

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 27th, 2025

[Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of January 23rd, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- Approval of February 27th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- FY 2026 Budget Proposal Presentation
- 3-4 Open spots available Sports Commission board

New Business

- Review Sports Commission FY26 budget letter
- Sports Commission 2024 Annual Report
- Sports Commission Partner Organization Reach-out: Soccer by John Mingus, SC Chair

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- March 27th **(Virtual)**
- April 24th **(In-person)**
- May 22nd **(Virtual)**
- June 26th **(In-person)**
- August 28th **(Field Trip)**
- September 25th **(In-Person)**
- October 23rd **(Virtual)**
- November 20th **(Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- December 18th **(Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23rd, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Commission Members Present:

John Mingus, Chair
Lizzy Stell, Vice Chair
Hamilton Humes
George Thompson
Nancy Sharkey

Bryan Eckle
Meredith Wearing
David Lansing
Khal Monaro
Preston Redd

Commission Members Absent:

County/APS Staff:

Tyler Remerow, DPR

Guests:

High School Crew Student Athletes (Audrey Richardson YHS, Josh Gill YHS, Anna Duall WHS)
Paul Holland, Arlington Boat House
Sean Bamman, YHS Crew

Start:

7:01pm

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- **Approval of November 21st, 2024, Sports Commission Meeting Minutes**
 - o Motion – Lizzy George Thompson
 - o Second – Lizzy Stell
 - o Approved

New Business

- **Community Play Day Discussion**
 - Event held for community in which Arlington County Youth Sports Groups and volunteers set up stations/exhibits/tutorial/introductions to introduce the sports to kids that they may not already have experience with. Possibly to be held on longest day of

year (Summer Solstice). Barcroft raised as possible site due to having gymnastics center, soccer field, baseball & softball fields.

- **Arlington Boat House Presentation – Arlington High School Crew Student Athletes**

- Yorktown along with other high schools and colleges use TBC (Thompson Boat Center) to enter the Potomac for practices. TBC is currently sinking into Potomac, and it has already lost one ramp to sinking. TBC becomes crowded with there not being enough space for rowers and boats. Would like Arlington to have a boat house for people within the industry to meet and bond, grow the sport in Arlington and create access to new recreational space to help improve people's health and strengthen their sense of community.
- Student athletes are faced with a difficult choice to continue to pursue crew as they grow older. The impact of not having a boat house in the area negatively affects a student's decision to continue or not. Valuable time is lost traveling to current boat houses that student athletes could be using to work a job, study or spend time with family and friends. This puts a further strain on families whose parents are and are not able to take their children to practice.
- Traffic and limited parking add to issues surrounding current boat house use. Travel time is about 30 minutes to and from Wakefield to TBC. There are cases in which student athletes could not join crew due to the travel constraints. Despite challenges, Arlington Crew Athletes have had notable success to include winning seasons, winning gold at states, winning the Stotesbury Cup, winning multiple state championships and even producing several Olympic crew athletes.
- Sports Commission to continue to support and advocate for Arlington Boat House.

- **Arlington Boat House Write Up – Hamilton Humes**

- Challenges facing the Arlington Boat House include: Selecting the boat house location, ownership of the land of the selected site (Must break ground during next 4 years or the agreement becomes null), current demand for water access from high school and collegiate student athletes, capacity needed to house boats and traffic and boat ramp congestion.
- Opportunities created by an Arlington Boat House include: Reducing travel time, increasing access to river (Scholastically and recreationally).

- **Youth Baseball in Arlington Presentation**

- Baseball is doing well with community partnerships offerings and participation numbers.
- 10u Arlington Storm team won Babe Ruth Southwest Regional Championship, advancing to Babe Ruth World Series.
- 12u Arlington storm team hosted and made it to title game of Virginia State Tournament.
- Success at 13-18 age range – Multiple southeast regional bids and semifinal appearance by the 15-16 age team.
- Challenges remain acquiring field space, quality of fields and having more efficient scheduling. Practices and games have decreased in time limit to accommodate field shortage. Dilution of talent by splitting Arlington County players between two youth baseball organizations.

