



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



January 12, 2023

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Annual Report for 2022

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) is pleased to submit the 2022 annual report to the County Board. In our letter on January 2022, we outlined several priority areas and ongoing objectives and report the following progress on each of these:

Participated in park, public space and recreation facilities planning processes: PRC members participated in design, park renovation, and park restoration processes across Arlington. In 2022, the commission wrote a letter of support on the Update to Standard Site Plan Conditions to support the SPRC and LPRC process. We also wrote letters with our comments on the PenPlace 4.1 Site Plan, Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines, Clarendon Sector Plan Update - 10th Street Park, and the Crystal Plaza 5 Site Plan Project.

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 engaged the County Board Office on the FY 2023 Budget through discussions with staff and letters. We also provided extensive comments on the Proposed, Fiscal Year 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan. Through our participation in the PSMP-IAC, we gave guidance on the implementation of the 2019 PSMP and will continue to meet quarterly with staff and public on the plan's progress.

Apply Design Guidelines, Needs Assessment and Biophilic Principles to County and Private Open Space Projects: In 2022, we further invested in our commitment to Biophilic Principles by continuing commissioner education through presentations. At SPRCs, commissioners focused comments at SPRCs and LPRCs on 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 took an active role in responding to community concerns involving park and recreation center planning, usage, and maintenance opportunities.

Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest: In 2022, the PRC continued its participation and direct engagement in the development of the Forestry and Natural Resources Management Plan (FNRP).

Participate in the Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP), Pen Place and other area and sector planning processes: The Parks and Recreation Commission remains focused on providing input to the rapid development in South Arlington including the Pentagon City PDSP and the Pen Place Site Plan. In 2022, commissioners wrote a letter to the board on the Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines for the PenPlace 4.1 Site Plan.

Adjudicated the Bill Thomas Award: The commission selected The Bon Air Park Extension Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Leaders (Joe Kelly, Carolyn Vincent, Dina Lehmann, Karen Smith, and Tom Golojuch) as the 2021 winners of the Bill Thomas Award.

Attached is a summary of accomplishments in 2022 where the commission participated with the community, deliberated, produced letters, or provided testimony. PRC members appreciate the chance to serve, while working with the Board, staff, fellow residents, and other members of the community. We are grateful for the many talented and dedicated staff with whom we work, both within the Department of Parks and Recreation and in other county departments.

Sincerely,



Shruti Kuppa
Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING PROCESSES

- Alcova Heights Park Renovations

PARTICIPATION IN WORK GROUPS, TASK FORCES AND OTHER COMMISSIONS

- Sports Commission
- Forestry & Natural Resources Commission
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council
- Plan Lee Highway Working Group
- PSMP Implementation Advisory Committee
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Senior Adult Advisory Committee
- Arlington Public Schools
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration
- Public Facilities Review Committee
- Vision Zero Action Plan Updates

SITE PLAN/LRPC REVIEW PROCESSES

- 2500 Wilson Boulevard Special GLUP
- Ballston Holiday Inn
- Bingham Center/Silver Diner Site
- Crystal City Building Heights Study
- Crystal Plaza 5
- Fort Henry Gardens
- Joyce Motors Site – 10th and Irving
- Macy's
- Melwood Property (750 23rd Street South) Special GLUP Study
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update
- PenPlace 4.1 Site Plan, Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines

PARK NAMING/PLAQUE REVIEW

- Park Naming of the Metropolitan Park and PenPlace Public Space Areas (Met Park & Pen Place)
- Park Naming for the Ballston Beaver Pond Area (Ballston Wetland Park)
- Park Naming for New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive (Arlington Junction Park)



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RE: Park and Recreation Commission 2023 Work Plan

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) appreciates the opportunity to update the County Board on the commission's work plan for 2023, 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), 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 2024. As in years past, 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.

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 2023 work plan with you.

Sincerely,



Shruti Kuppa
Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation