Realizing Rosslyn: a new era of opportunity

Rosslyn Process Panel Subcommittee on Parks and Open Space Meeting #1

September 22, 2014





AGENDA

1. Welcome / Subcommittee introductions, role, goals, Realize Rosslyn process overview

10 min.

2. Existing parks/open space context

10 min.

The Rosslyn Plan framework / Parks & open space overview 5 min.

4. Rosslyn park spaces / Overview of types, identities

60 min.

5. The "game changers" / Details on transformative places

60 min.

6. Next steps

5 min.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the Subcommittee on Parks and Open Space

•	Paul Holland ((Chair)	RPP / Park and Rec. Commission (F	PRC)
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•	Katie Elmore	RPP / North Rosslyn CA
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- Peter Hage PRC
- Elizabeth Gearin PRC
- Karen Kumm Morris Planning Commission / UFC
- Steve Campbell Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights CA / UFC
- Jon Hensley Arts Commission / Public Art Committee
- Mike Novotny Rosslyn Plaza
- Peter Greenwald Rosslyn BID
- Sherri Greene Rosslyn BID



Subcommittee Role / Goals

- At an important point in the process to formulate detailed recommendations
 & specific guidance for the challenging implementation of preferred vision
- Primary goal of subcommittee is to provide input on key questions and issues posed to the group, pertaining to Parks and Open Space component of Rosslyn Sector Plan Update
- Review information/materials produced by staff/consultant team, generally in advance of meetings (and ask questions where needed!)
- While general agreement among group would be great goal, full consensus not a requirement - group input will help inform/shape end product
- Complete work in 2 meetings between September October



Realize Rosslyn: Essentials

- An ongoing community planning effort ...
- To develop an Update for the Rosslyn Sector Plan...
- That will refresh the community vision for Rosslyn's future...
- Provide a planning framework and implementation strategies to achieve the that vision.

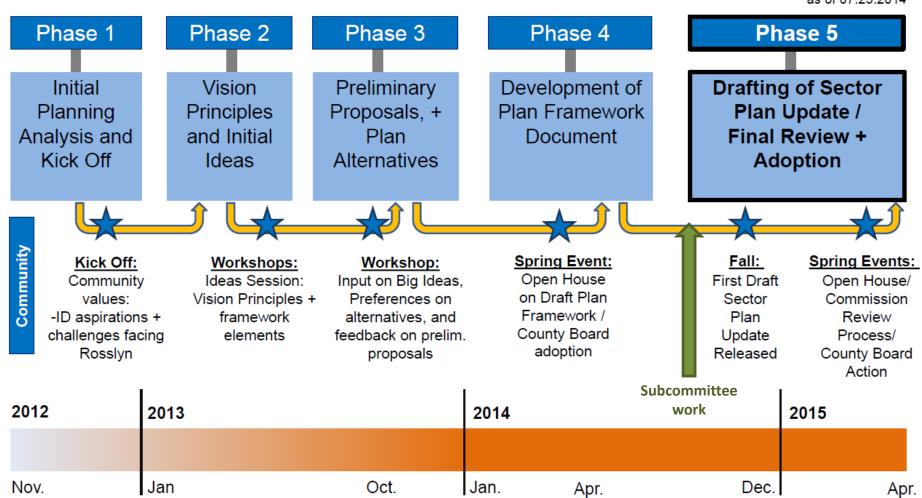






Project Schedule

as of 07.23.2014





Rosslyn Plan Framework – a foundation to build from

- Major milestone, foundation for the full Sector Plan Update
- Comprised of Vision
 Statement, Principles
 and Policy Directives
- Based on analyses, preliminary concepts, and community input







Starting points

Project Scope

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

Urban Design

- Special features
- Order and Legibility of streets, open spaces, + development
- Walkability
- Retail + alternative ground floor use locations
- Well proportioned + distinctive buildings
- Varied façade types/compositions
- Skyline
- ■Potential role of TDRs

Building Heights

- ■Building height limits
- ■Heights above 300'? If yes, where + why?
- ■Transitions to edge areas
- View corridors
- Skyline
- Impacts/opportunities for open space
- ■Potential role of TDRs

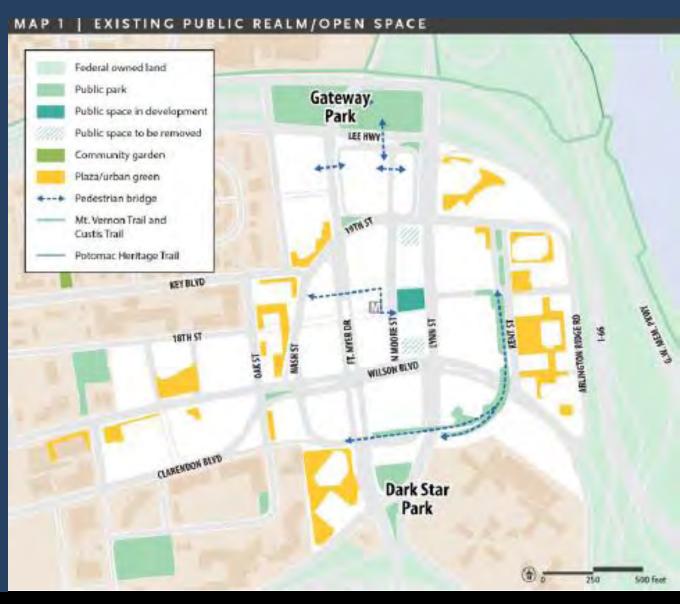
Transportation

- ■Mode share targets
- Street network changes
- Street cross sections
- Bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements
- ■Transit service/facility improvements
- ■Parking and curb space
- Transportation demand management
- ■Loop Road
- Community energy

Parks and Open Space

- Priority park and open space needs
- Cohesive park and open space network
- Pedestrian circulation/ connectivity
- Vision and programming for Gateway Park, others
- ■Loop Road
- Access to Federal parkland
- Incentive for parks/open space w/ redevelopment

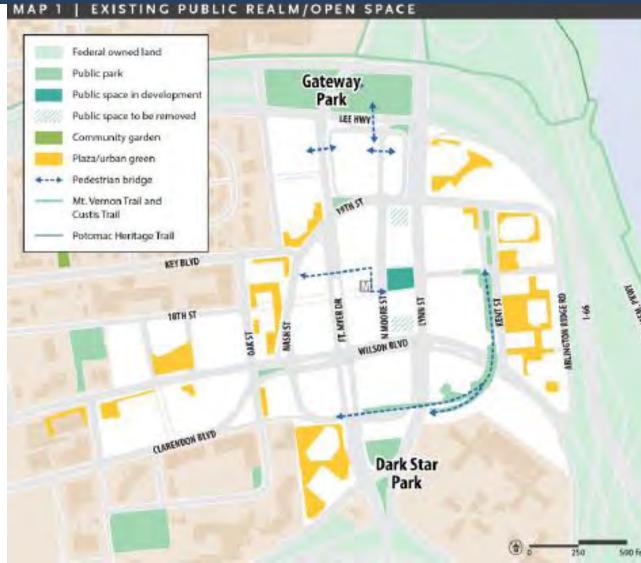






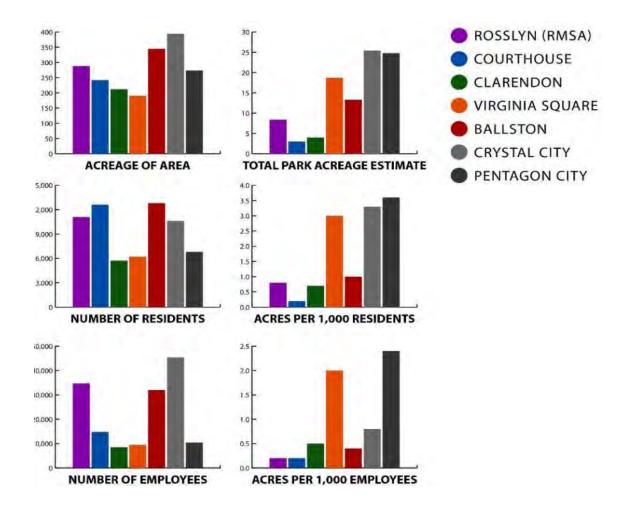
Rosslyn is underserved and underutilized

- Rosslyn has become
 one of the most
 underserved areas
 in the County for
 active recreation and
 park space, as its
 population of
 employees,
 residents, and
 visitors has grown.
- Yet its existing parks and open spaces are underutilized due to challenges of facilities and access.





Underserved: Rosslyn public park and open **space**.