Commission Member Reports

- **Chair Updates**
 - Community Play Day Discussion (See above).
- **PROMISE Working Group**
 - January meeting canceled.
 - Need to update website to show accurate working group information.
- **PSMP-IAC Update**
 - None

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- March 27th **(Virtual)**
- April 24th **(In-person)**
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- June 26th **(In-person)**
- August 28th **(Field Trip)**
- September 25th **(In-Person)**
- October 23rd **(Virtual)**
- November 20th **(Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- December 18th **(Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Adjourn:

8:40pm

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

27th, February, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

Microsoft Teams

Time: 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Commission Members Present

John Mingus, SC Chair
Lizzy Stell, Vice Chair
Nancy Sharkey, SC
Khal Monaro, SC

Meredith Wearing, SC
George Thompson, SC
Hamilton Humes, SC
Khal Monaro, SC

Commission Members Absent:

Preston Redd, SC
Megan Sullivan, SC
Bryan Eckle, SC

County/APS Staff:

Ben Harris, DPR
Erik Beach, DPR
Greg Anselene, DPR, SC Liaison

Jane Rudolph, DPR
Kisha Holland, DPR
Marco Rivero, DPR, PNR Liaison
Mariah Leonard, DPR

Guests:

None

Start:

6:30pm

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes

Tabled to March 27th meeting

Other

Jane Rudolph, Director of DPR, presented on the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget for the County. Presentation included discussions regarding expenses, revenues, budget changes, reductions, additions, proposed capital projects, and any next steps for the board to consider.

- Conversations between SC and PNR Commissions included:
 - Closing of the Madison Community Center Preschool
 - Proposing closing the Madison CC Preschool due to low enrollment (only 5 children) as the program is not meeting cost recovery that is needed to keep program running. Discussion of better attendance and overall cost recovery

at the other DPR ran preschools. There is a county subsidy for the preschool programs and expanding childcare access is a county goal

- Preparation for population displacement and the decreased revenue.
 - An online employment fair is being held in the hopes of the event assisting with future with potential employment opportunities in the future.
 - DPR is committed to its fee reduction program and will continue to promote its hardship policy to ensure continuation of programs for all residents in the county.
 - County has planned also planned for additional potential revenue loss and the proposed budget has separate additional cuts if deemed necessary for the FY26 year.
- Athletic fields mowing schedule being reduced.
 - County proposed reducing the mowing schedule for athletic fields to 2 times per week instead of the current standard of 3 times a week.
 - The reduction of mowing on athletic fields caused concerns regarding potential grass growth.
 - Jane Rudolph shared that if the reduction causes issue with grass growing rapidly the practice can be resisted.
 - SC member made point regarding Field Fund rates for leagues were set over 3 years ago and have remained the same until now. Suggested that SC along with DPR revisited this to see if increasing fund could cover any gaps.
- County cost increases for programs
 - Concerns regarding an additional 10% increase after experiencing a 7% increase in FY25 as it would be a 17% increase over 2 years.
 - Questions were raised on if the county was benchmarking fees/costs with groups in neighboring jurisdictions correctly.
 - Large concern regarding the cost of Competitive Gymnastics after an additional increase.
 - Jane Rudolph explained that the gymnastics program is highly specialized and meet the County's cost recovery goals. As a result, the proposed fee was increased.
 - Commission member stated as a result the potential increase, competitive gymnastics is at risk of becoming a rich kid program.

[2026 Fiscal Year Budget Presentation](#)

New Business

Old Business

Commission Member Reports

- During the small group discussion, which included talks of the FY 2026 budget and DPR Programming, the following was reported:
 - Inquired about the commissions being provided more information on how the cost recovery pyramid process (or model) works.

