

PARKS FOR PEOPLE

*Parks, Open Space, and
Recreation Chapter of the
City's Comprehensive Plan*

*Adopted
February 23, 2015*

Introduction: Context and Vision

Motivating Public Investment in Parks

Parks, open space, and recreational facilities are critical components of a community's quality of life and the health of its citizens. Parks provide social, environmental, and economic benefits.

- **Social Benefits:** Provide opportunities for exercise, sport, social interaction, relaxation, contemplation and education; contribute to community culture and aesthetics.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Absorb storm-water runoff and buffer streams; lower ambient air temperature; improve air quality; and provide habitat for plants and animals.
- **Economic Benefits:** Attract skilled labor to live nearby and entrepreneurial companies to locate in the vicinity.

(See Appendix C for more information on the benefits of parks and open space.)

Rethinking Parks – A System of Connected Parts

Parks and open space come in many configurations—including traditional playing fields, picnic areas, woodland, stream valleys, greenways and trails, neighborhood playgrounds, downtown pocket parks, and even green streets. When used together, they can create a park system that stretches throughout a City, incorporating natural systems into everyday life.



Figure 1: Greenways and parkways provide travelways in more natural settings and help reduce stresses associated with urban environments



Figure 2: An indoor swimming facility offers year-round exercise and relaxation

The Urgent Need for Parks

The 2005 Report of the *Task Force on Open Space Acquisition* references a passage from the 1964 *A Study of Parks and Recreation Facilities in Falls Church, VA*:

It is late! In studying the Master Plan of 1956, we find that we have gone backward, rather than forward, in acquiring land for park purposes. At this time there is so little undeveloped land available that the City must take bold steps to acquire any at all, let alone what a city of this size and character should have.

Obviously, this is true even more so today. The table below demonstrates that the City has among the fewest acres of local parkland per resident and, along with the Town of Vienna, less local parkland as a percent of total acreage than any of our other neighbors.

| Jurisdiction | Acres of Locally Owned Parkland per 1,000 Residents | Local Parkland as Percentage of Total Land Area |
|----------------------|---|---|
| City of Falls Church | 3.9 | 3.8% |
| Town of Vienna | 6.7 | 3.8% |
| City of Fairfax | 10.6 | 6.2% |
| City of Alexandria | 3.8 | 5.7% |
| Arlington County | 4.1 | 5.5% |
| Fairfax County | 20.5 | 9.6% |

Source: Local Jurisdictions' Parks Departments

Vision Statement – The Park System of the Future

Build upon existing parks within the City to develop a well-maintained, safe, and connected park, open space, and recreation system that provides a range of amenities, enhances natural ecosystems through the use of green infrastructure, and contributes to a sense of place by enhancing and relating to adjacent land uses.

The above vision statement is composed of the following component goals:

- Maintain high quality parks, open space, and recreation facilities.
- Acquire new open space for parks and recreation, especially rectangular field space and connections between and among existing parks.
- Increase/Enhance recreation programs.
- Increase the City's protected natural areas to provide habitat and tree canopy, buffer streams, decrease stormwater runoff, and enhance air quality.
- Increase the City's green infrastructure network to enhance mobility and link parks to each other and to City neighborhoods.
- Ensure the safety of parks through increased visibility, enhanced patrolling, and lighting.
- Design parks so that they relate to surrounding uses. This includes using parks to serve as both buffers and as gateways to different land uses and scales of development.



Figure 3: Ponds and other water features beautify parks, enhance habitat, and provide pleasant settings for park visitors.



Figure 4: A dog park provides opportunities for people and their pets to interact.

Chapter Organization

The remainder of this chapter describes the existing conditions, needs, and planned changes for the City’s parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

How to Use This Plan

The Comprehensive Plan serves as the City’s official policy guide for shaping the future of the City. It establishes priorities for parks, open space, and recreation planning efforts and projects. This chapter also recognizes that implementation must remain flexible to changing conditions and that priorities will change. Therefore, this chapter should be used as a “living document”.

This chapter should be used as a framework for scheduling projects and documenting completed projects. The project locations and elements described in this chapter are conceptual. Specific location and design decisions are intended to be worked out on a project-by-project basis during implementation.

Specific tasks in the Plan are scheduled in one of three timeframes: short term, medium term, and long term. Those terms refer to the following ranges:

| Timeframe | Expected Completion |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Short Term | 2016 to 2018 |
| Medium Term | 2019 to 2021 |
| Long Term | 2022 or later |

In addition to implementation timeframes, specific tasks also include cost estimates in both staff costs and dollar costs. Staff costs are computed in person-years. For example, a project that requires

1.0 Person-Years (PY) could be accomplished by one employee working fulltime on the project for one year, by two employees each working halftime on the project for one year, or by one employee working halftime on the project for two years.

Development Review

During development review, developers, staff, and boards and commissions should refer to the vision, goals, and strategies enumerated in this chapter as well as specific policies and projects. Additionally, implementation plans that are adopted pursuant to this chapter as well as any implementation plans that are included in the chapter by reference should also be considered. All of these referenced plans are part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and should be used to guide development of the City. A list of these plans is included in Appendix A.

Existing Conditions

Land Area and Amenities

The City operates 18 parks including natural open space areas, greenways, and designed parks with picnic areas, playground equipment, and playing fields. The W&OD Trail right-of-way includes a 16.1 acre swath through the City that is maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks). The Tinner Hill Historic Site is also operated by NOVA Parks. The Map of Existing Parks shows the City’s parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities.



Figure 5: Small parks provides places to meet with friends and family or simply to relax



Figure 6: A disc golf course offers exercise and fun for all ages.

Recreation Facilities

The City has one recreational facility: the Community Center complex next to Cherry Hill Park. It features a multi-purpose gymnasium, game room, hobby classrooms, and meeting spaces. The building also serves as a senior center, teen center, recreation center, entertainment center, preschool, informational center, emergency shelter, and meeting place for many of the social, club, and organizational activities in Falls Church.

Cherry Hill Farmhouse and Barn are also operated by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks and are used for a variety of social and cultural events.

Falls Church residents also utilize school facilities within the City (after school hours) and other facilities in neighboring Arlington and Fairfax Counties for recreational and community use.

