

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE –

Resolution Honoring David Hicks upon His Retirement from the Fairfax County Park Authority

ISSUE:

Approval of the resolution to honor David Hicks for more than 28 years of outstanding service to the Park Authority and the residents of Fairfax County.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the resolution honoring David Hicks.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on December 13, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

David Hicks has served the residents of Fairfax County for more than 28 years, starting as a combination inspector for the Department of Environmental Management before joining the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) a year later as an Electrician II. Over the years at the Park Authority, he was promoted to Park Specialist II and Chief Building Maintenance Inspector.

Mr. Hicks has been described as a magician with juggling as a specialty. He has supported a wide range of FCPA facilities, including RECenters, nature centers, historic sites, and golf course buildings. He has been responsible for routine repairs, assessing long-range needed improvements, and handling emergency situations. He has coordinated funding for projects, contractors, staff and site needs, and he has made sure facilities were able to perform their needed function for the public.

At FCPA, Mr. Hicks has been the project manager on almost all in-house and contracted facility maintenance projects. Of particular note, he worked long hours to ensure the Laurel Hill Clubhouse was ready for its grand opening, and he was an integral part of the Mason District Amphitheater project team.

As storms, power outages, emergencies, short-funding, staff limitations, and challenges from aging infrastructure hit the agency, Mr. Hicks was praised for making tough,

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knowledgeable, and fantastic decisions. Thanks to Mr. Hicks, facilities are being used with extended life cycles and remain safe under heavy use.

As a supervisor, Mr. Hicks helped his staff accomplish large numbers of projects in a timely manner. One of his greatest assets has been his ability to reassure site staff that their needs are seen as critical and will be handled appropriately every time.

Mr. Hicks has also donated leave to several peers who needed leave for health reasons. He proved himself to be the type of person always willing to help out.

For his accomplishments, Mr. Hicks received an Outstanding Performance Award while working as an Electrician II. In 2005, he received a Trailblazers Award for his work on rebuilding the Mason District Amphitheater after it was destroyed by fire. And in 2007, he received a "Helping Hand Award" for his dedicated work to have the Laurel Hill clubhouse ready for its grand opening.

It is for these reasons and more that Mr. Hicks is worthy of this resolution in his honor.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

STAFF:

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director

Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer

Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

WHEREAS, David Hicks is retiring after serving Fairfax County for one year at the Department of Environmental Management and for more than 27 years as an Electrician II, Park Specialist II, and Chief Building Maintenance Inspector for the Fairfax County Park Authority; and,

WHEREAS, David has shown himself to be a magician in his work, juggling a multitude of responsibilities, such as supporting Park Authority facilities ranging from RECenters and nature centers to historic sites and golf course buildings, being responsible for routine repairs, assessing long-range needed improvements and handling emergency situations, and coordinating funding for projects, contractors, staff and site needs; and,

WHEREAS, he has been the project manager on almost all in-house and contracted facility maintenance projects at the Park Authority, most notably working long hours to ensure the Laurel Hill Clubhouse was ready for its grand opening and serving an integral role on the Mason District Amphitheater project team; and,

WHEREAS, David was praised for making tough and knowledgeable decisions as storms, power outages, emergencies, short-funding, staff limitations and problems with aging infrastructure challenged the agency; and,

WHEREAS, he led his team toward accomplishing large numbers of projects in a timely manner and always assured site staff that their needs were seen as critical and would be handled appropriately every time; and,

WHEREAS, David proved himself to be the type of person who was always willing to help out and gave of himself by donating leave to several peers suffering from illness; and,

WHEREAS, he was honored with an Outstanding Performance Award, a Trailblazers Award, and a Helping Hand Award for his accomplishments over the years; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board that it expresses appreciation and thanks to

David Hicks

For dedicated and outstanding contributions to the Park Authority and the residents of Fairfax County.

Adopted by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board on December 13, 2017

Michael W. Thompson, Jr.
Secretary

William G. Bouie

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ADMINISTRATIVE – 2

Resolution Honoring Mason Maddox upon His Retirement from the Fairfax County Park Authority

ISSUE:

Approval of the resolution to honor Mason Maddox for more than 30 years of outstanding service to the Park Authority and the residents of Fairfax County.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the resolution honoring Mason Maddox.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on December 13, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

Mason Maddox served the residents of Fairfax County as a staff member at the Department of Public Works and as a restoration carpenter before taking on the responsibilities of miller at the Fairfax County Park Authority's historic Colvin Run Mill – a position he has held for the past 20 years.

Dressed in period costume, Mr. Maddox led countless programs for visitors introducing them to this important piece of Fairfax County's history and sharing his knowledge of this once vital industry in the region. Mr. Maddox's expertise in the structure of a water-powered grist mill and the processes of milling grains into flour are renowned throughout the milling community, here and abroad. He has contributed enormously to the knowledge base of this unique industrial process as a member of the Board of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) for more than two decades.

Mr. Maddox furthered his knowledge of milling on a three-week trip to the United Kingdom with legendary Millwright Derek Ogden. He took part in an intensive apprenticeship, visiting and working at a number of old English mills in an effort to better serve the Park Authority and visitors to Colvin Run Mill. He has helped train more than 100 millers through the Milling School sponsored by the Park Authority and SPOOM, and he has shared his knowledge of mills and the milling process by appearing as a "special guest" at other mills along the East Coast.

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It is for these reasons and more that Mr. Maddox is worthy of this resolution in his honor.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

STAFF:

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director

Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer

Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations Division

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

***WHEREAS**, Mason Maddox is retiring after serving Fairfax County for more than 30 years first as a staff member in the County Department of Public Works, then as a restoration carpenter, and for the last 20 years as the miller at the Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) historic Colvin Run Mill; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mason's expertise in the structure of a water-powered grist mill and the processes of milling grains into flour are renowned throughout the milling community, here and abroad; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mason has contributed enormously to the knowledge base of this unique industrial process as a member of the Board of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) for over two decades; and*

***WHEREAS**, he furthered his knowledge of milling during a three-week trip to the United Kingdom during which he engaged in an intensive apprenticeship with legendary Millwright Derek Ogden, visiting and working at a number of old English mills, to better serve the Park Authority and visitors to Colvin Run Mill; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mason, dressed in period costume, has led countless programs for Colvin Run Mill visitors to introduce them to the important role milling played in Fairfax County's history and has shared his knowledge of this once vital industry in the region; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mason helped train more than 100 millers through the Milling School sponsored by the FCPA and SPOOM; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mason has shared his knowledge of mills and the milling process by appearing as a "special guest" at other mills along the East Coast; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board that it expresses appreciation and thanks to*

Mason Maddox

For dedicated and outstanding contributions to the Park Authority and the residents of Fairfax County.

Adopted by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board on December 13, 2017

Michael W. Thompson, Jr.
Secretary

William G. Bowie

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ADMINISTRATIVE –

Adoption of Minutes – November 15, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting

ISSUE:

Adoption of the minutes of the November 15, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends adoption of the minutes of the November 15, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on December 13, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Minutes of the November 15, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting

STAFF:

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director
Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
November 15, 2017**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

Board Members:

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Mary Cortina, Vice Chair
Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary
Linwood Gorham, Treasurer
Walter Alcorn
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter
Maggie Godbold
Timothy Hackman
Ronald Kendall
Faisal Khan
Ken Quincy
Kiel Stone*

Staff Present:

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director
Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Barbara Gorski
Judy Pedersen, PIO
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
Janet Burns
Cindy McNeal
Laura Finks
Chrissy Mead

Absent*

Guests: Corrine Luckett
County Attorneys' Office

AGENDA CHANGE

Chairman Bouie announced that the Presentation by Cherry Bekaert has been deferred to December 13. A legal matter has been added to the Closed Session items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker:

Chris Aiello
Lisa Namerow
Len Forkas

Topic:

Opposition to Milestone cell tower at Fred Crabtree Park
Opposition to Milestone cell tower at Fred Crabtree Park
Milestone Communications cell tower at Fred Crabtree Park

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes – October 25, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Thompson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 25, 2017, Park Authority board meeting; seconded by Mr. Quincy.

Ms. Cortina requested that the minutes be amended by deleting ‘and it was approved’ from the second sentence in her Board Matters. The sentence would read, “This was the second meeting to go over the contract line by line.”

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the amended minutes; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried; Ms. Godbold abstained and Mr. Stone was absent.

ACTION ITEMS

A-1 Approval of Annual Review and Distribution of Telecommunications Revenues
Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the telecommunications funded projects. Twenty percent, excluding Mason District, for the Natural Resource Management Plan and Cultural Resource Management Plan projects and the remaining 80% of telecommunications revenue will be used for project within the district. One hundred percent of Mason District telecommunications revenues to be used for Mason District Park projects; seconded by Ms. Cortina and Mr. Quincy. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Stone was absent.

A-2 Approval of Horsepen Run Stream Valley Land Dedication Request – RZ/FDP 2017-MD-027 – Horsepen Run, LLC (Sully and Dranesville Districts)
Ms. Godbold and Mr. Hackman made a motion to approve the staff recommendation for a dedication of approximately 35 acres of land to the Park Authority as part of the rezoning application RZ/FDP 2017-MD-027 – Horsepen Run, LLC; seconded by Mr. Hackman. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Stone was absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I-1 Planning and Development Division’s Quarterly Project Status Report
No action was necessary.

I-2 Cultural Resource Management Plan FY 2017 Accomplishments and FY 2018 Implementation Plan
No action was necessary.

I-3 Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2017 Accomplishments and FY 2018 Implementation Plan
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie congratulated Pat Harrison on her retirement from the county. Pat has worked with Parks in a number of instances primarily for her work with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), creating NCS and making it what it is today.

Mr. Thompson will be attending the Athletic Council meeting later in the evening and will make a presentation to her.

- Mr. Bouie extended congratulation to Patti Stevens for her leadership award. She is the director of the Office of Public-Private Partnerships (OP3). Mr. Bouie mentioned this because she announced in her speech that she is the pickleball queen. Parks is looking forward to taking advantage of her partnerships to make sure that Parks gives her the opportunity to expand the pickleball community in and around Fairfax County.
- Mr. Bouie said that he is looking forward to the Elly Doyle Awards Recognition on Friday, November 17. Ms. Godbold will serve as the master of ceremonies.
- The Burke Lake Golf Clubhouse ribbon cutting will take place on December 2 at 3 p.m.
- Mr. Bouie announced that he has another conflict of interest—one with the Houston Astros who are the World Series champs. Reed Ryan, the president, and his dad, Nolan Ryan, are good personal friends and today he received some swag. He received a hologram of Justin Verlander's MVP for the ALCS. Mr. Bouie said that he would declare that item.
- He concluded by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, reminding everyone to be safe, eat well, and return.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- The Friends of Clemyjontri and the Park Foundation have joined forces and are purchasing a new trackless train dedicated solely to Clemyjontri. The Friends of Clemyjontri are contributing more than \$28,000 toward the purchase. A special ribbon-cutting for this special train will be hosted on March 31 and more details to follow.
- Winter Wonderland is the next large special event hosted by **Burke Lake Park** and this year it features two full weekends of fun and fantasy for young children. Hot chocolate, hayrides, arts and crafts, and even a visit from jolly St. Nick will provide families with hours of good times.
- The Ghost train earned more than \$14,000 in a revenue share with Northern Virginia Community College. This popular event is staffed mostly by volunteers who are potentially pursuing higher education in recreation, parks, or tourism.
- First Hike Fairfax – Healthy Steps for a Happy New Year will once again be hosted on Sunday, January 1, 2018. This continues the tradition to follow TAKE 12! Steps for Family Health in 2018. This self-directed activity at five popular family-friendly trails, encourages everyone to get and be active, and to start the New Year off on the right foot and the left foot. Hikers are welcome to photograph their favorite parts of the vast trail network and upload

them to our website. The winners in each hike location will receive a RECenter pass along with an invitation to take the Take 12! Pledge. The best photos are selected by staff and posted on the Park Authority's social media platforms.

- In an effort to develop a plan to further engage the community in maintaining Fairfax County Parks, Fairfax County Park Authority joined with members of the community, Park Authority Board Members and staff, and multiple volunteer groups on October 20th and 21st to help improve two local parks, **Backlick Park and Spring Lane Park**. The volunteer groups included students from Shenandoah University, the Lions Club, and community homeowner's association members. Approximately 50 volunteers combined with Park Authority Board Members and staff accomplished tasks such as mulching, weeding, cleaning, trash collection, painting and tree trimming. With a successful Park Cleanup Blitz kickoff this fall, we are excited to plan future park clean ups for spring 2018. Special thanks to Board Member Ron Kendall for his support and participation in the park clean-up blitzes.

BOARD MATTERS

- Ms. Cortina announced that she understands that her name will be put forward by the Board of Supervisor to serve on the Planning Commission filling the seat recently vacated by former Park Board member Jan Hedetniemi. Ms. Cortina stated that she will resign from the Park Authority Board effective Monday, November 20, 2017. She is waiting until Monday because she wants to attend the Elly Doyle Awards Ceremony. She commented that she is amazed what the volunteers do for this park system and for the county and its residents. They are truly awe inspiring and she wouldn't miss the opportunity to attend the awards reception.

She stated that it has been a sincere pleasure to serve the residents of Fairfax County on the Park Board and hopes that her contributions have a lasting and positive impact on the park system. Mary again said that the volunteers are phenomenal, which includes the Park Board. Staff throughout the organization are exceptionally dedicated. It has been an honor to work alongside all to further the mission of the Park Authority.

Ms. Cortina added that the Board members will be missed as well as the people of the Park Authority. As everyone knows she enjoys spending a lot of time in parks which significantly impact their quality of life for her and her family. They will continue to be out watching wildlife at Huntley Meadows; hiking along the Potomac at Riverbend and Scotts Run Parks; camping at Lake Fairfax with certain Boy Scouts; swimming at the Water Mine; attending the summer camps that her family has enjoyed for many years; fishing at Burke Lake; mountain biking in the parks, and gardening at Pine Ridge Park; going to the Farmers' Market; listening to music at Mason District Park and many of the other parks. It really is a major quality of life issue for residents especially for herself and the family. She thanked everyone for making this a wonderful opportunity and she really likes serving. Ms. Cortina concluded by stating that she wished everyone well.

- Mr. Khan congratulated Ms. Cortina, also known as Lady Fairfax, and wished her good luck in her future endeavors. He added that hopefully Parks will have another friend on the Planning Commission.
- Mr. Quincy stated that to say Ms. Cortina will be missed is an understatement. He added that she has been a jewel on this board and that he is truly sincere. He wished her the very best and told her not to forget Parks.

Mr. Quincy thanked staff for reaching out to the Volunteer Teams. There has been a lot of effort reaching out to the Friends Groups and now the Volunteer Teams have been brought into the fold. He noted that he has received comments of appreciation from those folks.

Mr. Quincy reported that there is a sizeable project being undertaken by Dominion Energy to provide power from the Idylwood station to service Tysons. And Tysons needs a lot of power. Ken was appointed to serve on a focus group that was comprised of community individuals as well as certain agency individuals. A Park Authority staffer also serves on the focus group. The group covered what would be realistic, plausible avenues for this power to go. They are looking at impacts to parks, roads, residences among other things. The group looked at a number of parks that could be impacted and there were numerous alternative routes being proposed. It has pretty much been narrowed down. Staff has prepared a response to Dominion about the concerns from the Park Authority. As this moves toward the final phases he will make sure the board is briefed on how this affects parks.

- Dr. Carter said that the board will miss Ms. Cortina greatly and wished her all the best in her new assignment.
- Ms. Godbold stated that she will really miss Ms. Cortina. Ms. Cortina has taken her under her wings to get her started and oriented, and has always pointed her toward things she should be doing and doesn't. Ms. Godbold is glad that Ms. Cortina will be on the Planning Commission. Parks can use a friend there, but she will be missed.

Ms. Godbold remarked that it is great to be back from her recent trip. One of the things that was so gratifying is that as she introduced herself to the folks that were all very much interested in nature, and she talked about the favorite thing that she does which is to be on the Park Board and described the parks in Fairfax County. Most of them were just amazed at what Parks has. She said that we should never forget how special this is because a lot of people in this country do not have these.

- Mr. Kendall congratulated Ms. Cortina and said he will miss her, but will be seeing her at Pine Ridge Park.

He extended kudos to the Area 2 managers and staff as well as the Mobile Crew. He had to admit he knew we had the equipment but he had not seen it; he was impressed. The neighbors were also impressed.

Mr. Kendall also thanked the Mobile Crew for getting out on Tuesday, November 14, for the cleanup of the garden plot materials. It was a pretty quick process. He would like Parks to consider looking at other places in the Mason District to expand the garden plot program. He believes there is a waiting list of nearly 500 people. As long as Parks can find the staff to cover the ground he thinks places could be found for garden plots.

Mr. Kendall announced that the monopole money will be able to fund the summer concert series in Mason District next year. Those funds will also help with other things around the park that are not concert related which are focused on helping people get into the park and having a good time while there.

The Pudge Rodriguez field was used on November 4 and 5 for a U-11 tournament, which was a sponsored tournament that came into our area.

- Mr. Hackman congratulated Ms. Cortina on the appointment that is well-deserved. He is certain of the wisdom of the Board of Supervisors to appoint her to that position. Ms. Cortina was a mentor to him and helped get him up to speed and guide him through the policy manual, etc. He thanked her for that and for all she has done for Parks.

Mr. Hackman and Todd Brown had the pleasure of being in Great Fall at the Grange at a retirement party for Gary Eisner. Gary was the head of the maintenance crew at Riverbend Park and started working at Riverbend spending his whole career there. Mr. Eisner was one of the few employees to get a plaque. He began working there when he was 16 and didn't have a driver's license. His mother would drive him to the park to go to work. He worked for the Park Authority for over 36 years. It's a wonderful thing he has done, not only as a maintenance person, but as a naturalist he is very knowledgeable about the flora and fauna at Riverbend. Mr. Hackman wished Mr. Eisner the very best. As a side note, Mr. Eisner's position was one a number of years ago that was on the chopping block because of the budget restrictions. We were fortunate to have gotten through that crisis and to keep such a stellar employee.

Mr. Hackman also thanked Andi Dorlester for her job Monday, November 13, at the McLean Citizens' Association Tysons update. Ms. Dorlester did the Park portion of that presentation and did a marvelous job. Overall it was a great meeting that was well attended.

Transportation, Community Relations, and the Park Authority were all there. With regard to parks, the MCA is concerned about the Tysons fields and the number amount would them to be a higher percentage so the fields remain for Tysons use. Another concern that came up that night was the dollar amount that is used for proffers for parks and public facilities. The

monetary contribution based on the cost of land plus facility is currently set at \$2.38 sq. ft. Gross Floor Area. That fee will be looked at later this year. That is sort of free money for all of us. The last time it was changed was 2015, we should look at it annually given the rising land values at Tysons.

- Mr. Alcorn told Ms. Cortina that when she is on the Planning Commission and the clock goes after midnight and the chairman asks for the next speaker and the meeting goes into the next morning . . . he said he was just warning her.

Mr. Alcorn said that Ms. Cortina will definitely bring to the Planning Commission an environmental ethic and sensibility.