- Wanted to know why the County was offering preschools and suggested diverting funds to APS.
- After listening to the presentations regarding Boeing Contributions running low at Long Bridge Aquatic & Fitness Center and the proposed plans to move forward, a commission member suggested that allowing more rentals at Long Bridge Park is needed. Inquired if the county can coordinate rentals vs. community time in a way that is beneficial to all parties involved.
- Conversations on how the County and APS should coordinate their timing of community use and rental hours including clarification on drop-in play at County's various facilities.
- Discussions on efforts by the county to recover from any potential losses from reduced federal funding. Discussions continued into the County's efforts to stabilize and balance budget priorities.

End:

8:38pm

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

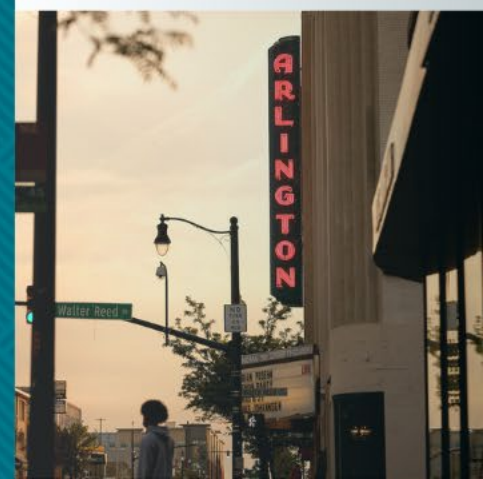
- April 27th, 2025 (Virtual)
- May 22nd, 2025 (In Person)

County Manager's Proposed FY 2026 Budget

Department of Parks and Recreation



*Commissions Briefing
February 27, 2025*



Department of Parks & Recreation

Mission: Promote wellness and vitality through dynamic programs and attractive public spaces.

Vision: Arlington is the happiest, healthiest place to live, learn, work and play.



DPR Highlights

Provide excellent places and spaces to meet community needs

- Ranked #5 best park system nationwide by Trust for Public Lands (TPL)
- 11 County parkland acres acquired



Provide excellent programs and services to meet community needs

- 15,657 summer camp registrations
- Celebrated 70th anniversary of the 55+ Program
- 900+ participants at Paint, Build & Create held at Fairlington Community Center

Steward natural and historical resources

- Nature Center hours expansion
- Completed Tree Canopy Study
- Updated the cross-departmental Biophilic Arlington webpage
- Planted 6,600+ native plants in habitat restoration areas
- 1,500+ trees distributed and planted



Build community, promote wellness and ensure equal access for all

- \$1.6M in fee reductions for 3,038 participants
- 160,000+ attendees at County Fair
- 700+ attendees Feel the Heritage event
- Therapeutic Recreation components included in CIP projects

Manage assets efficiently and effectively

- Priorities set for Maintenance Capital Investment
- Milled and paved 12,257 linear feet of trail (2.32 miles)



Attract, cultivate and retain an effective and dynamic workforce

- Racial Equity Core Team formed
- DPR Digs into Safety
- DPR Employee Engagement Survey

Focus on Equity

- **Conducted Department-Wide Race and Equity Training**
 - Building a Bridge: A Journey to Shared Understanding of Race and Equity
 - I Came, I Saw, I Engaged: Harnessing the Employee Experience to Build a More Inclusive Work Environment
 - Psychological Safety at All Employee Digs In Event
- **Developed Priorities for the Department Race and Equity Team**
- **Continued support for County-wide Special Events**
 - MLK, Feel the Heritage, LatinoAmericano Festival
- **Continue to incorporate equity scores in capital project planning for the upcoming CIP/PAYG**



Natural Resources

- **Tree Pruning and Maintenance**

- Focuses on preventative maintenance
- Maintenance of an additional ~2,900 trees per year
- 1,200+ trees maintained or scheduled for maintenance YTD
- New Urban Forester position filled

- **Tree Canopy**

- 126 trees planted by Tree Canopy Fund
- Funding remains for up to 220 additional TCF plantings in the spring of CY 2025



Natural Resources

- **Invasives Management**

- Allows for the transitioning of the remaining larger parcels of natural land to dedicated maintenance by 2030
- Completed initial management for 41.5 acres addresses over a dozen parks (fall maintenance)
- Additional management of 23 acres addresses 20 parks (spring maintenance)

