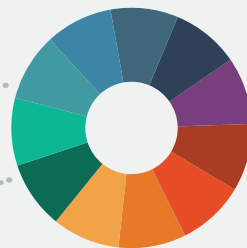


# Public Spaces Master Plan



*An element of  
Arlington County's  
Comprehensive Plan*

Adopted XX

**FINAL DRAFT OCTOBER 24, 2018**







# 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

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**In Memory of Carrie Johnson**, who served on the PSMP Update Advisory Committee for over 3 years as an at-large member.

For over three decades, Carrie Johnson helped to shape and define Arlington's inclusive community planning and policy processes. Carrie shared her wisdom, energy, creativity, civility and integrity to this planning process as well as the previous two public spaces master plans, and many other key planning processes. Her myriad contributions provide a lasting legacy to the public spaces where we come together as a community.



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# INTRODUCTION

**Arlington has developed a system of well-loved and well-used parks, trails and recreation amenities.**

Arlington County is nationally recognized for its park and recreation system, ranking fourth of the 100 largest cities in the United States on the Trust for Public Lands ParkScore in 2018. In 2016, Arlington was accredited for the third time from the national Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. This accreditation, renewable every five years, demonstrates Arlington's success in meeting national standards of excellence. But as an urban community of about 26 square miles and already one of the most densely populated jurisdictions in the country, there is increasing concern about the ability to sustain the high-quality services and access to parks, amenities, and natural resources the community has become accustomed to as Arlington continues to grow.

This 2018 Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) replaces the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan. The PSMP is one of eleven critical components of Arlington County's Comprehensive Plan. Required by the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Comprehensive Plan is an important decision-making and priority-setting tool used by the County Board, Planning Commission, County Departments and the community. The PSMP and other elements of the Comprehensive Plan guide coordinated development and set high standards of public services and facilities, addressing a wide-ranging set of community needs including: land use, transportation modes and networks, parking, historic preservation, affordable housing, sanitary sewer system, recycling, public spaces, natural resources, urban forestry, public art, community energy, water distribution, Chesapeake Bay preservation and stormwater management.

Much has been accomplished since the last PSMP was adopted, although the County now has significant challenges of balancing the competing needs of an increasingly densely populated



community with limited land. Arlington may be at an inflection point: To maintain, preserve, and protect the valuable resources currently in the public spaces realm while anticipating how to meet the pressures of our future needs. The priorities in the 2018 Public Spaces Master Plan, developed through three years of significant public engagement, will guide the County in stewardship of Arlington's public spaces for future generations to enjoy.

Key to planning for the future is a clear understanding of what is currently available in Arlington's public spaces system, partnered with a well thought out analysis that lays the groundwork for what is needed in the future. This plan includes the County's first Level of Service (LOS) approach, a context-sensitive, activity based methodology to meet the County's current and future needs through population-based and access standards. This LOS approach will serve as an essential planning tool, which will help the County maintain and manage the public space system.

Other fresh approaches in the PSMP focus on using comprehensive criteria for land acquisition, evaluating athletic fields for potential conversion to synthetic turf or addition of lighting, dog parks and a new category of dog runs. This plan also identifies and defines a new category of space, deliberately designed "casual use" spaces that support casual, impromptu use that is vital to the quality of life for all Arlingtonians.

The plan is organized around six Strategic Directions: Public Spaces, Trails, Resource Stewardship, Fiscal Sustainability and Partnerships, Programs, and Operations and Maintenance. These Strategic Directions continue to build upon and advance the efforts from the previous PSMP, with ten new Priority Actions and many specific recommendations to support each of the Strategic Directions.

*The plan is organized around six Strategic Directions: Public Spaces, Trails, Resource Stewardship, Fiscal Sustainability and Partnerships, Programs, and Operations and Maintenance.*

The nine Priority Actions on the following page stand out as top priorities for the County for the next twenty years. They should receive special focus as the County's highest public spaces system priorities.

The Strategic Directions are supplemented with the Appendices section which provides more details about additional research, analysis, and information that support the recommendations identified in this plan.

As a way to ensure implementation, the Action Plan lays out a plan for moving each of these specific recommendations forward, and identifies responsible parties, potential partners, funding sources, performance measures, estimated time frames, and cost ranges.

The Public Spaces Master Plan sets up a framework to guide and manage the growing pressures on our public spaces. By preserving and maximizing benefits of existing public spaces and guiding the development of future public spaces, implementation of this plan will result in a balanced and efficient public space system that is inclusive, sustainable, and supports recreation and leisure activities, environmental infrastructure, economic development and social health.

## 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.



*Priority actions can be identified in the document by the **PRIORITY ACTION** header.*

» **PRIORITY ACTION 1 (REC. 1.1, PG 55)**

Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next ten years.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 2 (REC. 1.1.2, PG 55)**

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 Sector Plan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, Crystal City Sector Plan, and Columbia Pike Form Based Codes – and ensure they provide amenities that meet the County’s needs.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 3 (REC. 1.2., PG 58)**

Utilize level of service as a planning tool to manage public space assets efficiently.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 4 (REC. 1.3., PG 60)**

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

» **PRIORITY ACTION 5 (REC. 1.5.2., PG 65)**

Develop park master plans for all new parks or when renovation of an existing park requires a major rearrangement of park amenities.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 7 (REC. 1.8., PG 75)**

Ensure access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run and their tributaries while improving the tree canopy, native vegetation, and other natural resources along waterways.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 8 (REC. 2.1., PG 82)**

Expand Arlington’s network of connected multi-use trails.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 9 (REC. 3.1., PG 94)**

Update the Natural Resources Management Plan and Urban Forest Master Plan.

» **PRIORITY ACTION 10 (REC. 3.2., PG 96)**

Protect, restore, and expand natural resources and trees.



# CONTEXT





**FINAL DRAFT**



# The Value of Public Spaces

*Arlington's public spaces, which include parks, plazas, trails, streets, and recreation facilities, bestow unique and irreplaceable benefits on residents, workers, and visitors in the County and the region. Our public spaces make us happier, healthier, and more prosperous.*

*Understanding the range of benefits associated with public space investments informs 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 multiple public uses, Arlington recognizes the tremendous benefits it receives from its public spaces and will continue to find ways to increase and leverage those benefits.*

Cycling next to the George Washington  
Memorial Parkway  
Mount Vernon Trail

"Colors on the Mt Vernon Trail"  
© Joe Flood  
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Public spaces play a central role in shaping our community, in bringing people together, offering recreational opportunities for our citizens, providing critical environmental benefits and contributing to our quality of life. Extensive research documents the varied benefits provided by public spaces, including improved physical and mental health, increased community cohesion, additional economic benefits, and elevated environmental services. A very brief review of some of these follows.

## 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.

Green space can provide opportunities for low-intensity, long-duration activities, such as walking, cycling, and gardening. Such activities are universally supported for addressing the health problems of an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, including diabetes, heart disease and obesity (TPL 2006, WHO 1997).

Creative play, critical for assimilating new information and developing ways for understanding the world, is also positively linked to access to greened areas (Taylor et al. 1998). Play in outdoor greened neighborhood settings also 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 affords a sense of escape from busy, fast paced urban lifestyles, and represents a place for contemplation especially for urban residents who may have little private space to themselves (Everheart 1983; Wolch, Wilson, and Fehrenbach 2002). RAND research shows 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; Ulrich 1984).

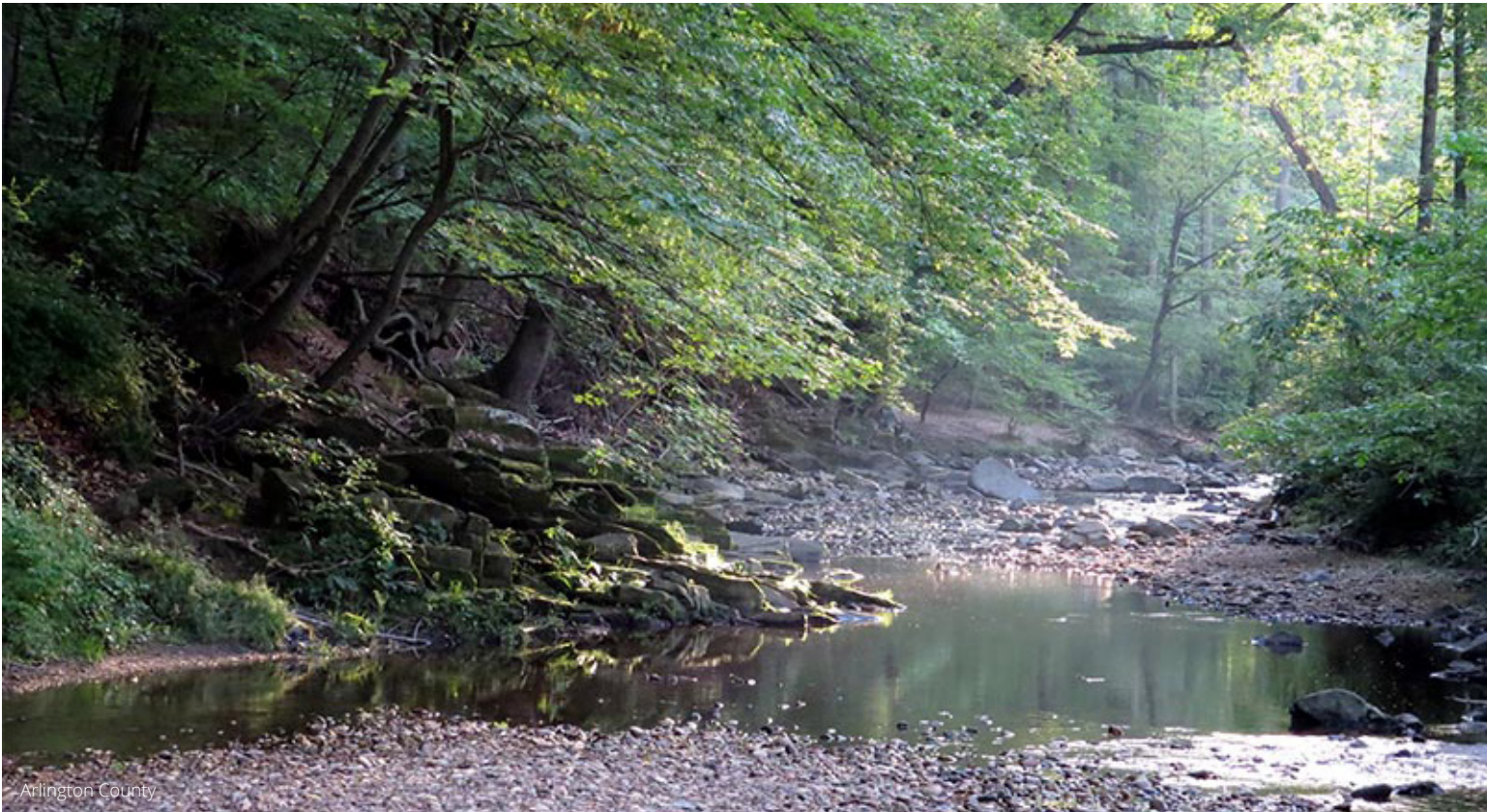
*Access to green spaces from walking through it to playing in it, to simply looking at it, yields a multitude of physical and mental health benefits that go beyond simply being outside in a natural environment.*



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 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 (controlled for race, income, and population density) in Baltimore city and county areas (Troy, 2014).

#### Protecting natural resources and habitats

*Four Mile Run*



Arlington County

## COMMUNITY COHESION

As a community evolves and 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 public 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).

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Green infrastructure—our natural environment—improves air quality by reducing air pollution as plants absorb carbon dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and other materials (USDA 2006); ameliorates the urban heat island effect with shade and cooling; acts as a noise barrier; and reduces urban runoff as roots capture and filter rainwater (Longcore et al 2004; Morris 2003; Pincetl et al 2003; Woolley 2003; Miller 1995). Trees provide shade and cooling and block winds to other structures. Increasing the urban tree canopy by 10% can reduce the summer surface temperature by 2.5 degrees F (Tyrvaenen et al 2005). These 'nature's services' reduce infrastructure costs as they conserve soils in flood-prone areas, reduce air and water pollution and reduce energy costs for cooling.

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

## 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 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



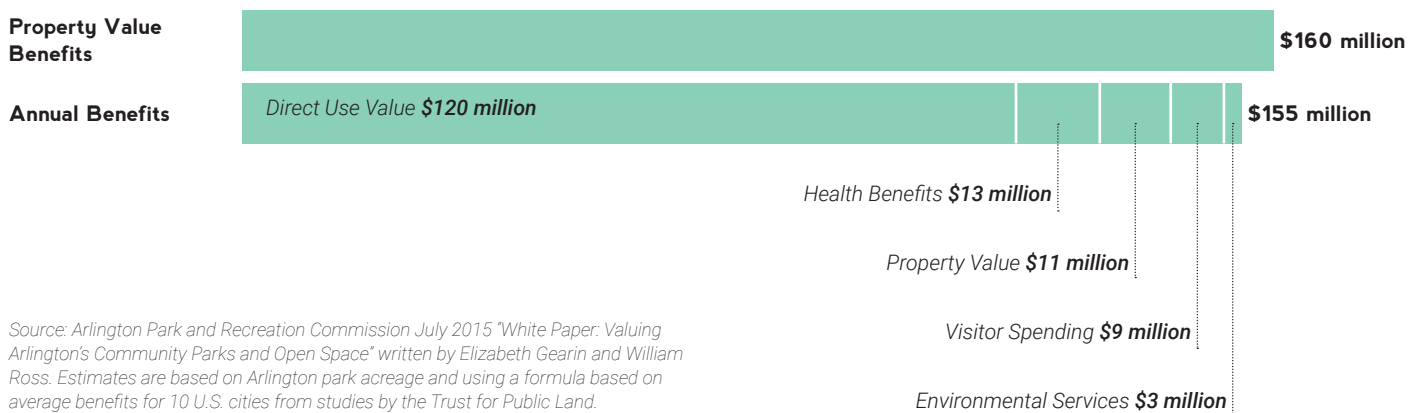
## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

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

Public spaces provide economic benefits. Green cover in neighborhoods (tree canopies, parks) has been linked to an increase in property values (Garvin and Berens 1997; Brabec 1992; Myers 1997), as has close proximity to parks and even areas of deciduous trees (Woolley 2003). Michael Kirschman, Mecklenburg County NC found that properties adjacent to preservation areas 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).

*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.*

**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.*





# Planning Context

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

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

Virginia Hospital looking towards the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor

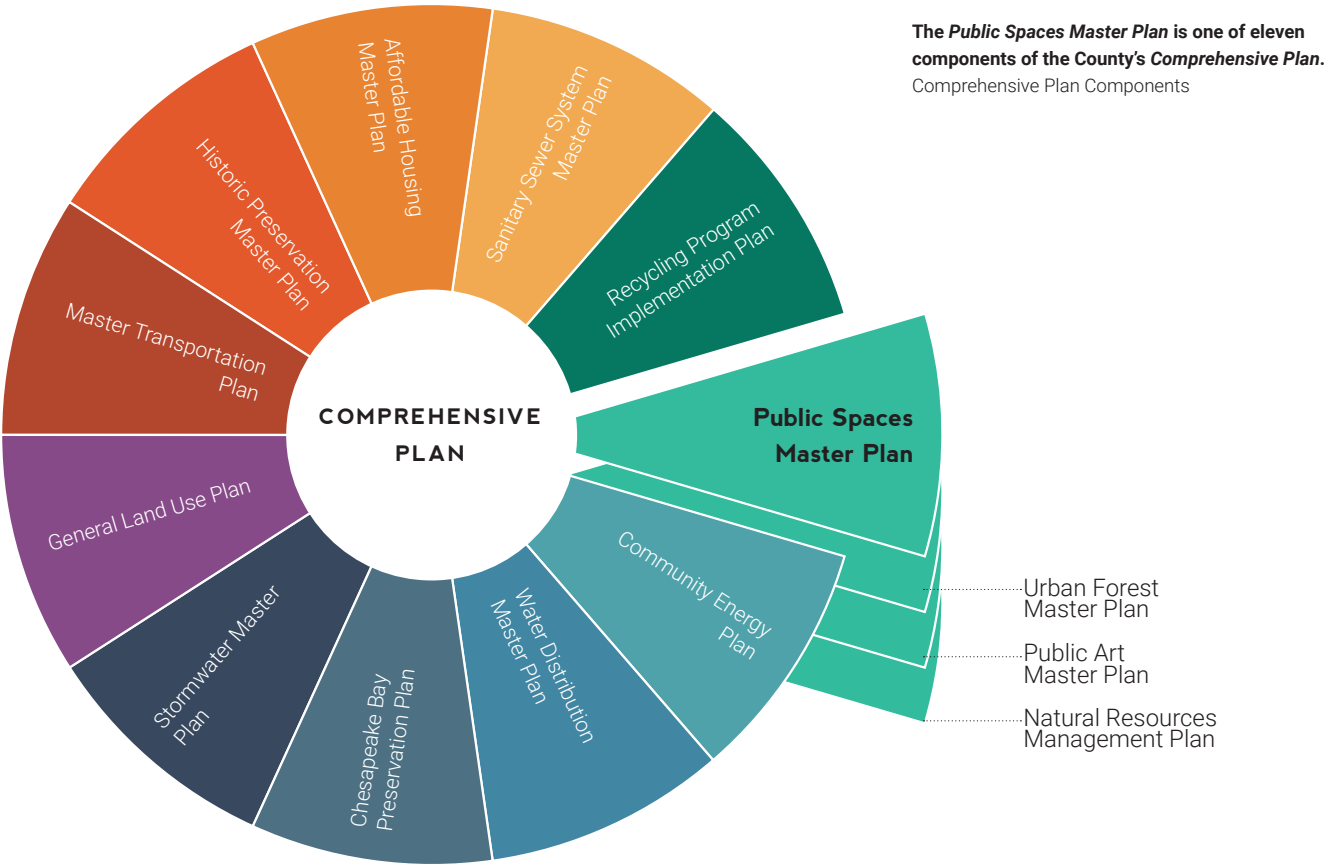
"view from a hospital room"

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# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HIERARCHY

Planning and development in Arlington is guided by the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals and objectives that guide the coordinated development of all land in the County. The plan has eleven elements, one of which is the PSMP. Other plan elements, such as the Stormwater Master Plan, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan and Ordinance, Historic Preservation Master Plan and Master Transportation Plan, address topics that are relevant to public spaces, and the recommendations of these plan elements were consulted in developing the PSMP. The PSMP is supported by a trio of plans that address in more detail Arlington’s urban forest, natural resources, and public art. These three sub-elements of the PSMP will be updated in the near term. The PSMP includes overarching recommendations which will be expanded in more detail as the each of the sub-elements is updated.



## Urban Forest Master Plan

The Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP, 2004) guides the County in preserving and enhancing the many environmental, economic, and social benefits of trees and vegetation. It includes tree canopy and street tree data — which have been updated regularly since the UFMP's adoption — and lays out guidelines for tree maintenance and planting needs.

## Natural Resources Management Plan

The Natural Resources Management Plan (2010) provides guidance and best practices for 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.

## Public Art Master Plan

The Public Art Master Plan (PAMP, 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 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. Two new themes were added as part of the process to update the Public Art Master Plan: Innovative Arlington and Sustainable Arlington.

# OTHER RELATED PLANS

Sector, Area, and Revitalization plans address the physical form and development of specific geographic areas within Arlington. Each of these plans include recommendations for the locations and characteristics of public spaces and guide whether the intent is for County ownership and investment or through private development with public access easements. The PSMP provides direction on what and where public spaces are needed and will be used to guide the development of future Sector, Area, and Revitalization plans.



## PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED PUBLIC SPACE PLANS

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

### **Open Spaces Master Plan (1994)**

The first 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), the Report of the Task Force on Arlington Open Space (1990), and the Open Space Policy (1992), 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. 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 also highlighted five priority actions which have been partially or completely accomplished in the past 10 years. (See facing page.)

# STATUS OF 2005 *PSMP* PRIORITIES

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

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

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 the Crystal City area. A park master plan was developed and adopted by the County Board in 2004 and updated in 2013. The master plan and associated design guidelines are being used to guide the phased build out of the park. The first phase of the park opened in 2011 and included three lighted synthetic fields, an Esplanade, parking, restrooms and the reconstruction of Long Bridge Drive. More recently, children's play areas were added to the park in 2016. The County is currently underway with the next major phase, an aquatic and fitness center and the development of an additional ten acres of the park that will continue the Esplanade and add public gathering spaces. Future phases will include a fourth lighted synthetic field, expanded parking, additional park amenities and a connection to the Mount Vernon Trail.

## 2. ***Develop a land acquisition policy.***

The groundwork was laid for a comprehensive land acquisition policy. The land acquisition criteria and framework laid out in this plan completes the policy.

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

Along Four Mile Run, recent and ongoing planning efforts have prioritized opportunities

along the waterfront to bolster existing public spaces and create new public spaces. The County adopted the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan (2006) and accompanying Design Guidelines (2009), which were developed jointly with the City of Alexandria in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers. The County completed a park master plan for Short Bridge Park (2018), a new park on the banks of lower Four Mile Run at the confluence with the Potomac River. The County also adopted the 4MRV Framework Plan (2018), which provides a vision for future parks and private development in an area bounded by Shirlington and Nauck that includes some of Arlington's only remaining industrially-zoned land as well as a sensitive waterfront zone. The 4MRV Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines for the three major parks within the Valley (Jennie Dean Park, Shirlington Park, and Shirlington Dog Park) were adopted by the County Board in 2018.

## 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 by the County Board 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 addition of synthetic fields at the Williamsburg/Discovery School Campus and the new Wilson High School and the completion of operating and maintenance agreements for the high schools.





**FINAL DRAFT**



# Trends

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

Enjoying a sunny day outside

Doctors Run Park

Arlington County

# 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) project a 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.

## Arlington Demographic Profile and Trends

According to the Arlington County Profile, as of January 2018, Arlington had an estimated 225,200 residents. Arlington's residents tend to be younger, attain higher education, and earn higher annual incomes than residents of the metropolitan area as a whole.

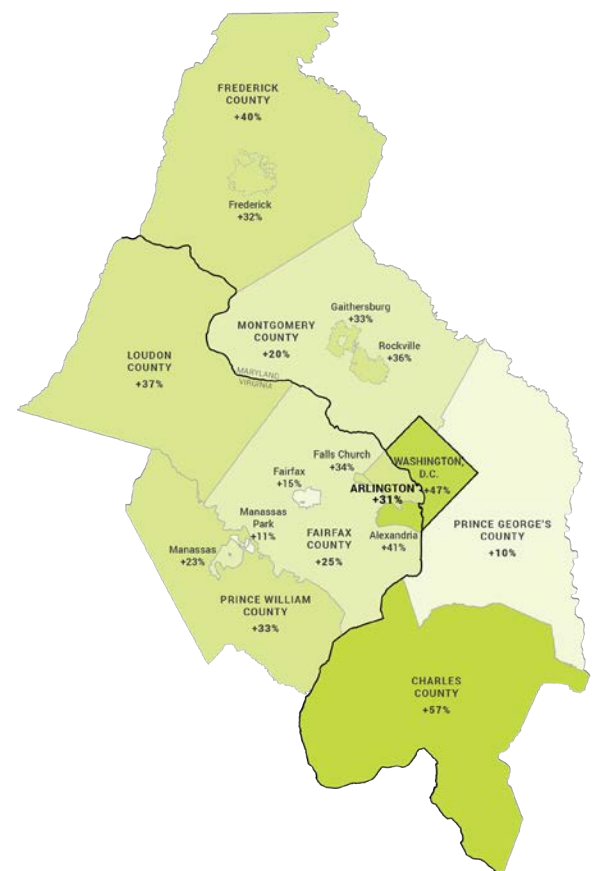
For most age, race, ethnicity, and income cohorts, the population is relatively evenly distributed across Arlington. However, there are a few significant patterns, noted below. These patterns can be used to target engagement to ensure appropriate representation in public input processes.

### GROWTH CORRIDORS

Arlington's General Land Use Plan directs growth to the Rosslyn-Ballston, Jefferson Davis, and Columbia Pike Corridors, taking advantage of Metro and other public transit infrastructure. Mixed-use development in these corridors has been a hallmark of County planning, resulting in multifamily apartments and condominiums and commercial buildings replacing lower density development in these areas, a trend expected to continue in the future. This change in density is an added pressure in how to accommodate additional users at already successful public spaces and how to grow the public spaces system to serve existing and new residents.

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

Forecasted Population Growth, 2015–2045



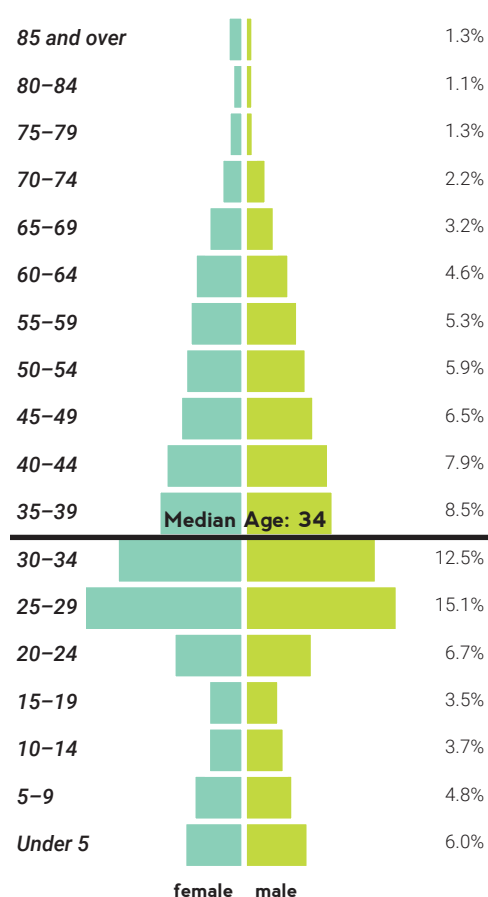
Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Arlington County Profile 2016, MWCOC Round 9 Cooperative Forecast

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



**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 of Columbia. 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

## PRE-K TO 12 POPULATION

Arlington's school-aged population is projected to grow by approximately 20 percent over the next ten years. According to APS the total enrollment for fall 2017 was 26,941 students, and by 2025 enrollment is projected to be 31,968 students.

Arlington Public Schools, September 30, 2017 Membership Summary

Arlington Public Schools, Planning Evaluation, Fall 2025 Enrollment Projections 12/07/2017

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

The majority (54 percent) of households in Arlington are non-family households, which is also true of City of Alexandria (52 percent) and the District of Columbia (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 African American 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), and the District of Columbia (40 and 49 percent, respectively).

Across the metropolitan region as a whole, Arlington's share of Asian (9.9 percent) residents is similar. Arlington has a higher percentage of Asian residents than the District of Columbia (3.7 percent) and City of Alexandria (6.6 percent) but nearly half the Asian residents of Fairfax County (18 percent).

Hispanic or Latino residents of any race make up 15 percent of both Arlington's and the metropolitan area's population.

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 of Columbia (\$71,000) and City of Alexandria (\$89,000) but slightly lower than that for Fairfax County (\$113,000).

2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates DP03

## HEALTH

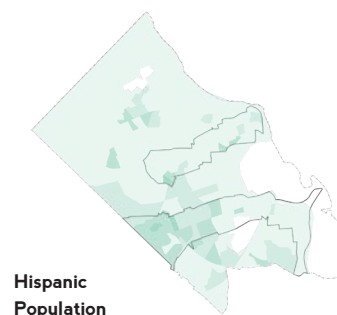
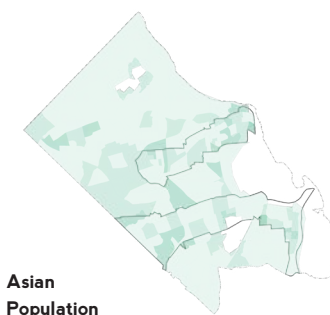
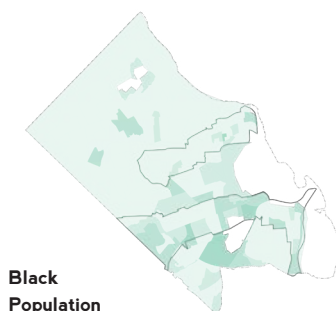
Arlington ranks among the healthiest counties in Virginia per the 2017 County Health Rankings. Adult obesity is currently estimated to be at 16 percent, which places the County in the 10 percent of counties with the lowest adult obesity prevalence nationwide. Also, obesity appears to be trending downward.

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.

**Figure 4. Arlington Has a Few Significant Demographic Spatial Patterns**

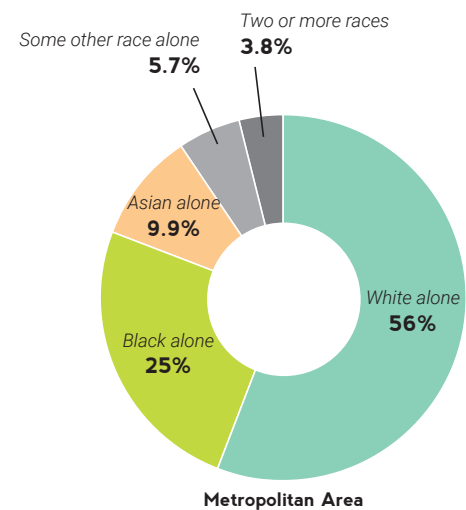
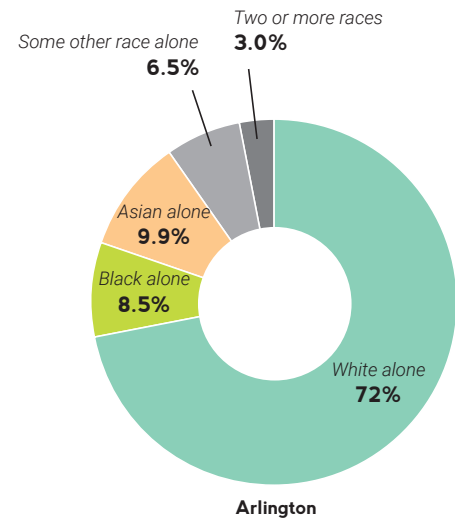
Share of 2015 Population Compared to the County wide Share

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



**Figure 5. 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

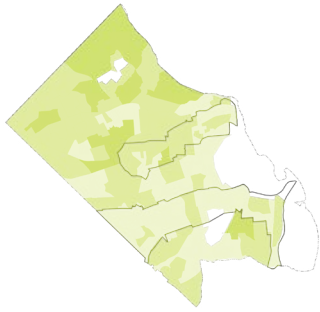


Source: US Census American Community Survey

**Figure 7. Incomes in the northern part of the County are slightly higher than the rest of Arlington**

2015 Median Household Income Compared to County wide Median Household Income

- 4+ times County wide median
- 2–4 times County wide median
- 1–2 times County wide median
- less than or equal to County wide median



Source: US Census American Community Survey

**20%**  
**INCREASE**  
in membership in senior  
services since 2014

Because of the current good health of the County, population-level metrics of obesity and physical activity are not expected to show large movement because 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

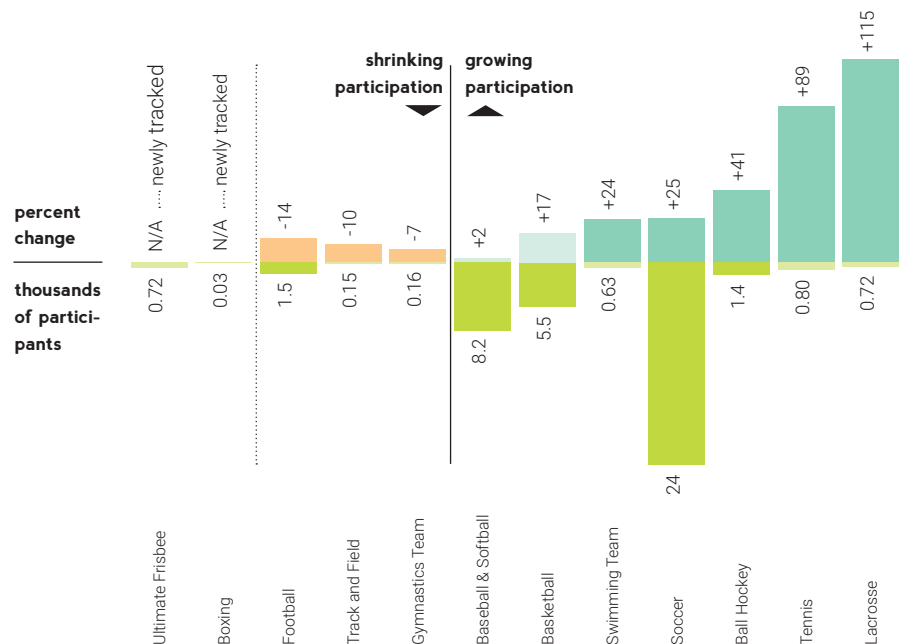
## RECREATION TRENDS

As expected, in general many of the increases in demand for programs and public spaces the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has seen reflect the demographic trends Arlington has identified overall. Growth in senior adult, youth, and teen participation in programs have all grown over the last few years.

There are several unique areas of growth in programs and services the County is experiencing that are worth noting. Activities such as Social Leagues or “Club Sports” are increasing in demand. These privately-run leagues target the 22-35-year-old demographic, and encourage non-competitive recreation in sports such as softball, kickball, and volleyball. The leagues

**Figure 6. 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



and their participants prefer to participate in these activities in the denser areas of Arlington where there is convenient access to transportation and to restaurants and bars for after play gathering.

The demand for pickleball, a paddle sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and ping-pong and is played on a court similar to a tennis court, has grown rapidly in the County. Requests for repurposing existing courts to pickleball have become frequent.

Development patterns also impact trends in programs and services. With the County's continued emphasis on focusing growth in the higher density planning corridors, pressure for areas to walk or exercise dogs has increased. The County has seen a multitude of new multi-family buildings developed and former or planned office buildings converted to residential development. Many of these residential buildings allow residents to have dogs in their units and actively market their pet-friendly status. Understandably these owners are looking for places to walk or exercise their canine friends, while socializing with other fellow dog owners, which puts pressure on existing dog parks or public spaces that may not be appropriate for dogs.

Similarly, residents in those multi-family buildings are recognizing the value of growing their own food and are looking for locations to do so. Requests for access to the County's established community gardens has gone up markedly. In response, the County has decreased the standard plot size by half to attempt to meet demand. These multi-family buildings are also looking at creative ways to service this demand by establishing roof gardens and other gardening opportunities on their property.

Development also impacts the way people move around. Many residents are opting for a "Car Free Diet" or other options for their daily commute. Issues between trail users and commuters using things such as electric bikes, electric scooters or other unique vehicles on the County's multi-use trails has become more common.

**17%**  
**INCREASE**

*in registrations for sports programs since 2014*

**30%**  
**INCREASE**

*in demand for community garden plots since 2014, with over 500 people on the wait list.*

Arlington also prides itself on being an inclusive community. One way that is modeled is through the Department of Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation programs for people with disabilities. There has been an increase in demand for both adapted programming to enable people of all abilities to try new activities as well as an increase in the demand for inclusion services so that program users can participate in general programs that can be offered for people of all abilities.

**Therapeutic recreation**

*Lanston Brown Community Center*



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.*

*A comprehensive inventory of Arlington's public spaces and amenities can be found in Appendix IV.*

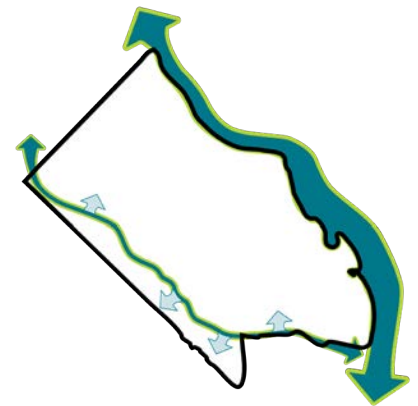
Connecting with nature in Rosslyn  
Hillside Park

Arlington County

# PUBLIC SPACE FRAMEWORK

## The River & The Run

The Potomac River and Four Mile Run, Arlington's two largest natural features, flank the County and form the armature of its public space system. Nearly two-thirds of Arlington's public space is connected to the River and the Run. Along the Potomac River, the Mount Vernon Trail offers views of the water and of Washington, D.C., while the Potomac Heritage Trail provides Arlington's longest hiking trail experience. Over 1,114 acres of public space line the Potomac River and its tributaries. To the west, Four Mile Run, Four Mile Run Trail, and the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail link together 580 acres of public space, including major parks like Bon Air, Bluemont, Glencarlyn, Barcroft, and Jennie Dean.



## The Green Corridors

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



## The Green Fabric

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







Figure 11. Public space ownership



# PUBLIC SPACES

Arlington’s public space system includes both County and non-County owned spaces (see Figure 13) totaling approximately 1,859 acres. Arlington County owns approximately 925 acres of parkland, dispersed among 147 parks varying in size and character. While sizes vary, about 71 percent of County-owned parks are under 5 acres and 46 percent are under 2 acres. Some, like Mosaic Park, are located in mixed-use, high density areas, and provide opportunities for relaxation and recreation. Others, like Gulf Branch Nature Center, provide nature-based experiences. Linear parkland along Four Mile Run, for example, offer opportunities to see and interact with the Arlington’s waterways. Some of Arlington’s larger parks, including Long Bridge Park and Barcroft Park, provide a wide range of experiences, including nature-based activities, cultural experiences, and athletics. Throughout the system of parks are sitting and picnic areas, play equipment, athletic fields, and many other amenities. While some parks tend to attract users in close proximity and others tend to be destinations for all Arlingtonians, all of Arlington’s parks are open and available to all residents, workers, and visitors.



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

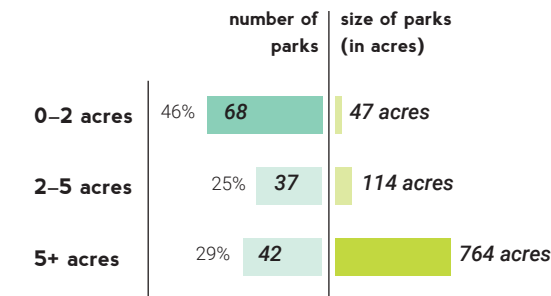
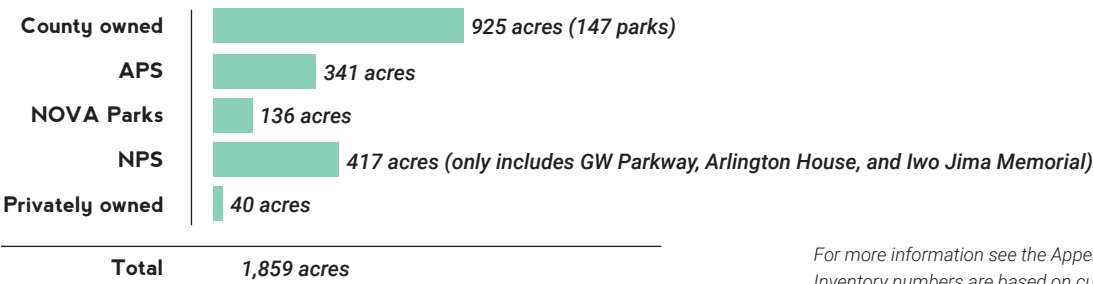


Figure 13. The majority of public space in Arlington is federally owned  
Public space by ownership



For more information see the Appendix IV.  
Inventory numbers are based on current GIS data and are subject to change.

# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Indoor recreation facilities include Arlington’s Community Centers and Sport/Fitness Centers (gyms, senior centers, conference/meeting rooms, multipurpose rooms, game rooms, arts and wellness studios and fitness rooms); Arlington Public School facilities (pools, gyms, cafeterias and theaters); Gunston Bubble (indoor turf field); and Nature Centers. Out of the 14



community centers DPR operates, five of them are joint use facilities with APS (community center integrated as part of the APS building) and nine of them are County run and operated buildings.

## PLAZAS

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



### 5 SMALLEST COUNTY-OWNED PARKS

- 23rd St South and South Eads St Park:** 3,049 sq ft
- Oakland Street Park:** 3,485 sq ft
- Cherrydale Fire Station Park:** 3,920 sq ft
- Nauck Garden:** 4,356 sq ft
- 18th St North and North Lincoln St Park:** 5,227 sq ft

### 5 LARGEST COUNTY-OWNED PARKS

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

## STREETS

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

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

# TRAILS

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

## Primary Multi-Use Trails

Primary multi-use trails are key off-street recreation and transportation corridors, and many connect Arlington to surrounding jurisdictions and are part of the larger regional trail network. They are paved and should be a minimum of 10 feet wide and striped to separate directions or types of travel. They should include seating areas and signage. Some portions of Primary Multi-Use Trails are currently lighted. Arlington should consider including trail-specific lighting as sections of trails are rebuilt or as new Primary Multi-Use Trails are created. The user base is broad, including a wide variety of pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized uses and users of different skill levels, ages, and abilities. Although usage will vary by season, primary trails typically have 1,000 or more users in a day, and sometimes several thousands. The Bluemont Junction Trail, Custis Trail, Four Mile Run Trail, and the Washington and Old Dominion Trail (W&OD) are Primary Multi-Use Trails.

## Secondary Multi-Use Trails

Secondary Multi-Use Trails are off-street corridors that primarily serve a recreation purpose. They are paved and should be a minimum of 8 feet wide. Secondary Multi-Use Trails may connect neighborhoods, other trails, public spaces, or loops, providing recreational circuits within one public space. They should include seating areas and signage. Lighting could be considered based on the facilities it is connecting (i.e. lighted park facilities or a school). The user base of Secondary Multi-Use Trails is broad, including a wide variety of pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized uses and users of different skill levels, ages, and abilities. Typical daily usage of Secondary Multi-Use Trails is usually several hundred persons and will vary by season and day of the week.

## Connecting Trails

Connecting Trails are short segments of paved trails that provide connections between Primary Multi-Use Trails, Secondary Multi-

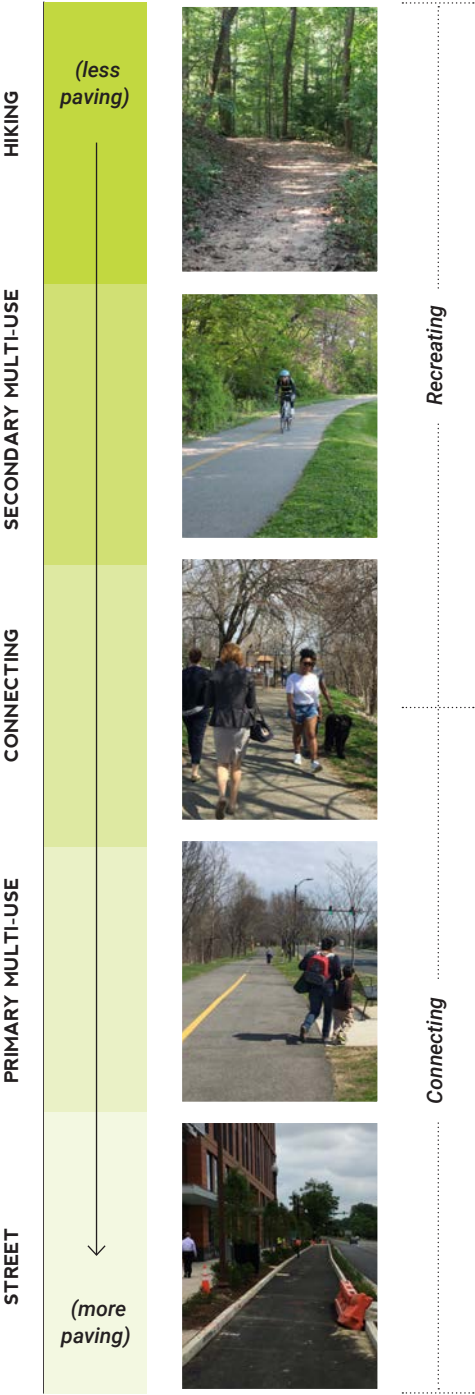


Figure 14. Spectrum of Arlington Trails  
Arlington trail classifications





Figure 15. Arlington's primary trail network and community centers

Use Trails, streets, neighborhoods, park elements, and other destinations. They should be a minimum of 6 feet wide and may include seating areas and signage. Lighting could be considered based on the facilities it is connecting (i.e. lighted park facilities or a school). Typical daily usage will vary considerably.

### Hiking Trails

Located primarily along streams, stream valleys and other natural areas, hiking trails are unpaved and should include trail markings, signage and seating areas. These trails are used primarily by pedestrians and hikers.

## 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 the Shirlington area in Arlington to the town of Purcellville in Loudon County,

## SIDE PATHS

*Side paths represent unique tools to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access in areas where gaps in trail connectivity exist, as they are located alongside a street right-of-way and are physically separated from vehicular traffic. Side paths should be paved, a minimum of 10 feet wide and provide for both significant pedestrian and bicycle traffic. They typically include lighting.*

**Biking and walking on a side path section of the Custis Trail**  
Custis Trail



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 the City of Alexandria to oversee the master planning process for the parks on both the Arlington and Alexandria sides of Four Mile Run.

## OWNERSHIP

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

### County

Arlington's County-owned public spaces are managed by a variety of entities. Approximately 925 acres of County-owned parks are managed by DPR. APS owns recreational facilities that are part of its approximately 341 acres of school campuses (including school buildings) some of which are managed by APS and others which are managed by the County (including athletic fields). Arlington's local roadways are managed by the Department of Environmental Services.

### Regional

NOVA Parks is a regional park authority that has preserved over 12,000 acres of parkland across Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudon Counties, and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax. In Arlington, NOVA Parks manages approximately 136 acres that include the W&OD Trail, Potomac Overlook Regional Park, and Upton Hill Regional Park.



