PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSMP-IAC) Virtual Meeting November 2, 2023

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Virtual Meeting Ground Rules
- Public Comment
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update
- Field Availability & Utilization Engagement Summary & Next Steps
- Zoning Study Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes
- PSMP-IAC Next Steps

VIRTUAL MEETING GROUND RULES

- Thank you for being here!
- This meeting is being recorded & posted on the PSMP-IAC website
- Public comments go first

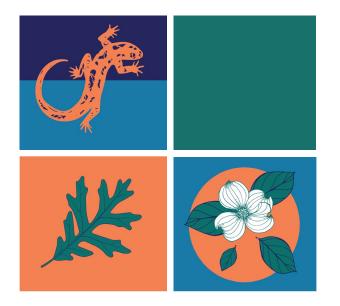
For this meeting, please:

- Mute your microphone unless you are speaking
- Raise your hand using the "raise hand" feature to ask questions
- If you're on a phone, dial "*6" to mute and unmute yourself
- Use the "Chat" option for technical issues
- Do not interrupt Committee's discussion

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Speakers (3 minutes each):

Written Comments:



Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) Update

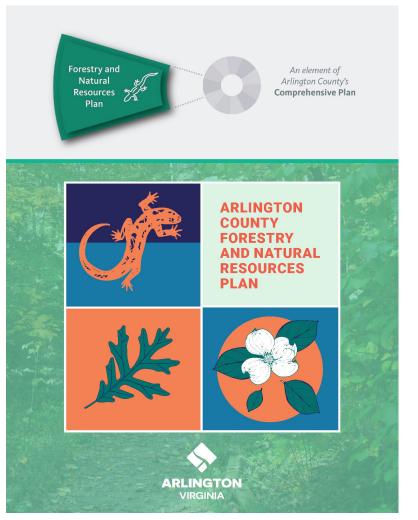
- Introduction
- Planning Process
- Public Engagement
- Plan Content
- Next Steps



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FNRP Overview and Planning Context



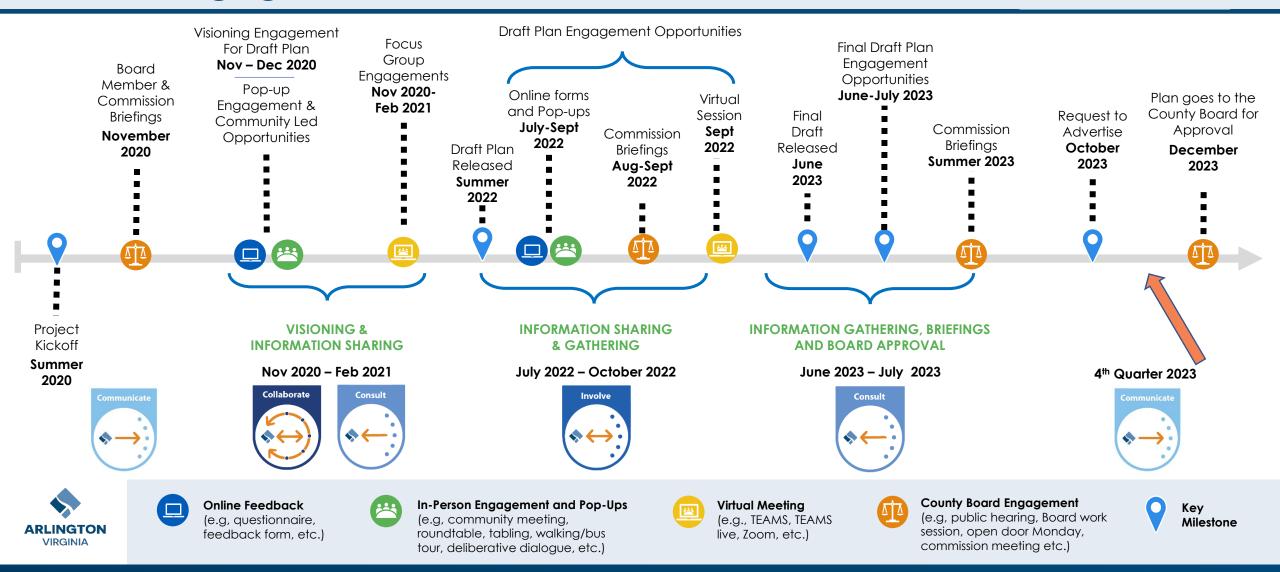
- A new element of Arlington's Comprehensive Plan
- A combined update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan
- Policy guidance for integrated natural resource and urban forest management across private and public land in the County

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Public Engagement Timeline

Origin: Element of Comprehensive Plan

Funding: General Fund

Staff Contact: Ryan Delaney (fnrp@arlingtonva.us)





Planning Process

NRJAG Members:

- Caroline Haynes (Chair)
- Phil Klingelhofer
- David Howell
- Joan McIntyre
- David Evans
- Mikalia Milton
- Shruti Kuppa
- Jill Barker
- Sarah Baryluk

Comprised of members from FNRC, PRC, and C2E2 charged with oversight of FNRP.

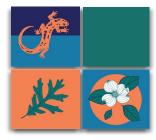
- Interdepartmental core team
- Regular input from the Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) and constituent commissions
- Benchmarking research
- Robust public engagement



Public Engagement - Overview

Online Engagement	Education	Pop-up Events	Virtual Sessions	In-Person Sessions
1,113 Participants Three Online	Promotional Videos Infographics & Signs	21 Bi-lingual Pop-Ups 1,130 Participants	Open House, Focus Groups & Office Hours	In-Person Open House
Engagement Periods (2020, 2022, 2023)				POTROS
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Beedback Vick Association With Pop-Up Leastions				
	• • • Collect & Update Data • • • Collect and update information about the			BIODIVERSITY
	number, size, type and condition of the County's trees. (4.1.4)			
	Conduct inventories of animals, birds, reptiles and insects on cycles – staggered by organism type—to measure for biodiversity goals. (4.1.5)			

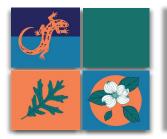
Committee and Commission Briefings (NRJAG, FNRC, C2E2, PRC, LRPC/PC, PSMP-IAC)



Approach to the Plan

- A new, integrated, ecology-focused perspective on environmental planning
- An emphasis on equity and environmental justice
- A community-wide approach to conservation emphasizing education, outreach, and volunteerism
- A focus on reconnecting nature to daily life





FNRP Content







STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

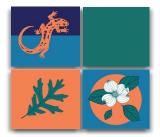




IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



PSMP-IAC – November 2023



FNRP Content – Strategic Directions



1. Conservation

Increase and protect tree canopy, natural areas and biophilic features throughout the County

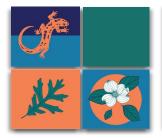
2. Climate Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience Employ Arlington's natural assets to protect public health and well-being

3. Biodiversity

Share vibrant landscapes with people, plants and animals

4. **Operations**

Manage organizational resources for maximum return



Strategic Direction 1 - Conservation



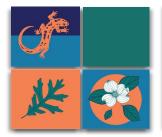
- Applying an equity lens to all projects related to natural resources.
- Goals for tree canopy extent and quality.
- Land acquisition for conservation, protection of natural areas.
- Consistent land management policies across public sites.
- Emphasizing green infrastructure and biophilic design in both private and public projects.
- Emphasizing the importance of our existing volunteers and programs.



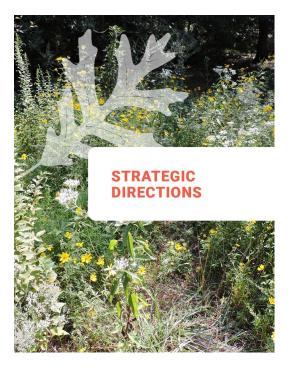
Strategic Direction 2 – Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience



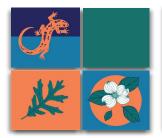
- Directing resources to climate-vulnerable hotspots
- Emphasizing the connection between access to nature and public health
- Revising development review policies to increase the use of green infrastructure to improve energy conservation and cooling.
- Collaborating with BIDs to encourage green infrastructure and biophilic design.



Strategic Direction 3 – Biodiversity



- Improve County land management through:
 - Expansion of natural areas
 - Updates to resource inventories
 - Development of new land management categories and plans
 - Adoption of a native plant requirement
- Managing ecological threats from both invasive and native species
- Increasing habitat connectivity and quality across the County
- Minimizing the impact of elements of the built environment, such as lights, buildings, and trails, on native species.



Strategic Direction 4 – Operations



- Reporting annually on implementation progress towards the FNRP's goals.
- Regular inventories and assessments of natural resources against outcome-oriented performance measures.
- Deepening partnerships to support FNRP goals.
- Moving to proactive maintenance of public natural assets as an equity measure.
- Revising County operating procedures to minimize environmental impacts.
- Seeking sustainable and creative funding sources for FNRP goals.



FNRP Content - Draft Priority Actions

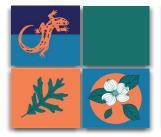
Top 10 priority actions from over 80 plan recommendations.

Priority actions identified through planning process.



- 1.1.1 Reestablish and maintain at least 40 percent tree canopy through tree planting and conservation programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.
- 1.1.2 Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.
- 1.1.5 Advance urban forestry and natural resource goals through County public space acquisitions.
- 1.2.1 Seek legislation at the state level that authorizes Arlington County to develop locallyappropriate policies to conserve and manage its natural resources.
- 1.2.3 Enhance development standards to optimize retention or replacement of tree canopy, natural vegetation, permeable surfaces and biophilic elements.

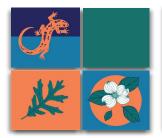
- 1.4.3 Recruit and train community, cultural and faith-community leaders in addition to existing partner groups to serve as nature ambassadors and proponents of grassroots conservation.
- 2.1.1 Direct resources to neighborhoods
 currently underserved by existing tree canopy,
 ecosystem services or access to natural areas.
- 3.1.6 Adopt a native plant requirement for public and private sites to expand use and retention of local and regionally native plants.
- 3.3 Establish a County-wide natural infrastructure and conservation connectivity network
- 4.4.1 Move from "reactive" to "proactive" maintenance of publicly owned natural assets, outside of extreme storm events and other emergencies.
 PSMP-IAC - November ¹⁷2023



FNRP Content - Implementation Framework



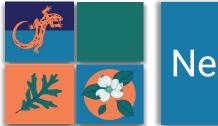
ltem	Description	Time Frame Ongoing, Short, Medium, Long	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Cost Range Estimate \$-\$\$\$	Potential Funding Sources
1. Con	servation					
1. Sust	tain Arlington's tree canopy a	nd natural are	as			
1.1.1	Maintain 40 percent tree canopy County-wide through conservation and tree-planting programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.	Ongoing	DPR, CPHD, DES	NVCT, NVRC, EcoAction Arlington, nonprofits, VDOT, NPS, NOVA Parks, DOD, DOS, private property owners, County commissions, BIDs, development community	\$\$\$	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding, state funding, private funding
1.1.2	Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.	Long	DPR, CPHD, DES	NVCT, NVRC, EcoAction Arlington, nonprofits, VDOT, NPS, NOVA Parks, DOD, DOS, private property owners, BIDs, development community	\$\$	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding, state funding, private funding



FNRP Content - Appendices



- Appendix A Additional Resources
- **Appendix B** Race and Housing in Arlington County
- Appendix C Progress Since Approval of Prior Plans
- Appendix D Arlington Environmental Organizations
- Appendix E Draft Native Plant Standard
- Appendix F Definitions and Acronyms
- **Appendix G** How the FNRP Relates to Other Plans



Next Steps

- Commission Briefings
 - NRJAG, PRC, FNRC, PSMP-IAC November
- Public Hearing to Consider Adoption
 - Planning Commission December 4th, 2023
 - County Board December 16th, 2023





FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN

NATURALLY ARLINGTON





ATHEFIC FIELD AVAILABILITY & UTILIZATION

Public Spaces Master Plan-Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC)

November 2, 2023











Athletic Field Availability Draft Framework



Online Feedback



Pop-Up Feedback



Project Purpose

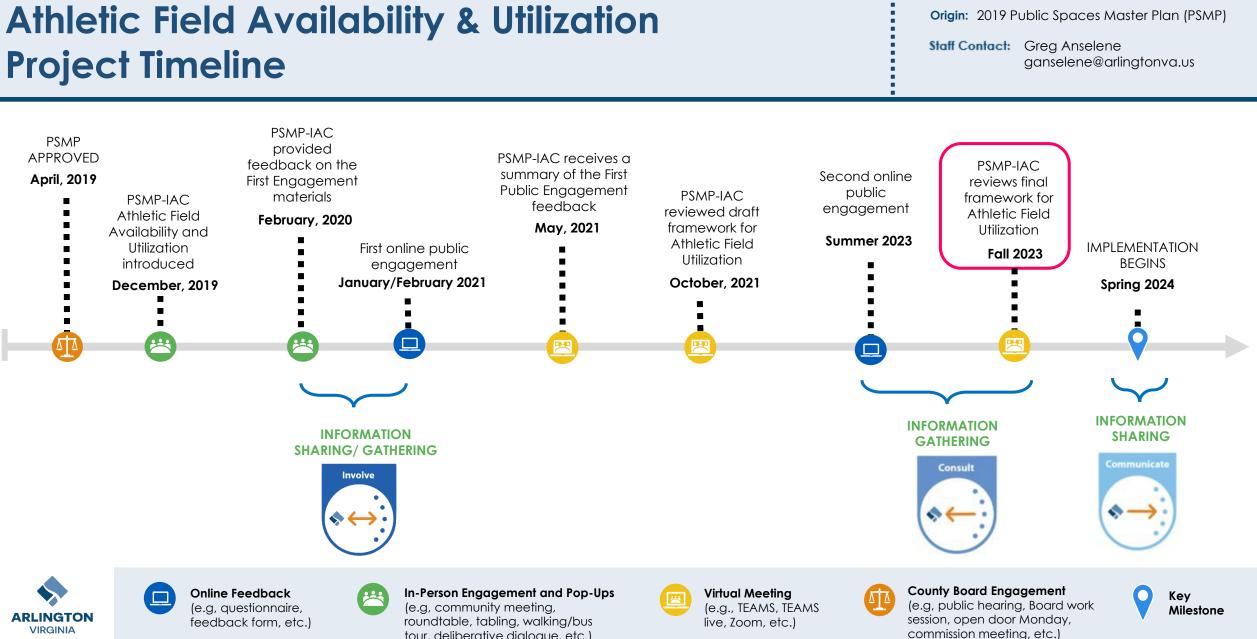
Develop field availability framework to better understand field utilization to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs. Athletic Field Allocation (Total amount of hours allocated per field, per season) Field Utilization Athletic Field Availability (Available Hours based on field scheduling variable)

Field Utilization & Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)

Priority Action 4: 1.2.5. Analyze athletic field utilization to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs.

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





tour, deliberative dialogue, etc.)

Project Timeline

Athletic Field Availability Framework

Seasons

Season*	Number of Weeks
Spring (mid-March – mid-June)	13
Fall (September – mid-November)	11

*Most youth league seasons are based on a national governing body and can't be changed or altered

Activity <u>End</u> Times – Lighted Fields

Age	End* Time
14u	9:00 pm
18u	10:00 pm
Adults	11:00 pm

*End times on fields with lights do not change based on season.

Activity Start Times

Day of Week	Start* Time
Weekday	5:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am
Sunday	9:00 am

*Activity Start Times do not change based on season or age.

Spring and Fall Activity End Times – Unlit Fields

Month	End* Time	NEW!
March	7:30 pm	End times have been adjusted si
April	8:00 pm	the first engagement. Th
May	8:30 pm	new times more
June	8:30 pm	accurately reflec
September	7:30 pm	month.
October	6:45 pm	
November	6:00 pm	

* End times are based on the latest sunset of each month.

27

Who Participated?

321 Participants

321



ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

321 Online Feedback Form Responses

Through these responses, we received 225 comments



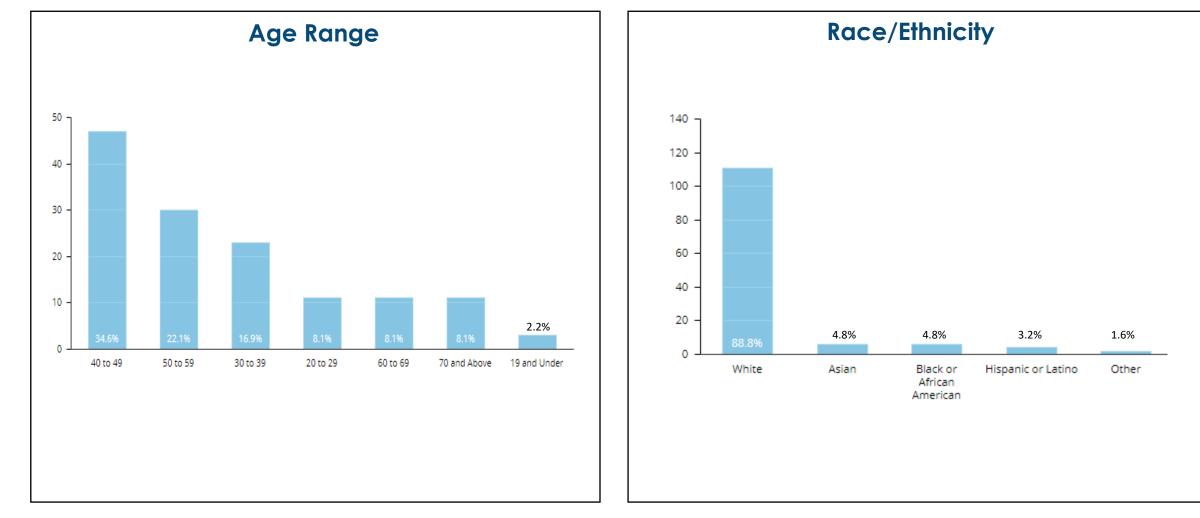


In-Person Pop-ups

60 Participants Participants engaged at Rocky Run Park, Gunston Park, Barcroft Park, and Tyrol Hill Park



Who Participated: Online





How do you use athletic fields in Arlington?

46% I am a drop-in user for athletic purposes	146 🗸
39% I am a parent of a Youth League player	123 🗸
37% I am a neighbor of athletic fields in Arlington	117 🗸
22% I am an Adult League player	70 🗸
22% I am a drop-in user for non-athletic purposes	70 🗸
19% I am a coach	60 🗸
9% I do not use fields, but I'm interested in the topic	30 🗸



The goal of this project is to develop a field availability framework that enables consistent evaluation of field utilization. After reviewing the presentation, **how comfortable are you** with the Athletic Field Availability Draft Framework and its ability to meet the project goal?

Use of this framework would include the review of field scheduling variables such as age, start time, end time and lights to define athletic field utilization.

Please select one	10% Very Comfortable	30% Comfortable	32% Neutral	15% Uncomfortable	12% Very Uncomfortable
	connortable				onconnortable

- General themes heard in the comments received
 - General Satisfaction
 - Lights
 - Community Use
 - Demand (for permitted activity)
 - Opportunities for Youth
 - Balanced Between Sports



The County will use annual field utilization data to help create more opportunities for community time at more athletic fields around the County. What is your level of comfort with this approach?

	Very Comfortable	Comfortable	Neutral	Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable
Please select	15%	3196	17%	14%	18%
one	Very	Comfortable	Neutral	Uncomfortable	Very
	Comfortable				Uncomfortable

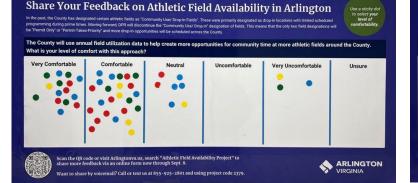
- General themes heard in the comments received.
 - Drop-in use vs. Permits
 - Field Designation Issues
 - Access to Information/Improved Scheduling System
 - Reservation vs Actual Needs (Monopolization of fields)
 - Access to Casual Use/ Drop-In
 - Demand for Field Space/ Play Time



What We Heard: Pop-Ups

The County will use annual field utilization data to help create more opportunities for community time at athletic fields around the County. What is your level of comfort with this approach?

Language	Participants			
Spanish	11 (18%)			
English	49 (82%)			
60 Total Participants				

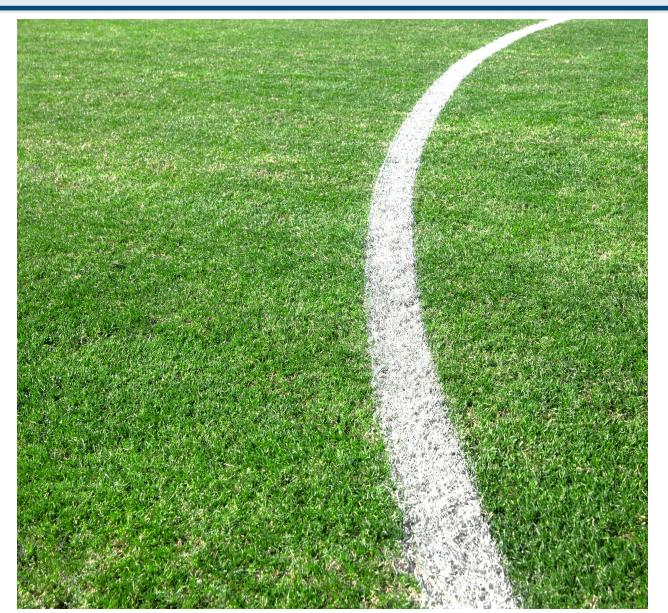




Responses							
Very ComfortableComfortableNeutralUncomfortableVery UncomfortableUnsult							
30%	40%	12%	2%	17%	0%		

Next Steps

- Begin Implementation of the framework
- Eliminate drop in field classification
- Preserve community use time at fields throughout the County
- Educate community on availability of community use time
- Pilot check-in methods at select fields to compare actual use against scheduled USE (start in Spring 2024)
- Utilization reports (first report in Winter 2025)
- Find opportunities for efficiencies



Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes

Irena Lazic – Long Range Park Planning Section Supervisor, DPR Walter Gonzalez – Associate Planner, DPR Nick Rogers – Principal Planner, CPHD

PSMP-IAC – Nov. 2, 2023



Purpose

- Enable the County Board to consider case-by-case modifications of Arlington's zoning laws to allow:
 - More flexibility for where amenities are located in public spaces
 - Avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas
 - Avoidance of additional parking when unnecessary or when alternatives are available
- Mechanism County Board use permit process
- 2019 <u>Public Spaces Master Plan</u>'s <u>Action Plan</u> recommends the County review and consider updating the zoning regulations related to parks and public spaces
- The PSMP recommends studying 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.





PSMP & Zoning

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 Completed to Date:

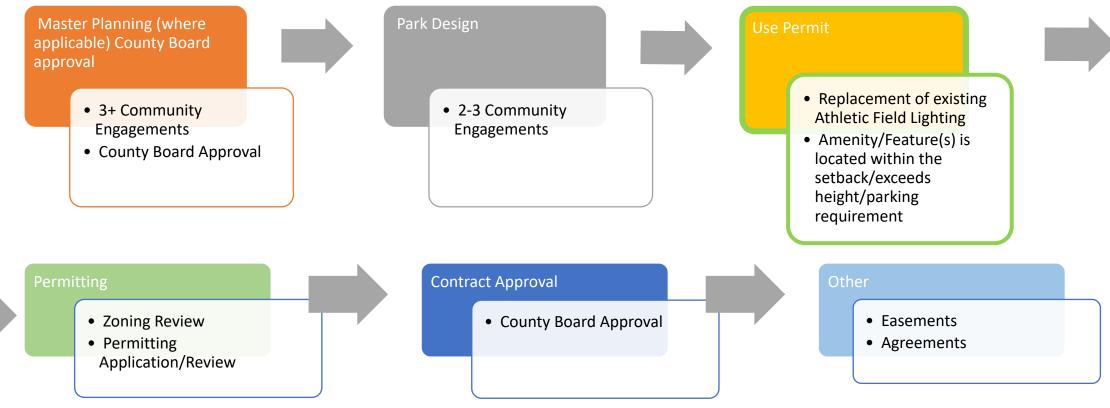
Phase 1 completed in March 2023, focused on:

- Stormwater management
- Placement
- Setbacks
- Maximum height for fence & walls

Current Step:

- Phase 2, schedule for Fall/Winter 2023:
 - County Board authority to approve increased height, reduced setbacks, and reduced parking amounts on a caseby-case basis (Use Permit req.)
- Phase 3, targeted timing to be commenced in 2024 :
 - Comprehensive study, with possible 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

Integration of Use Permit into DPR Engagement Sample Timeline



- Use permit review would typically occur near or at the end of design
- Use permit review would coincide with any rezoning, before permitting

Precedent: APS Use Permits

- ACZO amended in 2016 to permit County Board use permit approval of flexibility for schools
- Zoning standards which can be modified:
 - Maximum height
 - Minimum setbacks
 - Maximum density
 - Minimum parking



Policy considerations

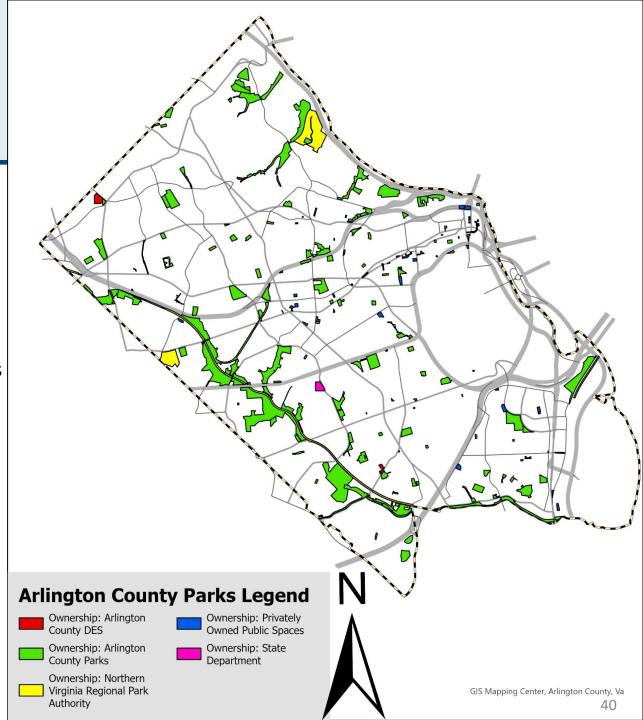
Flexibility for creative & efficient use of limited public land

Background:

- Arlington's first Zoning Ordinance adopted in 1930
- 46% of County owned parks are less than 2 acres
- More will need to be asked of from smaller spaces
 - o natural vegetation, casual use spaces, recreation opportunities
 - o stormwater management, environmental sensitivity, utilities
 - o demand will continue for land use compatibility

Other factors for zoning evaluation:

- historical park development
- environmental constraints
- equity
- population growth
- emerging trends in park design



Phase 2 Approach

Examine how County Board could use the use permit approval process to allow the following in public spaces:

- Increased Height
- Reduced Setbacks
- Parking Modifications

Increased Height

Maximum height req. applies to:

- **Buildings** (ex. community center, nature center)
- Accessory buildings (ex. storage sheds)
- Field lighting where lights already exist
- Play equipment
- **Sports field features** (ex. Court or field fencing/netting, dugout/backstop)
- Temporary enclosures to enable yearround use (ex. bubble/dome on courts/fields)
- Any park improvements affixed to the ground



Public (P) Districts Zoning	Maximum Height (feet)	Maximum Height (feet) + Flagpole (23 feet)
S-3A	45'	68'
P-S	75'	98'

Athletic Field Lighting

Lighting technology has significantly improved by utilizing higher poles to get proper aiming angles to angle the lighting more accurately, helping to avoid overspill and glare.

This amendment will only be applicable to <u>existing</u> lighted athletic facilities.

Any future projects including athletic field lighting will go through the appropriate engagement process.



Case Study: Jennie Dean Park

SITE PLAN

Example: Jennie Dean Park was rezoned from the M-1/S-3A districts to the P-S district to facilitate the installation of athletic field lighting

S-3A: Max Height – 68' P-S: Max Height – 98'



LSG LANDSCAPE ARLINGTON

LEGEND (A) YOUTH DIAMOND FIELD B ADULT DIAMOND FIELD C MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD DUG OUT TYPICAL E BLEACHERS TYPICAL (F) BULLPEN (G)PLAZA (H) BASKETBALL COURT (I) TENNIS COURT (J) LARGE PAVILION (K) PUBLIC ART/ SMALL PAVILION (DRESTROOMS (M) PLAYGROUND (N)OVERLOOK (O) PARKING PDROP-OFF PARKING **QBIORETENTION TYPICAL** R SOFT TRAIL (S)WAYFINDING TPICNIC TABLES **(U)**CUSTOM SEATING (V) EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN (W) FUTURE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ? (X) INFORMATIONAL KIOSK/ HISTORIC SIGNAGE PREVIOUSLY DISPLAYED O UPDATED INFORMATION