- **Expand Nature Center Hours**

- Hours expanded at both sites (Gulf Branch and Long Branch) to 6 days per week
- Nature Center Manager position (Gulf Branch) filled



Teen Programming

- Identified gap in teen programming
- Prompted demand for more middle and high school programming
- Allocated resources to support programming initiatives



Teen Programming

- **Programming Highlights**

- Afterschool Program (TJ, Gunston, Kenmore and Wakefield)
- Arlington Mill Drop-In Afterschool Program
- Teen Nights/Teen Takeovers
- Kickin' It/Ballin' at the Mill
- College Trip Series
- Aurora House Collaboration

- **Other Improvements**

- Arlington Mill improvements
- Video gaming, laptops and other tech equipment



Budget Development Challenges



Rising operational costs



Vacancies and Workforce Management



Maintaining level of service



Continuing expansion of free and/or affordable programs



Identify ways to streamline processes for added efficiency and enhanced customer service

Budget Summary

	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	Change	% Change
Expenses	\$64,169,536	\$65,415,563	+\$1,246,027	+1.9%
Revenue	\$18,451,521	\$18,203,862	-\$247,659	-1.3%
Staff	411.10 FTEs	409.36 FTEs	-1.74 FTEs	-0.4%

Summary of Budget Reductions

	FY 2026 Proposed Expense	FY 2026 Proposed Revenue	Budget Impact	Staff Impact
Temporarily freeze hiring of Deputy Director position for 12 months within the Director's Office	-\$281,434	-	-\$281,434	-1.00 FTE
Temporarily freeze hiring of Administrative Assistant A position for 12 months within the Athletic and Facility Services Division (AFS)	-\$88,018	-	-\$88,018	-1.00 FTE
Temporarily freeze hiring of four positions within the Parks and Natural Resources (PNR) Division	-\$193,462	-	-\$193,462	-4.00 FTEs

Summary of Budget Reductions

	FY 2026 Proposed Expense	FY 2026 Proposed Revenue	Budget Impact	Staff Impact
Closure of Madison Preschool	-\$124,078	-\$16,050	-\$108,028	-1.25 FTEs
Selective Reduction of County Mowing	-\$65,000	-	-\$65,000	-
Elimination of Funding for Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT)	-\$86,900	-	-\$86,900	-

Summary of Proposed Changes

	FY 2026 Proposed Expense	FY 2026 Proposed One-time	Budget Impact	Staff Impact
Arlington County Fair	\$226,000	-	+\$226,000	-
Increased funding for Special Events	\$22,000	\$28,000	+\$50,000	-
Deer Management	\$5,000	\$146,000	+\$151,000	-
Invasives Management	-	\$100,000	+\$100,000	-
Contracted Tree Watering Services	-	\$123,000	+\$123,000	-
Tree Canopy Fund (Funded from Stormwater Fund)	-	\$240,000	+\$240,000	-
Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center Net Tax Support	\$865,412	\$865,413	+\$1,730,825	-
DPR Fee Changes (Revenue)	-	-	+\$1,546,951	-