He thanked her for her service.

- Mr. Gorham agreed that Ms. Cortina will offer a lot on the environmental perspective. He wished her good luck on the Planning Commission and said that she would be missed.
- Mr. Thompson congratulated Pat Harrison who has done so much for the county, for the Athletic Council, for NCS, and for her support of so many of the programs that Parks has done.

The Sports Tourism Task Force met earlier in the day. The process continues to move forward to leverage what we have in the county but also to examine what we need in the county to continue to grow our sports tourism base.

The Winter Wonderland event is at Burke Lake, which is another reason why Burke Lake is the best lake front park in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Thompson also noted that when one comes to the ribbon cutting for the new clubhouse at the golf course, you can go down to the next entrance and enjoy the Winter Wonderland. He encouraged everyone to schedule some extra time at Burke Lake Park.

Mr. Thompson announced that he would be late, or would miss the Elly Doyle Awards Ceremony because he is, once again, attending dress rehearsal for the Nutcracker which will be presented by the Burke Centre Ballet on Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19.

Mr. Thompson thanked Ms. Cortina. He commented that some people laugh how he and Mary squabble like brother and sister in terms of the process. She has a unique insight and can sense when things don't make sense. In the process of asking questions, it makes all of us better, makes staff better, and makes the Park Authority better. Ms. Cortina is also one of those people that has never hesitated to let us know what she is thinking, in a good way. It is his hope that the Planning Commission will get that same impact and that same help that Parks has gotten. He often receives phone calls from her after the board meetings. He

hopes that after the chairman welcomes the speaker and says ‘good morning’ at the Planning Commission that on her way home she doesn’t call him because he will be fast asleep.

He closed by thanking Ms. Cortina for all that she has done.

- Mr. Bouie said that the minutes should reflect that the best lake front park is Lake Fairfax.

He told Ms. Cortina it has been a pleasure and their relationship will continue. He will miss their Wednesday afternoon catch up calls. The day of a board meeting he and Ms. Cortina talk usually for an extended period of time, for 45 minutes or so, to go over things. She gives a whole new perspective to things. Mr. Bouie said that he will miss that, but they can talk about other things, so she should feel free to call at any time.

At the tenth anniversary for Public Art Reston last week at the Aperture, which is a beautiful new facility in Reston, a friend of Mr. Bouie brought by a lady and asked her if she had ever met him. She said that she had not, so he introduced himself and she introduced herself stating that she was Ken Lawrence’s daughter. Mr. Bouie said that he still has hug marks around him from the hugs he received from her family in appreciation for naming the park in honor of Ken Lawrence. She told Mr. Bouie that she and her mom drive past the park twice a week just to see his name.

Mr. Khan left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:17 p.m. Mr. Thompson made a motion to convene in closed session for

- a) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3).
- b) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (7).

Seconded by Mr. Quincy and approved by all members present, Messrs. Stone and Khan were absent.

Mr. Thompson left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Gorham made a motion to certify that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia Code 2.2-3712 and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board; seconded by and approved by all members present. Messrs. Stone, Khan, and Thompson were absent.

ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

C-1 Addition of Properties Located in the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts to the Workplan
Mr. Gorham made a motion to add the properties located in the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts to the workplan; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried; Messrs. Stone, Khan, and Thompson were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on December 13, 2017

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant

Board Agenda Item
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PRESENTATION - 1

John Gilberto, partner at Cherry Bekaert, will present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017.

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PRESENTATION – 2

Original Mount Vernon High School Planning Study (Mount Vernon District)

The status of on-going planning and implementation efforts related to the Original Mount Vernon High School site and building will be provided by Heather Diez, Project Coordinator, Capital Facilities, Building Design and Construction Division.

STAFF:

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director/COO
David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division
Andrea L. Dorlester, Manager, Park Planning Branch

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

ACTION – 1

Park Authority Master Plan Approval

ISSUE:

Approval of the Final Parks and Recreation System Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the master plan.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on December 13, 2017, to maintain the project schedule and meet accreditation requirements.

BACKGROUND:

The Park Authority Board received a preliminary final copy of the master plan at the November 15, 2017, Committee of the Whole meeting. The preliminary final master plan incorporates community input received during the public comment period from August 6, 2017, to September 22, 2017. The public comments reinforced the importance and relevance of the master plan goals. Community members also expressed interest in the implementation steps and opportunities for involvement in the strategic planning process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The master plan guides the planning, programs and initiatives of the Park Authority for a 10-year time horizon. The policy laid out in the master plan will guide decision making related to fiscal resources.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Final Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

STAFF:

Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD

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Cindy Walsh, Acting Deputy Director/COO
Todd Brown, Director, Park Operations & Acting Director, Resource Management
Divisions
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division
David Bowden, Director, Planning & Development Division
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer
Janet Burns, Fiscal Administrator
Andrea Dorlester, Manager, Planning Branch
Samantha Hudson, Senior Planner

Fairfax County Park Authority



Parks & Recreation System Master Plan



FINAL DECEMBER 2017

Great Parks, Great Communities for Today and the Future



As we look to the future of Fairfax County, we see parks and recreational opportunities as more important than ever. Despite challenges with our economic recovery, the Fairfax County Park Authority has continued to meet the community's growing needs at a high, nationally-recognized standard of excellence.

Over the next 10 years, we will continue this track record of success as one of the nation's premier park and recreation systems. We created the Great Parks, Great Communities Parks and Recreation System Master Plan to help us do just this.

As our "guiding star," the master plan presents a framework and related policies and goals to chart the course for all agency initiatives, plans, and programs over the next several years. It is the culmination of nearly three years of ongoing engagement with community members, park stakeholders, user groups, staff and partners.

Our commitment to meeting community needs and quality public service is at the core of this plan, which is why our first step was to learn what residents want by completing the Parks Count! Needs Assessment in spring 2016. Over the past year, the park board and our staff have worked tirelessly to prepare a plan that delivers on what we learned.

The master plan includes seven guiding principles and six goals approved by the Park Authority Board that will focus our funding and resources on the highest community priorities. Moving forward, the plan will become an integral part of day-to-day business through our partnerships, programming, capital improvements, communications, and stewardship activities.

I hope you find it inspiring, and I look forward to seeing you in the parks!

Warmest Regards,

William G. Bouie, Chairman

- ## 2017 Park Authority Board Members
- + William G. Bouie, Chairman, Hunter Mill District
 - + Mary Cortina*, Vice Chair, At-large
 - + Michael Thompson, Jr., Secretary, Springfield District
 - + Linwood Gorham, Treasurer, Mount Vernon District
 - + Walter Alcorn, At-large
 - + Cynthia Jacobs Carter, Lee District
 - + Maggie Godbold, Sully District
 - + Tim Hackman, Dranesville District
 - + Faisal Kahn, At-large
 - + Ronald Kendall*, Mason District
 - + Ken Quincy, Providence District
 - + Kiel Stone*, Braddock District
 - + Frank S. Vajda*, Mason District
 - + Anthony J. Vellucci*, Braddock District
- *Asterisk indicates the member served a partial year.

For 67 years, the Fairfax County Park Authority Board has provided oversight of the parks and recreation system by setting policy, establishing priorities, and directing the effective and efficient use of funds.

The 12-member board is appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and retains fiduciary responsibility for the agency. The board includes one representative from each of the nine magisterial districts, plus three at-large members.



The Park Authority strives to ensure the right parks, programs and amenities are in the right places to serve the right community needs and protect the right resources.

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- A. Park Authority Board Approved Plans
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- C. Needs Analysis Summary
- D. Community Inventory
- E. Public Comment Summary
- F. Map of the Park System
- G. Board Action Item for Master Plan Approval

Supplemental Technical Information in the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment

- Recreation and Leisure Trends Analysis
- Level of Service Standards
- Description of Related Plans
- Park Types & Program Listing
- Capital Improvement Program Framework



Overview

Importance and Value of Parks and Recreation

Great parks and recreation systems lead to great communities, and are part of what makes Fairfax County and its diverse community thrive.

Encompassing over 23,000 acres of park land and open space with an average annual visitation rate of +17.5 million, the park system is integral to sustaining the quality of life that has attracted so many residents and visitors to live, work, shop, and play in Fairfax County.

As Fairfax County grows and adapts to dynamic community needs, the park system will be an enduring source of value. This value stems from far-reaching and wide-ranging benefits.

Natural Capital & Environment

Parks and open space networks conserve natural resources and wildlife habitat, protect air and water quality, and preserve the environment for current and future generations.

Lifelong Community Well-Being

All residents, regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or ability, have access to parks, which bring people together, connect people to each other and nature, and foster community identity.

Importance of High Quality Parks to Quality of Life:

93%

of residents think high-quality parks, trails, recreation facilities and services are important or extremely important to the quality of life in Fairfax County.

Source: 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment

Value & Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Economic Value

Parks enhance property values and play a key role in attracting home buyers, employers, and workers to invest in communities.

Beauty and Wonder

Gardens, rolling meadows, green trees, meandering and healthy streams, and lake vistas, make Fairfax County unique and memorable.

Health & Lifestyle

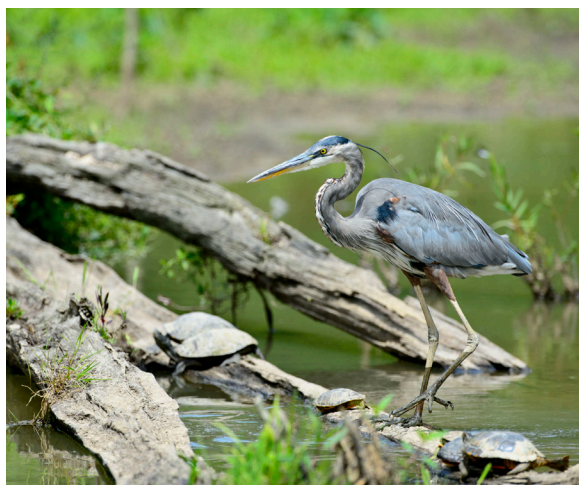
Physical activity helps people maintain good health and people exercise more when they have access to parks and trails.

Cultural Heritage

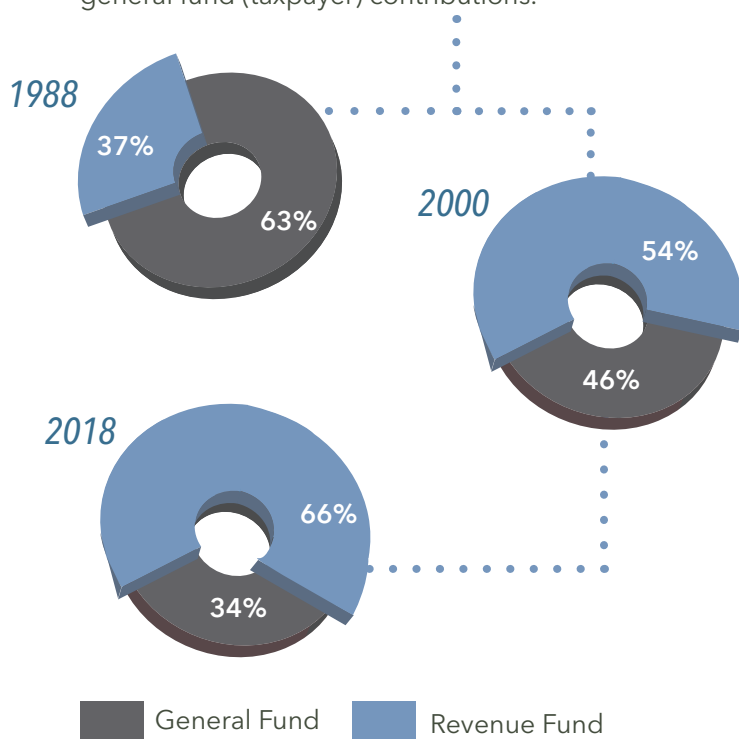
By protecting and preserving cultural resources, parks play an increasingly important role in securing, sharing, and enriching the heritage of the local community.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most parks are **free** for the public to use and are enjoyed by about 90% of the County's +1.1 million residents. However, the park system operating costs are supported by less than one penny of every tax dollar.



Funding to sustain operation of the park system comes from two primary sources. As illustrated below, over time the reliance on revenues from fees and services has significantly outpaced general fund (taxpayer) contributions.



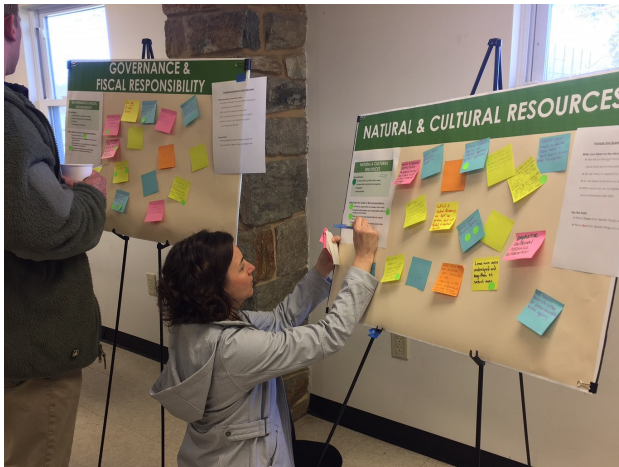
Why Have a Parks and Recreation System Master Plan?

A long-range park and recreation system master plan helps the agency and public better understand the elements and assets of the system. The process and plan offer several benefits, including those listed below.

- Align programs, planning, and initiatives
- Provide a road map for system maintenance, reinvestment and expansion
- Articulate a defensible rationale for decision-making
- Enable strategic resource allocation (e.g. budgeting and staffing)
- Strengthen and foster strong partnerships
- Ensure safe and welcoming parks
- Provide an updated recreation facility mix
- Improve connectivity and access to nature
- Target programming and facility construction to meet gaps and needs
- Ensure long-term financial sustainability

A Community-Driven Plan

The needs voiced by residents, park users, and community partners form the foundation of the master plan and are essential to this long-range plan for the park system. The multi-year planning process began with the extensive engagement, analysis and findings of the Parks Count! Needs Assessment. Public comments on the draft master plan underscored these findings and the focus of the plan.



Community input on the draft master plan reinforced the direction set by the Parks Count! Needs Assessment findings.

Public comments emphasized topics including: trail system maintenance and development, healthy and active lifestyles for all, ecosystem services and ecological integrity.

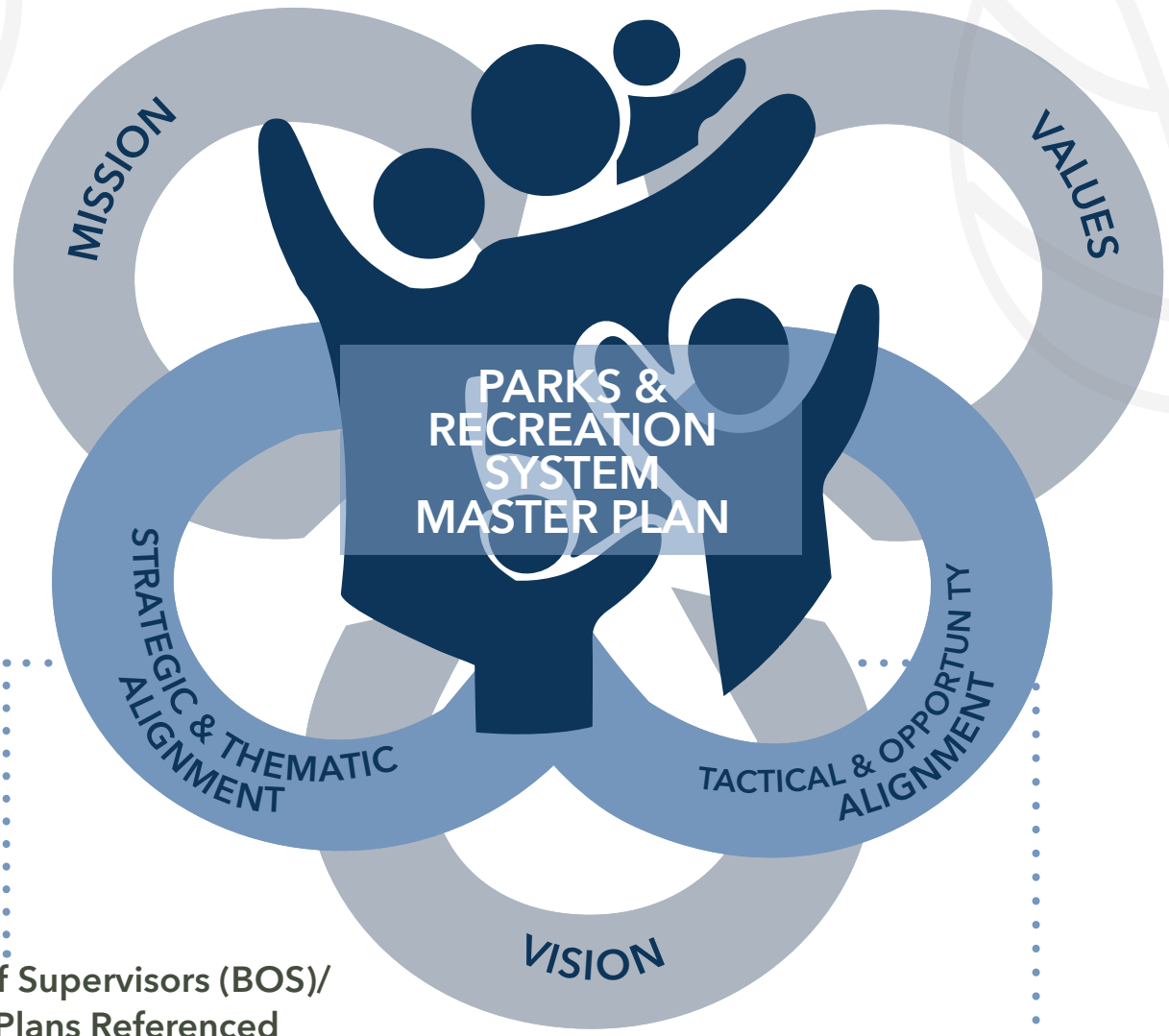
Robust stakeholder engagement is a hallmark of the Park Authority planning process.

The community input that guides this master plan included scores of stakeholder interviews, focus groups, public meetings, online engagement, a statistically valid community survey, staff open houses, meetings with partners and community groups, and agency leadership discussions.

Through the Parks Count! Needs Assessment online crowdsourcing alone, 700+ users shared 300 comments on 60 different topics.

Planning Process Overview





Board of Supervisors (BOS)/ County Plans Referenced for Alignment

- + BOS Vision & Priorities
- + BOS Environmental Vision
- + BOS Economic Success Strategic Plan
- + Community Health Improvement Plan
- + Comprehensive Plan
- + Fairfax First
- + Human Services Needs Assessment
- + One Fairfax
- + Tree Action Plan
- + 50+ Plan

Park Authority Plans Utilized in Alignment

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan
- Asset Management Plan/Total Cost of Ownership
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Cultural Resources Management Plan
- Division Operations Plans
- Energy Management Plan
- Financial Management Plan
- Natural Resources Management Plan
- Parks Count! Needs Assessment
- Park-Specific Master Plans
- Park Authority Policy Manual
- Recreation Programming Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Trail Development Strategy Plan



Alignment of agency planning, programs and initiatives is critical for the long-term sustainability of the park system. The master plan aligns the broader strategic direction of the Park Authority with county priorities.