Inventory

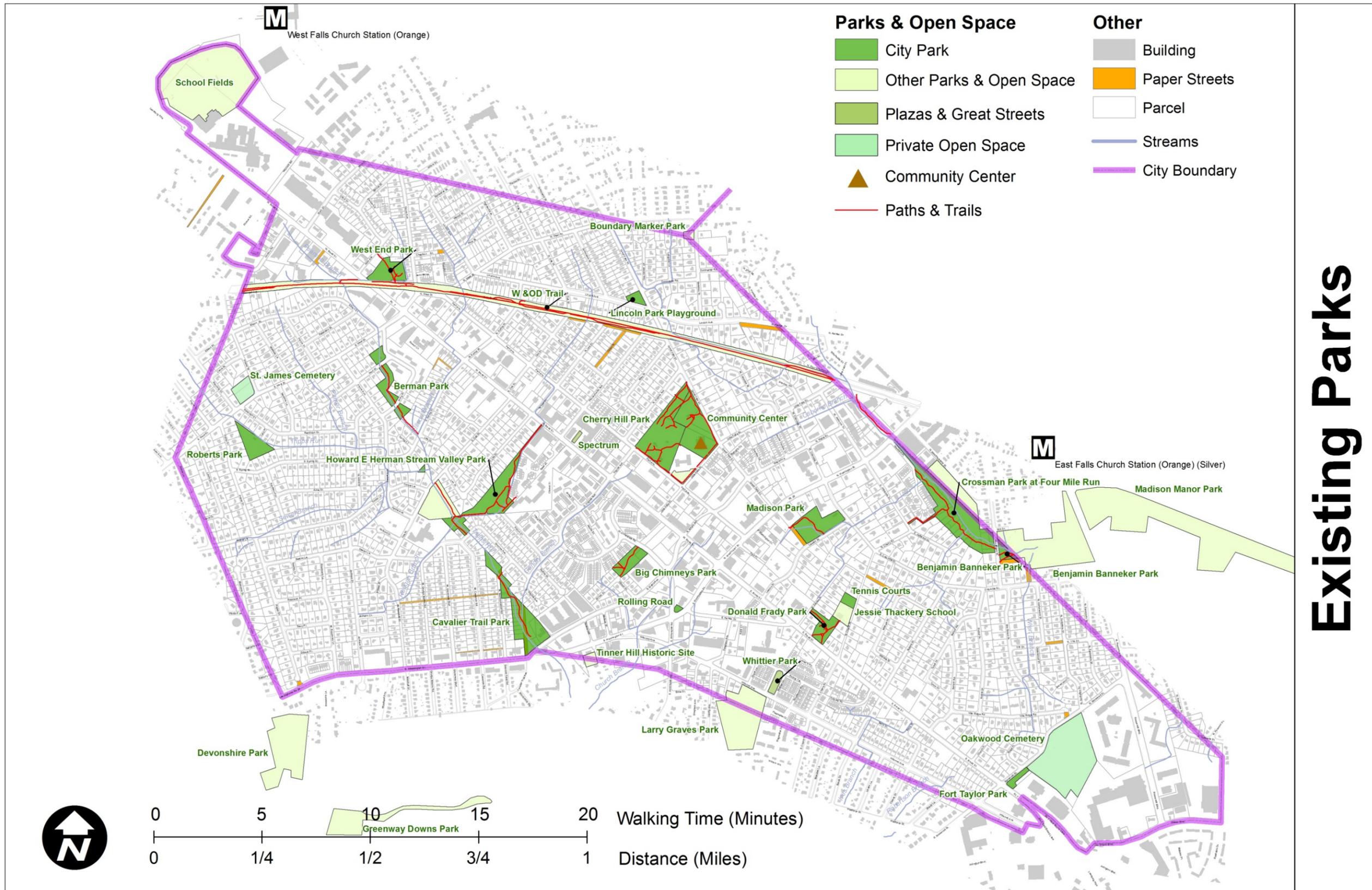
Pages 8 through 10 present an inventory of the City's parks and their amenities. A Master Plan has been developed for all these parks, with the exception of Fort Taylor Park.



Figure 7: Playgrounds provide children opportunities for play and social interaction.



Figure 8: Attractive streetscapes create public places where people can meet and relax



| City-Owned Parks with Structured Recreational Facilities | Size (Acres) | Amenities | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Cherry Hill/Community Center Complex | 11.9 |    |   |  |  |
| Madison Park | 3.3 |    | |  | |
| Lincoln Park | 0.5 |  |  |  | |
| Cavalier Trail/Tripps Run | 5.3 |   |  |   | |
| Roberts Park | 2.0 |  |   |  | |
| Donald S. Frady Park North Cherry Street Tennis Courts | 2.2 |  |  |    | |
| Larry Graves Fields | 7.6 (City owns 2.3) |    | | |  |

| Parks without Structured Recreational Features | Size (Acres) | Amenities | | |
|--|--------------|---|---|---|
| Crossman Park at Four Mile Run | 8.4 |  |   |  |
| Berman Park | 2.4 |  |   |  |
| Big Chimneys Park | 1.7 |  |  |  |
| Fort Taylor Park | 0.5 | | |  |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Boundary Marker | 0.3 (City owns .09 acres) | | |  |
| Howard E. Herman Stream Valley Park | 5.2 | |  | |
| West End Park | 2.2 |  |  | |

| Other Parks | Size (Acres) | Amenities | | |
|---|--------------|--|---|---|
| George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School | 17.8 |      | | |
| Thomas Jefferson Elementary School | 5.5 |     |  |  |
| Mount Daniel | 3.5 | |  | |
| W&OD Trail | 16 | | |   |
| Tinner Hill Historic Site | 0.5 | | |  |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Total Acres | 96.3 |
| City Parks Within City Boundaries | 47.99 |
| Other Parks (some shown on map but not listed in table) | 43.3 |
| Shared Space Outside City Boundaries | 5.51 |

| Legend | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  Baseball Field |  Horseshoe Pit |  Amphitheater |  Historic Marker or Structure |
|  Basketball Court |  Swing Set |  Covered Seating / Gazebo | |
|  Lacrosse Field |  Tetherball |  Covered Picnic Tables | |
|  Soccer Field | |  Picnic Tables | |
|  Tennis Court | |  Walking Trail |  Automobile Parking |
|  Track | | | |
|  Volleyball Court | | | |

Evaluation of Needs

Increased Park and Recreation Needs

The City's population is expected to increase by 30 percent by 2030, thereby increasing the demand for parks, open space, and recreational facilities. With negligible land available for acquisition within the City, Falls Church must become creative in seeking ways to expand park space and recreational opportunities. These may include acquisition of properties whose uses are obsolete; acquisition of conservation easements; partnering with neighboring jurisdictions for the use of recreation facilities; and building recreation facilities on existing and future rooftops.

The City's Open Space Task Force Report (2005)

The Task Force on Open Space Acquisition, which worked for a year to assess the City's needs for parks and open space, recognized the following:

- The City has enough small parks, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- There is need for additional outdoor playfield space, especially rectangular playing fields
- There is need for facilities to meet the needs of children over eight (e.g., a skate park or climbing wall)
- The City needs more natural areas
- There is a need for linkages among the City's green spaces and neighborhoods.

Access and Buffer

Many of the City's parks lack visibility and are difficult to access, and some should be buffered from surrounding land uses.

Accordingly, there is need for:

- Expansion of existing parks and buffering from surrounding land uses,
- Additional access points,
- Heightened visibility through signage, removal of visual impediments, and landscaping,
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access updates.



Figure 9: Rectangular fields can serve multiple needs.

Future Park System

The City's Future Park System

The City's future park system should evolve from the current vision and goals. It should build on existing conditions within the City to expand parkland and recreational opportunities to fulfill identified needs.

The future park system should be an interconnected network of green spaces and recreational facilities, highly visible and easily accessible. Parks and recreation facilities should be linked via sidewalks, trails, and greenways in a seamless pattern.

Map of Connected Park System

The map on the following page presents a vision for a future system of City parks. It includes City-owned parkland, other parks, plazas and Great Streets, as well as private open space. The map of the future park system highlights the City's needs to acquire additional space, maintain and enhance existing facilities, and connect existing spaces.