## State

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

## Federal

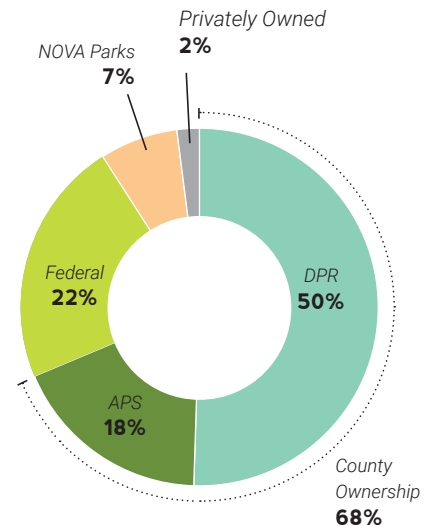
The National Park Service manages the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). While thought of primarily as a roadway, the Parkway also encompasses two trails along the Potomac waterfront– the highly used, paved, multi-use Mount Vernon Trail and the unpaved Potomac Heritage trail. There are also several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

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

## Privately-Owned Public Spaces

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

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



**Figure 17. An example of federally owned parkland in Arlington**  
Gravelly Point Park





POPS Popping Up at Fairlington, Arlington County



Walking Tour in Benjamin Banneker Park, Arlington County



Workshop planning for Lubber Run Community Center, Arlington County

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Public Engagement to Date

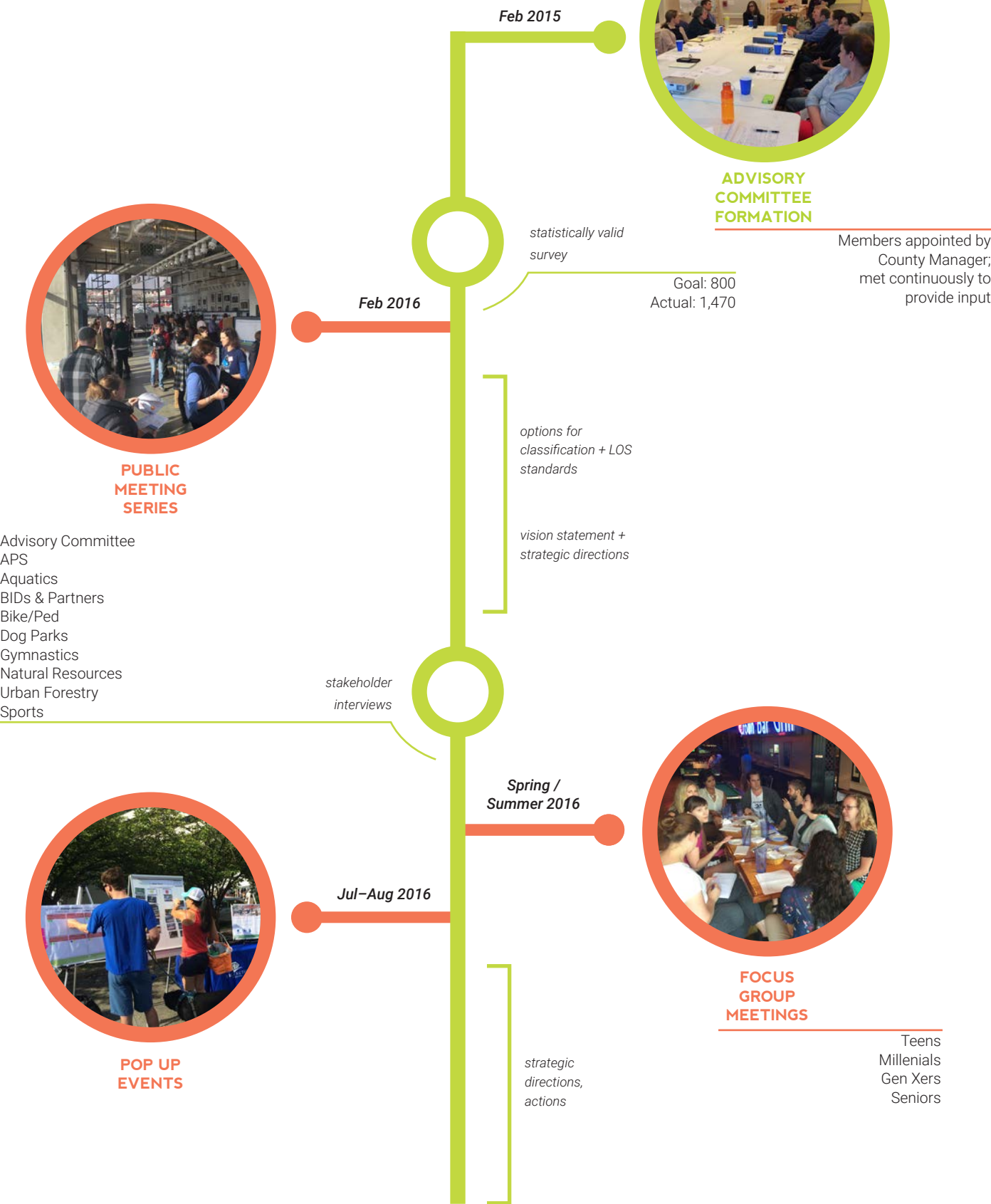
Beginning in winter 2105, the County engaged in a robust public discourse for the update of the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan. The County Manager appointed an Advisory Committee that met regularly throughout the PSMP update process and provided vital direction, guidance, and help to develop the updated plan. The County established the goal to reach out to the broadest possible audience using a variety of tools to ensure the updated PSMP was reflective of the needs of Arlington. Engagement included tools such as a statistically valid survey, focus groups, public meetings, and online feedback opportunities. Please see the Public Input graphic on the following page for more detailed information on the various engagement opportunities provided as part of the update process.

## Public Engagement Moving Forward

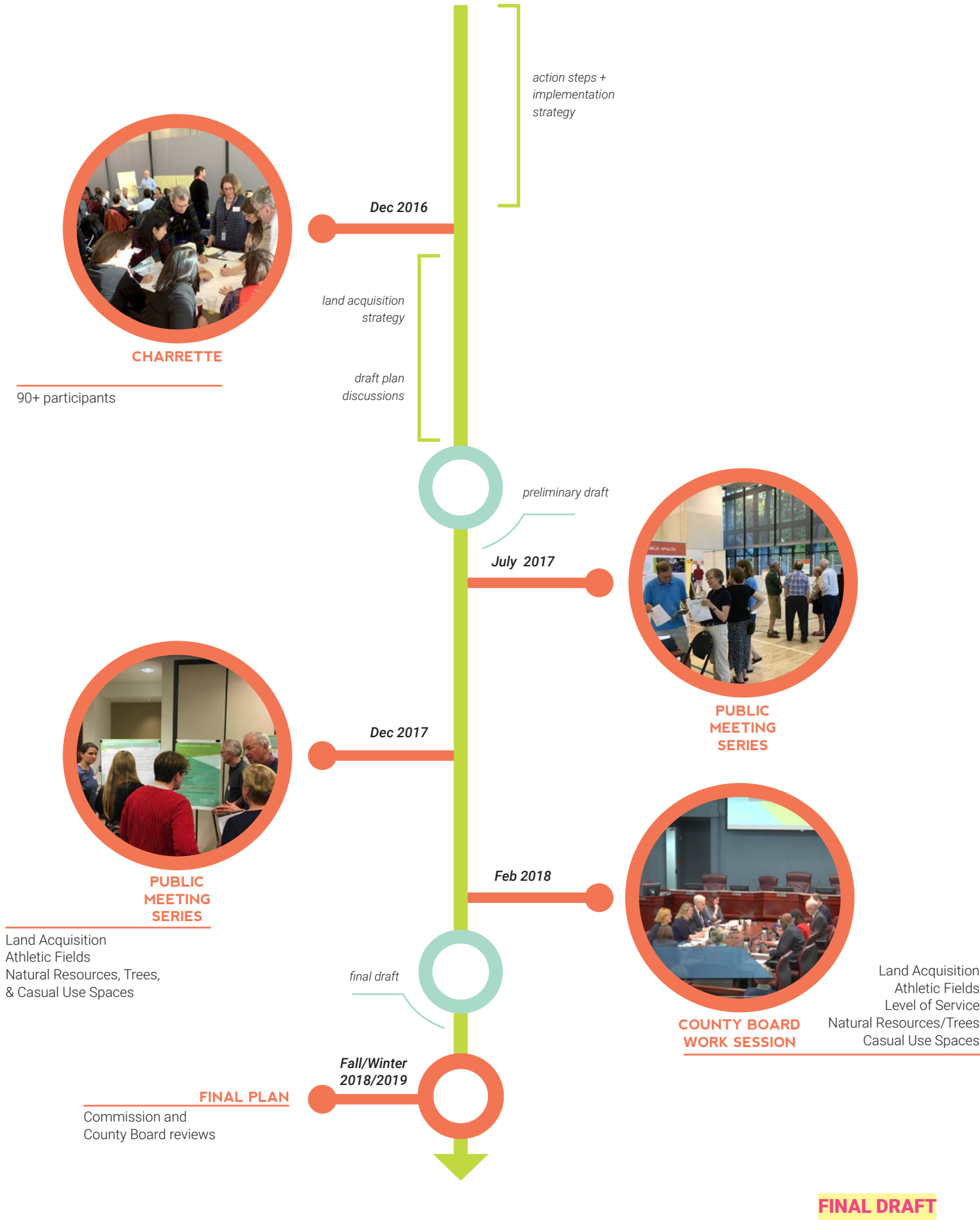
Arlington County's public space system is provided for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone who lives, works, and plays in the community. Arlington believes that a successful public space system hinges on user awareness, enthusiasm, and participation. It is through balanced, open, and collaborative engagement and communication that Arlington can create great public spaces.

As elements of the Public Space Master Plan move forward, Arlington County is committed to meaningful ongoing public engagement and communication. Public engagement ensures that decisions reflect public needs and interests, consider diverse viewpoints and values, and are made in collaboration with all stakeholders. As Arlington implements specific projects in the Public Spaces Master Plan it will look to the 2018 Arlington County Six-Step Approach for Public Engagement for Capital Projects as its guide. Based on the unique levels of engagement for each project, Arlington will engage users, partners, and County staff in the planning, development, programming, and maintenance as appropriate for public spaces. And, Arlington will strive to provide regular communication through traditional and non-traditional sources.

# PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS









# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



*The path forward for Arlington's public spaces is captured within the following strategic directions. Each strategic direction contains goals shaped by public input and analysis. These are supported by a series of actions that ensure Arlington is working towards the goal.*



### Strategic Direction 1

## PUBLIC SPACES

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



### Strategic Direction 2

## TRAILS

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



### Strategic Direction 3

## RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

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

**Strategic Direction 4****FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY  
& PARTNERSHIPS**

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

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

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

**Strategic Direction 6****OPERATIONS &  
MAINTENANCE**

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








# 1. PUBLIC SPACES

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

Public spaces sustain a community and strengthen its identity by providing the common ground where diverse people can interact and come together to build the meaningful connections that are important to a healthy community and civic life. Attractive, well-conceived public spaces and the programs and activities that they support are key catalysts for community education, energy and growth. In our densely populated community, public spaces also protect natural areas and provide the environmental balance and relief so vital to long-term sustainability.

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

They are the gathering spaces for local and regional events. They are the indoor spaces for leisure, sports, and fitness activities. They are spaces that host gatherings,



Leaving space for casual use  
Big Walnut Park  
Arlington County

performances, and public art. Public spaces can be on the ground, on or under bridges, or on the roofs of buildings. They can be temporary or permanent. They can be in high- or low-density neighborhoods. Together, these public spaces form a network of spaces where residents, workers and visitors can relax, recreate, learn, gather, and celebrate.

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

*The National Recreation and Park Association, The Trust for Public Land, and the Urban Land Institute are leading a nationwide movement to ensure there's a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood, in every city across America. In 2017, Arlington County joined the campaign.*

## ACTIONS

### ACTIONS:

- 1.1. Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years.
- 1.2. Utilize the level of service as a planning tool to manage public space assets efficiently.
- 1.3. Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature.
- 1.4. Explore opportunities to expand or add recreational facilities and improve efficiency.
- 1.5. Make better use of existing public spaces through system-wide planning and investments in facilities
- 1.6. Provide more support services and amenities.
- 1.7. Strive for universal access.
- 1.8. Ensure access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries, while improving the tree, canopy, native vegetation, and other natural resources along waterways.
- 1.9. Strive for a more attractive and sustainable public space system.
- 1.10. Enhance spaces with temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.

## BEST PRACTICE:

# LAND ACQUISITION

## BENJAMIN BANNEKER PARK

Strategic land acquisition takes time. It took several decades to assemble properties for the expansion of Benjamin Banneker Park. The acquisition parcels were identified in the 1994 Open Spaces Master Plan and the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan. The last acquisition was completed in FY 2015-2016 and the County Board approved the framework plan for this park in 2017.

### PRIORITY ACTION

#### 1.1. Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years.

*The most common phrase used by the community to describe Arlington's public spaces was "need more." Over half of public survey respondents indicated that they would support acquisition to develop "passive" facilities. New public space should include a combination of additional land acquired by the County, public space developed by other public entities, privately developed spaces with public easements, and the addition of rooftop or other creative spaces. Over the past 10 years (Fiscal Year 2009 – Fiscal Year 2019), the County has acquired 27.87 acres of new park land. It will take a concerted effort to achieve the goal of 30 acres over the next ten years. See Appendix II for the complete list of park acquisitions since the adoption of the 1994 Open Space Master Plan and Appendix IV for a list of public access easements.*

##### 1.1.1. Acquire land strategically according to acquisition guidelines and parcels identified in this plan. (See Appendix II).

One of the key recommendations of the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan was to develop a land acquisition policy. This Public Spaces Master Plan has clear guidelines for land acquisition, identifies priority areas for acquisition and assembles a comprehensive list of future public space identified in various other County plans. The guidelines were created to provide the County with a way to objectively evaluate acquisition opportunities against public space goals. They will be used in coordination with the County's level of service analysis for public space amenities. (See Appendix II).

### 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



Benjamin Banneker Framework Plan, Arlington County



**Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, Crystal City Sector Plan, and Columbia Pike Form Based Codes — and ensure they provide amenities that meet County needs.**

Adopted County plans provide direction for where new public spaces should be located in the more densely populated corridors. While the size and general function of these spaces may be identified in such plans, the level of service standards set in this PSMP will guide the selection of amenities to be built in these new spaces as they are master planned. For example, the Courthouse Sector Plan envisions a new Courthouse Square as the premier community gathering place for conversation, relaxation, and to celebrate important civic events.

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

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

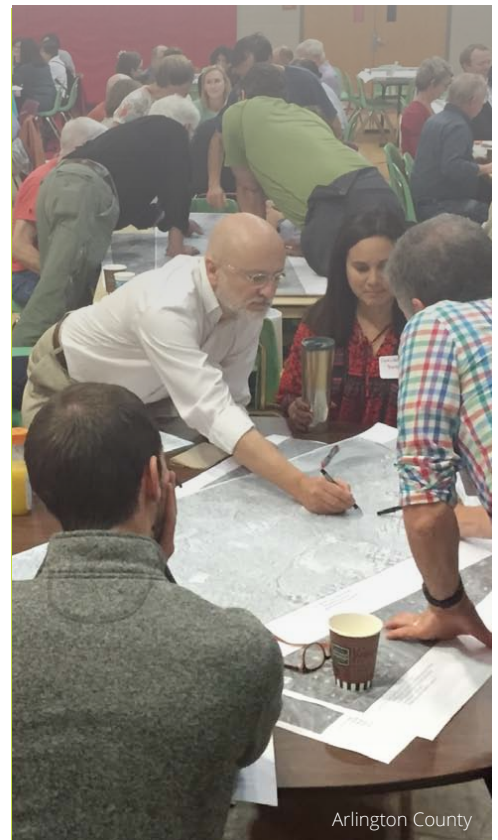
**1.1.4. Ensure that privately owned public spaces conditioned in site plans are informed by this plan's level of service analyses and guided by the Privately Owned Public Space Design Guidelines (See Appendix III). As developer projects are completed, the County will ensure that the required public access easement is platted, recorded and enforced.**

Public access easements as a result of private development will continue to be an important component of the County's public space system. The level of service standards and the Privately Owned Public Space Design Guidelines set in this

**IN PROGRESS:**

## LEE HIGHWAY PLANNING

Building on visioning work by the Lee Highway community in 2016, the County has begun a community planning process for Lee Highway, that takes a closer look at the long-term goals for this important corridor and its surrounding areas. The multi-year process will result in a comprehensive, long range plan for the corridor. The recommendations in the adopted plan related to public spaces, will be guided by this PSMP and will inform the future updates of the PSMP.



Arlington County

## BEST PRACTICE: “POPS”

### 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.



plan will also guide the site plan review process. As private development projects go through the site plan review process, the County will proactively analyze and recommend the inclusion of specific locations and needed amenities based on this PSMP. While these amenities will be located on private property, their design, signage, maintenance, hours, and use will clearly indicate that they are for public use.

#### **1.1.5. Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to County waterways, particularly Four Mile Run.**

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 to protect natural resources and as destinations.

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

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) is a program that allows a landowner in a designated sending zone to sell development rights to a landowner in a designated receiving zone. Land that is desirable for future public spaces can be designated as sending zones, which enables landowners of these spaces to get value out of their properties while achieving land use development goals — namely the preservation of public space. Arlington County currently has a TDR program, but it could be used more broadly in the realm of public space creation. For example, creating a TDR “bank” could help facilitate broader use of the TDR program by allowing owners of land where future public space is desired to immediately sell and be compensated for their development rights without needing to have a receiving site identified.

### 1.1.7. Work with the Commonwealth of Virginia and County-owned street system network to explore opportunities to create new deck parks over I-66 or other highways and primary streets to mitigate highway widening or reclaim public space.

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

#### PRIORITY ACTION

### 1.2. Utilize level of service as a planning tool to manage public space assets efficiently.

*The 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan recommended that Arlington develop a “clustering philosophy” for providing amenities. Clustering was intended to move the County in the direction of thinking about groups of public space sites together providing the appropriate mix of amenities within a defined boundary. In this plan, the activity-based approach to providing amenities 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. The County will be explicit about what level of service can be expected in these contexts. (See Appendix II). The level of service and access analysis will be used together as a tool to understand how many amenities are needed in the County and at what locations.*

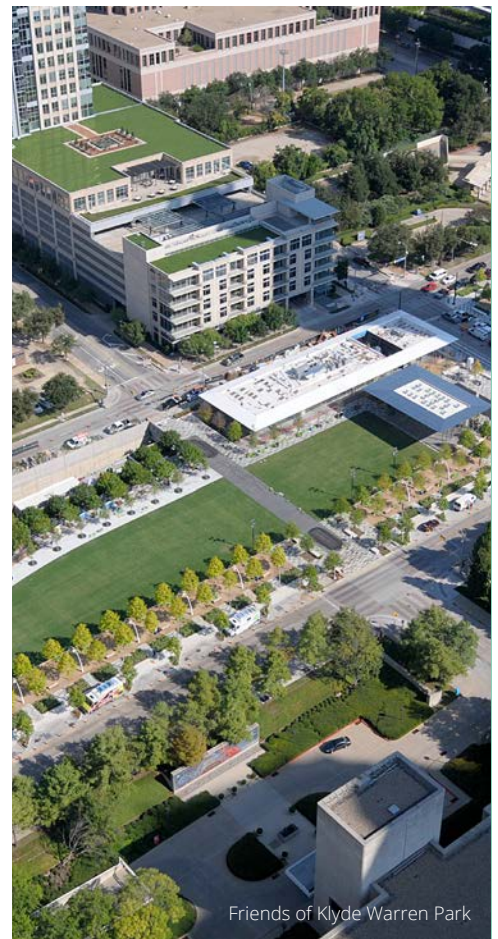
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#### BEST PRACTICE:

## DECK PARKS

KLYDE WARREN PARK, DALLAS, TX

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



Friends of Klyde Warren Park



**1.2.1. Identify opportunities to add or change park and recreation amenities or enhance multi-modal access based on Level of Service Analysis.**

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

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

**1.2.3. Consider siting new amenities in locations that are or can be made accessible by as many modes of transportation as possible.**

The use of multi-modal transportation to access public amenities is an important goal of the County.

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

*Barcroft Park*



**1.2.4. Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, on a 5-year cycle.**

As the County needs, trends and population projections may change, conducting a needs assessment and updating level of service analysis on a regular basis would allow the County to keep pace with these changes and adjust its recommendations accordingly.

**1.2.5. Implement the revised standards for dog parks and new standards for dog runs identified in Appendix III.**

With the increase in dog-friendly residential developments in densely populated areas, the County should explore modifying zoning regulations to allow dog parks on privately-owned property with or without public easements.

**PRIORITY ACTION**

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

*The community consistently expressed a strong desire to preserve and intentionally create spaces that can be used for relaxation, reflection, and informal activities — what this plan refers to as “casual use” spaces. These spaces are essential to a public space system that supports the whole community. (See following callout pages (64 and 65) for more on casual use spaces).*

**1.3.1. Consider completing an inventory of casual use spaces to better understand their distribution and gaps.**

Casual use space is a new concept, and as such, has not been inventoried. Further refining the definition should enable an inventory to be completed.

**1.3.2. Consider exploring opportunities to develop standards for casual use spaces.**

**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 socialize while their pets run around freely.



South Loop Dog PAC

As this concept is new and there is no inventory or benchmarking data available, the County should explore ways to develop standards for casual use spaces.

#### **1.4. Explore opportunities to expand or add recreational facilities and improve efficiency.**

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

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

##### **1.4.2. Identify the locations and build two new multi-use activity centers to provide year-round access to indoor athletic courts and fields.**

With high demand for field space and sports being played year-round by all participants, there is a need for more facilities that are dedicated to supporting this use. Currently diamond and rectangular sports teams utilize limited gym space available in County Community Centers and APS around the ever popular and expanding County's youth basketball and class programs. These gymnasiums are not designed for outdoor sports.

One multi-use activity center is planned as a future phase of Long Bridge Park, although with changes the Board has approved to the park and facility layout, locating a multi-activity center at Long Bridge Park will need to be revisited in the future.



# CASUAL USE SPACES

While other localities, including Alexandria and Bellevue, Washington, are also finding a need to address the spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature, there is no clear or consistent terminology or definition in use. In this plan, these spaces are referred to as “casual use spaces.” The objective is to ensure that casual use spaces are considered to be an intentional, integral part of Arlington’s public space system. Casual use spaces should not be leftover after other uses are accommodated; these spaces should be purposefully designed and designated as part of the public space system.

Some casual use spaces, such as forested or landscaped areas, are available at all times, while others, such as fields or 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”*

## CASUAL USE EXAMPLES

- Bird watching
- Relaxing on a lawn
- People watching
- Picnicking
- Playing catch or throwing a frisbee
- Reading a book
- Sitting on a bench
- Social interaction
- Strolling through a wooded area

## What Types of Spaces Support Casual Use?

### CASUAL USE SPACES INCLUDE

*some available always, some at times*

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

### CASUAL USE SPACES DO NOT INCLUDE

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



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

<b>Park Master Plans</b>	New park master plans developed by the County should include intentionally designed casual use spaces. (1.5.5.)
<b>Inventory</b>	Casual use space is a new concept, and as such, has not been inventoried. Completion of an inventory should be explored as part of the implementation of this plan (1.3.1).
<b>Standards</b>	Currently, there is no available benchmarking or other data for this type of public space, so future analysis should be explored to develop standards. (1.3.2.)

## Casual Use Space Design Characteristics

*Casual use spaces should be designed to include many of the following characteristics:*

<b>Open</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unobstructed or minimally obstructed (e.g., minimal fencing)</li> <li>• Usable and occupiable</li> <li>• Available to the public, at least at specified times</li> <li>• Visible from surrounding areas</li> </ul>
<b>Green</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host to substantial natural features, trees, vegetation, landscaping and/or grass</li> <li>• Incorporate biophilic design principles</li> <li>• Integrated with plaza or hardscape design</li> </ul>
<b>Flexible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed to enable multiple types of casual use</li> <li>• Equipped with features that encourage use (e.g., benches, picnic tables, and walking paths)</li> </ul>
<b>Visible</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intentionally designed, rather than leftover, spaces</li> <li>• Marked by visible signage</li> <li>• Located to avoid dead-ends and areas that are not highly visible</li> </ul>

Multi-use activity centers should include multi-use facilities that allow for flexibility to accommodate diamond and rectangular sports and indoor court opportunities for tennis, pickleball, volleyball, basketball, health and fitness, etc.

#### **1.4.3. Explore the identification of dedicated outdoor pickleball courts to meet the growing demand.**

Pickleball is a growing recreation trend in Arlington, regionally and nationally. Currently, Arlington does not have any permanent outdoor pickleball locations. The County is piloting several locations on multi-use courts. The County uses space for indoor pickleball at Thomas Jefferson, Arlington Mill, and Walter Reed Community Centers.

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

Existing community gardens are heavily used. Community gardens and urban agriculture are amenities that can be located in untraditional locations, such as on roofs.

### **1.5. 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.*

#### **1.5.1. Complete the remaining elements of Long Bridge Park.**

The park master plan and associated design guidelines guide the phased build out of the park and were updated and adopted by the County Board in 2013. The first phase of the park opened in 2011 and has been a major success — with 3 full-size, lighted, synthetic rectangular athletic fields, an Esplanade for walking and bike riding with views of Washington and National Airport, rain



**A gathering of pickleball players**  
Walter Reed Community Center and Park



**Urban gardeners collect their crops**  
Lang Street Community Garden



# PARK MASTER PLANS

*long-range plans that provide the County with a road map for the layout of park facilities and include accompanying design guidelines for the future of a particular park. For a full definition see Appendix IV.*

gardens, picnic lawns, public art, trails, an overlook, parking, and restrooms. Another phase, including children's play areas, was completed in 2016. The County is currently under construction of the next major phase, an aquatics & fitness center with the development of ten acres of the park that will continue the Esplanade and add public gathering spaces. Other elements remain to be completed, including the fourth lighted rectangular field and additional parking, the connection of the Esplanade to the Mount Vernon Trail and the multi-activity center (MAC). The MAC may need to be revisited based on decisions made by the County Board in 2017.

## PRIORITY ACTION

### **1.5.2. Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans.**

The County Board has adopted specific park master plans that show the location and type of park elements as well as design guidelines. Implementation of these adopted park master plans should be considered as part of the County's Capital Improvement Program. The list of County Board-adopted park master plans is shown in Appendix IV.

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

The County currently operates 14 community centers which support a wide range of programs, including recreation, sports, education, and health programs. Five of these facilities are joint use facilities with APS and have use limitations. The existing community centers vary significantly in size, design, and layout, and while many of the facilities have been replaced or updated, others have very limited capacity for programming and are aging and in need of significant renovation or replacement. Given Arlington's high demand for

recreation programs and services, community centers with flexible spaces that can accommodate multiple recreation programs and services are needed.

**1.5.4. Utilize the criteria and methodology identified in Appendix III (Athletic Fields) to convert existing natural grass fields to synthetic turf and/or add lighting to existing fields to increase available hours of play.**

Adding lighting and/or converting existing grass fields to synthetic turf will help the County to meet the demand for new fields identified in the Level of Service analysis. The FY19-FY28 CIP identifies conversion of grass turf to synthetic at Thomas Jefferson Park, Kenmore Middle School (fields #1 & #2) and one other field (location to be determined), at a minimum.

**1.5.5. Designate four sport-specific outdoor complexes that focus on a designated recreational amenity and provide the highest level of facilities for that particular sport.**

Sports-specific complexes are located at Long Bridge Park (rectangular athletic field complex), Bluemont Park (tennis court complex), Barcroft Park (diamond athletic field complex), and Powhatan Springs Park (skate park complex).

**1.5.6. Explore opportunities to increase the use of existing tennis courts, which could include adding lights or covering existing courts.**

To enhance opportunities for evening and seasonal play, the County should consider adding lighting to existing courts. When courts are being renovated, the County should consider adding a cover over existing courts to allow for year-round play.



**A rooftop sports field atop a parking garage**  
*Milwaukee School of Engineering*

**PRIORITY ACTION**

**1.5.7. Develop park master plans for all new parks or when renovation of an existing park requires a major rearrangement of park amenities.**

**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.



Several parks have been identified that are of high importance to the park system over the next decade. Master planning efforts should be focused on those parks identified below:

- Bon Air Park
- Bluemont Park
- Future parks in Crystal City & Columbia Pike (identified in adopted Sector and Form Based Code Plans)
- Maury/Herselle Milliken/Future New Properties
- Quincy Park
- Rosslyn Plaza
- Thomas Jefferson Park
- Virginia Highlands Park
- 15th Street South (Crystal City)

**1.5.8. Review and consider updating the County's regulations and codes related to parks and public spaces in "S-3A" and "PS" and other districts including zoning and other requirements related to setbacks, lighting, parking, signage, height water features, fencing, and temporary use of public and private property as public space – to provide appropriate design flexibility and respond to high-density contexts and efficient use of limited public space.**

**1.5.9. Consider the use of structured parking to maximize the preservation of public space for recreation, casual use space and natural resources when the cost benefit analysis, including the cost of purchasing land, demonstrates it makes fiscal sense.**

Barcroft Park is an example of where the County used structured parking to consolidate the parking needs, which preserved space in the park to accommodate an additional athletic field and preserve natural areas adjacent to Four Mile Run.

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



Roofs and sides of buildings and parking structures have flat surfaces upon which athletic courts, play areas, gardens or other amenities can be built — taking advantage of these often-underused spaces. When designing these spaces, the amenities should be safe to use and easy to locate and access from ground level.

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

Creative design solutions can enhance subsurface public spaces. For example, elements such as lighting and public art were incorporated into the design of the North Courthouse Road bridge over Arlington Boulevard to improve the user experience.

**1.5.12. Consider multi-modal improvements in the park master planning process to increase accessibility by walking, biking, driving, and public 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. In addition, park access planning should be coordinated with transportation planning efforts in order to ensure sufficient transit service to major parks and trails.

**1.5.13. Enhance the street network to optimize the public space realm.**

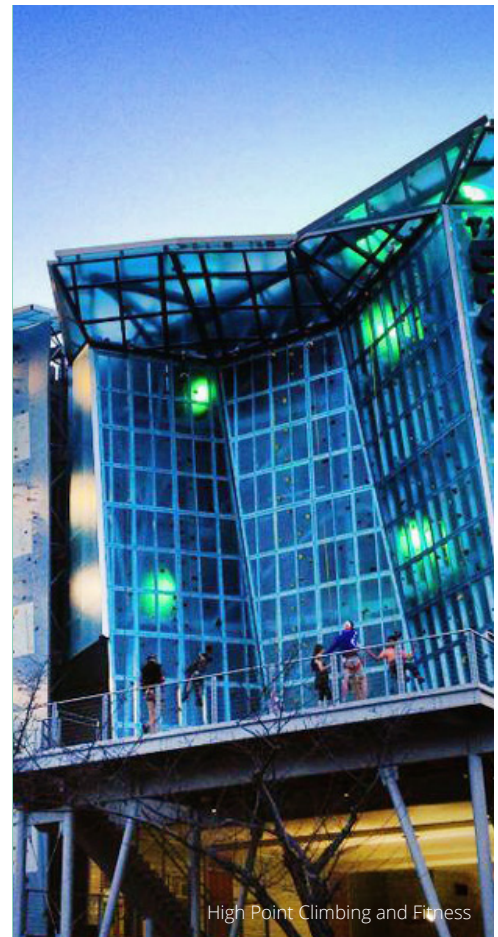
Streets are often thought of as infrastructure that should have the single purpose of quick and efficient transportation. However, as a large percentage of the County's land area, streets have the potential to transform the feeling of the public realm. A tree-lined street, perhaps with a median, offers pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers a more attractive travel experience, provides shade in the heat, blocks wind in the cold, and can integrate

**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 Chattanooga location features a climbing wall mounted on the façade of the building. The unique design shows that exterior walls and facades can be included in the public realm as recreation spaces.



High Point Climbing and Fitness

stormwater management features. Seating along streets can also enhance their value as public space.

- 1.5.14. Consider amending standard conditions of site plan approvals to require information about the location, size, and content of signage for 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 addition, each privately owned public space should have an assigned address and name approved by the County.
- 1.5.15. Complete and routinely update the database of all privately-owned public spaces that includes details regarding recorded public access easement or other type of use agreement, ownership and management, layout of the space and design features, signage, accessibility, and hours of operation and create an interactive online map to raise public awareness of such spaces.

An example of privately-owned public space  
*Welburn Square*







**Public art reflecting the “Historic Arlington” theme**  
*Echo by Richard Deutsch, Penrose Square*

**1.5.16. Review and explore revising current or creating new policies regarding commercial uses on privately owned public spaces.**

Commercial spaces such as retail, concessions, cafés and restaurants, when planned and designed appropriately, can be used to activate privately-owned public spaces, and they can also benefit from their proximity. However, these commercial spaces should be planned early in the site plan or form based code process to achieve seamless and unobstructed connections between the commercial and public spaces.

**1.5.17. Periodically review and update the inventory of public spaces to ensure accuracy and consistency of data.**

**1.5.18. Include public art that interprets the five priority themes described in the Public Art Master Plan: “Federal Arlington,” “Historic Arlington”, “Global Arlington”, “Innovative Arlington” and “Sustainable Arlington”.**



## BEST PRACTICE: PUBLIC ART

### DOUGLAS 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 Douglas 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.



These themes provide a rich subtext about patterns of development, public 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.

#### 1.5.19. 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 experience for visitors.

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

*Public spaces should include the amenities that make them more comfortable, including seating, drinking fountains, shade, and portable or permanent restrooms. 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.*

##### 1.6.1. Explore expanding the offering or permitting of concessions in public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at locations where special events are regularly held. (See also 4.6.4.).

Current park rules and regulations allow for some types of concessions at park and recreation facilities, but the practice is currently limited to a few 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 should consider revising zoning regulations as needed in order to expand its permitting of concessions.

**1.6.2. Explore the revision of Section 17-2 of the Arlington County Code to allow the County to issue permits for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in designated parks.**

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 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. The County currently allows the sale of alcoholic beverages by permit in three parks: Gateway Park, Clarendon Central Park, and Fort C. F. Smith Park.

**1.6.3. Ensure that as new public buildings are constructed adjacent to parks, schools and other major public spaces, consideration is given to creating restrooms that can be accessed from the exterior.**

Creating restrooms that are accessed from the exterior of a building has the advantages of siting the restrooms closest to the outdoor amenities and having the ability to be open for use during the park or public space hours of operation. Recent examples include exterior restrooms at Fairlington Community Center and Stratford School.

**1.6.4. Design and build new permanent restrooms and retrofit existing restrooms to accommodate year-round use.**

Permanent restroom facilities should be designed and constructed so that the spaces are heated and the building is insulated.

**1.6.5. Consider adding Wi-Fi to provide public internet access in 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.**

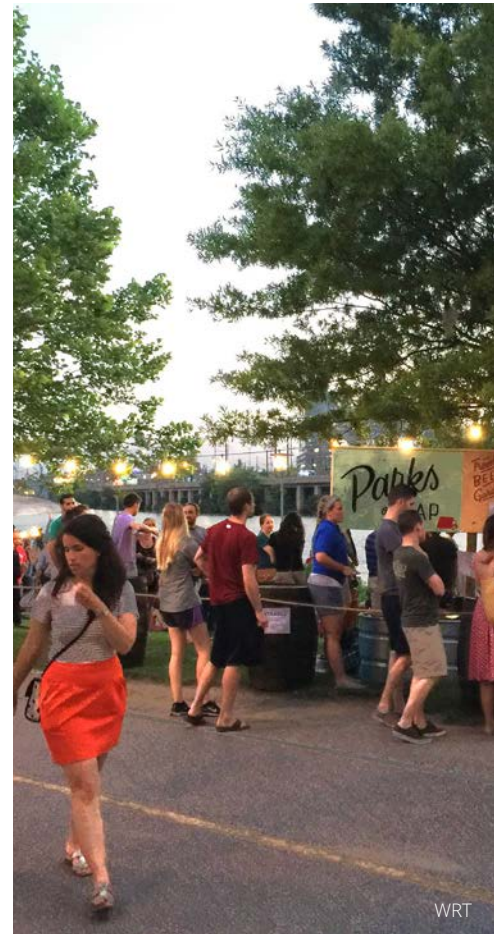
Public internet access could allow public space users to find out more about the spaces they are

**BEST PRACTICE:**

## CONCESSIONS

**PARKS ON TAP, PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Parks on Tap is a program that brought a traveling beer garden, featuring craft beer and food, to a different Philadelphia park each week for the summer season. Due to its success, funding was secured to continue the program in 2018. [parksontap.com](http://parksontap.com)



WRT



Arlington County

Enjoying a movie outdoors  
Penrose Square

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

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

— Public Meeting Participant

using, increase safety, and allow visitors to instantly share their experiences via social media.

**1.6.6. Reconfigure or add infrastructure to public spaces to support programming such as events and classes. (see also 5.6.2.).**

Some public spaces may be able to support programming based on community interest, but are not configured or outfitted to accommodate the desired activities. For example, electric outlets could be added to a plaza to support live music, movie night or other entertainment.

**1.6.7. Develop and implement consistent signage in public spaces to improve wayfinding, more effectively brand the system, and enhance the appeal of individual spaces as part of a cohesive whole.**

Attractive and cohesively designed signage present at all County-owned public spaces and privately-owned public spaces will help brand the system. Creating a brand for Arlington's public space system will help elevate it as part of the County's identity.



## 1.7. Strive for universal access.

*The County should create equal access for all community members by reducing barriers. The concept of universal access goes beyond compliance with ADA requirements. Public spaces should be accessible to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of age or ability, and should fully allow for social participation and support health and wellness.*

### 1.7.1. Implement the recommendations of the Department of Parks and Recreation Transition Plan.

As part of the 2018 PSMP update process, access audits and site reports were conducted for 147 County parks. Based on these audits, a DPR Transition Plan was developed to identify accessibility issues that need to be addressed to satisfy requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Transition Plan recommends a phased approach, where each phase will likely require several years for completion.

### 1.7.2. Incorporate state-of-the-art and creative approaches using universal design principles.

#### PRIORITY ACTION

## 1.8. Ensure and enhance access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries, while improving the tree, canopy, native vegetation, and other natural resources along waterways.

*The Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries are the backbone of the County's natural resource framework and are some of its biggest natural and recreational assets. There are two Comprehensive Plan elements, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan and Ordinance and the Stormwater Master Plan, as well as several other major planning efforts that support these important resources.*

#### BEST PRACTICE:

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN PLAYGROUND

### QUINCY PARK, ARLINGTON, VA

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.



Arlington County







**1.9.2. Strive for design excellence in the development and renovation or replacement of parks and amenities.**

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, locally native plants and the inclusion of horticulture.

**Strolling along the banks of Four Mile Run**  
*Barcroft Park*

**1.9.3. Explore using a rating system such as the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) for a pilot project to designing sustainable landscapes.**

**1.9.4. Opt for sustainable design elements where appropriate.**

Sustainable design elements may include those made with recycled, salvaged or locally produced materials, those that consume few resources, or those that produce or are powered by renewable resources.



# 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*



Arlington County

**Oak Grove Park improvements included nature-inspired design elements**

*Oak Grove Park*

### **1.9.5. Promote the planting, preservation, maintenance and increase of canopy trees on public and private land.**

Arlington's tree canopy provides many economic and environmental benefits. Trees aid with reducing the urban heat island effect and mitigating stormwater/flooding, and create comfort and health in a shaded environment. Increasing tree cover will also help advance the goals laid out in the Urban Forest Master Plan.

### **1.9.6. Encourage nature-inspired play and experiences in public spaces.**

Nature inspired design elements can include play elements made of natural or prefabricated materials that encourage children and adults to express their creativity, connect, play, and learn in nature.

### **1.9.7. Incorporate public art into public spaces in alignment with the Public Art Master Plan.**

The goal of the Public Art Master Plan is 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.

Well integrated public art can enliven and enrich public spaces, drawing more users and making for a more attractive and interesting experience. Continued programming related to the public art collection can attract new users, activate spaces and serve to embed the spaces and the artworks into the civic consciousness. Public art that is interactive and can be used for play and recreation should be encouraged.

### 1.10. Enhance spaces with temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.

*Temporary uses add an exciting dynamic to public spaces and could enable the County to do more with the spaces it has and in partnership with private owners. 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 to expand and streamline this type of activity.*

#### 1.10.1. Continue to allow and encourage the activation of public spaces and other publicly and privately owned property through temporary activities like parklets, interim parks, special events, seasonal markets, and pop-up events.

Two examples of temporary uses are the Clarendon-Barton Interim Open Space and Park(ing) Day. At Clarendon-Barton Interim Open Space, a temporary park with landscaping, movable seating and a multi-use court transformed what had been an eye sore into a temporary public respite in the densely populated corridor. Park(ing) Day is an annual event where street parking spots are transformed into temporary public parks or “parklets” to spark conversations about how public spaces are used.

#### 1.10.2. Explore streamlining the process of permitting temporary spaces on both public and private lands.

While it is currently possible to create temporary spaces and pop-up events, the County should explore the requirements to try to make it simpler and with quicker turn-around to encourage broader participation in the creation of these spaces.

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

#### BEST PRACTICE:

## SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES

MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Martin Luther King Drive, which runs along the scenic Schuylkill River, closes to automobile traffic every weekend in warmer months in order to provide abundant recreational space to pedestrians and cyclists.



## IN PROGRESS:

COURT-  
HOUSE 2.0

*Courthouse 2.0: Reimagining the Civic* is a public art initiative aimed at sparking public conversation about the future Courthouse Square by exploring the interaction between civic space and civic life in Arlington in the twenty-first century. This initiative is a platform for creative activities to occur within and around the Courthouse area and beyond.



Yassine El Mansouri

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 on non-event days, such as the first Saturday of every month in spring and summer.

#### 1.10.4. Consider locations to present temporary public art exhibitions in public spaces.

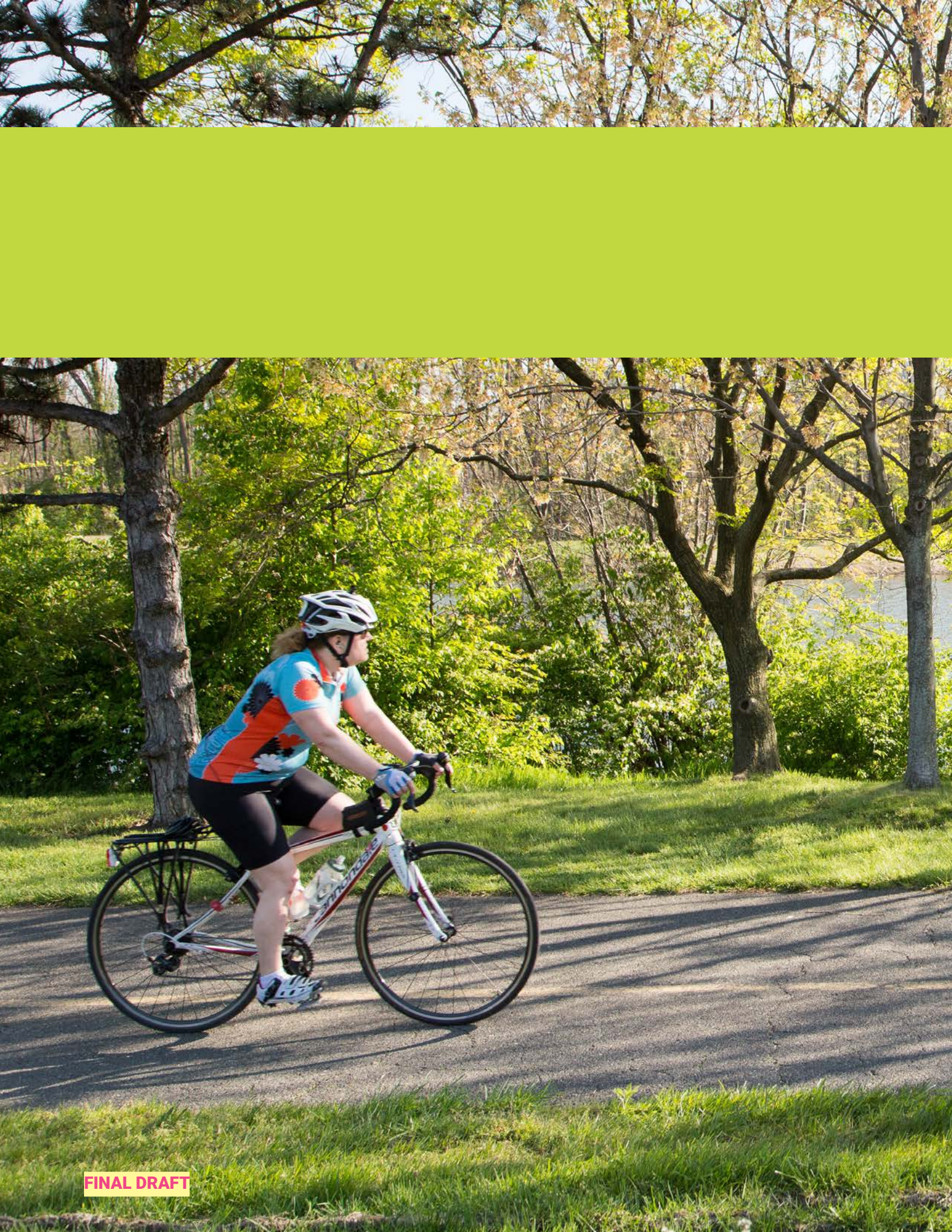
Many communities now designate specific locations for exhibiting significant rotating temporary art. Madison Square Park, City Hall Park and Metrotech Commons are examples in New York City. Exhibitions like these, combined with marketing and programming, can make public spaces a must-see destination for residents and visitors and elevate the County's cultural profile.



## MEETING BOWLS

*The Meeting Bowls are social places for gathering, getting to know people, and fostering dialogue. Each of these pieces of playful urban furniture are designed to accommodate eight people and encourage interaction by having those seated inside face one another. Designed by mmmm...*







## 2. TRAILS

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

Hiking trails and paved, multi-use trails are the highest and third highest priorities for investment in outdoor facilities, respectively, based on responses from the statistically valid survey. This follows a national trend of trails being the most desired amenities. The County recognizes that trails are used for both recreation and transportation—sometimes simultaneously—and improvements are needed to create better trail 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. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails.
- 2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.
- 2.3. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.
- 2.4. Develop and implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system.
- 2.5. Better coordinate planning for and management of trails.

A trail with a view  
Four Mile Run Trail  
Arlington County

# ACTIONS

## PRIORITY ACTION

### 2.1. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails.

*Arlington has an extensive trail network that is easily accessible and creates connections among different public spaces and other destinations. Trail users 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. Facilities, such as multi-use trails and protected bike lanes separate bicyclists and pedestrians from motor vehicle traffic, increase safety and encourage more novice users to participate. Many of the strategies listed below tie into recommendations in the Bicycle Element of the Master Transportation Plan. Enhancing pedestrian and bicycle access is especially important along the County's urban corridors. Expansion of the trail network should be carefully planned to minimize impact on existing natural resources.*

#### 2.1.1. Complete an "inner loop" of protected routes that connects the Custis, Four Mile Run, Arlington Boulevard, and Mount Vernon Trails.

One way to expand the network of multi-use trails is to build upon the existing resources and create inner & outer loops that will be an extension of the existing Arlington Loop. The Arlington Loop is a local precedent for a connected loop trail. Via portions of the Custis, W&OD, 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 one of the densest parts of Arlington and create shorter loops, inviting new users who may prefer shorter distances while increasing connectivity.

