



# Policy Plan Amendment Outreach Plan

A Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development Document  
April 2024



## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

In December 2022, the Board authorized a Comprehensive Plan amendment to holistically update the Countywide Policy Plan for the first time since its' establishment in 1990.

The goals of a complete Policy Plan Update are to:

- review, update, and streamline existing Policy Plan elements;
- add new Policy Plan elements as needed; and
- ensure the Policy Plan is in alignment with the Countywide Strategic Plan, the One Fairfax Policy, and other recently adopted policies and initiatives.

The Policy Plan contains goals, objectives, and policies relating to eleven functional elements: Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Environment, Economic Development, Heritage Resources, Public Facilities, Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Revitalization, and Visual and Performing Arts. The Policy Plan guides planning and development activities by describing future development patterns in Fairfax County and protecting natural and cultural resources. The Policy Plan update will help inform future planning and development decisions throughout the county.

The project area includes all of Fairfax County and all who live and work in the county, and they are encouraged to participate in the project's community engagement opportunities. The Policy Plan Update is a multi-year, multi-phase process, with Phase 1 focusing on the topics of the Preface, Land Use, Transportation, Environment, Parks and Recreation, Human Services, Community Health, and Equity. Public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are not yet scheduled.

## **OUTREACH PROCESS**

The Policy Plan will utilize the County's Inclusive Community Engagement framework to inform the outreach process and build upon previous engagement efforts associated with the Countywide Strategic Plan, Resilient Fairfax, and other similar initiatives. Staff presented this outreach plan to the Planning Commission at meetings in May and April of 2024. This framework has four levels – or phases – of engagement: understand, contribute, collaborate, and decide. The goals of the outreach process are as follows: strive to reach as many community members as possible; create clear messages; employ new tools and techniques; provide engagement opportunities in multiple formats; and maximize existing county resources. This outreach will be successful based on meeting these goals.

The first phase of outreach (understand) consists of informational outreach with the community to include kick-off meetings, surveys, and informational stands and pop-ups at community events in May and June 2024. Key messages for this phase will focus on general project details, to include an overview of the Comprehensive Plan and Policy Plan and how it impacts development in the county. We will also ask people what they enjoy about their community and what could be improved, as well as their vision for the future of Fairfax. Staff will solicit input during this phase and compile this feedback, by theme, in a document to be posted to the project website and provided to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and Planning Commission (PC) to help inform future policy considerations.

The second phase (contribute) includes focused topic outreach beginning in June 2024 and running through December 2024. Informing this phase are the internal policy audit staff completed earlier in the year, additional staff and consultant research, and feedback received in phase one. In this phase, staff will jointly collaborate with county agencies; Boards Authorities and Commissions (BACs); stakeholder groups; community members; industry; and other governmental agencies on potential policy

considerations. Meeting as groups by topic will provide a variety of perspectives and result in more comprehensive policy recommendations. A full listing of groups for this phase of outreach is included later in this report. Key messages for this phase will focus on specific topics of interest; research considerations that are informed by our first phase of outreach; and initial conversations about various policy considerations. Like the first phase, staff will prepare a document which incorporates all feedback received during this outreach phase and provide this to the Board, PC and post it on the project website. Finally, staff anticipates discussing this feedback and potential policy considerations with the PC and Board at committee meetings beginning in September 2024 and continuing through December 2024.

The third phase (collaborate) will consist of the publication of a community feedback report highlighting the feedback received during the first two phases of outreach and describing actions, if any, taken in response by staff. This phase will also include draft Plan text for consideration, based on the community feedback report and first two phases of outreach. Staff will meet with the Board, PC, and community to discuss this report and draft Plan text in advance of preparing a staff report. Key messages for this phase will focus on the feedback report and draft Plan text, ensuring we heard the community's feedback clearly, and responding to opportunities to include additional or missing text. Staff anticipates this phase to begin in January 2025 and conclude in May 2025.

The final phase of outreach (decide) is the public hearing process which will include publication of a staff report with draft Plan text, and public hearings where feedback or public comment on the staff report and final policy recommendations are welcome. Staff will publish this staff report five (5) weeks prior to the Planning Commission public hearing, per standard division process. Key messages include staff's recommendations based on community feedback and staff analysis. Staff anticipates this phase to begin in June 2025 and conclude in the fall of 2025.

Outreach materials developed for each phase of the process will include, but is not limited to, flyers, surveys, social media and web postings, video development, advertisements, and email distributions. These materials will also be shared on the project webpage. Materials specific to each phase will be released as the phase is approaching.

To understand more about planning in Fairfax County and how the Plan Amendment process works, the Department of Planning and Development's Planning Division worked with a consultant to develop a series of Planning 101 videos, accessed [here](#). These videos are helpful background information for those that are interested in learning more about the planning process ahead of the outreach kick-off planned for May 2024.