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center

Expenses

Budget | Actual

\$3.7M | \$2.96M FY24

\$3.6M | \$1.75M FY25 YTD

Fee Revenue

\$1.3M FY24
\$988k FY25 YTD

Fee Reductions

\$64k FY24
\$51k FY25 YTD

Active Memberships

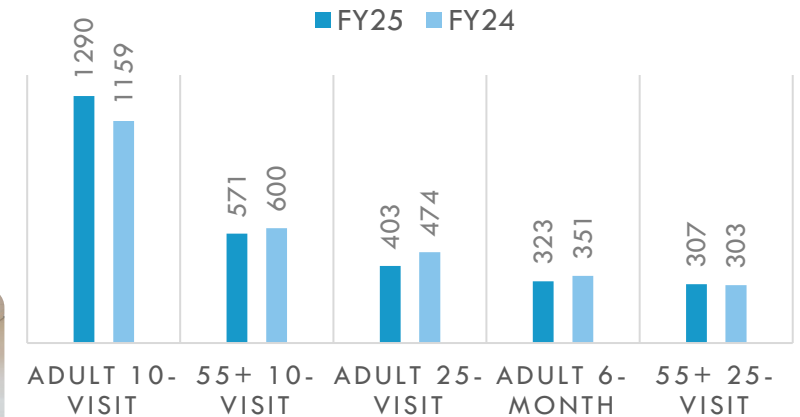
3,800+ FY24
3,100+ FY25 YTD

Pass Swipes

97k+ FY24
56k+ FY25 YTD



MEMBERSHIPS & PASSES MOST POPULAR OPTIONS FOR VISITING THE FACILITY



Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center Net Tax Support

Service Impacts

- Boeing contributions used to offset general operations and programming of the facility
- Baseline for operational costs established
- Boeing funding originally expected to carry through FY 2027
- Net tax support will extend Boeing donation funding to FY 2030
- County/Boeing funding allocation
 - FY 2026 – FY 2029 - 75%/25% split
 - FY 2030 – 90%/10% split
 - FY 2031 – 100%