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



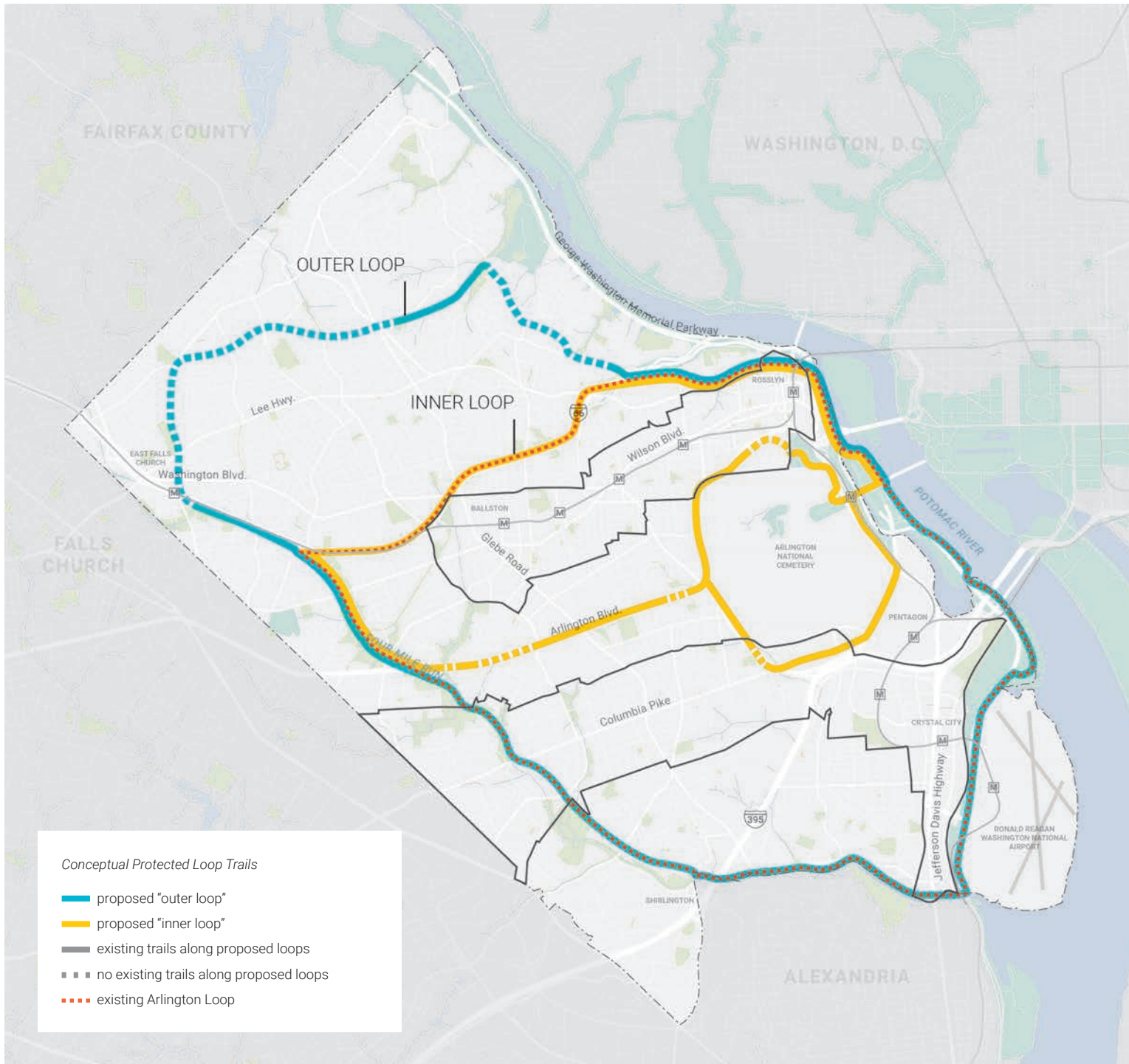


Figure 18. Map of Conceptual Inner and Outer Loops

### 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 existing trails and incorporates new trail segments along with



enhanced bike routes would extend access to the north and provide additional loop options, including a longer, 19-mile loop. Coordination with the National Park Service (NPS) would be critical to realize this vision.

**Connecting the Mount Vernon Trail to Long Bridge Park**  
*Long Bridge Park Concept Plan*

**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.**

Comprehensive coordination with NPS, VDOT and other partners is needed in order to achieve these improved connections.

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

*"Sidewalks, better connected paths, better connected bike lanes."*

*—Public Meeting Participant*

**2.1.4. Connect Long Bridge Park to the District of Columbia via the Mount Vernon Trail and the Long Bridge.**

Only about a quarter mile separates Long Bridge Park from the locally and regionally significant Mount Vernon Trail. The Long Bridge Park Master

Plan includes developing a regional trailhead for the Mount Vernon Trail at Long Bridge Park. This connection between the two trails was also included in the National Park Service's 2016 Paved Trails Study. A direct connection to the Mount Vernon Trail, with a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Potomac River, would further integrate Long Bridge Park into the regional trail system.

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

Completing sidewalks and trails is 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, Neighborhood Complete Streets, and Neighborhood Conservation programs will be critical to closing sidewalk gaps.

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

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.



## 2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.

*Some of Arlington's trails are experiencing very heavy usage. The more multi-use trails are used, the greater 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 width and height, lighting, landscaping, tread width, tread surface material, striping, slope, cross slope, turning radii, passing spot intervals, rest area intervals, signals, tree planting and preservation, and road crossing treatments.

### 2.2.2. Use striping on Primary Multi-Use Trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions.

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

### 2.2.3. Ensure paved, Primary and Secondary Multi-Use Trails meet the minimum width as described in the *Existing Public Space System, Trails* section of this document (p. 42).

Bringing trails up to a minimum standard width will provide users of different speeds, purpose and abilities additional travel and passing room for safer sharing of the trail. As trails are brought up to standard, the design should minimize impacts on natural resources.

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

Separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the most heavily used routes will enhance the safety of all users, particularly during peak commuting times.

#### 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.



Jim Henderson



Arlington County

Giving novice riders a place to learn to ride  
Glencarlyn Park

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

While there are established rules about trail etiquette, 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 are aware of the “rules of the road.” Trail etiquette messaging should be coordinated with BikeArlington, WalkArlington, and other campaigns.

#### **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. The County should explore dedicating areas for “traffic gardens” or “bike campuses” which allow users to learn and practice bicycle riding, handling, and street skills in a safe learning environment.

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

Some Primary and Secondary Multi-Use Trails are regularly monitored to determine general trail usage. Expanded monitoring and data evaluation can shed light on how many people are using the trail system.

## 2.3. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.

*While it is critical to preserve our natural resource areas, public input during the 2017 PSMP update process revealed a strong desire for more hiking trails. The County will attempt to satisfy both goals by strategically placing new trails in areas that will provide additional hiking opportunities while minimizing impacts to the natural surroundings.*

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

### 2.3.2. Improve the quality of and increase access to Four Mile Run and Potomac tributary trails, such as Potomac Heritage Trail.

### 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 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.*

### IN PROGRESS:

## TRAIL USE MONITORING

Arlington currently monitors bicycle and pedestrian usage with approximately 40 counters along selected trails and bike lanes. Data captured by the counters is publicly available on the web and can be accessed through an interactive map of counter locations. Below is a counter along the Custis Trail.





## 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.

**2.4.1. Name all trail segments using descriptive names.**

Currently, a number of trail segments in Arlington are unnamed, which makes it difficult for users to provide directions or report emergencies. Using descriptive and unique terms for trail segments will make it easier for users to navigate the trail system, especially if they relate to their location in the County or nearby landmarks.

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

Using different signage systems on a single trail that crosses jurisdictional boundaries can be jarring to users and cause confusion. Common trail signage and wayfinding standards create a more seamless experience and better promote a connected regional trail network.

**2.4.3. Develop a County design standard for trail signage and wayfinding that addresses hierarchy, connections, destinations, landmarks, identity, and areas of congestion.****2.4.4. Add location identifiers, potentially integrated into wayfinding signage, at regular intervals along trails for issues/emergencies as well as mile markers.**

Integrated location information will help trail users identify where they are relative to their intended destination or mileage goal.

**2.4.5. Improve wayfinding signage at trailheads, trail intersections and major destinations.**

## 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 partnership to achieve common planning and management goals.*

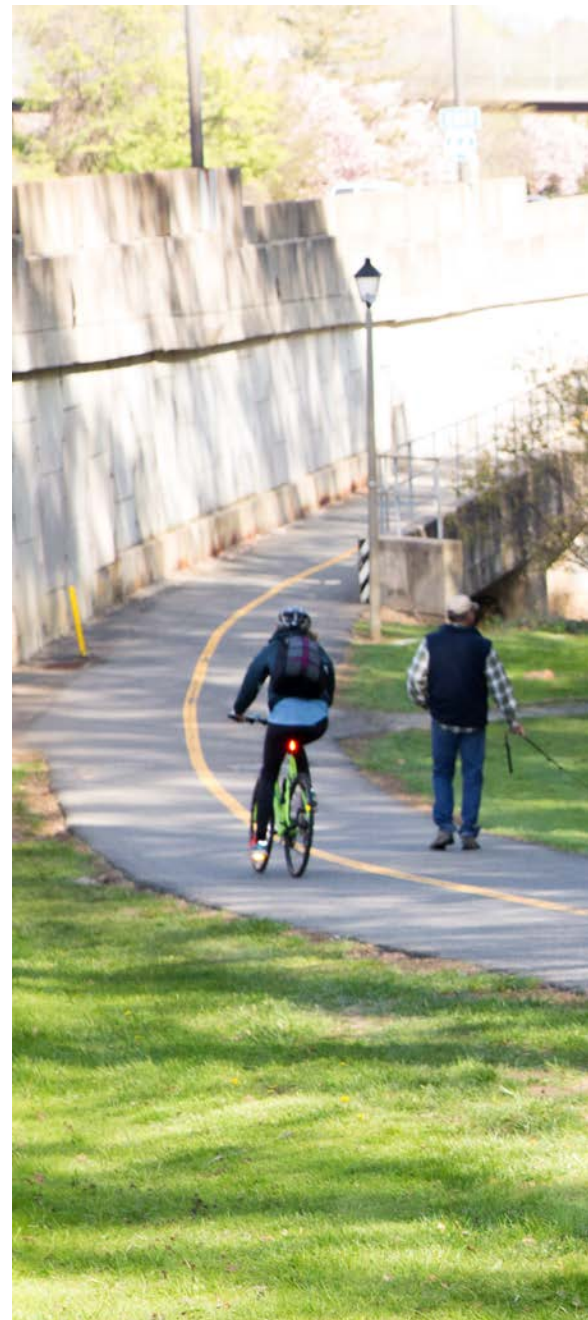
**2.5.1. Coordinate park or street projects with trail projects to ensure more efficient use of funding, comprehensive planning and design, and less impact on public space users.**

**2.5.2. Work with the NPS, NOVA Parks, and neighboring jurisdictions to explore developing new trail facilities on non-County land and ensure high standards of trail design, operation and management.**

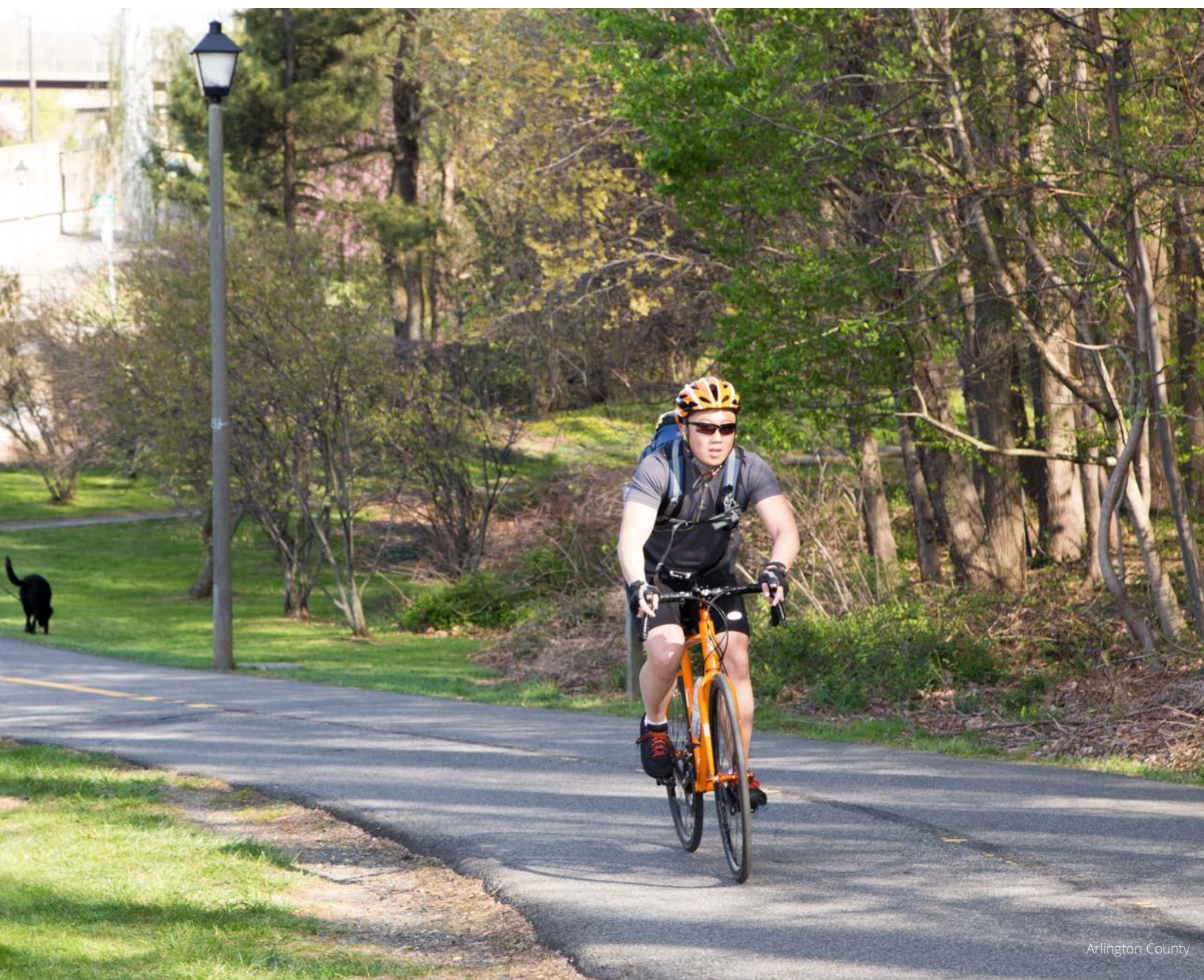
**2.5.3. Consider joining the Capital Trails Coalition or similar organizations, to ensure that trail planning is coordinated region-wide.**

The Capital Trails Coalition is a collaboration of public and private organizations, agencies, and citizen volunteers working to advance completion of an interconnected network of multi-use trails for metropolitan Washington, DC. The Coalition convenes and coordinates among the public and private stakeholders who are critical to accomplishing the vision of an interconnected network.

W&OD Trail







Arlington County







### 3. RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

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

Natural and historic resources are irreplaceable assets. Prioritizing their preservation and protection will ensure that these valuable resources are maintained for future generations. Trees and natural areas serve an important ecological function by providing critical environmental services like cleaning our air and water, absorbing stormwater runoff and reducing the heat island effect. Overwhelming research points to the direct benefits for improved physical, mental and emotional health of individuals with access to trees and natural spaces. Additional research, as shown in The Value of Public Spaces Section, supports the myriad economic benefits provided by proximity and access to parks, trees and natural spaces. Historic resources are the historic built environment of the community, the structures from the past and their remains that evidence the history of the County.

#### ACTIONS:

- 3.1. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Natural Resources Management Plan through a combined process.
- 3.2. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources and trees.
- 3.3. Integrate natural resources, trees and natural resource interpretation into the design of public spaces.
- 3.4. Foster, develop, and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programming across ages and skill levels.
- 3.5. Promote conservation stewardship volunteerism that enables individuals and organizations to leave a positive legacy in the park system.
- 3.6. Develop a plan for cultural resources that will address how the County will achieve the preservation, protection, conservation, and interpretation of historic, cultural, and archaeological resources on County-owned or managed land.

Planting a pollinator garden  
Bluemont Park  
Arlington County

# NATURAL RESOURCE ACTIONS

## PRIORITY ACTION

### 3.1. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Natural Resources Management Plan through a combined process.

*The process for updating both the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Natural Resources Management Plan is expected to begin following the completion of the Public Spaces Master Plan. The Urban Forest Master Plan (adopted in 2004) and the Natural Resources Management Plan (adopted in 2010) are sub-elements of the Public Spaces Master Plan. These plans identify significant natural resources, including trees and forests, and provide recommendations and best practices to enhance, preserve, and protect the County's natural resources.*

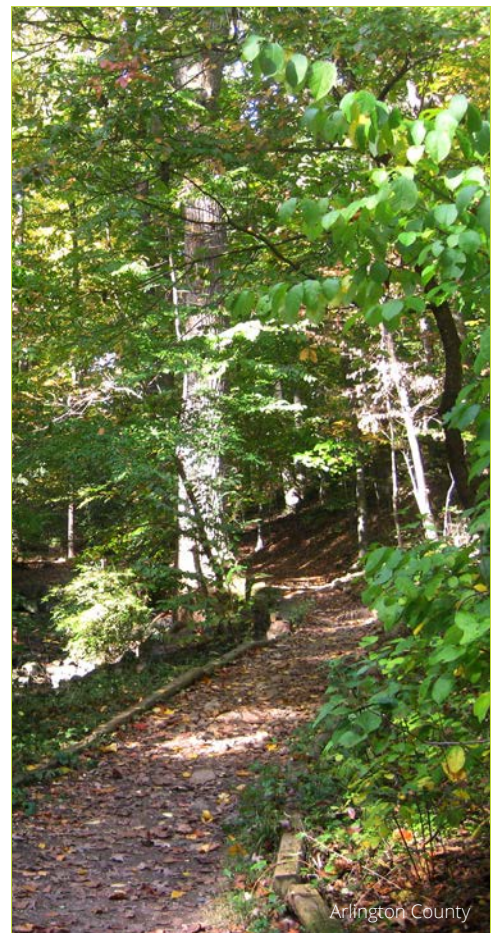
*The update of the Urban Forest Master Plan will include planning for the future of Arlington's tree canopy, street trees and forests, taking into consideration the stressors of an increasingly densely populated urban environment, diseases, and climate change. The update will also address preserving trees on public land, regulations and policies affecting trees, land use and development, and tree planting strategies, along with setting long-term goals for improving Arlington's trees, forests, and tree canopy. The updated plan will also explore and recommend strategies to encourage preservation of trees on private property. The tree canopy studies performed in 2008, 2011, and 2017 and the i-Tree Eco study of 2016 will be used as benchmarks for planning. These studies showed significant tree loss on private property in many of Arlington's neighborhoods. This information will inform tree canopy goals for the County.*

*The update to the Natural Resources Management Plan will build on the successful implementation of many of the recommendations in the existing plan, focusing on strategies to minimize the loss of natural lands and resources, improve ecosystems and wildlife*

## IN PROGRESS:

# URBAN FOREST

Through the Tree Canopy Fund, in partnership with Eco-Action Arlington, over 1,600 trees were planted on private property since 2008. Funds for these trees were provided by private developers unable to plant trees in new projects. Additionally, in coordination with the Tree Stewards, a volunteer pruning team is checking every park in the County, and improving the health of our tree canopy through functional pruning of small trees.





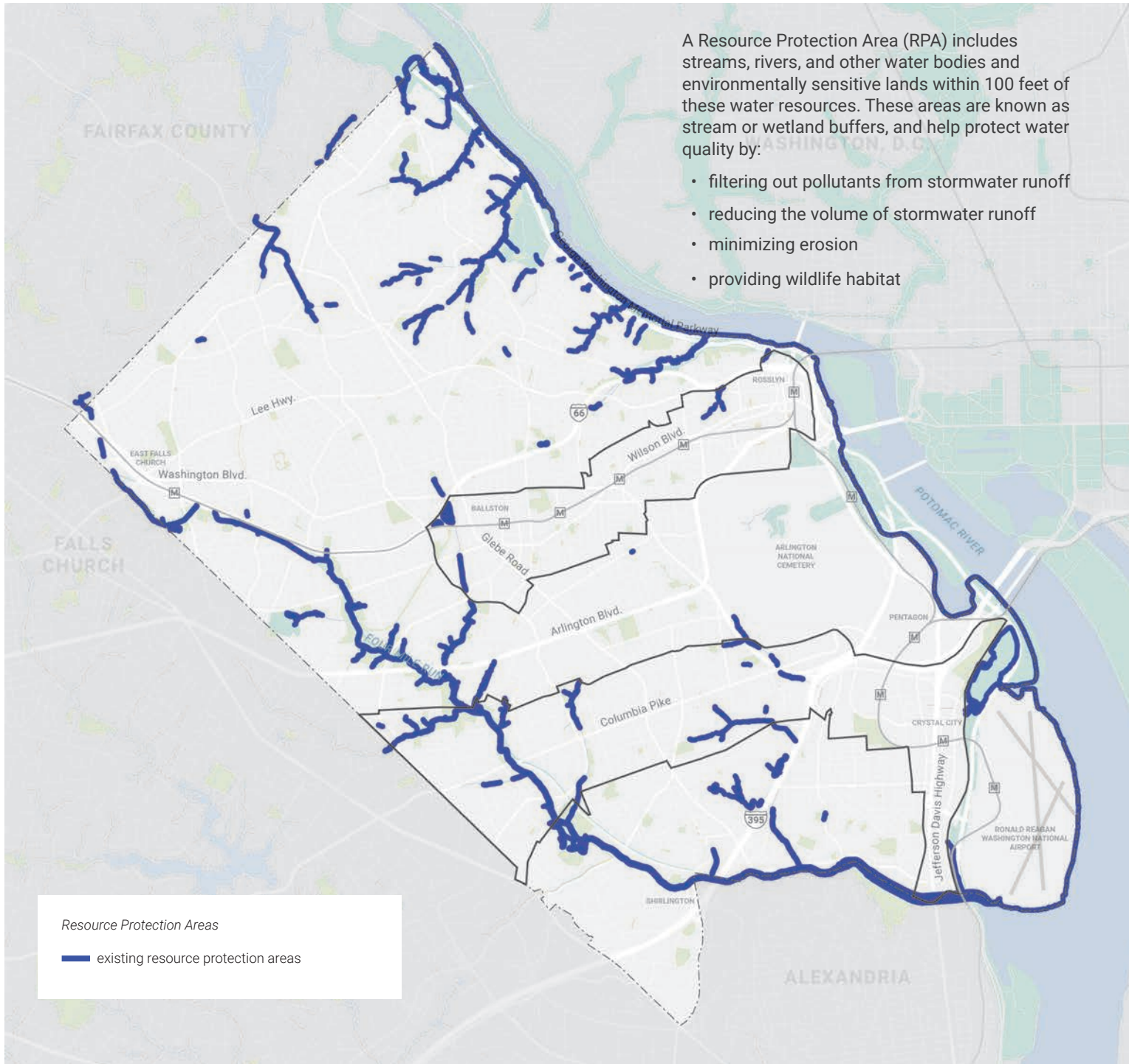


Figure 19. Map of Resource Protection Areas

*habitat through restoration, manage invasive species, and provide educational outreach. In addition, the update will include best practices for natural resources protection and expansion, stream restoration, wildlife corridor planning, and habitat improvement.*

*Both plan updates will explore:*

- *Outreach strategies to neighborhood associations, faith-based communities, and other resident-based groups.*
- *Strategies to collaborate with and utilize non-governmental and volunteer organizations.*
- *Discussions on methodology used to value trees and natural resources in the County.*
- *Explore ways the County can use economic incentives to preserve and promote tree canopy and natural lands on private property.*

#### PRIORITY ACTION

### **3.2. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources and trees.**

*While natural resources are located throughout the County, many of the most critical sites are adjacent to waterways and in stream valley parks. Preserving existing aquatic habitat such as wetlands, ponds, and vernal pools is important to conserving natural resources in the County. Alongside riparian and aquatic habitat conservation, preserving and creating unique terrestrial habitat, such as meadows, edges, and pollinator patches can assist in providing the full spectrum of habitats.*

#### **3.2.1. Address the protection, restoration, and expansion of natural resources in the Four Mile Run planning corridor and 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 increased density of surrounding communities. Moving forward, park master plans should emphasize the restoration and long-term protection of these important resources.

*“Restore our natural areas by removing invasives, restoring streams, planting natives, etc.”*

*— Public Meeting Participant*





Arlington County

**Crossing over a bridge in the Palisades**  
Fort Bennett Park

## PRESERVE NATURAL AREAS

*high priority outdoor amenity  
and highest rated desired  
improvement to parks system  
in the 2018 PSMP Update  
Survey.*

### **3.2.2. Pursue easements to protect natural areas, mature tree canopy and heritage resources.**

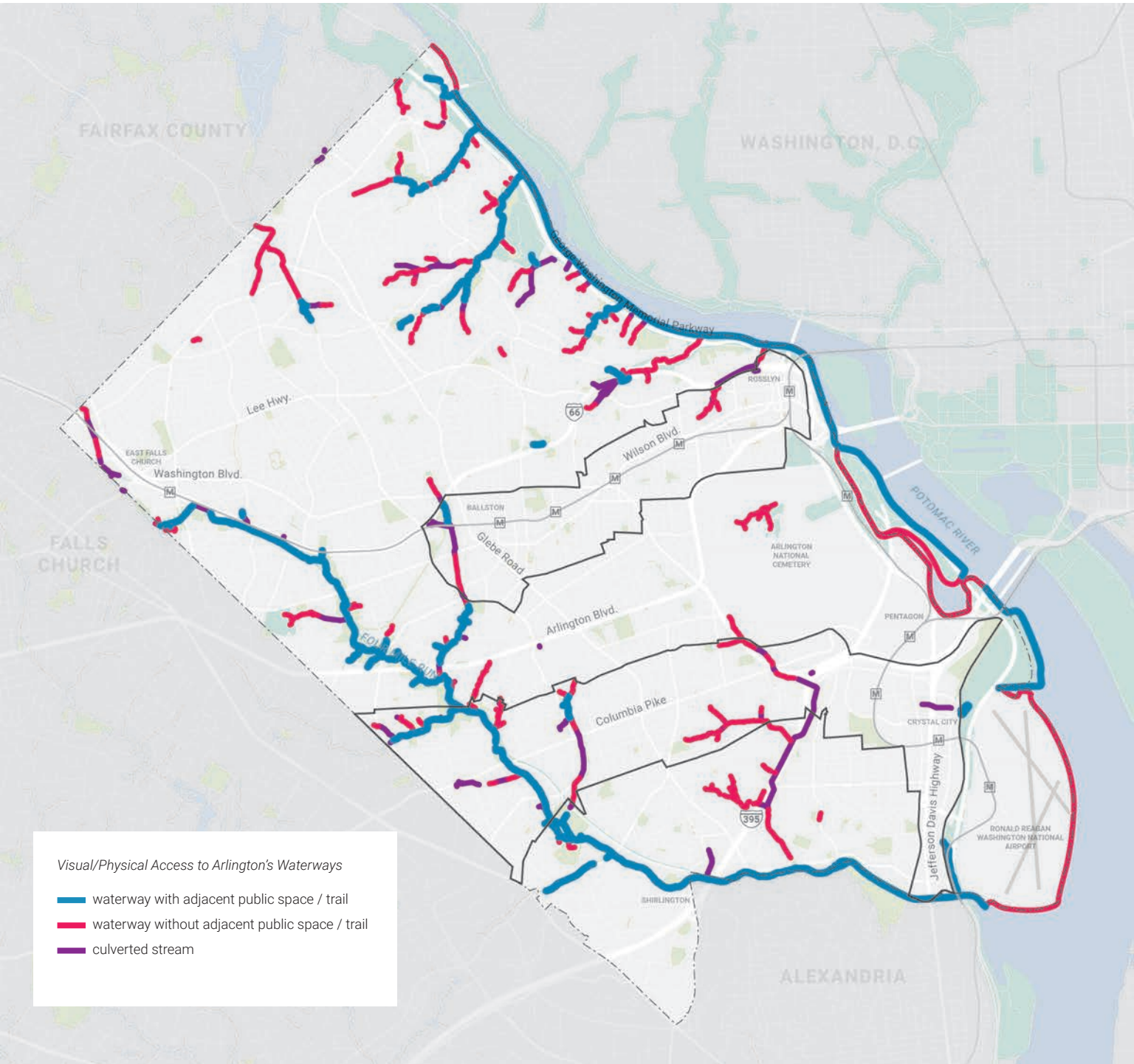
Obtaining conservation easements on land that is crucial for natural or historic resource purposes ensures it will not be developed. Easements are an important preservation strategy and focus on the protection of the asset rather than public access. The County has a partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT). NVCT is a regional agency that works with private property owners on ways to preserve important natural resources.

### **3.2.3. Explore collaboration with the National Park Service to develop master plans for Roaches Run, Gravelly Point, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and other NPS areas.**

The National Park Service oversees several public spaces in the County that include significant natural resources. These spaces should be



Figure 20. Tributaries to the Potomac River and Four Mile Run lack continuous access



planned for in a collaborative manner so that they fit seamlessly within 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.

**3.2.4. Collaborate with Arlington Public Schools to identify, preserve, enhance and maintain natural and historic resources on school properties.**

There are often natural and historic resources located on APS property, and managing and maintaining these sensitive habitats, trees, buildings and other critical natural and historic resources requires collaboration, specific care, and resources.

**3.2.5. 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.

**3.2.6. Identify opportunities to work with neighboring jurisdictions and state and federal agencies outside of the County.**

Natural resources are not bound by political boundaries and land resources. The County should work to develop partnerships and agreements with agencies such as the Department of Defense, National Park Service, Virginia Department of Transportation, and adjoining municipal governments to more holistically manage natural resources.

**3.2.7. Improve processes for earlier review of public projects, to minimize impact on tree canopy and natural resources.**

**3.2.8. Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential natural resources will be added to the public space system. (See Appendix II for land acquisition criteria).**

**3.2.9. Identify areas that generate the most heat, also known as urban heat islands, and develop a plan to increase vegetation and tree canopy in these areas.**

### **3.3. Integrate natural resources, trees and natural resource interpretation into the design of public spaces.**

**3.3.1. 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. The County should seek to integrate biophilic planning and design of our public spaces to promote the important link between human health and well-being and the meaningful daily experience of nature and bio-diversity in our community.

**3.3.2. Expand natural areas and tree canopy within high-density corridors.**

Arlington's high-density corridors have limited natural areas, and few opportunities to connect residents, workers, and visitors with the natural world. As park master plans are created and updated for public spaces in high density corridors, zones can be identified within those public spaces for natural areas.

**3.3.3. 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



# TREE CANOPY STUDY

Arlington County has tree canopy data for the years 2008, 2011, and 2016. The County uses this data to benchmark current tree canopy. Our most recent study shows a 41% tree canopy (excluding Department of Defense and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport).

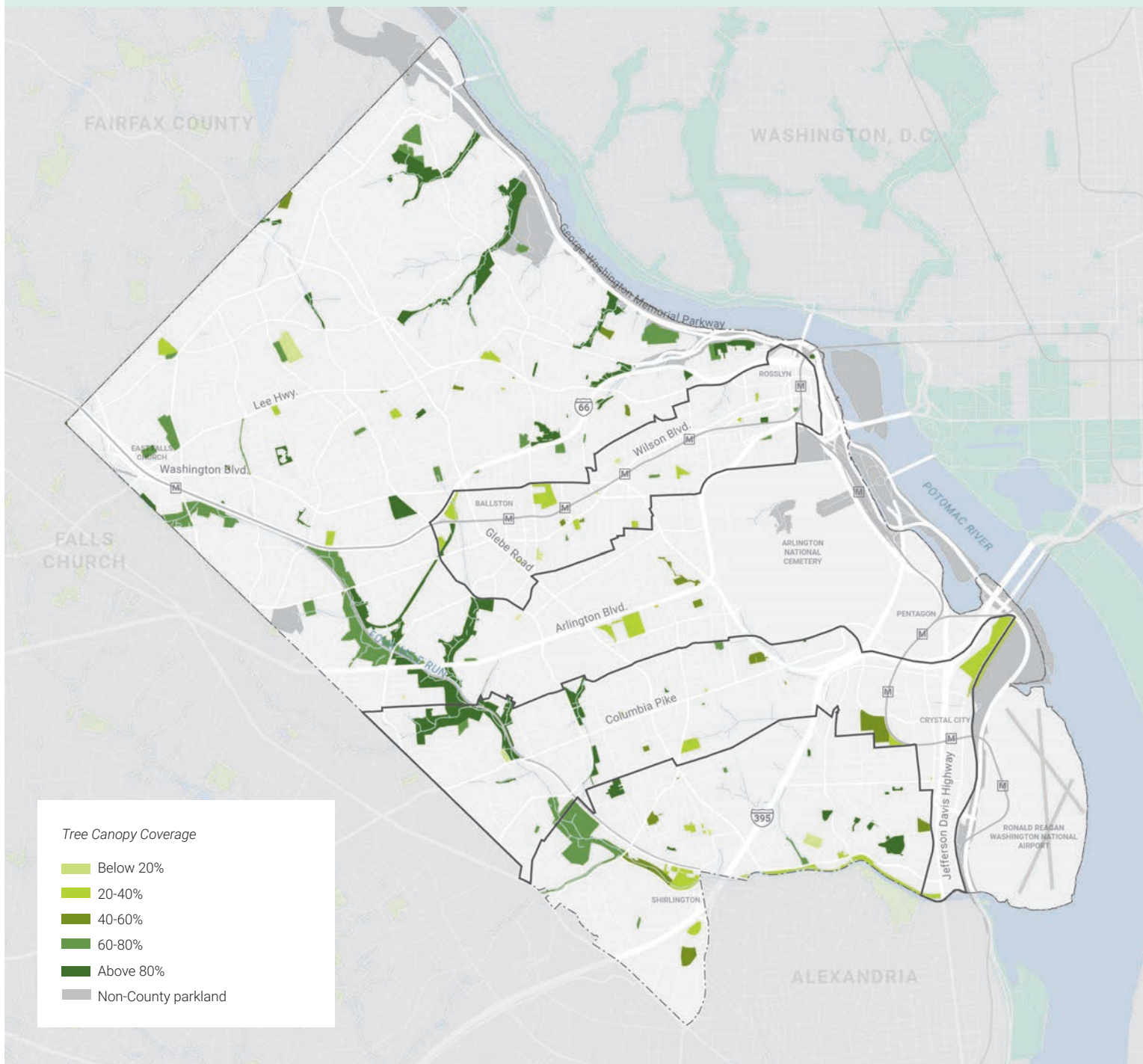


Figure 21. Tree canopy coverage on County park land



Interpreting brownfield remediation  
Long Bridge Park

will also help advance the goals laid out in the *Urban Forest Master Plan*. Tree preservation and maintenance will be promoted to the greatest extent possible, over tree replacement.

### 3.3.4. Expand and work with partners to extend non-native invasive species management and public education campaigns. (See also 6.2.5.).

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.

### 3.3.5. Add interpretive signage within public spaces that highlight the natural resources and the benefits those resources provide.

## IN PROGRESS:

PUBLIC  
ARTWATERMARKS BY D.I.R.T. STUDIO,  
FOUR MILE RUN, ARLINGTON, VA

Seventeen “watermarks” will be installed as part of the Four Mile Run Restoration project. Watermarks will be installed on the asphalt pathway to symbolically depict underground culverts in an effort to bring attention to stormwater outfalls and highlight the need for environmental stewardship.



**3.3.6. Expand and promote official recognition and protection programs such as the Notable Tree, Champion Tree and Specimen Tree programs.**

**3.3.7. Increase the diversity of habitats for critical species and develop maintenance guidelines.**

As Arlington becomes more and more developed, there is less overall space and fewer types of spaces available for critical wildlife species to inhabit. The County should preserve what habitats currently exist and seek to enhance them in order to balance the continuing urbanization of the region.

**3.3.8. 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.

### **3.4. Foster, develop and promote nature-based education, training and recreational programming across ages and skill levels.**

*Public input places a high priority on nature programs for all ages.*

**3.4.1. Enhance and expand nature-based interpretive and educational opportunities for children, starting at pre-school age, as well as adults and seniors.**

**3.4.2. 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 plant and animal identification, map reading, and wayfinding tool usage.





Connecting with nature  
Glencarlyn Park

### **3.5. 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.*

**3.5.1. Continue to identify opportunities for conservation stewardship activities, such as removing garbage from waterways and parks, planting trees and native plants, removing non-native invasive plants and recycling at large events.**

**3.5.2. Continue to collaborate with community groups, service clubs, and businesses on conservation stewardship events.**

Fall cleanup at Barcroft Park  
Barcroft Park



# HISTORIC RESOURCE ACTIONS

## **3.6. Develop a plan for the management of cultural, historic and archaeological resources that will address how the County will achieve the preservation, protection, conservation, and interpretation of such resources on County-owned or managed land.**

*Arlington has preserved several important historic resources within its public spaces, including historic buildings, Civil War forts and boundary stones. These historic resources such as Fort Ethan Allen, Matthew F. Maury School, Carlin Hall Community Center, and the Benjamin Banneker SW 9 Int. Boundary Stone, are found in public spaces throughout the County. An element of the Comprehensive Plan, the Historic Preservation Master Plan, adopted in 2006, establishes priorities for the historic built environment and general County history. However, the Historic Preservation Master Plan does not specifically lay out a coordinated, inter-departmental approach to preserving, protecting, conserving and interpreting these valuable County owned and managed resources. For this reason, the plan would provide an operational context and focus on the following objectives:*

- *Complete an inventory of all County-owned historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, landscapes, and archaeological resources.*
- *Develop short-term and long-term goals and strategies for the appropriate preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, and/or landscapes within public spaces.*
- *Identify critical historic and/or cultural resources in public spaces that have potential educational and interpretive components.*
- *Consider how to enhance the visitor experience and accessibility to these resources.*
- *Develop potential solutions for addressing deferred*



*maintenance of historic and cultural resources and how to maintain them in the future.*

- *Seek out new local and regional partnerships and agreements with groups that support history, education, and cultural resources.*
- *Expand existing interpretive programming of County-owned historic resources to engage residents and visitors with Arlington's heritage. Interdepartmental opportunities and/or local and regional partnerships should be explored to further this goal.*

**3.6.1. Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential historic resources will be added to the public space system. (See Appendix II for land acquisition criteria.)**

**Learning about Arlington's history**  
*Fort C.F. Smith Park*



Arlington County





mapio.net





# CRYSTAL CITY 5K FRIDAYS





## 4. FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & PARTNERSHIPS

ENHANCE THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF ARLINGTON'S PUBLIC SPACES.

Arlington County has a long history of careful budget management and strong fiscal accountability. The County is one of only 45 counties in the United States to carry the coveted triple-A rating from the three major rating agencies. The County follows an annual cycle for the budget, with the fiscal year budget serving as the annual operating plan. On the capital side, the County develops a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan every two years to address the physical infrastructure needs.

The County also supplements its investments with outside funding, partners with other agencies, and leverages creative opportunities that generate revenue and value. The County benefits from coordination and partnerships with other public and private entities. The County maintains partnerships with other public and private organizations to maintain, improve, and activate public spaces and must strive to make these crucial relationships as effective and mutually beneficial as possible. These relationships should be expanded and clarified to set mutual expectations and leverage resources creatively and effectively. At the same time, the County should seek to develop opportunities with a variety of new partners.



Getting ready to race  
Crystal City 5K

"OnTheMark42: Friday 5K, Crystal City"  
Elvert Barnes  
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**ACTIONS:**

- 4.1. Work with Arlington Public Schools to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces.
- 4.2. Work with the National Park Service, NOVA Parks and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate public awareness and access to their facilities and land in Arlington and ensure consistent experiences.
- 4.3. Support the establishment of non-profit groups or umbrella foundations dedicated to public space advocacy, fundraising, and implementation of public spaces and programs.
- 4.4. Support and strengthen the County's volunteer programs for public spaces.
- 4.5. Secure funding to support development and maintenance of public spaces and ensure those public funds are efficiently and wisely spent.
- 4.6. Identify and pursue non-County funding sources to supplement County funds to support capital improvements and programs.

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## ACTIONS

### **4.1. Work with Arlington Public Schools to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces.**

*In such a space-constrained County, maximizing the potential for public use of County and APS spaces is critical to fully utilizing the public space assets.*

#### **4.1.1. Explore opportunities to improve joint-use facilities to maximize public access to amenities and use land and other resources more efficiently. Identify additional existing APS facilities that could be used as public space.**

The County currently has agreements with APS that provide public access to certain school facilities at specified times, but the practice could be expanded to improve access to other amenities throughout the County. In addition to improving joint use agreements for existing facilities, as new facilities

*The County will work with Arlington Schools to find opportunities for publicly accessible amenities during planning and design.*

**IN PROGRESS:****WILSON  
SCHOOL**

Arlington is in the process of replacing the original building at the Wilson School site in the Rosslyn neighborhood. The current plan features an innovative design with active rooftops, rectangular playing field, and other community spaces.



The future Wilson School.  
Bjarke Ingles Group (BIG)

are created they should be designed and operated with shared-use capabilities in mind to the greatest extent feasible.

**4.1.2. Work jointly with APS to analyze program participation annually and adjust facility scheduling accordingly.**

**4.1.3. Expand participation in planning for publicly-accessible amenities on APS 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 facility master planning and use permit planning processes.

**4.1.4. Use design solutions to overcome security concerns related to the use of APS 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 facilities after hours.

**4.1.5. Ensure the contributions to capital costs and maintenance of public spaces on County and APS sites are commensurate with use.**

**4.1.6. Continue to collaborate with APS to preserve natural resources, athletic fields, outdoor learning areas and other public space when designing and building new schools.**

**4.1.7. Work with APS to expand educational and volunteer opportunities for students to learn about the value of public spaces and natural resources.**

For example, through classroom lessons, clubs, and community service projects, APS can help enhance natural resources by planting, gardening, watering, etc.

**4.2. Work with the National Park Service, NOVA Parks and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate public awareness and access to their facilities and land in Arlington and ensure consistent experiences.**

*The County should continue to promote high quality public spaces, resource protection, sound design of public spaces and facilities, and cooperative planning.*

**4.2.1. Strengthen and maintain effective communications and cooperative planning with the National Park Service, NOVA Parks 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. Advocate for National Park Service trails to be connected to County trails and maintained to an agreed upon maintenance standard.**

One of the major new connections of high importance is the future connection of Long Bridge Park to the Mount Vernon Trail.

**4.2.3. Create more seamless connections between County public spaces and those managed by other bodies.**

**4.2.4. Collaborate with other entities to improve park and facility maintenance, erosion control, control of non-native invasive species, signage, and trail markers.**

**4.3. 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 constituents to get involved as well as enabling individuals and families to include Arlington's public spaces in their planned giving and bequests.*

Mount Vernon Trail at Gravelly Point



Arlington County



**4.3.1. Look for opportunities to create new partnerships with organizations to maximize the intended use of public spaces and revise existing agreements to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes.**

For example, the Rosslyn Business Improvement District (BID) regularly programs special events at Gateway Park, which activates the space and provides opportunities to build community. Another example is an agreement between the DPR and Rivendell Elementary School which permits the





public to use the private school's gym after hours in exchange for the shared use of the County's public playground during school hours. Future opportunities could also be explored as a part of the implementation of the County's Child Care Initiative.

**4.3.2. Identify and acknowledge partnerships with individuals, groups, corporations and foundations to support defined projects in parks and public spaces.**

For example, the Arlington Sports Foundation and Arlington County Diamond Field Fund partnered with the County to provide the additional funding needed to convert the diamond field at Gunston Park to synthetic turf.

**4.3.3. 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.

**4.3.4. Develop sponsorship opportunities to help underwrite and offset operating costs for programs and services.**

**4.3.5. Develop a guide that communicates the process for becoming a partnership organization that works with the County to improve public spaces.**

The process for becoming a partner organization with the County should be clearly communicated and easy to navigate for any interested organization.

**4.3.6. Continue to track measurable outcomes of partnership agreements and regularly share progress with the public.**

More comprehensive tracking of partnership agreements will assist the County in evaluating what partnership structures work best and what partnership agreements need adjusting.



*Formal partnership between Arlington County and George Washington University at Barcroft Park for baseball stadium.*

#### **4.4. Support and strengthen the County's volunteer programs for public spaces.**

*The County will continue to seek ways to increase the number of volunteer opportunities and make it as easy as possible to volunteer. This includes expanding and improving existing partnerships with volunteer programs — such as the successful Master Naturalists, TreeStewards, and Master Gardeners programs — and identifying new opportunities for engaging volunteers.*

##### **4.4.1. Explore strategies to improve coordination with volunteers to assist them with resources, allocations, and repairs.**

##### **4.4.2. Improve the system and strategies for volunteer recruitment, registration and tracking.**

An improved volunteer information system will enable the County to measure involvement and promote upcoming opportunities to those most interested.

##### **4.4.3. Periodically identify, evaluate, or revise the focus of volunteer programs to better support public spaces and to ensure volunteers are adequately supported by staff.**

##### **4.4.4. Expand the reward and recognition system for volunteers.**

##### **4.4.5. Promote and encourage the expansion of “Adopt-a-” programs (e.g., Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Stream, Adopt-a-Field, Adopt-a-Trail).**

These programs enable groups, businesses and individuals to sponsor a park, trail, stream or field, report needed repairs and maintenance and possibly take on projects in coordination with County staff.

##### **4.4.6. Encourage volunteer days with companies, institutions, non-profits, and other large organizations.**

Relationships with universities and friends' groups, in particular, play important support roles for their neighborhoods and the public spaces within them.



Arlington County



Arlington County



#### 4.4.7. Encourage volunteerism through County-wide events.

Events like “It’s My Park Day”, City Nature Challenge and bioblitzes will increase the County’s volunteer capacity and will increase awareness of the public space system.

**Volunteers participate in a biotic survey**  
Bioblitz 2017



#### 4.5. Secure funding to support development and maintenance of public spaces and ensure 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.*

**Volunteering to celebrate local and national history**  
Civil War Day 2017



#### **4.6. Identify and pursue non-County funding sources to supplement County funds to support capital improvements and programs.**

*For example, the County has established long-term partnerships with Marymount University and George Washington University to build athletic facilities.*

##### **4.6.1. Pursue applicable state and federal funds.**

##### **4.6.2. Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities and ensure that ongoing costs are appropriately budgeted. (See also 6.1.2.).**

The County developed its first asset management program for park amenities, trails and public buildings in the mid-2000's. Those assets should continue to be tracked and updated and should be used as the basis for managing the maintenance capital program.