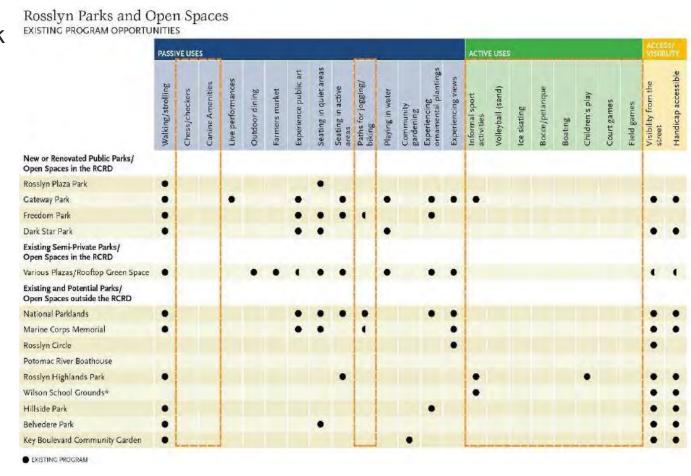






Underserved: Rosslyn recreation.

- Rosslyn's current open space network is dominated by passive spaces and is severely lacking in active recreation amenities.
- Sample of identified program needs:
 - Playground
 - Dog park
 - Court & field sports
 - River sports



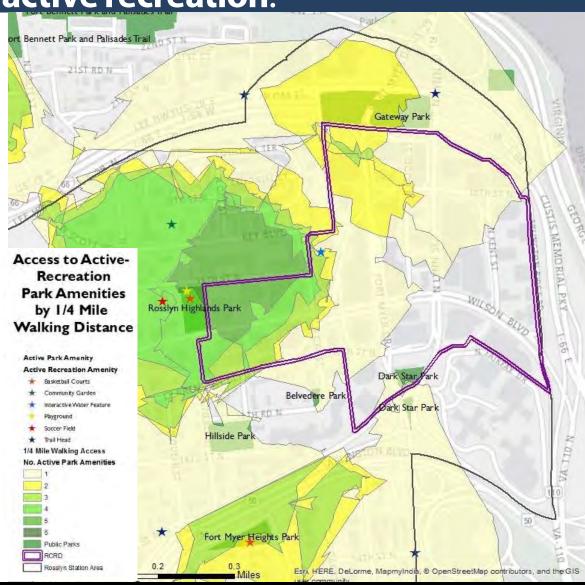




Underserved: Access to active recreation.

 Many of the nearest public active recreation amenities are not walkable to much of the Rosslyn Coordinated Redevelopment District.

> Map produced by Arlington County Dept. of Environmental Services, GIS Division and Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Park Development Division





Underutilized: **Design Challenges**

- Publicly accessible private plazas occupy a significant amount of area but offer little quality public space.
- Many of Rosslyn's open spaces lack adequate accessibility and visibility.
 - Steep grade changes and above- or below-grade plazas.
 - Auto infrastructure and traffic barriers.
 - Hardscape features and blank walls; lack of green and vegetation





Underutilized: Potomac River edge

Access is
 constrained to
 regional park and
 path resources
 along George
 Washington Memorial
 Parkway and to
 bridges across the
 Potomac River.



Image credit: Flickr user Clio1789



3. The Rosslyn Plan Framework

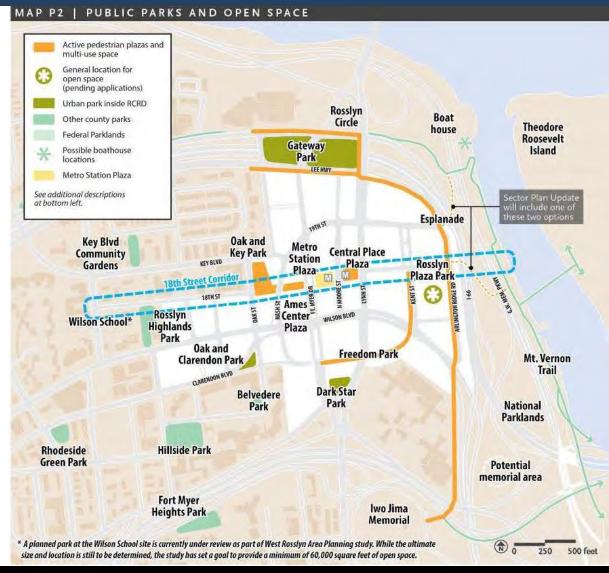






Three Themes Permeate the Framework

- Achieve connectivity among a diverse network of public parks and open spaces that also engage the Potomac waterfront.
- 2. Revitalize the existing parks and open space system to provide active outdoor recreational opportunities and amenities for all ages and lifestyles throughout the network.
- 3. Provide opportunities for informal congregation, reflection, and meditation throughout Rosslyn's parks and open space system.







Parks & open space framework

Theme 1

"Achieve connectivity among a diverse network of public parks and open spaces that also engage the Potomac waterfront."

- Achieve an Esplanade an urban greenway linking open spaces and other activities
- Create an 18th Street
 Corridor linear connecting
 public open spaces
- Enhance Freedom Park improve access, programming and edge conditions





Parks & open space framework

Theme 2

"Revitalize the existing parks and open space system to provide active outdoor recreational opportunities and amenities for all ages and lifestyles throughout the network."

- Re-design and create new parks and plazas that are designed for a lively and diverse mix of activities, guided by community participation.
- Complete new master plan for Gateway Park.
- Embrace future establishment of neighborhood-serving park as a western bookend of 18th Street.
- Establish a boathouse facility.
- Enhance Dark Star Park and improve its prominence.





Parks & open space framework

Theme 3

"Provide opportunities for informal congregation, reflection, and meditation throughout Rosslyn's parks and open space system."

 Provide and enhance spaces for reflective and passive leisure throughout the streetscape and path network and strategically in open spaces, such as the Esplanade, 18th Street corridor, Freedom Park and Dark Star Park.





4. Rosslyn park spaces







What types of public spaces do we need?

Destination Spaces

- Unique features, attracting visitors from the community, region and beyond (e.g. vista, monument, programmed events)
- Typically larger in size, can be multi-use in function

Recreation Spaces

- Used for active recreation and leisure activities. Amenities can include playgrounds, sport facilities, dog parks, trails
- Depending on scale, can serve the neighborhood, the community, even the region

Revitalizing Spaces

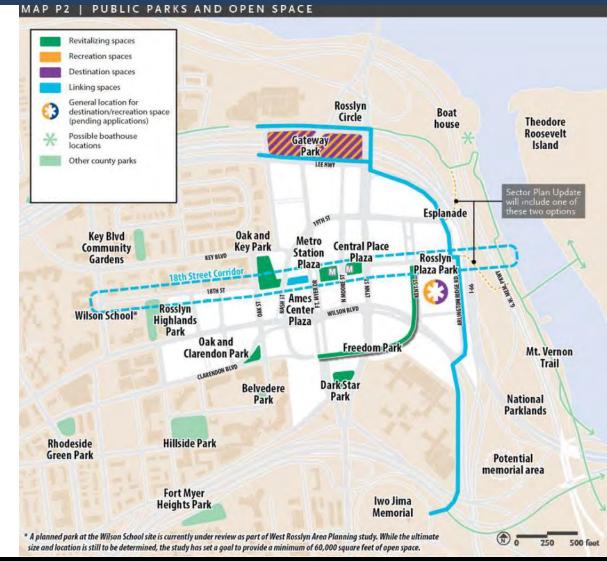
- Opportunity for respite, socializing, transition, reflection
- Form/amenity may vary: hardscape or soft-scape; small urban plazas, nature preserves, intimate spaces in larger parks. Seating, picnic tables, gardens, walking trails, public art

Linking Spaces

- Connect other open spaces in an integrated, accessible network
- Often linear in form (e.g. trails, greenways, streets, linear plazas)
- Amenities include greenery and vegetation, seating, lighting, ecological corridors



Result: a system of diverse park types and spaces...





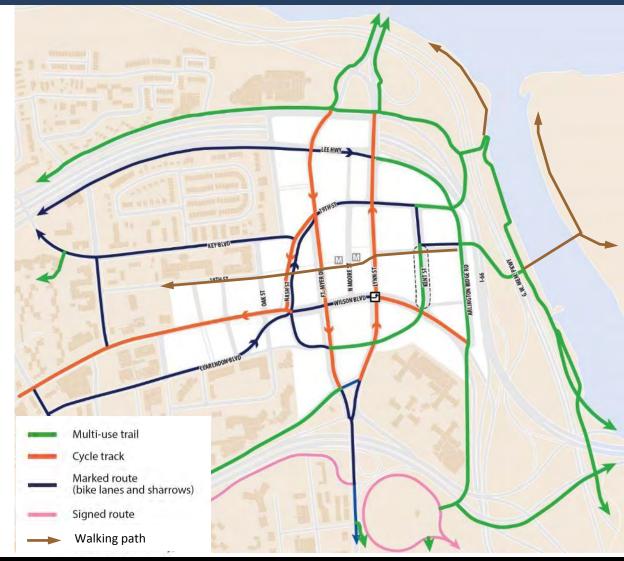
...linked by a network of green, walkable streets...





