)

Fields Used For:
- Football (tackle & flag)
- Soccer
- Lacrosse
- Field Hockey
- Rugby
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Kickball
- Drop-in play

COMBINATION FIELDS

19

6 (Parks)

13 (APS)

All Diamond & Rectangular Sports Depending on Season/Time of the Year

OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVE FACILITIES & SPORTS

OTHER FACILITIES

- Practice Tennis Courts (1/2 courts) — 5
- Bocce Courts — 3
- Handball Courts — 2
- Pétanque Courts — 5
- Pickelball Courts — 2

SKATEBOARD PARKS

1

COURTS

Basketball	87	47 (Parks)	40 (APS)
Tennis (full size)	87	65 (Parks)	22 (APS)
Volleyball	10	10 (Parks)	0 (APS)

INDOOR FACILITIES

COMMUNITY CENTERS

15

15 Centers & Indoor Bubble

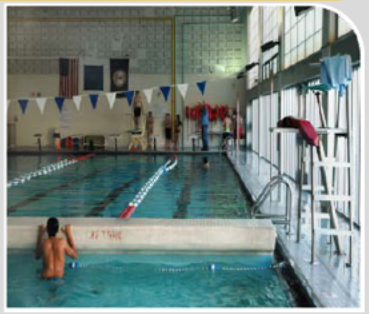
- 5 Joint Use
- 7 DPR Stand Alone
- 3 Smaller Facilities
- Gunston Bubble

SENIOR CENTERS

6

- 5 Within community centers
- 1 within senior residential living facility (Culpepper Gardens)

INDOOR POOLS



4

3 Indoor (APS)

1 Outdoor (NOVA Parks)

NATURE CENTERS

3

2 (County-owned)

1 (NOVA Parks)

URBAN PUBLIC SPACES & STREETSCAPES

County (C) & Non-County (NC) Owned Urban Public Spaces

Examples:

- Penrose Square (C)
- Clarendon-Barton Interim Open Space (NC)
- Gateway Park (NC)
- Arlington Mill Plaza (C)
- Pike Park (NC)
- Welburn Square (NC)
- Pentagon Row (NC)

Penrose Square (C)

Clarendon-Barton Interim Open Space (NC)

Welburn Square (NC)

Gateway Park (NC)

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic resources located within parks or used as community centers:

Examples:

- Fort C.F. Smith
- Fort Ethan Allen
- Dawson Bailey House (Dawson Terrace Community Center)
- Carlin Community Hall
- Reeves House
- Maury School
- Boundary Stones

Fort Scott Park

Dawson Terrace Community Center

Benjamin Banneker Park: Boundary Stone

Maury School

VISIONING CHARRETTE- PROPOSED APPROACH

Purpose

- An invited event devoted to a call for ideas for the physical form of Arlington's public spaces system

Goals

- Provide a different mode of engagement
- Seek informed input on the form or Arlington's public spaces
- Brainstorm ideas that may not otherwise rise to the surface
- Test prior ideas that may be of interest but have no organized public support
- Reach different target audience (physical designers, advocates, community leaders)
- Focus on different aspect of POPS: the physical plan
- Add energy to the POPS process and generate excitement about Arlington's spaces

VISIONING CHARRETTE- PROPOSED APPROACH

Timeframe

- 9am–3pm on a Saturday *or* a Weekday
- Potential Dates:

Format

- Presentations followed by hands-on sketch workshop and synthesis.

Potential Invitees:

- POPS Advisory Committee
- Landscape architects
- Architects
- Planners/UDs
- Engineers
- Naturalists
- Artists
- Miscellaneous 5
- Press

HOW DID THE COUNTY ARRIVE AT RECOMMENDED POPULATION-BASED STANDARDS?

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

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 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.

ARLINGTON POPS
A Plan for Our Places and Spaces

Unprogrammed Open Space

Draft Notes

Purpose: To define Unprogrammed Open Space so these areas can be mapped and included in the POPS Level of Service (LOS) analysis.

Definition: Unprogrammed Open Space is an area that is either minimally improved or may include constructed amenities, such as a picnic shelter or athletic court. The area should be minimally programmed, meaning available and open for public use at least 50% of the year. The area should be accessible to the public by way of the public Right-of-Way or paved/unpaved paths. The area should be large enough to accommodate a range of recreational activities, and free of structures or materials that limits activities to one very specific type of recreational use. The property should be available for public use, which includes sites that are privately owned with public access easements.

Examples of what to include:

- Amphitheaters (Lubber Run)
- Areas with grills and picnic tables (Penrose Park)
- Areas with reservable and non-reservable picnic shelters (Alcova Heights & Barcroft)
- Athletic courts with paved surfaces that can accommodate a range of activities/games, such as: tennis, futsal, basketball, handball, and other multipurpose courts. This is in contrast to sand volleyball courts, for example, which can only accommodate activities that involve sand. I don't expect kids to be able to learn to ride their bikes on sand.
- Community Athletic Fields (Barcroft Field #5 & Rocky Run)
- Disc Golf (Bluemont)
- ~~Dog Parks (Shirlington Dog Park)~~
- Fire rings (Lacey Woods)
- Forested areas with or without seating (Penrose Park)
- Landscaped areas with or without seating (Barton Park & Rocky Run)
- Large tracts of land with either paved or unpaved trails (Fort C.F. Smith & Barcroft & Fort Bennett Park and Palisades Trail)
- Open Lawn with or without seating (N. Danville and 11th Street North Park)

Commented [IL1]: For this category we may want to include a minimum area required? If we have 50 sq. ft. of space, does that really count as "unprogramed space"?

ARLINGTON POPS
A Plan for Our Places and Spaces

- Outdoor Tracks (Fairlington)

Examples of what not to include:

- Auxiliary Buildings (Restrooms, Concession Stands, Storage Sheds)
- Batting Cages, Dugouts, and Bullpens (Barcroft Athletic Fields)
- Community Gardens (Ten-Barton)
- Indoor and Outdoor Pools (W&L High School, Upton Hill Regional Park)
- Natural land that lacks access to the ROW (19th Road South Park)
- Natural land that lacks paved or unpaved routes (Kirkwood Road Park)
- Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCA)
- Outdoor Fitness Stations (Shirlington Park, Fairlington, Rocky Run)
- Outdoor Storage Sites (Barcroft & Long Branch Greenhouses)
- Parking lots
- Permit only athletic fields (such as Barcroft fields 1,2,3, and 6)
- Playgrounds (Playgrounds can't be used for anything other than a playground)
- Skatepark (Powhatan Springs)
- Sprayground
- ~~Volleyball Courts with Sand or Stonedust Surfacing (the sand/stonedust makes it difficult to use the site for other purposes – except building sand castles)~~

Commented [IL2]: I agree, as long we can

Need More Discussion on:

- Heavily sloped areas (think of the southern portion of South Park . . . not useable now, but might be useable once the trail/staircase is constructed?)
- Long linear parks (like Four Mile Run . . . not much room to throw a Frisbee in certain areas)
- Plazas
- Rain Gardens (think of the one at Long Bridge Park that has the walkway . . . versus the one at Glencarlyn that you can look at but cannot walk across)