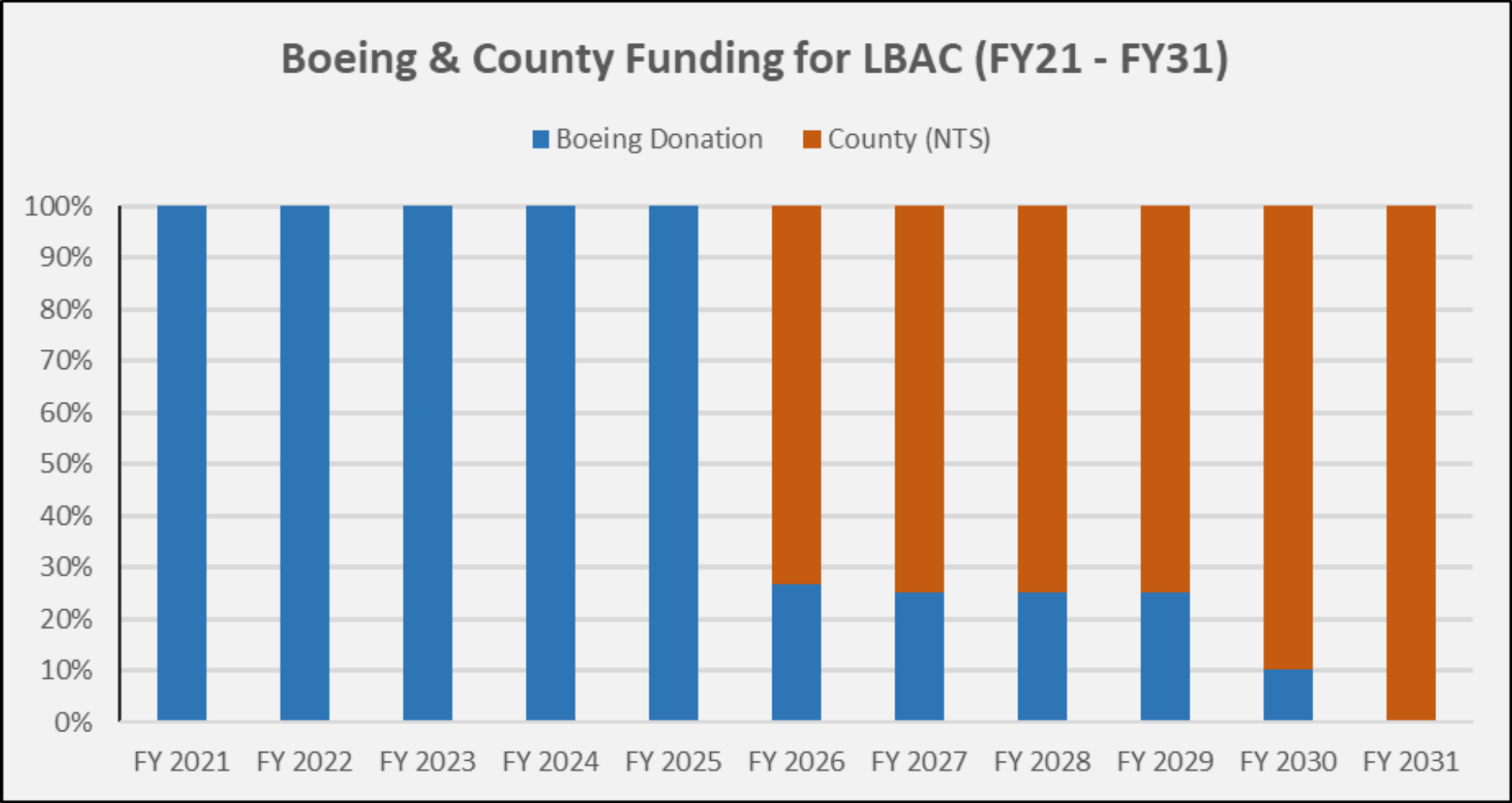
Budget Impact

FY 2026:	\$1,730,825
FY 2027: <i>(Projected)</i>	\$1,924,480
FY 2028: <i>(Projected)</i>	\$2,139,130
FY 2029: <i>(Projected)</i>	\$2,377,030
FY 2030: <i>(Projected)</i>	\$3,164,620
FY 2031: <i>(Projected)</i>	\$3,910,240

Staff Impact

No staff impact

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center Net Tax Support



Revenues

	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	Change	% Change
Revenue	\$18,451,521	\$18,203,862	-\$247,659	-1.3%

- **Increase in revenue generated by programming fee changes** - \$1.6 M
- **Decrease in Boeing revenue contribution** - \$1.63M
- **Increase in Fee Reductions** - \$697,000
 - FY 2024 – \$1.6M for 1,781 unique households
 - Year-to-date in FY 2025: \$1.3M for 1,188 unique households

FY 2026 Proposed Fees

- **Continued revenue challenges**
 - Fees remained unchanged or had nominal increases FY 2021 – FY 2024
 - Fees at the lower end of the cost recovery model
 - Increased operation costs
 - Fluctuations in participation
- **Program Fees Comprehensive Review**
 - Initiated realignment of programming fees for Fitness classes, DPR sports, and select DPR camps and programs as part of FY 2025 budget development

DPR Fee Changes

Service Impacts

- 10% fee increase for classes, programs, camps, sports, facilities, passes, and memberships
- Changes will be advertised as part FY 2026 Fee Resolution
- DPR will continue review of programming offerings to align fees with operating costs and cost recovery goals

Budget Impact

FY 2026:

\$1,545,951

Staff Impact

No staff impact

Examples of How Fees are Changing in FY 2026

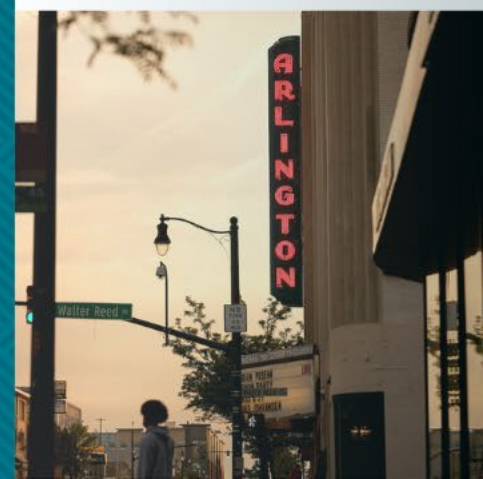
	FY25 Resident Rate	FY26 Proposed Rate	Dollar Change
Camps	\$35-\$1,020	\$40-\$1,125	\$5-\$105
Competitive Gymnastics	\$1,560-\$7,585	\$1,720-\$8,345	\$160-\$760
Arlington Aquatic Club	\$55-\$2,590	\$60-\$2,850	\$5-\$260
55+ Memberships	\$25-\$95	\$28-\$105	\$3-\$10
Room/Facility/Court Rentals	\$5-\$2,140	\$6-\$2,355	\$1-\$215