...and extending the regional park and trail system

- Regional multi-use trail network improved, leveraged
 - Filling regional gaps
 - Improving local access
- Serving recreation and everyday transportation
- New cycle tracks protected from traffic
- "Bike boxes" for safer left turns at major intersections





Bringing streets alive with plantings, people, play, art









Bethesda Row

Chicago, IL

Creating safe, convenient walking and biking routes









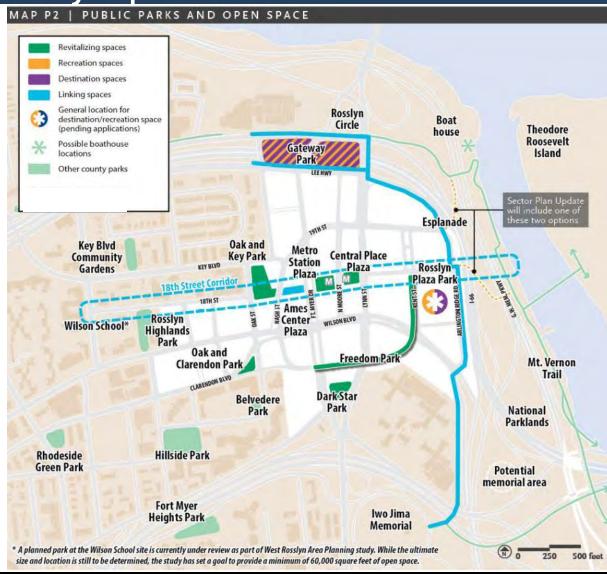
Overview: Rosslyn's major parks

Existing parks with new access, facilities, and other improvements

- Gateway Park
- Freedom Park
- Dark Star Park

New park spaces adding exciting new experiences to Rosslyn

- The Esplanade
- Rosslyn Plaza Park
- 18th Street Corridor







Gateway Park: Rosslyn's Front Door, Regional Event Hub

Type: Destination/Recreation Space ("game changer")

Description and major improvements:

 Destination and gateway for neighborhood recreation, large events; remove ramp structures. Area 3.4 ac.

Program:

- Large event space/lawn seating for live music, films
- Neighborhood recreational courts
- Canine friendly area
- Kiosks, café, food trucks
- Children's play
- Information and wayfinding point for connected memorial site, regional pathways, boathouse
- Circuit training
- Meditative arts yoga and tai chi
- Seasonal gardens
- Water features
- Bike and jogging station





Open Gateway Park to more views and activities



Freedom Park: The Elevated Green Promenade

Type: Revitalizing Space

Description and major improvements:

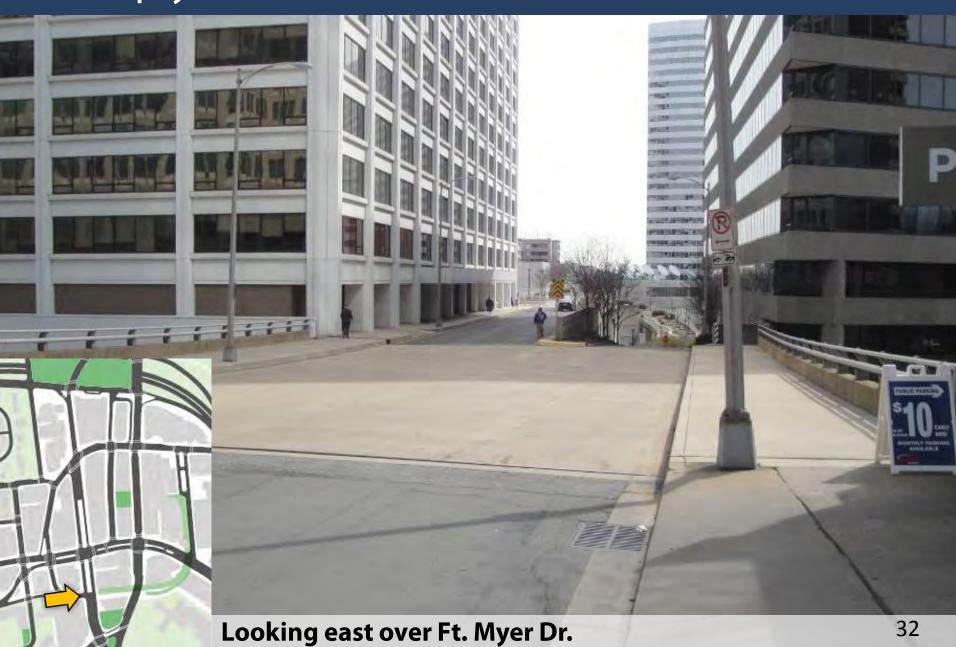
 Expansion of existing green space opportunities, views and activities on the elevated surface. Area 1.5 ac.

Program:

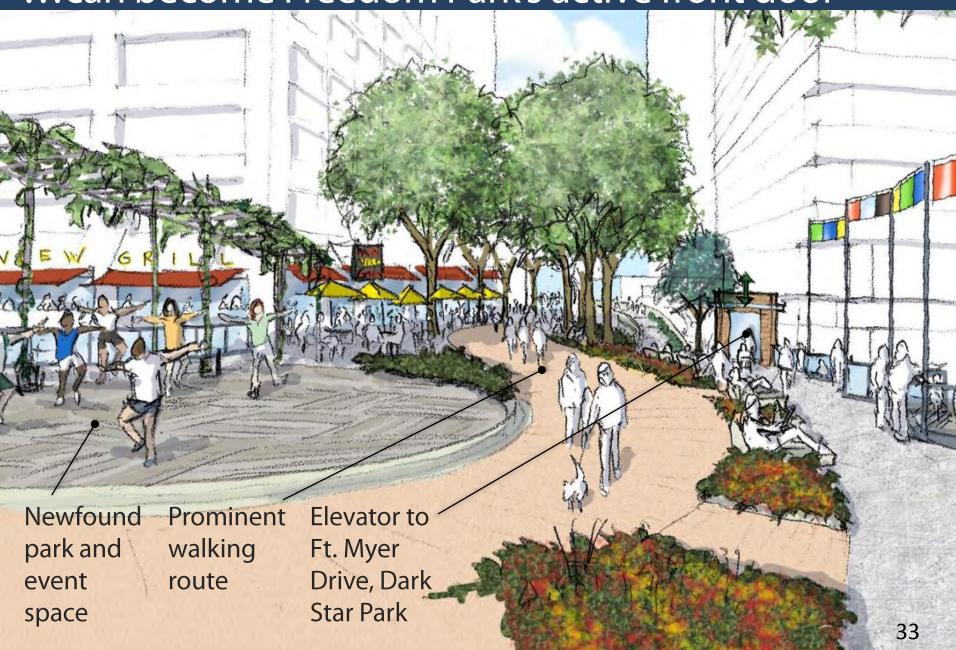
- Walking/strolling with views to Rosslyn (possible "green circle" walking loop tied into Kent, 19th, Nash and 17th Streets)
- Social recreation (bocce, yoga, dance, tai chi, etc.)
- High quality landscape features
- Outdoor dining
- Sitting and relaxing
- Green design (stormwater management, large planters, trees)
- Coordinated lighting and paving
- Civic art/parklets/themed programming including music and other performing arts (Artisphere)



An empty stretch of 17th Street...



...can become Freedom Park's active front door



Dark Star Park: *The Arts Gateway*

Type: Revitalizing Space

Description and major improvements

 Enhanced "arts park" gateway located near Marine Corps Memorial; restored landscape, more art. Area 0.7 ac.