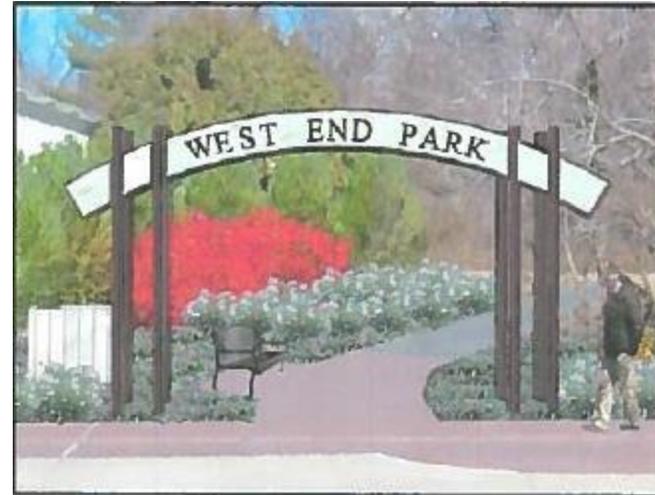
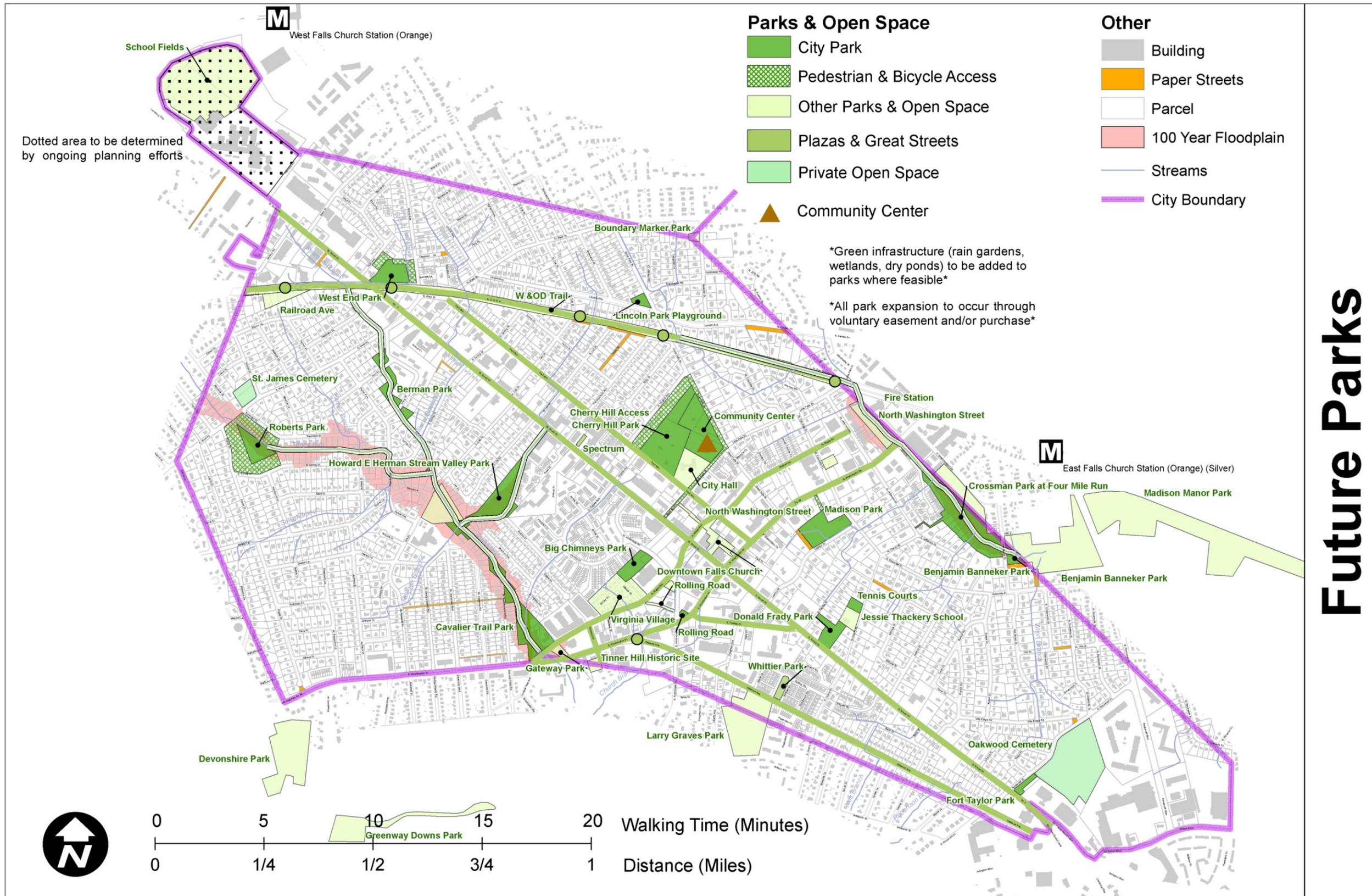


Figure 10: Prominent entrance signs help advertise parks and contribute to a sense of place.



Figure 11: Community gardens give residents outdoor exercise and the pleasure of growing local foods.



Implementation

Strategies

Based on this plans vision statement and its component goals, the following strategies shall guide the development of parks, open space, and recreation in the City.

1. Take advantage of opportunities to increase the City's open space
2. Leverage grant funds to maximize the benefits of local dollars
3. Encourage developers to provide outdoor space as part of redevelopment projects
4. Add lighting and bicycle parking to increase accessibility and safety
5. Continue to support the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and provide information about accessing nearby NOVA parks, in addition to the W&OD Trail.



Figure 12: Park projects can serve multiple needs - recreation, wildlife habitat, and stormwater management.



Figure 13: An indoor sportsplex provides an opportunity for year-round games and exercise.

Policy Actions

This table lists the policies that must be updated or adopted for the City to advance from the existing park system to the future park system. The policy descriptions capture the needs identified and concerns raised during the public engagement process.

The timeframe for adopting these policies is described in the section titled, “Policy Action and Infrastructure Project Priorities”.

| Policy Action | Staffing and Funding Needs |
|---|----------------------------|
| <p>Adopt and Administer Park Maintenance Standards: Develop park maintenance standards, including but not limited to standards for providing pedestrian access, increasing visibility, and maintaining landscaping. These standards should be developed in coordination with relevant advisory groups, including but not limited to the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board, the Tree Commission, and the Economic Development Authority. The standards should include goals for 5 and 10 years, with an annual report card on maintenance. The standards should also estimate staff and funding requirements.</p> | 0.20 PY |
| <p>Adopt Standard Developer Contributions: Incorporate developer contributions for open space acquisition and/or capital park projects into the list of standard development conditions for rezonings and special exceptions. Consider using voluntary concessions recommended by the Recreation & Parks Advisory Board, Oct. 16, 2014.</p> | 0.05 PY |
| <p>Expand Membership on the Open Space Committee Expand membership of the Open Space Committee to broaden the dialogue on open space acquisition and to increase support for open space acquisition. At a minimum, membership should expand to include members of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the Environmental Services Council (ESC).</p> | 0.05 PY |

| | |
|---|---------|
| <p>Develop Friends of the Parks Groups: Expand the ‘Adopt a Spot Program’ to incorporate more aspects of maintaining, promoting, and caring for the City’s parks. The groups’ activities would include the following: advocacy for park funding, applying for grant funding, participating in master park planning and design, advertising events in the parks, and organizing regular cleanup events.</p> | 0.20 PY |
| <p>Develop MOU with Arlington County: Develop an agreement for coordinating investments in field space (potential artificial turf fields), trail crossings (W&OD), and park connections (Crossman and Banneker). This agreement could include a schedule for joint investment, concept designs for shared or neighboring facilities, and/or agreements for sharing facilities.</p> | 0.20 PY |
| <p>Develop a Park Funding Strategy: Develop a long-term funding strategy for capital and operating park funding. This could include grants, bonds, and/or allotments from local taxes.</p> | 0.20 PY |
| <p>Reaffirm the MOU Between the City’s Schools and the City’s Recreation and Parks Department Reaffirm the existing agreement regarding the use of fields and gymnasiums; understanding that existing school fields and gymnasiums are programmed to capacity, so additional sharing of those types of facilities is limited to new construction.</p> | 0.05 PY |
| <p>Revisit MOU with Fairfax County: Revisit the MOU with Fairfax County for Larry Graves Park and consider a reorganization of the space to replace the softball diamonds with rectangular space. Consider expanding the MOU to include other facilities, such as nearby Haycock Longfellow Park and Lewinsville Park. Consider fee parity for mutual use of indoor recreation facilities.</p> | 0.20 PY |
| <p>Update Future Land Use Map: Update future Land Use Map to show paper streets as parks, open space, or trails. Along with the updates, describe how neighborhoods will be included in decisions regarding the character, design, and use of these spaces.</p> | 0.20 PY |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <p>Updated Open Space Acquisition Priorities Map</p> <p>Update the map of open space acquisition priorities. Focus on property acquisitions that would support long-term goals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing pedestrian and bicycle access to parks • Developing new green spaces identified in long-term plans, such as Four Mile run in the North Washington Street area and Virginia Village in the South Washington Street area • Parcels adjacent to other open space that could expand existing open spaces | <p>0.05 PY</p> |
|---|----------------|

