PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSMP-IAC)

Virtual Meeting

April 17, 2024

AGENDA

- Introduction

- Virtual Meeting Ground Rules

- Public Comment

- Annual PSMP Update
  - County Board Guidance - Progress

- Natural Surface Trails Updates

- PSMP Refresh

- Next Steps

- Appendix - Selected PSMP Recommendations Progress

VIRTUAL MEETING GROUND RULES

- Thank you for being here!

- This meeting is being recorded & posted on the PSMP-IAC website

- Public comments go first

For this meeting:
- PSMP-IAC members & staff will have access to cameras & mics
- Mics and cameras for general public attendees will be disabled
- Public members who signed up to speak prior to the meeting, will have access to cameras and mics during their timeslot
- If you're on a phone, dial "*6" to mute and unmute yourself
- "Chat" option is disabled for this meeting
- Please do not interrupt Committee's discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Speakers (3 minutes each):

Written Comments:

COUNTY BOARD GUIDANCE – BRIEF UPDATES

TASKS	PROGRESS & ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE
Appoint the PSMP Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC)	16 meetings so far
Refine the Casual Use Space concept (Action Steps 1.3.1, 1.3.2 page 61)	Initiated in Spring 2020, anticipated completion 2025
Update the Natural Resources Management & Urban Forest Master Plans (Priority Action 10, Action 3.1., page 96)	Completed in December 2023
Field availability & utilization (Priority Action 4, Action Step 1.2.5., page 60)	Framework Developed in 2023
Update the County's zoning regulations as they relate to parks and public spaces (Action Step 1.5.10., page 68)	2 Phases completed in 2023
Review options and identify a preferred formal process for adding lights to athletic fields (Action Step 1.5.5., page 67)	TBD

COUNTY BOARD GUIDANCE - PROGRESS
PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSMP-IAC)

Progress:

- The PSMP-IAC was appointed by the County Manager in Fall 2019
- 16 meetings held so far

Membership:

- Co-Chairs:
  - **Shruti Kuppa**, Park and Recreation Commission
  - **Jane Rudolph**, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Bicycle Advisory Committee: **Gillian Burgess**
- Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2): **Mikaila Milton**
- Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission: TBD
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission: **Caroline Haynes**
- Park and Recreation Commission: Jill Barker
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee: **Andrea Walker**
- Planning Commission: Peter Robertson
- Sports Commission: **Nancy Sharkey**
- Department of Parks and Recreation: **Erik Beach**

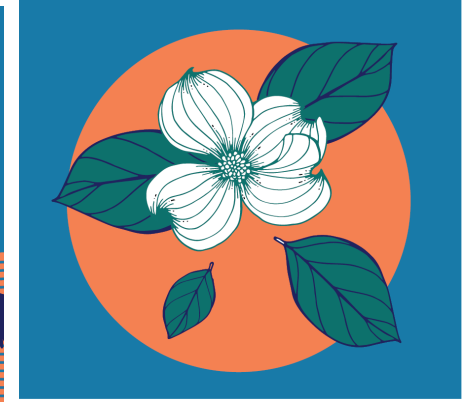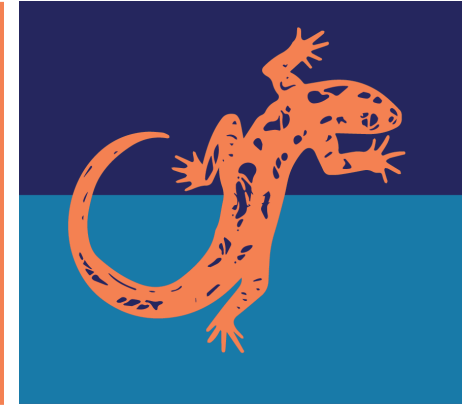**PSMP Recommendation:**

Priority Action 10
3.1. Update the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Natural Resources Management Plan through a combined process.

Progress:

- The FNRP was adopted by the County Board in December 2023

Next Steps:

- Implementation Planning
- Tree Canopy Study
- Deer Management Project
- Natural Surface Trails Study

PSMP Recommendation:

1.5.10. Review and consider updating the County's zoning regulations related to parks and public spaces in "S-3A" and "PS" districts, and other County codes as needed, related to setbacks, athletic field and other lighting, parking and parking options, dog parks and dog runs, signage, height, water features, fencing and temporary use of public and private property as public space.

Progress:
- Phase 1 completed in March 2023, focused on:
  o Stormwater management
  o Placement
  o Setbacks
  o Maximum height for fence & walls
- Phase 2 completed in December 2023:
  ▪ County Board authority to approve increased height, reduced setbacks, and reduced parking amounts on a case-by-case basis (Use Permit req.)

Next Steps:
- Phase 3, to be initiated in the future (TBD):
  ▪ Comprehensive study, with proposed support from consultant team
  ▪ Identify best practices for flexible zoning standards for public spaces
  ▪ Topics to evaluate include definitions/terms, new standards for height/setbacks, sign regulations, and by-right parks outside S-3A district

2023

Zoning Ordinance
Arlington County, Virginia

PSMP Recommendations:

Priority Action 5: 1.3. Ensure access to spaces that are intentionally designed to support casual, impromptu use and connection with nature.

1.3.1. Undertake 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 this concept should enable an inventory to be completed.

1.3.2. Explore opportunities to develop standards for casual use spaces.
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.

1.3.3. When developing plans for public spaces, include intentionally designed casual use spaces where appropriate.

Progress:
- Incorporated casual use space concept in various park master plans and site plans

Next Steps:
- Workshop w/PSMP-IAC (July)
- Concept refinements & exploring standards (Fall/Winter)
- Finalizing Inventory (Winter 2025)

COUNTY BOARD GUIDANCE - PROGRESS
FIELD AVAILABILITY & UTILIZATION

PSMP Recommendation:

Priority Action 4

1.2.5. Analyze athletic field utilization to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs.

> The County will work with the community to determine a set of use assumptions that will enable consistent evaluation of field utilization and capacity. This will be used in conjunction with the Level of Service recommendations (see 1.2.4.).

Progress:

- 5 meetings with the PSMP-IAC
- Presented the framework of Athletic Field Availability and Utilization to PSMP-IAC on November 2, 2023.