Program:

- Public art and sculpture
- Inviting topography and landforms
- Strolling paths and seating
- Water features
- Bold seasonal gardens at the urban scale





Dark Star Park

- Rehabilitate landscape; respect artist intent with enhancements
- Expand park area as roadways shrink
- Integrate into welcoming walk/bike route to Iwo Jima and Netherlands Carillon (Meade St. Bridge project)
- Add streetscape enhancements to invite neighborhood use







The Esplanade: Rosslyn's Potomac Promenade

Type: Linking Space ("game changer")

Description:

 An esplanade is a linear space for walking, commonly along water. Rosslyn's will create a green "front" with strolling and recreational activity, tied into the regional Potomac corridor park system, extending from Gateway Park and adjacent memorial site to the National Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima). Area 2.4 ac

Program:

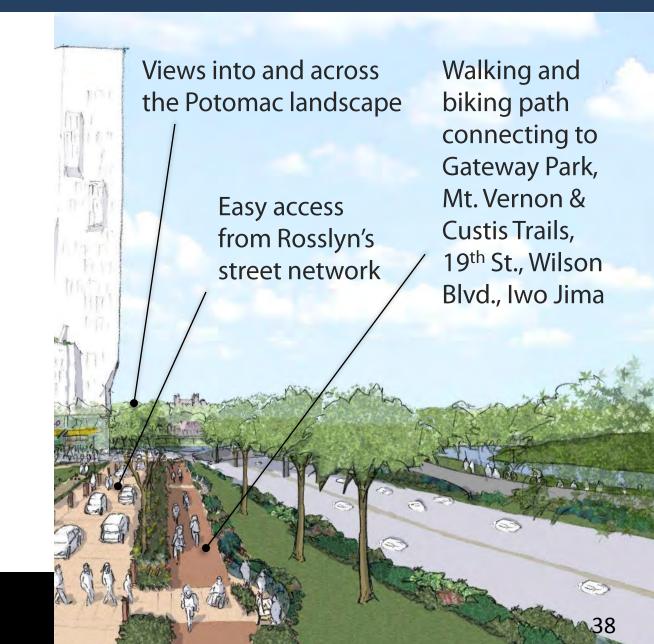
- Walking/strolling
- Sitting and resting areas
- Access and views to the Potomac River landscape
- Pedestrian bridge connecting to waterfront park
- Cycling
- Public art and sculpture
- Seasonal gardens



The Esplanade can turn Rosslyn's back wall...



...into its front yard



Rosslyn Plaza Park: Rosslyn's Terrace on the Potomac

Type: Destination/Recreation Space ("game changer")

Description:

 Large park and plaza linked to surrounding development and available for flexible programs. Area 1.0-1.6 ac

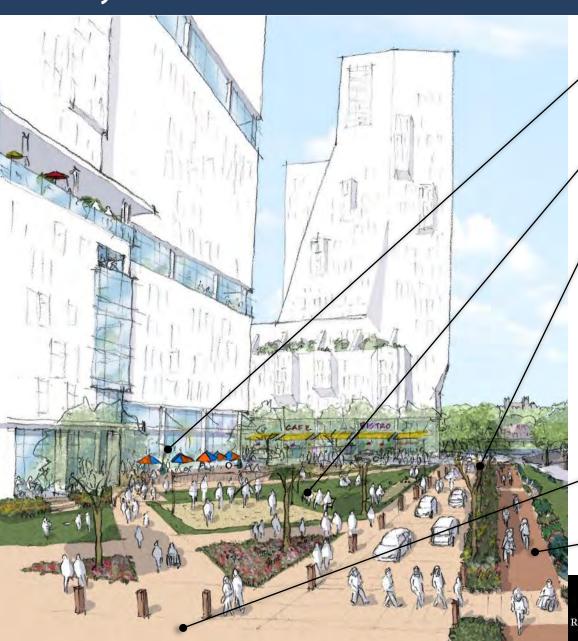
Program:

- Festivals and live music (e.g., Annual Channel Gardens in Rockefeller Center, crafts fair)
- Larger recreation courts (volleyball and basketball, multi-purpose courts)
- Small recreation courts (bocce, horseshoes, etc.)
- Children's play features
- Outdoor dining and retail
- Open, flexible lawn area
- Community canine area
- Outdoor table games (chess, ping pong, etc.)





Rosslyn Plaza Park



Complementary mixed-use development and architecture

Destination park activities

Celebrated crossing of 18th/Esplanade

Easy access from Rosslyn's street network Esplanade/
walking and
biking path
connecting to
Gateway Park,
Mt. Vernon &
Custis Trails,
19th St., Wilson
Blvd., Iwo Jima

The 18th Street Corridor: Rosslyn's new urban spine

Type: Linking Space overlapping other Linking/Revitalizing Spaces

Description:

 Variety of potential programming within street and contiguous parks; hardscape/softscape; links entire district west to east. Area approx. 1.2-1.5 ac

Program, various locations:

- Public space with steps between Oak and Key Park and Metro Station Plaza
- Active pedestrian use in paved areas
- Spill over outdoor dining from adjacent ground floor uses
- Possible retail and shops fronting onto plaza
- Iconic Metro station access
- Informal seating, landscape, and gathering space, in mix of shade and sun, paved and planted areas
- Buskers and public art
- Live performances (stage and deck)
- Interactive fountain
- Farmer's market







An active mix of people, places and paths...



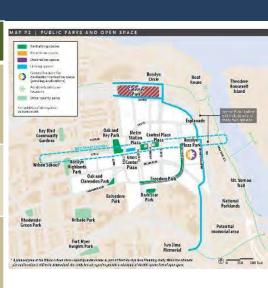
... connecting Arlington to the Potomac





Summary: six distinct major spaces

Park	Туре	Theme
Gateway Park	Destination/ Recreation Space	Rosslyn's Front Door and Regional Event Hub
Freedom Park	Revitalizing Space	The Elevated Green Promenade
Dark Star Park	Revitalizing Space	The Arts Gateway
The Esplanade	Linking Space	Rosslyn's Potomac Promenade
Rosslyn Plaza Park	Destination/ Recreation Space	Rosslyn's Terrace on the Potomac
18 th Street Corridor	Linking Space overlapping other Linking/Revitalizing	Rosslyn's New Urban Spine



Spaces



5. The "Game Changers"

- Gateway Park
- The Esplanade
- Rosslyn Plaza Park





Gateway Park

Main strategies:

- Remove ramp/bridge structures to improve visibility, expand space available for programming
- Update programming/facilities:
 - Festivals/events
 - Range of informal everyday activities (seating, recreation, games etc.)
 - More neighborhood-serving activities
- Integrate park program and design with:
 - Key Bridge memorial site
 - Mt. Vernon and Custis Trails
 - Boathouse
 - Esplanade







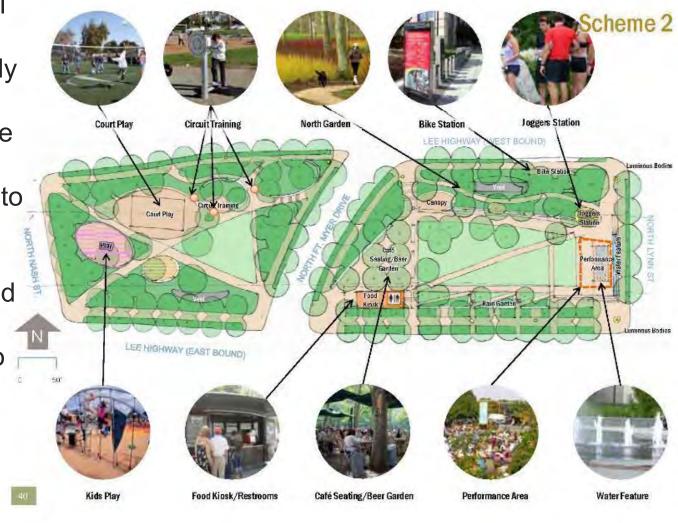
Great recreation to the west, great lawn to the east

 Continue general approach of Alternatives Study Scheme 2

Large flexible-use lawn space with support facilities to east

 Mix of smaller multi-purpose and dedicated program areas to west

Gateway Park
Conceptual
Alternatives study



What program options are possible?