Projects

This table lists the projects that must be implemented to advance from the existing park system to the future park system. The project descriptions capture the needs identified and concerns raised during the public engagement process.

The timeframe for implementing these projects is described in the section titled, “Policy Action and Infrastructure Project Priorities”. That section also speaks to project funding. The total cost for these projects and high and as described in the priorities section will not be feasible without the use of cost-sharing tools.

| Project | Staffing and Funding Needs |
|---|----------------------------|
| Construct Additional Playing Fields or Increase Time Available on Existing Fields: Repurpose the playing fields at Larry Graves Park to create rectangular and turf-surfaced practice and playing fields. Consider also the City’s needs for baseball fields. | \$1,500,000 |
| Construct Community Gardens: Construct community garden plots, perhaps in the W&OD Trail right-of-way. | \$50,000 |
| Construct a Disc Golf Course: Identify space within the existing City park system for a disc golf course. | \$10,000 |
| Construct Dog Park: Working with surrounding neighborhoods, identify space within the City Park system to install a dog park. | \$50,000 |
| Construct an Indoor Ice Rink: Construct an indoor ice rink to provide rectangular playing space that can be used throughout the year and in all weather conditions. A space on top of a parking garage could provide sufficient space. | TBD |

| | |
|---|--|
| Construct an Indoor Sportsplex: Construct an indoor sportsplex to provide rectangular playing space that can be used throughout the year and in all weather conditions. A space on top of a parking garage or large buildings could provide sufficient space. | \$1,500,000 and ongoing costs of 2.5 FTEs and \$100,000/yr |
| Construct a Lake or Pond: Construct a lake or pond within existing park land. | \$1,000,000 |
| Construct a Play Fountain: Construct a fountain for children to play in. | TBD |
| Construct Plazas: Develop plazas for gathering and relaxation, with street furniture and wide sidewalks, at Four Mile Run, Downtown, N. Washington Street, and the Annandale Road Triangle. Develop the Downtown plaza focused on pedestrian access and include on-street dining and landscaping. | \$200,000 to \$500,000 per plaza |
| Construct Storm-Water Facilities: Install rain gardens, dry ponds, wetlands, and other storm-water facilities to reduce flooding and to improve storm-water quality. | \$10,000 per facility |
| Construct a Swimming Facility: Construct a swimming facility, perhaps in concert with the redevelopment of the school property site, for public as well as school use. | \$12,000,000 and ongoing costs of 12 FTEs and \$250,000/yr |
| Construct the Tinner Hill Historic Site: Continue working with Fairfax County to complete the Tinner Hill Historic Site project. | ongoing |
| Construct a Virginia Village Community Center: Pursuant to the S. Washington Street Small Area Plan, acquire properties in Virginia Village with the goal of providing new affordable housing at a 1:1 replacement ratio and a new community center or playing fields. | \$15,000,000 and ongoing costs of \$350,000/yr |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>Enhance Greenways and Perform Stream Restoration: Implement stream restoration projects in conjunction with greenway projects along the Tripps Run and the Four Mile Run watersheds.</p> | <p>\$5,000,000 per mile</p> |
| <p>Enhance Parkways: Introduce more landscaping and improve pedestrian and bicycle accessibility along Broad Street, Washington Street, Park Avenue, and Maple Avenue.</p> | <p>\$5,000,000 per street</p> |
| <p>Enhance W&OD Right-of-Way: Enhance the W&OD right-of-way with pavilions, community gardens, and lighting; install special crossings of the W&OD.</p> | <p>\$1,000,000</p> |
| <p>Expand the Farmers Market: Relocate the farmers market to a larger space or expand the available space at the existing location.</p> | <p>TBD</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Implement Updated Park Master Plans: Update, adopt, and Implement park master plans. All master plans shall include visual concept designs, status, funding and staffing requirements, and potential grant funding sources.</p> <p>On a park-by-park basis, the following features should be considered: lighting and expanded operating hours, bathrooms, improved access (especially for the elderly and disabled) and entrance signs, historical signage describing the significance of the park, bicycle racks, dog waste bags and drinking fountains, and wireless internet access.</p> <p>For specific parks, the following features/strategies should be strongly considered: <u>Crossman Park:</u> Strengthen the connection to neighboring Benjamin Banneker Park. Relate to the redevelopment around the East Falls Church Metro station. <u>Madison Park:</u> Install artificial turf surface. <u>Fort Taylor Park:</u> Complete master plan with consideration for safety and accessibility issues. <u>Cherry Hill Park:</u> update playground equipment .</p> | <p>\$300,000 to \$1,000,000 per park</p> |
|--|--|

Policy Action and Infrastructure Project Priorities

This Plan sets out a long-term vision for the City’s park system. Some of the policy actions and infrastructure projects will be decades in the making. To ensure the City addresses the highest priority needs first, the section details the priorities of different projects. The priorities are split into three levels – short term, medium, term, and long term. Policy and project priorities were determined through the public engagement process and by estimating staffing and funding availability.

Developing Priorities

These priorities reflect the interests expressed during the planning process. Many channels of input were utilized, including community meetings, a web survey, work sessions with City Boards and Commissions, and new releases in the Falls Church News Press.

Flexibility and Opportunities

This timeframe serves as a guide for implementation, but is also flexible and responsive to opportunities. For example, private development projects, new grant programs, and new partnerships all provide opportunities to advance projects. The City should pursue these opportunities even if it means advancing something outside the schedule shown here.

Funding Limitations

The total project costs required to implement this plan are significant in comparison to the City’s historical budget for parks, open space, and recreation. Many of these projects will not be feasible without cost sharing, such as joint ventures between

jurisdictions, public/private partnerships, and grant funding. This priority schedule assumes that cost sharing for capital projects is required.

Plan is a Guide, Not a Budget

As noted in the previous paragraphs, the City needs to remain flexible and respond to opportunities. Also, current funding levels are insufficient to accomplish all of the projects identified in this plan. Therefore, this plan provides guidance on which policies and projects to pursue. It is not a budget document that commits the City to funding these efforts.

