



Willard Sherwood Health and Community Center

# Feedback Summary

**The City of Fairfax and Fairfax County have joined together on a unique project to redevelop the Willard Health Center site.**

A new facility will be built in its place, offering the same services provided there today, plus child care. It will include recreation, children's programs, and senior programs from the Green Acres Center. The project is an opportunity to enhance and connect the space with the Sherwood Center. It will enable more parking and outdoor features and safer, smoother traffic flow in, out, and through the campus. The new building will seek LEED Gold certification, which means lower energy and water use, with all electric building systems and equipment. This full campus redesign will provide area residents with one destination for health services, wellness, fitness, children's programs, recreation and arts.



## Gathering Input

An opportunity like this to rebuild an important community amenity is quite rare, and we wanted to make sure residents of the area and potential users of the new facilities had opportunities to provide their input into the new design. This document shares major themes of what we heard.

### January 26 Virtual (Zoom) Open House

76 Attendees

### January 29 Virtual (Zoom) Open House

55 Attendees

### February 23 In-person Open House

21 Attendees

**Online Survey at [engagefairfax.gov](https://engagefairfax.gov), open January 17 through February 28, received 1,483 visitors, 465 comments and questions.**

### Nine community group meetings hosted with:

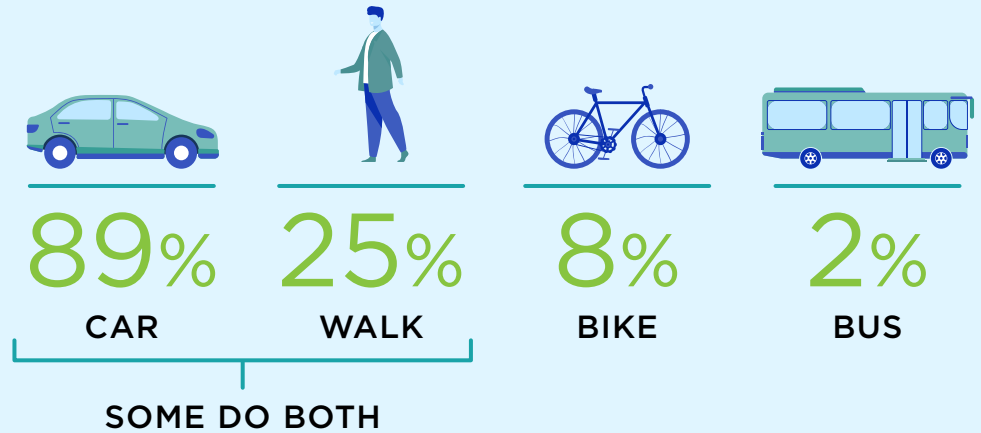
- Commission on the Arts
- Parks and Rec Advisory Board
- Fairfax Police Youth Club
- Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
- Senior Center
- Nearby Churches and Schools
- Board of Architectural Review
- Neighborhood Associations
- Environmental Sustainability Committee



# What We Heard

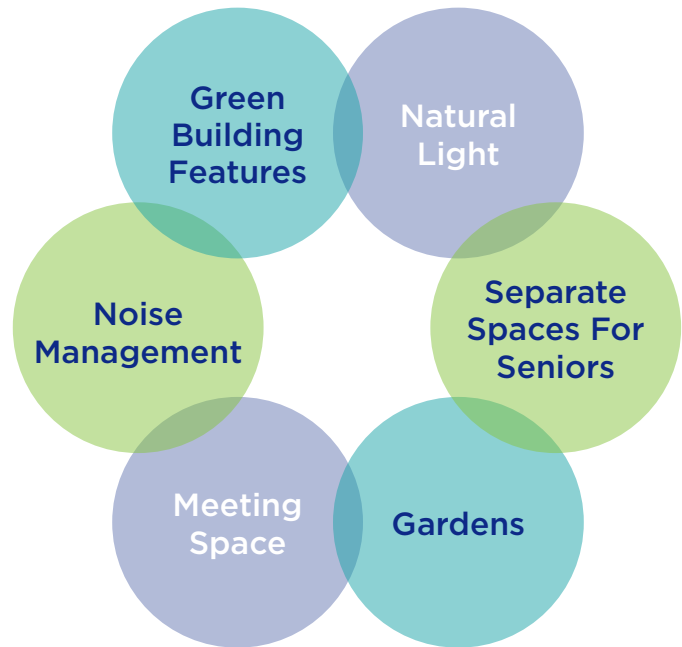
## How Will You Get There?

We asked survey respondents when they go to this campus, how do they usually travel there.



## What's MOST Important?

When asked to rank a number of features from most important to least, the following features were ranked most important by most survey respondents.