Needs and Trends

Changing Development Trends

Planned redevelopment of strategic growth centers is leading to more urbanization in designated areas of the county.

The greatest concentrations of future population growth will occur in these growth centers. Growth centers are designated in historically commercial areas with few or no parks.

The introduction of mixed-use development with a significant residential component creates a need for new parks and recreation.

Changing Climate Trends

Warmer temperatures and worsening air quality are among the impacts of climate change that all park users experience.

Changes in the climate have significant effects on the natural and built environments, as well as the local economy. Parks are essential to helping the community adapt and address climate change.

In order to keep pace with the demands of a growing and changing population, the Park Authority must consider how the dynamic nature of trends, lifestyles and activities will affect facility and programming needs.



Needs help to identify the gap between today's park system and the park system desired in the future.

References and additional information about the needs and trends considered in the planning process can be found in the Master Plan Appendix and 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment.

Changing Demographic Trends



Strength of diversity.

Nearly 40% of county residents five years and older speak a language other than English at home, and nearly 32% are foreign born.

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- accommodate family gatherings and cluster activities to support multi-generational events
- need for culturally appropriate programs and spaces, and multi-purpose fields (including soccer and cricket among others)



More interest in aging actively.

By 2025, over 26% of Fairfax County's population will be 55 years of age or older.

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- more 50+ recreation, mid-day programs, and volunteer opportunities

Changing Health Trends



Increase in preventative care, lifestyle changes to improve physical and mental health.

Increase in sedentary lifestyles, more overweight people. Doctors are prescribing time outdoors and in parks.

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- more support for active living (walking, running, biking trails)
- desire to preserve open space and the environment
- parks must be accessible to all communities

Changing Parks and Recreation Trends



Growing fitness membership, increasing number of fitness providers.

Rate of growth in fitness facilities is much greater in the DC area than national average, and the popularity of informal high-end fitness options is growing.

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- lost customers not easily replaced
- greater competition in market
- decreasing consumer demand for multi-purpose generalist facilities

Changing Social Trends



Increased importance of distinctive places & experiences.

People choose where they live based on lifestyle and proximity to activities.

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- reimagining in parks and other public places
- distinctive programs, events, and destination features
- interest and awareness of the natural environment and local history

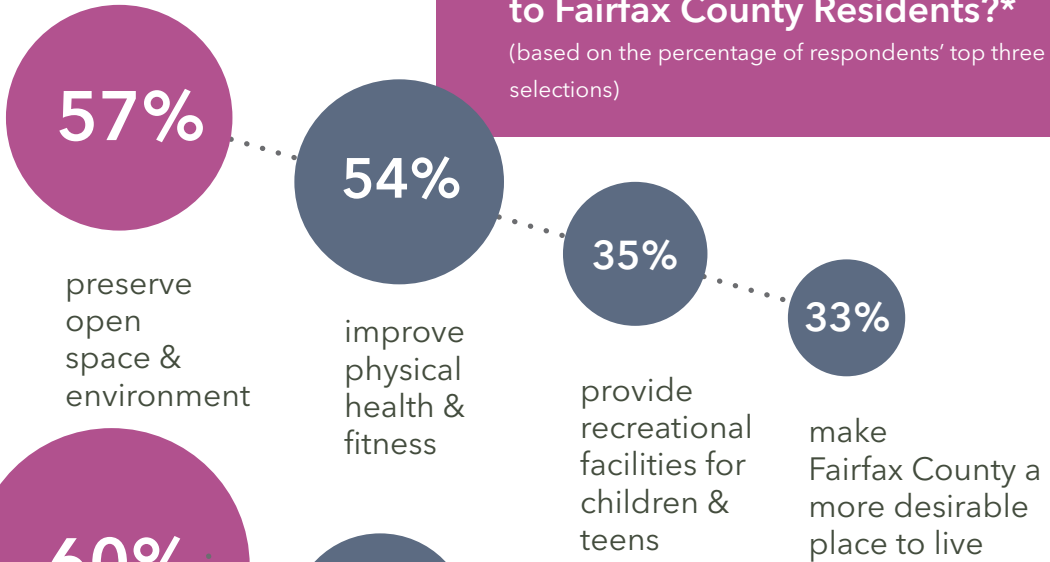
NEEDS AND TRENDS

*Findings from the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment Statistically Valid Survey

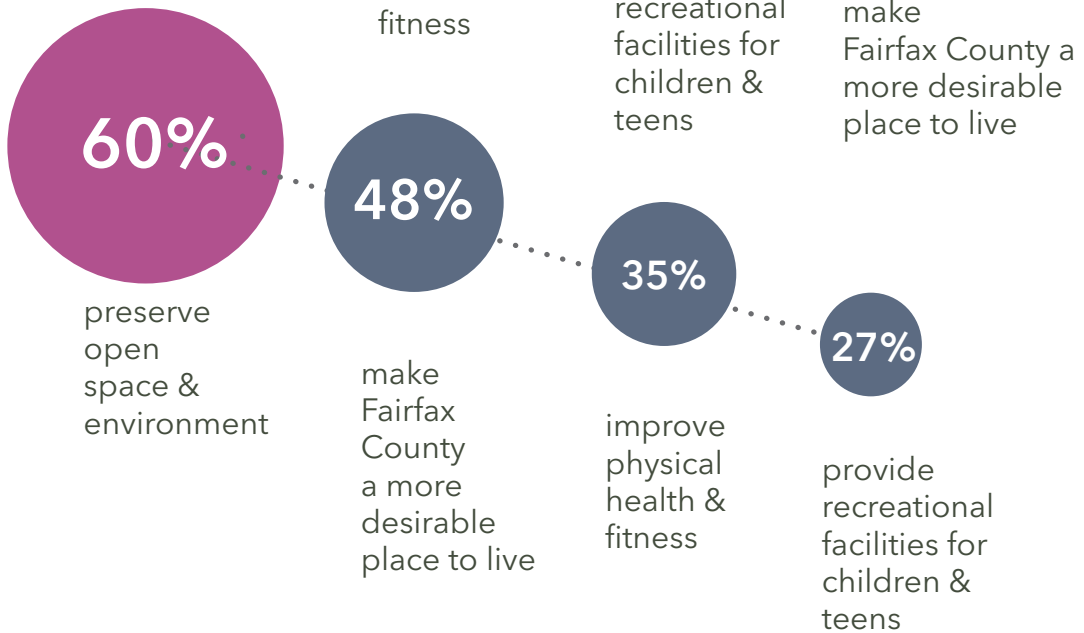
What's Most Important for the Park Authority to do according to Fairfax County Residents?*

(based on the percentage of respondents' top three selections)

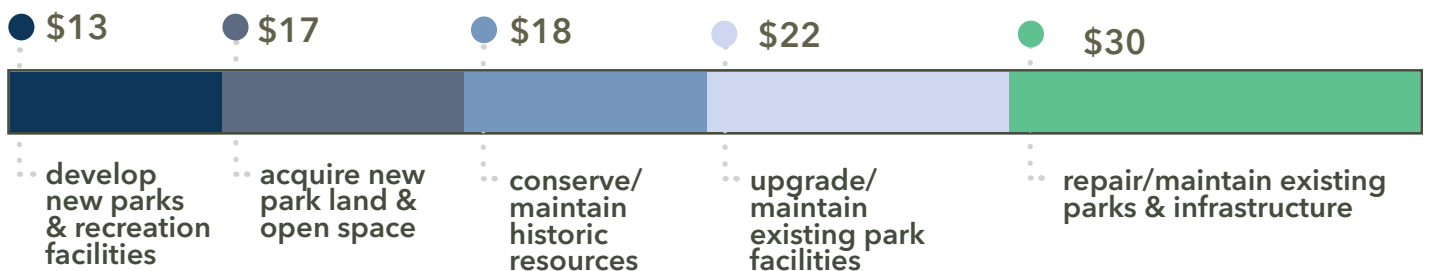
Most Important for Households



Most Important for the Future of Fairfax County



How Would Residents Spend \$100 of Park Authority Funds?*



*Findings from the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment Statistically Valid Survey

**Priority needs listed in order of priority with the #1 priority shown in bold.



Priority Needs by Age Group*

under 18 swim lessons biking, walking special events summer camps exercise boating, fishing

18 thru 49 biking, walking special events exercise boating, fishing

50 and over biking, walking special events exercise

Priority Needs for Parks, Play Areas, Garden, Trails, Equestrian, Nature, or Historic Parks or Facilities*

paved walking/biking trails, small community parks, unpaved walking/biking trails, public gardens, large regional parks, smaller neighborhood playgrounds, lake front parks and marinas, picnic/shelter areas, nature centers

Highest Priority**

Priority Needs Rating for Indoor or Outdoor Facilities*

swimming pools, exercise and fitness facilities, gyms (basketball, volleyball, etc.), water parks & spray grounds, soccer/lacrosse/football/field hockey/rugby fields, tennis courts, basketball/multi-use courts

Highest Priority**

The need survey revealed general use patterns or preferences, as well as needs for individual activities, facilities, and services.

Guiding Framework

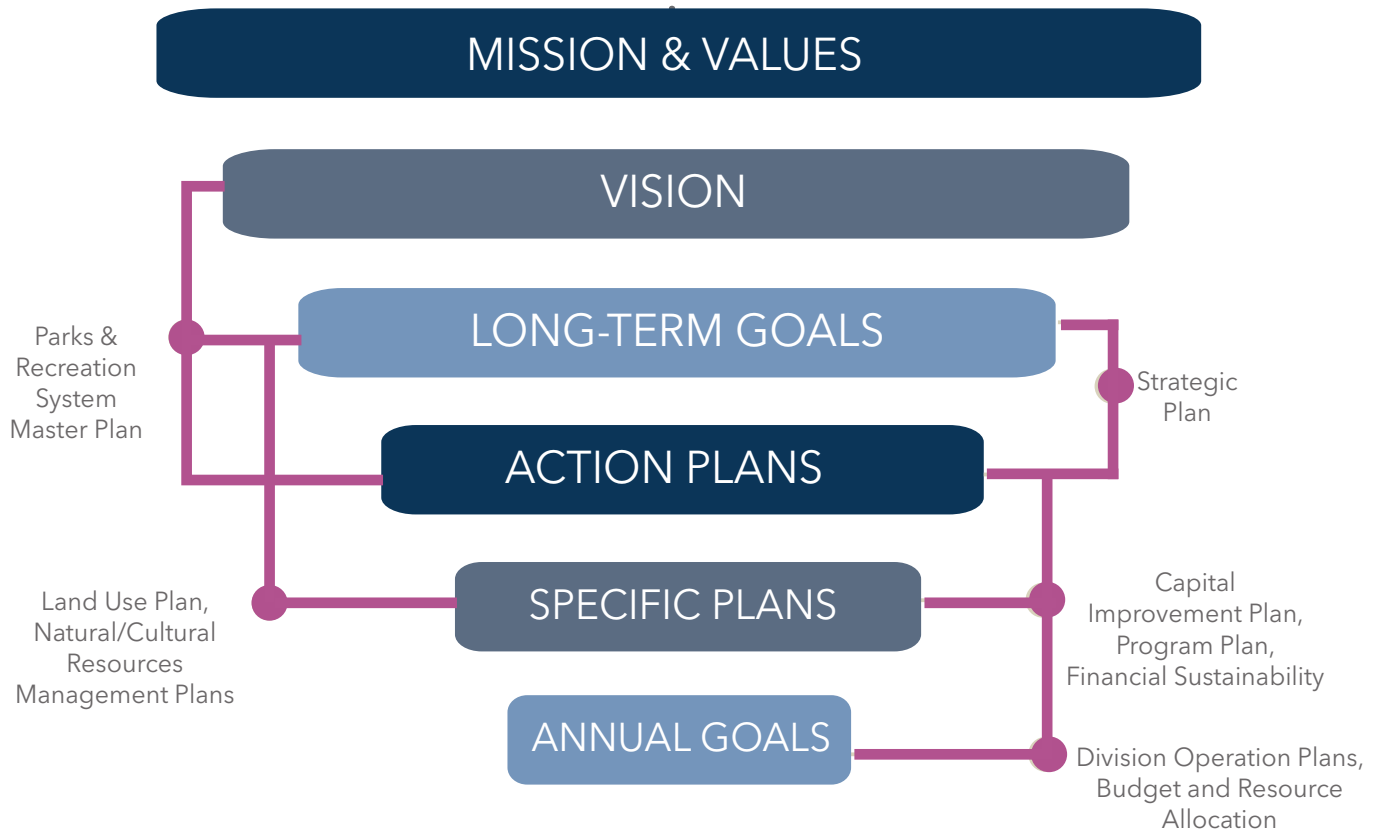
The master plan guides the Park Authority in aligning all agency plans, programs and initiatives to support its mission and vision.



Park Authority Mission

To set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations.

To create and sustain quality facilities and services which offer citizens opportunities for recreation, improvement of their physical and mental well-being, and enhancement of their quality of life.



Master Plan Guiding Principles

This master plan establishes long-term goals for the park system beginning with guiding principles that capture what the park system strives to be in the future.

Guiding principles are constant and articulate the core ideals that guide the master plan and the agency direction over the plan’s 10-year time horizon. The guiding principles are detailed in the figure below.

Park Authority Vision

The Fairfax County Park Authority strives to inspire and sustain a passion for parks and leisure experiences that enhances our community’s quality of life.

Guiding Principles

Inspire a Passion for Parks

communicate the benefits of parks and recreation; provide great park experiences; create an enduring park system legacy; provide great park destinations that connect and help build community; impart a passion for parks from generation to generation.

Meet Changing Recreation Needs

proactively respond to changing needs and trends; proactively manage facilities and program assets; engage and listening to the community.

Advance Park System Excellence

provide targeted, high quality programs and services; be mission-focused; maintain system quality and condition; embrace, lead and implement new ideas and best practices; leverage technology, make data-driven decisions and measure performance.

Strengthen and Foster Partnerships

collaborate with schools and other public agencies and non-profits; co-locate facilities, programs and services with others; expand relationships with the private sector; contribute to the local economy; empower volunteers and the community.

Be Equitable and Inclusive

provide quality facilities, programs and services to all communities; balance the distribution of parks, programs and facilities; ensure these are accessible and affordable.

Be Great Stewards

integrate stewardship and sustainability ethics in all plans and actions; raise awareness and appreciation for natural and cultural resources; serve as a model for urban nature conservation; protect and actively manage natural and cultural resources; be transparent, accountable and committed to responsible management.

Promote Healthy Lifestyles

provide facilities and programs for all ages to promote life-long activity and wellness; improve park access; expand trail system connections; provide an opportunity to connect with nature.

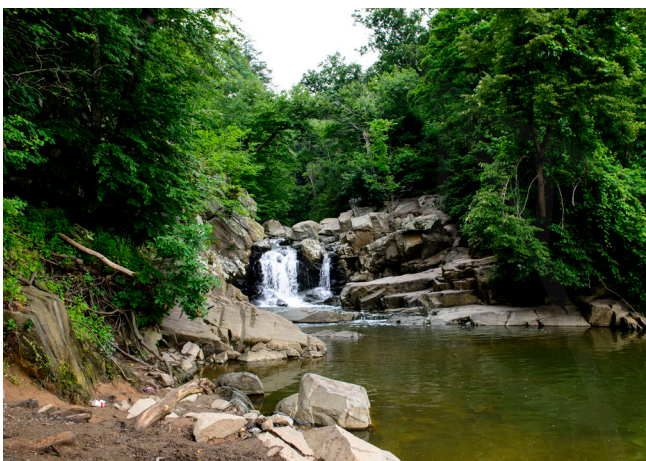


GUIDING FRAMEWORK

Follow the connecting lines and arrows on pages 11 and 12 to see how the Master Plan and new Park Authority Strategic Plan are linked.

Master Plan Elements

The master plan includes three related elements: guiding principles, goals and recommendations. The graphic on this page defines each of these elements and shows how they relate.



Strategic Plan Elements



The new strategic plan includes strategic objectives and action steps that are measurable to demonstrate progress and results towards the master plan goals.

The graphic on this page shows how these elements relate and how the strategic plan will be used to implement the master plan.

The strategic planning process began in late 2017 and will include public and staff involvement into spring 2018. Completion of the strategic plan is anticipated by summer 2018.



Strategic Objectives

Projects and initiatives that support the recommendations

Action Steps

Clear steps to accomplish the strategic objectives

Implementation

Review/update plans and allocate resources to complete action steps

Measure & Report

Follow the connecting lines and arrows on pages 11 and 12 to see how the Master Plan and new Park Authority Strategic Plan are linked.

Goal

Improve and promote natural resource protection and management

Protection, management, and the expansion of natural areas within the park system is essential to preserving the county's natural capital in biodiversity, natural communities, and ecosystems.

The Park Authority strives to be a great steward and to cultivate stewardship to preserve these resources for future generations.

Primary Guiding Principles



Inspire a Passion for Parks



Be Great Stewards



Meet Changing Recreation Needs



Promote Healthy Lifestyles



Advance Park System Excellence



Strengthen and Foster Partnerships



Be Equitable and Inclusive

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:



Actively identify, restore, manage, and protect natural resources.



Expand natural habitat and biodiversity, linking larger resource conservation areas within the county and stream valley parks.



Cultivate stewards through the expansion of stewardship education, interpretation, community engagement, and the use of technology.



Enhance environmental sustainability practices within the Park Authority.



Expand and enhance partnerships with other public agencies and private entities that have aligned goals.



Ensure natural resource policies and plans align with county-wide guidance and meet or surpass expectations outlined in the Board of Supervisors Environmental Vision.

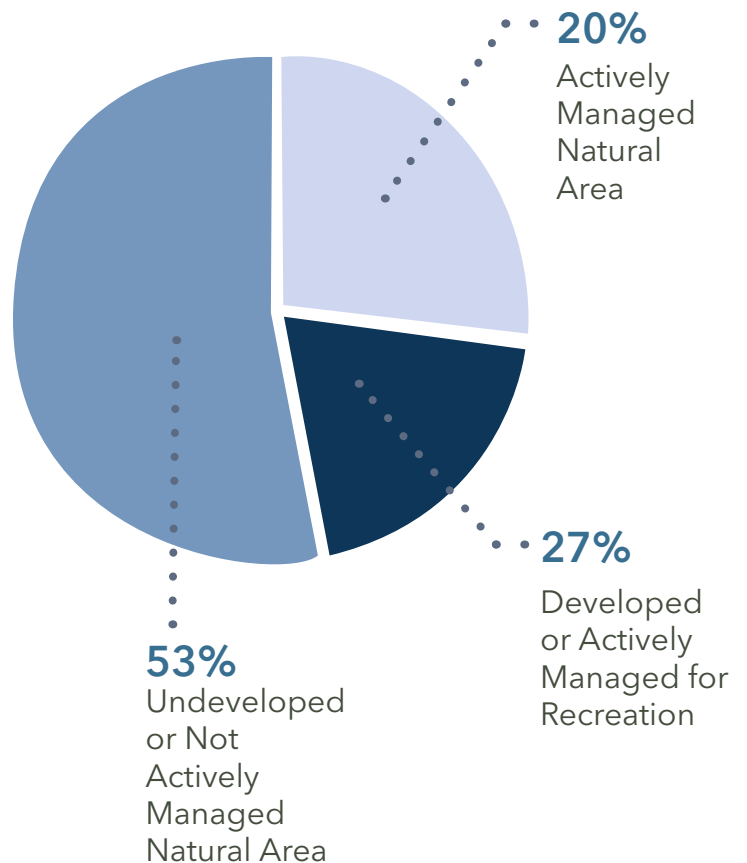
Many parks provide recreation facilities and feature irreplaceable natural habitats and cherished historic sites.