Next Steps:

- Implementation will begin in Spring 2024 to include:
  - Eliminate drop in field classification
  - Preserve community use time at fields throughout the County
  - Pilot a Check-in process in Spring 2024 to compare actual use versus scheduled use.
  - In 2025, report annual utilization rates for all athletics fields.

PSMP Recommendation:

Action Step 1.5.5.: Define a transparent civic engagement process for adding lights to athletic fields.

Progress:

- N/A

Next Steps:

- Contingent upon the Zoning Study

PSMP CONTAINS 200+ RECOMMENDATIONS

Progress (additional details in the Appendix):

- Land acquisition
- New park master plans & implementation
- Pickleball
- Trails
- Biophilic principles
- Natural resource conservation & management
- Programming
- Community gardens

Strategic Direction 1. Ensure equitable access 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, Land Acquisition).				
	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 Board adopted plans, like 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, Design Guidelines). As developer projects are completed, the County will ensure that the required public access easement is platted, recorded and enforced.				
	DPR, CPHD, DES	Property owners, AED	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.	Conduct a study of residual rights-of-way to determine if such spaces could be used for public space purposes on a temporary or permanent basis.				
	DPR, DES, CPHD	VDOT	Operating budget	short term (0–5 years)	$

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 and other planning tools and policy, determine where to reduce duplication of services without reducing the overall quality of service provided to the community.				
	DPR		Capital budget	continuous	$

NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS UPDATES

NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS
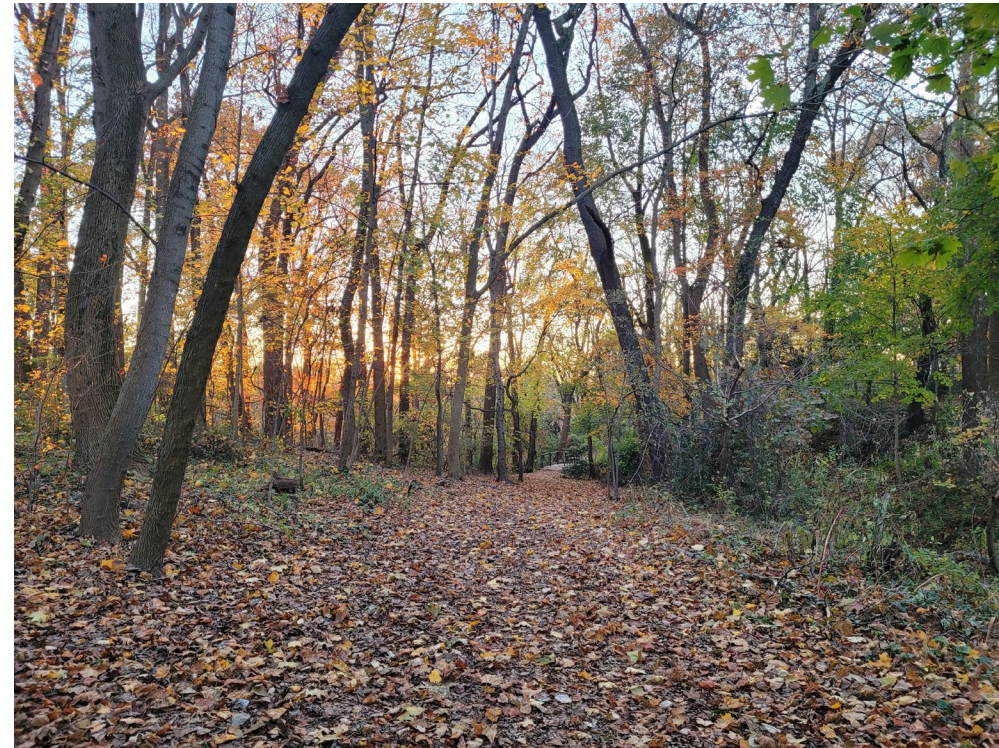
PSMP Recommendations:
- 2.1.7. Explore opportunities to provide a space for pump tracks and cyclocross on a temporary or permanent basis, while balancing potential impacts on natural resources and trees.
- 2.4. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.

Progress:
- Phase 1 is complete and the results of the trail inventory, sustainability assessment, and public engagement have been published.
- Phase 2 began in March with a second round of fieldwork.

Next Steps:
- Begin development of Trail Management Framework
  - This will include recommended trail improvements, new maps, and recommended best management practices.

Natural Surface Trail at Douglas Park

Project Background

- Derived from recommendations in the PSMP & FNRP to enhance natural surface trails and adopt sustainable management practices

- The goal is to ensure Arlington's natural surface trails are sustainable and provide high-quality access to nature

- A **2-phase** study; Inventory and Assessment and Trail Management Framework

Status Update

- Phase 1, The Inventory and Assessment is complete.

- Report published and virtual public engagement opportunity, including an educational video and presentation opened in mid-January.

- Finalizing analysis of engagement feedback.

- The consultant team completed Phase 2 fieldwork– evaluating possible trail improvements and re-routes, this month.

Inventory and Assessment Overview

- Focused on County-owned land

- 29 parks were found to contain natural surface trails

- 20+ miles of natural surface trails inventoried

Arlington County
Department of Parks and Recreation
Natural Surface Trail Condition Assessment

Assessment Criteria and Field Methods
Park Inventory Maps
Trail Segment Photographs
Trail Condition Assessment Matrix

prepared by
Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, PC
in association with
Fina Trails, LLC