##### **4.6.3. Review potential to increase revenue generating uses in designated public spaces.**

The County's public spaces have potential to be leveraged as a source of additional revenue to offset operational costs. Leasing rights of way or permitting concessions (including food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages) for example, can generate revenue while at the same time provide amenities for users.

##### **4.6.4. Expand the offering or permitting of concessions in public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at special events. (See also 1.6.1.).**

Current park rules and regulations allow for some types of concessions at park and recreation facilities, but the practice is currently limited to a few 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 should explore revising zoning regulations and other regulations as needed in order to expand its permitting of concessions.

# 54%

## **SUPPORT THE SALE OF FOOD & ALCOHOL**

*in designated parks and plazas,  
according to the statistically  
valid public survey*





FINAL DRAFT



## 5. PROGRAMS

ENSURE PROGRAM OFFERINGS CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO CHANGING USER NEEDS.

Programs are formally structured activities that take place in public spaces, including but not limited to sports, fitness, nature, art, and special events. Arlington strives to provide unique programming opportunities for all ages and abilities. The County provides programs and resources that foster healthy and active lifestyles, asset development, and 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. Arlington offers a wide variety and breadth of programs in its public spaces and facilities, but is challenged in some areas to keep up with demand (see Trends section). 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 residents' needs, the County 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.

**FINAL DRAFT**



Developing core gymnastics skills  
Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center

Arlington County

# 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 local and 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 ideas about recreation and programming in order to best serve its residents. (See 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. Promote and increase the availability of programming that caters to diverse ages, interests, and abilities.**

The Arlington community and the respective needs are continuously changing. Diverse programs for all ages that can be adjusted to reflect the changing needs should be available. For example, seniors are becoming more active than they were a decade ago, and the programming should respond to that emerging trend.

**5.1.5. Increase drop-in opportunities to allow more flexibility for residents and improve program participation.**



Arlington Mill Community Center, Arlington County

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



# 90k

## PROGRAM REGISTRATIONS

on an annual basis, including over 30,000 for classes, 44,000 for sports, 12,000 for camps, and 5,000 for nature center programs

### **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.*

#### **5.2.1. Document the program development process to maintain program consistency and assist in training staff.**

Maintaining a replicable program development process will enable a quick turnaround from the idea stages to implementation of new programs.

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

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

### **5.4. Periodically evaluate which programs are using 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.**

*In both the survey and in stakeholder and staff interviews, fitness, wellness and nature programs were noted as 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 and nature based programs in informational materials.**

**5.5.3. Increase and diversify nature based programs to provide educational opportunities for residents to better understand and interact with natural resources.**

**5.5.4. Collaborate 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 and time spent in a natural environment, 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.

**5.5.5. 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 research programs

## FITNESS, WELLNESS & NATURE

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

**Listening to an afternoon of jazz**  
*Rosslyn Jazz Fest*



Rosslyn Business Improvement District

(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. Employ lessons learned from past experiences with activating public spaces to develop program plans for spaces that are meant for or could accommodate additional usage.**
- 5.6.2. Consider reconfiguring or adding amenities to public spaces to support flexible programming. (see also 1.6.6.).**

Adding electrical outlets, lighting, Wi-Fi, concessions, or other elements can make a public space usable for a wide variety of programming.







## 6. 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, align with other County priorities laid out in this plan and elsewhere, and attain potential cost savings.

### ACTIONS:

- 6.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.
- 6.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

Working on a playground  
Hayes Park

Arlington County

# ACTIONS

## **6.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.**

*Clarifying and regularizing maintenance standards will ensure high-quality spaces across the entire system.*

### **6.1.1. Define and regularly review levels of maintenance standards for each type of indoor and outdoor facility to ensure consistency with maintenance policies and guidelines.**

Different types of public spaces and amenities may have varying levels of utilization that require different maintenance strategies and schedules.

### **6.1.2. Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities based on life cycle/asset management, preventative maintenance, and maintenance capital budget for replacement and renovation. (See also 4.6.2.).**

### **6.1.3. Establish levels of maintenance for public spaces based on usage and expected life cycle of the asset as well as special needs or sensitive habitats.**

### **6.1.4. Align maintenance practices with pollinator and beneficial insect habitat needs.**

Pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, birds, and butterflies, provide a vital role in maintaining a diverse ecosystem. Maintenance practices such as limiting the width of mowed areas will help support important habitat areas and enhance user's appreciation of the natural environment. However, mowing on a planned basis may still be needed to maintain a meadow-like habitat or to control invasive species.

### **6.1.5. Train maintenance staff in management of sensitive natural areas and green stormwater infrastructure maintenance.**

### **6.1.6. Improve interdepartmental coordination to ensure that short-and long-term maintenance**



and planning activities are well coordinated and appropriately scoped during all project phases.

- 6.1.7. Identify and encourage opportunities to share maintenance responsibilities with partner organizations and groups for efficiency.
- 6.1.8. Ensure that maintenance techniques and standards are consistent between County agencies and Arlington Public Schools.
- 6.1.9. Continue to train maintenance staff in accessibility concepts, and ensure maintenance safety checklists include maintaining universal access and accessibility.

**Clearing snow to make facilities accessible**

*Thomas Jefferson Community Center*



Arlington County

## 6.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.

*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 limit the County's environmental footprint, reduce costs, and serve as a model to other organizations and citizens.*

### 6.2.1. Optimize operations and maintenance standards to ensure sustainability.

### 6.2.2. Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy usage, and reduced water consumption.

### 6.2.3. Conduct pilot projects of innovative sustainability measures to test their effectiveness for County-wide implementation.

As new sustainability programs or initiatives are developed, the County can test them on a small-scale pilot project basis to determine their value in terms of effectiveness and resource conservation. Successful programs could then be implemented County-wide.

*Employing sustainable practices can decrease the County's environmental footprint and also reduce the overall cost of maintenance.*

### 6.2.4. Continue to utilize native plant species and water-wise plant materials.

Native plant species are adapted to the local climate of Arlington and provide critical wildlife habitat while generally requiring less watering and maintenance to thrive.

### 6.2.5. Continue to enhance non-native invasive species management as recommended in the Natural Resources Management Plan. (See also 3.3.4.).

Non-native invasive species are detrimental to the local ecology by competing with native species for resources and disrupting established ecological cycles.



- 6.2.6. Make use of available planting spaces for trees and other vegetation on public lands such as traffic islands, and curb bump-outs while ensuring clear and adequate sight lines for drivers, cyclists, or pedestrians.
- 6.2.7. Use environmentally friendly products – including cleaners and chemical treatments – where feasible.
- 6.2.8. Continue to educate staff and the public on the County's sustainability efforts and on environmental practices they can employ themselves.
- 6.2.9. Stay up to date with sustainability best practices and incorporate innovative strategies.

**Admiring the flowers**  
*Lacey Woods Trail*





# APPENDICES







## APPENDIX I.

# Definitions

The following definitions include terms typically used when discussing Arlington County's public space system. While the terms included in the list are important, it is also notable for the terms not included. A conscious decision was made to leave out terms such as passive, active, and open space. Passive and active are not used, for example, as one individual's thoughts on passive use may be another's definition of active use, therefore causing confusion when discussing something such as a trail. Similarly, open space is no longer in the Arlington lexicon as it has proven to be much too amorphous of a term.



Plants for sale  
Clarendon Farmers Market

Arlington County

**athletic activity** — An activity that involves the use of physical skills or capabilities such as strength, agility, or stamina.

**biophilia**— The innate connection of humans to the natural world. (Adapted from E.O. Wilson)

**biophilic community**— A place that cherishes natural features that already exist and works to restore and repair what has been lost or degraded. A place that emulates nature by incorporating natural forms into its cityscape and buildings, and plans and designs in conjunction with nature. A place that facilitates connecting humans with nature. (Adapted from Tim Beatley, Biophilic Cities)

**casual use space** — Space that supports casual, impromptu use, including relaxation, reflection, informal activities, or connection with nature. May be generally available or only available at designated times.

**combination field** — Fields that accommodate both diamond and rectangular sports, but not in the same season. These fields are large enough to accommodate diamond and rectangular sports.

**community center** — A building that is designed to accommodate a wide range of community-focused and civic programs and events, which may include recreation.

**community field** — Fields primarily used for unorganized drop-in play throughout the majority of the year. Community Fields are sometimes used as a supplemental practice or game location for a variety of sports during the spring and fall seasons.

**connecting trail** — Connecting Trails are short segments of paved trails that provide connections between Primary Multi-Use Trails, Secondary Multi-Use Trails, streets, neighborhoods, park elements, and other destinations. They should be a minimum of 6 feet wide and may include seating areas and signage. Lighting could be considered based on the facilities it is connecting (i.e. lighted park facilities or a school). Typical daily usage will vary considerably.

**green space** — A publicly accessible area with natural vegetation, such as grass, plants, or trees that may include built environment features, such as urban parks, as well as less managed areas, including woodland and nature reserves.



**green street** — A tree-lined street that is designed to serve as an extension of the public space system. Offers pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers a more attractive travel experience, provides shade in the heat, blocks wind in the cold, and may integrate stormwater management features.

**hiking trail** — Located primarily along streams, stream valleys and other natural areas, hiking trails are unpaved and should include trail markings, signage and seating areas. These trails are used primarily by pedestrians and hikers.

**historic resource** — An area with a defined historical architectural, archaeological, or cultural component. May be a County-owned historic building (community center, school, office), civil-war fort, cemetery, Native American site, structure (such as a bridge, road or artifact), or other site determined to have significant historical value or interest to the community.

**leisure activity** — An activity that involves free time relaxation, reflection, informal activities, connection with nature, social interaction, hobbies, or games.

**multi-use activity center** — An indoor facility or group of indoor facilities that are designed for maximum flexibility to accommodate a wide range of athletic and recreational activities.

**natural land** — Land that has experienced minimal human alteration or has recovered from anthropogenic disturbance under mostly natural regimes of species interaction and disturbance. (Natural Resources Management Plan)

**natural resources** — Living organisms and non-living materials that humans and other life forms depend on, and that are derived from or are part of the environment, including water, soils, minerals, air, vegetation, fauna, fungi, etc.

**park/parkland** — Land or other outdoor area, such as a waterway or rooftop, that is primarily used for recreation, leisure, or conservation of natural resources, including ancillary uses that support these primary uses (e.g., recreation facilities, storage, parking).

**park master plan** — Park master plans are long-range plans that provide the County with a road map for the layout of park facilities and may include accompanying design guidelines for the future of a particular park. Park master plans are intended

to guide future design, investment, and development of the County's public spaces and may include elements such as analysis of existing conditions, location and adjacencies of park elements, gateways, circulation, parking analysis, environment and sustainability approaches, interpretative themes, streetscape, and phasing. Park master plans are developed for new parks or when renovation of an existing park requires a major rearrangement of park amenities.

**plaza** — A pedestrian-oriented community gathering area — primarily in high-density areas amid bustling streets and buildings — to sit, play, and relax that may, depending on its design, also serve as an event space. Often includes impervious surfaces and has close physical and functional relationships to surrounding retail, food, and drink establishments.

**primary multi-use trail** — Primary multi-use trails are key off-street recreation and transportation corridors, and many connect Arlington to surrounding jurisdictions and are part of the larger regional trail network. They are paved and should be a minimum of 10 feet wide and striped to separate directions or types of travel. They should include seating areas and signage. Some portions of Primary Multi-Use Trails are currently lighted. Consider including trail-specific lighting as trail sections are rebuilt or as new Primary Multi-Use Trails are created. The user base is broad, including a wide variety of pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized uses and users of different skill levels, ages, and abilities. Although usage will vary by season, primary trails typically have 1,000 or more users in a day, and sometimes several thousands. The Bluemont Junction Trail, Custis Trail, Four Mile Run Trail, and the Washington and Old Dominion Trail (W&OD) are Primary Multi-Use Trails.

**privately-owned public space** — A privately developed space that remains under private ownership but has an easement or license that guarantees it is open and accessible to the public.

**programs/programming** — Formally structured activities that take place in public spaces, including but not limited to sports, fitness, nature, art, and special events.

**public space** — Space that supports recreation and leisure, natural resources, casual use, historic, and cultural resources and is either publicly owned or has guaranteed public access — including parks, plazas, trails, streets, and recreation facilities.

**recreation** — Athletic or leisure activity undertaken either in an organized or informal capacity.

**recreation center** — A building that is designed to accommodate indoor recreation.

**recreation facility** — A structure built, equipment installed, or space designed indoors or outdoors to accommodate one or more recreational activities.

**secondary multi-use trail** — Secondary Multi-Use Trails are off-street corridors that primarily serve a recreation purpose. They are paved and should be a minimum of 8 feet wide. Secondary Multi-Use Trails may connect neighborhoods, other trails, public spaces, or loops, providing recreational circuits within one public space. They should include seating areas and signage. Lighting could be considered based on the facilities it is connecting (i.e. lighted park facilities or a school). The user base of Secondary Multi-Use Trails is broad, including a wide variety of pedestrian, bicycle and non-motorized uses and users of different skill levels, ages, and abilities. Typical daily usage of Secondary Multi-Use Trails is usually several hundred persons and will vary by season and day of the week.

**side path** — Side paths represent unique tools to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access in areas where gaps in trail connectivity exist, as they are located alongside a street right-of-way and are physically separated from vehicular traffic. Side paths should be paved, a minimum of 10 feet wide and provide for both significant pedestrian and bicycle traffic. They typically include lighting.

**sports complex** — A facility or group of indoor and outdoor facilities that is designed to accommodate specific team or individual athletic activities, including tournaments.

**streetscape** — The urban element that establishes a major part of the public realm. The streetscape is composed of thoroughfares (travel lanes for vehicles and bicycles, parking lanes for cars), public frontage (sidewalks, shy zones) as well as the visible private frontages (building facades and elevations, yards, fences, awnings, etc.), and the amenities of the public frontages (street trees and plantings, benches, streetlights, etc.). (Crystal City Sector Plan)





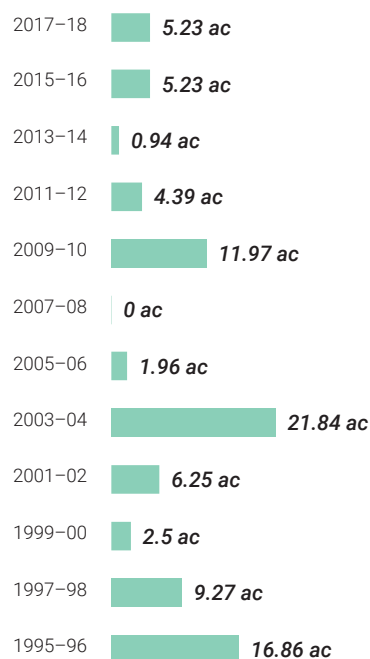


## APPENDIX II. GENERAL POLICIES

# Land Acquisition

Arlington County is nationally recognized for the quality and diversity of its parks, public spaces and public recreational opportunities. Maintaining a high level of stewardship and responsiveness to community needs is an ongoing challenge because of the County's small geographic size, its increasing population density and the pressure and impacts of urban growth on our remaining natural areas and park land. Having clear guidelines for public space land acquisition provides the County with a way to objectively evaluate potential acquisition opportunities against the broader public space goals of this plan.

**Figure 22. The County has acquired an average of 3.25 acres of new parkland per year over the past 20 years**  
*Acres of Land Acquired through FY 2018*



Gathering on a hill  
 Long Bridge Park  
 Arlington County

# LAND ACQUISITION CRITERIA

Land acquisition is an important component of turning the multitude of recommendations in this document and other adopted County plans into reality. Strategic land acquisition can also be an important tool in responding to population growth and changing public space needs. Priority Action 1.1 of this plan calls for adding at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years to help address the challenge of meeting public space needs for a growing community. In order to meet this goal, the County will need to look to both expanding existing parks and public spaces and creating new public spaces throughout the County, with a focus on the densely populated corridors. These additional new public spaces could include a combination of additional land acquired by the County, public space developed by other public entities, privately developed spaces with public access easements, and the addition of rooftop spaces, deck parks, or similar spaces. The following criteria has been developed to give the County Manager clear guidance as to when a land acquisition opportunity should be presented to the Board for its consideration for acquisition.

## CRITERIA

In order to evaluate potential acquisition opportunities, acquisition criteria have been developed to guide the County's evaluation and decision-making process. The criteria are divided into three parts:

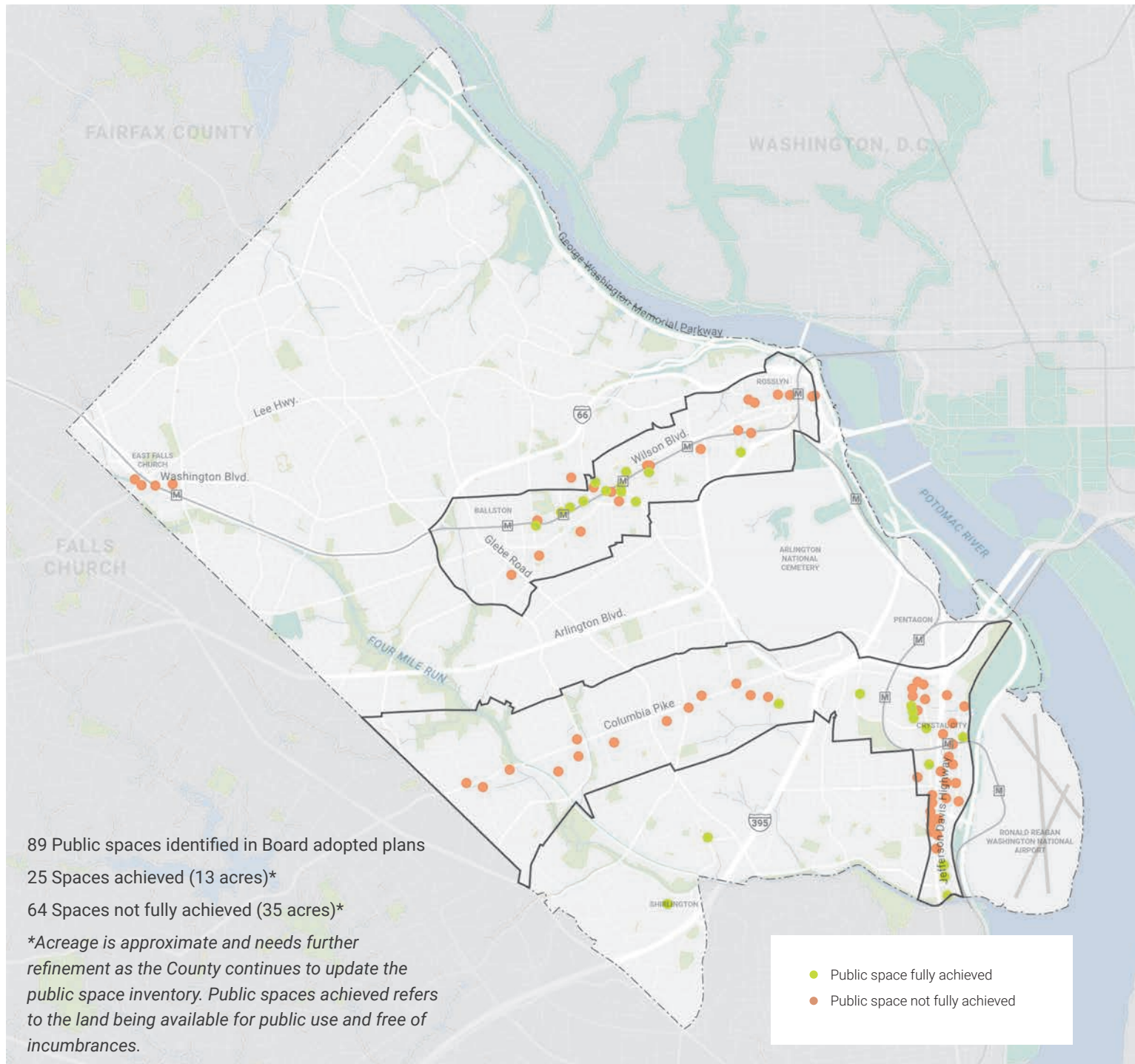
- Part I assesses alignment with other County Board approved plans.
- Part II assesses alignment with the general priorities of this plan.
- Part III assesses alignment with the goals particular to the intended eventual use of the site. There are three subsections of criteria for Part III based on the primary use for the proposed site: recreational/leisure purpose, natural resource purpose, or historic preservation purpose. **Each site will be evaluated using whichever of the three primary purposes is being considered.**



## PUBLIC SPACES IDENTIFIED IN BOARD ADOPTED PLANS

Area Plans, Corridor Plans, Phased Development Site Plans,  
Revitalization Plans and Sector Plans

Figure 23. Map of Public Spaces Identified in Board Adopted Plans



Step 1: If the property meets any of the criteria in Part I, the County Manager shall bring the potential acquisition to the County Board for its consideration.

#### PART I: ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER COUNTY PLANS

- The site is identified within an existing approved park master plan.
- The site is identified as future parkland in an adopted comprehensive plan element or sector, area, phased development site plan, or corridor plan.
- The site is identified as future parkland in an existing neighborhood conservation plan.

Step 2: If the property does not meet any criteria in Part I, but meets at least one of the criteria each in Part II and Part III, the County Manager shall bring the potential acquisition to the County Board for its consideration along with a written justification on which of the criteria it would meet.

#### PART II: GENERAL ALIGNMENT WITH PSMP

In most cases when a new acquisition opportunity arises (not associated with an existing County adopted plan), it is not known exactly what the planned use of the space would be. However, in many instances a potential primary function or character can be inferred by the property's location, size or features. If a potential function can be inferred, then the criteria below will be applied.

##### Associated with existing parks:

- The site shares its perimeter with an existing public space and is essential to the expansion of that public space.
- The property is an infill property of an existing park, located on the corner of a park or would serve to "normalize" a park boundary or shape.
- The site will allow the creation of new pathway connections to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the existing park.

##### Creation of a new park:

- The site has been identified as one of the sending sites eligible for the transfer of development rights.

86ac  
ACQUIRED  
SINCE 1995

*County park acquisitions from  
FY 1995 to FY 2018*

- The site could be used to create a new park and offers future potential expansion opportunities that would result in a park of at least ¼ acre.
- The site is a “Generational” or unique opportunity that if not acquired at the point of time of availability, the site would likely redevelop and the opportunity would be lost for a generation or more. Examples of these “Generational” opportunities include a defunct private indoor or outdoor recreation facility (e.g., golf courses, swimming pools, exceptionally large lots, etc.)
- The site is located in one of the major planning corridors identified in General Land Use Plan (GLUP), such as, Rosslyn-Ballston, Jefferson-Davis and Columbia Pike Corridors, or any future identified corridors.

### PART III: ALIGNMENT WITH PSMP PRIORITIES/SITE INTENDED PURPOSE

When evaluating potential acquisition opportunities, the County will use the criteria from one of the three subsections below that correspond to the **primary** purpose of the site. As properties are acquired, existing built improvements (houses, garages, sheds, driveways, etc.) are expected to be removed to allow for the primary intended purpose, except for properties purchased for the Historic Resource category, where the primary purpose of the acquisition is the preservation of the built structure.

#### Natural Resource Purpose

- The site could be used to enhance, protect, or expand natural resources, such as tree canopy, meadow, stream valley, forested natural area or other appropriate ecosystems.
- The site could protect or expand a Natural Resource Conservation Area.
- The site could provide linkages between habitats/wildlife corridors.
- The site includes one or more of the following:
  - stream valley / floodplain
  - wetland
  - unusual habitat type (e.g., relatively undisturbed soils, uncommon plant/animal colony, etc.)
  - champion tree site
  - natural geological outcrop
  - meadow
  - existing healthy tree canopy



- The site could increase the diversity of habitats for critical species.
- The site could facilitate adding or expanding natural lands that are needed based on the Level of Service Analysis. (See Level of Service Appendix)
- The site could include green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff from surrounding public spaces.

### Recreational/Leisure Purpose

- The site could be designed to support casual, impromptu use or connection with nature.
- The site could facilitate adding or expanding recreational amenities that are needed based on the Level of Service Analysis (e.g., community gardens, athletic courts, etc.)
- The site is in an area that does not meet access standards for one or more amenities, and could provide one or more of those amenities. (See Level of Service -Appendix II)
- The site could be used to create a new multi-use activity center to provide year-round access to indoor athletic courts and fields.
- The site is part of a planned joint-use facility with APS or could be used for co-locating complimentary public uses (e.g., library, etc.)
- The site could improve connections to trail systems within or beyond the County, includes a segment of a future planned trail, or allows for the widening of an existing trail.
- The site is in a location that could create better connections across or around current physical barriers, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway, I-395, Joint Base Myer- Henderson Hall, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Army Navy Country Club.
- The site could facilitate more seamless connections between County and National Park Service or NOVA Parks properties.
- The site provides potential recreational access to water.

### Historic Resource Purpose

- The site is individually listed on or eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places and has been identified as truly essential to telling Arlington's history.
- The site is called out for acquisition based on its historical and/ or cultural value by an accepted Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

- The site is listed on the County's Cemetery Inventory and/or the Arlington Genealogical Society's Cemetery List.
- The site would preserve and protect important archeological artifacts/resources, such as sites of Native American encampment, Civil War fortifications and Freedman's Village.

In addition to the criteria listed above under Parts II and III, other important site attributes should be considered when evaluating the site for potential County Board consideration. These include topography, geographic location, existing natural and historic resources, site accessibility, environmental conditions, etc.

### MECHANISMS & FUNDING SOURCES

The County uses, and continues to explore, many different tools and mechanisms to expand the public space system.

- Negotiated Purchase & Sale
- Dedication in Fee Simple
- Deed of Gift
- Acquisition of State or Federal Surplus Real Property
- Right of First Offer
- Right of First Refusal
- Option to Purchase
- Life Estate with Reversion to the County
- Acquisition with Restrictive Covenant
- Easement
- Partnerships with Non-County Entities:
  - Conservation Organizations and Land Trusts
  - Development Partners
- Eminent Domain/Condemnation

The County uses a variety of funding sources to acquire land. The most common sources are:

- Park Bonds
- Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG)
- Proceeds from the Transfer of Development Rights
- Developer Contributions
- Donations

# POTENTIAL SITES FOR FUTURE ACQUISITION

The following aerial maps denote potential areas for future land acquisition for recreation and leisure, natural resources, and historic resources purposes. Many of the areas identified are also referenced in County Board accepted or adopted plans. The County is continually identifying opportunities and gathering information for potential park acquisitions. The maps presented are a starting point in the land acquisition discussion and as development conditions change and opportunities arise, other sites may be added to the list or sites may be removed. The County has identified these areas as appropriate for potential park expansion. The County's typical method for acquiring land for creating or expanding parks is to make offers to purchase said properties when they are put on the market for sale.

*Spatial reference: Virginia State Plane North, NAD 1983.*

*Base map updated from April 2015 digital aerial photography.*

*Potomac River from USGS 1:24,000 DLG files.*

*Cadastral and political data layers are maintained on an on-going basis.*

*Maps shall not be construed as legal documents.*

*Pursuant to Section 54.1-402 of the Code of Virginia, any determination of topography or contours, or any depiction of physical improvements, property lines or boundaries is for general information only and shall not be used for the design, modification, or construction of improvements to real property or for flood plain determination.*

*Map © 2018 Arlington County, VA*







Recreation and Leisure Acquisition  
Benjamin Banneker Park Expansion  
Madison Manor Park Expansion

Both sites are referenced in the 1994 Open Space Master Plan and the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan. Madison Manor Park Expansion is also referenced in the 2000 Madison Manor Neighborhood Conservation Plan.



Recreation and Leisure Acquisition  
Bon Air Park Expansion

Site referenced in the 1994 Open Space Master Plan and 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan.







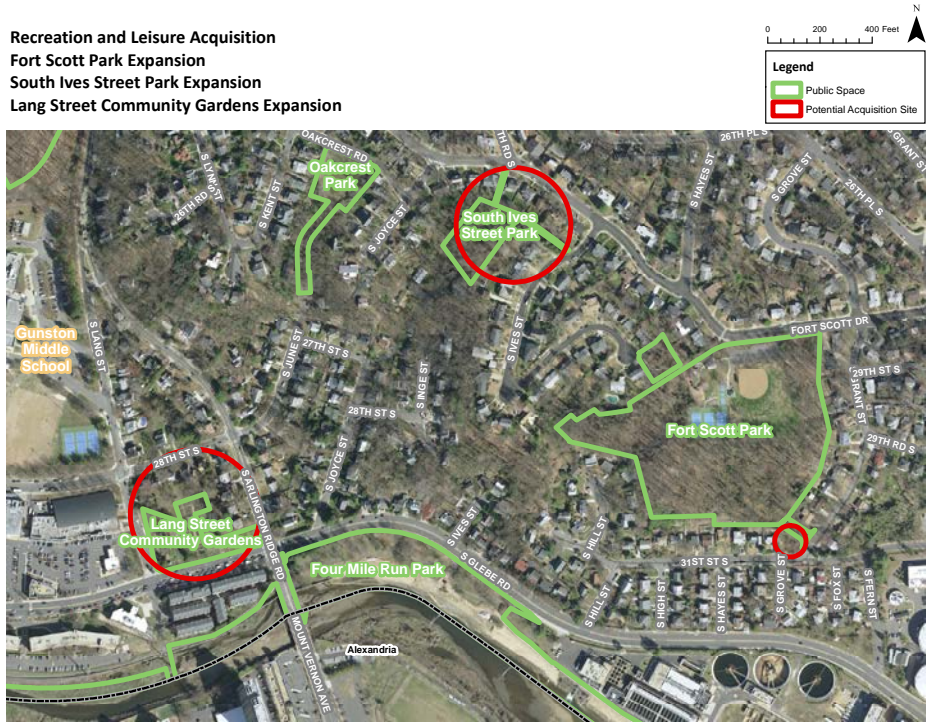


Recreation and Leisure Acquisition  
Drew Park Expansion

Sites are referenced in the 1994 Open Space Master Plan and the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan.



Recreation and Leisure Acquisition  
Fort Scott Park Expansion  
South Ives Street Park Expansion  
Lang Street Community Gardens Expansion



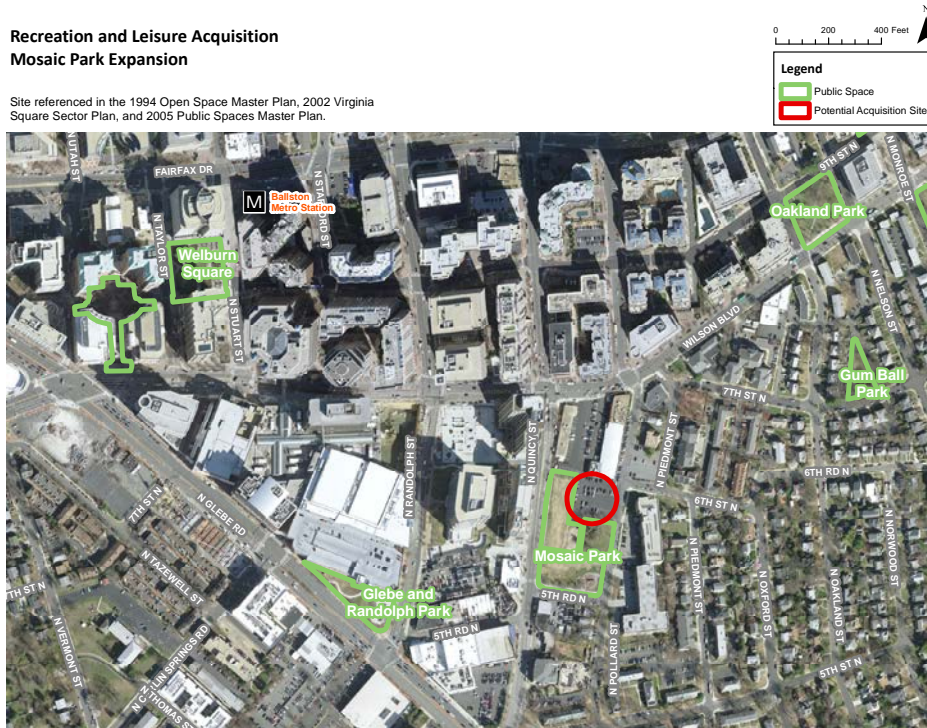






### **Recreation and Leisure Acquisition** **Mosaic Park Expansion**

Site referenced in the 1994 Open Space Master Plan, 2002 Virginia Square Sector Plan, and 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan.



### Recreation and Leisure Acquisition Oak Grove Park Expansion

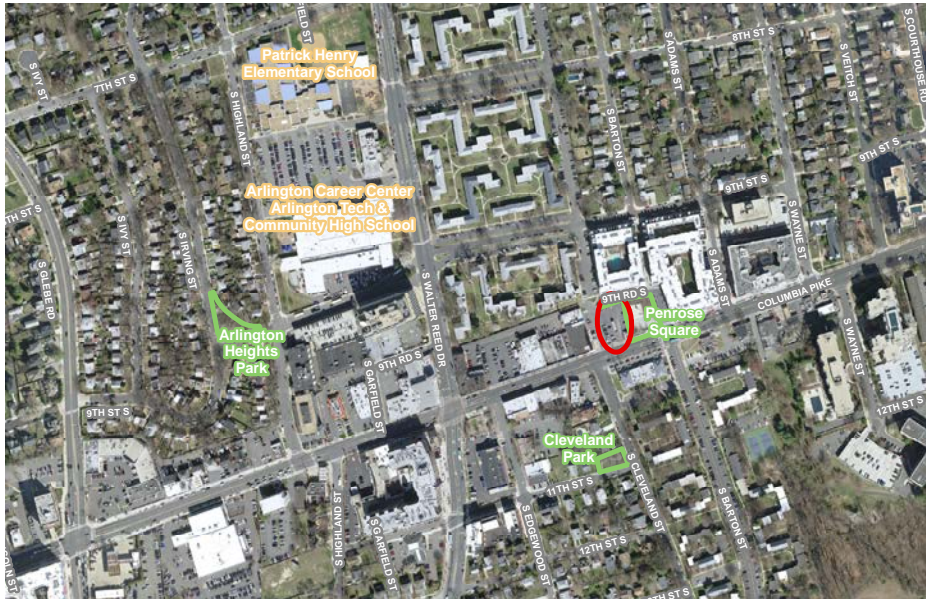
Site along North Quincy Street is referenced in the 2014 Cherrydale Neighborhood Conservation Plan.





### Recreation and Leisure Acquisition Penrose Square Expansion

Site referenced in the 2005 Columbia Pike Revitalization Plan and the 2008 Penrose Square Park Master Plan.



### Recreation and Leisure Acquisition Tuckahoe Park Expansion

Site referenced in the 1994 Open Space Master Plan and 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan.

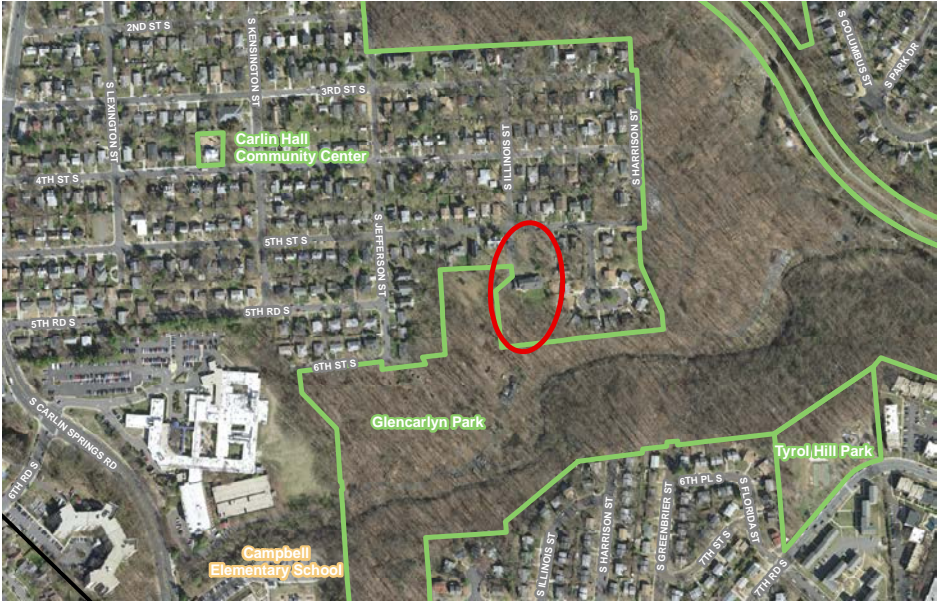
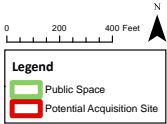




NATURAL RESOURCE ACQUISITION AREAS

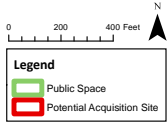
Natural Resource Acquisition  
Glencarlyn Park Expansion - 5th Street South and Illinois Street

Site referenced in the 1991 Arlington Forest Neighborhood Conservation Plan, 1994 Open Space Master Plan, and 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan.



Natural Resource Acquisition  
Powhatan Springs Park Expansion

Site east of Powhatan Springs Park is referenced in the 2009 Boulevard Manor Neighborhood Conservation Plan.



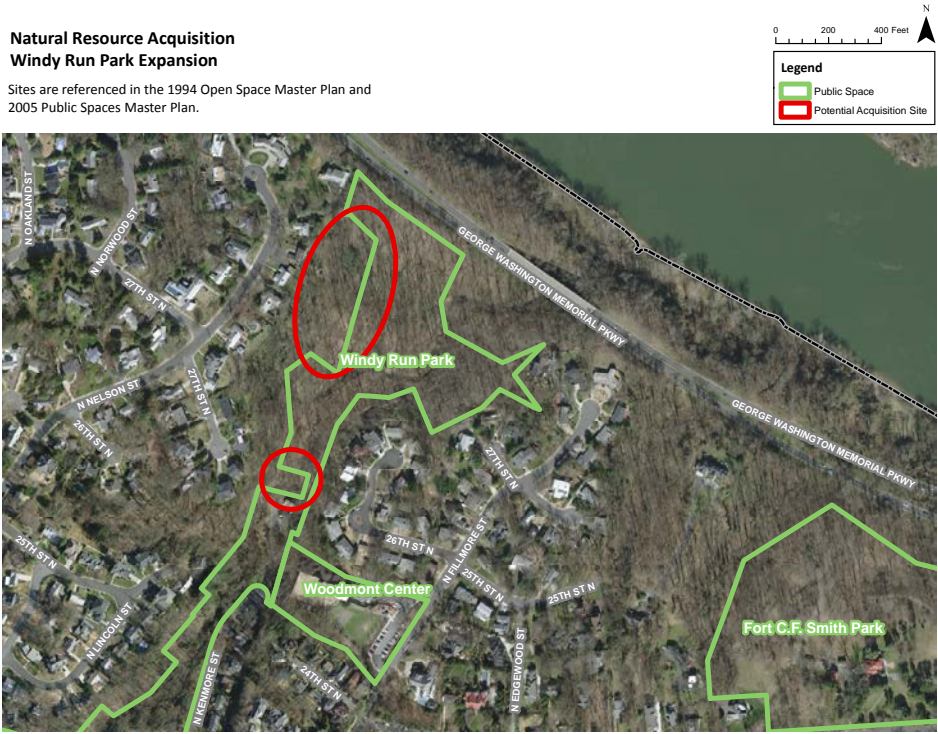


Natural Resource Acquisition  
Rocky Run Park Expansion



Natural Resource Acquisition  
Windy Run Park Expansion

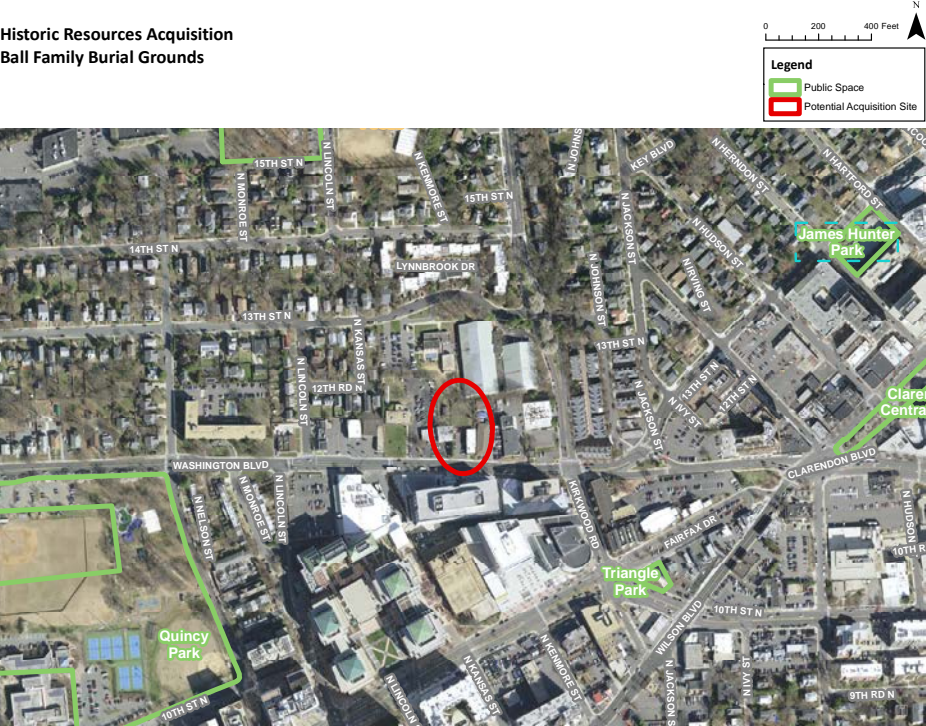
Sites are referenced in the 1994 Open Space Master Plan and 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan.