This can pose a challenge as the Park Authority must balance the need to protect and preserve these resources with the need to provide recreational opportunities to residents and park users.



The Invasive Management Area (IMA) program alone has 2,450 volunteers that contribute +9,000 volunteer hours to remove invasive plants and restore native habitat.

Park Authority Land



Goal

Ensure protection, conservation, preservation and interpretation of cultural resources

Protection and management of Fairfax County's cultural and historic resources is essential in order to make them available to a diverse community, help to educate the public and rejuvenate interest in historic buildings and cultural resource collections.

The Park Authority strives to be a great steward and to cultivate stewardship to preserve these resources for future generations.

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

Establish a suitable facility to preserve, expand, conserve and share county-wide collections.

Actively protect, manage, and preserve the county's cultural and historic resources.

Cultivate stewards through the expansion of stewardship education, interpretation, community engagement, and the use of technology.

Continue to assess, implement and improve resident curator opportunities.

Primary Guiding Principles



Inspire a Passion for Parks



Be Great Stewards



Meet Changing Recreation Needs



Promote Healthy Lifestyles



Advance Park System Excellence



Strengthen and Foster Partnerships



Be Equitable and Inclusive



The Park Authority owns and cares for multiple historic buildings, more than 3,500 archaeological sites and over 3.5 million artifacts.



The Resident Curator Program aims to enliven interest and protect several publicly-owned historic properties that were falling victim to the elements. The program allows tenants to use the structures in return for rehabilitating and maintaining them.



The Park Authority teaches others in the community how to be better stewards through interpretation, engagement, and education efforts.

Goal

Improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles

The park system serves a diverse public and provides high-quality recreational opportunities to all users.

In doing so, the Park Authority aims to empower residents to improve their health and wellness by equitably providing access to parks, facilities, and programs.

Primary Guiding Principles



Inspire a Passion for Parks



Be Great Stewards



Meet Changing Recreation Needs



Promote Healthy Lifestyles



Advance Park System Excellence



Strengthen and Foster Partnerships



Be Equitable and Inclusive

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:



Improve park access and expand trail system connections in partnership with county agencies, developers, and other private entities to make it easier to use parks and to support a wide range of athletic activities.



Enhance scholarship programs through dedicated funding sources and partnerships to provide equitable, high-quality opportunities for individuals and families to engage in fitness activities.



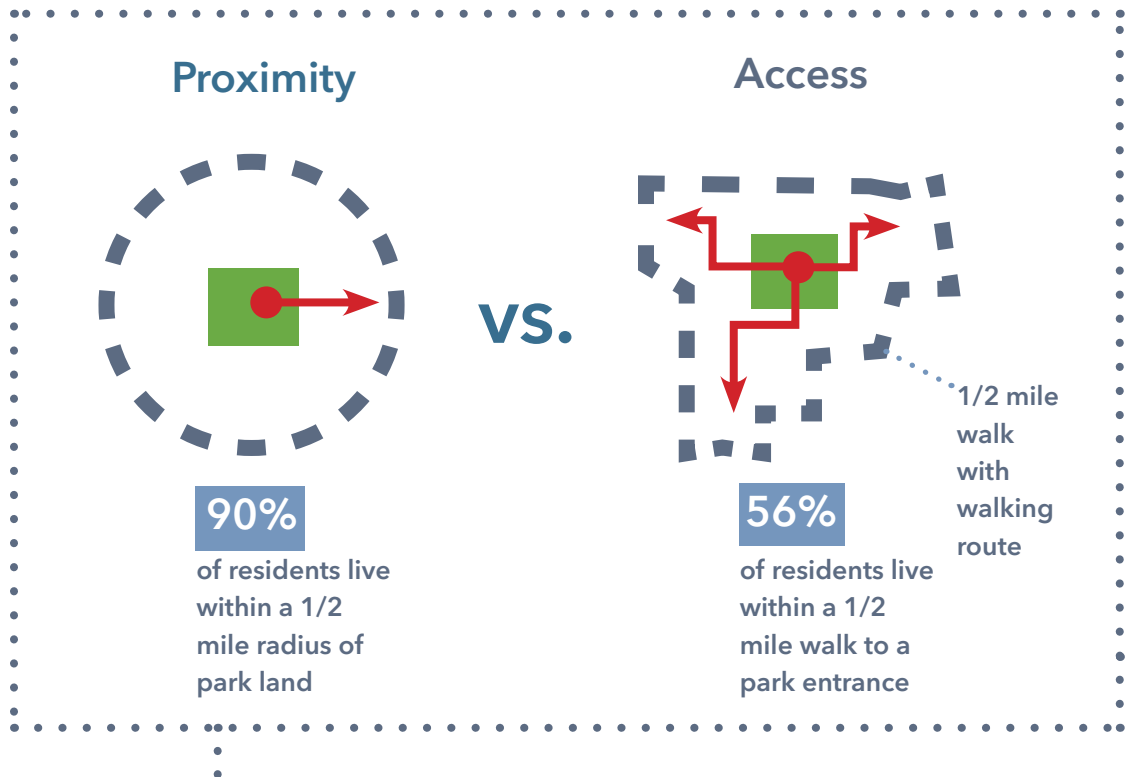
Prioritize capital investments and recreation programming and partner with private entities for areas of greatest need for improved or expanded facilities or programs.



Continue to advance the goals of the county's Live Healthy Fairfax and One Fairfax initiatives, including the emphasis on health in Park Authority plans and initiatives and efforts to increase equitable access for physical activities.



In FY16, the Park Authority provided almost 22,000 scholarships to allow program access for low-income residents.



Most county residents live near park land, but far fewer have walkable access to a park. Walkable access, as shown in the figure above, is a key indicator of how well and equitably the Park Authority serves the community.

Goal

Enhance and maintain park system quality and condition

A high-quality, well-maintained park system is important to supporting a vibrant and thriving community. In order to sustain the high-quality park system that residents expect, the Park Authority must continuously renovate and upgrade parks, trails, and recreational facilities.

These improvements are essential for the Park Authority to continue a legacy of providing an excellent and relevant park system.

Primary Guiding Principles

-  Inspire a Passion for Parks
-  Be Great Stewards
-  Meet Changing Recreation Needs
-  Promote Healthy Lifestyles
-  Advance Park System Excellence
-  Strengthen and Foster Partnerships
-  Be Equitable and Inclusive

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

-  *Establish* a long-term strategy for acquisition and management, including maintenance, of all lands and assets.
-  *Take* steps to assess and ensure park use balances recreation and stewardship objectives.
-  *Maintain* and improve satisfaction with the quality of the park system.
-  *Review* and enhance park maintenance practices and priorities.
-  *Work* to increase the amount of dedicated and alternative funding that provides for greater reinvestment in facilities, parkland, natural capital, and cultural resource assets.
-  *Increase* the amount of maintenance that is funded or completed by others (e.g., partners, other agencies).



If trends of park use county population growth and fiscal constraint continue as expected, continuing to adequately maintain the park system will be challenging.

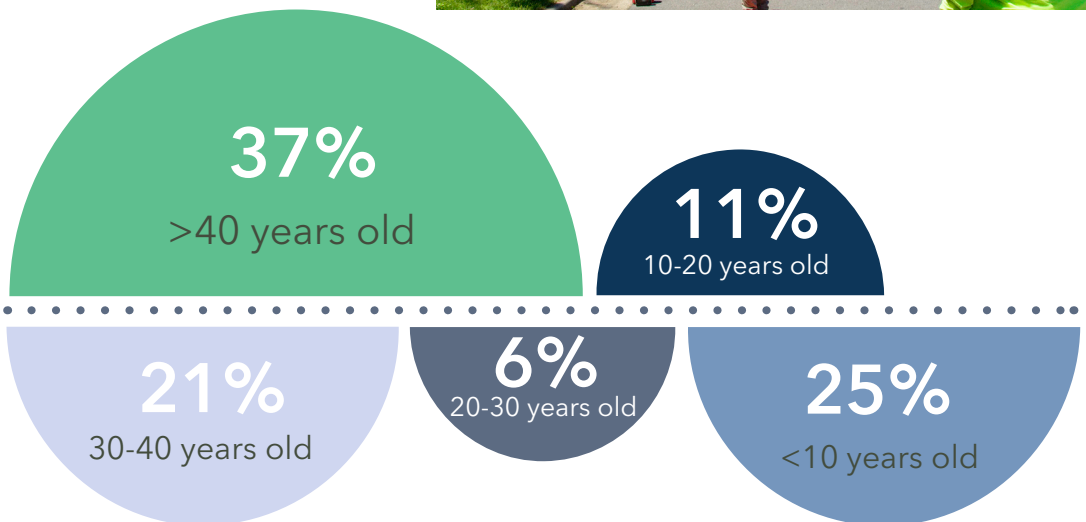


The Park Authority currently has close to \$200 million in deferred maintenance needs throughout the park system.



Age of Park Structures

Of the 374 structures in the park system, 58%, or 217 structures, are 30+ years old.



Goal

Advance as an innovative, responsive, and adaptable organization

The Park Authority is committed to meeting community needs and being the leader in the county, region, and parks and recreation industry.

To continue as an excellent park system requires the focus of a high-performing, dedicated organization, and the support of an empowered community.

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

Expand and improve use of data and technology to support and enhance organizational performance and decision-making.

Develop and attain measurable outcomes to ensure high-performance and accountability in the organization.

Invest in employee development and provide growth opportunities that empower staff to be innovative, responsive, and adaptable, while remaining user-focused.

Respond and adapt strategically to changes in how residents use and what users want in the park system.

Improve transparency and inclusion by providing greater opportunities for public input and collaboration with the community through the use of various communication venues, including social media.

Primary Guiding Principles



Inspire a Passion for Parks



Be Great Stewards



Meet Changing Recreation Needs



Promote Healthy Lifestyles



Advance Park System Excellence



Strengthen and Foster Partnerships



Be Equitable and Inclusive

With a workforce of over 2,400 staff and thousands of park volunteers providing an extensive and diverse array of services and programs, a strong commitment to continual training and professional development is essential to meet community needs and sustain the agency.



As the use of electronics and mobile devices grows, the Park Authority has more opportunities to engage and educate park users, as well as a greater ability to utilize data



Goal

Provide sustainable financial management to advance the Park Authority mission

It is critical to determine strategic priorities in a way that balances the Park Authority mission and fiduciary responsibility.

Despite increasing demands and constrained resources, the Park Authority must continue to meet the needs of the community and support county wide initiatives.

Primary Guiding Principles



Inspire a Passion for Parks



Be Great Stewards



Meet Changing Recreation Needs



Promote Healthy Lifestyles



Advance Park System Excellence



Strengthen and Foster Partnerships



Be Equitable and Inclusive

Recommendations

The Park Authority commits to the following priority activities and actions necessary to achieve this goal:

- 

Implement Total Cost of Ownership model for managing, developing, and acquiring all existing and future land, assets, and resources.
- 

Seek and increase funding from dedicated and alternative sources.
- 

Maintain sustainable revenue operations.
- 

Reinvest in the RECenter system, golf, and other market-based facilities and revenue-generating programs to ensure continued sustainability and competitiveness.
- 

Increase opportunities for revenue-generating activities and events.
- 

Encourage other entities to provide and maintain high quality park facilities and services.
- 

Increase yearly bond cash flow and bond allocation to meet current and future needs.



Private citizens, foundations and corporations donated more than \$779,900 to the Fairfax County Park Foundation in FY17 to support a wide array of programs, scholarships, services, parkland and facilities that would otherwise go unfunded.



The Parks Count! Needs Assessment includes a Capital Improvement Framework to facilitate strategic resource allocation for capital projects.

The total projected need in the ten years covered by the report for repairs, upgrades, and new park assets is \$941 million.

In FY16, 66.5% of the Park Authority's operating fund came from user fees and 33.5% came from tax dollars. Most park bonds are fully funded by public tax support.

Implementation

The goals and recommendations in this plan provide a road map for reshaping the parks and recreation system to meet community expectations and priorities, and to achieve the aspirations of the master plan guiding principles.

For the master plan to be successful, all parts of the agency must be moving in the same direction. A few things are critical to make this happen:

- Prioritize and allocate budget and staff resources in support of the master plan;
- Update all agency plans, programs, and initiatives to align with the master plan; and
- Create action plans and recalibrate them as needed to stay on track (strategic plan).

Upon approval of this plan, the Park Authority will check-in on the agency mission and vision to be sure it is consistent with the master plan guiding principles.

Partners in Parks

Partnerships with other county agencies, private entities, and volunteers are vital to providing a great park system.

The Park Authority will continue to nurture existing partnerships, while pursuing new or expanded partnerships that advance the master plan goals.





Strategic Plan

Moving forward, the next step for the Park Authority is to update the strategic plan that focuses specifically on identifying actionable steps towards achieving the master plan goals.

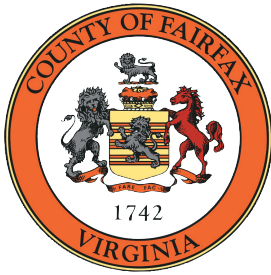
Staff participation in the strategic planning process will be essential to ensure day-to-day work is helping to implement the master plan.

The strategic plan will include objectives and action steps that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound in order to clearly guide implementation.

Tracking and Reporting Progress

Annual reporting will provide an opportunity to course-correct and refresh master plan recommendations if needed. The master plan will be revisited in five years for a comprehensive refresh and fully updated as the 10-year plan horizon nears.





A Fairfax County, Va. Publication

This master plan ties together ideas and inspiration from countless conversations and working sessions.

Many of these same voices will guide and contribute to accomplishing the goals set forth in this master plan.

Thank you for all of your hard work and support.

- *Park Authority Board*
- *Park Authority Director*
- *Park Authority Deputy Directors*
- *Park Authority Leadership Team*
- *Park Authority Staff*
- *Partners & Additional Support*

Graphic Design by Angelica Rockquemore.

December 2017

12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Va.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



For accommodations,
contact Inclusion and ADA
Support at 703-324-8563.
TTY: Va Relay 711



APPENDIX



FINAL DECEMBER 2017

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Park Authority Board Approved Plans

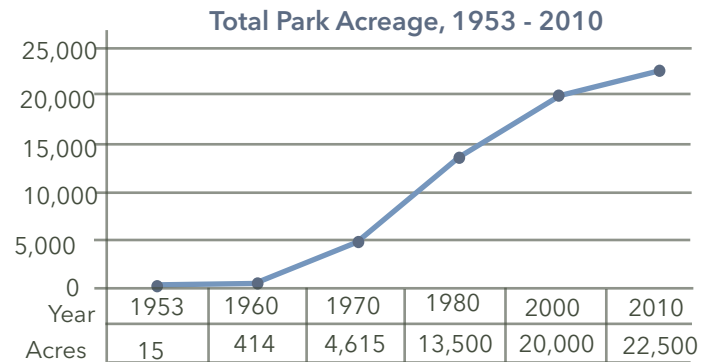
- Park Authority Policy Manual
- 2017 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan
- 2017 Cultural Resource Management Plan
- 2016 Comprehensive Financial Management Plan
- 2016 Bond
- 2014 Natural Resource Management Plan
- 2014 - 2018 Strategic Plan
- 2019 - 2023 Strategic Plan (anticipated in 2018)

Existing Conditions and Trends Summary

Location

Fairfax County is a 400+ square mile jurisdiction in Virginia located approximately 10 miles west of the nation's capital, Washington D.C. As the most populous jurisdiction in both Virginia and the D.C. metropolitan area, the county's population exceeds that of eight states and the District of Columbia.

Despite its current urban and suburban context, the County has agricultural and rural roots that are evident in its westernmost and southernmost communities. Fairfax encompasses dense urban areas with rail transit and skyscrapers as well as irreplaceable natural wetlands and centuries-old horse farms. The Fairfax County Park Authority is charged with managing a park system for all.



History and Today

Over the course of its 67-year history, the Park Authority has grown and evolved to meet the shifting needs of the changing County. From its very first land donation to managing over 750 athletic fields, eight RECenters, and +320 miles of trails, among hundreds of other park facilities, the Park Authority has pursued its mission in earnest.

Today, the Park Authority owns over 23,360 acres of land and averages an annual visitation rate of 17,754,788 (2015). The agency has expanded beyond the more traditional role of open space management to meet the changing demographics and diverse needs of the county.

The Park Authority is also charged with managing, protecting and preserving all of the county's cultural resources.

Demographic Overview

The county's population is growing, aging, and becoming more ethnically diverse.

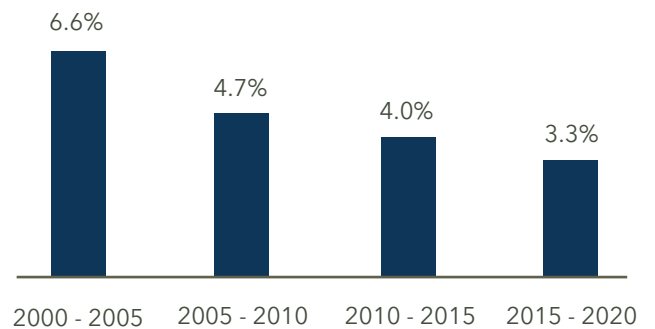
Population

Fairfax County has a current (2016) population of 1,131,900. That represents approximately a 17% increase in population since 2000. Over the 15-year period, however, the growth rate has slowed and is projected to continue to do so.

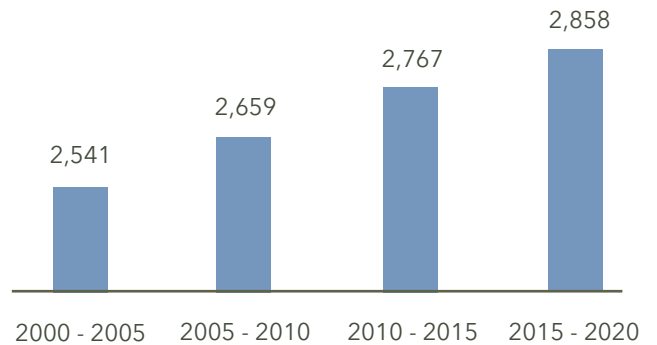
While population growth has slowed in pace, population density has been increasing. Planned redevelopment of strategic growth centers within the county is resulting in increased urbanization in designated areas. These growth centers will continue to be where the greatest concentrations of population growth will occur.

Growth centers historically have been commercial areas with few or no parks. The introduction of mixed-use development with a significant residential component creates a need for new parks and recreation.