Program possibilities







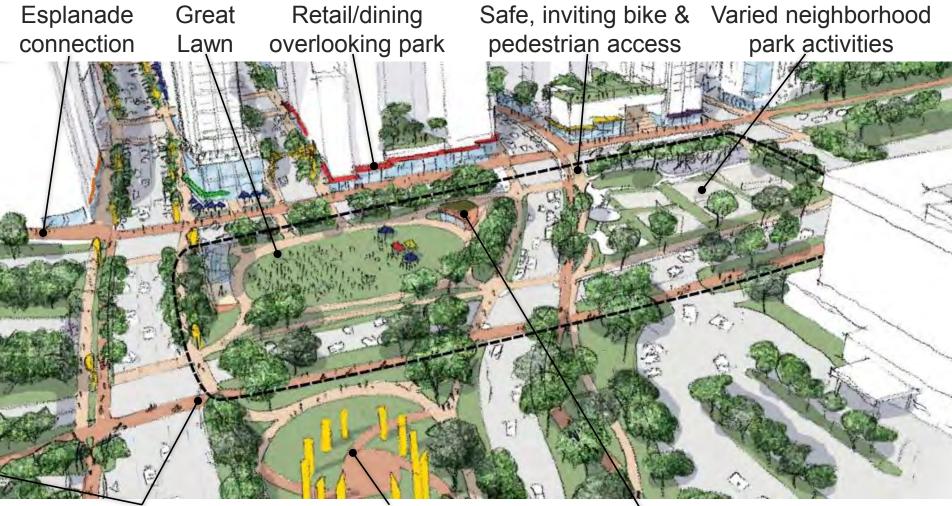








Gateway Park



Trail, boathouse & Key Bridge connections

Coordinated memorial landscape

Event support facilities – restrooms, food, power, water





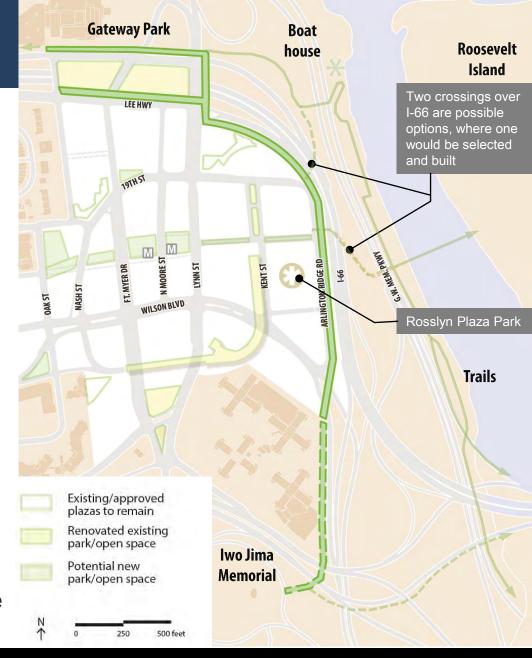
The Esplanade

Main strategies:

- Linear promenade and multiuse path
- Destination experience
- Segment of regional and neighborhood networks
- Connecting element
- Separated from streets, but sometimes runs along them

Episodic overlaps with larger parks

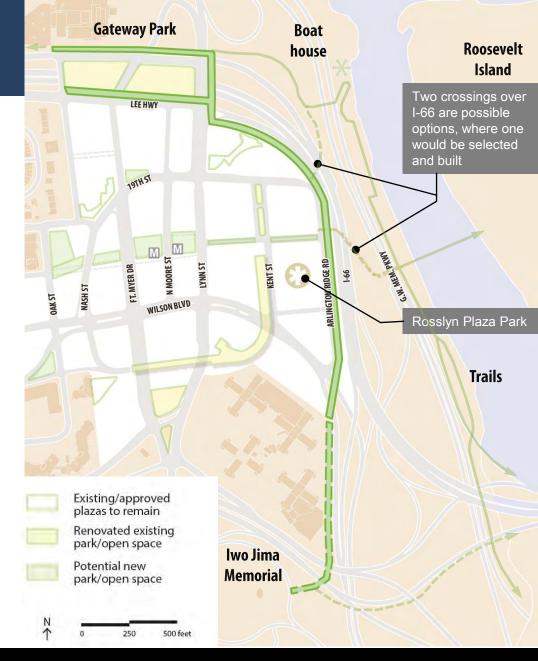
- Gateway Park
- Rosslyn Plaza
- Iwo Jima
- Freedom Park via Rosslyn Plaza
- Also future boathouse
- Also GW Memorial Pkwy and the Potomac landscape





Esplanade Experiences

- Engagement of developed urban
 edge social activity, dining, retail
- Engagement with periodically programmed parks
- Views
 - To Roosevelt Island
 - Up and down the Potomac landscape
 - Close-range open space
- Regional park network
- Recreation active and passive
- Landscape plantings, seasonality
- Variety of closure and openness





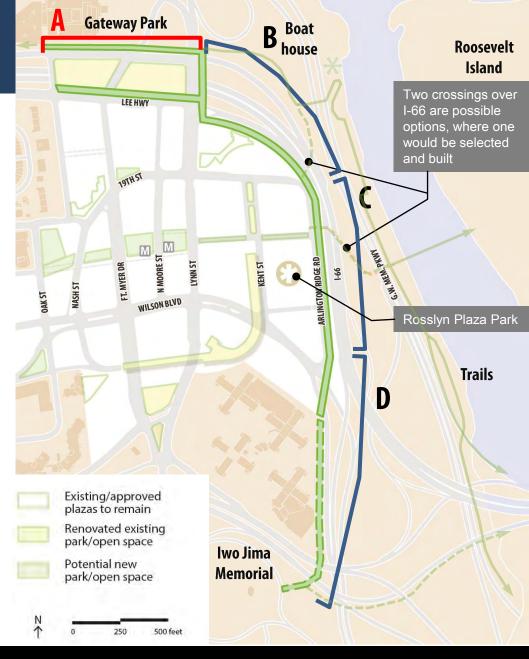
Esplanade Segments

A: Gateway Park

B: Waterview/Potomac Tower

C: Rosslyn Plaza

D: River Place/Iwo Jima





A: Gateway Park Esplanade

Opportunities

 Major linkage & gateway point with Custis and Mt. Vernon Trails, Key Bridge, Gateway Park, future memorial site, boathouse, Rosslyn streets

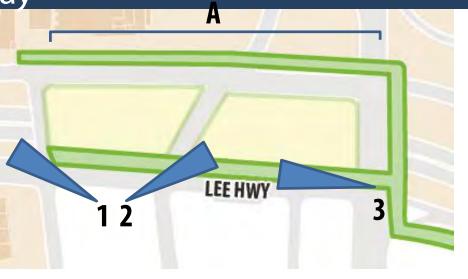
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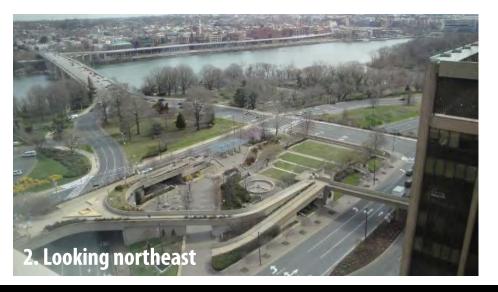
- Integrating with major streets
 - Multiple intersections
 - Significant traffic volumes
 - Improving access from Rosslyn core

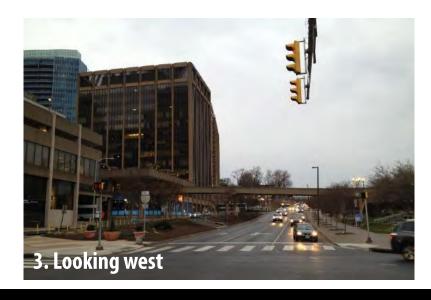


A: Gateway Park Esplanade Today









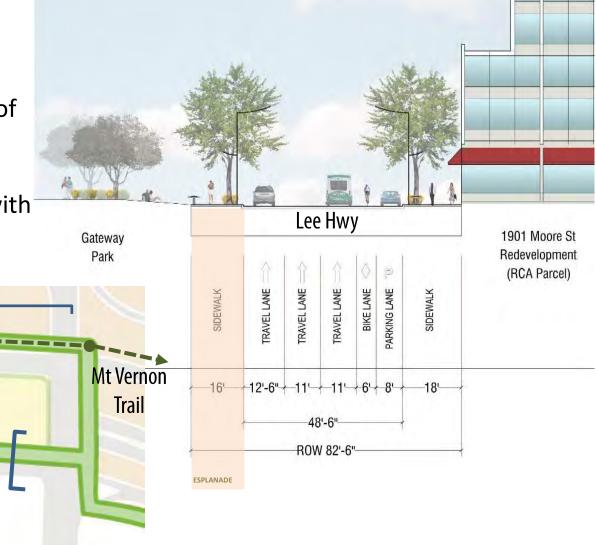
A: Gateway Park Proposed Esplanade Section

Proposed section

- Wide sidewalks flanking Lee
 Hwy bring experience of
 Gateway Park to both sides of
 street
- Street tree selection and planting beds coordinated with Gateway Park design