January 18, 2024

ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA
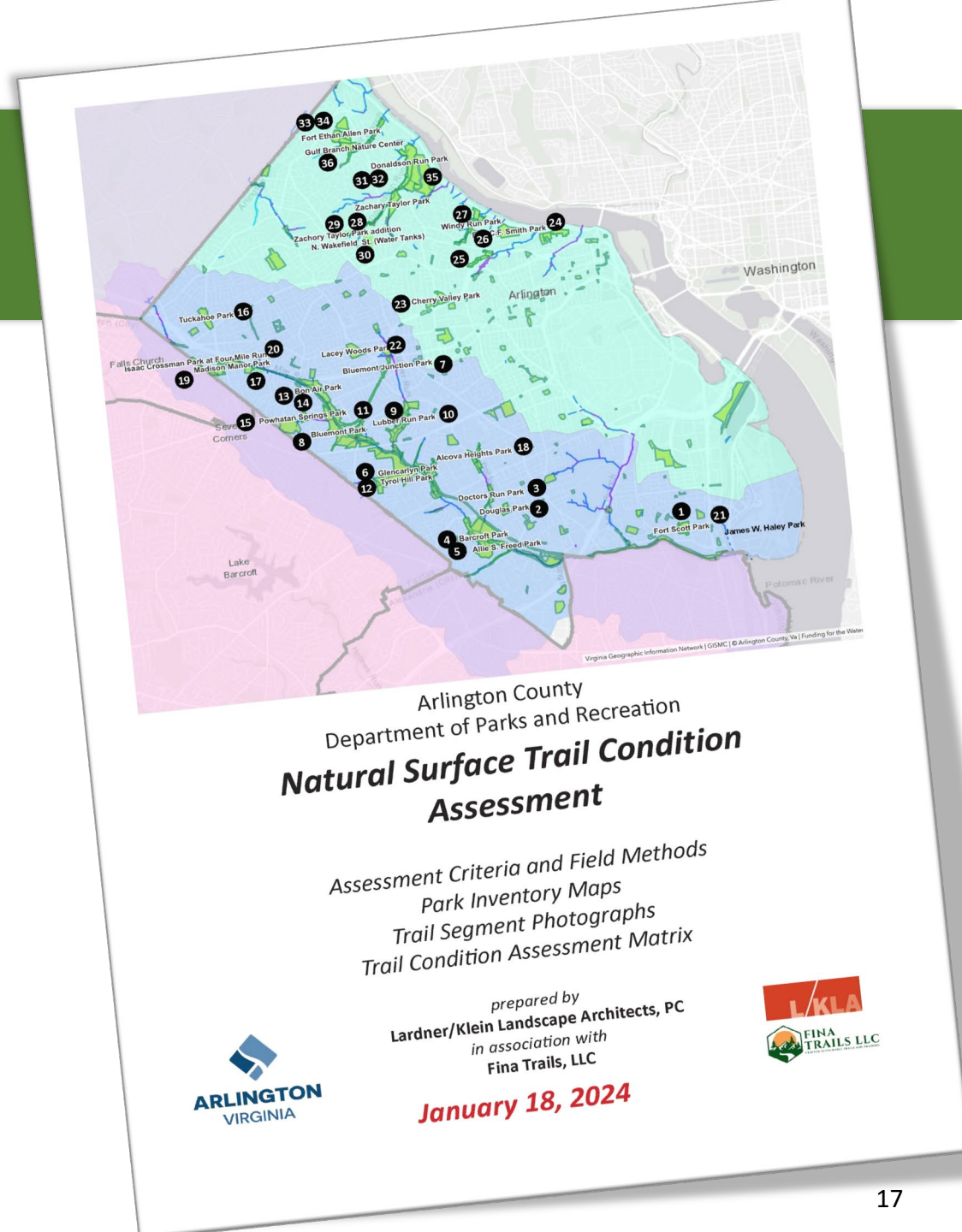
What is in the Report?

- Assessment Criteria

- Field Methods

- Park by Park Inventory Maps

- Trail Segment Photographs

- Trail Condition Dataforms

Types of Trails Inventoried

- Officially Mapped Trails (by Arlington County)

- User-mapped Social Trails (by apps like AllTrails)

- Unmapped Social Trails (discovered during the inventory)

NOTE: Existing paved path from Segment 13-8 to 7th Street South is not shown in Arlington County's Walking Network data layer