Fairfax County Rate of Population Growth (%) Over Time

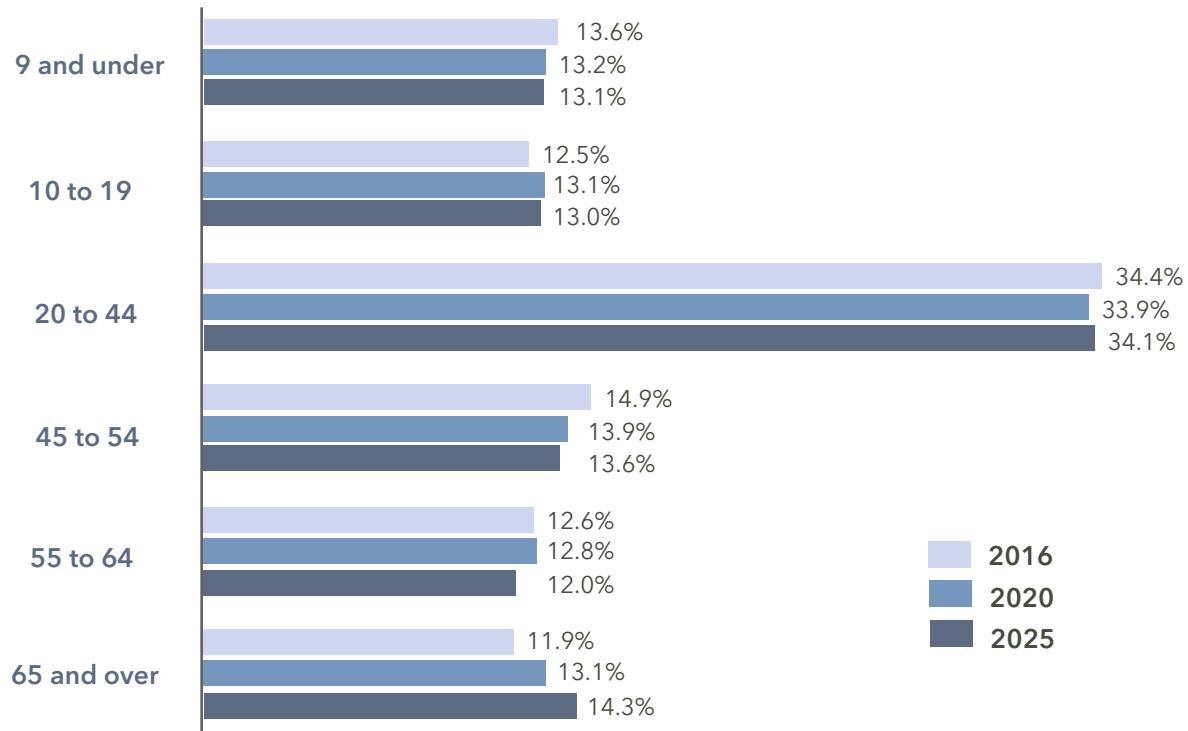


Fairfax County Population Density per Square Mile



Source: Based on data at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/gendemo.htm#pop>

Fairfax County Current and Projected Population Age Distribution - 2016, 2020 & 2025



Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/demrpts/report/fullrpt.pdf>

Age

Fairfax County's population continues to age, mirroring the nationwide trend. The county's median age in 2014 was 37.6 years, compared to 35.9 years at the start of the millennium. While projections to 2040 indicate that population growth will stabilize for all age groups over the long-term, there are distinct age groups growing and declining between 2016 and 2025, as shown in the following figure.

Race and Ethnicity

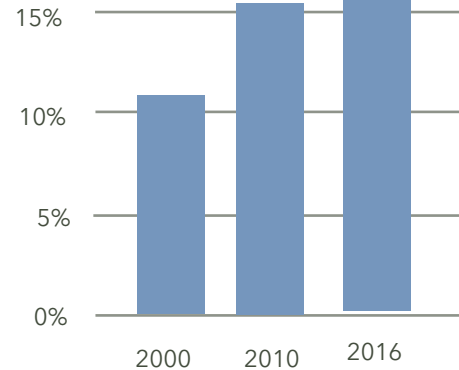
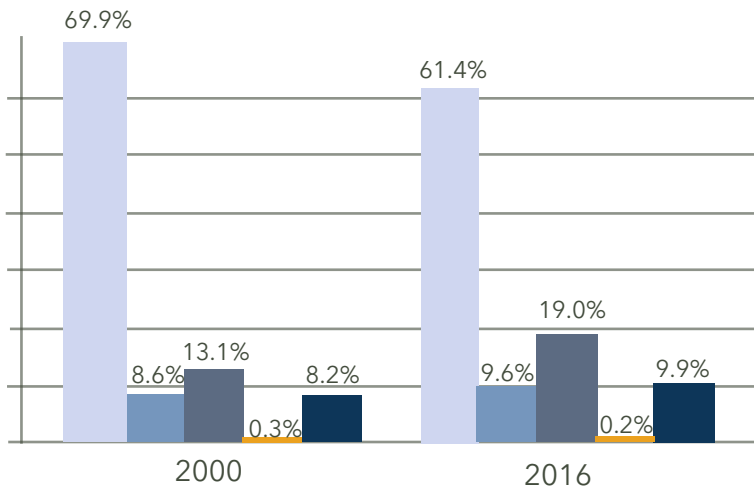
Unlike many areas of the country, diversification in Fairfax County has not resulted from the growth of one predominant minority group but rather from a wide variety of ethnicities from across the globe.

Fairfax County's diverse population is being led by growing enclaves of Hispanic and Asian residents. Several enclaves are clustered in certain areas of the county, including Springfield, Annandale, and Centreville.

Clustering can create rich cultural centers, but may also produce linguistic isolation which has implications for provision of parks and recreation.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TRENDS SUMMARY

Fairfax County Racial and Ethnic Population Distribution - 2000, 2010 & 2016



Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/demrpts/report/fullrpt.pdf>

- White
- Black
- Asian Pacific Islander
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Other

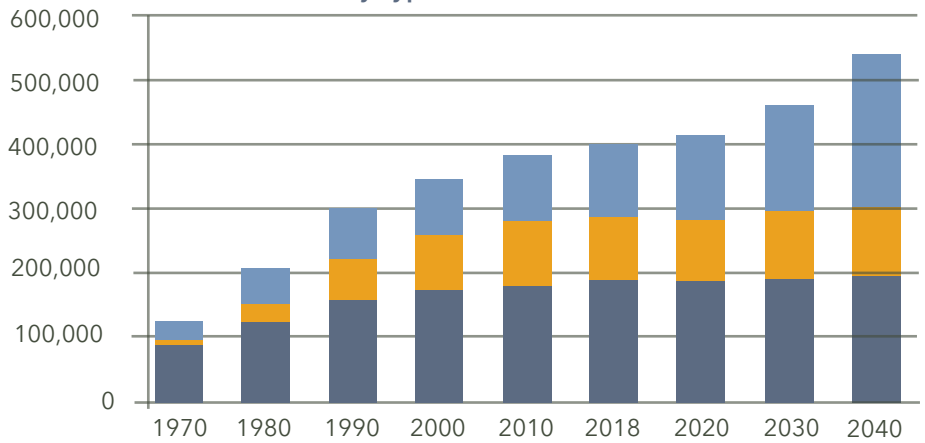
Households

Fairfax County households are also changing. The average household size in the county is 2.78 persons per household.

Over time, those households are increasingly less likely to live in single family homes. Households living in multifamily units often do not have private backyards.

As these types of housing units increase, so does the demand for dog parks, dog walking areas, playgrounds, community gardens, open play areas and other public park amenities.

Fairfax County Historical and Forecast Housing Units by Type of Structure, 1970 - 2040



Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/demrpts/report/fullrpt.pdf>

- Single Family Detached Housing Units
- Single Family Attached Housing Units
- Multi Family Housing Units

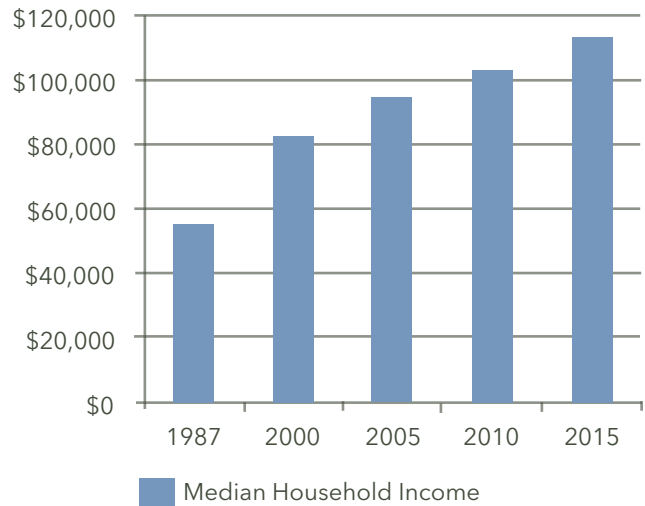
Income

Since 1987, the median household income in Fairfax County has nearly doubled. Within the general increase, however, the data shows an increasing polarization of income with more households gravitating to the extremes and a loss of households in middle.

While the shrinking of the middle class has become more pronounced, the trend is not new.

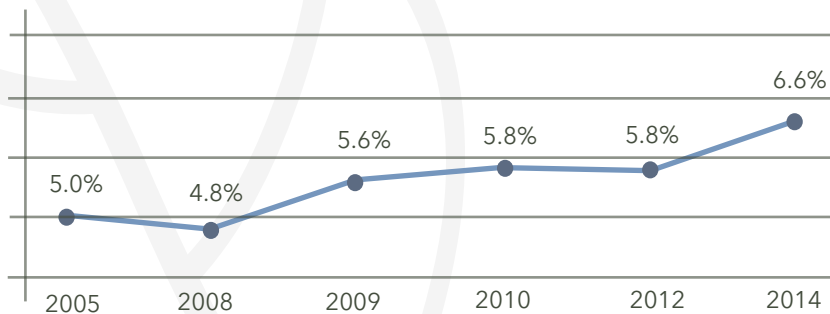
Since 1979, the share of middle-class households has declined from 40% to 33% of households. The proportion of households in the highest income bracket grew from 2001 to 2015, while the number of Fairfax County residents living below the poverty level has continued to increase.

Fairfax County
Median Household Income



Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/demrpts/report/fullrpt.pdf>

Fairfax County Population in Poverty (Percentage)



Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/demogrph/demrpts/report/fullrpt.pdf>

As shown in the figure left, the percentage of residents living in poverty increased from 2005 to 2014. Pockets of higher poverty rates appear near the county's larger towns and places - particularly in Springfield, Annandale, Chantilly, Reston, and Mt. Vernon, as well as on the edges of Arlington and Alexandria.

Health

The social determinants of health are favorable in Fairfax County overall, but there are disparities and opportunities for improving health outcomes.

The Fairfax County Community Health Improvement Plan (2013) identified four key challenges for the county.

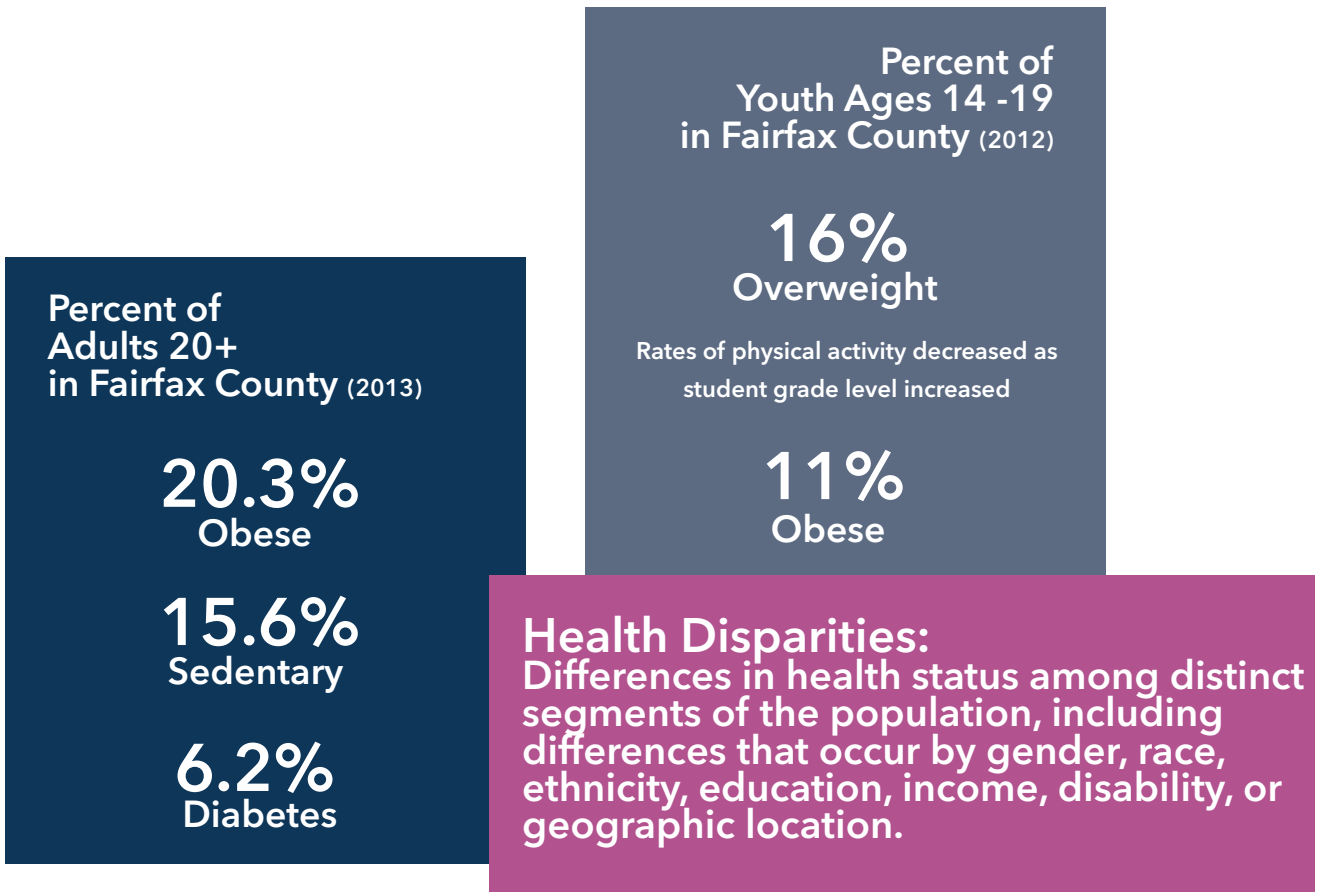
- Negative impacts of tobacco use and secondhand smoke
- Rising obesity rates among youth and adults
- Declining physical activity levels of youth and adults
- Disparities in death rates from chronic disease

Economy and Employment

Fairfax County has seen strong growth in some jobs since 1990, particularly when compared to the larger metropolitan DC area.

Industries and occupations on the rise include professional services, management, financial sector, law, healthcare, and advertising. On the other hand, construction and manufacturing, which provided many good middle-skill jobs in the past, have seen declines in employment.

In February 2015, Fairfax County's unemployment rate was 3.9%, compared with 5.0% statewide and 5.5% nationwide.



Exploring Key Trends and their Potential Implications for the Parks and Recreation System

Changing Parks & Recreation Trends

In order to keep pace with the demands of a growing and changing population, the Park Authority needs to consider how the dynamic nature of trends, lifestyles and activities will affect facility and programming needs.

Increased interest in niche activities, less interest in traditional team sports.

- from 2010 to 2015, participation declined in nearly all field and court team sports nationwide

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- changing demand for traditional sports facilities like diamonds and courts
- increased coordination to accommodate new sports that use fields/courts similar to traditional sports

Growing fitness membership, increasing number of fitness providers.

- rate of growth in fitness facilities much greater in DC area than national average
- increased popularity of informal high-end fitness options

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- lost customers not easily replaced, greater competition in market
- decreasing consumer demand for multi-purpose generalist facilities

Changing Health Trends

Increased interest in aging actively.

- by 2040, it is projected that over 45% of Fairfax County's population will be 55 years of age or older

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- more senior recreation, mid-day programs, and volunteer opportunities

Increase in preventative care and lifestyle changes for improving physical and mental health.

- increase in sedentary lifestyles, more overweight people.
- doctors are prescribing time outdoors and in parks

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- more support for active living (walking, running, biking trails)
- desire for open space

Changing Financial Trends

Pinched government budgets.

- many local governments have downsized, reducing staff levels
- increased backlog of deferred maintenance in parks and recreation systems

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- need for stable funding, life-cycle cost considerations
- increase in volunteer support and partnerships

Changing Environmental Trends

Demand for environmentally sustainable practices.

- importance of natural capital and habitat restoration and maintenance
- concerns about clean air, water, and warming temperatures

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- improved natural areas, balance stewardship and recreation
- trails as transportation alternatives for commuters
- resident education about the environment and resilience

Changing Demographic Trends

Embracing diversity.

- nearly 40% of county residents five years and older speak a language other than English at home (2015)
- nearly 32% are foreign born

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- accommodate family gatherings and cluster activities to support multi-generational events
- need for culturally appropriate programs and spaces, and multi-purpose fields (including soccer and cricket among others)

Changing Social Trends

Increased importance of distinctive places and experiences.

- people choose where they live based on lifestyle and proximity to activities and people
- most millennials would choose to spend money on a desirable experience over buying something desirable

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- reimagining and reinventing in parks and other public places
- distinctive programs, events, and destination features

Increasing demands on time.

- the average American works more hours per week than ever before
- more time spent in front of electronic screens

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- accommodate flexible hours
- convenient and safe locations

Changing Technology

Increasing use of electronics and mobile devices.

- mobile/Wi-Fi devices mean people connect to family, friends, and work from anywhere
- apps engage and educate people with the outdoors
- greater availability and ability to collect data

Implications for Parks and Recreation include

- changes in participant interest in traditional recreational activities, Wi-Fi in parks
- impacts on how parks and recreation services are delivered
- use of social media and web-based communication tools

By building flexibility into parks and recreation facilities and programs, the Park Authority will be able to adapt quickly and efficiently in order to meet these new demands.

The Park System at a Glance

The park system consists of 427 parks, 324 miles of trails, and over 1,163,056 square feet within 370 structures sited on Park Authority land.

Since its establishment, the Park Authority has sought to increase land ownership to support the agency's mission. With the increasing pace of development over the last decade, the Park Authority set a target of owning 10% of all county land.

Parks contain the various facilities of the recreation system and host the majority of programs and services.

