



# GREAT PARKS, GREAT COMMUNITIES

## Strategic Plan

Fiscal Years 2019 - 2023

Implementing the 2017 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

### APPENDIX



**FINAL JUNE 2018**

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# Summary of Public Comments

## Public Comment Summary

The draft plan was released to the public on April 26, 2018. This included formal notification through a press release, as well as direct email notifications to stakeholders including:

- Board of Supervisors
- Leadership of other county agencies and community partners
- Friends groups
- Athletic Council
- Individuals who previously signed up for the master plan email list

Community input was solicited and comments were received through the project website and email to Parkmail. The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling also submitted a formal comment letter.

The public comment period closed on May 25, 2018.

## Comment Overview

Overall, the public comments reinforced the findings from the 2016 Parks Count! Needs Assessment and 2017 Master Plan guiding principles, goals and recommendations. These comprehensive planning efforts laid the groundwork for the draft strategic plan to meet community priorities.

Community input emphasized topics including: support for natural resources and habitat protection, bicycle access to parks, and support for volunteers.

Other comments focused on the importance of fiscal sustainability, inclusion and equity in the park system, and the importance of parks as critical infrastructure for the health and well being of the community and economic competitiveness.

Some public comments were related to operations, rather than the strategic plan. These included concerns about equestrian use of parks. The Park Authority is exploring ways to address these concerns as part of operations.



## Comment Overview

Highlights from the public comments are listed below:

### Support for Volunteers

- Importance for aspects of master plan and strategic plan implementation
- Opportunity to replicate successes of volunteer activities and Park Volunteer Teams
- Scalable with support of funding, outreach and awareness capabilities

### Bicycle Access to Parks

- Health, equity and environmental benefits of bicycling
- Establish an access standard similar to walkability
- Safety and maintenance concerns
- Commuter use and improved mobility
- Connect w/ entire system (FCDOT, etc.)

### Natural Resources and Habitat Protection

- Land acquisition as a tool for improving natural resources and achieving a well-rounded park system, not just preserving "open space"
- Expansion of biodiversity, ecosystem services, restoration efforts
- Importance of passive recreation areas near streams
- Potential for private financial donations for projects of high ecological value
- Cultivation of stewardship
- Integrate natural resources and recreation in the park system to be complementary, mutually-supportive

## PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

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**FAIRFAX ALLIANCE FOR  
BETTER BICYCLING**

FABB  
P. O. Box 3752  
Reston, VA 20195  
[www.fabb-bikes.org](http://www.fabb-bikes.org)

May 11, 2018

To: [Samantha Hudson](#):

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, (FABB), is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization with 3,000 members promoting safe and better bicycling in Fairfax County. Thank you for requesting comments on the [Fairfax County Park Authority Draft FY19-23 Strategic Plan](#). We are greatly encouraged to see the park authority has included the Master Plan Goal, "Improve access and opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles".

The recent Park Authority needs assessments have shown how important trails are and the popularity of bicycling as active outdoor recreation. Residents have said they want improved connections to parks, not just through improved trails, but also through additional and better maintained bicycle facilities.

Unfortunately, there is no mention of bicycling in the draft strategic plan. Our concern can be easily eliminated by adding "and bikeable " whenever walkable is mentioned. FABB encourages the Park Authority to add a strategic objective to increase bikeable access to park facilities and provide the associated metric similar to the walkable access objective already included. As an example, the Fairfax County Bicycle Map suggests it would take 12 minutes to bike 2 miles. Many residents own bicycles and would use them to access parks and for short trips if it were safer to do so. Better park bicycle facilities will help achieve a healthy and active lifestyle for county residents from ages 8 to 80.

As the Park Authority moves forward in developing the steps to implement the strategic objectives, FABB recommends:

- Better trail maintenance and enhancements of Park Authority trails;

- Improving the visibility and safety of trail bollards to comply with established safety standards;
- Implementing trail connections in county parks as previously included in the October 2014 Fairfax County Master Bicycle Plan; and
- Use the recently adopted Bicycle Parking Guidelines, in consultation with Bicycle Program Staff, when purchasing and placing bike racks of park property.

FABB fully supports the action step calling on the Park Authority Board and the Board of Supervisors to pass resolutions, establish policies, and secure budgets to dedicate resources in meeting the national walkability standards. Expanding the action step to include bicycling will also be helpful in implementing the Counties Bicycle Master Plan.

In 2017, the League of American Bicyclists designated Fairfax County as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community. Implementing the above recommendations would serve to expand that success, greatly enhance bicycling in the parks and continue growing Fairfax County into an even more bicycle-friendly community.

Sincerely,



[Jeffrey Anderson](#)  
President - Board of Directors

CC:  
FABB Board of Directors  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
Fairfax County Park Authority Board

# Board Action Item for Strategic Plan Approval

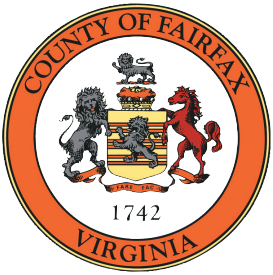
PLACEHOLDER PENDING PAB APPROVAL.





# Parks and Recreation System Master Plan

PLACEHOLDER FOR 2017 PARKS AND  
RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN  
AND MASTER PLAN APPENDIX.



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12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Va.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)



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