19
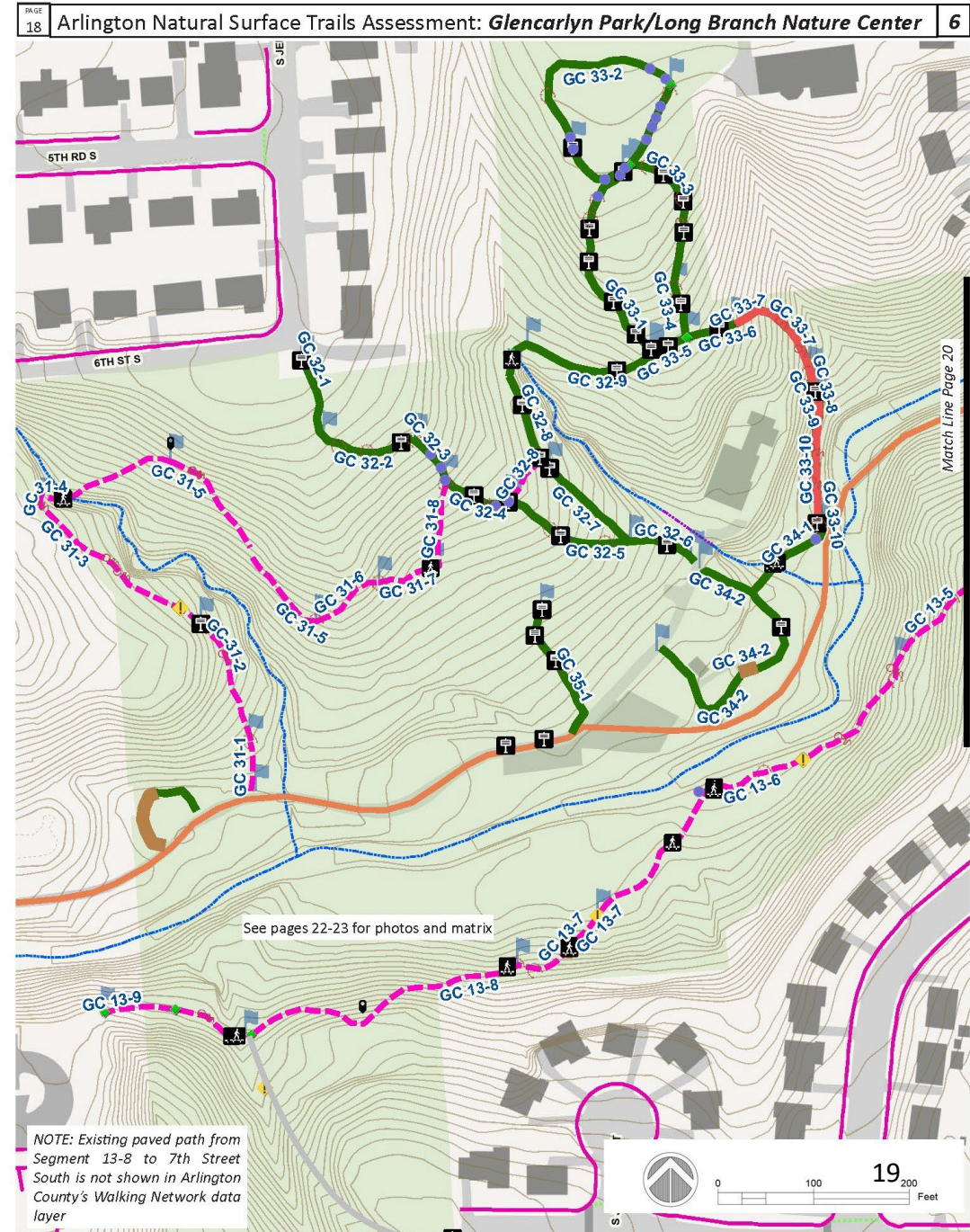
Inventory Methods

- User-created access points
- Obstacles
- Sign locations
- Outslope deterioration
- Tread deterioration
- Crest
- Trail Width Limits
- Wet Areas
- Watercourse Crossings
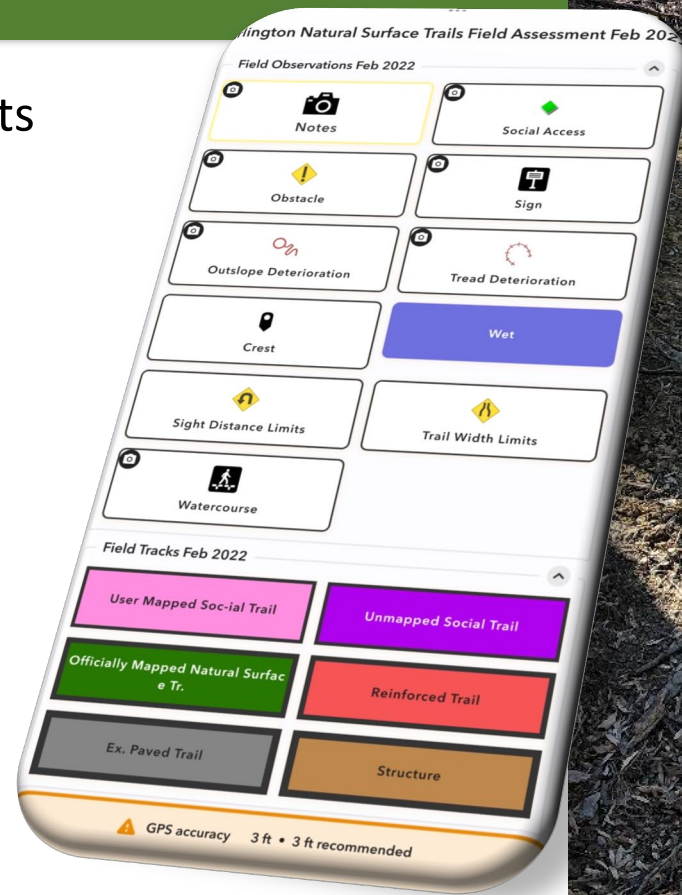
Assessment Methods – Sustainability Grade

- Green (G) – Sustainable with minimal maintenance intervention

- Yellow (Y) – Could be made sustainable with some maintenance interventions, or there are built structures requiring more routine maintenance.

- Red (R) - Trail is not sustainable. Generally, it is too steep, located in a wet area, or impacts an inventoried natural resource

Fort Scott Park 1.28.22
Small neighborhood park, mostly social trails on side hill.

Map Segment	Forest Service Trail Class	Width (feet)	Trail Slope (%)	Trail Slope Angle	Surface	Trail Outslope	Soil Loss	Incised	Assessment (R,Y,G)	Notes	Segment Recommendation
1.1	2	2-3	10	2	soil	NA	Y	Y	Yellow	carrying drainage from parking.	Add RGD
1.2	2	2-3	10	2	soil	NA	Y	Y	Yellow	water bars.	remove water bars, add RGD
1.3	2	2-3	<5	1	soil	OK	N	N	Green	nice RCA	No action
1.4	2	2-3	<5	4	soil	NA	Y	N	Yellow	connector to field	no recommendation
1.5	2	2-3	7	1	soil	OK	N	N	Green	nice RCA	No action
1.6	2	2-3	<5	4	soil	OK	N	N	Green	nice RCA, two sets of scout built steps. Need work.	re do steps
1.7	2	2-3	<5	4	soil	OK	N	N	Green	nice RCA	No action
1.8	2	2-3	5-15	1-2	soil	OK	Y	Y	Red	whole network of braided trails here mostly too steep.	close/reroute
1.9	2	2-3	5-15	1-2	soil	OK	Y	Y	Red	whole network of braided trails here mostly too steep.	close/reroute
1.10	2	2-3	5-10	3-4	soil	OK	N	N	Green	whole network of braided trails here mostly too steep.	close/reroute
1.11	2	2-3	15-20	1-2	soil	OK	Y	Y	Red	whole network of braided trails here mostly too steep.	close/reroute
1.12	2	2-3	5	4	soil	OK	N	N	Green	whole network of braided trails here mostly too steep.	close/reroute
2.1	2	2-3	5-15	1	soil	OK	Y	Y	Red		add RGD (4)
2.2	2	2-3	5-10	3-4	soil	OK	N	N	Yellow		add RGD (3)
2.3	2	2-3	5-10	2-3	soil	OK	N	N	Yellow		add RGD (3)
2.4	2	2-3	5-10	2-3	soil	OK	N	N	Yellow		add RGD (4)
2.5	2	2-3	15-30	1-2	soil	OK	Y	N	Red	very eroded steep area	close/reroute
2.6	2	2-3	8-13	4	soil	OK	Y	N	Yellow	trail to street. Down hill edge lined	remove edge
3.1	2	2-3	30	1	soil	NA	Y	Y	Red	exposed roots rocks gullied fall line	close/reroute
4.1	2	2-3	33	1	soil	NA	Y	Y	Red	exposed roots rocks gullied fall line	close/reroute
4.2	2	2-3	<10	4	soil	OK	N	N	Green		add RGD (3)

Big Picture:
The south and west sides of this park have good potential for a sustainable trail or trails.