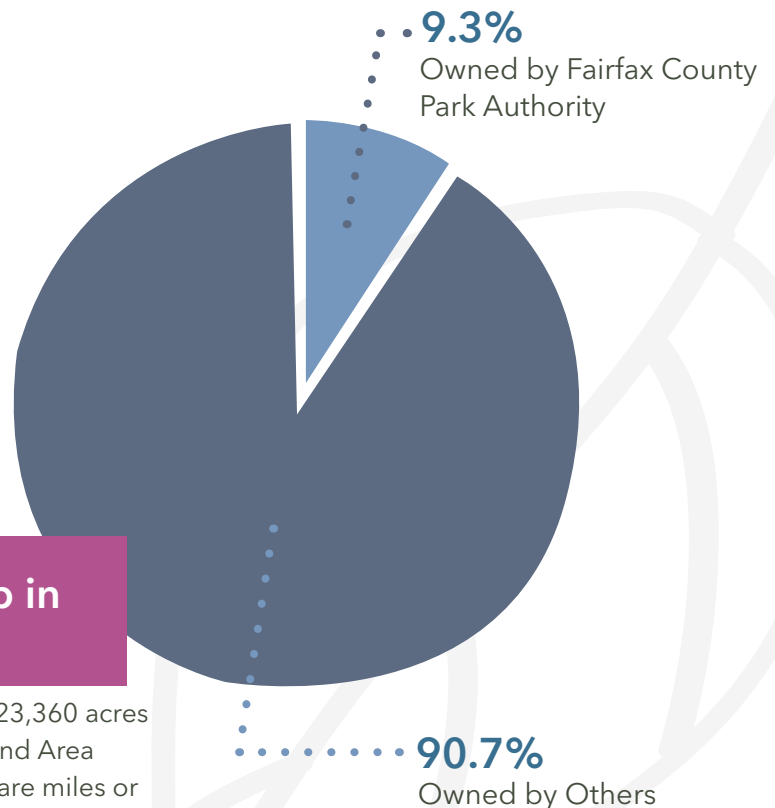
Over time, the creation of parks has mirrored the development of the county, with older parks in the eastern and southern parts of the county and newer parks in the north and west. Incidence of other factors, including aging infrastructure or rapidly changing demographics, often follows the same pattern.

Many parks provide recreation facilities and feature irreplaceable natural habitats and cherished historic sites. This can pose a challenge as the Park Authority must balance the need to protect and preserve these resources with the need to provide recreational opportunities to residents.

Current agency policies provide guidance for purchasing, exchanging, and accepting donated lands. As of 2016, the agency owns nearly 9.3% of all county land.

Land Ownership in Fairfax County

- The Park Authority owns +23,360 acres
- The total Fairfax County Land Area (excluding water) is 391 square miles or 250,240 acres



Recreation

The Park Authority provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities to those who live, work, and play in Fairfax County. From ParkTakes classes to organized sports, there are recreation offerings for nearly every interest.

Health, wellness, and fitness programs and services are offered at RECenters, lakefront parks, schools and private businesses. All expenses associated with the operation of RECenters and much of the active use of lake front parks must be recovered through user fees.

Recreation facilities within parks vary in scale, purpose, and target audience. These include local-serving basketball courts, destination playgrounds, well-traveled trails, and bustling athletic fields.

Many of these parks have designated tobacco-free areas, demonstrating the Park Authority commitment to promoting positive health outcomes as part of the 2013 Community Health Improvement Plan.

Trails

The Park Authority provides about half of the countywide public trail network. Trails cross and connect parks of all types and provide hiking and biking programming and events to county residents.

The park trail system is also important to the county efforts to improve its multi-modal transportation network to support non-vehicular commuting.

Since 2004, approximately 42.8 miles of new trail construction and numerous trail improvements have been completed by the Park Authority, through developer proffers and with the help of volunteers.

RECenters

The Park Authority owns and operates nine RECenters countywide. Each RECenter has similar hours, types of rooms, a natatorium, and a fitness center. The size and amenities differ based on when the RECenter was originally built and subsequent voter approved bonds to expand and renovate spaces.

RECenters host aquatics programs and activities, which are among the most popular in the park system. Admission fees, class fees, and program fees across the system are identical, although scholarships are not currently available for admission fees.

Golf

The Park Authority gives golfers the opportunity to play through the seasons on quality courses. From par-three to championship length, the Park Authority offers courses to suit beginner and expert golfers alike. All courses are professionally designed and carefully maintained.

Outdoor Fitness Gyms

The Park Authority provides outdoor fitness gyms in several communities, including Lincolnia and Gum Springs. These amenities feature high-quality exercise equipment similar to what is found in a gym, but the equipment is located outdoors and is free for the public to use during daylight hours. The fitness equipment can be used by anyone age 14 and up regardless of ability level and some units are designed for individuals in wheelchairs.

Athletic Fields

Diamond fields, rectangle fields and fields with synthetic turf make up a major portion of Park Authority recreation offerings. Residents can check whether a field is closed or open on the Park Authority "Athletic Field Status" website. While the Park Authority has the responsibility to maintain most fields, including synthetic turf fields, field use is organized and allocated through Neighborhood and Community Services. Use of fields for Park Authority activities and programs is limited except during certain times of the year.

Programs

The Park Authority offers numerous activities and programs, covering a broad range of interests and age groups. The Park Authority is committed to providing programs and services to meet the needs of all users residents - children, families, singles, seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income residents and people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. This commitment includes ensuring not only physical access to programs, but also adapted programs and a robust scholarship program. In FY16, the Park Authority's programs drew more than 1.5 million customers to its facilities.

In FY16, the value of the scholarship program totaled more than \$1,000,000 and focused on providing programmatic outreach and opportunities.

Program offerings range from youth camps to active senior yoga classes, and from nature study classes to bluegrass festivals. Program offerings are tailored based on regular customer feedback, including the collection and analysis of nearly 16,000 surveys of programs, classes, and camps. The most recent program offerings are available in ParkTakes magazine, which currently has more than 200,000 subscribers.



Most Park Authority programs must be financially self-sustaining, meaning they need to make enough money keep the program going each year. Without General Fund support, it is necessary to ensure program and class fees are managed to keep pace with rising costs.

Partners in Parks

County residents benefit from the partnerships between the Park Authority and other county agencies.

- Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides playgrounds and athletic fields
- Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) offers scheduling and coordination for all organized athletic field users
- Park Authority provides athletic fields on park lands and maintenance for school athletic fields, as well as fields and facilities on park lands
- Fairfax County Security, Risk Management, local Fire and Rescue and the Police Department ensure both employee and customer safety

The IMA program alone has 2,450 volunteers and over 9,000 volunteer hours.

Stewardship

Stewardship is ingrained in the values of the Park Authority, which owns and actively manages natural and cultural park sites and features. Staff records, protects, and restores natural features, has responsibility for archaeology countywide, preserves historic features, and maintains archaeological and historic collections.

These efforts take place not only at resource-based parks, but wherever the resources are located, often in local, district, and countywide parks. Outreach, engagement, and interpretation is robust, underscoring the importance of cultivating a stewardship ethic in county residents.

Natural Resources

Natural resource management is guided by Agency Natural Resource Management Plan, which drives stewardship and education about natural capital. Natural capital is the set of natural assets the Park Authority manages for the benefit of the environment and local residents

Current natural resource efforts encompass four program areas: Inventory and Planning, Natural Capital Protection, Ecosystem Management and Restoration, and Volunteer Outreach and Education. These include activities such as:

- Completion of a Natural Vegetation Community Classification across all park natural areas,
- Reviewing development plans and countywide public infrastructure plans for impacts to parks, and
- “Helping Our Land Heal”, a capital-funded program to restore the habitat functionality and value of degraded ecosystems.

The Park Authority flagship stewardship outreach effort is the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program, which organizes volunteers to control non-native invasive species countywide.

Cultural Resources

The Park Authority is responsible for archaeology countywide, for historic preservation on parkland, and serves as a steward of archaeological and historic collections.

Under the guidance of a Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Park Authority cares for multiple historic buildings, more than 3,500 archaeological sites, and more than 3.5 million artifacts. Numerous facilities currently house the extensive archaeology and museum collections, making a new centralized facility a high priority for the Park Authority.

Interpretive Services

The Park Authority provides interpretive programs, excursions, and site tours to supplement stewardship efforts and increase public awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Fairfax County’s natural, cultural and horticultural resources. The Park Authority hosts more than 1,500 interpretive programs annually.

Stewardship Volunteers

Volunteers play critical roles in the protection of natural and cultural resources in parks. Among others, roles encompass archaeology at Old Colchester Park and Preserve, historic building care and docents at Sully Historic Site and Historic Huntley, and natural resource efforts and programming at five nature centers.

- In total, stewardship volunteers provided 92,000 hours of service in 2016.
- The Park Authority promoted 143 stewardship volunteering opportunities.
- Participation in stewardship activities included 794 individual volunteers and another 3,569 volunteers as part of organized group efforts.

Education and Additional Stewardship Programs

Programming offered through partnerships helps extend the reach of the Park Authority’s work. Student-teacher programs, such as the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience that reached more than 45,000 students in 2016, support agency stewardship.

Popular events including volunteer environmental clean-up days, eleven “buy local” farmers markets, summer camp education programs, and Leave No Trace workshops further support stewardship.

The Resident Curator Program aims to enliven interest and protect several little-used, publicly-owned historic properties that were falling victim to the elements and disuse. The new program allows tenants to use the structures in return for protecting and maintaining them.

Support Functions and Priorities

Maintenance

The Park Authority is responsible for maintaining all park grounds, recreational facilities, fitness centers, and historic and cultural structures and features. This includes all staffed and un-staffed parks serving all areas of the county.

Signs of wear and tear are visible throughout the park system, which suffers from reductions in available funding. The Park Authority is implementing an asset management program to help the agency manage and reinvest in aging infrastructure.

Technology

The Park Authority leverages technology to provide residents with the best possible park experiences. This is evident in all aspects of the Park Authority, including:

- Customer service enhancements: Parknet automated registrations system, EZ Links Golf online tee-time sign-up, and the use of technology to monitor park usage, utilities, and class registration;
- Communications and engagement: Social media presence increase to include Twitter, Facebook, and a new website; and
- Improved resource management: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications for natural resources, and trail improvements.

Environmental Sustainability Practices

The Park Authority embraces environmental sustainability practices, including energy management in alignment with county priorities. The energy management program monitors and improves energy performance in Park Authority facilities, and strives to increase awareness for energy conservation within the agency.

In 2016, the Park Authority was awarded the National Recreation and Park Association's Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award. The award recognized the agency's excellence in environmental stewardship, including the emphasis on community outreach and environmental design practices such as the renovation of the Oak Marr RECenter which earned LEED Silver Certification.



Employees

The most recent employee survey was completed in 2014 and the Park Authority has taken steps to address some of the concerns identified. Staff input during the master plan open houses in March 2017 echoes many of the findings from the 2014 employee survey, indicating the potential for greater improvements. Below is a summary of select survey findings on employee attitudes overall:

- Park Authority employees are positive and satisfied at work, but lukewarm; employees tend to like their job more than love it.
- Job does provide good work/life balance.
- Employees are motivated, but not strongly; main factor is recognition and encouragement; employees do not feel they are encouraged to learn new skills.
- Cooperation and collaboration across teams is not strong; communication within teams is effective.
- Employees overwhelmingly want to do more, want more opportunity to lead; three-quarters want to be team players.

Beyond County Parks - An Integrated System

Fairfax County residents benefit from an integrated park system managed and owned by a variety of public and quasi-public entities. Contributors to the system include:

- Fairfax County Park Authority,
- NOVA Parks,
- City of Fairfax
- Town of Herndon,
- Town of Vienna,
- Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS),
- Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS),
- National Park Service,
- Bureau of Land Management, and
- the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Together, these lands account for nearly 20% of the county's total land area.

Geographically-expansive home owners' associations (e.g., Reston Association) and new urban parks that are privately-owned but publicly-accessible (e.g., Civic Plaza at Tysons Corner Center) provide spaces that further supplement the opportunities for recreation and respite in the county.

Planning Within the Park System

Planning provides direction and guidance to successfully achieving the Park Authority's mission, goals, and objectives and affords orderly growth, stewardship, operation, and maintenance of the park system to meet the county's present and future park needs.

Through participation and coordination in county, state, and federal planning efforts, park resources are protected from impacts that result from development, public improvements, and population growth as well as changing land use patterns, park use patterns, and funding limitations.

Park Classification

The Park Classification System is a general framework intended to guide open space and public facilities planning, as well as assist in the development of public and private land management plans.

The Park Classification System groups parks according to certain characteristics and is based on several inputs including the Needs Assessment, agency policy plans, and national best practices. It is incorporated into the County's Comprehensive Plan, the countywide guide to land use planning.

Park land typically falls within one of three categories:

- Local parks range in size depending on context, typically from 2.5 to 50 acres in suburban settings to ½ to 5 acres in urban settings.
- District and countywide parks provide a wide variety of park facilities and range in size from 50 acres up to and in excess of 150 acres.
- Resource-based parks vary in size, location, and purpose, but are united by the goal of protecting, preserving, and stewarding cultural and natural resources.

Park master planning, determination of substantial conformance with the county Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Code of Virginia section 15.2-2232 (known as the 2232 process), and capital funding allocations are all public processes that precede development on parkland.

Park Classifications provide guidance:

- a) to the Planning Commission for determining whether a proposed park plan is in substantial conformance with the county Comprehensive Plan;
- b) for determining the appropriate geographic location and equitable distribution of varying types of parks;
- c) to the park planning staff during the park planning and development process; and
- d) to set public expectations for future park uses.

Needs Analysis Summary

The park and recreation needs of Fairfax County are as diverse as the residents themselves. Identifying and measuring those needs is accomplished through various means.

The Park Authority frequently surveys class participants on their experiences and invites stakeholder and user groups to meetings and open houses to share how they use the park system and what is most important to them.

While the most formal method is the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment every 10-years, the Park Authority also analyzes needs based on changing community demographics and evolving trends and best practices in the parks and recreation industry.

The Park Authority also strives to contribute to county priorities, such as those outlined in One Fairfax, Live Healthy Fairfax, and the Board of Supervisors Environmental Vision, among others.



Needs help to identify the gap between today's park system and the park system in 5-10 years.

Community Input

The starting point for creating a long-range plan for the parks and recreation system is to understand the values, needs, and desires of current county residents. The 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment) was designed to gather this information and provides the foundation for the parks and recreation system master plan.

Community input into the Needs Assessment process included stakeholder interviews, focus groups, public meetings, online engagement, and a statistically-valid community survey.

Interviews, Public Meetings, and Focus Groups

Park users and stakeholders provided input individually and in groups at various points in the Needs Assessment process. Scores of interviews, a series of public meetings, and several small group gatherings generated a wealth of information useful in determining need.

Targeted discussions with certain interest and demographic groups were held in advance of large scale outreach. These focus groups included:

- Athletic users,
- Two groups of low to middle income users,
- Trail users,
- 50+ age group, and
- Teachers.

Key themes emerging from the focus group discussions included:

- Appreciation for program diversity,
- High utilization and appreciation of recreational facilities and programs, with a need for reinvestment and new facilities,
- Appreciation for and desire to expand FCPA's natural and cultural resource programs,
- Agency is working well with a reduction in resources, but would like to see more funding spent on maintenance,
- Staff seem knowledgeable and proficient, but would like to see improved marketing, outreach, and expanded use of technology, and
- Agency has the trust of the public, but some concerns about the scope of planning that it must take on, as well as implementation time frames.

Crowdsourcing and Other Engagement

The Needs Assessment process provided the public the opportunity to participate online, by email, and at times most convenient to them. The project’s crowdsourcing website allowed users to vote for or against selected topics posted by the Park Authority. Participants shared ideas and made suggestions, to the agency and each other.

Some residents chose to share ideas by direct email sent to the Park Authority. Those emails covered a variety of topics including active recreation (baseball, tennis, skate parks), natural resource conservation, trails, and funding.

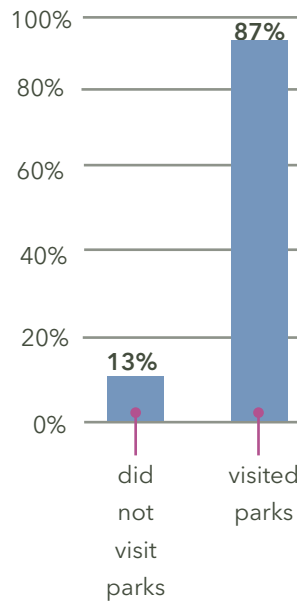
Need Survey

The need survey provided a formal, statistically-valid view into interests and needs of residents. The survey findings reveal respondents’ attitudes toward the park system as well as their usage of individual facilities and program types.

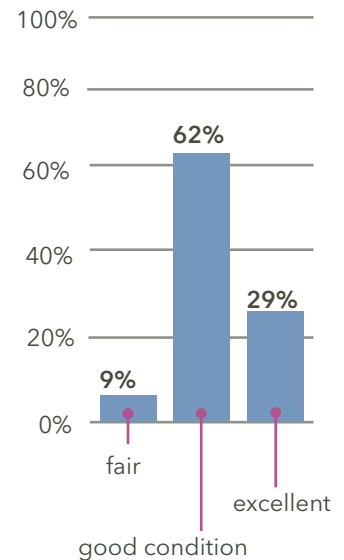
An overwhelming majority of residents use their parks and every one of the facilities and programs the survey listed was used by at least one respondent. Residents love and use their parks more than ever, and as fiscal belts have tightened, that high level of use has begun to show. The need survey revealed not only general use patterns or preferences, but also needs for individual activities, facilities, and services.

Finally, residents had the opportunity to hold a structured meeting on their own, using materials and content provided by the Park Authority. Seven of these “Meetings in a Box” were held and input received from groups affiliated with natural resource issues, equestrian issues, athletic issues, and a university.

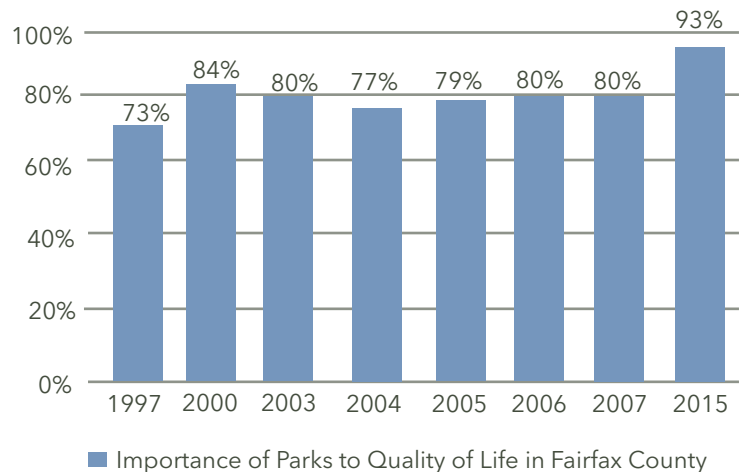
Households that have visited Parks operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority in the Past 12 months



Respondents who visited Fairfax County Parks and rated the condition of parks, trails, and recreation facilities as “good” on a scale of poor to excellent



Parks are more important Than Ever to Quality of Life



EXPANDED MASTER PLANNING ENGAGEMENT

In the spring of 2017, a series of additional engagement sessions were held to build from the Needs Assessment findings and ensure the park system master plan encompassed the breadth of the entire agency.

The outcomes from these discussions help identify additional needs and, along with the Needs Assessment, guide the direction of the master plan.

The groups engaged included:

- Park Authority Board,
- Park Authority Leadership Team,
- Park Authority Staff,
- Friends Groups,
- Athletic Council,
- Audubon Society, and
- Other county agency leadership.

