

Program Description

The Local Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program consists of key projects and program elements that provide for the design and construction of new park facilities and major upgrades or renovations of existing park facilities. The program represents an implementation plan and strategies based upon sound planning to ensure that capital funding is invested strategically for the benefit of the County and its residents.

Program Summary

Local Parks and Recreation projects fall into five main program categories: Parks Maintenance Capital Program, Parks Master Plan Program (including the Emerging Uses Program and the Natural Resiliency Program), Synthetic Turf Program, Trail and Bridge Modernization Program, and Parks Land Acquisition and Public Space Program. The FY2025 - FY2034 CIP focuses on funding that supports critical maintenance for existing park amenities as well as the continuation of work on parks that have park master plans that have been adopted by the County Board or have undergone significant community planning efforts.

The Parks Maintenance Capital Program provides for recurring, systematic reinvestment in existing outdoor facilities to ensure efficient, safe, high-quality facilities. The program funds the replacement or major renovation of outdoor park and recreation facility assets, including athletic fields and courts, field and court lighting, playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, parking and other miscellaneous park and recreation facilities. The program also addresses accessibility, safety and storm water improvements that are complementary to renovating the facilities.

The ten-year CIP includes Park Master Plan Program funding for several projects in the Crystal City area, including Metro Market Square, Center Park, and 15th Street Park. The CIP also includes funding for Arlington Boathouse per the existing Programmatic Agreement with the National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office and Virginia State Historic Preservation Office for the development of a boathouse and related facilities on the Virginia side of the Potomac River.

The FY 2025 - FY 2034 CIP continues with funding for the Emerging Uses Program and the Natural Resiliency Program that were established during the previous CIP. The Emerging Uses Program is aimed at addressing the recreational needs of users for new recreational activities, previously not provided among the assets within the County. The purpose of the Natural Resiliency Program is to provide funding for the preservation, conservation and renovation of Arlington's natural resources and the design and installation of modifications within various parks to allow temporary flooding and inundation of parkland in prevention of downstream destruction by floodwaters.

The Synthetic Turf Program is primarily focused on replacement of existing synthetic turf athletic fields that are approaching the end of their useful life. Turf replacement typically involves removal of the existing turf and infill, verification of subgrade drainage and planarity, installation of new turf and field lines and backfilling with a turf infill. The funding for FY 2025 - FY 2034 also includes funds to convert the grass fields at Kenmore Middle School to synthetic turf. Conversion involves excavation and exportation of existing soil, installation of drainage base materials, installation of athletic field drainage systems, improved stormwater management systems, installation of synthetic turf and infill, and installation of lighting and site amenities, including site furnishings, site circulation, accessibility improvements and landscaping.

The Trail and Bridge Modernization Program is largely focused on replacement and major renovation of the County's 35.22 miles of off-street, multi-purpose trails that are approaching the end of their useful life. The other component of this program focuses on the repair or replacement of pedestrian bridges and low-water fords on multi-purpose trails and hiking trails.

The purpose of the Parks Land Acquisition and Public Space Program is to have reserves on hand that allow the County to strategically acquire real property for parks and public spaces based on recommendations in the Public Spaces Master Plan. In addition to the acquisition of real property for park land, the program funds ancillary activities, such as project management, appraisals, surveys, environmental assessments, demolition, site restoration, fencing, and fees to change the general land use plan and zoning classification.

Master Plan Impact

The Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP), adopted in April 2019, is an element of the County's Comprehensive Plan. This CIP seeks funds for a consultant review of that plan now that it has been in place for five years.

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

10 YEAR CATEGORY SUMMARY (in \$1,000s)

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	10 Year Total
Maintenance Capital	4,250	5,912	6,128	5,829	5,950	6,076	6,097	6,219	6,241	6,363	59,065
Park Master Plans	3,938	16,557	34,010	25,990	2,230	10,760	12,040	2,940	16,110	56,990	181,565
Trail and Bridge Modernization	2,675	3,935	2,525	2,550	2,575	2,605	2,070	455	455	405	20,250
Parks Land Acquisition and Open Space	1,500	0	3,030	0	3,060	0	3,090	0	3,125	0	13,805
Synthetic Turf Program	11,825	1,041	2,337	3,132	2,094	1,975	1,634	3,617	4,710	1,700	34,065
Total Recommendation	24,188	27,445	48,030	37,501	15,909	21,416	24,931	13,231	30,641	65,458	308,750

PROGRAM FUNDING SOURCES (in \$1,000s)

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	FY 2033	FY 2034	10 Year Total
New Funding											
Federal Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Developer Contributions	1,400	3,000	18,895	6,310	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	34,605
New Bond Issue	7,480	17,055	23,675	18,530	10,840	12,790	20,940	7,740	23,530	54,840	197,420
PAYG	2,720	2,167	1,273	2,489	2,315	1,831	2,357	1,874	2,401	1,918	21,345
Short Term Finance	0	1,041	1,702	1,997	2,094	1,975	1,007	2,231	3,000	1,511	16,558
Stormwater Utility Fee Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funding	5,270	0	1,635	1,135	0	0	627	1,386	1,710	2,189	13,952
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	0	200	850	7,040	660	4,820	0	0	0	0	13,570
Subtotal New Funding	16,870	23,463	48,030	37,501	15,909	21,416	24,931	13,231	30,641	65,458	297,450
Previously Approved Funding											
Authorized but Unissued Bonds	605	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	605
Issued but Unspent Bonds	2,675	621	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,296
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	1,038	3,061	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,099
Other Previously Approved Funds	3,000	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,300
Subtotal Previously Approved Funding	7,318	3,982	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,300
Total Funding Sources	24,188	27,445	48,030	37,501	15,909	21,416	24,931	13,231	30,641	65,458	308,750