Engagement Summary

794 Participants

ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

794 Online Feedback Form Responses
Through these responses, we received 1,974 comments

Age Range

655 respondents

24%	50 to 59
23%	40 to 49
21%	60 to 69
17%	70 and Above
10%	30 to 39
4%	20 to 29
1%	19 and Under
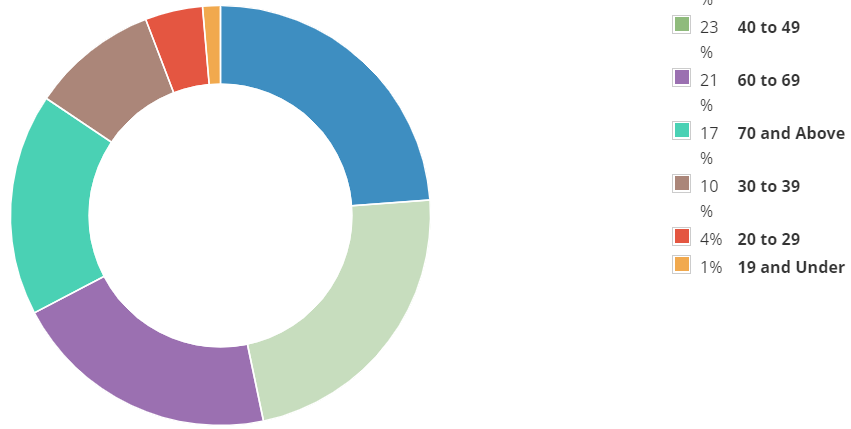
Which of the following best describes your current home?

624 respondents
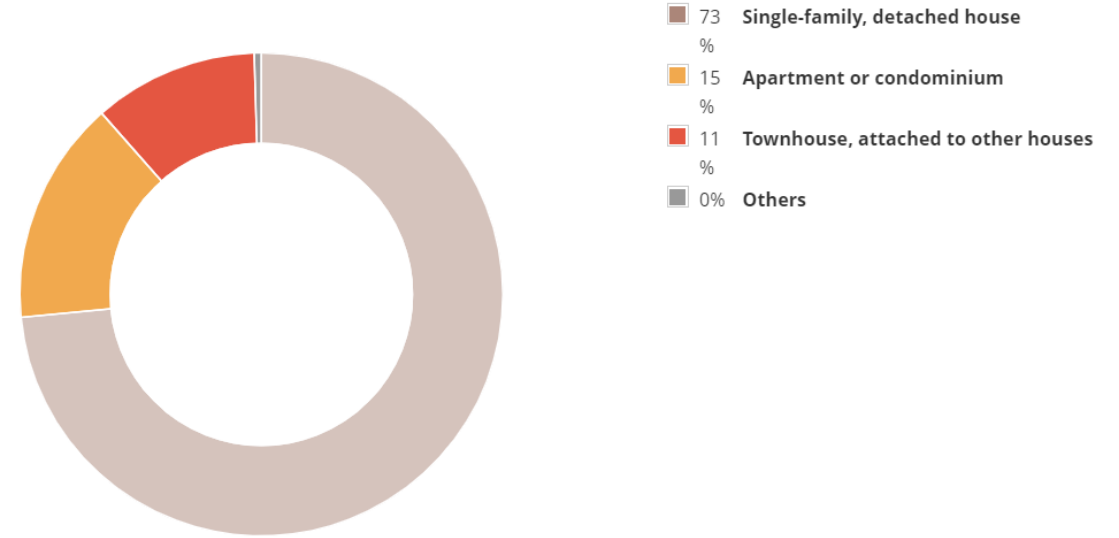
73%	Single-family, detached house
15%	Apartment or condominium
11%	Townhouse, attached to other houses
0%	Others

Which of the following describes your race or ethnicity? Select all that apply.

90%	White	392 ✓
6%	Hispanic or Latino	25 ✓
3%	Other	13 ✓
3%	Asian	11 ✓
2%	Black or African American	8 ✓
1%	Native American	5 ✓
1%	Pacific Islander	4 ✓

437 Respondents

Do you rent or own your current home?

0% Other
13% Rent
87% Own

634 respondents

23
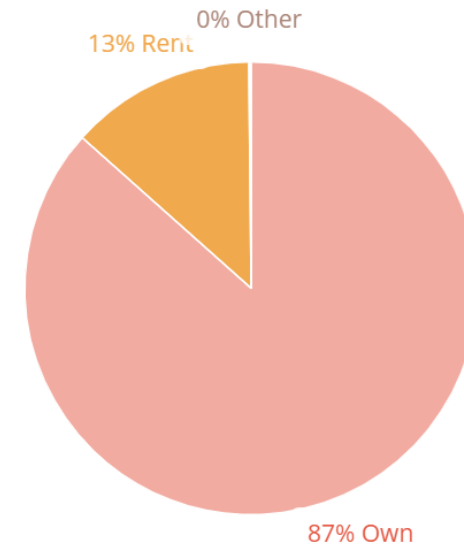
Key Themes

General Enthusiasm for Trails	Maintenance and Connectivity	Diversity in Trail Experience	Youth and Mountain Biking
• Widespread support and enthusiasm for preserving and enhancing Arlington's natural trails. • Trails valued for fostering social interaction and enhancing physical and mental well-being.	• Maintenance of existing trails is a high priority, with emphasis on erosion control and natural aesthetics. • Demand for more interconnected trails providing a variety of experiences and improved accessibility.	• Community calls for a range of trail types to cater to different skill levels, ensuring rugged and natural features are preserved. • Interest in trails that offer a graded difficulty level, from easy for accessibility to challenging for seasoned hikers.	• Majority supports the exploration of mountain bike trail access, with consideration for safety and environmental impact. • Strong interest in youth-friendly trail infrastructure and programs, aligning with support for mountain biking access.

Key Themes

Preservation of Natural Experiences	Control of Off-Leash Dogs	Trail Signage and Information	Natural Experience and Wildlife
• The experience of nature is a key feature that the community values highly. • Minimal change and low-impact enhancements preferred to maintain the trail's natural integrity.	• Majority of responses on this topic advocate for enforcing leash laws to ensure safety and enjoyment for all trail users.	• A desire for more intentional and educational signage to assist with navigation and to enrich the trail experience.	• Many respondents emphasized the importance of trails for experiencing and learning about nature and local wildlife. • A preference for sustainable, low-impact trail enhancements that support wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

Question Highlight – If you haven't used the trails, why not?