Short Term Policies and Projects (2016 – 2018)

| Action | Policy | Project | Estimated Costs | Completion Date |
|--|--------|---------|---|-----------------|
| Adopt and Administer Park Maintenance Standards | X | | 0.20 PY to Develop and Adopt and ongoing Maintenance Costs TBD | |
| Adopt Standard Developer Contributions | X | | 0.05 PY to Develop and Adopt | |
| Develop a Park Funding Strategy | X | | 0.20 PY to Develop | |
| Expand Membership on the Open Space Committee | X | | 0.05 PY to Expand | |
| Reaffirm the MOU Between the City’s Schools and the City’s Recreation and Parks Department | X | | 0.05 PY to Reaffirm | |
| Update the Future Land Use Map | X | | 0.20 PY to Update | |
| Update Open Space Acquisition Priorities Map | X | | 0.05 PY to Update | |
| Convert either Larry Graves Park or Madison Park to artificial turf. | | X | Staff time plus \$1,500,000 | |
| Construct Tinner Hill Historic Site | | X | Ongoing | |
| Enhance Parkways | | X | \$500,000 | |
| Enhance W&OD Right-of-Way | | X | \$1,000,000 | |
| Implement Master Plan for West End Park | | X | Ongoing | |
| Implement the Master Plan for Cherry Hill Park, focusing on Playground Equipment | | X | Staff time plus \$100,000 | |
| Implement the Master Plan for Howard E. Herman Park | | X | Ongoing | |
| Total | | | Policies: 0.80 PY Projects: Staff time and \$3,100,000 | |

Medium Term Policies and Projects (2019 - 2021)

| Action | Policy | Project | Estimated Costs | Completion Date |
|--|--------|---------|--|-----------------|
| Develop Friends of the Parks Groups | X | | 0.20 PY to Develop | |
| Revisit MOU with Fairfax County | X | | 0.20 PY to Update | |
| Construct Community Gardens | | X | Staff time plus \$50,000 | |
| Construct an Indoor Sportsplex | | X | Construction: Staff time and \$1,500,000 Operations: 2.5 FTEs and \$100,000/yr | |
| Construct Plaza in Downtown Planning Opportunity Area | | X | Staff time plus \$500,000 | |
| Construct a Swimming Facility | | X | Construction: staff time plus \$12,000,000 Operations: 12 FTEs and \$250,000/yr | |
| Enhance Greenways and Perform Stream Restoration | | X | Staff time plus \$750,000 | |
| Install a Play Fountain in a Centrally Located Park or Plaza | | X | Staff time plus \$300,000 | |
| Implement Updated Master Park Plan for Big Chimneys Park | | X | Staff time plus \$800,000 | |
| Total | | | Policies: 0.40 PY Projects: Staff time and \$15,900,000 | |

Long Term Policies and Projects (2022 and beyond)

| Action | Policy | Project | Cost | Completion Date |
|---|--------|---------|--|-----------------|
| Develop MOU with Arlington County | X | | 0.20 PY to Develop | |
| Construct a Disc Golf Course | | X | Staff time plus \$10,000 | |
| Construct Dog Park | | X | Staff time plus \$50,000 | |
| Construct an Indoor Ice Rink | | X | TBD | |
| Construct a Lake/Pond | | X | Staff time plus \$1,000,000 | |
| Construct a Virginia Village Community Center | | X | Construction: Staff time plus \$15,000,000 Operations: \$350,000/yr | |
| Expand Farmers Market | | X | TBD | |
| Implement Updated Master Plans for Remaining City Parks | | X | Staff time and \$7,000,000 for remaining parks | |
| Total | | | Policies: 0.20 PY Projects: Staff time and \$23,060,000 | |

Appendix A: Related Plans

The City’s Comprehensive Plan is a family of documents. The Comprehensive Plan includes specific elements, like this chapter on parks, recreation and open space. It also includes specific functional plans. The table below is a list of the plans that inform this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

| Planning Document | Adoption Year |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| The Open Space Task Force Report | 2005 |
| Park Master Plans | |
| Berman Park Master Plan | 2006 |
| Big Chimneys Park Master Plan | 2007 |
| Cavalier Trail Park Master Plan | 2005 |
| Master Plan for Cherry Hill Park | 2003 |
| Crossman Park Master Plan | 2005 |
| Donald S. Frady Park Master Plan | 2001 |
| Lincoln Park Master Plan | 2005 |
| Master Plan for Madison Park | 2004 |
| Master Plan for Roberts Park | 2004 |
| West End Park Master Plan | 2007 |
| Hamlett/Rees Tract Park Master Plan | 2006 |
| Small Area Plans | |
| North Washington Street | 2012 |
| South Washington Street | 2013 |
| Downtown | 2014 |
| West Broad Street | Expected 2015 |

North Washington Street Plan Concepts

The North Washington Street Planning Opportunity Area runs along North Washington Street from the border with Arlington County south to Great Falls Street.

The plan calls for increased density along the North Washington Street balanced against increased green space along Four Mile Run and more park land accessible via West Columbia Street.



Figure 14: Restored stream and park along W. Jefferson Avenue

South Washington Street Plan Concepts

The South Washington Street Planning Opportunity Area includes South Washington Street, South Maple Avenue, and Hillwood Avenue, bounded to the northeast by East Fairfax Street and Rolling Road and to the southwest by the intersection of South Washington Street and South Maple Avenue.

The plan calls for increased community facilities to serve additional density in the area. The additional facilities include several plazas and a new community center in the existing Virginia Village area. Note that the plan assumes the housing in Virginia Village will be replaced in kind either on site or at another location in the City. Additionally, the plan calls for completion and preservation of historic sites in the area.



Figure 16: Virginia Village converted to playing fields

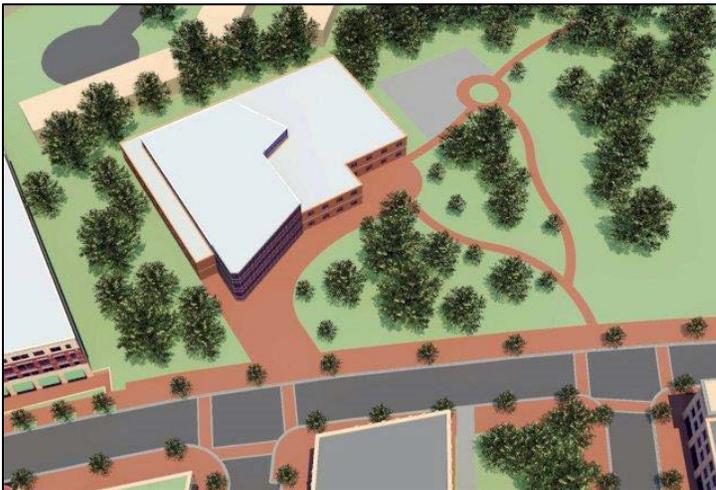


Figure 15: Virginia Village Community Center



Figure 17: Gateway Park in front of Reserve at Tinner Hill



Figure 18: Tinner Hill Historic Site



Figure 20: Henderson House maintained on location

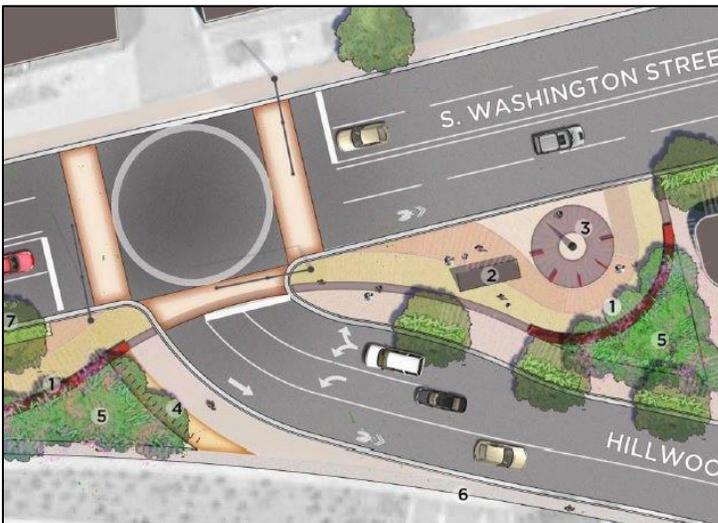


Figure 19: Intermodal Plaza at the intersection of S Washington St & Hillwood Ave

Downtown Area Plan Concepts

The Downtown Planning Opportunity Area includes the crossroads of Washington Street and Broad Street. The area extends north to Great Falls Street, south to Annandale Road, west to Little Falls Street, and east to Lawton Street.