Importantly, the key themes emerging from these discussions aligned considerably with the Needs Assessment themes.

RECREATION NEEDS: FACILITIES SERVICE LEVEL STANDARDS

The Needs Assessment recommended countywide service level metrics for 12 facility types based on a population to service ratio, as shown in the table, right. When supplemented by other policies and plans, these service level standards help define some of the park system facility needs.

Several other facility types are identified as being driven more by programmatic, feasibility, and other factors rather than on a population/service ratio basis.

These include:

- Reservable picnic shelters,
- RECenters,
- Countywide skate parks,
- Countywide dog parks,
- Golf,
- Equestrian facilities,
- Waterfront parks,
- Outdoor family aquatics,
- Horticulture parks,
- Nature centers, and
- Trails.

Details about each of the individual facility types in the park system can be found in the Needs Assessment report, which includes the recommended approach to addressing the Park Authority's portion of the service gaps in the next decade.

Urban Parks Framework

Future development in Fairfax County will be concentrated in growth areas such as Tysons, Reston, central Springfield, Merrifield, Annandale, Seven Corners, Bailey’s Crossroads, and Richmond Highway.

The increasing urbanization requires that the existing suburban park system be supplemented by parks that are more suitable for the unique urban context. Urban parks will provide appropriate elements to enhance the urban landscape, create a sense of place, promote community building, and allow for varied leisure opportunities.

The Framework serves to set expectations for residents, developers, county staff, and community decision-makers to ensure that new urban developments will provide for park and recreation needs in the County’s growth areas.

The Urban Parks Framework includes the following five urban park types:

- Pocket Park
- Common Green
- Civic Plaza
- Recreation-Focused Park
- Linear Park

Park System Element	2016 Recommended Service Levels		
Local Parks	5.00	acres per	1,000
Playgrounds	1.00	site per	2,800
Outdoor Sport Courts (basketball/tennis)	1.00	court per	2,100
Skate Parks, Neighborhood	1.00	site per	50,000
Dog Parks, Neighborhood	1.00	site per	86,000
District & Countywide Parks	13.00	acres per	1,000
Indoor Gyms	0.25	SF per	person
Diamond, Baseball 60 ft Fields (Youth)	1.00	site per	7,200
Diamond, Baseball 90 ft Fields (Youth, Adult)	1.00	field per	24,000
Diamond, Baseball 60 ft Fields (Youth)	1.00	field per	8,800
Diamond, Baseball 65 ft Fields (Adult)	1.00	field per	22,000
Rectangle Fields (All)	1.00	field per	2,700

Several topics emerged consistently during the expanded master planning engagement including:

- Natural capital/ecosystem benefits,
- Take care of what we have,
- Flexible/responsive programming,
- Adapt/innovative to meet changing community needs,
- Fiscal sustainability,
- Partnerships,
- Staff growth, and,
- Community empowerment.

PARK DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS

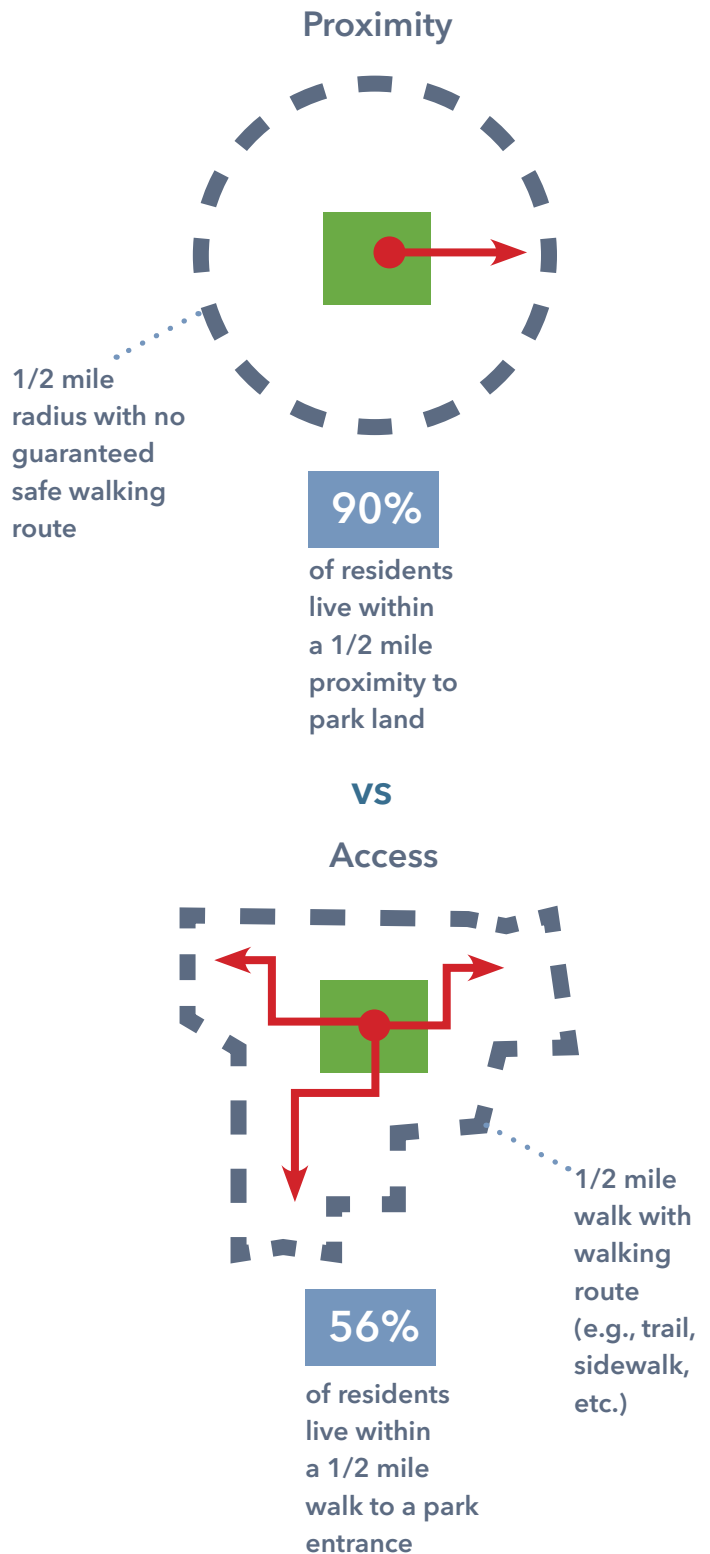
With a county as diverse, vast, and dynamic as Fairfax, needs often depend on the particular development patterns, infrastructure, and community characteristics of different geographic areas.

Using service level standards as well as data about the geographic distribution of facilities, the Needs Assessment produced a gap analysis. Additional input from stakeholders and a walkability analysis were conducted to further understand needs and to assess park accessibility.

Needs Assessment survey findings highlight residents' overwhelming interest in walking and biking trails, facilities that offer recreation but also access. National data indicates that adults with access to open space and parks are more likely to exercise, adding a health and wellness dimension to trail provision.

The Park Authority historically has considered the proximity of residents to parkland as an indicator of how well it is serving the community. Park access is identified as a key indicator in the Board of Supervisors Economic Success Strategic Plan.

Analysis has shown that nearly 90% of residents live within a 1/2 mile proximity of parkland. However, further analysis that factors in walkable routes and park entrances indicates considerably fewer residents (56%) live within a 1/2 mile walk to a park entrance.



The county's population growth is largely forecasted to occur in geographic areas that currently have limited access to parks. In their existing conditions, the areas lack adequate parkland (as defined by service level standards) and walking infrastructure to provide access routes.

As the Park Authority strives to meet residents' needs, this metric of access to parks will be a key indicator to monitor.

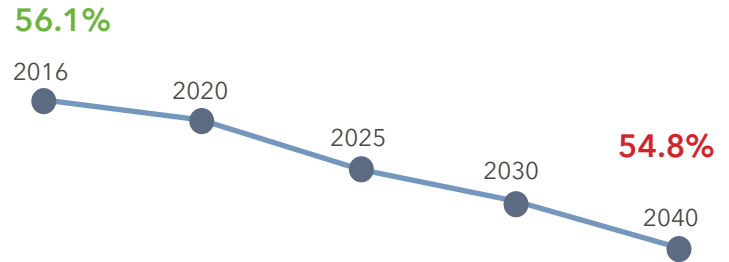
Local Parks

Local parks are well distributed across the county but gaps in service exist in some areas of high density population, lower incomes, and poorer health. Many older park conditions are of concern and need upgrades to landscapes, infrastructure, and facilities.

Countywide investment in new facilities, as well as strategic reinvestment in existing facilities, is necessary for the Park Authority to meet all residents' needs for parks.

In urban growth areas, county policy and plans support the integration of local and urban parks into new development as publicly-accessible parks. This integration will help meet needs generated by growth.

**Current and Future Projections (2016 - 2040)
Percent of Residents within a 1/2 Mile Walk
to a Park Entrance**



There is a need to reinvest in trails and build-out connecting segments. Partnerships with county agencies, including DOT, DPW and DPZ, will be fundamental to meeting this need.

Trails

Trails use has and will continue to increase locally and nationally to support important health and wellness efforts. Connectivity between trail segments is essential to ensuring residents have access to trails and parks.

Trails often supplement the county sidewalk system in providing access to parks and can make the difference between being near a park and being able to get into a park.

Improvements to existing trail conditions are critical to the network and have been deferred in many areas of the county.

Scholarships

Addressing health disparities in the county requires providing greater access to health and wellness opportunities. Access is increasingly important as income disparities grow and access to indoor facilities will be as critical as outdoor. The Park Authority does not currently have a mechanism to provide reduced cost memberships to RECenters for eligible residents and families. This is because RECenters are fully reliant on revenue generation to operate and maintain, and the Park Authority must recoup any additional costs incurred due to additional use.

REC-PAC:

- Number of registrations 17,247 in FY15
- 57% received scholarships valued at \$1,000,000

RECenters

As the flagship fitness and health facilities for the Park Authority, RECenters are designed to serve the broad public. Several RECenters are located in areas that are predominantly accessible by car with few feasible transportation alternatives, such as public transit or sidewalks. As the Park Authority strives to provide RECenter access to more residents, this will continue to be a notable barrier to address.

Reinvestment in aging facilities and infrastructure is critical to remain competitive.

The Park Authority is also looking to expand revenue generating opportunities in certain areas.

American Disabilities Act (ADA)

Accessibility in facilities and communications is an on-going requirement. Residents rely on parks and recreation to ensure equal access, in the form of physical access to parks as well as informational access to the agency's communication channels. The Park Authority continues to implement ADA policies and strives to meet the needs of all residents.

Market-Based Facilities and Programs

As noted previously, many of the Park Authority facilities, programs, and services must be financially self-sustaining. In order to continue providing the things the community expects and needs, the Park Authority must consider revenue generation as a priority. At the same time, increasing income disparities in the county could result in higher quality expectations from the growing higher income sector.

Among the core revenue generating facilities and programs are RECenters, golf, water parks, and birthday parties.

The Park Authority is also looking to expand revenue generating opportunities in certain areas, such as the new *Go Ape!* ropes course at South Run District Park.

2017 RECenter Sustainability Study - Recommendations

The strategic recommendations build upon market analyses, primary research processes, and demand analyses.

- Expand (Providence, South Run, Oak Marr, and Mount Vernon)
- Replace (Audrey Moore)
- Protect (Lee District and Spring Hill)
- Reposition (Cub Run)
- Rebrand (George Washington)
- Create (Reston and Multi-Purpose Complex)

2017 RECenter Sustainability Study - Purpose & Process

The purpose of the assessment is to develop a long-term sustainability plan for Fairfax County Park Authority's RECenter system. This is achieved by identifying strategies that:

- maximize operational effectiveness,
- improve community responsiveness, and
- ultimately ensure long-term financial sustainability of each RECenter.

The study included:

- 10 Strategic Asset Value Analysis sessions with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Park Authority Board Members;
- a facilities and operational assessment;
- a detailed market analysis;
- focus groups, and
- an Internet survey.

Key improvement outcomes from Strategic Asset Value Analysis:

- generation of tax revenues and economic impact,
- offering a greater degree of equitable access, and
- providing household management assistance.

Financial performance for the system if it did not receive investment projected over a 20-year time horizon from 2017 to 2036 indicates by 2035, the system's expenses would be greater than revenues.

Special Events

District and countywide parks feature destination facilities and support one of the most desired programming opportunities - special events.

Facilities at these parks can be significant revenue generators for FCPA, but their popularity also makes fitting maintenance and addition of new infrastructure into an already busy events schedule challenging.

Adequate parking, support facilities and amenities, and clustered complexes are desirable in these parks and sometimes deficiencies limit the park's recreation potential. In addition, the Park Authority must capitalize on opportunities to use park facilities for special events to capture the considerable revenue-generating potential.

Responsive Programming

The Needs Assessment survey showed that residents rank some programs more highly than others. At the same time, many residents like the diverse programs provided by the Park Authority. This is a challenge for the Park Authority, as it cannot be everything to everyone.

As the county continues to grow and diversify, it will be critical for Park Authority programs to be flexible and responsive in order to meet changing needs. Among the drivers of change are cultural and age diversification, recreation trends (e.g. PokemonGo, parkour, etc.), as well as advancements in technology.

Classifying Programs & Services

In addition to identifying specific program priority needs, the Needs Assessment includes several recommendations related to programs and services, including:

- to classify programs and services to aid in alignment of community interests and needs, mission of the organization, and sustainable operations; and
- geographic and demographic alignment in delivery of programs and services.

More integration of technology (i.e. Wi-Fi) and additional programming in underserved or underutilized areas are important opportunities for enhancing recreation programming.

Stewardship Needs

Funding

Overall, the Park Authority's ability to steward the county's natural and cultural resources is dependent on funding. While preserving open space and the environment is a top priority for residents according to the Needs Assessment survey findings, the money does not always follow.

As part of the Needs Assessment, it was determined that even necessary maintenance activities (i.e. assessment, installation, monitoring, and maintenance) for natural and cultural resource management are significantly underfunded.

- For select cultural resource management activities, an additional \$500,000 of annual funding would be needed; and
- For natural resource activities, in accordance with best practices, up to an additional \$2,350 per acre of annual funding would be needed.

No matter what income, age, gender, ethnicity, or address, everyone has a need and right to breathe clean air, to drink clean water, and to live and work in clean surroundings. A healthy environment enhances our quality of life and preserves the vitality that makes Fairfax a special place to live and work.

Source: BOS Environmental Agenda

Natural Resources

A majority of Fairfax County's parkland consists of isolated natural areas that are impacted by many stresses, including development pressures, encroachment, climate change, and the spread of invasive species.

These natural areas range in size from small, less-than-an-acre remnants in neighborhoods to the hundreds of acres of stream valleys. Alone, these are not enough to sustain the county's natural capital and quality of life benefits it provides.

Nature does not recognize property boundaries, making collaborations with other land owners essential for advancing natural resource objectives. Park Authority land could serve as corridors to enhance connections within the county's park system and to connect to natural areas owned or managed by others.

Conversely, some natural areas in the park system show signs of possible over-use. There is a need for the Park Authority to regularly assess the condition of the natural resources in these parks and to ensure recreation activities do not negatively impact irreplaceable resources.

Creating Future Stewards

The Park Authority owns just about 10% of county land, while remaining land is under the care of county residents and other agencies. As part of the Park Authority stewardship mission, there is a need to help and teach others in the community how to be better stewards. To do so, the Park Authority needs to continue and expand its interpretation, engagement, and education efforts.

Cultural Resources

With responsibility for county archeology and historic structures across all Park Authority land, cultural resource management is a significant undertaking.

The recent museum accreditation process revealed several areas of concern including lack of diversity and lack of a proper collections storage facility for the expansive collection of artifacts under the purview of the Park Authority. The Park Authority needs to address both of these deficiencies.

Deferred maintenance of historic structures is increasingly visible with some of the Park Authority structures in visible disrepair. A strategic approach to allocating funding for upkeep is needed to ensure funding is used for the greatest possible benefits.

The agency is also exploring alternative approaches to reduce the cost of managing and maintaining historic structures. There is a need to advance the resident curator program and establish similar opportunities.

Environmental Sustainability

Given the Park Authority mission, the agency has a mandate to advance environmental sustainability and the opportunity to be a leader in implementing sustainable practices throughout its internal operations. This includes many practices such as the use of environmentally-friendly pest management practices, recycling materials, and educating staff on the importance of each individual doing their part.

Taking Care of What We Have

Maintenance Operations

Park users, staff, and leadership have identified areas of success in the park system, but also areas needing improvement and growth. The system is robust and well-used, but beginning to show signs of wear along the edges. Findings from the Needs Assessment and the master plan analysis bear this out, placing an emphasis on taking care of what we have while keeping an eye on meeting new and diversifying needs.

As of 2017, the Park Authority has been putting additional emphasis on maintenance and reinvestment in existing facilities and other recreation assets. However, the investments required to adequately meet public needs are extensive and gaps in quality and condition exist throughout the county. In addition, even well-managed and maintained facilities may be perceived to be in sub-standard condition due to aging infrastructure.

Based on Community Input from the Needs Assessment

+ Support for upgrading and renovating the existing system far outweighs support for constructing new parks or facilities that would serve residents.

+ Respondents' satisfaction is high with the condition and quality of parks, trails, and facilities, though it is lower than at any point over the last twelve years.

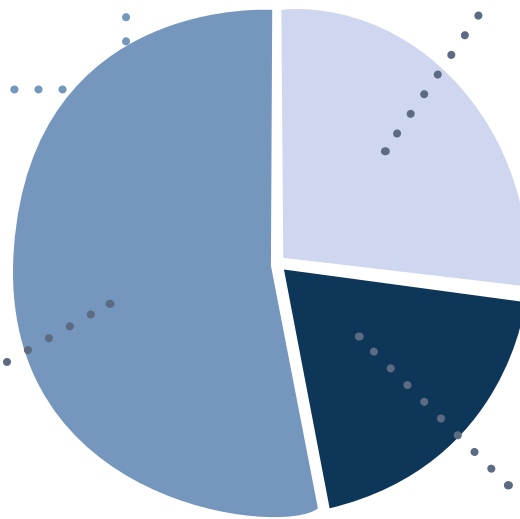
If trends of county population growth and fiscal restraint continue as expected, continuing to adequately maintain the park system will be challenging.

Land Acquisition and Management

In addition to reinvestment in facilities, the Park Authority's large land portfolio requires attentive management. The majority of Park Authority land is protected from development, remaining as undeveloped land or not actively managed natural area.

Some of the more significant challenges in terms of land management include encroachments, maintaining and preserving habitat quality, and regular upkeep. Moving forward, an emphasis on partnerships, shared ownership, and understanding the role of Park Authority lands as part of an open space network with many land owners will be critical.

53%
Undeveloped or Not Actively Managed Natural Area



Park Authority Land

20%
Actively Managed Natural Area

27%
Developed or Actively Managed for Recreation

As land becomes more scarce and difficult to acquire, the agency's land acquisition and management strategy will need to evolve with this changing context.