36%	Other	65 ✓
31%	I did not know about them	55 ✓
22%	Hard to access / poor signage	39 ✓
19%	Too far away	35 ✓
16%	They do not feel safe or welcoming to me	29 ✓
11%	Trails are hard to navigate	20 ✓
6%	They do not accommodate those with different mobility needs	10 ✓

180 Respondents

Next Steps

- Finalize Engagement Analysis and Publish Summary – April 2024

- Field data analysis – April 2024

- Develop Draft Framework – Spring/Summer 2024

- Engagement #2 – Summer 2024

- Engagement #3 – Summer/Fall 2024

Project Links

- [Project Page](#)

- [Natural Surface Trails Educational Video](#)

- [Inventory and Assessment Report](#)

- [Introduction to the Inventory and Assessment Presentation](#)

PSMP REFRESH & NEXT STEPS

PSMP REFRESH

PSMP Recommendations:

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

Review to include:

- Statistically valid survey
- Equity considerations
- Inventory update
- Level of Service update
- Land acquisition criteria, methodology and priorities review
- General text updates

Anticipated Timeline:

- Consultant on board for specific services (Fall)
- Kick-off with the PSMP-IAC (Fall/Winter)
- Broader community engagements to be initiated (Winter)

Public Spaces Master Plan
Adopted April 25, 2019

An element of Arlington County's Comprehensive Plan

ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

NEXT STEPS

- **2024 Topics:**
  - park master planning & implementation
  - casual use space
  - 5-year review
  - natural surface trails

- **Next PSMP-IAC Meetings:**
  - Casual Use Space Workshop (July 2024)
    - Final concept refinements (definition, design characteristics)
    - 2-3 hour in-person workshop
    - During day or early afternoon

  - PSMP Refresh kickoff with PSMP-IAC (Fall 2024)

APPENDIX
SELECTED PSMP RECOMMENDATIONS PROGRESS

NEW PUBLIC SPACES - PROGRESS

PSMP Recommendations:

- Priority Action 1: 1.1. Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next 10 years.

- Priority Action 2: 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.

Progress (land secured):

Park/Public Space	Approximate Acreage Added	Type of acquisition
Jennie Dean Park (3520 and 3522 S. Four Mile Run Dr.)	0.15	purchase
Met Park (1400 S. Eads St. & 501 15th St. S.)	2.47	public access easement
VDOT (4175 41st ST N)	7.5	purchase
Water Park (1601 Crystal Drive)	1.38	public access easement
Lang Street Garden (1128 28th St. S.)	0.28	purchase
Center Park (1901 S Bell St)	1.03	public access easement
Lang Street Garden (1126 28th St. S.)	0.31	purchase
Lang Street Garden (2814 S. Arlington Ridge Road)	0.29	purchase
Drew Park (2402 S. Kenmore St.)	0.07	purchase

Total: 13.48 acres

Site plans w/public spaces approved since Spring 2023 (various construction & easement timelines):

Future privately owned public space	Estimated Acres	SP Approved by the County Board
Bingham Center/Silver Diner (ROW conversion)	0.14	Sept. 2023
ARVA	0.23	July 2023
Crystal Towers 3 (expended easement)	0.01	June 2023
	Total: 0.38	

Anticipated site plans to be considered by the County Board in near future:

Associated Site Plan (SP)	Estimated Acres
12th St. Landings PDSP – Spring/Summer 2024	0.5
Pentagon Centre PDSP (temporary space) – May 2024	0.23
Crystal City Block W – Spring/Summer 2024	0.87
	Total: 1.6

NEW PARK MASTER PLANS

PSMP Recommendation:
Priority Action 7: 1.5.9. Develop park master plans for all new parks or when renovation of an existing park requires a major rearrangement of park amenities.

Progress:
- Adopted FY 2023 - FY 2032 Capital Improvement Plan identifies future park master plans for Gateway Park, Boathouse, Crystal City Parks (ongoing), Three Urban Parks (FY 2023), Virginia Highlands Park/Nearby Public Space (FY 2028), Fairfax Drive Public Spaces (FY 2029), Quincy Park, Shirlington Park (FY 2031).
- The Gateway Park master planning process started in early 2024. The draft existing conditions report is being reviewed by staff and the 1st engagement launched on April 11.

Next Steps:
- Master planning for Three Urban Parks & Boathouse anticipated to begin in 2024.
- Metro Market Square park master plan process to be initiated in Spring 2024.

Three Urban Parks

ADOPTED PARK MASTER PLANS IMPLEMENTATION

PSMP Recommendations:
- Priority Action 6: 1.5.2. Complete the implementation of adopted park master plans.

Progress:
- Met Park opened in Summer 2023 and contains various amenities (dog run, casual use space, etc.) and special events and other recurring uses (open-air markets, etc.).

Next Steps:
- Jennie Dean Park Phase 2 – WETA will be moving out of their studio in the second half of 2024. Design to convert the property into park space and implement the 4MRV Park Master Plan will be happening over the second half of 2024 and first half of 2025. Construction on phase 2 to start sometime in 2025.
- Arlington Junction Park - construction anticipated to begin in 2024 includes casual use area, plantings, stormwater facilities, and seating.
- Short Bridge Park – design process anticipated to begin in 2024 (master plan includes a dog run, casual use area, plaza, playground, meadow and site planting).

Met Park in Pentagon City

PICKLEBALL

PSMP Recommendation:

1.4.3. Establish a dedicated pickleball facility to meet the growing demand.

Progress:

Walter Reed Updates:

- Project will construct 6 dedicated pickleball courts, lighting, sound mitigation, fencing, sport accessories, seating, shade structures, 4 additional parking spaces, stormwater management and landscaping.
- DPR held three public engagements and a pop-up starting in February 2023. The first two were open houses where staff engaged with residents to discuss various related topics of concern. The last engagement was a video presentation in November 2023.
- Construction plans are currently in permitting.

# of pickleball courts restriped:

- A total of 14 pickleball courts have been striped at existing tennis courts in Fort Scott, Hayes, Marcey Road and Virginia Highlands Parks. Acoustical liners have been installed.

Next Steps:

- Walter Reed is anticipated to start construction in Winter 2024/2025.