## **IDENTIFIED OUTREACH GROUPS**

Below is a list of groups staff identified for coordination throughout this project. This listing is not intended to exclude any interested group and groups will be added as they are identified. Staff is developing a mechanism through our web presence allowing any group to request information or a smaller, focused, meeting. Additionally, a central email address is established for this project to receive feedback and information requests: [PlanForwardFFX@PublicInput.com](mailto:PlanForwardFFX@PublicInput.com). Staff and the groups listed below will discuss the appropriate level of engagement through either small meetings, group presentations, or other mechanism determined jointly by staff and the group.



### County Agencies

- Board of Supervisors
- Department of Cable and Consumer Services
- Department of Code Compliance
- Department of Family Services
- Department of Management and Budget
- Department of Planning and Development
- Department of Procurement and Materials Management
- Department of Vehicle Services
- Department of Economic Initiatives
- Department of Emergency Management and Security
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Information Technology
- Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
- Department of Public Affairs
- Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
- Facilities Management Department
- Fairfax Community Services Board(s)
- Fairfax County Department of Transportation
- Fairfax County Public Library
- Fairfax County Park Authority
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Fire and Rescue Department
- Health Department
- Land Development Services
- Office of the County Attorney
- Office of the County Executive
- Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
- Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs
- Planning Commission
- Police Department

### Governmental Organizations

- Amtrak
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Fort Belvoir
- George Mason University VA Climate Center
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District
- Local Universities
- MWAA
- MWCOG
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments
- National Park Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Upper Occoquan Service Authority
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Department of Conservation Resources
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Virginia Railway Express
- WMATA

### Industry

- American Planning Association
- Columbia Gas of Northern Virginia
- Cox
- Dominion Energy
- Fairfax Water
- Home Innovation Research Labs
- INOVA
- Land Use Attorney Working Group
- NVBIA/NAIOP
- Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative
- Smart Growth America
- Tysons Community Alliance
- United States Green Building Council
- Urban Land Institute
- Verizon
- Viridiant
- Washington Gas

### Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs)

- Advisory Social Services Board
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board
- Airports Advisory Committee
- Alcohol Safety Action Program Local Policy Board
- Athletic Council
- Burgundy Village Community Center Operations Board
- Childcare Advisory Council
- Commission for Women
- Commission on Aging
- Community Action Advisory Board
- Community Services Board
- Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)
- Fairfax Area Commission on Aging
- Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
- Fairfax Community Long Term Care Coordinating Council
- Healthcare Advisory Board
- Human Services Council
- Long Term Care Coordinating Council
- McLean Community Center Governing Board
- Mount Vernon District Parks Public Input Committee
- Park Authority Board
- Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- Reston Community Center Board
- Southgate Community Center Advisory Council
- Trails, Sidewalks, and Bikeways Committee
- Transportation Advisory Commission
- Tree Commission
- Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority
- Water Authority
- Wetlands Board
- Young Adults Advisory Council
- Youth Basketball Council Advisory

### Organizations

- 350 Fairfax
- Alice Ferguson Foundation
- Baileys Crossroads Seven Corners Revitalization Corp (now Crossroads & Corners Coalition)
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- Clean Fairfax
- Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Community Foundation of Northern Virginia
- DCA South-of-Airport Committee
- Earth Sangha
- EcoLatinos
- Fairfax Area Chambers of Commerce
- Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling
- Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

- Fairfax County Restoration Project
- Fairfax Employees for Environmental Excellence
- Fairfax Families for Safe Streets
- Fairfax Food Council
- Fairfax Healthy Communities
- Fairfax ReLeaf
- Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Friends of Accotink Creek
- Friends of Dyke Marsh
- Healthy Environment & Active Living Team
- Great Falls Citizens Association
- Green Muslims
- Greener Mason Advisory Council
- League of Women Voters
- Master Naturalists
- McLean Citizens Association
- Mid-Atlantic Off-road Enthusiasts
- Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association
- Multicultural Advisory Council
- Nature Forward
- NAACP
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
- Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax
- Plant NOVA Natives
- Potomac Conservancy
- Reston Association
- Resilient Virginia
- Sierra Club
- South County Federation
- Southeast Fairfax Development Corp
- The Clifton Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tree of Life Community
- Virginia Master Naturalists
- Virginia Native Plant Society
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Virginia Public Health Association
- Washington Area Bicycle Association
- YIMBYs

**Other Jurisdictions**

- Arlington County
- City of Alexandria
- City of Fairfax
- City of Falls Church
- Loudoun County
- Montgomery County
- Town of Herndon
- Town of Vienna
- Town of Clifton
- Prince William County
- Washington, DC

**Land Use Groups**

- Braddock District Land Use Committee
- Dranesville District Land Use Committee
- Franconia District Land Use Committee
- Hunter Mill District Land Use Committee
- Mason District Land Use Committee
- Mount Vernon District Land Use Committee
- Springfield District Land Use Committee
- Sully District Land Use Committee