The plan calls for a substantially similar built environment, with infill development to fill-in the blank spaces. The signature park idea in the plan is an urban plaza behind the buildings in the 100 block of West Broad Street.



Figure 21: Plaza in Downtown Falls Church



Figure 22: Outdoor space at One Colorado in Old Pasadena provides space for public events.



Figure 23: Store fronts opening to pedestrian areas create a walkable environment in Rehoboth, DE.

Appendix B: Concepts

Several policies and projects in this plan call for updated or enhanced park and recreation facilities. This appendix provides ideas and concepts for what those places could look like. These concepts serve as starting points for conversation, not final design. Final designs will be determined through further public engagement.

Parkways

Parkways, in the context of the City of Falls Church, are attractive, landscaped streets that accommodate pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles. They are equivalent to “Great Streets,” which have exemplary architectural design features, relate well to bordering uses, and encourage human contact and social activities. Parkways are safe for all modes and promote sustainability through stormwater management best practices. Parkways are distinctive and memorable avenues of travel.



Figure 24: Street trees and sidewalk dining create a vibrant space along King Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia



Figure 25: Landscaping, seating, and special materials create a comfortable environment in Shirlington, Virginia.



Figure 26: Prominent pedestrian crossings cater to pedestrian traffic in Middleburg, Virginia

W&OD Trail

In 2012, members of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) conducted an extensive visual survey of amenities available along the length of the W&OD Trail. The survey showed that other jurisdictions regularly provide attractive seating areas, wayfinding information, even restrooms.

These concepts build on that survey and suggest ways to improve the experience of Trail users. These concepts also build on concepts included in the Mobility for all Modes Chapter, which calls for turning the W&OD Trail into a “Great Street” – a signature street in the City with attractive landscaping that signals the W&OD is a special place.



Figure 27: Storyboards at the Walter Mess Plaza describe the History of the Trail



Figure 28: Updated landscaping frames the memorial at Veterans Common



Figure 29: A new building at N West Street with bathrooms mimics the old train station.



Figure 31: New crossings emphasize the Trail and increase awareness.



Figure 30: Landscaping provides a terminated view for Park Ave and transitions between lower density and higher density development.



Figure 32: Narrowed crossings reduce crossing distances while lighting increases visibility.

Greenways

Greenways are vegetated linear corridors that provide avenues of travel and connectivity. They may be established along natural features such as a river, stream, or ridgeline or along man-made features such as a canal or rail line. They are trails for pedestrians and bicyclists and often provide avenues of movement for wildlife. They may promote recreation, environmental sustainability, and scenic conservation. Examples of greenways in the City of Falls Church include the W&OD Trail, Cavalier Trail, and the trails through Crossman Park and Howard E. Herman Stream Valley Park.



Figure 33: The Mount Vernon Trail connects Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County.



Figure 34: The C&O Canal in Washington, D.C., provides exercise opportunities for residents and visitors to the area.

Plazas

Plazas are gathering places on streets or between buildings. Typically furnished with benches, tables, landscaping, and often sculpture or fountains, such places function as meeting spots or places for contemplation. They give character to urban environment and foster a sense of community.



Figure 35: Lake Anne in Reston, Virginia, serves as a community focal point.



Figure 36: Seating and a small snack bar provide a place to gather at Battery Bosque, part of Battery Park, NY.



Figure 37: A concept for plaza in Cadman Park, NY provides a focal point and relates to adjacent development.

Pocket Parks and Parklets

Pocket parks are small open spaces between buildings or along a street. They offer places to rest along a parkway and add a touch of green to the urban streetscape. Typically people use pocket parks to have lunch, read a book, chat with friends, or rest.



Figure 38: Concept for a pocket park on the 100 block of W Broad St



Figure 39: Concept for "tactical" pop-up park with minimal capital costs



Figure 40: A Parklet in Philadelphia converts parking spaces into a gather place.

Home Zones and Play Streets

“Home Zones” and “Play Streets” treat neighborhood streets as shared spaces – where neighborhood uses, such as block parties, chance meetings with neighbors, and spaces for children to play take priority over automobile traffic.



Figure 41: Landscaping and signage mark this home zone, where motorists must travel at 'walking speed'.



Figure 42: This Play Street is temporarily closed to automobile traffic, providing children a place to play.

Playing Fields in Urban Settings

Urban fields are playing fields in urban or town settings. They are readily accessible to a local population. They may include fields for football, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and other sports.



Figure 43: Quincy Park in Arlington, Virginia provides field space in the densely developed Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor.



Figure 44: Lit fields on Georgetown's campus provide quick access to athletic events.



Figure 45: Fencing keeps soccer balls out of the water at Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Appendix C: Benefits of Parks and Open Space

Parks and open space are vital components of a community's quality of life. They contribute a range of economic, environmental, and social benefits, the most important of which are listed below.

Economic Benefits

Business Attraction Businesses and residents are attracted to communities with ample parks and open space; they are more likely to invest in communities with attractive parks.

Labor Attraction Skilled workers and affluent retirees are attracted and retained through the prevalence of parks.

Sales Taxes Sales taxes are increased through parks and recreation. Recreational trails bring numerous economic benefits to communities through sales of recreational equipment, food, and related items.

Property Values Protected open space increases nearby residential property values; homes near parks and open space command a higher price than comparable homes without access to parks.

Environmental Benefits

Storm Water Open space absorbs storm water and buffers streams, thus mitigating flood hazard, soil erosion, and stream degradation; improving water quality; and reducing storm water management costs.

Wildlife Parks and open space provide habitat for wildlife and plants.

Air Quality Parks and open space sequester carbon and improve air quality.

Air Quality Parks lower ambient air temperature.

Social and Health Benefits

Public Health Providing opportunities for exercise and sport, parks contribute to citizens' health; parks are associated with lower rates of obesity, high blood pressure, and a range of physical diseases.

Social Interaction Parks provide gathering space for social interaction.

Stress Relief Parks and open space are places for relaxation and contemplation—a respite from the stresses of modern life—thus contributing to citizens' psychological health.

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Appendix D: Funding Opportunities for Land Acquisition

Acquisition of land for parks, open space, and recreation facilities can be funded in a number of ways. Listed below are sources of revenues used by communities throughout Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the U.S.