Walter Reed Park dedicated pickleball facility

MULTI-USE TRAILS

PSMP Recommendations:
- Priority Action 9: 2.1. Expand Arlington's network of connected multi-use trails.
- 2.2. Improve existing trails that currently do not meet design standards or user demands.

Progress:
- Custis Trail Needs Assessment: In the winter of 23/24, County staff conducted an existing conditions analysis, infrastructure inventory, and public engagement to support the needs assessment. Preliminary infrastructure recommendations and a draft report are anticipated Spring 2024.
- Long Bridge: The proposed bike/ped bridge will land at Long Bridge Park, connect with the Mount Vernon Trail, and on to DC. Currently in the planning stages, the state released the RFP for the southern segment of the crossing in February 2024.
- Arlington Boulevard Trail South Side Improvements: This project will advance the recommendations in the 2023 feasibility study and widen the existing sidewalk to a multi-use trail, provide a buffer from the roadway, and improve trail crossings between S. George Mason and S Glebe. The County was awarded federal funding for design this Spring.

Next Steps: Continue interdepartmental coordination on DES trail projects and interjurisdictional coordination on Long Bridge and the Mount Vernon Trail, continue milling and repaving the least performing trail segments per the 2023 pavement assessment.

Custis Trail Access at N. Calvert St.
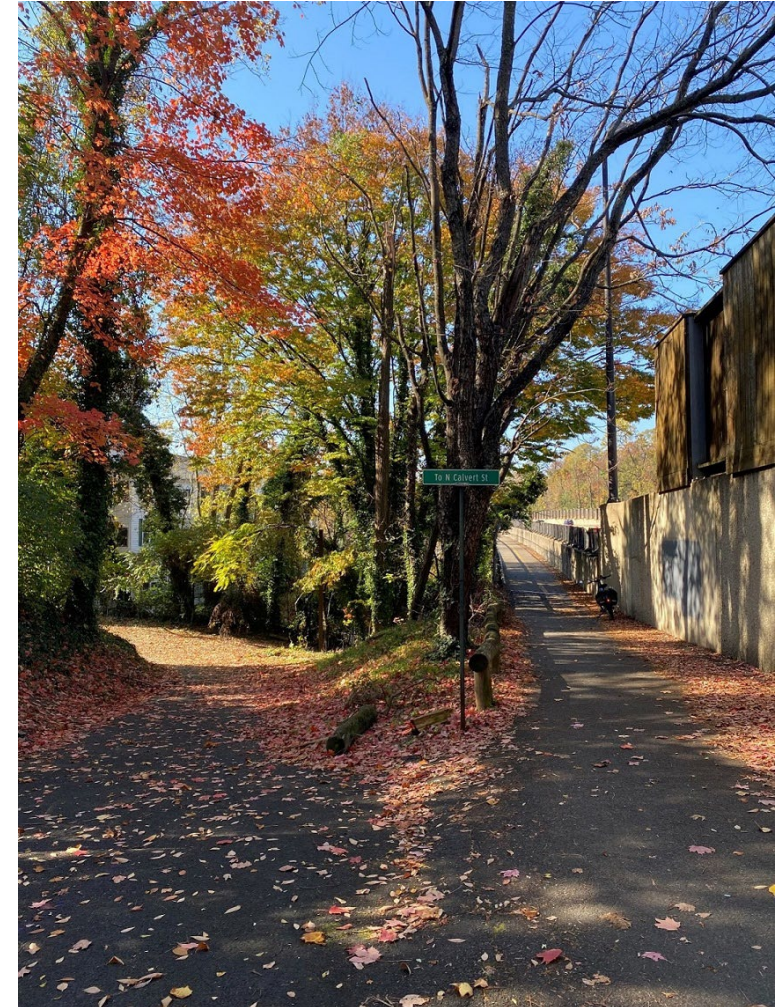
BIOPHILIC PRINCIPLES

PSMP Recommendation:

3.3.1. Explore opportunities to participate in and join the Biophilic Cities movement.

Progress:

- FNRP adopted – the plan incorporates biophilia throughout and includes guidance on biophilic design for public and private projects
- CPHD & DPR staff participate in monthly meetings of the Biophilic Cities Network
- Incorporated biophilic design recommendations in park master plan, site plans and other plans

Next Steps:

- Continue to encourage biophilic design principles in public & private projects and plans
- Improve Biophilic website
- Track implementation/progress

BIOPHILIA IN ARLINGTON COUNTY

The following selection of completed projects demonstrate effective practice of biophilic design, and serve as models for future projects in Arlington, across public and private spaces:

PRIVATE PROPERTY
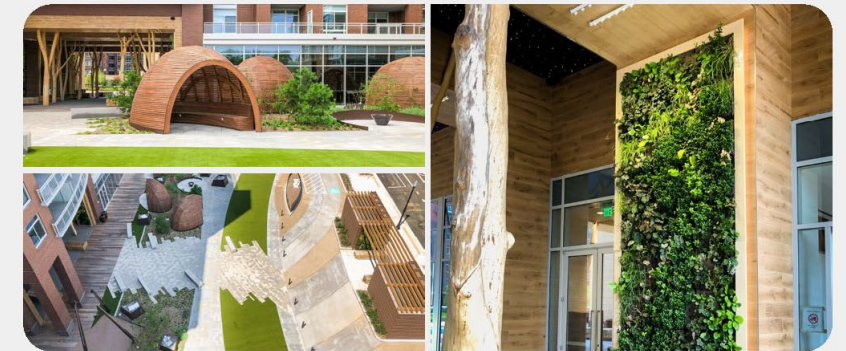
Above: The Sur in Crystal City

STREETSCAPES

Above Left: John Marshall Drive Green Street

Top Right: Williamsburg Boulevard Green Street
Bottom Right: 2nd Street South Green Street

BIOPHILIC DESIGN

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

PSMP Recommendations:

- 1.9.5. Promote the planting, preservation, maintenance and increase of canopy trees on public and private land.
- 3.2.4. Collaborate with Arlington Public Schools to identify, preserve, enhance and maintain natural and historic resources on school properties.
- 3.2.10. Create pollinator corridors within parks and street medians, where appropriate.

