



**ARLINGTON COUNTY  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414  
Arlington, Virginia 22201



December 20, 2021

Matt de Ferranti, Chair  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Annual Report for CY 2021

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) is pleased to submit this calendar year 2021 annual report to the County Board. In our letter of January 2021, we outlined several priority areas and ongoing objectives and report the following progress on each of these:

**Implementation of Public Spaces Master Plan Directives:** PRC members co-chaired and served on the PSMP Implementation Committee working group meetings, assisting in continued analysis and discussions on evaluation of Casual Use spaces, Field Utilization, updates of the Forestry and Natural Resources Master Plan, updates of county code regulations involving park and public facility properties, and discussions of mountain bike facilities vs. natural resource impacts.

**Forestry and Natural Resources Plan:** PRC members continued to participate in discussions of planning and analysis for the plan updates. We joined with the Natural Resources and Forestry Commission and the Natural Resource Joint Advisory Committee in conducting presentations and discussions on the impact of deer in Arlington parks.

**DPR Planning, Resources, and Budget:** In 2021 the commission provided input and advice on the county's Park and Recreation budget—through discussions with DPR staff and letters to the County Board. On the budget, our emphasis once again focused on the need to preserve natural resources, focusing on repair and upkeep in our parks. On the capital improvement process, we focused on the need for additional land acquisition and the need for coordinated storm water/open space planning.

**Field Fees:** PRC members helped lead deliberations and drafting in the DPR working group to evaluate the source and disposition of fees collected from field-using sports participants.

**Participate in park, public space and recreation facilities planning processes:** The commission participated in discussions and provided design ideas for the New Park at South Eads and views on the location of a replacement bridge at Lubber Run Park. We also engaged with the public and DPR in discussions concerning the uses, programming, and improvements at Virginia Highlands Park.

**Land Acquisition:** The commission continued to pursue its ongoing interest in promoting additional land acquisition for recreation and public spaces through support of the principles and land target listings provided by the new PSMP. We hosted county staff, produced a letter and testimony in support of public space possibilities at the Lothrop-Febrey property on Wilson Boulevard. We also continued to advocate with the County Board for park land acquisition funding within the CIP.

**Site Plan and other Planning Processes:** Several PRC members participated in planning commission-sponsored meetings to offer input on the accessible public space aspects of private and public building projects. These included SPRCs, PFRCs, Special GLUP, and PDSP processes. A major emphasis has been to stress the importance of private sector contributions for public space design and development. Our approach has been to 1) engage in early discussions with staff, planning and other commissioners, and affected neighbors 2) provide oral comments at public meetings, 3) provide written comments, including letters to the County Board, and 4) testify at Planning Commission and County Board meetings. Attached are a list of involved projects.

**Biophilic Arlington:** PRC members continued support and advice in the county's efforts to incorporate biophilic principles in the planning and development of our public and privately-own spaces. We have continued to help coordinate education and awareness programs for staff, developers, and the public. But our major efforts have involved engagement with county staff and other SPRC and PFRC participants as project plans and designs are being formulated.

**Apply Design Guidelines, Standards, and Needs Assessment Process for Privately Owned Public Spaces:** PSMP guidelines, including references to biophilic principles continue to be used by the commission during SPRC and other planning discussions.

The following are additional areas of accomplishment:

**Participate in area and sector planning processes:** PRC members participated in area and sector plan groups such as the Career Center Working Group, the Plan Langston Boulevard (Lee Highway) initiative, the Pentagon City Study, the Clarendon Sector Plan Update, the Crystal City Building Heights Study, the Pershing Drive Special GLUP, and the Courthouse West Special GLUP. At these fora we provided discussion and input on the adequacy and design of proposed public spaces.

**Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest:** PRC members served as liaisons to ensure close working relationships on issues of mutual interest with other commissions such as Sports, Planning (SPRC and LRPC), Forestry and Natural Resources, Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group, the Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission, the Senior Adult Advisory Committee, the Crystal City Citizens Review Council, and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Members regularly attended other commission's meetings and provided reports that were used in PRC discussions. We provided formal support for the efforts of the Arts Commission (Public Art Master Plan) and the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Vision Zero Plan).

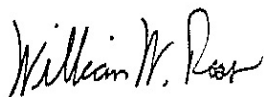
**Community Involvement and Engagement:** Commission members carried out discussions with several community and neighborhood groups on areas of mutual interest. These efforts included consultation with the 22202 Working Group, the Crystal City Civic Association (to promote enhanced open space and pedestrian connectivity), and the Ballston Virginia Square Civic Association.

**The Bill Thomas Award:** The commission selected Glenn Tobin as the 2020 winner of the Bill Thomas Award in honor of his in supporting Arlington parks.

**Park Naming/Renaming Review/Memorial Plaques:** The commission provided comments on proposed changes to the county's procedures for naming/renaming facilities and participated in discussions on a revamp of facility naming policies with county staff. We also conducted hearings on proposals for plaques to honor Erik Gutshall and Larry Finch in county parks.

Attached is a summary of accomplishments in 2021 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,



William Ross, Chair  
Park and Recreation Commission

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

# **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING PROCESSES**

- New Park S. Eads St./Army-Navy Drive Park – Park Planning
- Lubber Run Bridge Replacement

## **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
- Climate Change, Energy, Environment Committee
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Senior Adult Advisory Committee

## **SITE PLAN/LRPC REVIEW PROCESSES**

- Landmark Block – Courthouse
- Pentagon City – PDSP
- RCA Building
- Crystal City Plaza
- Potomac Yard Landbay C - East
- Pershing Drive Special GLUP Study
- Pen Place LRPC/SPRC
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update
- Crystal City Heights Study
- The Crossing at Clarendon
- Crystal City Water Park
- Marbella Apartments

## **PUBLIC FACILITIES REVIEW PROCESSES**

- Career Center

## **PARK NAMING/PLAQUE REVIEW**

- County facility naming policy
- Erik Gutshall
- Larry Finch

## **BILL THOMAS SERVICE AWARD**

- Glenn Tobin

## **ADDITIONAL PRC MEETING PRESENTATIONS**

- DPR Budget and CIP Plans
- Chief Equity Officer
- Community Energy Plan Implementation
- Park Hardscaping and Construction Considerations
- Policy Guidance on Parklets
- Livability 22202 Open Space
- Deer Survey
- Arlington Boathouse
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
- Long Bridge Aquatics Center Tour