Jennie Dean Park ARLINGTON, VA



Reduced Setbacks

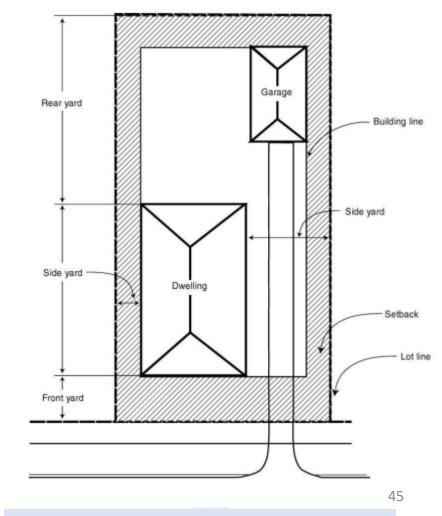
Constraints which influence park master planning:

- Limited availability of land
- Providing/preserving natural resource access in public spaces
- Existing property boundaries
- Adjacent roads
- Environmentally sensitive areas (ex. RPA)

Must adhere to setbacks

- Buildings (ex. community centers, nature centers)
- Temporary bubble/dome enclosures
- Lighting along walking trails that exceeds 15' in height
- Athletic field/court lighting (existing)
- Fencing which exceeds the maximum height of 8 feet

Setbacks from any street in S-3A: The larger of either **50 feet from said centerline of any street, or **25 feet** from any street right-of-way line.

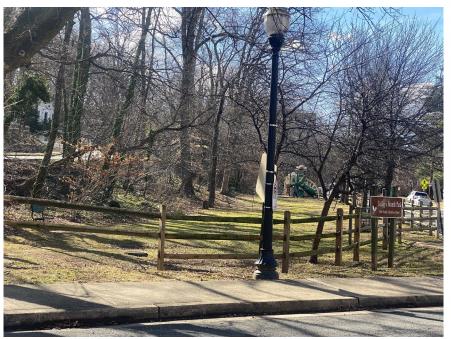


Setback Diagram in Arlington's Zoning Ordinance

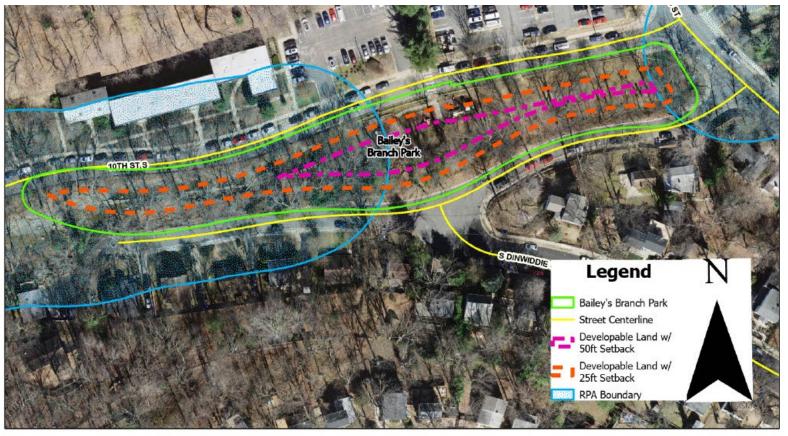
Case Study: Bailey's Branch Park

Location: 990 S Columbus St

<u>Constraints</u>: Narrow/linear, Resource Protection Area, topographical challenges, heavily forested. Current S-3A setbacks would hinder future improvements.



Programming: Casual Use & Playground



View from S. Columbus St.