Progress:

- Updated the County Code to encourage conservation landscaping, rain gardens, native, and agricultural plantings, enabling private property owners to contribute to biodiversity and habitat.
- DPR received a $25,000 matching grant from VDOF to plant trees on APS land.
- Developed pollinator habitat at Met Park, with similar designs completed for Pen Place and Arlington Junction Parks

Next Steps:

- Coordinate with FNRP implementation planning to further conservation goals
- Continue tree planting programs and native plant restoration
- Continue to provide assistance to APS on conservation, planting, and environmental education.

Green roof with trees at APS's Heights Building

NATURE PROGRAMMING IN PARKS

PSMP Recommendations:

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

Progress:

- Weeklong Park Corp program where teens are introduced to natural resource management tasks and concepts.
- Working with grade schoolers on play about deer impacts on forest health.
- Family events at the Long Branch Nature Center to expose families with a member with a disability to the natural spaces and activities.
- Nature Center staff provide nature themed activities to preschoolers.
- The Youth Teens and Families unit regularly include nature-themed activities and the Nature Center staff and 4-H have provided activities at teen night programs.
- Families Unplugged featured an anthropology program where families learned about fossils and excavating artifacts from the earth.
- In partnership with National Park Services, provided educational hikes for seniors in Arlington and in other jurisdictions.

ASSESSING PROGRAMMING NEEDS

- 5.1.1. Undertake a demand and capacity analysis of existing programs offered by DPR and program partners in Arlington County.

Progress:

- An assessment of the needs of participants with disabilities resulted in the creation of an additional Adapted Gymnastics class for ages 6-16 years to accommodate the participants as they age.
- To promote equitable access to events that have a limited number of spots, the TR Unit staggered Social Club registrations and removed TR camps from the early registration process (except for fee reduced participants).
- Analysis of the 55+ Survey, registration data, and trends showed that seniors want to participate in meaningful, adventurous trips which informed programming decisions.
- The Fitness Unit utilized drop-in class attendance to inform decisions on class offerings.
- In January 2024, Fitness class participation spiked for the first time since the pandemic and the inclusion of classes at Long Bridge in membership has increased some class attendance.

Next Steps:
- Fitness program satisfaction evaluations are being planned for the coming months.

PROGRAMMING TRENDS

PSMP Recommendations:
- 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.

Progress:
- Expanded fitness programming for people with disabilities and added a new Adapted Zumba class.
- 55+ staff participate in an inter-jurisdictional technology collaboration called the Virtual Center for Active Adult (VCAA) to stay abreast of technology trends and to adjust programs to meet the demand.
- Demand for programs about technology safety and privacy continues to grow as older adults increasingly engage online. Therefore, the 55+ Unit offered programs on Password Managers and Artificial Intelligence.
- 55+ onsite programming demand continues to increase as participants desire increased social connection. As a result, table games grew in popularity, and the 55+ staff offered several new games including Mexican Train Dominoes, Ticket to Ride, Samba, and BUNCO. Pickleball continues to grow, and classes fill within minutes.
- Introduced teen pool nights, which encouraged teens to swim at Long Bridge. Transportation was provided this summer as part of the pilot. The program was a success and staff will continue to offer teen swim nights. The two events this year attracted 160 teens to the program.

Next Steps:
- Staff continues to participate in conferences to explore emerging trends.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

PSMP Recommendations: 1.4.4. Seek opportunities to enlarge or add space for community gardens and urban agriculture.

Progress:
- Purchased 3 new properties adjacent to Lang Street Garden for expansion.

Next Steps:
- Deconstruct houses and prepare new gardens at Lang Street
- Review process and explore developing criteria for more equitable plot assignment
- Review/update agreements with existing garden associations
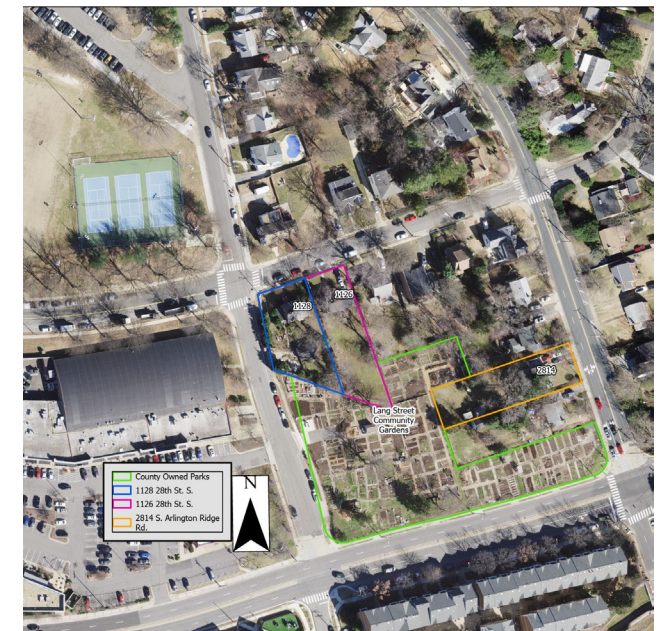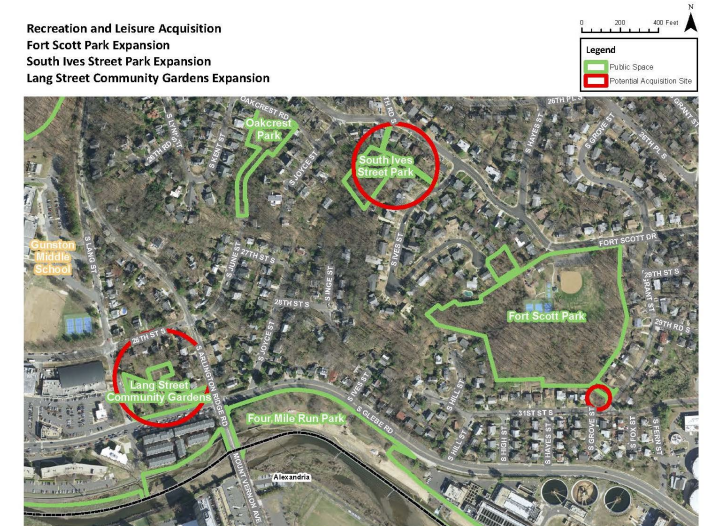
Lang Street Garden – recently acquired properties

PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN- IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSMP-IAC)

Virtual Meeting

April 17, 2024