HISTORIC RESOURCE ACQUISITION AREAS

Historic Resources Acquisition  
Ball Family Burial Grounds



Historic Resources Acquisition  
Ball-Carlin Cemetery

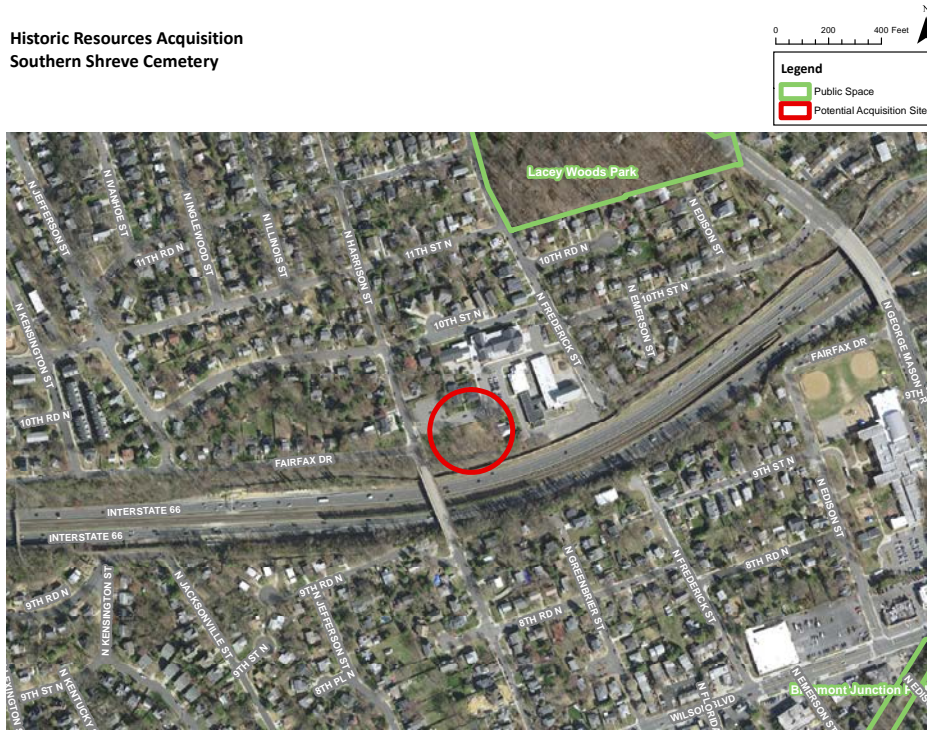




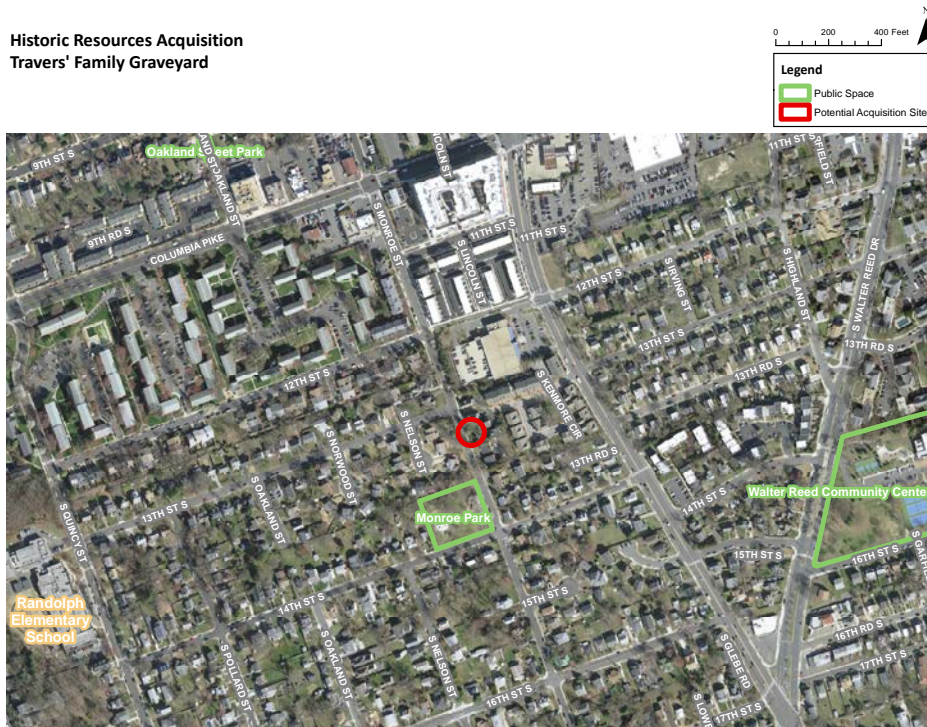




### Historic Resources Acquisition Southern Shreve Cemetery



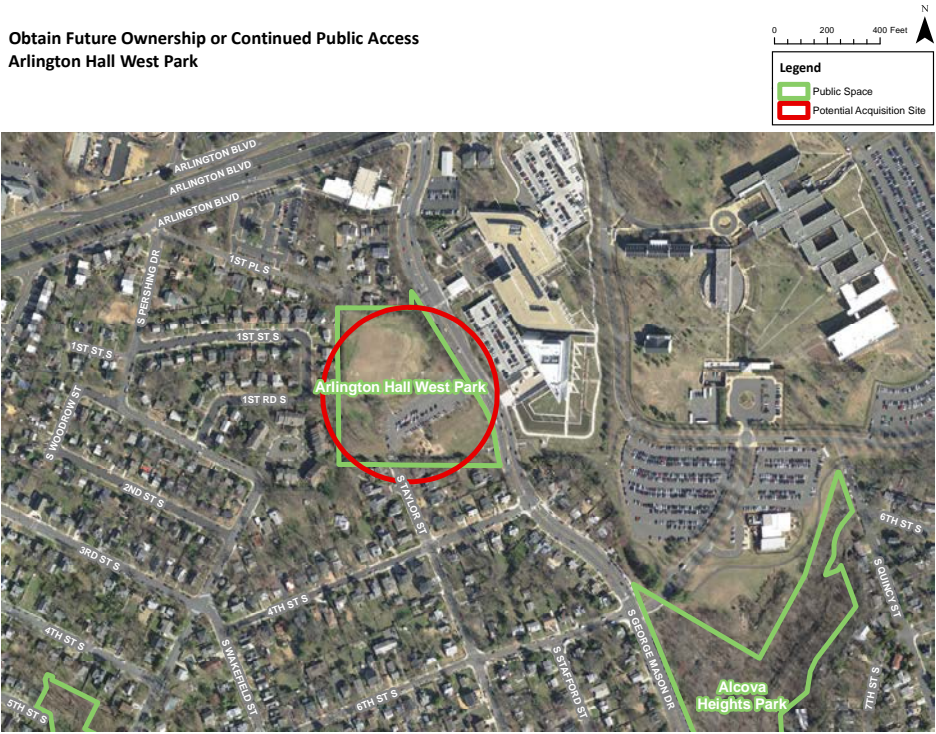
### Historic Resources Acquisition Travers' Family Graveyard



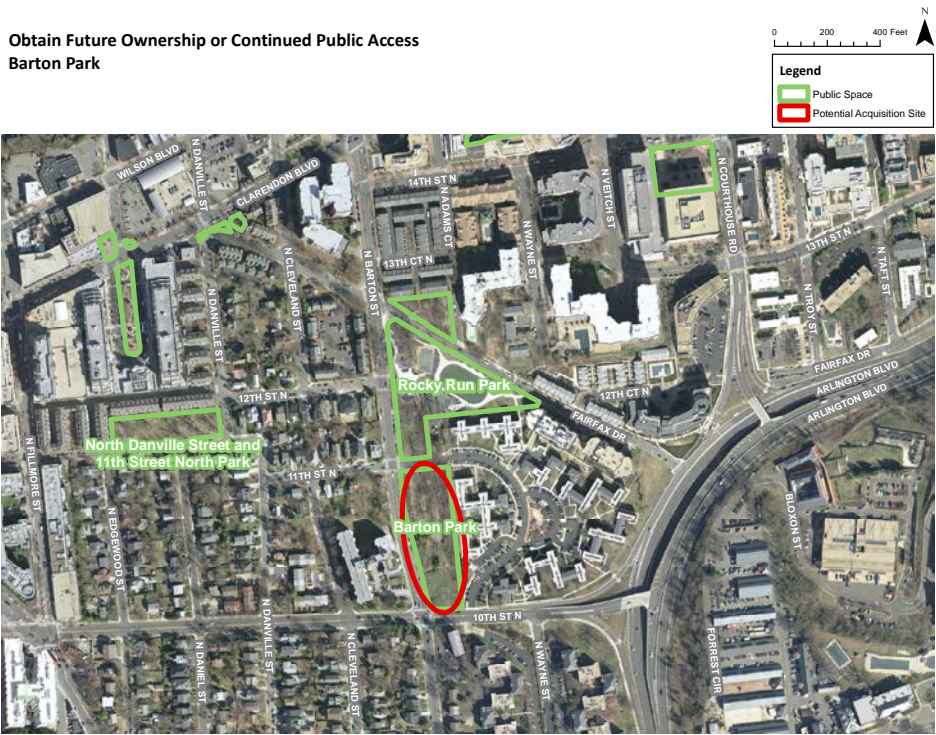


AREAS TO OBTAIN FUTURE OWNERSHIP OR CONTINUED PUBLIC ACCESS

Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Arlington Hall West Park



Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Barton Park

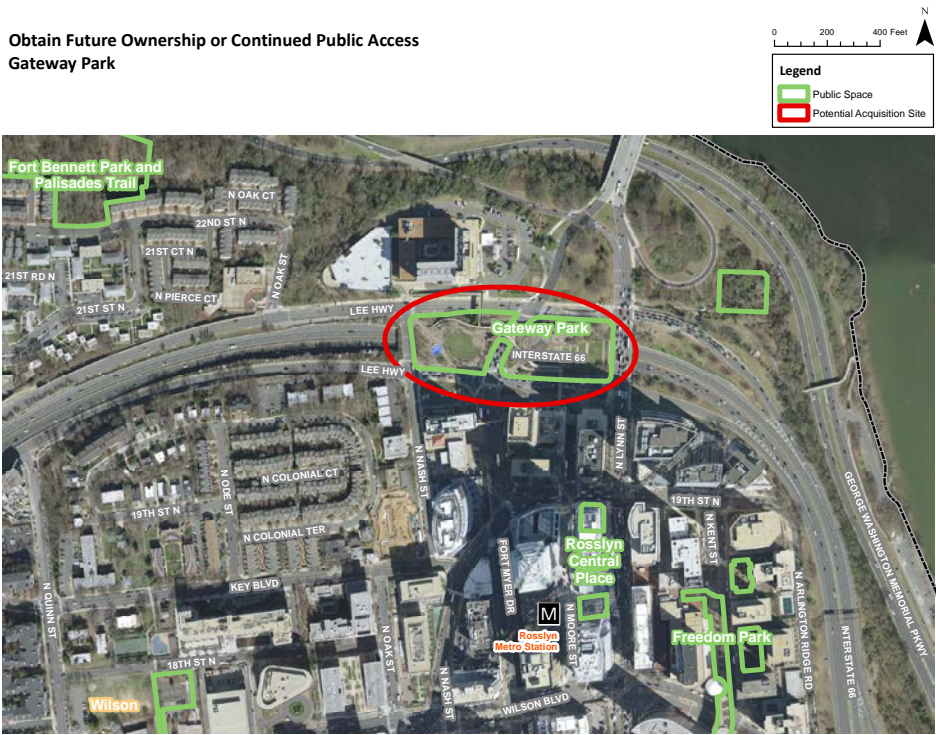




Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Dominion Hills Park

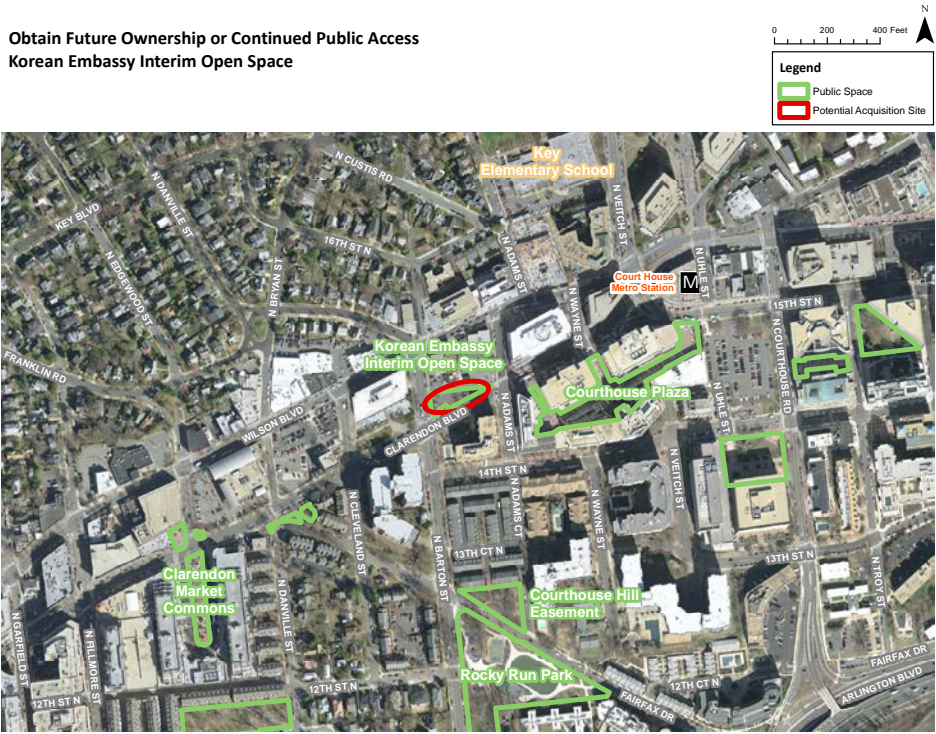


Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Gateway Park





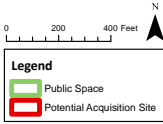
Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Korean Embassy Interim Open Space



Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Lyon Park



Obtain Future Ownership or Continued Public Access  
Short Bridge Park

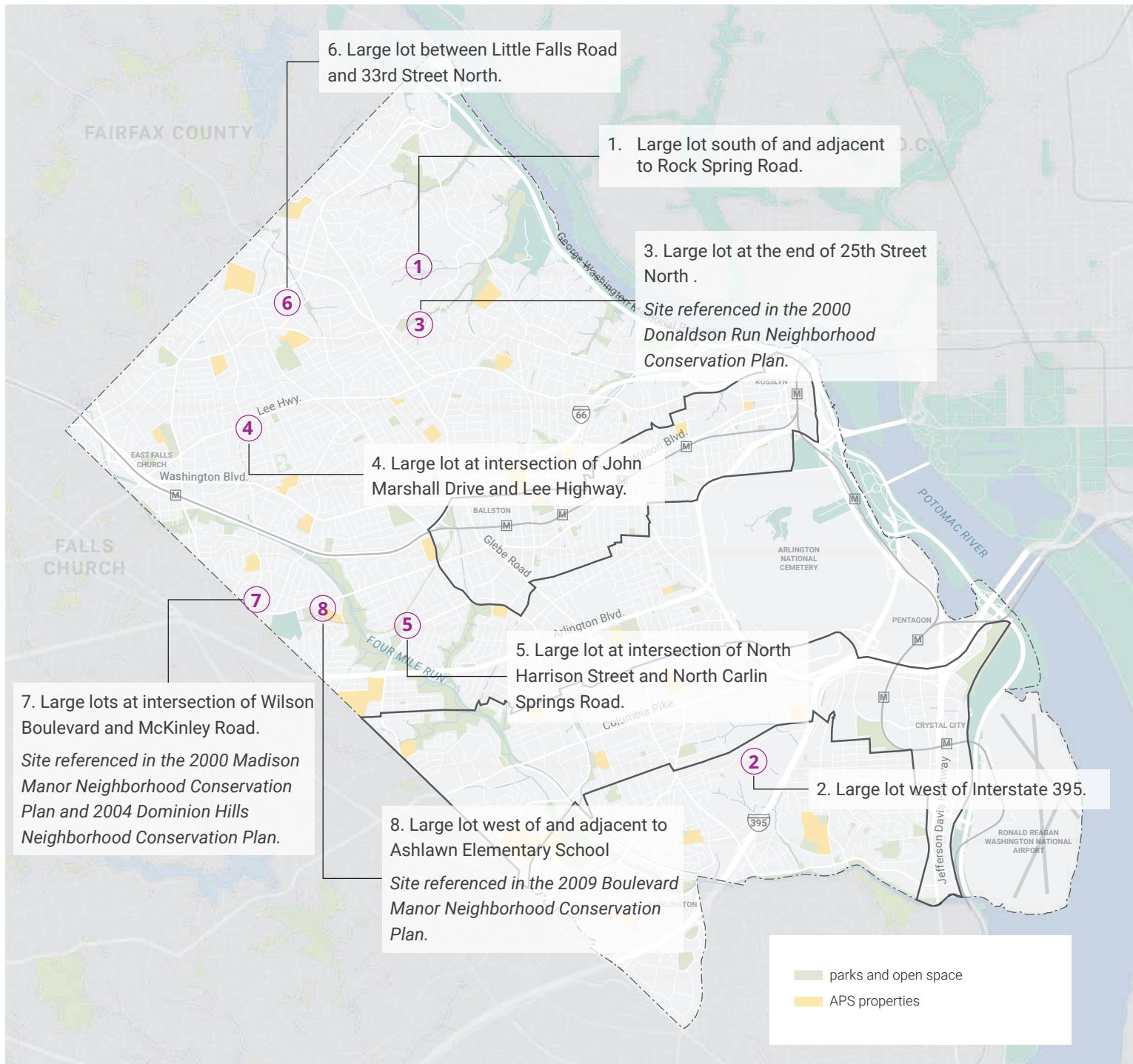




## GENERATIONAL OR UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

A “generational” or unique opportunity is an acquisition opportunity that if not acquired at the point of availability, would likely become redeveloped to the point it would never be an opportunity again.

Figure 24. Map of Generational or Unique Opportunities



## Past Acquisitions

The following is an account of all park land acquisitions since FY1995. In addition to acquisitions through purchase, the County has occasionally received donations of land, dedications through site plans or through transfer of development rights (as denoted by \*).

FY 1995-FY 1996		
<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
1602 S. Quincy Street	0.9	Douglas Park
Lot A-3 24th Street North	0.5	Fort C.F. Smith Park
Lot B-1 24th Street North	4.3	Fort C.F. Smith Park
3282 Fairfax Drive	0.1	Unnamed (New)
2415 1st Road South	0.06	Butler Homes Park
2821 North Harrison Street	0.4	Chestnut Hills Park
22nd Street North	10.6	Fort Bennet Park (New)*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.86</b>	

FY 1997-FY 1998		
<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
2811 South Lang Street	0.2	Lang Street Community Gardens
2815 South Lang Street	0.2	Lang Street Community Gardens
544 & 548 North Pollard Street	0.4	Mosaic Park (New)
Parcel D, 400 Block N. Manchester Street	0.05	Bluemont Park
6700 18th Street North	0.4	Benjamin Banneker Park
6008, 6016 & 6022 Wilson Boulevard	5.3	Powhatan Springs Park (New)
2409 1st Road South	0.12	Butler Springs Park
MF Birch Estate Remainder 5th Street North	0.7	Mosaic Park
4975 Columbia Pike	1.9	Arlington Mill Comm. Center (New)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.27</b>	



**FY 1999-FY 2000**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
3700 South Four Mile Run Drive	1.0	Jennie Dean Park
3660 27th Street South	0.2	Jennie Dean Park
2711 & 2717 North Harrison Street	0.9	Chestnut Hills Park
2631 North Upshur Street	0.2	Zachary Taylor Park
3802 & 3804 17th Street North	0.2	Cherry Valley Park
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.5</b>	

**FY 2001-FY 2002**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
3808 17th Street North	0.1	Cherry Valley Park
4966 14th Street South	0.7	Wakefield HS
3436 24th Street South	0.2	Drew Park
400 North Manchester Street	2.45	Bluemont Park
3600 South Four Mile Run Drive	1.85	Jennie Dean Park
1612 North Quincy Street	0.95	Oak Grove Park
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.25</b>	

**FY 2003-FY2004**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
RFP Parcel	21.45	Long Bridge Park (New)*
Block 3, par of lot 20 & 21	0.22	Bluemont Junction Park
6708 18th Street North	0.17	Benjamin Banneker Park
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21.84</b>	

**FY 2005-FY 2006**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
1230 North Hartford Street	0.13	James Hunter Park
901 South Clark Street	0.67	Long Bridge Park
3806 South Four Mile Run Drive	0.5	Jennie Dean Park
2654 South Oakland Street	0.45	Jennie Dean Park
816 North Lincoln Street	0.21	Maury Park
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.96</b>	

**FY 2007-FY 2008**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
No properties were acquired during this period.		

**FY 2009-FY 2010**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
2400 South Kenmore Street	0.08	Drew Park
Parcel 17	6.69	Long Bridge Park*
882 North Lexington Street	0.14	Bon Air Park
Davis Industries- Parcel 14	4.46	Long Bridge Park*
Former WMATA Parking Lot	0.6	Mosaic Park*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.97</b>	

**FY 2011-FY 2012**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
3538 Wilson Boulevard	0.25	Maury Park
3929 5th Place South	0.12	Mosaic Park
(Portion of APAH Site- Buckingham)	0.65	Henry Wright Park (New)
Rockwell Property, Lots 72-75	0.36	Filmore Park*
2501 9th Road South	0.4	Penrose Square (New)*
YMCA Lots 9-11 23rd Street South	0.22	Drew Park*



Property swap with Monument Realty	2.39	Long Bridge Park*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.39</b>	

**FY 2013-FY 2014**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
2405 1st Road South	0.12	Butler Holmes Park
1700 South Quincy Street	0.21	Douglas Park
1101 Lee Highway	0.61	Unnamed (New)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.94</b>	

**FY 2015-FY 2016**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
6608 18th Street North	0.19	Benjamin Banneker Park
2822 South Arlington Ridge Road	0.22	Lang Street Community Gardens
2827 North Harrison Street	0.24	Chestnut Hills Park
6616 18th Street North	0.19	Benjamin Banneker Park
2833 North Harrison Street	0.24	Chestnut Hills Park
North Quantico & North 18th Street	0.18	Unnamed (New)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.23</b>	

**FY 2017-FY 2018**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
6600 18th Street North	0.19	Benjamin Banneker Park
905 20th Street South and Adjacent Lot	0.26	Unnamed (New)
Transfer from Zachary Taylor ES	4.78	Zachary Taylor Park*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.23</b>	

**FY 2019-FY 2020**

<i>Address</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>New or Adjacent</i>
3514 S. Four Mile Run Drive	0.11	Jennie Dean Park





## APPENDIX II. GENERAL POLICIES

# Level of Service

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

The development of Arlington's network of public spaces has grown organically over the decades and has largely been retrofitted into neighborhoods as space and funding became available. Unlike some localities that have park systems that were planned well in advance of development, Arlington has no historic County-wide master plan laying out the County's system that was concurrent with the County's development over time. The result, is that different areas of the County have different levels of access to park and recreation amenities. For example, in some parts of the County, residents can walk to a basketball court within 5 minutes, while in other areas residents cannot feasibly walk to a court at all.

No national uniform level of service standards exists for parks or recreational amenities across the country. 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.

Jogging in the springtime sun  
W&OD Trail

Arlington County

The County’s major recreation amenities identified in this plan have had a new population-based standard applied. A subset of these amenities also has access standards. The amenities with the additional access standards are those that people would typically expect to be able to easily access near their homes or those that serve outdoor athletic programs and drop-in play. The amenities with only population-based standards are those that people expect to have to travel further to use, that have unique land needs or are cost-prohibitive to replicate across the County. Both the population-based and access standards consider all amenities with public access—including those owned by Arlington County, APS, National Park Service, NOVA Parks, and private sites with permanent public access.

How Will the New Standards Be Used?

The new standards will be used by the County as one of several planning tools to strategically implement the recommendations in this document. This tool will assist the County in managing its assets and demonstrate geographically where additional assets may be needed or where those assets may overlap and could be considered for another park and recreation purpose. The population-based standards indicate how many of each amenity Arlington needs between now and 2035, whether the County needs more of or has a surplus of a particular amenity. The access standards indicate where Arlington needs more or fewer of each type of amenity. Used in combination, the population-based and access standards provide a snapshot of the level of service provided by current public space amenities and a roadmap for addressing the number and location of amenities in the future depending on need. For example, the population-based standards show a need for an additional 2 basketball courts by 2035. Applying the access standards for basketball courts shows that there are gaps in access, particularly in the Ballston and Columbia Pike areas. As opportunities exist to address this gap, these areas may be looked at to add additional courts. The County will update its inventory of recreation amenities annually and will reexamine the recommended level of service standards at least every five years as the needs assessment is updated (see 1.2.).

Figure 25. Amenities with population-based and access standards

5 min high density
10 min low density
Basketball Courts
Community Gardens
Multi-Use Trails
Off-Leash Dog Parks
Playgrounds
Casual Use Spaces (analysis may be performed in the future)*

10 min high density
20 min low density
Diamond Fields
Tennis Courts
Picnic Areas
Rectangular Fields
Volleyball Courts

Figure 26. Amenities with only population-based standards

no access standards
Comm. Rec., and Sports Centers
Hiking Trails
Indoor and Outdoor Pools
Natural Lands
Skate Parks
Small Game Courts
Spraygrounds
Tracks



# POPULATION-BASED STANDARDS

Population-based standards are expressed as a level of service (LOS) ratio of amenities to population. The current or projected ratio is then compared to a target recommended ratio, which indicates whether more or fewer amenities are needed.

## Methodology

Through the PSMP process, a range of factors were considered to form the population based standards:

- current level of service based on 2016 population data
- median level of service provided by Arlington County and four peer localities (where available)
- national averages
- statistically valid survey priority (where available)
- additional County data inputs (where available)

In some cases, 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.

The information and different factors above were evaluated and a conclusion was made as to the appropriate recommended level of service for Arlington.

## Selected Peer Localities

The four peer localities used in developing the standards were selected because they have similar demographic or economic characteristics, or for aspirational comparison. Alexandria, VA and Bellevue, WA have also been previously used by the County for peer comparisons for 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.

- Bellevue, WA – Located directly across the water from a major city (Seattle), 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, Berkeley has a similar population density and is also located across the water from a major city (San Francisco). Berkeley also has similar housing prices.
- St. Paul, MN – 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

The County engaged a nationally recognized parks and open space consulting firm with experience in 47 states to provide national averages for population-based standards based on their experience. While the national averages for amenities are useful, it is important to keep in mind they include numbers from localities that have very different demographics, both bigger and smaller, than Arlington and so are a helpful but imperfect benchmark.

## Statistically Valid Survey Priority

The statistically valid survey conducted as part of the PSMP update process in 2016 asked Arlingtonians 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 with a PIR greater than 120 are high priorities. Those with a PIR greater than 30 but less than or equal to 120 are medium priorities. Finally, those amenities with a PIR of 30 or under are low priorities. These thresholds reflect delineations between numerical scores for amenities and programs, creating groupings into high, middle, and low rankings. The results represent a snapshot of the relative importance of certain



facilities to residents on a county wide basis. However, it is not able to fully capture the nuance of strong support for a certain type of amenity among a smaller subset of the population.

### **County Data Inputs**

For recreation amenities where additional data was available, that information was taken into consideration when developing the recommended standard. These additional data inputs include class registration, program scheduling and waitlist data as well as usage data from systems like trail counters.

Figure 27. Population-based standards.

Population-Based Standards							
Amenity	Units	Inventory	Current LOS	Peer Median	Typical	Survey Priority	Recommended LOS
Basketball Courts	each	87	1/2,547	1/2,132	1/6,000	Low	1/3,000
Community Gardens	each	7	1/31,651	1/37,205	1/30,000	Medium	1/30,000
Multi-Use Trails	miles	48.4	1/4,577	N/A	1/2,500	High	1/3,300
Off-Leash Dog Parks	each	8	1/27,695	1/59,426	1/40,000	Low	1/25,000
Playgrounds	each	126	1/1,758	1/3,101	1/3,500	Low	1/3,000
Casual Use Spaces							
Diamond Fields	each	43	1/5,153	1/4,107	1/6,000	Low	1/6,000
Tennis Courts	each	92	1/2,408	1/3,768	1/4,000	Low	1/3,000
Picnic Areas	each	45	1/4,924	N/A	1/6,000	Low	1/5,000
Rectangular Fields	each	53	1/4,180	1/3,643	1/6,000	Low	1/4,200
Volleyball Courts	each	10	1/22,156	N/A	1/12,000	Low	1/20,000
Comm., Rec., and Sports Centers	sq. ft.	386,223	1/0.57	N/A	1/.74	Medium	1/0.57
Hiking Trails	miles	14.5	1/15,242	N/A	1/10,000	High	1/10,000
Indoor and Outdoor Pools	each	4	1/55,390	N/A	1/40,000	High	1/40,000
Natural Lands	acres	1,127	1/197	N/A	1/333	High	1/200
Nature Centers	each	3	1/73,853	1/110,900	1/50,000	Medium	1/75,000
Skate Parks	each	1	1/221,560	1/118,851	1/40,000	Low	1/120,000
Small Game Courts	each	14	1/15,826	N/A	1/6,000	Low	1/8,000
Spraygrounds	each	5	1/44,312	N/A	1/45,000	Low	1/45,000
Outdoor Tracks	each	3	1/73,853	N/A	1/45,000	N/A	1/45,000

*Data Sources**Population projections: Arlington County Profile 2016 and Arlington Round 9 Population Forecast**Amenity inventory: Arlington County 2016*

The Level of Service analysis is based on the 2016 inventory. As the inventory has been refined throughout this process, the current inventory information presented in Appendix IV (Existing Public Spaces and Amenities) may not match the Level of Service inventory. Level of Service will be updated every five years, as recommended in Action 1.2.4.: Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, on a 5-year cycle.

*Notes*

Casual use space is a new concept developed for this Plan, therefore no LOS is currently available, but it may be developed in the future.

For the purpose of Level of Service Analysis, combination fields are counted as 0.5 diamond and 0.5 rectangular. Combination fields can be used for either diamond or rectangular sports, but not at the same time. These fields may be switched seasonally or daily to accommodate both diamond and rectangular sports.

Consideration	Incremental Units Needed				High Density Areas	Low Density Areas
	2016	2025	2035	Total		
Adjusted towards typical due to low survey priority	--	--	2	2	5 min	10 min
Refer to Case Study	1	1	--	2	5 min	10 min
Adjusted towards typical due to high survey priority and Trail counter data	19	7	7	33	5 min	10 min
Dog license data	1	1	1	3	5 min	10 min
Adjusted towards peer median and typical	--	--	--	0	5 min	10 min
Refer to Case Study	--	--	2	2	10 min	20 min
Reservation data and Low survey priority	--	--	--	0	10 min	20 min
Reservation data and consistent with current LOS	--	4	5	9	10 min	20 min
Reservation data	--	6	5	11	10 min	20 min
Adjusted towards typical and Reservation data	2	1	1	4	10 min	20 min
Consistent with current LOS	--	39,698	37,445	77,143	Access standards do not apply	
Align with Typical Due to High Interest	8	2	3	13		
Align with Typical Due to High Interest	2	1	--	3		
Consistent with Current LOS	--	98	107	205		
Consistent with Current LOS	--	1	--	1		
Adjusted to Align Closer with Peer Median and Typical	1	1	--	2		
Adjusted to Align Closer with Typical	14	3	3	20		
Consistent with Current LOS	--	1	--	1		
Adjusted towards typical	2	1	--	3		



# LEVEL OF SERVICE - CASE STUDIES

The two case studies below on community gardens and diamond fields help to further explain the methodology used to develop the County's new standards and how the different factors were applied.

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

### Background

Community gardens are becoming a popular and essential asset in urban areas. As an important part of the public spaces system, community gardens not only provide gardeners with an opportunity to grow food locally, but also offer opportunities for social interaction and exercise.

The community garden program in Arlington was established in 1974, and was originally administered by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Since 2013, this program has been fully managed by the County. Today, Arlington County manages seven community gardens comprised of 330 plots and occupying approximately 5.3 acres of land.

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to urban agriculture, the Arlington County Board developed a citizen task force in 2012 to examine Arlington food systems, ensure regulatory support, and increase access to sustainably grown food. The report recommended that the County actively promote and facilitate the establishment of sustainable community gardens on both public and private land.

Due to the strong interest in community gardening, the County has undertaken several initiatives to improve residents' access to community gardens. In 2008, the County began a policy of splitting full plots as they become available into two half plots to double the number of available plots. In 2015, the County entered into an agreement with NOVA Parks for an expansion of the Four Mile Community Garden by adding 40 half plots along the W&OD Trail. In 2018, 30 new half plots were added on a

newly acquired quarter acre property as part of the Lang Street Garden expansion. While these measures have improved the availability of garden plots, the County continues to experience additional demand. In comparison, in 2013, the County had 220 garden plots, and over 200 new applicants each year. Even though the number of available plots has increased over the last five years to a total of 330, the waitlist currently has 531 applicants. Applicants can be on the wait list for up to 5 years depending on the garden location they select.

## Analysis

When developing the recommended standard for community gardens, Arlington's current Level of Service (LOS) (1 community garden/31,651 residents), was first compared to the median level of service among predetermined peer cities (1/37,205), and the typical level of service nationwide (1/30,000). This comparison shows that Arlington's LOS is a little higher than the peer cities and slightly lower than the typical nationwide LOS. It can be deduced that from a purely comparison stand point, Arlington's level of service is at a reasonable level. Next the 2016 County-wide statically valid survey priority (medium) was taken into consideration. As a final analysis, other available data was taken into consideration, such as the waitlist of over 530 applicants waiting for one to five years is an indication of the demand for community gardens and the need for improvement in LOS over Arlington's current Level of Service.

## Conclusion

After the analysis of the factors described above, it was determined that the standard for community gardens should be increased, from 1/31,651 (current standard) to 1 community garden/30,000 residents (recommended standard). This increase in the recommended standard means that by 2035 Arlington will need two additional community gardens that are commensurate in size and layout to the current gardens.

## DIAMOND FIELDS

### Background

Arlington has a total of 96 athletic fields, 35 of which are classified as diamond fields. Diamond fields are primarily used for sports such as baseball and softball and are played in the spring with increasing use in the fall. Many diamond fields may also be used for rectangular sports practices like soccer, flag and tackle football, and ultimate frisbee.

DPR is responsible for field scheduling. In Fiscal Year 2017, there were over 8,000 diamond field sport users, in comparison to over 24,000 rectangular field sport users. Recognizing the need to utilize fields more efficiently, DPR implemented an Athletic Field Allocation Policy in the spring 2017. Under this policy, after the needs of APS are met and existing agreements with partners are honored, first priority for field scheduling is given to youth non-profit sports organizations, second priority is given to adult non-profit organizations, third priority is given to youth or adult for profit organizations, and finally, rental groups may reserve the fields for activities such as kickball and softball for adults.

The efficiencies created by the Athletic Field Allocation Policy have enabled DPR to accommodate rectangular sports on the outfield areas of diamond fields for the fall season while still meeting the needs of the diamond field community.

### Analysis

To develop the recommended standard for diamond fields (1 diamond field per 6,000 residents), Arlington's current level of service (1 diamond field per 5,153 residents<sup>1</sup>) was compared to the median level of service among the benchmarked cities (1/4,107), and the typical level of service nationwide (1/6,000).

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1. For the purpose of the Level of Analysis, diamond field inventory includes one half of all combination fields as these fields can be used for both diamond and rectangular sports



This comparison indicates that the County's current level of service falls squarely in the middle between the benchmarked cities and the typical level of service nationwide. Next the 2016 County-wide statistically valid survey priority (medium) was taken into consideration. As a final analysis, data maintained by DPR was taken into consideration: since Fiscal Year 2013, diamond sport participation has grown 2%. Over the same period, rectangular sports participation has increased 18%. Reserved hours on diamond fields have grown in recent years, increasing on average between 4% and 5% in the last three fiscal years. DPR anticipates similar sustained growth moving forward.

## **Conclusion**

After the analysis and the factors described above, it was determined that the level of service for diamond fields should be decreased from 1/5,153 residents (current standard) to 1 diamond/6,000 residents (recommended standard). Despite a decrease in the recommended level of service, given population projections, Arlington will need two additional diamond fields by 2035.

Moving forward, DPR will continue to explore ways to meet the demand for diamond sports, while taking into consideration different design and programming techniques to use fields more efficiently for all sports that play on both diamond and rectangular fields. For example, the County is replacing the existing natural grass diamond field at Gunston Park that is currently only used for adult softball play with a synthetic turf playing surface. The installation of synthetic turf will accommodate both youth and adult diamond sports to use the fields. Installing additional synthetic turf, and additional lighting on diamond fields are tools to help meet the level of service goals without constructing new diamond fields.

## ACCESS STANDARDS

The access standards were created as a planning tool to better understand the locations where Arlington needs more or fewer amenities. These standards are shown in Figure 28 below and are based on travel times rather than distances. Because Arlington has robust road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian networks, residents indicated that travel time is more important than distance as they can cover different distances in the same amount of time with different transportation options.

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

Access standards are grouped into two categories: 1) those that should be reachable within 5 minutes of travel in a high-density area and 10 minutes of travel in a low-density area; and 2) 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.

Figure 28. Amenity access standards

Amenities	High Density Areas	Low Density Areas
Basketball Courts	5 min	10 min
Community Gardens	5 min	10 min
Multi-Use Trails	5 min	10 min
Off-Leash Dog Parks	5 min	10 min
Playgrounds	5 min	10 min
Casual Use Spaces	5 min	10 min
Diamond Fields	10 min	20 min
Tennis Courts	10 min	20 min
Picnic Areas	10 min	20 min
Rectangular Fields	10 min	20 min
Volleyball Courts	10 min	20 min

## HOW WERE THE MAPS CREATED?

A spatial access analysis was performed for certain public space amenities maintained by the County, APS, NOVA Parks, and privately-owned properties with public access easements. The analysis is expected to be updated every five years. 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., basketball court) within which a person could reach that amenity within a specified time by walking, biking, transit, and driving. The resulting four maps by type of amenity (example below) were then overlaid to determine which areas have good access and which have more limited access. These access maps follow.

The access maps are a planning tool that evaluates access across the County to certain recreational amenities and highlight general areas where access to amenities could be improved. Improved access could mean adding new linkages to the travel network, like constructing more sidewalks, or adding another amenity in the general area identified as having limited access. In the case of athletic fields, improved access could also mean an extension of useable hours via conversion to synthetic turf and/or the addition of lighting (see Figure 31). As the County undertakes future Park Master Plans, Site Plans, and Area/Sector Plans; additional public space studies will be performed that will collectively provide additional insight to local public space needs and assist in identifying solutions.

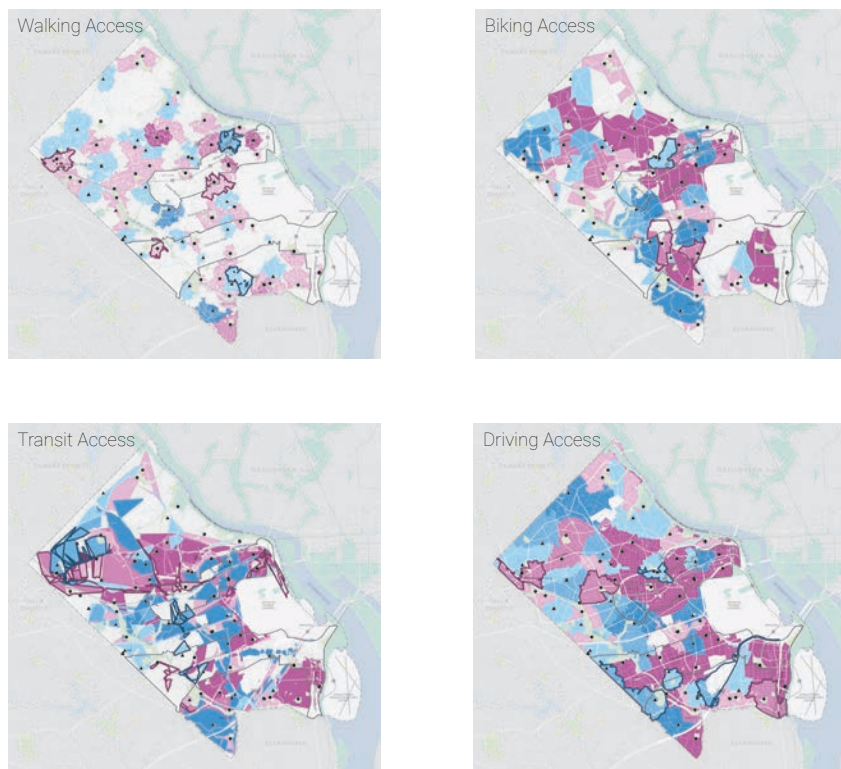
The access maps were created using Geographic Information System (GIS) software, multiple travel networks, and 2035 population projection data. Travel time for each individual amenity (e.g., basketball courts) was calculated using the County's walking, biking, and driving networks and the General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) layer to account for Metro and bus transit. Figure 29 on the following page illustrates travel time mapped along each of the four networks for basketball courts. The travel time areas are then overlapped to identify areas that range from best to limited access. The 2035 population projections were used to identify areas, using Census Block geography, projected to experience population growth that is greater than the County-wide average. Identifying these

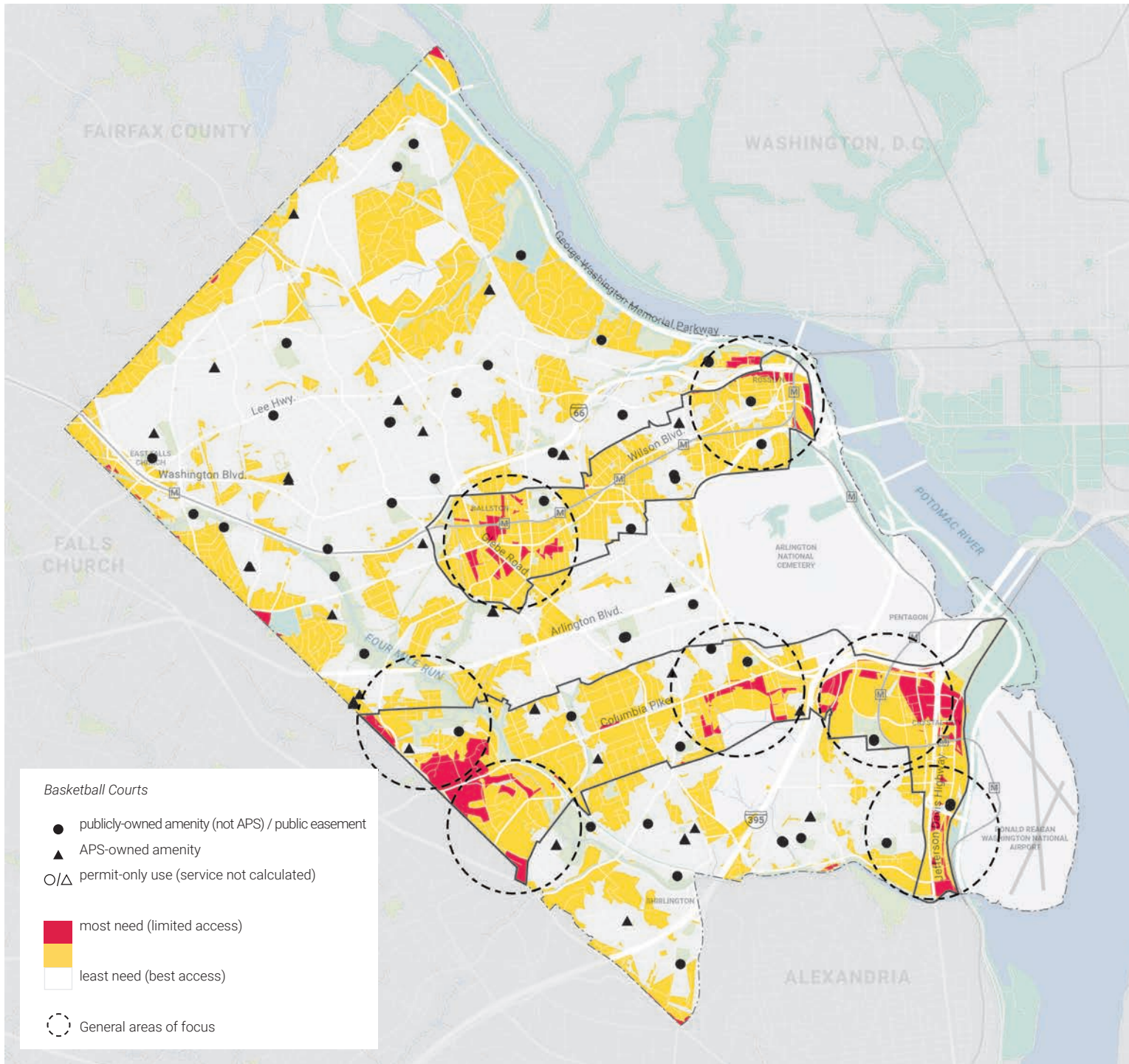


population growth areas, along with gaps in travel time, allows the County to locate and plan for areas that may experience added pressure on existing recreational amenities, which may result in crowding, reduced levels of satisfaction among users, more wear and tear, increased maintenance costs, and a need to replace built components (like basketball court surfacing) sooner than expected.

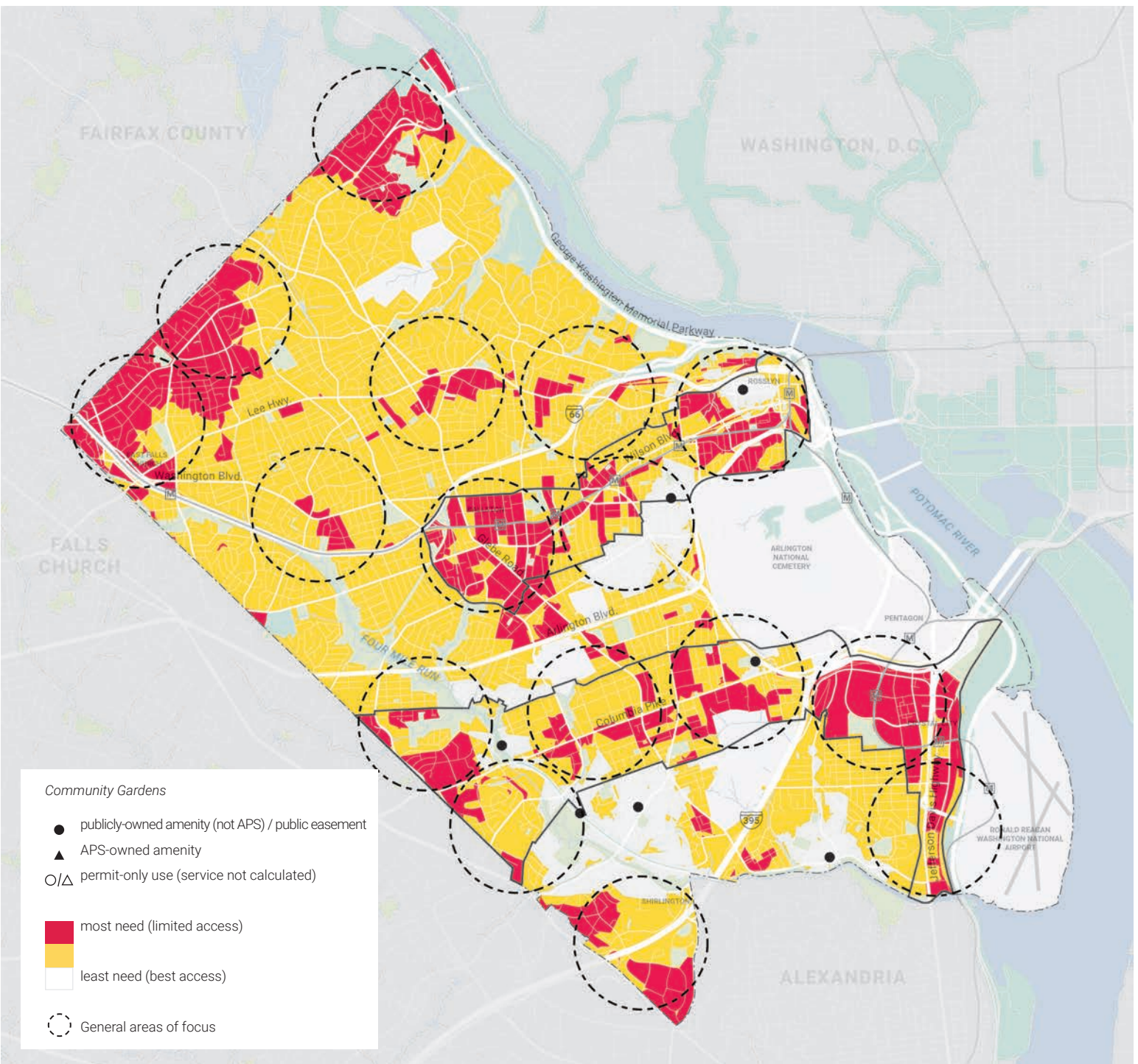
The Level of Service Access Analysis maps illustrate areas with the most need (or limited access) in red, and a moderate need (or moderate access) in yellow. The black, dashed circles are a planning tool to call attention to general areas with limited or moderate access and/or areas projected to have significant population growth.