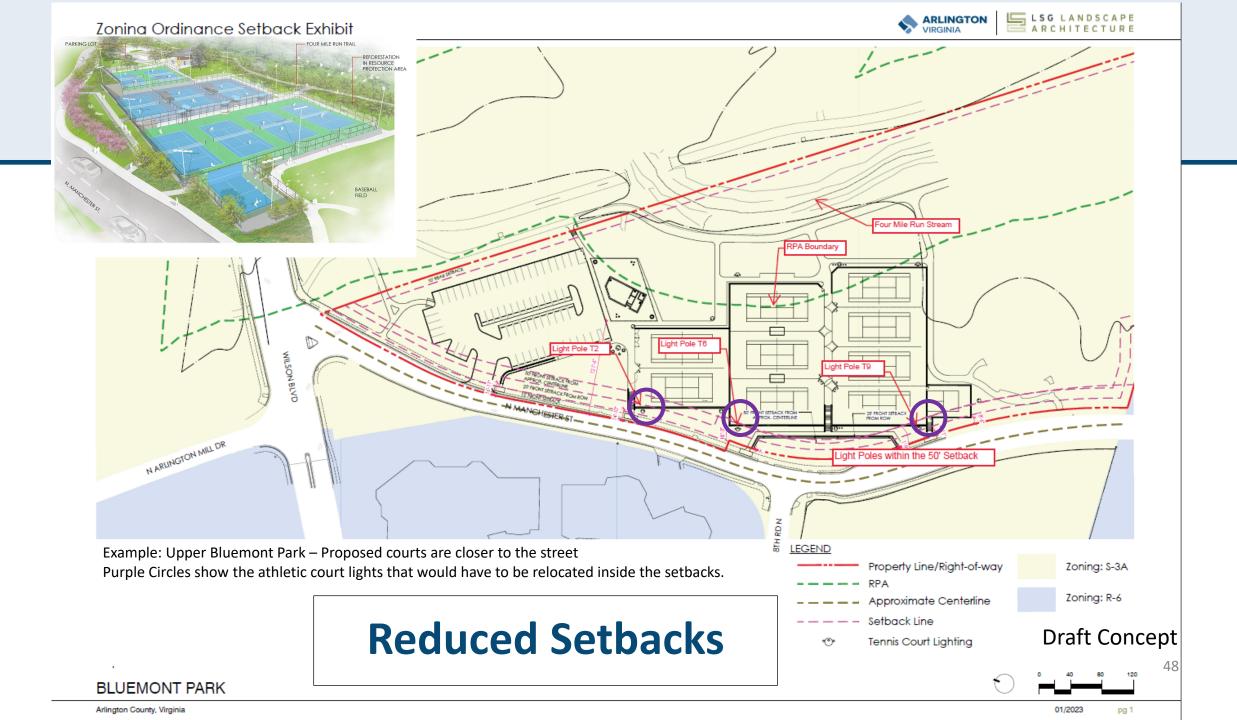
Reduced Setbacks

Example: Upper Bluemont Park – Proposed courts are closer to the street





Draft Concept



Flexibility for Parking



14.3.7 Required parking and standing space		
Use Types	Minimum Parking Requirement (spaces)	
Community swimming pools	1 per each 40 sq. ft. of pool area	
Athletic or health clubs	1 space per 50 sq. ft. of gross floor area	
Indoor or outdoor recreation	1 space per 300 sq. ft. of indoor floor area or outdoor area	
Tennis, racquet and handball courts	3 spaces per court	
Community centers	1 space per 3 seats	



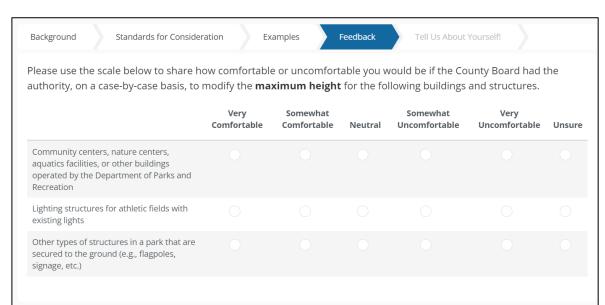
Flexibility for Certain Signs in Public Spaces

- Flag signs
 - Flag pole must be located within 30' of the principal entrance to the main building
- Freestanding signs
 - Limited to 1 freestanding sign per "entrance"
 - Minimum setback required of either 5' from property lines or 10' feet from back of sidewalk
- **Preliminary approach**: removal/exclusion of limiting zoning language in lieu of use permit modification



Public Engagement to Date

- Website with Reference Materials
- October 19: Presentation to Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)
- October 3: Virtual Q&A with Staff for members of the public
- 9/19 10/8: Online feedback form to collect public input
 - 242 participants, 275 comments
- October 10: Zoning Committee (ZOCO) briefing
- October 26: Sports Commission
- November 2: PSMP-IAC



Should Arlington Allow More Flexibility in the Design Process for Public Spaces?



Share your thoughts now through Oct. 8!

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA Parks & Recreation To learn more and sign up for updates, visit Arlingtonva.us and search "Use Permits for Public Space Design Processes"



Key Themes from Online Feedback Form Comments

- Planning processes need awareness/transparency; outreach to and coordination with community is essential
- Intrusive glare from lighting into neighborhoods should not be allowed
- Overdevelopment of parks; reductions in open space
 - Standards should be added to prohibit net losses in green space
- Parking is in short supply, and essential (ex. sports teams, persons with mobility needs)
- Setback/height standards are essential for maintaining open space and separation from adjacent homes



Anticipated Schedule

November 11/14: County Board to authorize Request to Advertise (RTA)

December 16/19: County Board public hearing and action

53

December 4/6: Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation



Arlington Junction Park

PSMP REFRESH

Action Step 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 reviewing and updating Level of Service analysis and methodology on a regular basis would allow the County to keep pace with these changes and adjust its recommendations accordingly. In addition, the County will periodically evaluate existing and gather new data on public space amenities, such as casual use spaces, natural lands, dog parks/runs, trails, athletic fields, community gardens, etc., to refine the Level of Service standards and approaches in the future. (PSMP, page 60)

Review to include:

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

NEXT STEPS

• 2024 Topics:

- $\circ~$ casual use space wrap-up
- natural surface trails study
- o park master planning & implementation
- 5-year PSMP Refresh
- \circ zoning
- Upcoming PSMP-IAC Meetings:
 - Winter Casual Use Space Workshop (in-person)
 - Spring Annual PSMP Implementation Update

PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSMP-IAC) Virtual Meeting November 2, 2023