## Safety Concerns

- Outdoor lighting for walkers, especially important on short winter days
- Make Health Clinic easy to access for mothers with young children
- Separate entrances for kids and visitors for healthcare
- Wall railings
- Non slippery floors when wet on snowy or rainy days



# Building Amenities



## Children

- More space to meet childcare needs
- A center for teens/youth, much like the Senior Center at Green Acres
- Preschool facility not at Sherwood Center
- Indoor play area for small children



## Recreation and Exercise

- Kiosks in waiting room to register
- Activities for all abilities
- Mirrors and bars
- Rock wall for climbing
- Full-sized gym with lines for multiple sports
- Elevated track



## Food

- A working kitchen
- Vending machines
- Fillable water bottle stations
- Coffee bar



## Seniors

- Pickleball courts (inside and out)
- Bocce
- Game room
- A library



## Building Design

- Cheery colors
- Non-slip floors
- Timeless, classical design
- Large reception area
- Natural light
- Community meeting rooms



## Arts

- Gallery space to display art
- Ample space for performance



## Outdoor Features

- Covered entrance and sidewalks
- Paved, wide sidewalks and handrails where necessary
- Accessibility for all
- Amphitheatre seating
- Public art installation
- Shade trees, great landscaping, native flowers
- Gathering spaces with covered seating
- Fire pit
- Green roof or planting on roof would be great
- Maximize the role that trees play in terms of energy, stormwater, and wildlife in the area
- Community garden space



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## Indoor Features

- Proper lighting and audio for rooms
- Well-lit hallways
- Noise control
- Flexible room sizes
- Comfortable gathering spaces
- Rooftop space for events
- Elevators
- Privacy for health center guests
- Lots of bathrooms and separate for adults and children
- Ample storage
- Good airflow and air quality
- Good temperature controls for comfort
- Internet/Connectivity
- Easy to clean
- Recycling bins and attractive trash bins
- Smart wayfinding/multi-lingual signage, including braille

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## Traffic/Parking Concerns

- Consider building a foot bridge over Old Lee
- Minimize traffic (and school traffic) on Old Lee Highway
- Flashing lights at crosswalks
- Dedicated pedestrian lane, two-way bike lane
- Add a Circulator bus system
- Separate vehicle and pedestrian paths, no crossing
- Consider underground, indoor, covered, well-lit parking
- Bike racks
- Wide parking spaces for seniors
- Permeable parking surfaces
- Charging stations for electric vehicles

## Policy Suggestions

- Key cards on phones instead of a fob or card
- Cameras everywhere. External surveillance
- Defibrillators and first aid supplies
- Secure lockdown capability
- 'Call for Help' buttons throughout the facility
- Lock doors after a certain hour
- Low/no cost room rentals
- Lengthen the crosswalk light time
- Affordability all levels
- City classes or seminars open to City residents
- Weekday lunch service
- Use American Rescue Plan Act funding for the art
- Be open longer hours
- Consider membership fees for County residents and City residents
- Consider a linkage between County rec centers and this center

## Construction Suggestions

- LEED Certification. Use of sustainable practices
- Retain the beautiful character that drew people here in the first place
- Protect Van Dyck Park through construction
- Minimize tree removal. Maximize open space
- Keep the site neat and tidy through construction
- Keep the park open. It is important to the community especially children
- Restrict work to weekdays and business hours
- Minimize disturbance to wildlife
- Ensure access to restrooms (during construction) at Van Dyck Park
- Assure building design meets needs beyond 2023
- Limit contractor deliveries and truck queueing to outside rush-hour

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## Programming Ideas

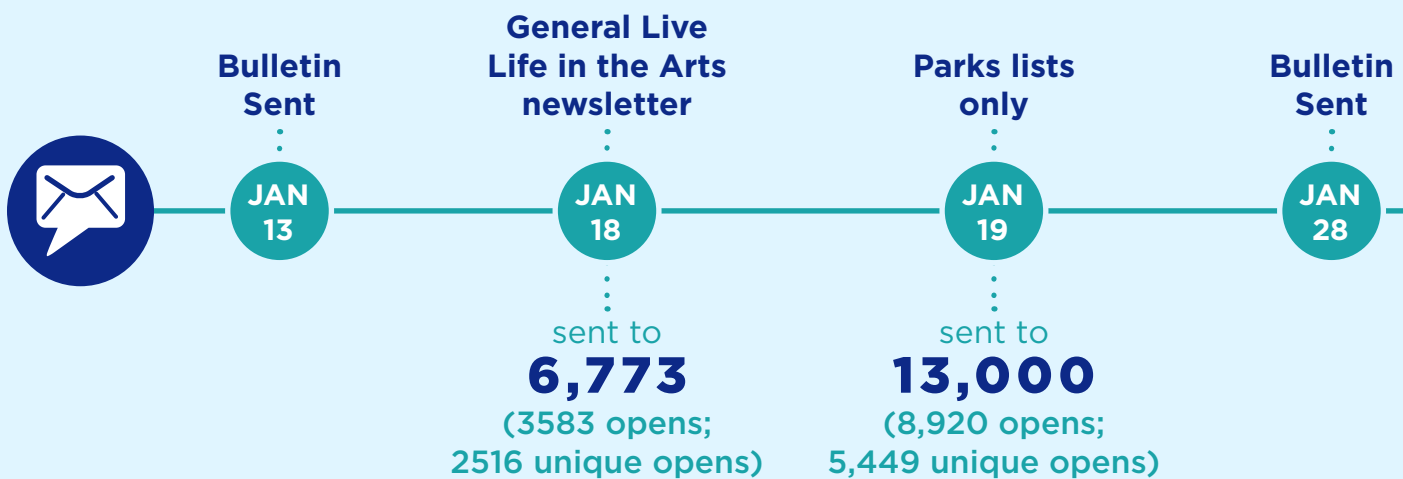
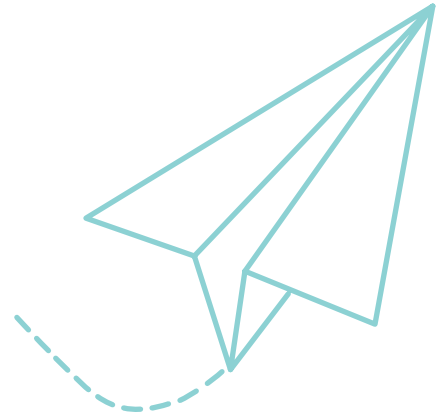
- Interpretation services
- After care and before care, drop-in care, including teacher work days and summers
- Activities for older kids, teens, all generations of City residents
- Art classes for seniors
- Dedicated learning, rehearsing, and performing spaces
- Multicultural programming
- Availability of immunizations especially for students
- Create a walking tour of the city
- Nutrition classes
- Technology classes for seniors: how to do Facebook, Tweets, iPhone, health apps
- Bus service stops for the health center
- Schedule concurrent events with parking in mind
- Shuttle from Green Acres to new location
- Free health care.
- Vaccination clinics



# How We Promoted

We reached City and County residents over a 6-week period a variety of ways:

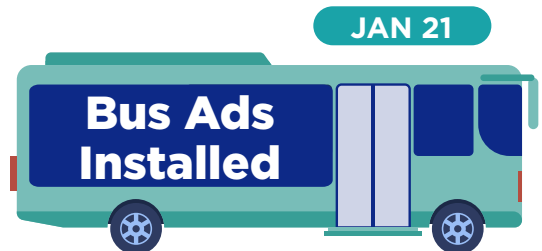
- 13 Facebook posts reached 4042 people
- 11 Twitter posts reached > 1000 people
- 10 Videos with >1,500 views
- 14 Mass emails sent to >40,000 people
- Bus ads and fliers distributed



Meeting flyers posted at various locations around Fairfax City:

Flyers posted at **Sherwood, Green Acres, & City Hall Parks, plus...**

- **Indian Bazaar grocery**
- **Americana grocery**
- **Kokee Tea**
- **Duck Donuts**
- **Potbelly restaurant**
- **Panera restaurant**
- **Starbucks**
- **Ace Hardware**
- **West Wood Oaks Apartments**
- **Layton Hall Apartments**
- **City of Fairfax Regional Library**



**Both the County and the City posted websites dedicated to the project.**

**Meetings calendar & Spotlight**

(Carousel on City of Fairfax home page)





Emails, fliers, and invitations to schedule presentations sent to:

- **FACETS Non Profit**
- **Britepaths Non Profit**
- **Salvation Army**
- **The Arc of Northern Virginia**
- **Mount Calvary Baptist Church**
- **The House of Wood Non-Profit**

The Fairfax County Health Department also did the following:

- **Shared fliers with clients**
- **Made posts to social media**
- **Promoted on digital displays at offices**



Materials were translated into Spanish and fliers mentioned the project and offered translation and interpretation of information in **six languages**.



OPA Newsletter article



**JAN 14**

promotional video

**328**  
impressions



**JAN 19**

Email blast to:

**Members of City Boards and Commissions and City Civic Associations**

Direct email to:

**2,300 Senior Center Members**

## Join Us

Now that we've received your initial thoughts, please join us soon to review and provide input on some preliminary design alternatives. The next opportunities to provide input will be posted at: [fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/willard-sherwood-health-community-center](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/willard-sherwood-health-community-center).

### For More Information

To learn more about the project, visit:

[fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/willard-sherwood-health-community-center](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/willard-sherwood-health-community-center)

[engage.fairfaxva.gov/willard-sherwood-health-and-community-center](https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/willard-sherwood-health-and-community-center)

If your questions aren't answered at either website, email the project team at [willard-sherwoodproject@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:willard-sherwoodproject@fairfaxcounty.gov)