Custis Trail

LEE HWY







A: Gateway Park Esplanade

Precedents







Park-like sidewalk along a busy street Los Angeles, CA

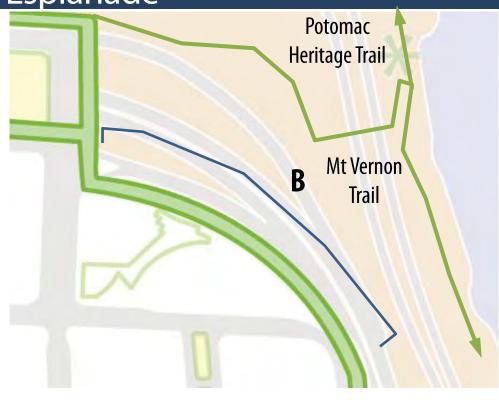
B: Waterview/Potomac Tower Esplanade

Opportunities

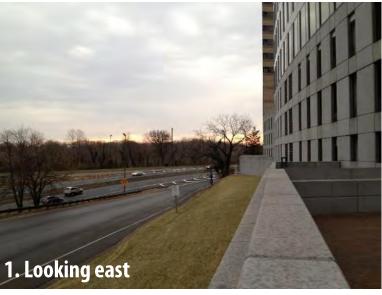
- Views of Roosevelt Island and Potomac landscape
- Additional access to
 Waterview public plaza and
 potential future air rights
- Alternate or interim route via Lynn and 19th Streets

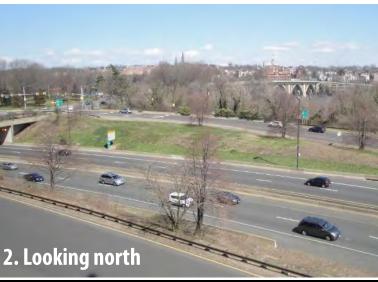
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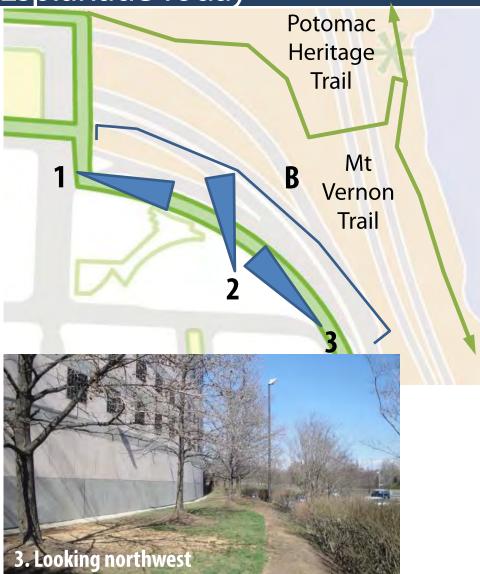
- Narrow existing condition
- Accommodating grade changes and access to plazas at different levels
- Highway visibility and noise



B: Waterview/Potomac Tower Esplanade Today







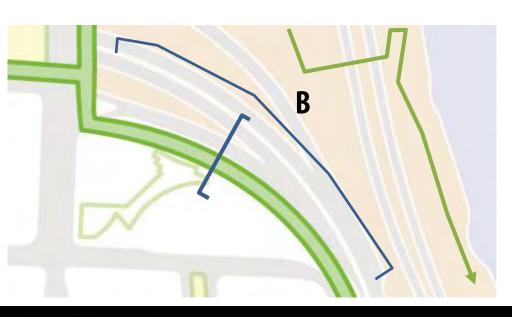


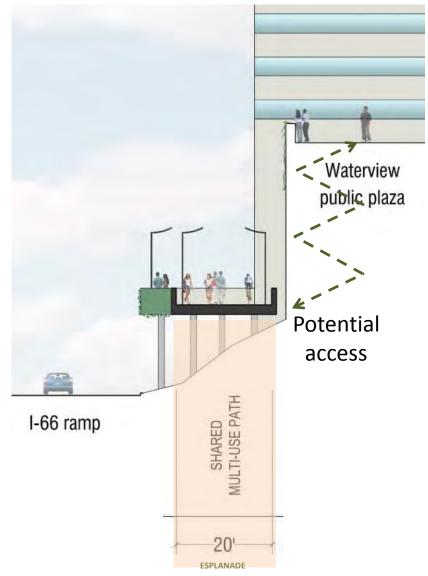


B: Waterview/Potomac Tower Esplanade Section

Proposed section

- 20' multi-use path along Waterview
 Place and Potomac Tower
- Navigate approx. 12' grade change from N Lynn to 19th St/ Arlington Ridge Rd
- Consider providing vertical access to public plaza







B: Waterview/Potomac Tower Esplanade

Precedents



Multiuse path above existing highway Brooklyn Heights Promenade



Sense of enclosure provides alternative to wide vistas *High Line*



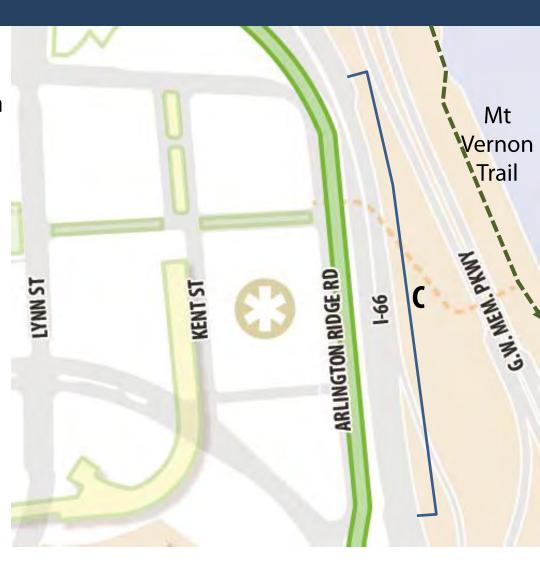
C: Rosslyn Plaza Esplanade

Opportunities

- Views to Roosevelt Island,
 Potomac, and future Rosslyn Plaza
- Engages with redeveloped urban edge, Potomac trails
- Connect to Rosslyn core via 19th, 18th, 17th, Wilson
- Continue south toward Iwo Jima via new Wilson Blvd crosswalk/intersection

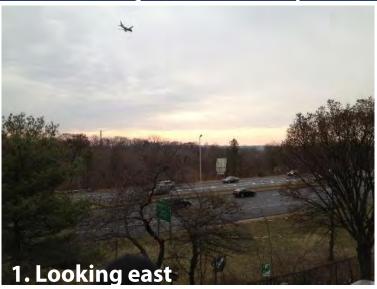
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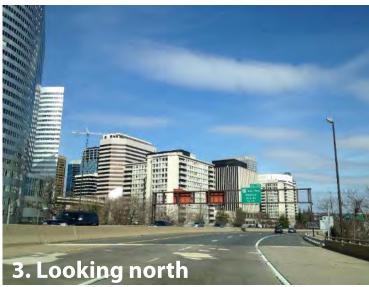
- Coordination with phased private redevelopment
- Highway visibility and noise
- Phasing with pedestrian bridge over I-66 and G.W. Memorial Parkway