**Figure 29. Example of Travel Time Access for Basketball Courts**

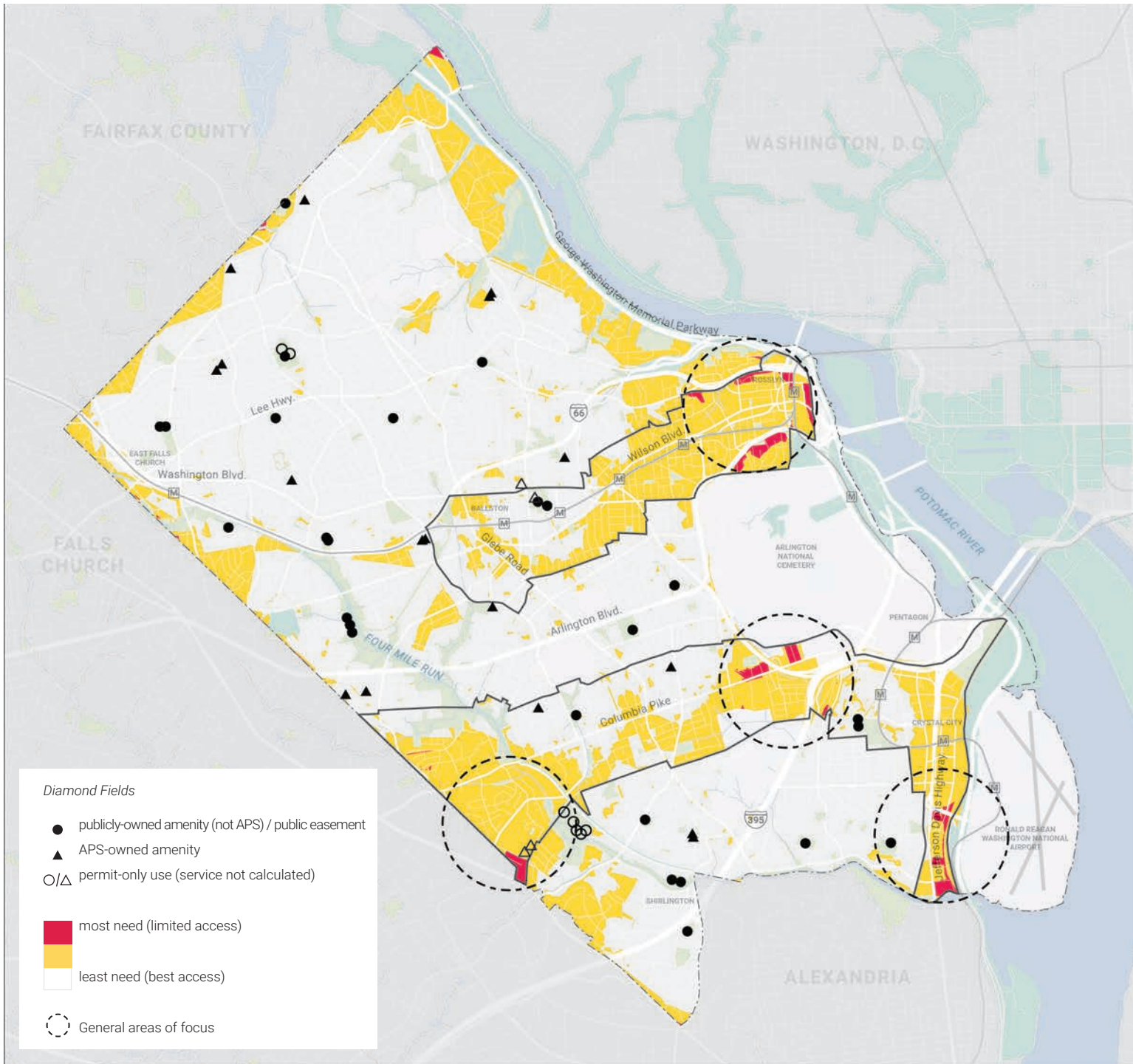


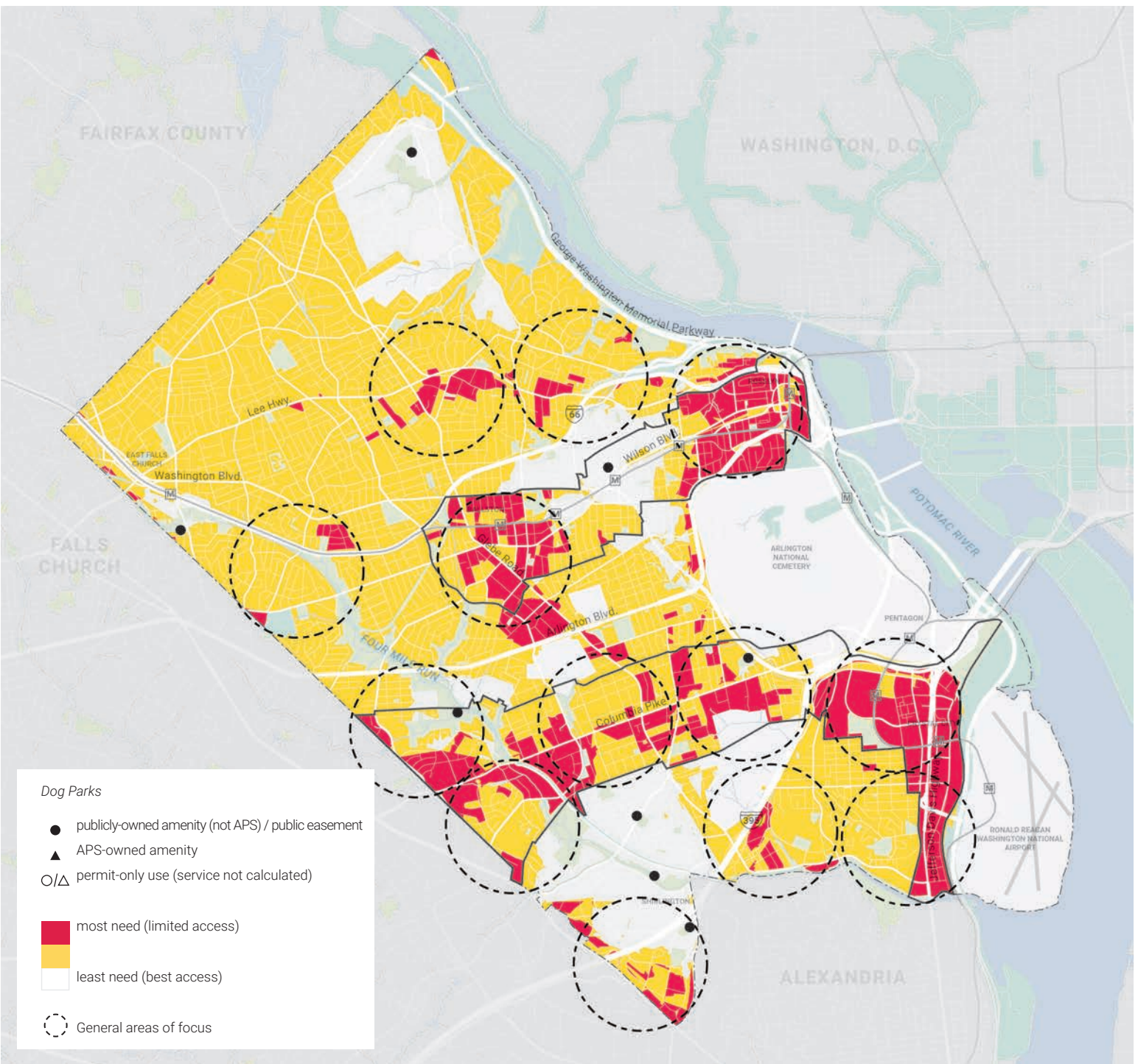




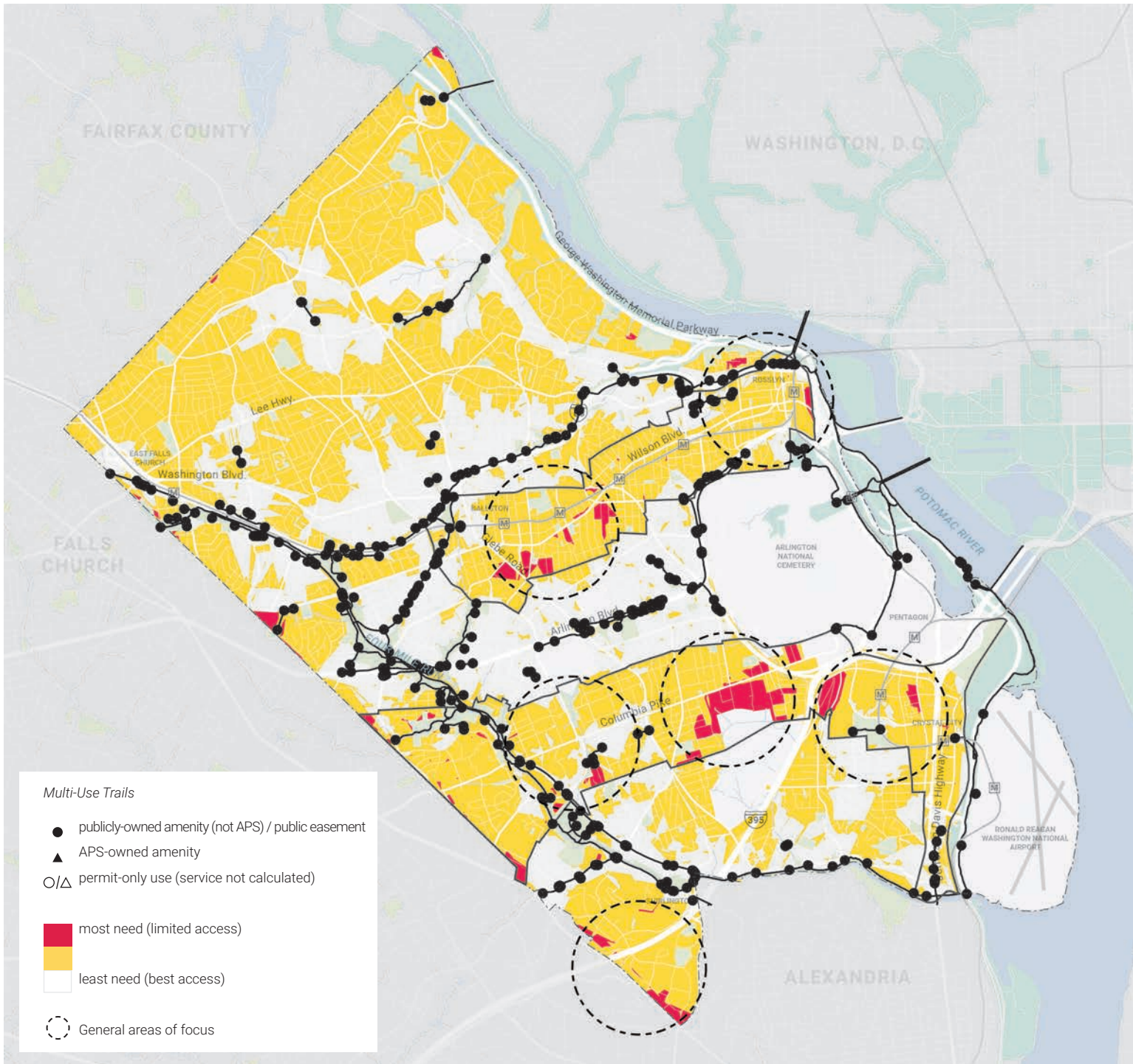




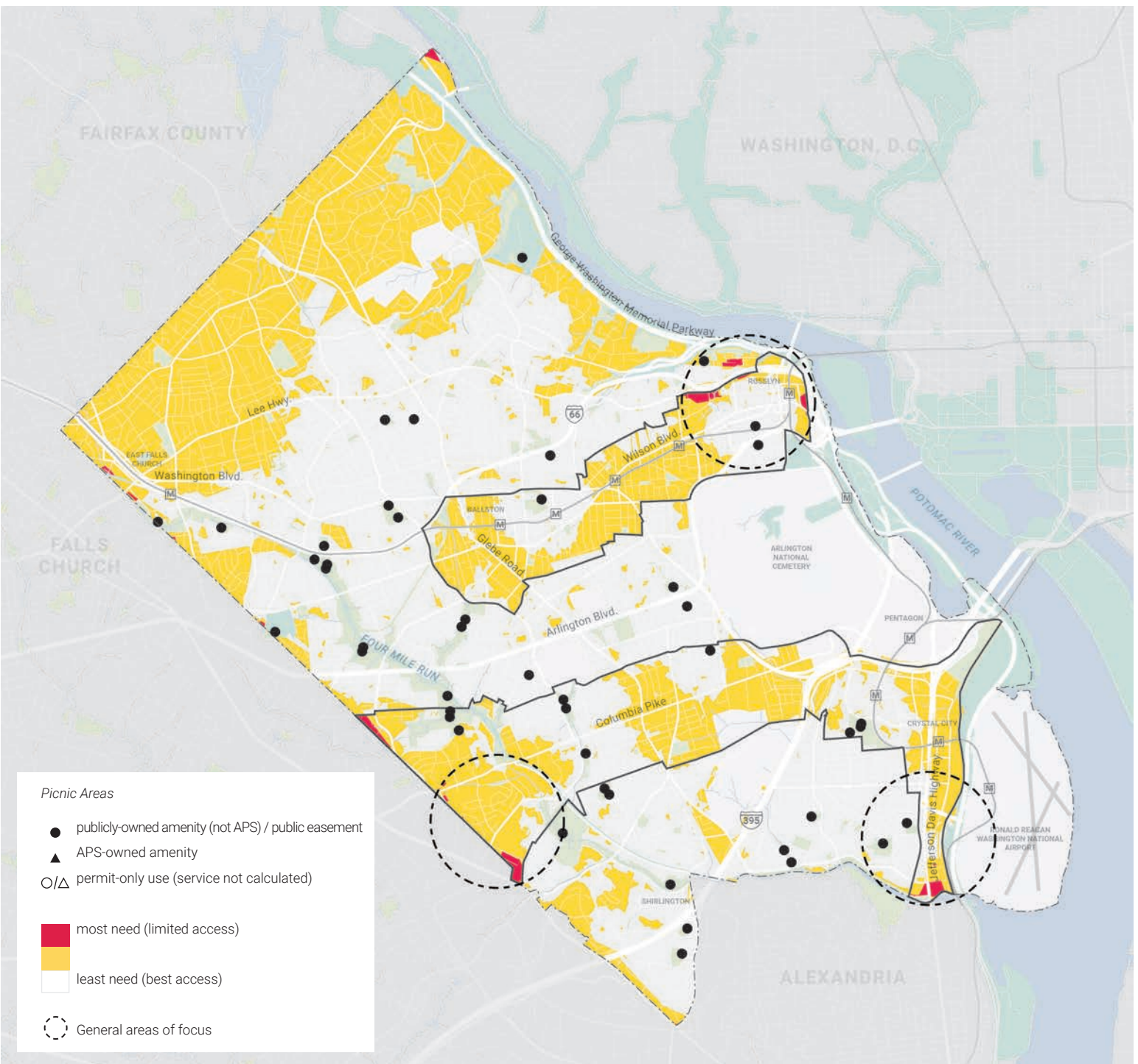


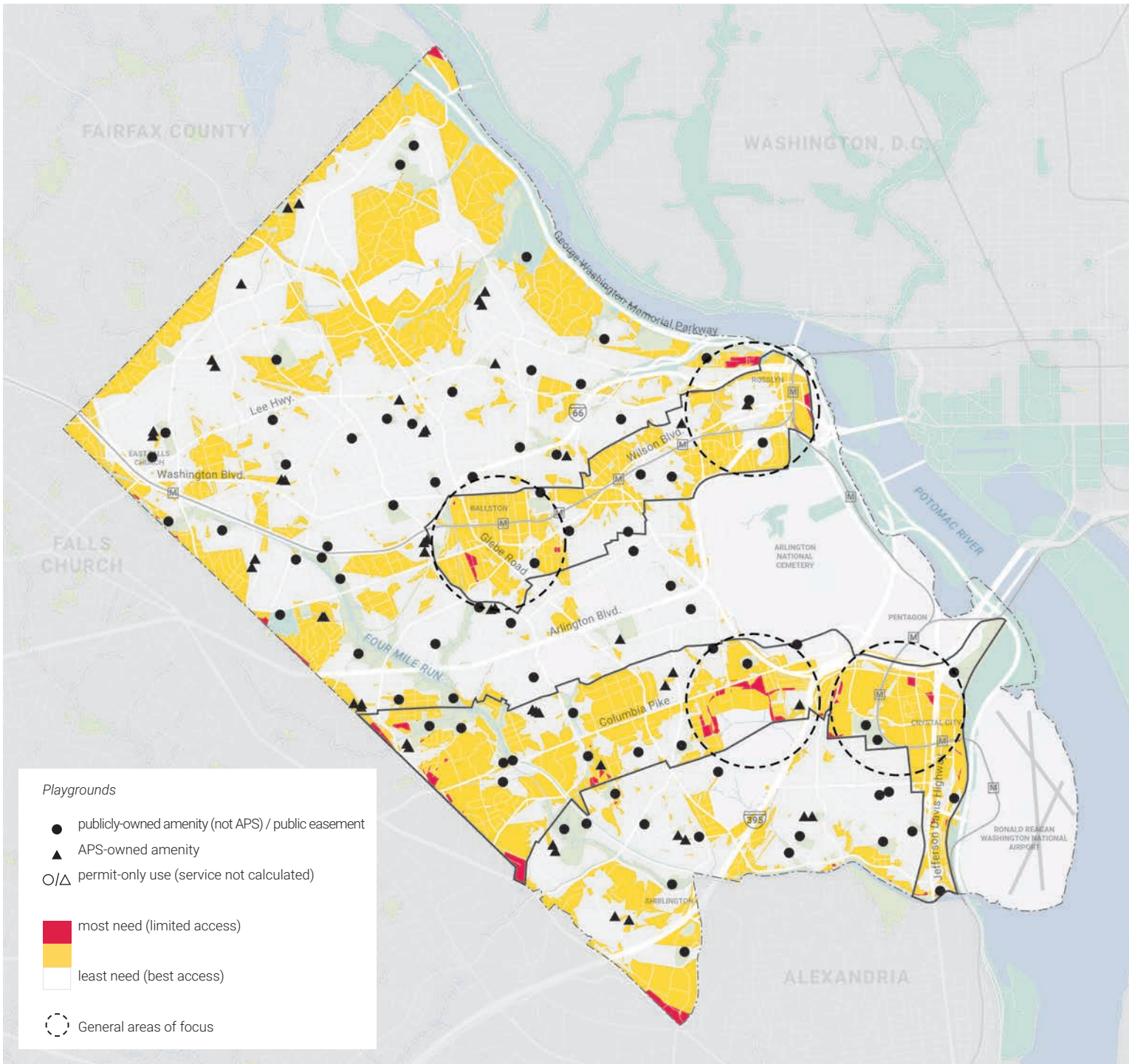




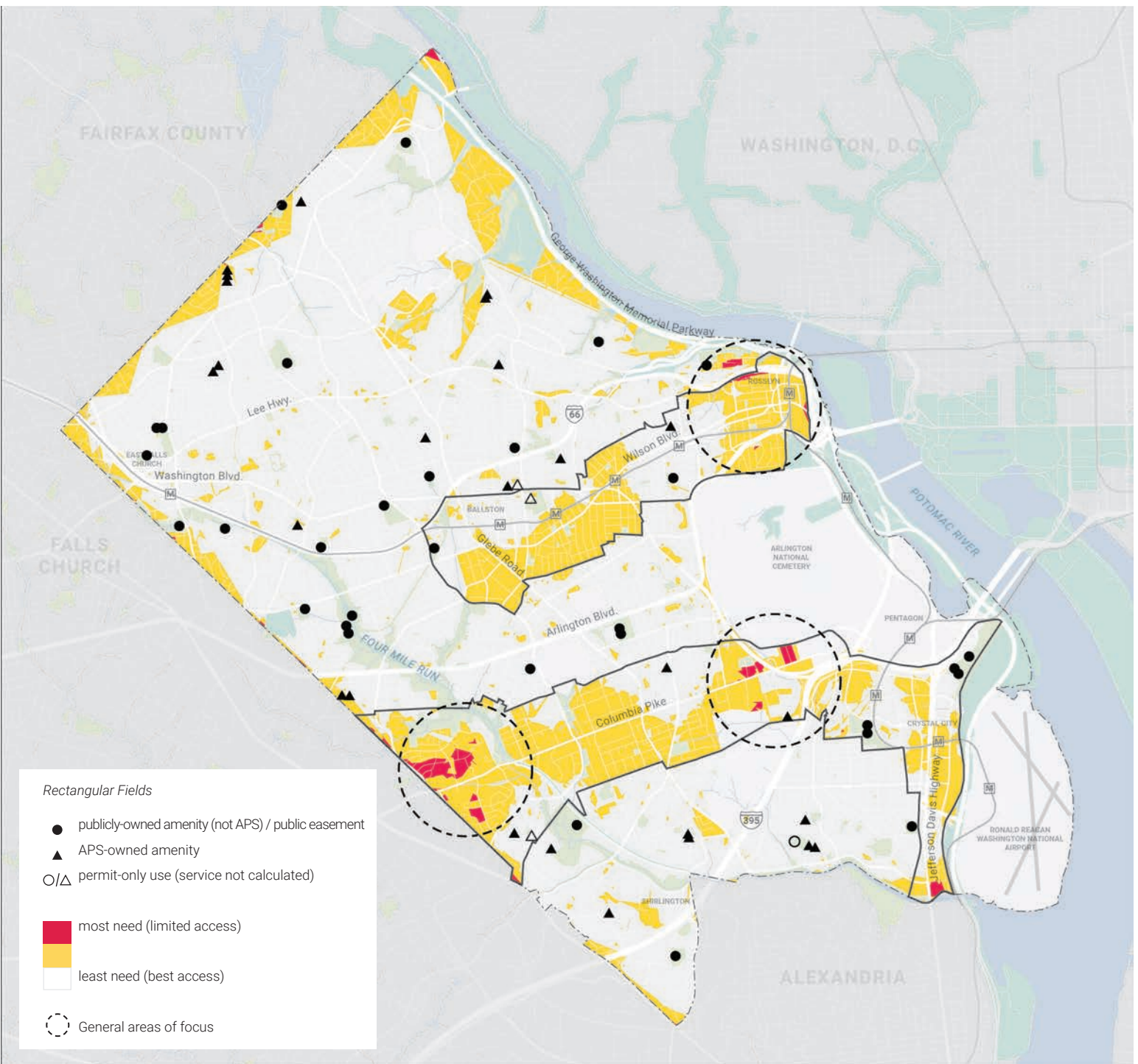




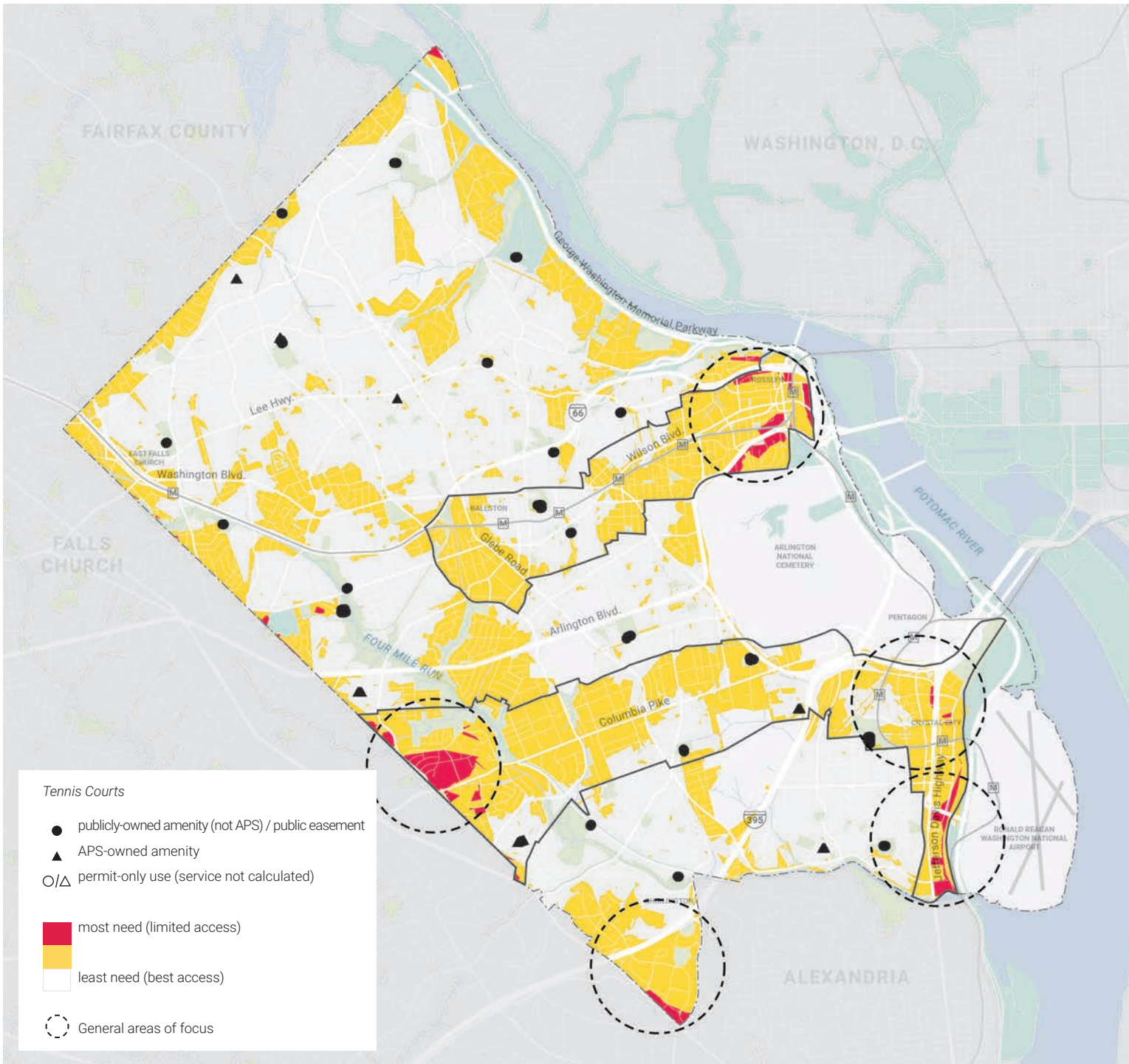


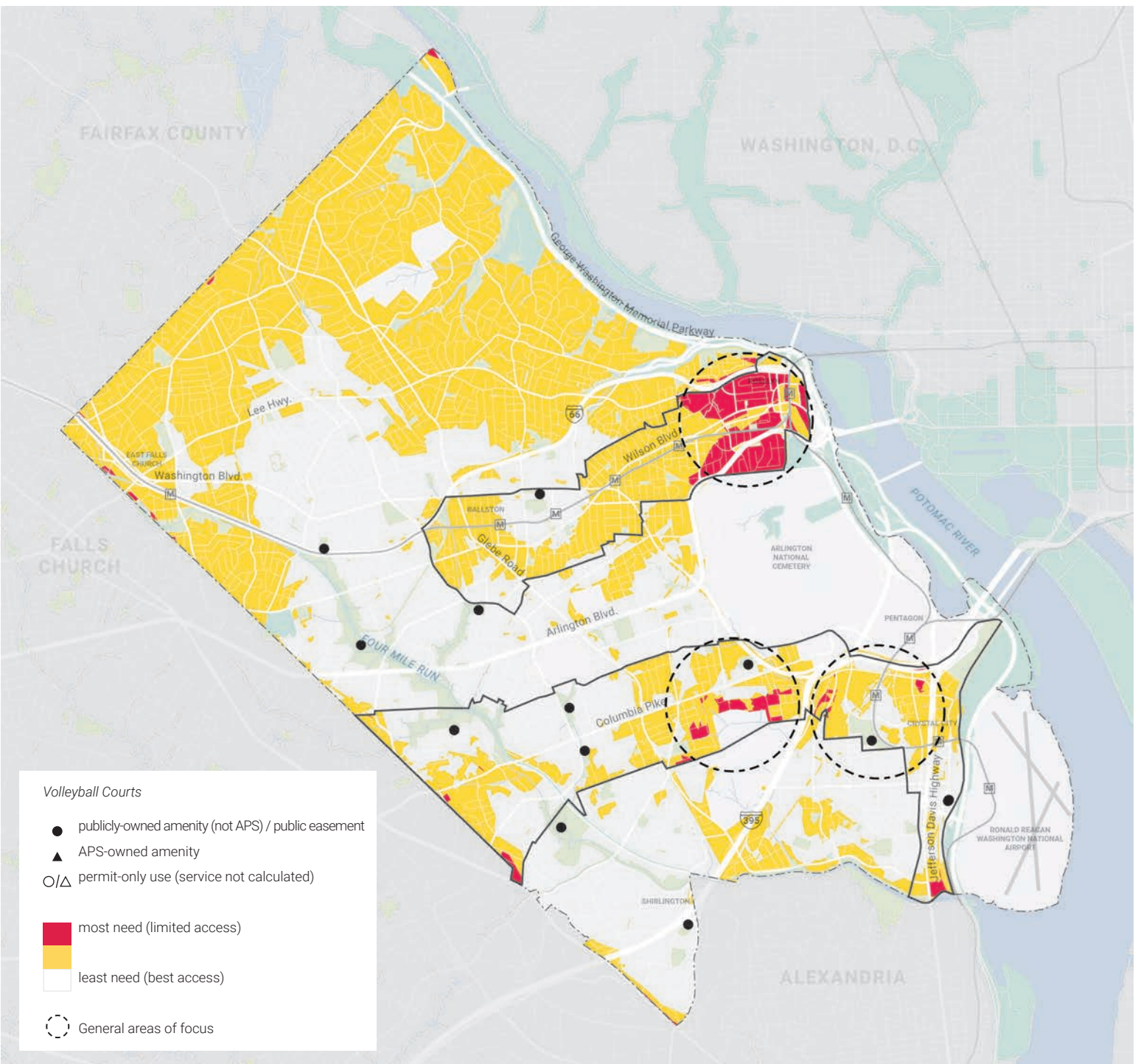










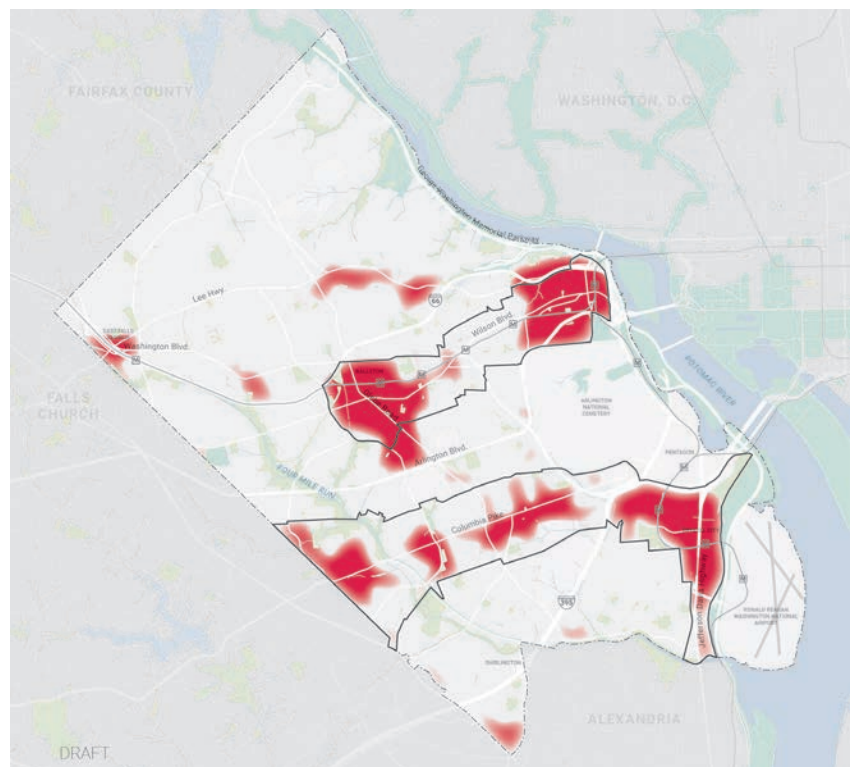




# ACCESS MAPS HOTSPOTS

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

**Figure 30. Priority investment areas**










# Fields: Synthetic Turf and Lighting

Combining Arlington’s active adult population with continued growth in the school age population results in heavy demand and a high level of scheduled and unscheduled use for County and Arlington Public School athletic fields. Level of service standards show that Arlington will need an additional 11 rectangular fields and 2 diamond fields by 2035. At roughly 2 acres needed per field, Arlington would need to identify space within existing parks or acquire 26 acres of land for new fields, which is not physically or financially practical. Increasing the number of synthetic fields, adding lights, and/or the combination of synthetic fields with lighting provides the best opportunity for the County to meet the demand (see Figure 31) by expanding the hours of play capacity of existing fields.

Arlington County was one of the first localities in the Northern Virginia area to pilot the use of synthetic fields. Since 2002 when its first full synthetic field was constructed at Gunston Park, the County has constructed 16 synthetic turf fields, with 6 additional ones planned over the next ten years. Fourteen of the current synthetic fields have lights. These fields are located both in County parks and APS middle and high school sites throughout the County. The County and APS have a long history of shared athletic facilities, with fields used for both community recreation and scholastic programs. The County also has partnerships with Marymount University at Long Bridge Park and George Washington University at Barcroft Park, and in 2018 partnered with the Arlington Sports Foundation to fund the conversion of a diamond field at Gunston Park, the County’s second, to synthetic turf.



Playing on a synthetic field  
Long Bridge Park  
Arlington County

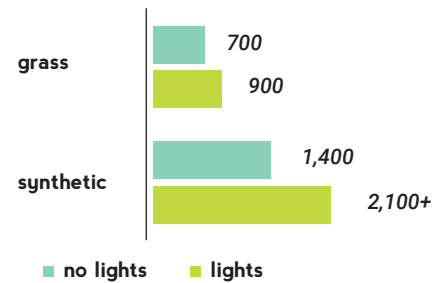
There are also some challenges facing the synthetic turf program. Two-thirds of the current synthetic fields are located south of Route 50/Arlington Boulevard, making travel time for sports participants from parts of the County a challenge. Combining lighting with synthetic fields yields a substantial benefit in the hours of play per field, yet there are only a handful of rectangular grass fields that are currently lighted that could be considered for conversion. Finally, there is increasing demand to place synthetic turf on diamond fields, not just rectangular fields.

The County's policy on synthetic conversion and lighting has continued to evolve over the years. In 2003, the Synthetic Grass Working Group was created and tasked with developing criteria that were used to identify the initial priority candidates for conversion to synthetic turf. In the 2005 PSMP, the first official guidelines for synthetic conversion were developed which called for additional field conversions and for all synthetic conversions to have lights. In 2017, the Williamsburg Field Lighting Evaluation Workgroup considered the impacts to the surrounding neighborhood of adding lights to the two new synthetic fields at the Williamsburg/Discovery campus.

Building upon these earlier efforts and the extensive community feedback received as part of this PSMP update, the following two evaluation processes have been developed, the first to identify potential sites for synthetic field conversions and creating a new field when one does not exist. The second evaluation process identifies potential sites for installation of athletic field lighting. Standards and criteria have been developed to establish transparency within each of the processes. In addition, mitigation measures have been developed for sites where athletic field lighting is identified. These two evaluation processes are distinctly separate. While it is recognized that having both synthetic turf and lights will provide the greatest number of hours of play, this PSMP does not make it a requirement that synthetic turf and lights be combined. However, where candidate sites rise to the top for both processes, they will be given the highest level of consideration for installing synthetic turf and/or lighting.

How the Evaluation Process Works: Each of the County and APS athletic fields are evaluated separately under the Synthetic Turf Criteria and Standards and the Athletic Field Lighting Criteria

Figure 31. Annual hours of play





and Standards. The fields at or near the top of each list will be given the highest priority when considering the future conversion of existing fields. The criteria and standards will also be applied to potential new field locations.

## SYNTHETIC TURF CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

Synthetic conversion criteria and standards are organized into four groups: General, Site Amenities and Investment, Environmental Context, Location and Context.

### CRITERIA

#### General

1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement: 35,000 square feet for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 square feet for combination fields?
2. Has the field been identified as a synthetic field in a County Board adopted plan?

#### Site Amenities & Investment

3. Is the field already lighted?
4. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
5. Are there existing or planned ADA accessible pathways to the field?
6. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?
7. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?

*Fields that are used for scholastic sports programs may require a higher standard of support amenities than that of the recreational level competition (i.e. at high school stadiums fields need home and away bleachers, larger restroom facilities, ticket booth, snack bar, etc.)*

*Arlington County continues to stay abreast of the latest research regarding the safety and environmental impact of synthetic turf and the latest lighting technologies, and will review standards as appropriate.*

8. Is the field used for physical education classes during the school day or at certain times during the school year?

*Fields used for physical education classes and other school day programs September through mid-June attribute approximately 450 additional hours of use per field (not including three winter months). This use is in addition to the DPR scheduled use.*

9. Does the field provide benefits for programming both youth and adult sports leagues?

### Environmental Context

10. Is the proposed field outside the dripline of existing trees or woodlands?

If the proposed project meets enough criteria to move forward, a more detailed tree evaluation would be completed to determine possible impacts.

### Location & Context

11. Is the field located in an area identified in the Level of Service (LOS) access analysis as an area where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields? (See Appendix II- Level of Service)

## STANDARDS

The following standards apply to all fields that are candidates for synthetic field conversion:

- A. If the estimated disturbance from the field installation is within 100 feet of a documented, significant natural resource feature, the project will go through the Rapid Environment Impact Review (REIR) process to determine impacts on the natural feature(s).
- B. Fields will typically be replaced every eight (8) years based on usage and GMAX tests (GMAX testing measures the shock attenuation performance of a sports surface).

## SCORING FIELDS AGAINST THE SYNTHETIC TURF CRITERIA

The following table assesses the County's athletic fields against the Criteria for synthetic turf listed on pages 197 and 198. There

# TURF BENEFITS

Based on a report from the Synthetic Turf Council, synthetic turf is designed specifically to hold up under heavy use. Synthetic turf fields have:

- Fewer weather-related cancellations
- Lower maintenance and utility costs (i.e. water)
- More consistent playing surfaces
- Year-round use
- More durability

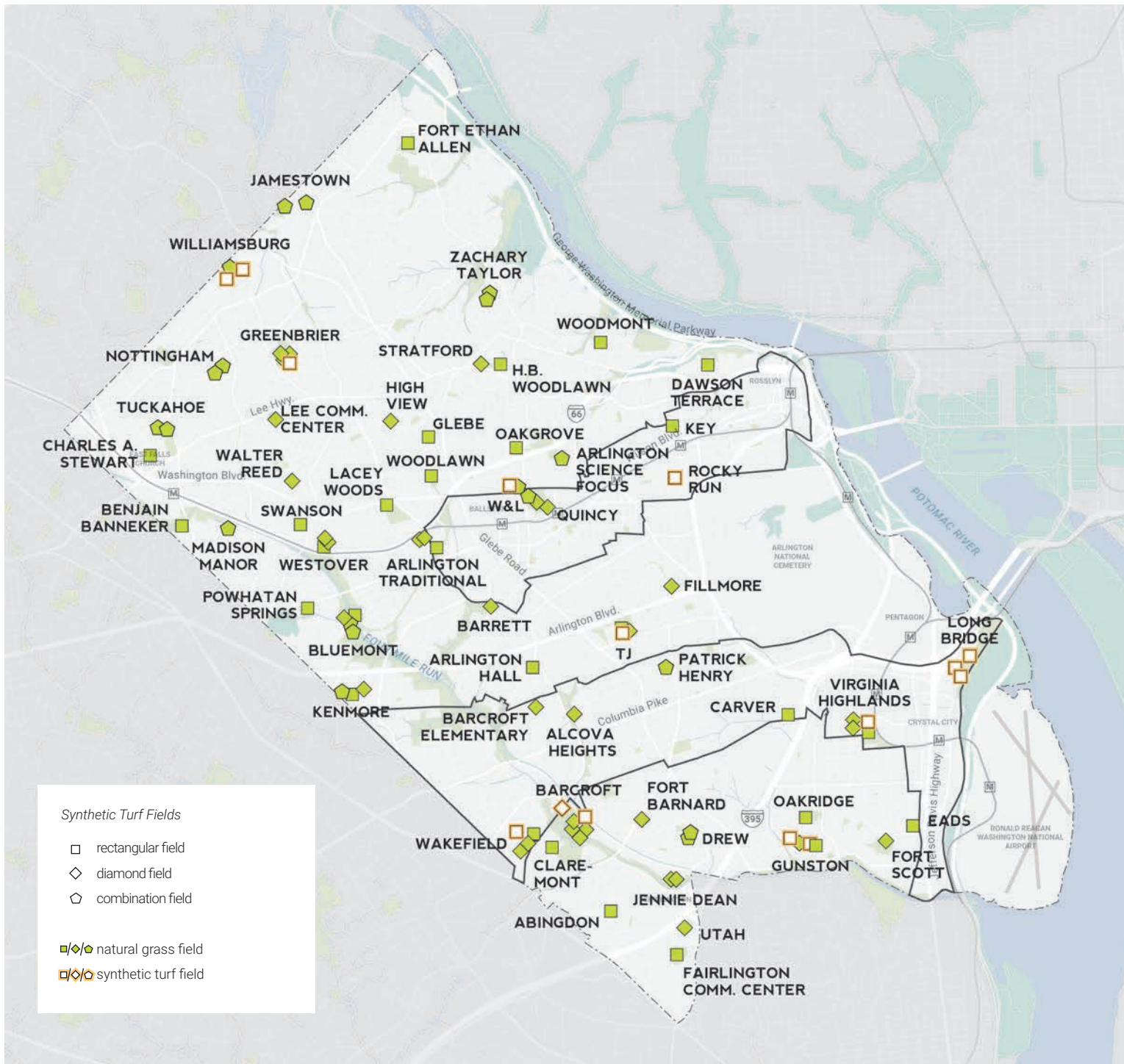


Figure 33. Grass and synthetic turf fields

are eleven total criteria, if the field satisfies a criteria, then the column is marked with a 'yes' and the field gets one point. The "Total" column sums up the number of criteria each athletic field satisfies. The athletic fields are sorted using the "Total" column, the fields with the highest score are listed first.



Table 1. Athletic Fields &amp; Synthetic Turf

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement: 35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields?	2. Has the field been identified as a synthetic field in a County Board adopted plan?	3. Is the field already lighted?	4. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
Wakefield High School - Stadium	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greenbrier Park - Stadium Synthetic Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
W&L High School - Stadium Synthetic Field	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barcroft #6 - GW Tucker Field	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greenbrier Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Gunston Park #2	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland & APS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kenmore Middle School #2	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TJ Park - Lower Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	
TJ Park - Upper Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Wakefield High School #1	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes		Yes	Yes
Barcroft #5	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greenbrier Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Greenbrier Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Kenmore Middle School #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #1	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wakefield High School #2	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes		Yes	Yes
Williamsburg Middle School #1	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes		Yes
Williamsburg Middle School #2	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes		Yes
Barcroft #4	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes

5. Are there existing or planned ADA accessible pathways to the field?	6. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	7. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	8. Is the field used for physical education classes during school day or at certain times during the school year?	9. Does the field provide benefits for programming both youth and adult sports leagues?	10. Is the proposed field outside the dripline of existing trees or woodlands?	11. Is the field located in an area identified in the Level of Service (LOS) access analysis as an area where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Total	Is the Field Already Synthetic?
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		10	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		10	Yes
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	9	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		9	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			9	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		9	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		9	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		9	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	9	
Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	8	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		8	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		8	
	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		8	
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		8	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	8	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			8	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			8	Yes
Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	7	

Table continues on next page

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement: 35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields?	2. Has the field been identified as a synthetic field in a County Board adopted plan?	3. Is the field already lighted?	4. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
Gunston Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #3	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #4	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quincy Park #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes		Yes	Yes
W&L High School - Softball Field	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes		Yes	Yes
Barcroft #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Barcroft #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Barcroft #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Gunston Park - Bubble Indoor Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Highlands Park #1	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wakefield / Chesterfield HS	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			Yes
Williamsburg Middle School #3	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes		Yes
Bluemont Park #1	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Gunston Park #3	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes		Yes	Yes
H.B. Woodlawn Middle School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			Yes
High View Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Jennie Dean Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Quincy Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Rocky Run Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia Highlands Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes



5. Are there existing or planned ADA accessible pathways to the field?	6. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	7. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	8. Is the field used for physical education classes during school day or at certain times during the school year?	9. Does the field provide benefits for programming both youth and adult sports leagues?	10. Is the proposed field outside the dripline of existing trees or woodlands?	11. Is the field located in an area identified in the Level of Service (LOS) access analysis as an area where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Total	Is the Field Already Synthetic?
Yes			Yes	Yes			7	
Yes				Yes	Yes		7	Yes
Yes				Yes	Yes		7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			7	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				7	
Yes					Yes	Yes	6	
Yes					Yes	Yes	6	
Yes					Yes	Yes	6	
Yes				Yes	Yes		6	Yes
Yes				Yes			6	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	6	
	Yes	Yes	Yes				6	
Yes		Yes		Yes			5	
			Yes	Yes			5	
	Yes	Yes	Yes				5	
Yes				Yes			5	
Yes				Yes			5	
Yes				Yes			5	
Yes					Yes		5	Yes
Yes				Yes			5	

Table continues on next page

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement: 35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields?	2. Has the field been identified as a synthetic field in a County Board adopted plan?	3. Is the field already lighted?	4. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
Virginia Highlands Park #4	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Bluemont Park #2	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Jennie Dean Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	Yes
Quincy Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland			Yes	Yes
Stratford Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Swanson Middle School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Tuckahoe Park #2	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Utah Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes		Yes	
Virginia Highlands Park #2	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Westover Park - Rectangular	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				Yes
Westover Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland				Yes
Bluemont Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Carver Community Center / Hoffman-Boston School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Charles A. Stewart Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Drew Elementary School	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Fairlington Community Center and Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Fort Scott Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Kenmore Middle School #3	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			Yes
Madison Manor Park	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
Powhatan Springs Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			Yes
TJ Park - Diamond Field	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes			

5. Are there existing or planned ADA accessible pathways to the field?	6. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	7. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	8. Is the field used for physical education classes during school day or at certain times during the school year?	9. Does the field provide benefits for programming both youth and adult sports leagues?	10. Is the proposed field outside the dripline of existing trees or woodlands?	11. Is the field located in an area identified in the Level of Service (LOS) access analysis as an area where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Total	Is the Field Already Synthetic?
Yes				Yes			5	
Yes				Yes			4	
Yes							4	
Yes				Yes			4	
Yes			Yes				4	
	Yes	Yes	Yes				4	
Yes			Yes		Yes		4	
Yes				Yes			4	
Yes				Yes			4	
Yes			Yes	Yes			4	
Yes			Yes	Yes			4	
Yes							3	
			Yes			Yes	3	
Yes					Yes		3	
			Yes	Yes			3	
Yes							3	
						Yes	3	
			Yes				3	
Yes							3	
Yes							3	
Yes			Yes				3	

Table continues on next page



Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement: 35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields?	2. Has the field been identified as a synthetic field in a County Board adopted plan?	3. Is the field already lighted?	4. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
Tuckahoe Park #1	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Westover Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland				Yes
Abingdon Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Barrett Elementary School	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Benjamin Banneker Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Bluemont Junction Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Claremont Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Dawson Terrace Community Center and Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				
Drew Elementary School - Aux. Field	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Eads Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Fields Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Fillmore Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland				
Jamestown Elementary School - Back	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes			
Jamestown Elementary School - Front	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Nottingham Elementary School #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Patrick Henry Elementary School	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Walter Reed Elementary School - Diamond Field	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Zachary Taylor Elementary School #2	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes			
Alcova Heights Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland				Yes



Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement: 35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields?	2. Has the field been identified as a synthetic field in a County Board adopted plan?	3. Is the field already lighted?	4. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
Arlington Hall West	Rectangle	Public Access Easement	Yes			
Arlington Science Focus School	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Arlington Traditional School #1	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Arlington Traditional School #2	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Barcroft Elementary School	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Glebe Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Key Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Lacey Woods Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				Yes
Lee Community Center and Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland				
Nottingham Elementary School #2	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Oak Grove Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				
Oakridge Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Zachary Taylor Elementary School #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)				
Fort Barnard Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland				
Fort Ethan Allen Park & Madison Center	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				
Woodlawn Park / Hospice	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				
Woodmont Center and Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland				



5. Are there existing or planned ADA accessible pathways to the field?	6. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	7. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	8. Is the field used for physical education classes during school day or at certain times during the school year?	9. Does the field provide benefits for programming both youth and adult sports leagues?	10. Is the proposed field outside the dripline of existing trees or woodlands?	11. Is the field located in an area identified in the Level of Service (LOS) access analysis as an area where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Total	Is the Field Already Synthetic?
							1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
							1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
Yes							1	
			Yes				1	
			Yes				1	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	

# ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTING CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

New field lighting criteria are organized into four categories: General, Site Investment and Amenities, Environmental Context, and Location and Context. If there is a basis for proposing lighting for athletic fields that are not at or near the top of the lighting conversion list or that don't meet the below standards, a proposal to provide athletic field lighting may be considered through a separate community process.

