



**Park and Recreation Commission**  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414  
Arlington, Virginia 22201



February 4, 2022

Honorable Katie Cristol  
Chair, Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Plan of Action for 2022

Dear Chair Cristol,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) appreciates the opportunity to update the County Board on the commission's work plan for 2022, including our priority areas and ongoing objectives:

**Participate in park, public space and recreation facilities planning processes:** PRC members will continue to participate in design, park renovation, and park restoration processes. We will discuss proposals for park name changes and memorial benches and plaques, as necessary, while participating in ongoing discussions and provide advice concerning revisions to the county policies. In an effort to educate our commissioners and, improve our ability to both evaluate and support Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the commission will continue to schedule presentations from staff on parks and recreation topics during our monthly meetings.

**Assist DPR with Planning, Resourcing, Budgeting, the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC), Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Land Acquisition:** The commission notes that an important responsibility is to offer the board advice on DPR program planning and budgeting. We will continue to review and provide suggestions on the department's proposed budget for FY 2023. Understanding the continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and the heightened requirements for other county priorities, the commission supports striking a balance between natural resource preservation and sports/recreation programs. As part of the PSMP- IAC, we will continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2019 PSMP paying special attention to potential cooperation and enhancement of partnerships with NOVA Parks and National Parks Service whose lands comprise a large amount of open public space in Arlington. Finally, we will review the PSMP to offer advice on coordinating its directives with CIP priorities, with an emphasis on the need for additional land acquisition, coordinated storm water/open space planning, and the fulfillment of longstanding master park planning goals. The commission will pursue its ongoing interest in promoting additional land acquisition for parks, recreation, and open, public space. We look

forward to the county's application of the specific land acquisition guidelines, ideas and strategies incorporated in the PSMP.

**Apply Design Guidelines, Needs Assessment and Biophilic Principles to County and Private Open Space Projects:** The commission's ongoing participation in the Site Plan Review, Public Facility Review and other county planning processes ensures that each new development is part of a collective whole to address area parks, public space and recreation needs. The urban design guidelines included in the PSMP should assist in short term development and long term planning as we consider anticipated population increases and demographic changes in our community. We will continue to work with county staff, developers, and other commissions to apply biophilic principles, as represented by the county's April 2020 joining of the Biophilic Cities Network, in public and private planning and design processes. PRC members will continue active representation on the Public Facilities Review (Career Center) and Site Plan Review Committees (SPRC). Major PRC themes will involve the attainment of suitable community benefits in the form of cash contributions, land donations, or development of publicly accessible private parks and plazas.

**Participate in Community Involvement and Engagement:** The commission will continue to take an active role in responding to community concerns involving park and recreation center planning, usage, and maintenance opportunities. We will listen to residents and confer with DPR staff to get constituent issues raised. We also look forward to enhanced discussions with civic groups, sports organizations, and other community groups on issues of mutual interest.

**Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest:** PRC will continue to seek opportunities to work on issues of mutual interest with other commissions including the Sports, Forestry and Natural Resources, Planning, Natural Resources Joint Advisory, Climate Change, Energy and Environment, Arts, Joint Facilities, the Pedestrian Advisory, the Bicycle Advisory, and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committees. Of focus in 2022, the PRC will continue its participation and direct engagement in the development of the Forestry and Natural Resources Management Plan (FNRMP) as it will become a component of the overall Public Spaces Master Plan.

**Participate in the Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP), Pen Place and other area and sector planning processes:** As the Pentagon City Planning Study continues with phase four, the commission will continue to provide comments to staff and letters to the board highlighting progress and areas for additional investigation. The commission looks forward to working on the long-term goals outlined in the plan in 2022 and the coming years. The commission will maintain our role on the Pen Place SPRC and kick off the Park Master Plan process for this crucial community project. Building off the work of the Pentagon City PDSP, the commission is committed to adding the perspectives of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to ensure that this public/ private open space project reflects the character of Arlington and the needs of our neighbors.

**Adjudicate the Bill Thomas Award:** We continue to seek out and honor citizen volunteers who make meaningful contributions to our parks and public spaces. We appreciate having this opportunity to share our 2022 work plan with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shruti Kупpa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shruti Kупpa  
Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board  
Members, Planning Commission  
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager  
Jane Rudolph, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Claude Williamson, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development