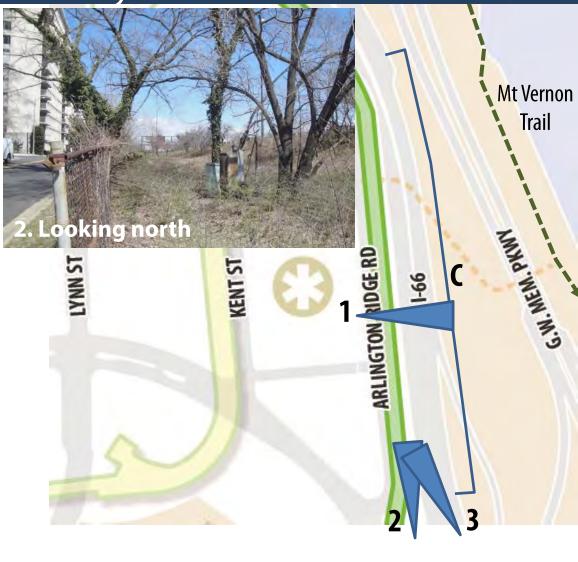




C: Rosslyn Plaza Esplanade Today









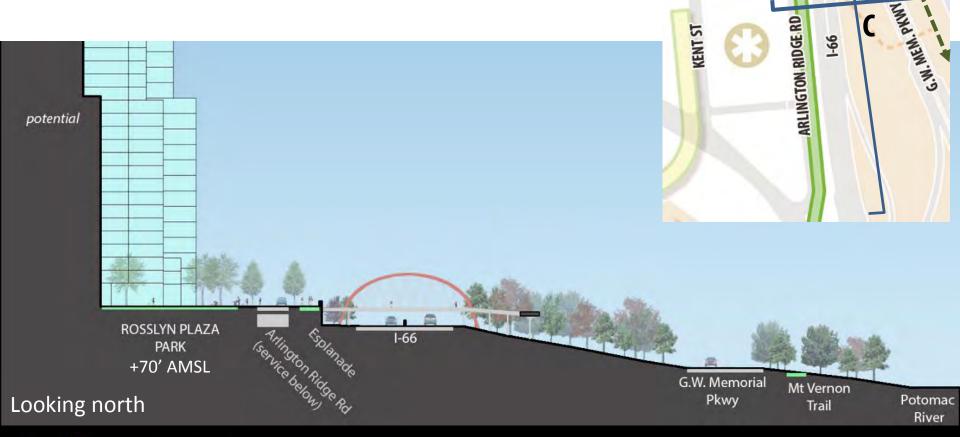


C: Rosslyn Plaza Proposed Esplanade Section to river

Proposed section

12' multi-use trail east of Arlington Ridge Rd

Bicycles share use of Arlington Ridge Rd





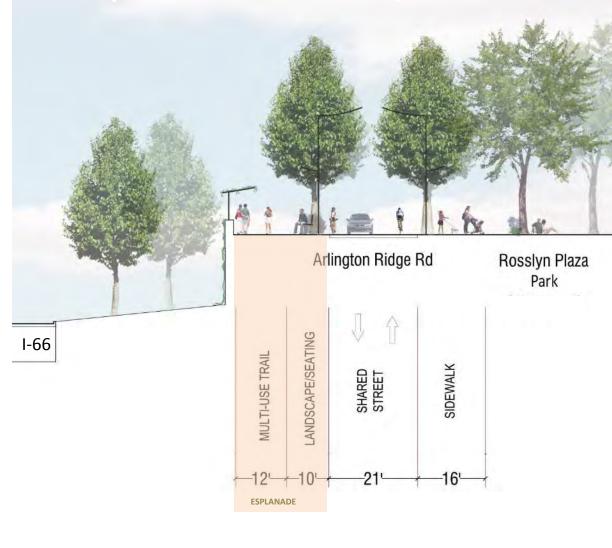


C: Rosslyn Plaza Proposed Esplanade Section at park

Proposed section

- 12' multi-use trail east of Arlington Ridge Rd
- Bicycles share use of Arlington Ridge Rd







C: Rosslyn Plaza Esplanade



C: Rosslyn Plaza Esplanade – at Arlington Ridge/Wilson







C: Rosslyn Plaza Esplanade

Precedents



Pedestrian promenade with artistic fountains Scioto Mile, Columbus, OH



Shared street design allows all users to navigate the space *Brighton, England*



Seating, trellis structures, and greenery along multiuse path *Katy Trail, Dallas*



New York, NY

C: Rosslyn Plaza Esplanade

Precedents



Pedestrian bridge over highway Rosemont Bridge, Houston



Multi-use promenade with seating

Hoboken, NJ



New York, NY

D: River Place/Iwo Jima Esplanade

Opportunities

- Access to/from existing high density residential development
- Links Gateway Park all the way to Iwo Jima
- Connects to regional trail network

Constraints

- Likely long-term development
- Crossing Wilson Blvd and Arlington Blvd/Rt 50



D: River Place/Iwo Jima Esplanade Today









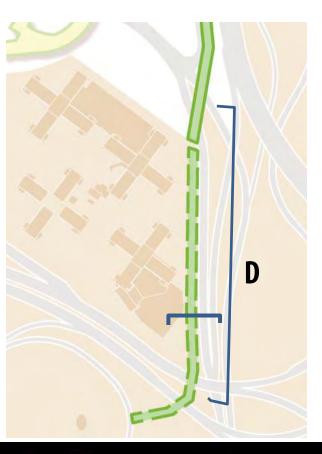


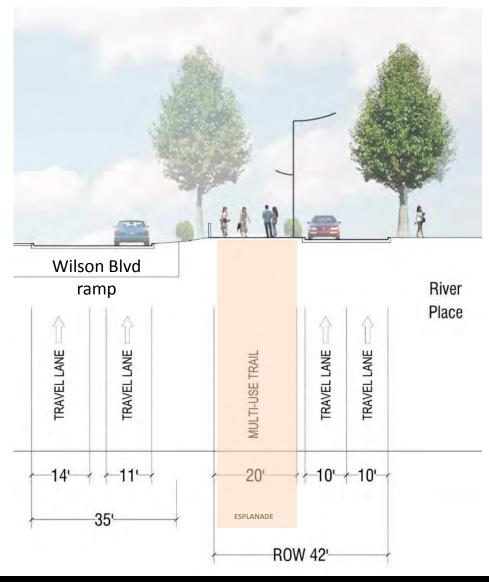


D: Proposed River Place/Iwo Jima Esplanade Section

Proposed section

 20' multi-use trail west of Wilson Blvd

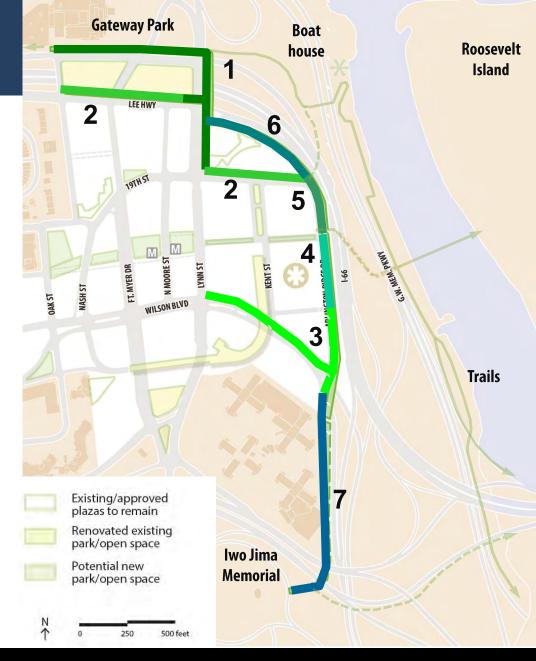






The Game Changers Esplanade phasing

Sample sequence







Rosslyn Plaza Park: Rosslyn's Terrace on the Potomac

Type: Destination Park ("game changer")

Description:

 Large park and plaza linked to surrounding development and available for flexible programs. Area 1.0-1.6 ac

Program:

- Festivals and live music (e.g., Annual Channel Gardens in Rockefeller Center, crafts fair)
- Larger recreation courts (volleyball and basketball, multi-purpose courts)
- Small recreation courts (bocce, horseshoes, etc.)
- Children's play features
- Outdoor dining and retail
- Open, flexible lawn area
- Community canine area
- Outdoor table games (chess, ping pong, etc.)





Program possibilities















Rosslyn Plaza Park

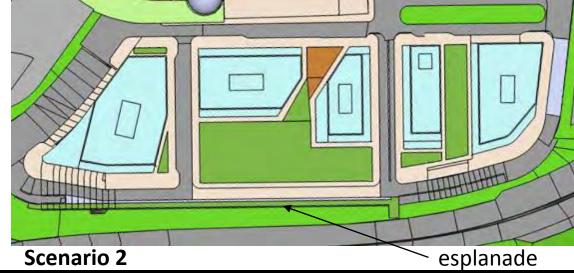
Main strategies:

- Design and program as active destination
- Create significant visual and access connections to The Esplanade, Wilson, 17th, 18th, 19th Streets
- Thoroughly integrate design and use with adjacent development

Layout alternatives:

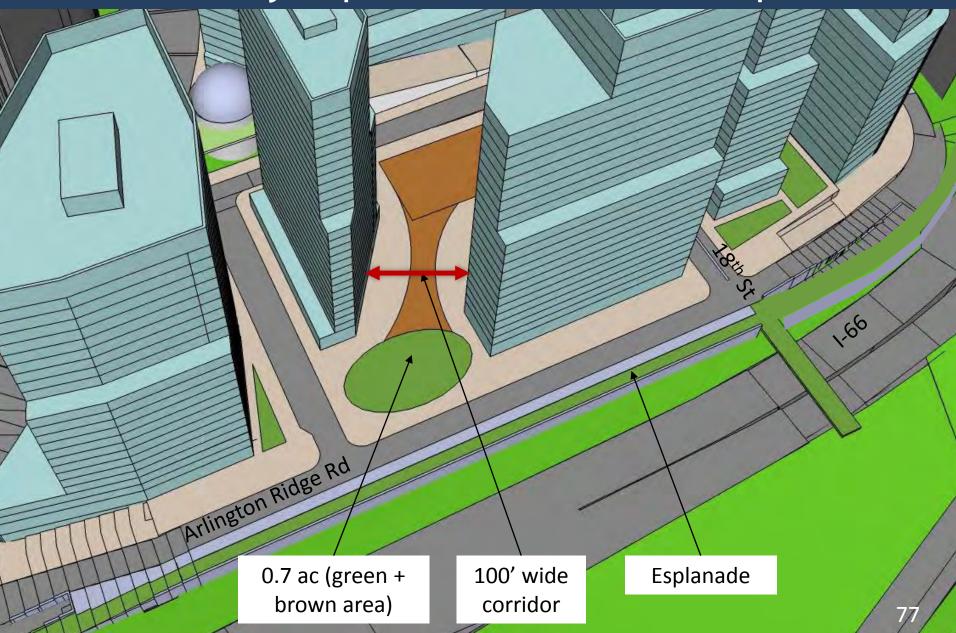
- Locate major space to connect the Esplanade with Kent Street
- Locate major space along the Esplanade