Grant Programs

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Virginia Land Conservation Trust
- Virginia Recreational Trail Fund
- Virginia Environmental Endowment
- Federal Transportation Alternatives Program

Local Revenue

- Local bonds
- Developer contributions
- Corporate sponsorship
- General fund revenue
- Dedicated revenue (a fixed amount of the property tax rate)

Grant and Loan Funding Opportunities

| Grant Source | Purpose | Funds | Terms | Examples |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (Virginia DCR) | Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities for public bodies only. All LWCF-assisted areas must be maintained and opened in perpetuity as public outdoor recreation areas. | \$1,519,250 available for FY 2013 and FY 2014. | 50 % match required. Reimbursement program. About 20% of applications funded. | Recent LWCF grants to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Fairfax County Park Authority and Arlington County. One half of NVRPA parks have been funded through the LWCF, as have more than 30 miles of W&OD Trail. Funds for the Lily Ruckstuhl property near Falls Church came from the LWCF to the Northern Virginia Conservation |

| Grant Source | Purpose | Funds | Terms | Examples |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | Trust for the FCPA. The FCPA recently used LWCF monies for a playground at Lee District Park. |
| Virginia Land Conservation Trust (Virginia Land Conservation Foundation) | Open spaces and parks, natural areas, historic areas, and farmland and forest preservation. | Grants range from several hundred thousands of dollars to slightly over \$1 million. | At least 50% match required. | In 2012, \$250,000 awarded to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to help protect a 115-acre forested parcel on Mason Neck in Fairfax County, part of the last remaining 400-acre expanse of forest and farmland under private ownership there. |
| Virginia Recreational Trail Fund (Federal Highway Administration through DCR) | Developing and maintaining recreational trails and trail-related facilities. 30% of program funds used for motorized trail uses, 30% for non-motorized recreational trails, and 40% for proposals with the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes or multiple-use trails. | Grants typically between \$25,000 and \$200,000. | At least a 20% match required. Reimbursement program. | Town of Herndon has grant for the lighting of the W&OD Railroad Regional Park; the NVRPA has grant for the mountain biking trails in Fountainhead Park; and FCPA recently completed improvements to the Cross County Trail in the Mockingbird Drive area. |
| Virginia Environmental Endowment | Projects that improve local streams and protect water quality, restore the Bay, and enhance land conservation; not for land acquisition. | Fund has nearly \$17 million; in FY 2013 \$452,671 in grants awarded. | Requires 50% match; project proposals accepted twice yearly. | Friends of the Rappahannock received \$5,000 for environmental education; NVCT received \$16,800 for Bull Run Headwaters Initiative; Morven Park in Leesburg received \$4,000 for vernal pool restoration. |
| Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, through DEQ on behalf of the State Water | Acquiring fee simple title or conservation easements that (1) protect or improve water quality and prevent the pollution of state waters, and (2) protect the natural or open-space values of the property or assure its availability for agricultural, forestal, | \$40 million-per-year range available. Minimum loan is \$50,000 and no loan maximum. | Loans may be for 100% of eligible costs of project. Interest rate determined by the length of the loan: 1–10 years or 10+ years. | \$1,800,000 to Waterford Foundation in 2004 to purchase 144 acres of farm outside town. In 2005 \$9,500,000 to Stafford County for Crow’s Nest Nature Preserve. |

| Grant Source | Purpose | Funds | Terms | Examples |
|--|--|---|-------|--|
| Control Board) | recreational or open-space use. | | | |
| North American Wetlands Conservation Act (US Fish & Wildlife Service) | Acquisition, restoration and enhancement projects involving wetlands and wetland-associated lands. Projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. | Grants up to \$75,000. | | Grants in VA over the past 15 years have been in mountain or Tidewater regions. A 1998 grant helped restore the Huntley Meadows Park wetlands. |
| Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund (DMV Chesapeake Bay preservation plates) | Educational conservation and restoration projects within VA's Chesapeake Bay watershed. | In 2013, \$366,822 was awarded in grants. | | \$9,178 to Piedmont Environmental Council for workshops in its "Stream-Friendly Landscape Outreach Program." \$8,500 to Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment for a program coordinator, teacher training workshops, mentor program, and a school expo on environmental education and particularly Bay awareness and restoration. |

Other Potential Sources of Funding

| Source of Funding | Examples | Description |
|--|------------------|---|
| Park Bonds | Arlington County | 2012 park bond for \$50 million for maintenance, land acquisition, and projects |
| Real Estate Transfer Tax | Fauquier County | Share of real estate transfer tax funds the PDR program. |
| Revenues from Development Process/ Development Impact Fees | Arlington County | Transfers of Development Rights from zoned land acquired by county for parks to development parcels yielded \$6.6 million and \$15 million. |
| Local Land Conservation Fund | Fairfax County | Through private donations, fund contributes between \$80,000 and \$100,000 |

| Source of Funding | Examples | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | Land Preservation Fund | annually for purchase of open space for parks. |
| Partnership with Local Land Conservancy | Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) | NVCT has MOUs with Fairfax County, Arlington County, and Alexandria to encourage conservation easements; sometimes NVCT holds the easements; other times local jurisdictions do. NVCT holds an easement on Scout House, 128 So. Spring St, Falls Church. |
| Local Service (Tax) District | Fairfax County Park Authority | McLean citizens created a tax district overlay to raise \$1.5 million to help acquire more than 360 developable acres of land along the Potomac River, which is now Scott's Run Nature Preserve. |
| Purchase of Development Rights Program | Fauquier County | 2/3 of funding comes from real estate tax for conservation easements; 1/3 of funding from grants. 8700+ acres have been conserved to date. |
| Corporate Partners | Medical Mile, Little Rock, AR | Little Rock's largest cardiology clinic partnered with the city's parks department and National Park Service to raise more than \$350,000 to fund one mile of downtown trail that emphasizes wellness through murals, displays, and other elements of design. |

Appendix E: History of Parks in the City

The City of Falls Church system of parks has been developing gradually since 1928, when the land where Lincoln Park is today was declared a park. Many of the City parks are in floodplains, but there are notable exceptions, including Cherry Hill Park and Donald S. Frady Park. The most recent park added to the City system is the Howard E. Herman Stream Valley Park.

Berman Park was established in 1957. Irving Berman dedicated the land for the park, which included Scout House, built in 1941. The structure is reminiscent of Civilian Conversation Corps works of the era and is still in use today.

Big Chimneys Park, site of a log house built in 1699, was part of a parcel purchased by the City in 1966 for post office parking. After Annandale Road went behind the post office, this remaining parcel was dedicated as park land in 1983. Today, the Park includes a reconstructed footprint of the nearby “Big Chimneys” cabin site purportedly associated with the village’s founding ca. 1699.

Boundary Marker Park was acquired by Arlington County, Fairfax County, and the City of Falls Church in 1956. The city owns .09 acres of the site. The park was established to preserve and interpret the remaining West Cornerstone boundary marker from the original District of Columbia boundary survey, laid out in 1791-1792 by Andrew Ellicott and Benjamin Banneker. The original marker stone is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution assisted with the protective fencing and interpretive marker.

Cavalier Trail Park was assembled as the City bought 10 parcels of undevelopable street and land left over from sanitary sewer lines and storm drainage between 1967 and 1978. Legend has it that Cavalier Trail was a Native American trail. In 1992 the City planted 65 native trees with financing from a federal grant.

Cherry Hill Park land was assembled over several years. Much of the land (8.3 acres) was acquired in 1956 to build a City Hall. Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Gage retained a life interest in 5.41 acres (with the house). City Hall was dedicated in 1957, with an addition dedicated in 1982. In 1966 the City acquired 1.99 acres to construct the Community Center, completed in 1968. That same year the Gage and Parker property conveyed to the City at Gage’s death. The City acquired an additional 4.34 acres in 1974 to complete the 14.651 acres of the Cherry Hill complex.

Crossman Park land was assembled gradually over a 22-year period. It was named an Urban Stream Valley Demonstration Project in 1991 and was dedicated as a park in 1999. The park is named after Isaac Crossman, who owned substantial acreage in the City and was an incorporator of the Falls Church and Potomac Railway Company. The Park includes the SW9 District of Columbia boundary marker that is associated with African-American surveyor Benjamin Banneker and is a designated National Historic Landmark.