Organizational Needs

To effectively achieve its mission and the goals of the master plan, the Park Authority must also address procedural and organizational needs. The Park Authority will need to continue planning and operational excellence while pursuing fiscal responsibility and resource alignment.

The creation and implementation of this master plan will require a fresh look at all contributing plans and policies and may offer opportunities to adjust organizational structure to better meet stated goals. Implementation may also help support staff, providing growth opportunities and improving staff satisfaction overall.

Importantly, decision-making must be driven by analysis that uses reliable data and information. This is increasingly important to ensure accountability and progress towards achieving master plan goals.

The agency will need to remain flexible and agile, able to meet shifting demographics and resident needs. Equally as important, however, will be strategically responding to resident needs with the recognition that the Park Authority cannot be everything to everyone.

Technology

Moving even faster than the pace of redevelopment and reinvestment, technology will also play a critical role in meeting needs. This includes:

- integrating technology into agency operations to increase efficiency,
- using technological advances to improve communications and increase options, and
- adapting policy and practice for new technologically based recreation trends (e.g., drones).

There is also an opportunity to cultivate social media use among partners to help meet needs and support the Park Authority's mission. For instance, stewardship partners are often advocates and use social media to encourage stewardship in others.

	FC Park Authority	FC Public Schools	Other Local (Public/Quasi-Public)	Regional, State and Federal	Total
Parkland					
Local Parks (acres)	3,591.44	-	-	-	-
Non-FCPA Local Parks (acres)	-	-	1,939.25	-	-
<i>Local Parks SUBTOTAL (acres)</i>	-	-	-	-	5,530.69
District & Countywide Parks (acres)	6,578.51	-	-	-	-
Non-FCPA District/CW Parks (acres)	-	-	-	21,996.93	-
Resource Based Parks (acres)	13,168.33	-	-	-	-
<i>District, CW & Resource-Based Parks SUB-TOTAL (acres)</i>	-	-	-	-	41,743.77
<i>Parkland SUBTOTAL (acres)</i>	23,338.28	-	1,939.25	21,996.93	47,274.46
Facilities					
Diamond, Baseball 60, 65, 90 ft Fields (Youth, Adult)	162	222	-	3	387
Rectangle Fields (All)	122	230	31	-	383
Multi-Use Courts, Outdoor (Basketball, Tennis)	333	276	80	-	689
Playgrounds	209	181	65	-	455
Dog Parks (Neighborhood, Countywide)	9	-	3	-	12

2016 - Community Inventory Data Review

- + The data included in the "Community Inventory - 2016" table is subject to ongoing review and validation.
- + Data management and integration with the Park Authority Geographic Information System database is being undertaken as part of the Master Plan goal "Advance as an innovative, responsive, and adaptable organization".

Data Details

- + Other Local (Public/Quasi-Public) includes: City of Fairfax, Town of Herndon, Town of Vienna, Reston
- + Regional, State and Federal includes: NOVA Parks, Commonwealth of Virginia, National Park Service, U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries, and other Federal agencies
- + Not included: New urban parks that are privately-owned but publically-accessible

Public Comment Summary

The public comment period began on August 6, 2017 and closed on September 22, 2017.

Community engagement for the draft plan included a series of informational presentations, press releases, blog articles, social media posts, and a public meeting and open house.

In addition, direct email notifications were provided to stakeholders including the Board of Supervisors, leadership of other county agencies and community partners, Friends groups, the Athletic Council, and individuals who previously signed up for the master plan email list.

Following publication the Park Authority provided informational presentations to partners including the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Environment and Recreation Committee and the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization.

A public input meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens on September 12, 2017. The meeting included a formal presentation and an open house forum that allowed participants to comment on all aspects of the draft plan.

Comment Overview

Public comments were received through the project website, email to Parkmail and at public meetings. Over 45 comments were received on the Draft master plan, including approximately 30 comments at the public meeting and over 15 through Parkmail.

The Park Authority received formal letters from partners and community groups, including the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia.

The comments reinforced the findings from the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment, which laid the groundwork for the guiding principles, goals and recommendations included in the master plan.

Community members also expressed interest in the strategic planning process and additional details regarding implementation and tracking progress towards achieving the master plan goals.

Comment Overview

Community input emphasized topics including: trail system maintenance and development, contributions to healthy and active lifestyles, ecosystem services and ecological integrity. A majority of comments were related to trail system improvements and development.

Highlights from the public comments are listed below:

Trail System Maintenance and Improvements

- Paved vs natural
- Safety concerns
- Increase maintenance
- Commuter use
- Connect w/ entire system (FCDOT, etc.)
- Involve public in more detailed trail planning

Park System-Wide Maintenance

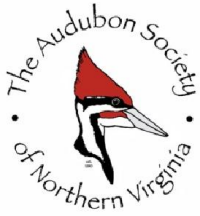
- Provide ways for community members to submit issues/work requests
- Need better understanding of facility/trails condition in different areas of the county
- Budget/plan for trail/park maintenance
- Trail safety concerns

Natural Resources and Open Space

- Balance recreation and natural resource stewardship better
- Need more emphasis on biodiversity, ecosystem services, restoration
- Tree Action Plan
- Land acquisition as a tool for improving natural resources, not just preserving "open space"
- Strive to exceed standards for stormwater, other

Access and Health

- Need more parks and trails in specific areas of the County
- Access to parks/trails and programs is important
- Improve programming (ex., food trucks, bike safety)
- Professional development for instructors
- Review fees to match costs and seek more scholarship funding



**Comments of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
On the Fairfax County Park Authority's Parks and Recreation System
July 2017 Draft Master Plan**

September 19, 2017

On behalf of the more than 4,300 members of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, I am pleased to share our comments on your July 2017 Parks and Recreation System Draft Master Plan

We have commented numerous times on master plans for various county parks, FCPA's plans and priorities, including the natural resource plan, the "Great Parks, Great Communities" initiative, and your Strategic Plan.

With so little undisturbed land left in the county (around six percent) and with a long history of human disturbance and alteration of habitat, we urge FCPA to make natural resource protection and restoration a higher priority and to bring better balance to natural resource parks versus recreational parks and facilities as there has been an historic imbalance favoring active park uses in FCPA budgets, programs and staffing. Our patterns of development, including park development, have seriously degraded our land, waterways and air. Preserving and restoring natural resources is important for a healthy environment, for the ecological services they provide and to prevent further degradation of our land, air and water, a pattern of degradation associated with the county's land use policies and development practices.

Your information on demographics, needs and trends focuses on development and increasing population pressures, but gives little recognition to loss of native habitat and the adverse impacts of that loss. On page 13, the plan does include commendable language recognizing the need to "improve and promote natural resource protection and management." However, the FCPA historically has given more resources to active recreational facilities and parks, even as our natural resources dwindle. We note that your own surveys cited in page 7 indicate that the public strongly supports "preserving open space." However, we caution that "open space" may not necessarily mean native habitats with true ecological integrity. Ball fields and tennis courts provide few ecological services.

Given the little land available for purchase, we especially urge FCPA to make restoration of natural areas a higher priority in your final plan, as restoration of degraded areas offers many opportunities to improve habitat and the health of the environment, especially in light of the densely developed nature of the county and its urbanizing trends. We urge that your final plan acknowledge that natural resources provide ecological services for free, services like stormwater retention, absorbing carbon dioxide and filtering polluted water.

We appreciate the plan's inclusion on page 13 of this goal: "Improve and promote natural resource protection and management." Again, we urge that this be given a higher priority, especially in staffing and budgets. In addition, we commend your including "linking larger resource conservation areas within the county and stream valley parks." Larger, unfragmented ecosystems like wildlife or conservation corridors are critical for many species survival. We urge you to include in this activity linking all resource conservation areas (not just the larger ones) and linking to state, federal and privately protected properties.

On page 10, “Guiding Principles,” “Be Great Stewards” is one of seven principles, but is not a clear commitment to expand preservation and restoration of natural resources.

We again stress the need for FCPA conduct biological inventories *before* undertaking development and to make that information publicly available. Park planners and the public need to understand what natural resources exist before making development/management decisions. “What is there?” (e.g., a biological inventory) should be the first question when development is contemplated, so that at least you know what natural resources would be affected or even destroyed, and the value of those resources needs to be part of the planning and decision-making equation.

We again urge FCPA to thoroughly evaluate all environmental impacts of proposed park development, in the planning stage, to understand how your development plans impact our natural resources and to make that information publicly available.

One of your guiding principles on page 10 is “Meet Changing Recreation Needs.” Unfortunately, the reality is that FCPA cannot meet *all* recreational demands, such as bowling, curling, boxing, beach volleyball, canoeing, flying model airplanes and drones and snowboarding. FCPA will never have the resources to respond to every need expressed by the public. This concern has been highlighted by your current study of flying recreational drones in county parks. (See our June 1, 2017 letter.) Priorities will need to be established, and we believe it is essential for the health and well-being of county residents that those priorities include protection and restoration of our natural resources and ecosystems.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and look forward to working with you.

Carl Kikuchi, President
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
11100 Wildlife Center Dr., # 100
Reston, VA 20190
703-438-6008
info@audubonva.org
www.audubonva.org

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY



September 18, 2017

Mr. William G. Bouie
Chairman, Fairfax County Park Authority Board
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Mr. Bouie:

On behalf of the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax (PFHF), we would like offer our support for the goals, recommendations, and implementation plans included in the draft "Great Parks, Great Communities: Parks & Recreation System Master Plan."

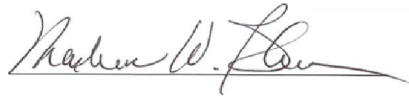
The PFHF is a diverse coalition of individuals and public, community, and business organizations that have joined forces to improve community health by mobilizing resources, increasing awareness, and promoting healthful change. In 2013, with the participation of the Park Authority as one of our strongest community partners, the PFHF developed a five-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that focuses on providing all members of our community with the opportunity to make healthy choices. We are very pleased, therefore, that the Park Authority's proposed Master Plan emphasizes community health and increased equitable access for physical activities.

As you probably know, the Master Plan goal "to improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles" is also one of the CHIP priorities. We strongly endorse the recommendations aimed at achieving this goal, especially the plans for enhanced scholarship programs and for promoting capital investments and recreational programming for areas with the greatest needs.

The ongoing work of the PFHF has benefited greatly from the contributions of the Park Authority and its outstanding staff and volunteers. We hope this productive partnership will continue as the PFHF develops its

next five-year CHIP, and we look forward to partnering with the Park Authority in helping to implement its Master Plan.

Sincerely,



Marlene W. Blum
Co-Chair



Dr. Robert M. Weiler
Co-Chair

cc: Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Sara Baldwin, Acting Executive Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority
Andrea Dorlester, Manager, Park Planning Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority
Samantha Hudson, Senior Planner, Park Planning Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority

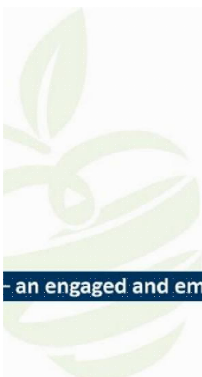
The PFHF's position represents the opinion of the majority of participating groups and individuals, but does not necessarily reflect the position of any particular member organization or individual. -

Submitted by:

Susan Sanow
Partnership Program Coordinator, Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax
Fairfax County Health Department
Susan.Sanow@fairfaxcounty.gov
703/246-8856
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/livehealthy



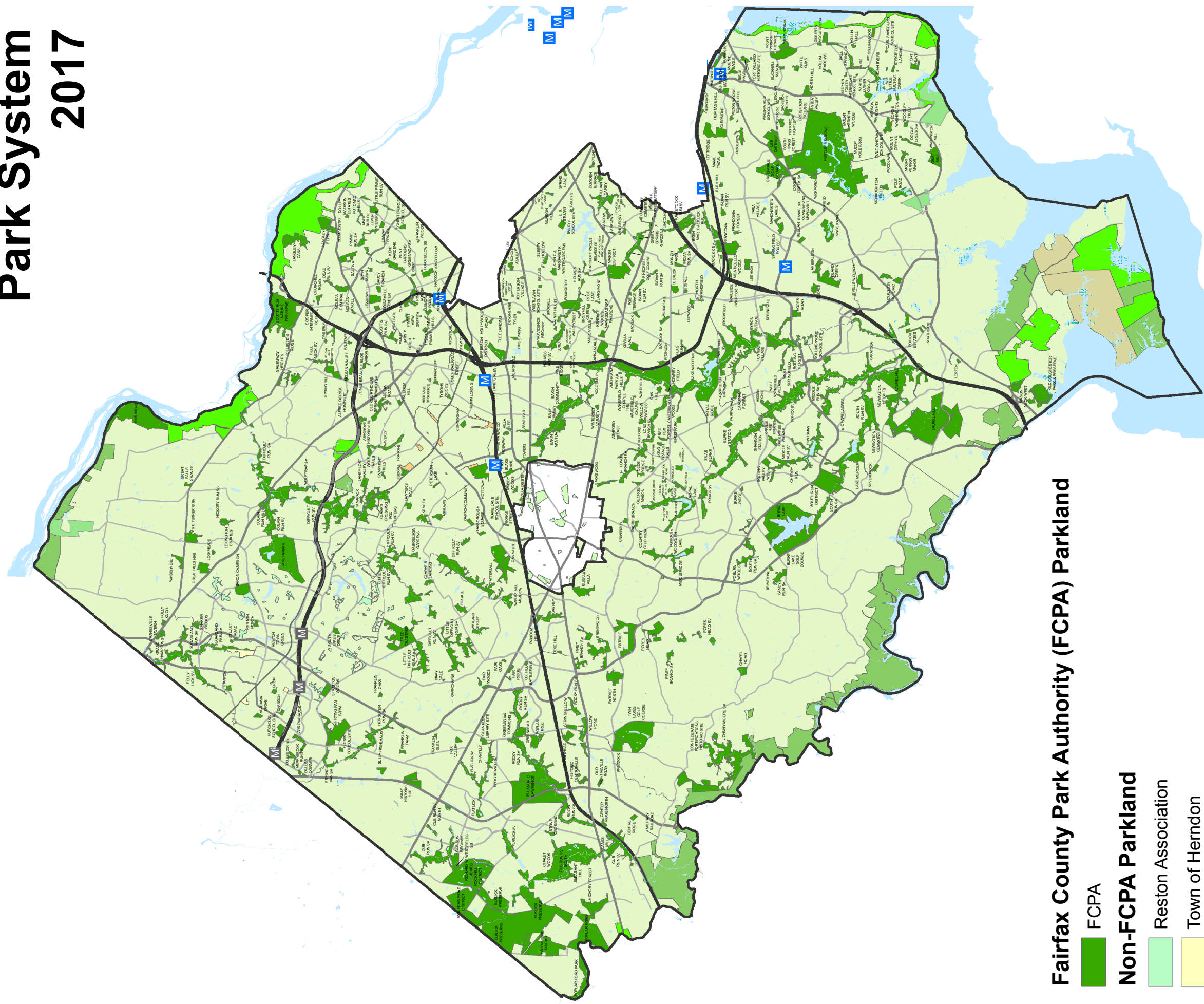
I am in the office part-time, so please be patient when seeking a response.



- an engaged and empowered community working together to achieve optimal health and well-being for all who live, work, and play here.

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Fairfax County, Virginia Park System 2017



Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Parkland

FCPA

Non-FCPA Parkland

Reston Association

Town of Herndon

Town of Vienna

Town of Clifton

City of Fairfax

Northern VA Regional Park Authority

Commonwealth of Virginia

United States of America

Other

M Metro Stop

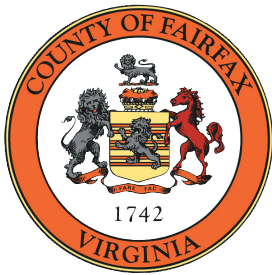
M Future Metro Stop



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Board Action Item for Master Plan Approval

PLACEHOLDER



A Fairfax County, Va. Publication



December 2017

12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Va.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



For accommodations,
contact Inclusion and ADA
Support at 703-324-8563.
TTY: Va Relay 711

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

ACTION – 2

Approval to Advertise Proposed Fee Adjustments and Date of Public Comment Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval to advertise both the proposed fee changes and notification of the January 17, 2018, public comment meeting concerning the proposed fee changes, as presented to and reviewed by the Budget Committee on December 6, 2017.

ACTION – 3

Great Falls Nike Park – Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program Request – Great Falls Lacrosse Association (Dranesville District)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Great Falls Lacrosse Association in the amount of \$20,000 for the installation of a practice wall adjacent to field 4 at Great Falls Nike Park, as presented to and reviewed by the Park Operations Committee on November 15, 2017.

ACTION – 4

Great Falls Nike Park – Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program Request – Great Falls Soccer Club (Dranesville District)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Great Falls Soccer Club in the amount of \$20,000 for the installation of fencing behind the goals for field 7 at Great Falls Nike Park, as presented to and reviewed by the Park Operations Committee on November 15, 2017.

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

ACTION – 5

Clermont Park – Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program Request – Pioneer Baseball League (Lee District)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Pioneer Baseball League in the amount of \$3,840 for the renovation of the bullpens for fields 1 and 4 at Clermont Park, as presented to and reviewed by the Park Operations Committee on November 15, 2017.

ACTION – 6

Scope Approval – Lifecycle Replacement of Pool Filters at Spring Hill and South Run RECenters (Dranesville and Springfield Districts)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the project scope for lifecycle replacement of pool filters at Spring Hill and South Run RECenters, as presented to and reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on December 6, 2017.

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

ACTION – 7

Scope Approval – Playground Replacement and Related Work at Lisle Park and Griffith Park (Dranesville District)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the project scopes for design and installation of replacement playground equipment and related work at Lisle Park and Griffith Park, as presented to and reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on December 6, 2017.

ACTION – 8

Allocation of Bond Premiums and Reallocation of Project Fund Balances for Completed Projects from the 2008 and 2012 Park Bonds

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Acting Executive Director recommends approval of the allocation of bond premiums and reallocation of project fund balances for completed projects from the 2008 and 2012 Park Bonds to fund the following projects:

- Burke Lake Park Road Paving
- Laurel Hill Slaughterhouse Road Drainage Improvements Design Only
- Riverbend Park Additional Parking
- Backlick Park Renovation
- Audrey Moore RECenter Family Changing Rooms and Bleacher Replacements
- Turner Farm Remote Access Telescope Observatory (RATO) Building Structural Renovation
- Fred Crabtree Park Baseball Fields Improvements
- RECenter Lifecycle Elevator Replacements at Providence, Spring Hill, and South Run RECenters

As presented to and reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on December 6, 2017.

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

INFORMATION – 1

FY 2018 First Quarter Budget Review, Fund 10001, General Fund

As presented to and reviewed by the Budget Committee on November 15, 2017.

INFORMATION – 2

FY 2018 First Quarter Budget Review, Fund 80000, Park Authority Revenue and Operating Fund

As presented to and reviewed by the Budget Committee on November 15, 2017.

INFORMATION – 3

Bren Mar Park Master Plan Administrative Update for Public Comment (Mason District)

As presented to and reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on December 6, 2017.

Board Agenda Item
December 13, 2017

CLOSED SESSION

(a) Discussion or consideration of personnel matters pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (1).

(b) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (3).

(c) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (7).