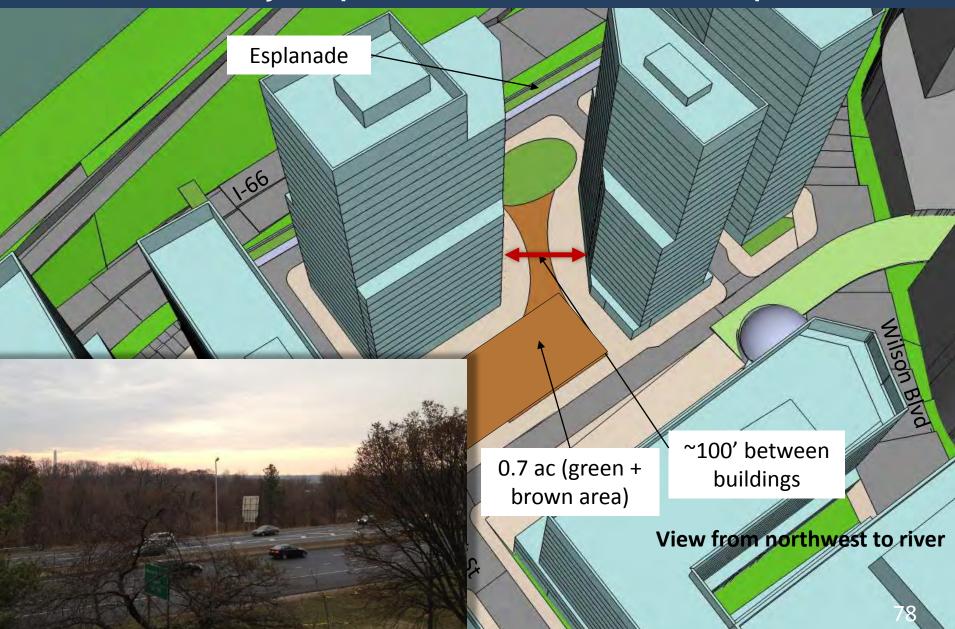




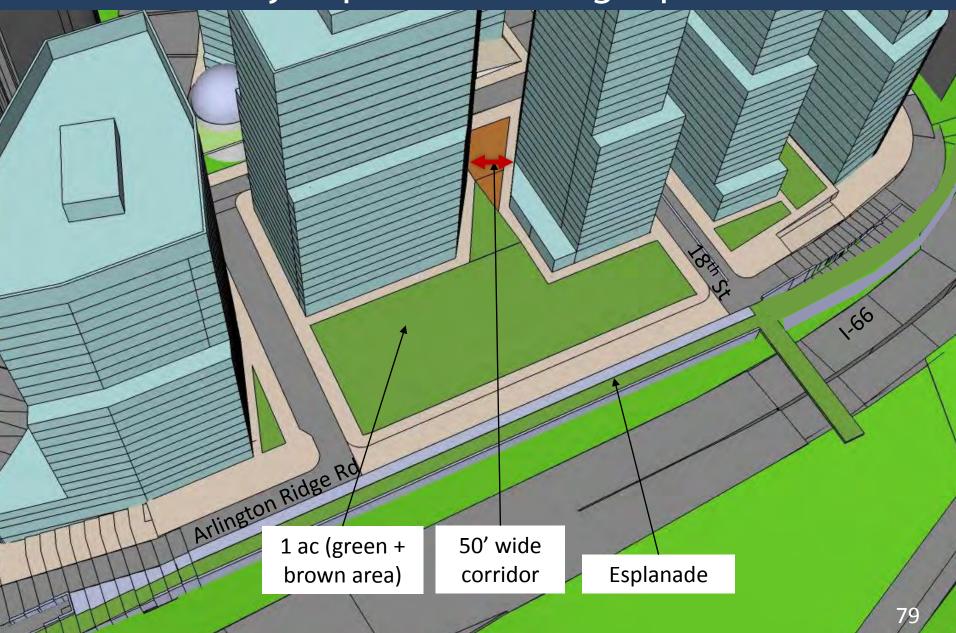
Scenario 1: major space connects Kent & Esplanade



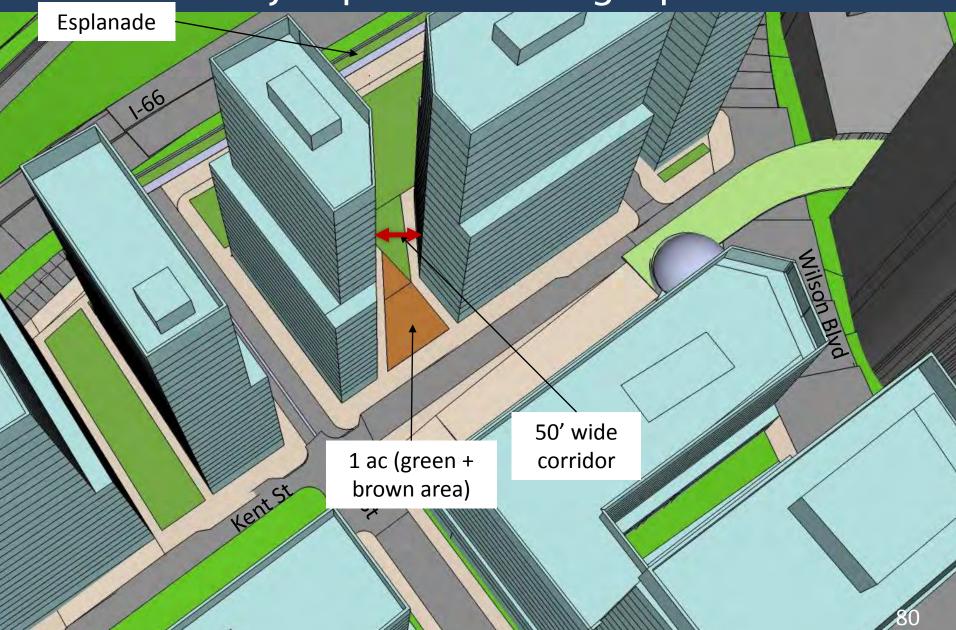
Scenario 1: major space connects Kent & Esplanade



Scenario 2: major space runs along Esplanade



Scenario 2: major space runs along Esplanade



Rosslyn Plaza Park: Comparing alternatives



SCENARIO 1

- Series of spatial experiences
 - Retail-themed square at Kent/18th, buffered from highway presence (0.4 ac, approx. 1,600 people)
 - Park at Esplanade (0.2 ac, approx. 800 people)
 - Passage between (0.1 ac)
- Highlights view toward Arlington Mem. Bridge



SCENARIO 2

- Emphasis on one grand space
 - More event variety/ capacity (1 ac, approx. 4,000 people)
 - Greater sense of presence in Potomac landscape
- Broader range of views
- Smaller retail plaza/passage at Kent/18th

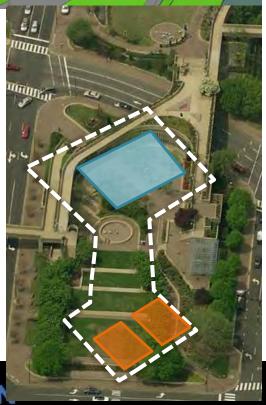


Rosslyn Plaza Park: Comparing alternatives

CCENADIO 4

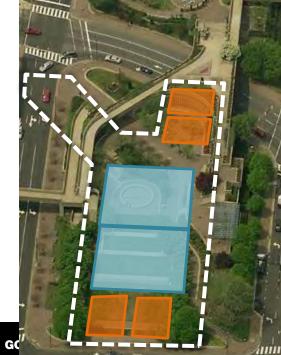
SCENARIO 1

- 0.7 acres programmable space
- 1 ac overall open space on block



SCENARIO 2

- 1 acre programmable space
- 1.1 ac
 overall open
 space on
 block



6. Next steps

Next meeting October 30