Fort Taylor Park the site of historic Taylor’s Tavern (c. 1800), was owned by the City but was dedicated as a park in 1998. The Park contains a remnant Civil War fortification from the Defenses of Washington, and the approximate site of Union balloon ascensions by Professor Thaddeus Lowe in 1861.

Donald S. Frady Park land was purchased by the City in 1972 and 1974. The park was the site of the Jefferson Institute School (1882-1956; demolished 1958) and the first Arbor Day celebration in 1892. Originally named Cherry Street Park, it was renamed for the first City director of Public Works and Recreation and Parks. It was dedicated in 1982. Over the last decade the City has worked closely with the Victorian Society at Falls Church, the Village Preservation and Improvement Society, and other volunteers on extensive plantings, Victorian park features, and an Arbor Day Commons area.

Howard E. Herman Stream Valley Park was assembled from several tracts. The 1.3-acre Rees Tract was proffered to the City in 1994 when the Rees Place townhouses were developed. The City acquired the 3-acre Hamlett tract in 2006.

Lincoln Park is the oldest City park. The land was proffered in 1891 as flood plain when the Sherman Subdivision was developed. This swampy area was formerly known as Frog Hollow. In 1928 it was named Sherwood Park.

Madison Park was dedicated in 1988. The land was formerly part of Madison Elementary School, built in 1926 and demolished in 1980.

Roberts Park was purchased from the Roberts family in 1962 and 1963. The property was part of the Golden Rule Poultry Farm. The park was dedicated in 1965. Tripps Run was undergrounded in 1972.

West End Park was purchased by the City in 1982 and dedicated in 1991. Harry English, a resident of Grove Avenue, had

worked for 20 years to have the land adjacent to the Falls Church rail station site dedicated as park.

The W&OD Trail is a converted train right-of-way (ROW). It commemorates the ROW of the original Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad which began service in 1859; ROW of original 1859 railroad and later became the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad.

Appendix F: Accomplishments Since 2005

Plan

Since the previous Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Chapter was adopted in 2005, the City has achieved the following progressed against the goals identified in that plan:

Policies

- Expanded the website to include online registration for recreation programs.
- Developed an MOU between the City's Schools and the Recreation and Parks Department to share facilities and fields.
- Continued holding traditional annual events, such as the Memorial Day Parade and the Falls Festival.
- Developed an Open Space Committee to advise the City Council on open space acquisition.

Projects

- Expanded ADA access in City Parks.
- Implemented majority of master plan for Lincoln Park.
- Implemented majority of master plan for Madison Park.
- Purchased land and easements to expand parks and increase access in Howard E Herman Park.
- Began work in support of master plans for West End Park and Howard E Herman Stream Valley Park.

Appendix G: Planning Process and Public Engagement

This chapter was developed with significant public input and collaboration. Regular announcements regarding the planning effort were posted to the City’s eFocus tool, on the City’s website, and in The Falls Church News-Press. The plan was developed and refined with community input during the public meetings listed in table to the right.

Information outreach was conducted using the following tools:

- Announcements about community meetings using
 - eFocus , the City’s electronic newsletter
 - City website homepage
 - City’s Facebook account
 - City’s Twitter account
 - Commonplace
 - Falls Church News-Press
- Regular updates of project status and materials on the project webpage

| Date | Groups | Event |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| May 19, 2014 | Planning Commission | Update Only |
| June 6, 2014 | Recreation & Parks Advisory Board | |
| June 16, 2014 | Planning Commission | Work session |
| August 4, 2014 | City Council, Planning Commission, and Recreation & Parks Advisory Board | Work session |
| September 3, 2014 | Recreation & Parks Advisory Board and Planning Commission | Joint work session |
| September 6, 2014 | General Public | Community Meeting |
| September 10, 2014 | Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) | |
| September 17, 2014 | Tree Commission | |
| September 18, 2014 | Environmental Services Council (ESC) | |
| September 25, 2014 | Historical Commission and Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB) | |
| October 7, 2014 | Economic Development Authority (EDA) | |
| October 16, 2014 | City of Arts, Theater, Culture, and History (CATCH) | |
| October 22, 2014 | NOVA Parks | Staff meeting |
| October 28, 2014 | Human Services | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Advisory Council (HSAC) | |
| October 28, 2014 | Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) | |
| November 3, 2014 | Planning Commission and Recreation & Parks Advisory Board | Joint work session |
| November 12, 2014 through December 22, 2014 | General Public | Web Survey |
| December 2, 2014 | Arlington County Parks & Recreation Department | Staff meeting |
| December 9, 2014 | Chamber of Commerce | |
| December 13, 2014 | General Public | Community meeting |
| January 5, 2014 | Planning Commission | Work session |
| January 7, 2015 | Recreation and Parks Advisory Board | Motion recommending advancement for approval |
| January 20, 2015 | City Council | Work session |
| February 2, 2015 | Planning Commission | Public Hearing and |
| February 23, 2015 | City Council | Public Hearing and Final approval |

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

The following motion was approved unanimously (5-0) by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at their January 7, 2015 meeting.

The draft Parks for People Plan establishes a vision for an integrated park, open space, and recreation system that balances the needs and desires of the community. Further, the draft plan was developed with significant public input and reflects the stated desires of the community. In order to realize the vision set forth in the draft plan, the Advisory Board of the Recreation and Parks Department recommends that the Planning Commission and the City Council approve the plan, with one change that would move the “Develop Friends of the Parks Groups” from the “low” priority to the “medium” priority level on the consolidated priority list

Planning Commission

Following a public hearing, the following motion was approved unanimously (7-0) by the Planning Commission at their February 2, 2015 meeting.

WHEREAS, Section 17.04 of the City Charter makes the Planning Commission responsible for preparation of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, section 17.06 of the City Charter enables the Planning Commission to prepare and adopt individual components of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Parks for People plan was developed with substantial public engagement and it establishes a vision for a connected park, open space, and recreation system that balances the stated needs and desires of the community; and

WHEREAS, the latest version of the Parks for People plan, version 40, attached hereto contains 44 pages and includes the (1) Future Parks Maps (page 12): Describing areas for park development; and (2) Park Policies and Projects (pages 14-17), which identifies policies to update and projects to implement, along with cost estimates, and key issues raised during the public engagement process; and (3) Implementation Priorities (pages 18-20), which lists a flexible order in which to implement the identified park policies and projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission of the City of Falls Church, Virginia that the Parks for People Plan including pages 1 – 44 of the document with that title labeled as version 40 and is attached hereto is hereby adopted by the Planning Commission as an update and replacement to the Parks, Open

Space, and Recreation Chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan that was adopted on October 24, 2005 as part of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and that the Planning Commission recommends that City Council grant final approval of the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to replace the existing Chapter 6 of the Comprehensive Plan with the Parks for People Plan.

City Council

Following a public hearing, the following motion was approved unanimously (7-0) by the City Council at their February 23, 2015 meeting.

WHEREAS, Section 17.10 of the City Charter gives the City Council the authority to approve a Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, Section 15.2-2228 of the State Code also gives the City Council the authority to grant final approval to Comprehensive Plan changes and gives the Planning Commission authority to recommend such changes; and

WHEREAS, the Parks for People plan was developed with substantial public engagement and it establishes a vision for a connected park, open space, and recreation system that balances the stated needs and desires of the community; and

WHEREAS, the draft Plan was properly advertised for a public hearing, discussed and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at its meeting on February 2, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Falls Church, Virginia that the Parks for People Plan is hereby approved as a replacement for Chapter 6 of the City of Falls Church Comprehensive Plan, "Parks, Open Space, and Recreation" that was adopted on October 24, 2005.



The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 703-248-5027 (TTY 711). For more information call 703-248-5178.