## CRITERIA

### General

1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement? (35,000 Square Feet for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 Square Feet for combination fields)
2. Has the field been identified as a lighted field in a County Board adopted plan?

### Site Amenities & Investment

3. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?
4. Are there existing or planned ADA accessible pathways to the field?
5. Does the financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?
6. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?
7. Does the field support both diamond and rectangular sports?
8. Does the field provide benefits for programming both youth and adult sports leagues?

### Environmental Context

If the proposed project meets enough criteria to move forward, a more detailed tree evaluation would be completed to determine possible impacts.

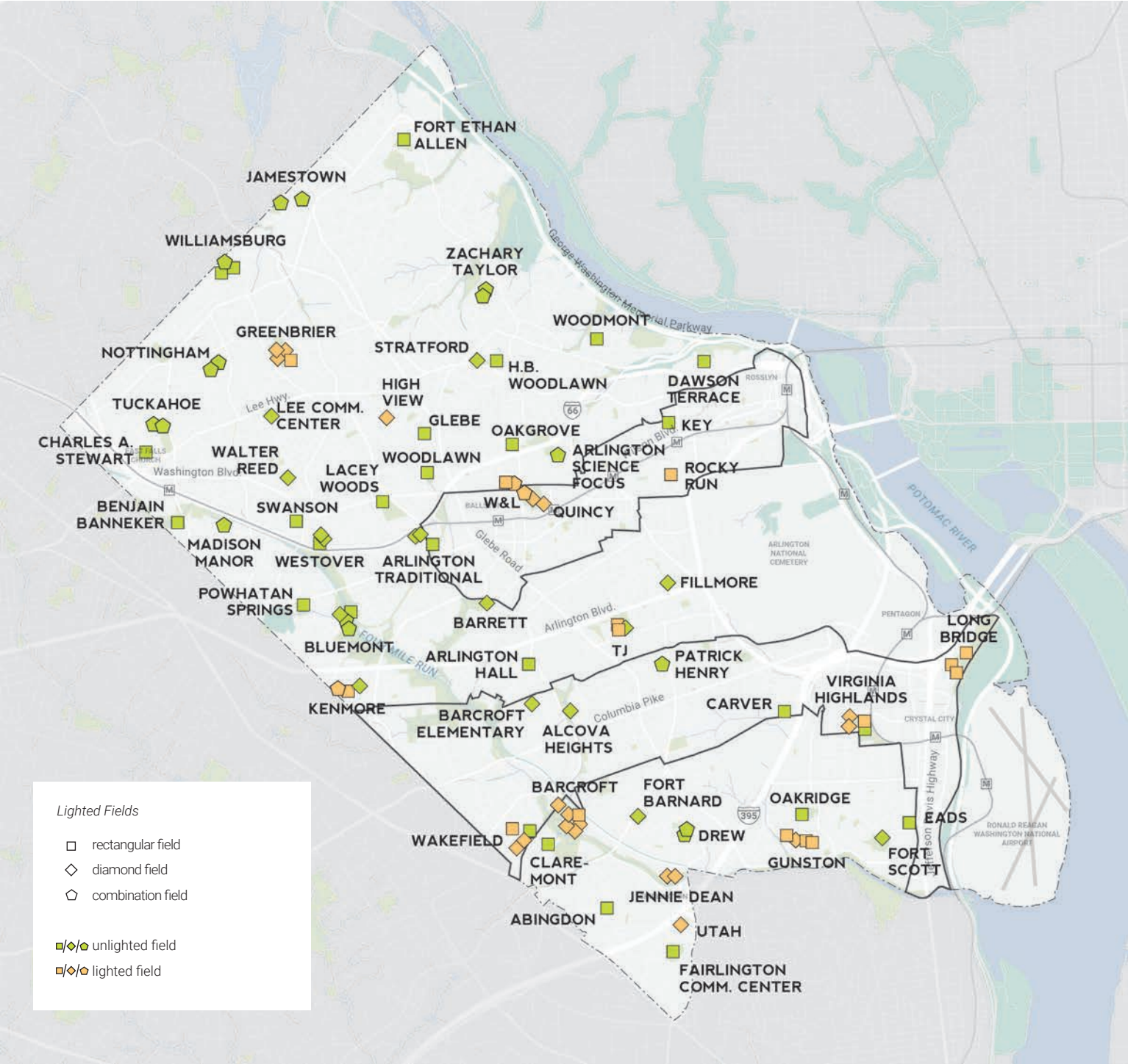


Figure 34. Unlighted and lighted fields



## Location & Context

9. Is the field located in an area identified in the POPS access analysis (LOS) as areas where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields? (See Appendix II- Level of Service)

## STANDARDS

The following standards apply to all fields that are candidates for adding new athletic field lighting:

- A. If the proposed light locations impact more than three healthy native trees over 12 inches in diameter, either by directly affecting their dripline or requiring removal for access or disturbance, tree protection mitigation measures should be implemented.
- B. If the estimated disturbance from light installation is within 100 feet of a documented, significant natural resource feature, the project will go through the Rapid Environment Impact Review (REIR) process to determine any impact on the natural feature.

Over the years, lighting technology continues to improve in terms of energy efficiency and ability to minimize spill and glare. This is particularly important, since most of Arlington's parks and fields are in residential neighborhoods. The following standards have been developed to mitigate light intrusion while providing safe play for field users and safe viewing for spectators.

- A. In residential areas, the proposed field lighting will be designed and installed to ensure less than or equal to 0.5 foot candles increase at adjacent residential property lines.
- B. LED or any other advanced lighting system should be used to achieve efficiency, light uniformity and visual comfort while minimizing light spillage. As lighting technology improves, the County will continuously review and update these standards.

# TECHNIQUES FOR TREE PRESER- VATION

- Fencing and signage to reduce damage to roots and compaction of soil
- Root pruning to reduce mechanical damage from construction outside of fenced area
- Air spading to find roots and avoid damage
- Root protection matting where no excavation is occurring
- Root growth hormone, applied after damage, to encourage root regrowth

C. Illuminance levels will adhere to the following guidelines for light source intensity or recreation, high school or stadium fields:

Illuminance Levels	Foot Candles
<b>Recreational Fields</b>	
Rectangular	30 fc.
Diamond	50 fc. Infield 30 fc. Outfield
<b>High School, College &amp; Stadium Fields</b>	
Rectangular	50 fc.
Diamond	100 fc. Infield 50 fc. Outfield

## MITIGATION MEASURES

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

- A. Glare and spill reduction techniques, such as shielding, wattages, mounting height, aiming angles, and dimming controls
- B. Design techniques, such as plantings or other physical buffers
- C. Operational techniques, such as seasonally-adjusted hours, limiting special events, staff presence, and limited use of amplification
- D. County Board approved community agreements and standing committees, regular meetings with civic associations or partner organizations to encourage continued dialogue and feedback

## SCORING FIELDS AGAINST THE LIGHTING CRITERIA

The following table assesses the County's athletic fields against the Criteria for lighting listed on pages 208 and 210. There are nine total criteria, if the field satisfies a criteria, then the column is marked with a 'yes' and the field gets one point. The "Total" column sums up the number of criteria each athletic field satisfies. The athletic fields are sorted using the "Total" column, the fields with the highest score are listed first.

Table 2. Athletic Fields &amp; Lighting

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement? (35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields)	2. Has the field been identified as a lighted field in a CB adopted plan?
Greenbrier Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Quincy Park #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes
Wakefield High School #1	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Barcroft #6 - GW Field	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Greenbrier Park - Stadium Synthetic Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Greenbrier Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Gunston Park #2	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland & APS	Yes	Yes
W&L High School - Softball Field	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes
W&L High School - Stadium Synthetic Field	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes
Wakefield High School - Stadium	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Barcroft #4	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Barcroft #5	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Bluemont Park #1	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Greenbrier Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Gunston Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
High View Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Kenmore Middle School #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes
Kenmore Middle School #2	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes
Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #1	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
TJ Park - Lower Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
TJ Park - Upper Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes



3. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?	4. Are there existing, or planned ADA accessible pathway to the field?	5. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	6. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	7. Does the field support both diamond and rectangular sports?	8. Does the field provide benefits for both youth and adult sports leagues?	9. Is the field located in an area identified in the POPS access analysis (LOS) as areas where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Lighting Total	Is the Field Already Lighted?
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		8	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		8	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		7	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	7	Yes
Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	6	Yes
Yes	Yes				Yes	Yes	6	Yes
Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		6	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				6	Yes
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		6	Yes
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		6	Yes
Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		6	Yes
Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		6	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes		6	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		6	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		6	Yes

Table continues on next page

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement? (35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields)	2. Has the field been identified as a lighted field in a CB adopted plan?
Virginia Highlands Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Virginia Highlands Park #4	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Wakefield High School #2	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Williamsburg Middle School #1	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Williamsburg Middle School #2	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Barcroft #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Barcroft #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Barcroft #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Bluemont Park #2	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Fort Scott Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Jennie Dean Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #3	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #4	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Quincy Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		Yes
Quincy Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Virginia Highlands Park #1	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Wakefield / Chesterfield HS	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Williamsburg Middle School #3	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Gunston Park #3	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	Yes
H.B. Woodlawn Middle School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Jennie Dean Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes

3. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?	4. Are there existing, or planned ADA accessible pathway to the field?	5. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	6. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	7. Does the field support both diamond and rectangular sports?	8. Does the field provide benefits for both youth and adult sports leagues?	9. Is the field located in an area identified in the POPS access analysis (LOS) as areas where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Lighting Total	Is the Field Already Lighted?
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		6	Yes
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		6	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	6	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		6	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		6	
Yes	Yes					Yes	5	Yes
Yes	Yes					Yes	5	Yes
Yes	Yes					Yes	5	Yes
Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes		5	
Yes				Yes	Yes	Yes	5	
Yes	Yes				Yes		5	Yes
Yes	Yes				Yes		5	Yes
Yes	Yes				Yes		5	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	5	
Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			5	
Yes					Yes		4	Yes
Yes		Yes	Yes				4	
Yes	Yes						4	Yes

Table continues on next page



Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement? (35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields)	2. Has the field been identified as a lighted field in a CB adopted plan?
Madison Manor Park	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Rocky Run Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		Yes
Stratford Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Utah Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	Yes
Virginia Highlands Park #2	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Bluemont Park #3	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Fairlington Community Center and Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Gunston Park - Bubble Indoor Field	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		Yes
Powhatan Springs Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Swanson Middle School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Tuckahoe Park #1	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Tuckahoe Park #2	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Westover Park - Rectangular	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		
Westover Park #2	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		
Benjamin Banneker Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Bluemont Junction Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Carver Community Center / Hoffman-Boston School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Charles A. Stewart Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Dawson Terrace Community Center and Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		
Drew Elementary School	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Eads Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	

3. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?	4. Are there existing, or planned ADA accessible pathway to the field?	5. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	6. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	7. Does the field support both diamond and rectangular sports?	8. Does the field provide benefits for both youth and adult sports leagues?	9. Is the field located in an area identified in the POPS access analysis (LOS) as areas where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Lighting Total	Is the Field Already Lighted?
Yes	Yes			Yes			4	
Yes	Yes				Yes		4	Yes
Yes	Yes			Yes			4	
	Yes				Yes		4	Yes
Yes	Yes				Yes		4	
Yes	Yes						3	
Yes	Yes						3	
Yes	Yes						3	Yes
Yes	Yes						3	
		Yes	Yes				3	
	Yes			Yes			3	
	Yes			Yes			3	
Yes	Yes				Yes		3	
Yes	Yes				Yes		3	
	Yes						2	
	Yes						2	
						Yes	2	
	Yes						2	
	Yes					Yes	2	
				Yes			2	
	Yes						2	

Table continues

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement? (35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields)	2. Has the field been identified as a lighted field in a CB adopted plan?
Fields Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Jamestown Elementary School - Back	Combination	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Jamestown Elementary School - Front	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Kenmore Middle School #3	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Nottingham Elementary School #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
TJ Park - Diamond Field	Diamond	County Owned Parkland	Yes	
Walter Reed Elementary School - Diamond Field	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Westover Park #1	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		
Zachary Taylor Elementary School #2	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Alcova Heights Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		
Arlington Hall West	Rectangle	Public Access Easement	Yes	
Claremont Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Drew Elementary School - Aux. Field	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Fillmore Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		
Fort Barnard Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		
Lacey Woods Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		
Oak Grove Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		
Patrick Henry Elementary School	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)	Yes	
Zachary Taylor Elementary School #1	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		



3. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?	4. Are there existing, or planned ADA accessible pathway to the field?	5. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	6. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	7. Does the field support both diamond and rectangular sports?	8. Does the field provide benefits for both youth and adult sports leagues?	9. Is the field located in an area identified in the POPS access analysis (LOS) as areas where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Lighting Total	Is the Field Already Lighted?
	Yes						2	
				Yes			2	
				Yes			2	
Yes							2	
				Yes			2	
	Yes						2	
	Yes			Yes			2	
Yes	Yes						2	
				Yes			2	
Yes							1	
							1	
						Yes	1	
							1	
	Yes						1	
				Yes			1	
Yes							1	
	Yes						1	
							1	
				Yes			1	

Table continues on next page

Field Name	Field Shape	Site	1. Does the field meet the minimum size requirement? (35,000 SqFt for rectangular & diamond & 65,000 SqFt for combination fields)	2. Has the field been identified as a lighted field in a CB adopted plan?
Abingdon Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Arlington Science Focus School	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Arlington Traditional School #1	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Arlington Traditional School #2	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Barcroft Elementary School	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Barrett Elementary School	Diamond	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Fort Ethan Allen Park & Madison Center	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		
Glebe Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Key Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Lee Community Center and Park	Diamond	County Owned Parkland		
Nottingham Elementary School #2	Combination	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Oakridge Elementary School	Rectangle	Arlington Public Schools (APS)		
Woodlawn Park / Hospice	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		
Woodmont Center and Park	Rectangle	County Owned Parkland		

3. Does the site have existing or planned restroom facilities that are permanent structures or attached to buildings with an exterior facing entrance?	4. Are there existing, or planned ADA accessible pathway to the field?	5. Does a financial (cost sharing) partnership with APS or another partner exist?	6. Is the field used for scholastic sports programs?	7. Does the field support both diamond and rectangular sports?	8. Does the field provide benefits for both youth and adult sports leagues?	9. Is the field located in an area identified in the POPS access analysis (LOS) as areas where access gaps exist for rectangular or diamond fields?	Lighting Total	Is the Field Already Lighted?
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	
							0	

Data source: Arlington County







## APPENDIX III. SPECIFIC POLICIES

# Dog Parks & Dog Runs

## BACKGROUND

Since the late 1980's Arlington has recognized the needs and desires of a significant portion of the community for off-leash Dog Parks. The first off-leash Dog Parks were established in 1986, and Arlington's first fenced Dog Park was established at Utah Park in 1997. The Utah Dog Park was a pilot program and made use of the first partnership with a sponsor group, FAIR Dogs. The success of Arlington's Dog Parks has been based on partnerships with sponsor groups, who are responsible for communicating the rules of conduct to Dog Park users, monitoring use, receiving and sharing complaints with park management, and assisting in and reporting maintenance needs.

Since the first fenced off-leash Dog Park at Utah Park, all of Arlington's Dog Parks have been fenced, with the exception of the one at Glencarlyn Park. The table on the following page provides an inventory of Arlington's eight current Dog Parks. They range in size from 12,500 ft<sup>2</sup> to 109,500 ft<sup>2</sup>. Five of the eight are lighted.

What has emerged over the last decade is the need for smaller areas for off-leash dogs, particularly in the high density urban corridors. This plan makes a distinction between the County's traditional, destination-oriented Dog Parks and a new category of smaller, more localized Dog Runs. Dog Parks and Dog Runs have different standards and requirements, which are detailed separately under each type of dog area. This Public Spaces Master Plan recommends that the County consider reviewing and revising its Zoning Ordinance and other regulations to allow Dog Parks and Dog Runs on privately owned properties, with or without public access easements.

Stopping for a drink  
Fort Barnard Dog Park  
Arlington County

	Inventory of Existing Dog Parks:							
	Benjamin Banneker	Fort Barnard	Fort Ethan Allen	Glencarlyn	James Hunter	Shirlington	Towers	Utah
<b>Size</b>	22,600 ft <sup>2</sup>	22,800 ft <sup>2</sup>	22,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	14,000 ft <sup>2</sup>	15,500 ft <sup>2</sup>	109,500 ft <sup>2</sup>	25,500 ft <sup>2</sup>	12,500 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Capacity (450ft<sup>2</sup>/dog)</b>	50	51	50	31	34	243	57	28
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Siting Process</b>	Original site	2000	2004	Original site	2007	Original site	Original site	1997
<b>Fencing</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Ground Cover</b>	Crushed stone	Mulch	Crushed stone	Natural sand and pebbles	Natural sand, crushed stone, artificial turf	Crushed stone and mulch	Crushed stone and mulch	Crushed stone
<b>Parking</b>	Off-street	On-street	Off-street	Off-street	On-street	Off-street	Off-street	On-street

By current County ordinance all dogs must be on a leash and under the control of their owner or other responsible person unless they are at one of the County-sanctioned, off-leash Dog Parks identified in Table #1. Dogs are not allowed on athletic fields, athletic courts or playgrounds.

The Population-Based Level of Service identifies the need for three additional Dog Parks by the year 2035. New Dog Parks and Dog Runs should be sited outside Resource Protection Areas and should not be located in or adjacent to natural areas, streams, cultural resources or recreation programmed areas. No Level of Service has been established for Dog Runs, although that could be considered in the future during the next PSMP update. Creating dog runs would help meet some of the need for additional dog parks in Arlington.

**Figure 35. Number of dogs licensed in Arlington County**

Year	Number	Percent Change
2010	3,327	-
2015	3,882	17% increase
2017	4,572	18% increase

## DOG PARKS

Currently, Arlington has eight Dog Parks at Benjamin Banneker Park, Fort Barnard, Fort Ethan Allen Park, Glencarlyn Park, James Hunter Park, Shirlington Dog Park, Towers Park, and Utah Park. This equates to one (1) dog park for every 27,695 residents. The recommended Level of Service is one (1) Dog Park for every 25,000 residents. In order to meet the recommended Level of Service over the next twenty years, Arlington needs to add three additional Dog Parks to its inventory. Based on the geographic distribution of existing Dog Parks, the highest level of need is in the southeast part of the County.



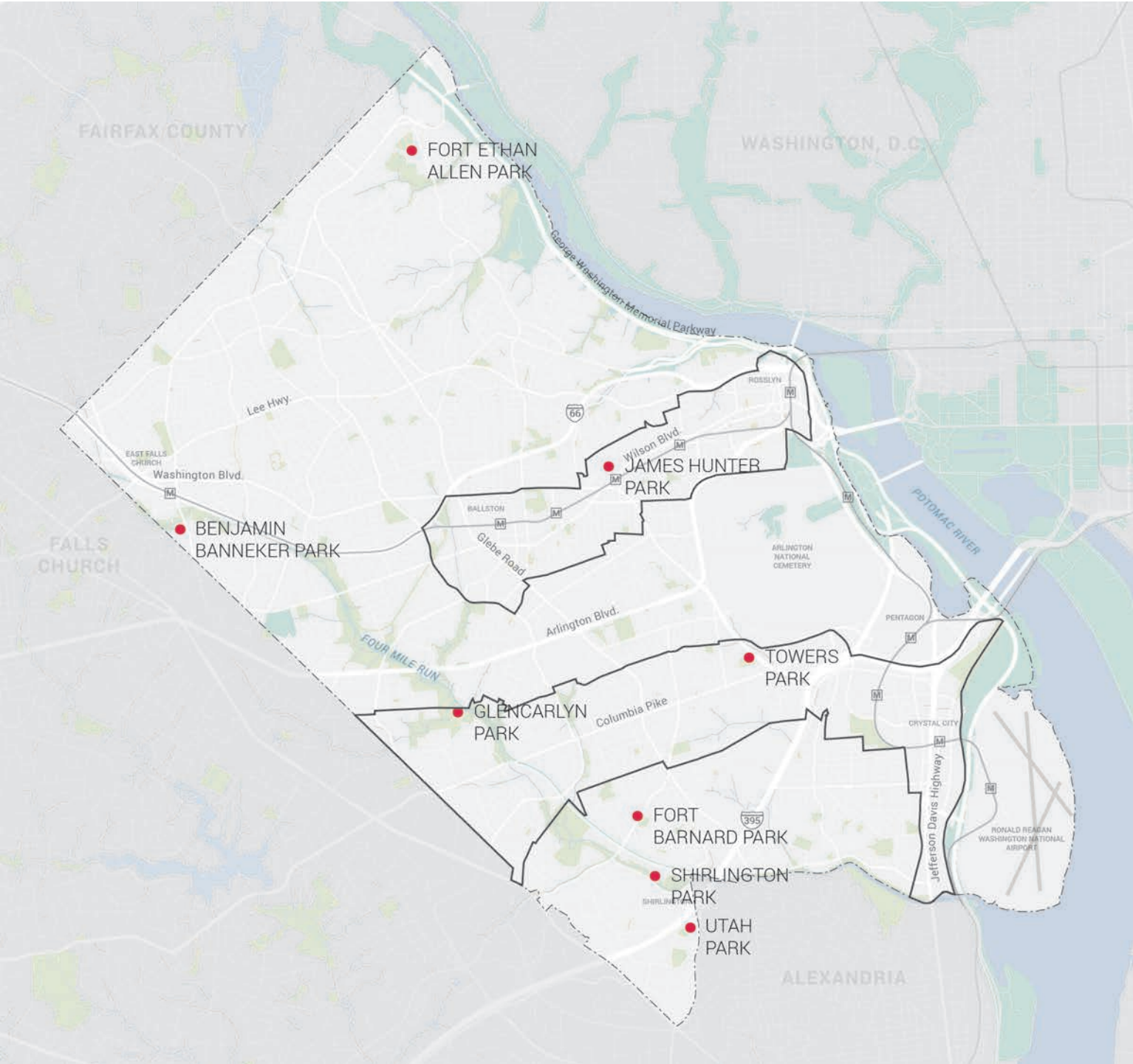


Figure 36. Existing Dog Parks

# STANDARDS FOR DOG PARKS

Standards for Dog Parks:	
<b>Size</b>	Minimum 10,000 ft <sup>2</sup> Optimal size is 25,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
<b>Hours (lighted)</b>	7 days per week, sunrise to posted hours (varies by Dog Park)
<b>Hours (unlighted)</b>	7 days per week, sunrise to one-half hour after sunset
<b>Location</b>	Public property; does not adversely impact significant natural or cultural resources
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Requires a signed agreement with a sponsor group
<b>Surface Material</b>	Synthetic turf/artificial grass, decomposed granite/gravel, sand, or a combination of these materials with appropriate drainage and storm water management
<b>Standard Amenities</b>	Fencing (6'), double gates, water source for dogs and humans, shade, benches, signage, trash and recycling receptacles, dog waste receptacle, information board, small storage shed
<b>Additional Recommended Amenities</b>	Separate areas for small dogs, lighting, visual screening as necessary, dog play elements
<b>User Requirements</b>	All dogs must wear a collar with tags indicating current registration/ license and current vaccination

## DOG RUNS

Dog Runs are a new category of dog areas and are intended to augment the larger destination-oriented Dog Parks by positioning smaller, more localized areas in the County's high density urban corridors. The County has nine unique urban villages where the land use densities are concentrated near Metro stations and other urban transit opportunities (Ballston, Clarendon, Columbia Pike, Courthouse, Crystal City, Pentagon City, Rosslyn, Shirlington, and Virginia Square). Residents in these urban villages may not own cars and access to private yards is limited or unavailable, creating the demand for places to take dogs for physical relief and exercise. The County's parks and other public spaces within these urban villages also tend to be smaller in size, making it difficult to site the larger Dog Parks (although the County's largest Dog Park is located in Shirlington and there is a Dog Park in Clarendon).

# STANDARDS FOR DOG RUNS

Standards for Dog Runs:	
Size	Minimum 2,000 ft <sup>2</sup>
Hours (lighted)	7 days per week, sunrise to 10pm
Hours (unlighted)	7 days per week, sunrise to one-half hour after sunset
Location	Public property; does not adversely impact significant natural or cultural resources
Sponsorship	No sponsor group is required
Surface Material	Synthetic turf/artificial grass
Standard Amenities	Fencing (6'), water source for dogs and humans, signage, trash and recycling receptacles, dog waste receptacle, information board
Additional Recommended Amenities	Lighting, dog play elements, shade, benches, small storage shed
User Requirements	All dogs must wear a collar with tags indicating current registration/ license and current vaccination

## PLANNING PROCESS FOR NEW DOG PARKS AND DOG RUNS (ON PUBLICLY OWNED LAND)

New locations for Dog Parks and Dog Runs can be considered during a formally established park master planning process for an individual park or suggested to DPR for consideration. All potential locations will go through an initial evaluation based on the standards established in this Appendix and policies and procedures identified in DPR's Operating Memorandum for Dog Parks and Dog Runs. If the location is deemed to fit within the criteria, funding would need to be identified and a public engagement process would need to take place.







# Design Guidelines

## DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY'S PRIVATELY-OWNED PUBLIC SPACES

Privately Owned Public Spaces are a unique type of privately owned and maintained property which the public has the right to use and enjoy. These spaces are often created as part of a developers' contribution in realizing an overall vision for public amenities in the area in return for increased density. They are an integral element of the public space system, and, if designed and developed appropriately, they can provide a place for leisure and recreation in higher density areas and complement the system of publicly owned spaces.

As Arlington continues to grow, the County will increasingly rely on these privately-owned public spaces to help meet the need for public spaces of existing and future residents. When intentionally envisioned, designed, and programmed, rather than the "left over" spaces on a site after the building has been located, they can significantly improve the public realm. ***The purpose of these design guidelines is to provide direction on the design and function of these spaces. The guidelines are meant to be used in coordination with other applicable County policies and regulations with the goal of achieving safe, accessible, comfortable and enjoyable spaces for everyone.*** The design guidelines cover six key areas found on the following page.

Enjoying a concert outdoors  
Pentagon Row Plaza  
Arlington County

1. Planning and Layout
2. Access and Circulation
3. User Comfort
4. Landscaping
5. Amenities
6. Signage

## 1. Planning and Layout

The location, configuration, character and programming of privately-owned public spaces should be considered early in the planning process. Consideration should be given to proposed uses, functions, and connections to the surrounding area.

### Size

- Large enough to provide meaningful and comfortable space for the users and can be used for a variety of leisure and/or recreational activities.
- Provide opportunities for casual use, play, social interaction and education

### Location

- Visible and accessible from the street, sidewalk, or a pedestrian walkway. Accessible from the front or primary face of the development.
- Provide connections to existing or planned nearby public spaces.

### Configuration/ Shape

- Most of the total area of the public space should be contiguous and regular in shape (i.e. square, rectangular, etc.).
- Minor areas can be irregular in shape creating space for social niches, landscaping, or serving as transition zones to adjacent spaces or buildings.

### Program

Successful privately owned public spaces can augment the system of publicly owned spaces by providing a variety of opportunities for interaction, casual use and recreation and by encouraging the public to use them. When designing these spaces, the following uses or a combination of uses should be considered in the program for the space:



- Activity oriented uses could include dog runs, playgrounds or play features, athletic courts, opportunities for picnicking, interactive play, urban gardening, etc.
- Casual use spaces should be encouraged and designed intentionally to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature. (See 1.3.)

The list of uses is not exhaustive, and other uses may be considered if approved by the County.

### Public Safety

- Visibility into and throughout the space to create a sense of openness and safety.
- Unobstructed pathways with clear sightlines at all access points to increase public safety.
- Avoid dead-ends and areas that are not highly visible.

### Views

- Consider sightlines and views from the site, including distant views to landmarks, public art, significant buildings or adjacent public spaces.
- Architectural and mechanical elements should not be placed within or in front of these spaces.
- Mechanical elements should be located and or integrated within the buildings envelope, away from public view areas and away from pedestrian walkways and key access routes.
- Where necessary, provide screening with architectural and or landscape elements.

## 2. Access and Circulation

- Direct and unobstructed access to public streets or walkways to help users understand that these spaces are publicly-accessible.
- Universal access to ensure that they are accessible for everyone regardless of age and ability.
- Minimize changes in grade from the public street frontage and within the space.
- Have a minimum of two public entry and exit points to ensure ease of access and safety.
- Connect circulation paths to public street frontages, building entrances and main features within and ensure that they are wide enough to provide sufficient space for passing.
- Minimize curb cuts and locate parking access to reduce impacts on transit, bicycles, and pedestrian circulation.

- Coordinate pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular movements to prevent conflicts and ensure safety and convenience.

### 3. User Comfort

#### Sunlight Exposure

- Provide shade in areas with high solar exposure with buildings, trees, or other architectural or landscape structures.
- Locate spaces within areas with sufficient natural sunlight and encourage south-facing placement.
- Conduct sun/shadow studies during the design phase to determine the positive or negative impacts of surrounding architectural and landscape features (existing and future).

#### Lighting

- Create an attractive, welcoming and safe place.
- Minimize light pollution by utilizing full cut-off lights or timers where possible.
- Utilize lighting to light circulation paths or to help animate the space at night.
- Where lighting is considered a site or landscape amenity ensure that light is directed away from residential units.
- Encourage sustainable and solar lighting opportunities.

#### Weather Considerations

- Accommodate year-round use
- Consider site orientation to optimize natural wind flow to create a comfortable and cool environment.
- Prevent excessive wind gusts with the use of built and or natural windbreaks.
- Encourage the use of a variety of structures to provide protection from inclement weather.

#### Noise

- Design to reduce excessive external noises.
- Consider using water features, landscape elements and landforms to mask excessive noise while creating a soothing environment.

# PLANT BENEFITS

*Plant materials could help improve air quality, provide shade and cooling, absorb storm water, contribute to carbon sequestration and overall tree canopy. They can also provide habitat for native wildlife, and an opportunity to increase overall biodiversity, mitigate the effects of urban heat island and climate change, and allow for remediation of soils.*

## 4. Landscaping

Landscapes should strike the right balance between a lush, diverse softscape and durable hardscape to make these spaces functional vegetated urban oases. These spaces can allow for a respite or transition within the urban fabric as well as a connection to natural elements.

Plant species should be of local and regional origin and not be considered a threat or invasive to Arlington or the region. Plants should be considered for aesthetic and functional qualities and be sited for appropriate conditions. Plant typology should consider the use of trees, shade and understory, shrubs, evergreens, ornamental herbaceous (grasses/perennials) and bulbs for an overall positive environmental and aesthetic impact.

### Trees

- Tree canopy should be maximized in the space, with evolving standards and technologies in soil volume taken into account, to provide shade, connection with nature, and environmental benefits.
- Consult other applicable County policies and regulations prior to creating a tree planting plan.
- Select trees to suit the site conditions and context to ensure long-term sustainable growth.
- Provide understory plantings to provide a full vertical canopy, and cover bare soil.
- Ensure adequate maintenance, including regular inspections, watering, and tree care following current ANSI standards.

### Grass

- Use turf grass in larger, open sun areas that are planned for recreational or casual uses or to break up heavily paved or garden areas.
- Consider artificial turf and surfaces in high pedestrian and activity zones.

### Planter Beds

- Should be either flush to ground or raised 18-24" above finished grade to create additional seating opportunities and stormwater mitigation.
- Potted plants or elevated beds are encouraged where soil access is limited.
- Integrate planting within architectural and structural elements when possible.



## Soils

- Streetscape, planter and landscape bed soils should follow best practices and policies as identified in the County landscape and urban forestry standards to ensure healthy, uncompacted soils for optimal plant and root growth.
- Provide structural support for uncompacted soils via continuous soil panels, or structural cells or newer techniques for soil expansion.

## Hardscape

- Encourage paving in high traffic areas, paths and in spaces planned for large scale and high use events.
- Paving materials should be of high quality and durable.
- Use paving to create a hierarchy of pedestrian circulation and use, emphasizing entrances edges and pedestrian and vehicular areas. Paving patterns and access points should reflect contextual patterns and access.

## 5. Amenities

Amenities should be of high-quality and durable materials to ensure safety and minimize maintenance needs.

- Rely on the scale and program of the space to inform the type and quantity of amenities that are provided. For example, a small plaza would not warrant the same provision of amenities that a large plaza would.
- Use seating and amenities to define spaces, ensure an open spatial quality that does not obstruct circulation while, at the same time, provide visual access to encourage use and enhance safety.
- Provide individual and group recreational amenities to encourage physical activity for a variety of ages and groups, including courts, play areas or game boards. Design for opportunities for immersive experiences of nature and varied, challenging, and stimulating play elements.
- Where appropriate, kiosks or other convenience outlets may be considered with amenities such as charging stations, water fountains, etc.
- Identify where additional amenities may be appropriate for the intended programming of the space. The need for specific items such as play structures or dog fountains and infrastructure such as electrical outlets, will be dictated by the public space and building programs.

# AMENITIES

*Provide amenities for pets, in particular places for dogs to exercise and eliminate waste. The provision of these facilities should be considered on a site by site basis, but will be especially important as part of residential developments that allow dogs. Other amenities that may be included are waste receptacles and dog drinking fountains (See Appendix III for Dog Run Standards).*

## Seating

The provision of abundant, well-designed, and comfortable seating is one of the most critical elements of public space design. Designers should carefully consider the variety, dimensions, location, and configuration of seating with the intent to maximize opportunities for comfortable and convenient seating that emphasizes social interaction.

- Seating should be located throughout the space in the shade and the sun, quiet and active areas and there should be a variety of seating types to cater to different uses, age groups and physical abilities.
- Include seating and tables, including ADA accessible furnishings, in a variety of ways for people to sit in singular, small or large groups. Social seating – seats that are located in close proximity to one another and in configurations that facilitate social interaction – are a basic seating arrangement that should be provided across all seating types wherever possible.
- Devices incorporated into seating that are intended to prevent damage caused by skateboards and rollerblades are generally permitted. Such deterrents are required to be spaced at least 5 feet apart from one another, be constructed of high-quality materials that are integrated with the seating design, and should not inhibit seating.

## Bicycle Parking

- Bike racks should be included directly adjacent but not within/inside the space.

## Public Art

- The County's Public Art Master Plan, a supporting document to this plan, provides further guidance for public art commissioned by developers for public spaces.
- Public art can be incorporated into the design of public space and should have a clear, positive impact on the quality of the space, be visibly accessible and enhance the daily experience.
- Public art can create meaningful connections between people and public spaces and make them more distinct and memorable.
- When appropriate, create functional or interactive elements as public art such as benches, play elements, water features, shade structures, light poles, bike racks, etc.

### Stormwater Features

- Integrate stormwater management features as an interactive, educational and recreational/play amenity.

### Water Features

- Plan water features to ensure that the initial expenditure, ongoing maintenance costs, and water usage/ environmental impacts are considered and justified.
- Locate water features in public locations with high foot-traffic to yield the greatest public benefit.
- Design interactive water features so that they are accessible
- Design non-interactive water features with subtle physical barriers (such as plantings) or visual cues that signal to people they are meant to enjoy but not touch the water. Avoid barriers that are uninviting or take away from the experience of the fountain, such as tall fences or walls.
- Design water features to reduce environmental impacts:
  - Maximize water reuse and recirculated water instead of fresh water to the greatest extent possible.
  - Minimize energy use.

### Services for Public Use

- A variety of public space amenities should be considered: drinking fountains, Wi-Fi, phone charging points, outlet connections.
- Litter and recycling receptacles and other furnishings should comply with urban design and streetscape furnishing standards.

## 6. Signage

Signage should be clear, visible, standardized, and readable to identify the space as accessible to the public.

### Location

- Signage should be installed at a highly visible and fixed location near the main entrance of the public space, preferably adjacent to the public sidewalk or other public spaces, where the highest level of pedestrian traffic is anticipated.

## DISCOURAGE

*Deterrents to seating, such as spikes, rails, or deliberately uncomfortable materials or shapes, placed on surfaces that would otherwise be suitable for seating are discouraged within public plazas. These types of devices can be seen throughout existing plazas and compromise the usability and public nature of these spaces.*



- Ensure signage is integrated into the design.
- Ensure signage is not obstructed by landscaping or other free standing elements.
- Signage should comply with current standard site plan conditions and County policy.

### Content

The sign should contain the following information:

1. Open to public statement
2. Hours of operation
3. Contact information
4. Arlington County logo
5. Entry signs should include the name and address of the privately owned public space
6. Rules signs should be consistent with County rules and regulations

### Material

- Signage must be constructed of highly durable materials such as metal or stone that are fully opaque and non-reflective.
- Signage should be integrated with other signage within the development, and in the same vicinity where possible to reduce visual clutter.







# Existing Public Spaces & Amenities

The County currently tracks public spaces and the location of recreational amenities using Geographic Information System (GIS) software in combination with aerial photos, land records, construction drawings, and visual inspections. The public space inventory will be updated periodically and the County will continue to review and refine the current inventory using the most up-to-date data available. The data presented may change based on new information or changes to site conditions.

A photograph of a forest trail. In the foreground, there are two wooden benches made of logs, positioned on a gravel path. The path leads into a forest of tall, thin trees with green foliage. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and gravel.

A meeting point along the trail  
Lacey Woods Trail  
Arlington County



# INVENTORY OF AMENITIES

Amenities	Number	Notes
Playgrounds		
Playgrounds	127	Located on County owned parkland, Arlington Public School property, NOVA Parks, or lands with public access easements.
Spraygrounds	5	
Athletic Fields		
Combination Fields	19	Combination fields can be used for either diamond or rectangular sports, but not at the same time. Combination fields may be switched seasonally or daily to accommodate both diamond and rectangular sports.
Diamond Fields	35	2 are synthetic; 19 are lighted.
Rectangular Fields	42	14 are synthetic; 15 are lighted.
Athletic or Small Game Courts		
Basketball	76 full; 12 half	Located on County owned parkland, Arlington Public School property, NOVA Parks, or lands with public access easements.
Bocce	3	
Handball	2	
Petanque	5	
Tennis	87 full; 5 half	
Volleyball	13	
Recreational Facilities		
Amphitheaters	6	Located on County owned parkland, Arlington Public School property, NOVA Parks, or lands with public access easements.
Indoor or Outdoor Pools	4	
Nature Centers	3	
Reservable Picnic Shelters	16	
Other Park Amenities		
Community Gardens	7	Located on County owned parkland, Arlington Public School property, NOVA Parks, or lands with public access easements.
Off Leash Dog Parks	8	
Outdoor Tracks	5	
Skate Park	1	
Multi-Use Trails (in miles)	48.4 miles	

As the inventory has been refined throughout the PSMP process, the current inventory information presented here may not match the Level of Service inventory presented on page 174, which was based on 2016 inventory.

# INVENTORY OF PARKLAND

County Owned Parkland		
Site Name	Address	Acres
11th Street North and North Danville Street Park	2751 11th St N	1.01
18th Street North and North Lincoln Street Park	In Progress	0.12
18th Street North and North Quantico Street Park	6276 18th St N	0.14
19th Road South Park	1344 19th Rd S	0.61
20th Street South and South Ives Street Park	905 20th St S	0.26
21st Street North and North Potomac Street Park	2001 N Potomac St	0.21
21st Street North and North Stafford Street Park	2045 N Stafford St	0.27
23rd Street South and South Eads Street Park	501 23rd St S	0.07
Alcova Heights Park	901 S George Mason Dr	12.24
Allie S. Freed Park	2465 S Culper St	12.48
Andrew Ellicott Park at the West Cornerstone	2824 N Arizona St	0.17
Arlington Forest Park	4801 Arlington Blvd	1.04
Arlington Heights Park	In Progress	0.28
Arlington Mill Community Center	4975 Columbia Pike	2.10
Arlington View Park	1105 S Queen St	0.13
Aurora Hills Community Center	735 18th St S	2.91
Bailey's Branch Park	990 S Columbus St	1.62
Barcroft Park and Sports and Fitness Center	4200 S Four Mile Run Dr	62.61
Beaver Pond Park	4747 Fairfax Dr	6.67
Benjamin Banneker Park	1680 N Sycamore St	12.46
Bicentennial Garden	In Progress	0.15
Big Walnut Park	1915 N Harrison St	1.61
Bluemont Junction Park	747 N Emerson St	23.59
Bluemont Park	601 N Manchest St	50.60
Bon Air Park	850 N Lexington St	21.13
Broyhill Forest Park	3510 N Utah St	0.50
Butler Holmes Park	101 S Barton St	2.13

Table continues on next page

Site Name	Address	Acres
Carlin Hall Community Center and Park	5711 4th St S	0.26
Charles A. Stewart Park	2400 N Underwood St	3.99
Cherry Valley Park	1731 N Quincy St	9.84
Cherrydale Fire Station Park	4040 21st Rd N	0.09
Cherrydale Park	2176 N Pollard St	0.90
Chestnut Hills Park	2807 N Harrison St	4.67
Clarendon Central Park	3140 Wilson Blvd	0.72
Clarenford Station Park	1300 N Vermont St	0.37
Cleveland Park	1030 S Cleveland St	0.14
Dark Star Park	1655 Fort Meyer Dr	0.65
Dawson Terrace Community Center and Park	2133 N Taft St	3.50
Doctors Run Park	1301 S George Mason Dr	5.82
Donaldson Run Park	4020 30th St N	29.82
Douglas Park	1718 S Quincy St	6.80
Drew Park	2310 S Kenmore St	2.95
Eads Park	2730 S Eads St	4.39
East Falls Church Park	1730 N Roosevelt St	4.05
Edison Park	213 N Edison St	0.39
Fairlington Community Center and Park	3308 S Stafford St	8.18
Fields Park	825 N George Mason Dr	2.47
Fillmore Park	33 N Fillmore St	5.14
Fort Barnard Dog Park	2060 S Walter Reed Dr	1.63
Fort Barnard Community Garden	2060 S Walter Reed Dr	0.54
Fort Barnard Heights Park	2452 S Oakland St	0.65
Fort Barnard Park	2101 S Pollard St	3.60
Fort Bennett Park and Palisades Trail	2220 N Scott St	10.54
Fort C.F. Smith Park	2411 24th St N	19.04
Fort Ethan Allen Park (includes Madison Community Center)	3829 N Stafford St	14.77
Fort Myer Heights Park	1400 Fort Myer Dr	0.87

Table continues on next page



Site Name	Address	Acres
Fort Reynolds Park	4585 31st St S	0.80
Fort Scott Park	2800 Fort Scott Dr	11.31
Four Mile Run Park	3100 S Glebe Rd	23.58
Foxcroft Heights Park	801 S Oak St	0.15
Garfield Street and Route 50 Park	6 S Garfield St	0.23
Glebe and Randolph Park	615 N Glebe Rd	0.65
Glebe Road Park	4211 N Old Glebe Rd	9.87
Glencarlyn Park	301 S Harrison St	100.11
Greenbrier Park	2700 N Greenbrier St	14.51
Gulf Branch Nature Center	3608 Military Rd	27.00
Gum Ball Park	3715 7th St N	0.31
Gunston Park	1401 28th St S	6.23
Halls Hill/High View Park	4998 Lee Hwy	0.48
Hayes Park	1516 N Lincoln St	2.85
Henry Clay Park	3011 7th St N	1.53
Henry Wright Park	4350 4th St N	0.66
Herselle Milliken Park	820 N Lincoln St	0.42
High View Park	1945 N Dinwiddie St	2.73
Hillside Park	1601 N Pierce St	1.37
Holmberg Park	3750 N Upland St	0.90
I-66 Parking Garage	In Progress	2.51
Isaac Crossman Park at Four Mile Run	1900 N Westmoreland St	2.84
James Hunter Park	1230 N Hartford St	0.75
James W. Haley Park	2400 S Meade St	2.57
Jamestown Park	3618 N Dickerson St	4.73
Jennie Dean Park	3630 27th St S	16.35
John Marshall Greenway	In Progress	2.19
Kirkwood Road Neighborhood Park	1620 N Johnson St	0.56
Kirkwood Road Park	1950 Kirkwood Rd	2.44

Table continues on next page

Site Name	Address	Acres
Lacey Woods Park	1200 N George Mason Dr	13.86
Lang Street Community Gardens	2815 S Lang St	1.41
Lee Community Center and Park	5722 Lee Hwy	2.14
Lee Heights Park	2430 N Taylor St	2.10
Long Bridge Park	475 Long Bridge Dr	36.37
Lubber Run Community Center and Park	300 N Park Dr	30.49
Lucky Run Park	2620 S Walter Reed Dr	3.31
Lyon Village Park	1800 N Highland St	1.52
Madison Manor Park	6225 12th Rd N	13.10
Marcey Road Park	2722 N Marcey Rd	2.84
Mary Carlin Woods at Bluemont Park	341 N Kensington St	6.56
Maury Park	3550 Wilson Blvd	2.09
Maywood Park	3210 22nd St N	0.26
McCoy Park	2121 21st St N	1.71
Monroe Park	1330 S Monroe St	0.99
Mosaic Park	544 N Pollard St	1.84
Nauck Garden	3501 18th St S	0.10
Nauck Park	2551 19th St S	0.56
Nauck Town Square	2400 Shirlington Rd	0.73
Nelly Custis Park	701 24th St S	0.82
Nina Park	800 24th St S	0.29
North Lynn Street and Lee Highway Park	2105 N Lynn St	0.61
North Meade Street Park	1550 N Meade St	0.42
Oak Grove Park	4012 17th St N	3.40
Oakcrest Park	1020 Oakrest Rd	1.21
Oakland Park	3705 Wilson Blvd	0.92
Oakland Street Park	In Progress	0.08
Parkhurst Park	5820 20th Rd N	3.42
Penrose Park	2200 6th St S	2.01
Penrose Square	2597 Columbia Pike	0.41
Pimmit Run Fishing Access	4144 N Richmond St	0.19

Table continues on next page

Site Name	Address	Acres
Powhatan Springs Park	6020 Wilson Blvd	5.33
Quincy Park	1021 N Quincy St	12.84
Rhodeside Green Park	1631 N Rhodes St	0.45
Rock Spring Park	5012 Little Falls Rd	3.77
Rocky Run Park	1109 N Barton St	2.96
Rosslyn Highlands Park	1579 Wilson Blvd	0.50
Sharp Park	6521 Williamsburg Blvd	1.37
Shirlington Dog Park	2710 S Oakland St	6.26
Shirlington Park	2601 S Arlington Mill Dr	5.14
Slater Park	1837 N Culper St	1.64
South Ives Street Park	2612 S Ives St	1.15
Stratford Park	4321 Old Dominion Dr	3.45
Swanson Middle School	5800 Washington Blvd	1.17
Thomas Jefferson Community Center and Park	3501 2nd St S	18.43
Thrifton Hill Park	2814 23rd St N	8.64
Towers Park	801 S Scott St	5.17
Triangle Park	3290 Fairfax Drive	0.19
Troy Park	2629 S Troy St	2.98
Tuckahoe Park	2400 N Sycamore St	12.25
Tyrol Hill Park	5101 7th Rd S	3.36
Upper Pimmit Run Park	3815 N Dumbarton St	2.15
Utah Park	3191 S Utah St	4.22
Virginia Highlands Park	1600 S Hayes St	19.74
Wakefield High School Park	4966 14th St S	0.71
Walter Reed Community Center and Park	2909 16th St S	6.92
Westover Park	1001 N Kennebec St	3.86
Windy Run Park	2420 N Kenmore St	15.06
Woodlawn Park	1325 N Buchanan St	3.24
Woodmont Center	2422 N Fillmore St	3.32
Woodstock Park	2049 N Woodstock St	1.27
Zachary Taylor Park	2900 Military Rd	27.09

Data source: Arlington County, 8/16/2018



Federal Public Spaces		
Site Name	Address	Acres
Arlington National Cemetery*	Arlington County	557.00
Arlington House	Area within Arlington National Cemetery	27.90
Iwo Jima Memorial	Area within Arlington National Cemetery	25.40
George Washington Memorial Parkway	Arlington County	363.43
Gravelly Point	Area within George Washington Memorial Parkway	18.00
Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary	Area within George Washington Memorial Parkway	60.00

Data source: National Park Service, 08-2018

\* Arlington Cemetery and its acreage are listed in the inventory as a reference. However the acreage is not counted when reporting the County's overall public space acreage because public use of the cemetery is limited due to its ceremonial and somber purpose.

Privately Owned Public Spaces		
Site Name	Address	Acres
Arlington Hall West Park	290 S Taylor St	6.77
Arlington Plaza	N Troy St and 15th St N	0.55
Ballston Center/Liberty Center	801 N Randolph St, Arlington, VA 22203	0.08
Barton Park	2401 10th St N	1.95
Belvedere Park	N Oak St and 16th Rd N	0.13
Bennett Park Plaza	Wilson Blvd and N Quinn St	0.10
Bob Peck Chevy Historical Marker	800 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203	0.22
Cheerios Park	200 23rd St S	0.87
Clarendon and North Danville Easement	2751 11th St N	0.09
Clarendon Court/Pollard Gardens	3865 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22203	0.14
Clarendon Market Commons Easement	2800 Clarendon Blvd	0.53
Clarendon-Barton Interim Open Space (Korean Embassy)	2409 Clarendon Blvd	0.24
Courthouse Hill Public Access Easement	Fairfax Dr and N Barton St	0.49
Courthouse Plaza	2250 Clarendon Blvd	1.48
Crystal City Gateway	2825 Jefferson Davis Hwy	0.70

Table continues on next page

Site Name	Address	Acres
District Court Plaza	1425 N Courthouse Rd	0.24
Dominion Hills Park	1060 N Liberty St	1.09
Ellens Trace	800 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22203	0.06
Ellipse Arts Center	4401 Wilson Blvd	0.90
F.D.I.C.	3501 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22201	0.41
F.D.I.C. Walkway	3501 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22201	0.40
Founders Square	707 N Randolph St, Arlington, VA 22203	0.39
Fraser Park	1800 28th St S	2.08
Freedom Park	1776 N Kent St	1.61
Gateway Park	Lee Hwy and N Lynn St	3.69
Grace Murray Hopper Park	S Joyce St and 15th St S	2.20
Latitude Apartments	3601 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22201	0.28
Lyon Park	420 N Fillmore St	1.96
Marymount University	1000 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22201	0.20
Metropolitan Park	S Fair St and 13th St S	1.54
Nature Conservancy Public Access Easement	4245 Fairfax Dr	0.77
Normandy House Plaza	1701 N Kent St	0.19
Potomac Yards Center Park	3627 S Glebe Rd	1.40
Prospect Hill Park	Army Navy Dr and S Lynn St	0.47
Quincy Plaza	3900 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22203	0.15
Rosslyn Central Place	1801 N Moore St	0.37
Rosslyn Plaza	1611 N Kent St	0.28
Short Bridge Park	3920 Potomac Ave	1.83
The Berkeley at Ballston	1000 N Randolph St, Arlington, VA 22201	0.21
The Courts of Ballston	700 N Tazewell St, Arlington, VA 22203	0.03
Verizon Plaza	N Courthouse Rd and 14th St N	0.93
Virginia Square Metro Plaza	3600 Fairfax Dr	0.45
Virginia Square Plaza	3601 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201	0.23
Virginia Square Towers	3444 Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22201	0.33
Welburn Square	N Stuart St and 9th St N	1.02

Data source: Arlington County

This is a preliminary list of privately owned public spaces with estimated acreage. As part of the implementation of action 1.5.15, the County will continue to research and document these sites.

Arlington Public Schools			
Site Name	Address	Zip Code	Acres
Abingdon Elementary School	3035 South Abingdon Street	22206	9.02
Arlington Career Center, Arlington Tech, Arlington Community High School	816 South Walter Reed Drive	22204	7.87
Arlington Science Focus School	1501 North Lincoln Street	22201	6.37
Arlington Traditional Elementary School	855 North Edison Street	22205	7.82
Ashlawn Elementary School	5950 Eighth Road North	22205	6.92
Barcroft Elementary School	625 South Wakefield Street	22204	5.12
Barrett Elementary School	4401 North Henderson Road	22203	4.92
Campbell Elementary School	737 South Carlin Springs Road	22204	8.48
Carlin Springs Elementary School	5995 Fifth Road South	22204	7.78
Claremont Elementary School	4700 South Chesterfield Road	22206	14.79
Discovery Elementary School	5241 36th Street North	22207	10.01
Drew Model Elementary School (includes Drew Community Center)	3500 23rd Street South	22206	7.81
Fleet Elementary School	TBD	22204	Leased Public Space
Glebe Elementary School	1770 North Glebe Road	22207	7.00
Gunston Middle School (includes Gunston Community Center)	2700 South Lang Street	22206	19.66
Hoffman-Boston Elementary School (includes Carver Community Center)	1415 South Queen Street	22204	8.60
Jamestown Elementary School	3700 North Delaware Street	22207	10.15
Kenmore Middle School	200 South Carlin Springs Road	22204	23.09
Key Elementary School	2300 Key Boulevard	22201	4.76
Langston High School Continuation Program (includes Langston Brown Community Center)	2121 North Culpeper Street	22207	2.53
Long Branch Elementary School	33 North Fillmore Street	22201	2.51

Table continues on next page



Site Name	Address	Zip Code	Acres
McKinley Elementary School	1030 North McKinley Road	22205	7.15
New Elementary School at Reed School/ Westover Library Site	1644 North McKinley Road	22205	8.51
New Middle School at Stratford	4100 North Vacation Lane	22207	9.08
New School at Wilson	1601 Wilson Boulevard	22209	2.70
Nottingham Elementary School	5900 Little Falls Road	22207	8.93
Oakridge Elementary School	1414 24th Street South	22202	8.08
Patrick Henry Elementary School	701 South Highland Street	22204	4.78
Randolph Elementary School	1306 South Quincy Street	22204	6.91
Swanson Middle School	5800 North Washington Blvd	22205	6.71
Thomas Jefferson Middle School	125 South Old Glebe Road	22204	8.62
Tuckahoe Elementary School	6550 26th Street North	22213	4.68
Wakefield High School	1325 South Dinwiddie Street	22206	34.79
Washington-Lee High School & Baseball Field at Quincy Park	1301 North Stafford Street	22201	19.40
Williamsburg Middle School	3600 North Harrison Street	22207	15.05
Yorktown High School	5200 Yorktown Blvd	22207	10.84
Zachary Taylor Elementary School	2600 North Stuart Street	22207	9.70

Data source: Arlington Public Schools (APS)

NOVA Parks		
Site Name	Address	Acres
Potomac Overlook Regional Park	Arlington County	67.48 acres
Upton Hill Regional Park	Arlington County & Fairfax County	27.09 acres total; 24.00 acres are within Arlington County
Washington & Old Dominion Regional Park	Trail is 45 miles long and stretches from Shirlington to Purcellville, Virginia	550.25 acres total; 44.18 acres are within Arlington County

Data source: NOVA Parks

# INVENTORY OF RECREATION CENTERS

Arlington Public Recreation Centers							
	Arlington Mill	Aurora Hills	Barcroft	Carver	Dawson Terrace	Drew	Fairlington
CONSTRUCTION DATE	2013 & 2017	1975	2000 & 2017	1950's	1785 & 1970 addition	2001	1944
MAJOR RENOVATION		2017	New gym renovations	2001	2015	New Facility	2007
SQUARE FOOTAGE	135,875	4,081	30,000	6,208	4,112	4,315	36,688
ADMIN. OFFICES	X	X	X	X			X
FRONT DESK	X	X	X	X		X	X
ARTS & CRAFTS ROOM	X			X		X	X
FITNESS ROOM	X		X				X
GAME ROOM	X			X		X	
GYM	X		X (2)	X		X	X
MEETING ROOMS	X	X					X
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOMS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PRESCHOOL ROOM							X
SENIOR ROOM	X	X					
TEEN ROOM	X						
WELLNESS ROOM	X	X	X				X
LOCKER ROOM / SHOWER	X		X				X

\* New aquatics and fitness center

\*\* Full replacement

Gunston	Langston-Brown	Lee	Long Bridge *	Lubber Run **	Madison	Thomas Jefferson	Walter Reed
1960's	2003	1950'S	2020	2020	1948	1972	2006
2002 & 2017	New Facility	2001	New Facility	New Facility	None	Gym Floor 2002	New Facility
45,000	6,528	12,336	90,000	50,000	34,250	88,917	24,293
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X		X	X	X	X
X	X		X	X	X	X	
X	X				X	X	X
X (2)	X			X		X	X
X	X		X	X			X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X		X	X		
	X	X		X	X		X
X						X	X
			X			X	X
			X			X	








# Adopted Park Master Plans

The Arlington County Board has adopted park master plans and other park plans for about fifteen percent of Arlington County's parks. The parks that have adopted park master plans are either new parks or existing parks that were significantly changed through a major capital renovation. The park master plans represent a conceptual level rendering of the types of facilities and their general location within the park, and have been developed through a public engagement process. More recent park master plans also include design guidelines. The master plan and the facilities shown on it may be built in phases over many years, therefore what is shown on the plan may not yet exist at the park site.



A busy day of soccer  
Long Bridge Park  
Arlington County

## ADOPTED PARK MASTER PLANS

- **Arlington Boathouse Feasibility Study (Adopted May 11, 1996)**
- **Barcroft Sports Complex Siting (Adopted September 20, 1997) and Barcroft Park Master Plan (Adopted December 12, 1999)** *4200 South Four Mile Run Drive*
- **Benjamin Banneker Framework Plan and Design Guidelines (Adopted December 12, 2017)** *1680 North Sycamore Street*
- **Fort C.F. Smith Cultural Resources Master Plan (Adopted July 19, 1997)** *2411 24th Street North*
- **Fort Ethan Allen Community Canine Area (Adopted December 11, 2004)** *3829 North Stafford Street*
- **Four Mile Run Valley Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines (Adopted September 22, 2018)** *3100 South Glebe Road*  
*(Includes Jennie Dean Park, Shirlington Park, and Shirlington Dog Park)*
- **Greenbrier Park Master Plan (Adopted May 18, 2002)** *2700 North Greenbrier Street*
- **James Hunter Park Master Plan (Adopted December 15, 2007)** *1230 North Hartford Street*
- **Long Bridge Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines (Adopted February 21, 2004 and Revised on March 10, 2013)** *475 Long Bridge Drive*
- **Mosaic Park Master Plan (Adopted September 26, 2009)** *538 N. Pollard Street*
- **Pen Place PDSP Open Space Network Plan (Adopted July 19, 2014)** *10th Street Plaza, Central Green and 12th Street Plaza*
- **Penrose Square Master Plan (Adopted July 19, 2008)** *2597 Columbia Pike*
- **Powhatan Springs Park Master Plan (Adopted January 23, 1999)** *6020 Wilson Boulevard*
- **Rosslyn Highlands Park + Master Plan and Design Guidelines (Adopted September 24, 2016)** *18th Street North and North Quinn Street*
- **Short Bridge Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines (Adopted January 27, 2018)** *3920 Potomac Avenue*



- **Three Oaks Park Master Plan (Adopted February 21, 2015)**  
*1800 14th Street North*
- **Tyrol Hill Park Master Plan (Adopted December 6, 2003)** *5101 7th Road South*
- **Westover Park Master Plan (Adopted December 9, 2000)**  
*1001 North Kennebec Street*

Figure 37. Short Bridge Park Master Plan








## APPENDIX V.

# Action Plan

Implementing this long-term Plan will require years of planning and investment in the public space system. This Action Plan describes, in general terms, responsible parties, potential partners and funding sources, and estimated timeframes and costs in order to achieve recommendations identified in this document.



Enjoying the splash park on a hot day  
Long Bridge Park  
Arlington County



## ACRONYMS

<b>AED</b>	Arlington Economic Development
<b>APS</b>	Arlington Public Schools
<b>ART</b>	Arlington Commission for the Arts
<b>CAO</b>	County Attorney's Office
<b>CPHD</b>	Community Planning, Housing & Development
<b>DES</b>	Department of Environmental Services
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Human Services
<b>DMF</b>	Department of Management and Finance
<b>DPR</b>	Department of Parks and Recreation
<b>E2C2</b>	Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
<b>HALRB</b>	Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board
<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
<b>NRJAG</b>	Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group
<b>PC</b>	Planning Commission
<b>PFRC</b>	Public Facilities Review Committee
<b>PRC</b>	Park and Recreation Commission
<b>PTA</b>	Parent Teacher Association
<b>SC</b>	Sports Commission
<b>UFC</b>	Urban Forestry Commission
<b>VDOT</b>	Virginia Department of Transportation

**RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

**bold** indicates primary responsibility

**TIME FRAMES**

**short term**     0–5 years

**medium term**   5–10 years

**long term**       10–20 years

**COST RANGE ESTIMATE**

**\$**                less than \$250,000

**\$****\$**               \$250,000–1,500,000

**\$****\$****\$**             \$1,500,000+

## 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	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.1.1.	Acquire land strategically according to acquisition guidelines and parcels identified in this plan (see Appendix II).				
	DPR	Private funding	Capital budget, grants	continuous	\$\$\$
1.1.2.	Secure or expand the public spaces envisioned by sector, corridor, and other plans adopted by the County Board – including the Clarendon Sector Plan, Virginia Square Plan, Courthouse Sector Plan, Rosslyn Sector Plan, Crystal City Sector Plan, and Columbia Pike Form Based Codes – and ensure they provide amenities that meet County needs.				
	DPR, CPHD, AED	PRC, SC, UFC, PC, BIDs, community organizations, private funding	Capital budget, private funding	continuous	\$\$\$
1.1.3.	Incorporate the recommendations of this PSMP into future sector, corridor, and other County plans, and use County-wide needs and level of service analyses to guide the inclusion of additional public space in those plans.				
	CPHD, DPR, DES, AED	PRC, SC, PC, HALRB, BIDs, community organizations, property owners	Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.1.4.	Ensure that privately owned public spaces conditioned in site plans are informed by this plan's level of service analyses and guided by the Privately Owned Public Space Design Guidelines (See Appendix III). As developer projects are completed, the County will ensure that the required public access easement is platted and recorded.				
	DPR, CPHD, DES	Property owners	Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.1.5.	Continue to acquire ownership or easements from willing sellers for land adjacent to County waterways, particularly Four Mile Run.				
	DPR, DES	NVCT, property owners	Capital budget, operating budget, grants	continuous	\$\$\$
1.1.6.	Explore strengthening and expanding the use of the County's Transfer of Development Rights policy as a tool to create and consolidate future public space.				
	CPHD, DPR, CAO, AED	PRC, PC, property owners	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
1.1.7.	Work with the Commonwealth of Virginia and County-owned street system network to explore opportunities to create new deck parks over I-66 or other highways and primary streets to mitigate highway widening or reclaim public space.				
	DPR, DES, CPHD	VDOT	Capital budget, state and federal funding	continuous	\$\$\$
1.1.8.	Seek opportunities to create structured parking through the site plan and use permit review processes to reduce surface parking and maximize ground and roof space to create additional public space.				
	CPHD, DPR	DES, PC, property owners	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$

### Action 1.2. Utilize level of service as a planning tool to manage public space assets efficiently.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.2.1.	Identify opportunities to add or change park and recreation amenities or enhance multi-modal access based on Level of Service Analysis.				
	DPR, DES	CPHD, citizen associations	Capital budget	continuous	\$
1.2.2.	Based on level of service, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community.				
	DPR		Capital budget	continuous	\$



**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	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.2.3.	Consider siting new amenities in locations that are or can be made accessible by as many modes of transportation as possible.				
	DPR	DES	Capital budget	continuous	\$
1.2.4.	Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and level of service analysis, on a 5-year cycle.				
	DPR	PRC, SC, UFC	Capital budget	continuous	\$
1.2.5.	Implement the revised standards for dog parks and new standards for dog runs identified in Appendix III.				
	DPR	Various dog park advocacy groups, property owners, CPHD	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$

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

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.3.1.	Consider completing an inventory of casual use spaces to better understand their distribution and gaps.				
	DPR	DES	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
1.3.2.	Consider exploring opportunities to develop standards for casual use spaces.				
	DPR	DES	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$

**Action 1.4. Explore opportunities to expand or add recreational facilities and improve efficiency.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.4.1.	Provide all-season access to athletic fields, commensurate with demand, through the use of temporary or permanent structures.				
	DPR	PRC, SC, Sports groups	Capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
1.4.2.	Identify the locations and build two new multi-use activity centers to provide year-round access to indoor athletic courts and fields.				
	DPR		Capital budget	long term (0–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.4.3.	Explore the identification of dedicated outdoor pickleball courts to meet the growing demand.				
	DPR	Sports groups	Capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$ - \$\$
1.4.4.	Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture.				
	DPR	Property owners, Gardening and agricultural groups	Capital budget, private funding	short term (0–5 years)	\$

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

**Action 1.5. Make better use of existing public spaces through system-wide planning and investments in facilities.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.5.1.	Complete the remaining elements of Long Bridge Park. DPR	DES	Capital budget	medium term (0–10 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.2.	Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans. DPR	PRC, UFC, SC	Capital budget, operating budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.3.	Consolidate recreation facilities and activities that are currently distributed throughout community centers into fewer, larger recreation centers. DPR	DES	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.4.	Utilize the criteria and methodology identified in Appendix III (Athletic Fields) to convert existing natural grass fields to synthetic turf and/or add lighting to existing fields to increase available hours of play. DPR	SC	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.5.	Designate four sport-specific outdoor complexes that focus on a designated recreational amenity and provide the highest level of facilities for that particular sport. DPR	SC	Capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.6.	Explore opportunities to increase the use of existing tennis courts, which could include adding lights or covering existing courts. DPR	PRC, SC, Sports Groups	Capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.7.	Develop park master plans for all new parks or when renovation of an existing park requires a major rearrangement of park amenities. DPR	PRC, other County departments, sports groups, community organizations	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.8.	Review and consider updating the County's regulations and codes related to parks and public spaces in "S-3A" and "PS" and other districts including zoning and other requirements related to setbacks, lighting, parking, signage, height water features, fencing, and temporary use of public and private property as public space — to provide appropriate design flexibility and respond to high-density contexts and efficient use of limited public space. CPHD, DPR	PC, PRC, AED, DHS, CAO	Capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
1.5.9.	Consider the use of structured parking to maximize the preservation of public space for recreation amenities, casual use space and natural resources when the cost benefit analysis, including the cost of purchasing land, demonstrates it makes fiscal sense. DPR	CPHD, DES, adjacent private and public property owners	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$
1.5.10.	Explore opportunities to add or relocate recreational amenities above structured parking and on roofs and walls of County buildings. DPR, DES	private property owners	Capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$

## 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	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.5.11.	<b>Explore opportunities to create or improve public spaces that are underground or underneath infrastructure.</b>				
	DPR, DES, CPHD	Private property owners, State of VA	Operating budget, capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
1.5.12.	<b>Consider multi-modal improvements in the park master planning process to increase accessibility by walking, biking, driving, and public transit.</b>				
	DPR	DES, citizen associations	Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.5.13.	<b>Enhance the street network to optimize the public space realm.</b>				
	DES	DPR, CPHD, State of VA	Capital budget, grants	continuous	\$\$\$
1.5.14.	<b>Consider amending standard conditions of site plan approvals to require information about the location, size, and content of signage for 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 addition, each privately owned public space should have an assigned address and name approved by the County.</b>				
	CPHD, DPR	PC, owners of privately-owned public spaces	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
1.5.15.	<b>Complete and routinely update the database of all privately-owned public spaces that includes details regarding recorded public access easement or other type of use agreement, ownership and management, layout of the space and design features, signage, accessibility, and hours of operation and create an interactive online map to raise public awareness of such spaces.</b>				
	DPR, CPHD, AED	DES	Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.5.16.	<b>Review and explore revising current or creating new policies regarding commercial uses on privately owned public spaces.</b>				
	DPR, CPHD	DES, AED	Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.5.17.	<b>Periodically review and update the inventory of public spaces to ensure accuracy and consistency of data.</b>				
	DPR		Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.5.18.	<b>Include public art that interprets the five priority themes described in the Public Art Master Plan: “Federal Arlington,” “Historic Arlington,” “Global Arlington,” “Innovative Arlington” and “Sustainable Arlington”.</b>				
	AED, CPHD, DPR	ART, HALRB	Capital budget, operating budget, grants, private funding	continuous	\$
1.5.19.	<b>Incorporate new and interactive technologies into public spaces.</b>				
	DPR	DTS	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$

## Action 1.6. Provide more support services and amenities for public space users.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.6.1.	<b>Explore expanding the offering or permitting of concessions in programmed public spaces in high density corridors, adjacent to sports fields, and at locations where special events are regularly held. (See also 4.6.4.)</b>				
	DPR, CAO, AED	Local businesses, BIDs	Operating budget, capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$ - \$\$
1.6.2.	<b>Explore the revision of Section 17-2 of the Arlington County Code to allow the County to issue permits for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in designated parks.</b>				
	DPR, AED	CAO, CPHD, local businesses, BIDs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$



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

1.6.3.	Ensure that as new public buildings are constructed adjacent to parks, schools and other major public spaces, consideration is given to creating restrooms that can be accessed from the exterior.			
	DPR, APS	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$
1.6.4.	Design and build new permanent restrooms and retrofit existing restrooms to accommodate year-round use.			
	DPR	Capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$
1.6.5.	Consider adding Wi-Fi to provide public internet access in 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	DTS, Potential Wi-Fi sponsors	Corporate sponsorships, operating budget, private funding	short term (0–5 years)
1.6.6.	Reconfigure or add infrastructure to public spaces to support programming such as events and classes. (see also 5.6.2.)			
	DPR	AED, BIDs	Capital budget, private funding	continuous
1.6.7.	Develop and implement consistent signage in public spaces to improve wayfinding, more effectively brand the system, and enhance the appeal of individual spaces as part of a cohesive whole.			
	DPR, DES	Capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$

### Action 1.7. Strive for universal access.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.7.1.	Implement the recommendations of the Department of Parks and Recreation Transition Plan.				
	DPR		Capital budget, operating budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.7.2.	Incorporate state-of-the-art and creative approaches to designing for universal access.				
	DPR		Capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$

### Action 1.8. Ensure and enhance access to the Potomac River, Four Mile Run, and their tributaries, while improving the tree, canopy, native vegetation, and other natural resources along waterways.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.8.1.	Implement the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan, Four Mile Run Valley Master Plan, and Short Bridge Park Master Plan.				
	DPR	DES, CPHD	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.8.2.	Continue to acquire ownership or easements for land adjacent to Four Mile Run in keeping with the Land Acquisition Criteria contained in this plan.				
	DPR	DES, CPHD	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
1.8.3.	Collaborate with the National Park Service to develop a boathouse for non-motorized boating and enhance access to the Potomac River.				
	DPR	NPS	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$

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

### Action 1.9. Strive for a more attractive and sustainable public space system.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.9.1.	Create design standards for park amenities. DPR		Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
1.9.2.	Strive for design excellence in the development and renovation or replacement of parks and amenities. DPR		Operating budget	continuous	\$
1.9.3.	Explore using a rating system such as the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) for a pilot project to designing sustainable landscapes. DPR	DES	Capital budget	continuous	\$
1.9.4.	Opt for sustainable design elements where appropriate. DPR	DES, E2C2	Operating budget, Capital budget	continuous	\$\$
1.9.5.	Promote the planting, preservation, maintenance and increase of canopy trees on public and private land. DPR, DES, CPHD	UFC, BIDs, property owners	Operating budget, private funding	continuous	\$\$
1.9.6.	Encourage the use of natural play using natural materials. DPR	DES	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$
1.9.7.	Incorporate public art into public spaces in alignment with the Public Art Master Plan. DPR, AED, CPHD, DES	BIDs, community organizations	Capital budget, private funding, grants	continuous	\$\$\$

### Action 1.10. Enhance spaces with temporary uses and “pop-up” programming.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
1.10.1.	Continue to allow and encourage the activation of public spaces and other publicly and privately owned property through temporary activities like parklets, interim parks, special events, seasonal markets, and pop-up events. DPR, CPHD, AED	BIDs, local businesses, community organizations	Operating budget, grants, private funding	continuous	\$\$
1.10.2.	Explore streamlining the process of permitting temporary spaces on both public and private lands. CPHD, DPR, DES	Community organizations, BIDs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
1.10.3.	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, DES, AED	BIDs, local businesses, property owners, community organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
1.10.4.	Consider locations to present temporary public art exhibitions in public spaces. DPR, AED	BIDs	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$

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

### Action 2.1. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.1.1.	<b>Complete an "inner loop" of protected routes that connects the Custis, Four Mile Run, Arlington Boulevard, and Mount Vernon Trails.</b>				
	DES, DPR	BAC, PAC, bicycle advocacy groups	Capital budget, grants, state funding	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
2.1.2.	<b>Complete an "outer loop" of protected routes that connects the Four Mile Run, Mount Vernon, and Zachary Taylor Trails.</b>				
	DES, DPR	BAC, PAC, bicycle advocacy groups	Capital budget, grants, state funding	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
2.1.3.	<b>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.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NPS, Department of Defense, VDOT, adjacent property owners	Capital budget, state and federal funding	continuous	\$\$\$
2.1.4.	<b>Connect Long Bridge Park to the District of Columbia via the Mount Vernon Trail and the Long Bridge.</b>				
	DPR, DES	NPS, BAC, PAC, Washington Area Bicyclist Association	Capital budget, state and federal funding	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
2.1.5.	<b>Create safe routes to parks and other public spaces by filling gaps in sidewalks and trails that connect public spaces to neighborhoods, schools, transit stations, and other County facilities.</b>				
	DES, DPR	APS, VDOT	Operating budget, capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$
2.1.6.	<b>Improve and add connections to adjacent trail systems beyond the County, and show connections on signage and in communication materials.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NPS, NOVA Parks, BAC, PAC, neighboring jurisdictions	Capital budget, operating budget, grants	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$

### Action 2.2. Ensure trails function for a range of users.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.2.1.	<b>Compile and clarify design standards for all types of trails.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NPS, NOVA Parks, PAC, BAC	Capital budget, operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$
2.2.2.	<b>Use striping on primary multi-use trails to separate traffic moving in opposite directions.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NOVA Parks, NPS	Capital budget, operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$
2.2.3.	<b>Ensure paved, Primary and Secondary Multi-Use Trails meet the minimum width as described in the Existing Public Space System, Trails section of this document.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NOVA Parks, BAC, PAC, PRC	Capital budget, operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
2.2.4.	<b>Separate modes, where space allows, on high traffic trail routes and where user conflicts commonly occur.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NOVA Parks, NPS	Capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$



## 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	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.2.5.	<b>Explore creative and efficient ways to educate users about trail etiquette.</b>				
	DPR, DES	BAC, PAC, trail/recreation advocacy groups, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, BikeArlington, WalkArlington	Operating budget	continuous	\$
2.2.6.	<b>Continue to develop “learn to ride” areas that provide protected spaces for novice users to learn to bicycle.</b>				
	DPR	DES	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$
2.2.7.	<b>Expand trail use monitoring to track usage across all major trails by mode, and use gathered data to help guide the trail planning process.</b>				
	DES, DPR	NOVA Parks, NPS	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$

### Action 2.3. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.3.1.	<b>Weigh the benefits of adding hiking trails to protected natural areas against the impacts to natural resources.</b>				
	DPR	NPS, Adjacent property owners	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$
2.3.2.	<b>Improve the quality of and increase access to Four Mile Run and Potomac tributary trails.</b>				
	DPR, DES	NOVA Parks, NPS	Operating budget, capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$
2.3.3.	<b>Show connections to hiking trails in neighboring jurisdictions on signage and in communication materials.</b>				
	DPR, DES	Neighboring jurisdictions	Operating budget, capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$

### Action 2.4. Develop and implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.4.1.	<b>Name all trail segments using descriptive names.</b>				
	DPR, DES	BAC, PAC	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
2.4.2.	<b>Work with trail owners within Arlington and neighboring jurisdictions to develop common trail signage and wayfinding standards for major regional trails.</b>				
	DES, DPR	Neighboring jurisdictions, NOVA Parks, BAC, PAC	Operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$
2.4.3.	<b>Develop a County design standard for trail signage and wayfinding that addresses hierarchy, connections, destinations, landmarks, identity, and areas of congestion.</b>				
	DES, DPR	BAC, PAC	Operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$

**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	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.4.4.	<b>Add location identifiers, potentially integrated into wayfinding signage, at regular intervals along trails for issues/emergencies as well as mile markers.</b>				
	DES, DPR	BAC, PAC	Capital budget, operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
2.4.5.	<b>Improve wayfinding signage at trailheads, trail intersections and major destinations.</b>				
	DPR, DES	BAC, PAC	Capital budget, operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$

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

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
2.5.1.	<b>Coordinate park or street projects with trail projects to ensure more efficient use of funding, comprehensive planning and design, and less impact on public space users.</b>				
	DPR, DES	BAC, PAC	Operating budget	continuous	\$
2.5.2.	<b>Work with the NPS, NOVA Parks, and neighboring jurisdictions to explore developing new trail facilities on non-County land and ensure high standards of trail design, operation and management.</b>				
	DPR, DES	NPS, NOVA Parks, neighboring jurisdictions	Capital budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$\$
2.5.3.	<b>Consider joining the Capital Trails Coalition or similar organizations, to ensure that trail planning is coordinated region-wide.</b>				
	DPR, DES	Capital Trails Coalition	Operating budget	continuous	\$

### Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, enhance, and expand natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

#### Action 3.1. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Natural Resources Management Plan through a combined process.

Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
DPR	UFC, PRC	Capital budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$\$

#### Action 3.2. Protect, restore, and expand natural resources and trees.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.2.1.	<b>Address the protection, restoration, and expansion of natural resources in the Four Mile Run planning corridor and master plans for parks along Four Mile Run, as well as others leading to riparian areas.</b>				
	DPR, DES, CPHD	PRC, UFC, E2C2, NVCT, not-for-profits, NOVA Parks, City of Alexandria, community organizations	Capital budget, operating budget	continuous	\$\$
3.2.2.	<b>Pursue easements to protect natural areas, mature tree canopy and heritage resources.</b>				
	DPR, DES, CPHD	NVCT, HALRB, property owners	Capital budget	continuous	\$
3.2.3.	<b>Explore collaboration with the National Park Service to develop master plans for Roaches Run, Gravelly Point, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and other NPS areas.</b>				
	DPR	NPS	Capital budget, operating budget, federal funding	continuous	\$\$
3.2.4.	<b>Collaborate with Arlington Public Schools to identify, preserve, enhance and maintain natural and historic resources on school properties</b>				
	CPHD, APS, DPR, DES	PTAs, HALRB	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
3.2.5.	<b>Identify opportunities for daylighting streams in public spaces that are currently part of the underground stormwater system.</b>				
	DES, DPR, APS	Adjacent property owners	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$\$
3.2.6.	<b>Identify opportunities to work with neighboring jurisdictions and state and federal agencies outside of the County.</b>				
	DPR	NPS, NOVA Parks, VDOT, Department of Defense	Operating budget	continuous	\$
3.2.7.	<b>Improve processes for earlier review of public projects, to minimize impact on tree canopy and natural resources.</b>				
	DPR, DES, CPHD	PRC, UFC, E2C2	Operating budget	continuous	\$
3.2.8.	<b>Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential natural resources will be added to the public space system. (See Appendix II for land acquisition criteria.)</b>				
	DPR, DES	PRC	Operating budget	continuous	\$
3.2.9.	<b>Identify areas that generate the most heat, also known as urban heat islands, and develop a plan to increase vegetation and tree canopy in these areas.</b>				
	DPR, DES	UFC	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$



### Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

#### Action 3.3. Integrate natural resources, trees and natural resource interpretation into the design of public spaces.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.3.1.	Explore opportunities to participate in and join the Biophilic Cities movement. DPR	PRC, UFC	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
3.3.2.	Expand natural areas and tree canopy within high-density corridors. DPR, DES, CPHD	Property owners	Operating budget, private funding	continuous	\$\$
3.3.3.	Promote the planting, preservation, and maintenance of canopy trees on public and private land. DPR, DES, CPHD	UFC, property owners	Operating budget, private funding	continuous	\$\$
3.3.4.	Expand and work with partners to extend non-native invasive species management and public education campaigns. (See also 6.2.5.) DPR	PRC, DES, NRJAG, volunteers, property owners	Operating budget, grants	continuous	\$
3.3.5.	Add interpretive signage within public spaces that highlight the natural resources and the benefits those resources provide. DPR	APS, DES, environmental organizations	Capital budget, operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$
3.3.6.	Expand and promote official recognition programs for important natural resources, such as the Notable Tree, Champion Tree and Specimen Tree programs. DPR	UFC, environmental organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
3.3.7.	Increase the diversity of habitats for critical species and develop maintenance guidelines. DPR	DES, NRJAG	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
3.3.8.	Explore opportunities to use public art to interpret natural resources. DPR, AED, DES, CPHD	ART	Operating budget, capital budget, private funding, grants	continuous	\$

#### Action 3.4. Foster, develop, and promote nature-based education, recreation, and training programming across ages and skill levels.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.4.1.	Enhance and expand nature-based interpretive and educational opportunities for children, starting at pre-school age, as well as adults and seniors. DPR, APS		Operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$
3.4.2.	Provide outdoor leadership training to better connect residents of all ages to nature. DPR, APS		Operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$

**Strategic Direction 3. Protect, restore, expand, and enhance natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.**

**Action 3.5. Promote conservation stewardship volunteerism that enables individuals and organizations to leave a positive legacy in the park system.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.5.1.	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.				
	DPR, DES	Community and environmental organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$
3.5.2.	Continue to collaborate with community groups, service clubs, and businesses on conservation stewardship events.				
	DPR	Community organizations, service clubs, businesses	Operating budget	continuous	\$

**Action 3.6. Develop a plan for the management of cultural resources that will address how the County will achieve the preservation, protection, conservation, and interpretation of historic, cultural, and archaeological resources on County-owned or managed land.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
3.6.1.	Use objective criteria to evaluate whether potential historic resources will be added to the public space system. (See Appendix II for land acquisition criteria.)				
	CPHD, DPR	HALRB	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$

**Strategic Direction 4. enhance the fiscal sustainability of arlington's public spaces.****Action 4.1. Work with Arlington Public Schools to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.1.1.	Explore opportunities to improve joint-use facilities to maximize public access to amenities and use land and other resources more efficiently. Identify additional existing APS facilities that could be used as public space. DPR, APS		Capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$
4.1.2.	Work jointly with APS to analyze program participation annually and adjust facility scheduling accordingly. DPR, APS		Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
4.1.3.	Expand participation in planning for publicly- accessible amenities on APS property. APS, CPHD, DPR	CPHD, PRC, PTAs	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.1.4.	Use design solutions to overcome security concerns related to the use of public school facilities by the public outside of school hours. DPR, APS	PFRC	Capital budget	continuous	\$\$
4.1.5.	Ensure the contributions to capital costs and maintenance of public spaces on County and APS sites are commensurate with use. DPR, APS	DES	Operating budget, capital budget	continuous	\$\$\$
4.1.6.	Continue to collaborate with APS to preserve natural resources, playing fields, outdoor learning areas and other public space when designing and building new schools. DPR, APS, DES	BLPC, PFRC, PRC, PC	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.1.7.	Work with APS to expand educational and volunteering opportunities for students to learn about the value of public spaces and natural resources. DPR, APS	Volunteers	Operating budget	short term (0-5 years)	\$

**Action 4.2. Work with the National Park Service, NOVA Parks and other federal, state and regional bodies to elevate public awareness and access to their facilities and land in Arlington and ensure consistent experiences.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.2.1.	Strengthen and maintain effective communications and cooperative planning with the National Park Service, NOVA Parks 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, DES	NPS, NOVA Parks, neighboring jurisdictions	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.2.2.	Advocate for National Park Service trails to be connected to County trails and maintained to an agreed upon maintenance standard.				
	DPR, DES	NPS	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.2.3.	Create more seamless connections between County public spaces and those managed by other bodies.				
	DPR, DES	NPS, NOVA Parks	Capital budget	long term (10–20 years)	\$\$
4.2.4.	Collaborate with other entities to improve park and facility maintenance, erosion control, control of non-native invasive species, signage, and trail markers.				
	DPR, DES	NPS, NOVA Parks	Capital budget, operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$\$



## Strategic Direction 4. enhance the fiscal sustainability of arlington's public spaces.

### Action 4.3. Support the establishment of non-profit groups or umbrella foundations dedicated to public space advocacy, fundraising, and implementation of public spaces and programs.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.3.1.	Look for opportunities to create new partnerships with organizations to maximize the intended use of public spaces and revise existing agreements to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes.				
	DPR	Various partner organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.3.2.	Identify and acknowledge partnerships with individuals, groups, corporations and foundations to support defined projects in parks and public spaces.				
	DPR	Various partner organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.3.3.	Develop a donor engagement strategy (including community-based donors).				
	DPR	AED	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
4.3.4.	Develop sponsorship proposals to help underwrite and offset operating costs for programs and services.				
	DPR	Business community	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.3.5.	Develop a guide that communicates the process for becoming a partnership organization that works with the County to improve public spaces.				
	DPR	Various partner organizations	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
4.3.6.	Continue to track measurable outcomes of partnership agreements and regularly share progress with the public.				
	DPR	Various partner organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$

### Action 4.4. Support and strengthen the County's volunteer programs for public spaces and trails.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.4.1.	Explore strategies to improve coordination with volunteers to assist them with resources, allocations, and repairs.				
	DPR	Volunteers, volunteer programs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$
4.4.2.	Improve the system and strategies for volunteer recruitment, registration and tracking.				
	DPR	Volunteers, volunteer programs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
4.4.3.	Periodically identify, evaluate, or revise the focus of volunteer programs to better support public spaces and to ensure volunteers are adequately supported by staff.				
	DPR	Volunteers, volunteer programs	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.4.4.	Expand the reward and recognition system for volunteers.				
	DPR	Volunteers, volunteer programs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
4.4.5.	Promote and encourage the expansion of "Adopt-a-" programs (e.g., Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Stream, Adopt-a-Field, Adopt-a-Trail).				
	DPR	Community organizations, volunteer programs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$

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

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.4.6.	Encourage volunteer days with companies, institutions, non-profits, and other large organizations. DPR	Business community, institutions, non-profits, large organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.4.7.	Encourage volunteerism through County-wide events. DPR	Volunteers, volunteer programs	Operating budget	continuous	\$

**Action 4.5. Secure funding to support development and maintenance of public spaces and that those public funds are efficiently and wisely spent.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
	DPR	APS, BIDs, Business community	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$-\$\$\$

**Action 4.6 Identify and pursue non-County funding sources to supplement County funds to support capital improvements and programs.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
4.6.1.	Pursue applicable state and federal funds. DPR	State and federal agencies	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.6.2.	Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities and ensure that ongoing costs are appropriately budgeted. (See also 6.1.2.) DPR	DES	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
4.6.3.	Permit revenue generating uses in designated public spaces. DPR	AED	Operating budget	continuous	\$
4.6.4.	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 1.6.1.). DPR, AED	Business community, BIDs	Operating budget	continuous	\$

## 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	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	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
5.1.2.	Continue to monitor local and national recreation trends and best practices and incorporate new and innovative recreation programs to sustain community participation.				
	DPR	Neighboring jurisdictions, regional and national park/recreation organizations	Operating budget	continuous	\$
5.1.3.	Conduct public input processes to assess and implement new program innovations.				
	DPR	DHS	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
5.1.4.	Promote and increase the availability of programming that caters to diverse ages, interests, and abilities.				
	DPR	DHS, senior and teen advocacy groups	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
5.1.5.	Increase drop-in opportunities to allow more flexibility for residents and improve program participation.				
	DPR	APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$

### Action 5.2. Implement best practices in program life cycles to maintain a culture of quality program delivery.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
5.2.1.	Document the program development process to maintain program consistency and assist in training staff.				
	DPR		Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
5.2.2.	For each program area, update key service attributes to reflect what is most important to users.				
	DPR		Operating budget	continuous	\$

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

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
	DPR		Operating budget	continuous	\$

### Action 5.4. Periodically evaluate which programs are using indoor and outdoor spaces to identify needs for additional space and opportunities to reallocate space.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
	DPR		Operating budget	continuous	\$



**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	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
5.5.1.	Enhance fitness, wellness, and healthy lifestyle programming and facilities. DPR	DHS	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
5.5.2.	Highlight the health and wellness benefits of recreation and nature based programs in informational materials. DPR	DHS	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
5.5.3.	Increase and diversify nature based programs to provide educational opportunities for residents to better understand and interact with natural resources. DPR	APS, Volunteer programs	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
5.5.4.	Collaborate with local healthcare providers to expand the park prescription program. DPR	DHS, local healthcare providers	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$\$
5.5.5.	Track public space usage indicators over time to determine the positive health impacts of public space system improvements. DPR	DHS	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$

**Action 5.6. Use programming to activate parks and public spaces.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
5.6.1.	Employ lessons learned from past experiences with activating public spaces to develop program plans for spaces that are meant for or could accommodate additional usage. DPR	AED, BIDs, community organizations	Operating budget	medium term (5–10 years)	\$
5.6.2.	Consider reconfiguring or adding amenities to public spaces to support flexible programming. (see also 1.6.6.). DPR	CPHD, AED	Capital budget, private funding	continuous	\$\$

## Strategic Direction 6. Ensure County public spaces and facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.

### Action 6.1. Ensure maintenance standards are clear, consistently implemented, and being met.

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
6.1.1.	Define and regularly review levels of maintenance standards for each type of indoor and outdoor facility to ensure consistency with maintenance policies and guidelines.				
	DPR, DES, APS		Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.1.2.	Collect and review data on replacing or renovating amenities and facilities based on life cycle/asset management, preventative maintenance and maintenance capital budget for replacement and renovation. (See also 4.6.2.).				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
6.1.3.	Establish levels of maintenance for public spaces based on usage and expected life cycle of the asset as well as special needs or sensitive habitats.				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
6.1.4.	Align maintenance practices with pollinator and beneficial insect habitat needs.				
	DPR	DES	Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.1.5.	Train maintenance staff in management of sensitive natural areas and green stormwater infrastructure maintenance.				
	DPR, DES, APS		Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.1.6.	Improve interdepartmental coordination to ensure that short-and long-term maintenance and planning activities are well coordinated and appropriately scoped during all project phases.				
	DPR, DES, CPHD, APS		Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
6.1.7.	Identify and encourage opportunities to share maintenance responsibilities with partner organizations and groups for efficiency.				
	DPR	BIDs, sports and recreation associations and leagues	Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.1.8.	Ensure that maintenance techniques and standards are consistent between County agencies and Arlington Public Schools.				
	DPR, DES, APS		Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	\$
6.1.9.	Continue to train maintenance staff in accessibility concepts, and ensure maintenance safety checklists include maintaining universal access and accessibility.				
	DPR, DES		Operating budget	continuous	\$

**Strategic Direction 6. Ensure County public spaces and facilities are operated and maintained efficiently and to defined standards.**

**Action 6.2. Strengthen sustainability policies.**

	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources	Time Frame	Cost Range Est.
6.2.1.	<b>Optimize operations and maintenance standards to ensure sustainability.</b>				
	DPR	APS, DES	Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.2.2.	<b>Target waste reduction, recycling, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy usage, and reduced water consumption.</b>				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.2.3.	<b>Conduct pilot projects of innovative sustainability measures to test their effectiveness for County-wide implementation.</b>				
	DPR	DES, APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
6.2.4.	<b>Continue to utilize native plant species and water- wise plant materials.</b>				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget, capital budget	continuous	\$\$
6.2.5.	<b>Continue to enhance non-native invasive species management as recommended in the Natural Resources Management Plan. (See also 3.3.4.)</b>				
	DPR, DES		Operating budget, capital budget	continuous	\$\$
6.2.6.	<b>Make use of available planting spaces for trees and other vegetation on public lands such as traffic islands, and curb bump-outs while ensuring clear and adequate sight lines for drivers, cyclists, or pedestrians.</b>				
	DPR, DES		Operating budget	continuous	\$\$
6.2.7.	<b>Use environmentally friendly products – including cleaners and chemical treatments – where feasible.</b>				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.2.8.	<b>Continue to educate staff and the public on the County's sustainability efforts and on environmental practices they can employ themselves.</b>				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$
6.2.9.	<b>Stay up to date with sustainability best practices and incorporate innovative strategies.</b>				
	DPR, DES	APS	Operating budget	continuous	\$



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