County Manager's Proposed FY 2026 Budget

Department of Parks & Recreation – Annual Capital Budget



*Commissions Briefing
February 27, 2025*



FY 2026 Annual Capital Budget Summary

	FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed
PAYG	\$2,720,000	\$1,688,000
Short-Term Finance	-	\$1,041,000
GO Bonds (existing)	\$605,000	\$600,000
Partnership Funds*	\$5,270,000	-
TOTAL	\$8,595,000	\$3,329,000

** Partnership funds in FY 2025 reflect APS contribution per cost sharing agreement and outside fundraising efforts related to Kenmore field conversion.*

Proposed Projects: Parks Maintenance Capital

Capital Asset Manager

\$182,000 (PAYG)

This funding is for the staff position that manages the Parks Capital Asset Program.

Parks Field Fund

\$273,000 (PAYG)

The Parks field fund is supported by an annual fee assessed on official affiliated youth and adult sports teams playing on Arlington County rectangular and diamond fields.

Asset Management and Focus on Equity

- DPR conducted an Asset Management Study that evaluated the condition of every item within its park system and used that evaluation to create a park or item Condition Assessment
- An Equity Factor is derived from a ranking of the following factors from census data for each Arlington census tract:
 - Greatest Ethnic Diversity
 - Greatest Household Density
 - Greatest Number of Children
 - Lowest Average Income
- The above Equity Factor is added to the Park Condition Rating to create a park or item Assessment
- The result of this is that Arlington County neighborhoods with the Greatest Ethnic Diversity, the Greatest Household Density, the Greatest Youth Population, and the Lowest Income Levels with parks in those neighborhoods in the Poorest Condition should be a **priority** to receive funding where improvements are needed



PROPOSED PROJECTS: PARKS MAINTENANCE CAPITAL

Cherrydale Playground (Design)



Total budget: \$500,000 (PAYG)
Parks Maintenance Capital (FY26)

Design and construction for the replacement of the playground, retaining walls, site access, site circulation, site furnishings, landscaping and stormwater management improvements.

Douglas Park, Phase 2 (Design)



Total budget: \$733,000 (PAYG)
Parks Maintenance Capital (FY26)

Design for the replacement of the playground, one pedestrian bridge, earthwork, site circulation, site furnishings, landscaping and storm water management facilities.

Pooled Park Projects



Total budget: \$600,000
(Existing Bond Balances)
Parks Maintenance Capital (FY26)

Improvements to safety surfacing to be made at multiple parks for work that is too big for operational maintenance but too small to warrant a single unique Maintenance Capital project.

Proposed Projects: Synthetic Turf Program

Long Bridge Park Synthetic Field #3 \$1,041,000 (STF)

- Design and construction for the replacement of the synthetic turf surfacing on Field #3 at Long Bridge Park.
- Replacement of the synthetic turf on this field is needed to maintain the high play quality offered through synthetic turf.
- Synthetic turf typically has an eight-year life expectancy before the turf begins to degrade from use.
- This field is on a replacement cycle where the turf is replaced every eight years.

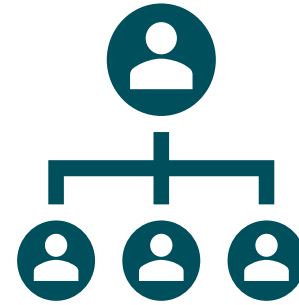
Future Challenges



Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Impacts



Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) Impacts



Staffing Needs



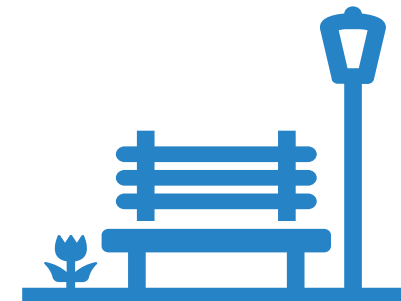
Recreational Programming



Boeing funding for Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center



Continuing expansion of free and/or affordable programs



Park Management

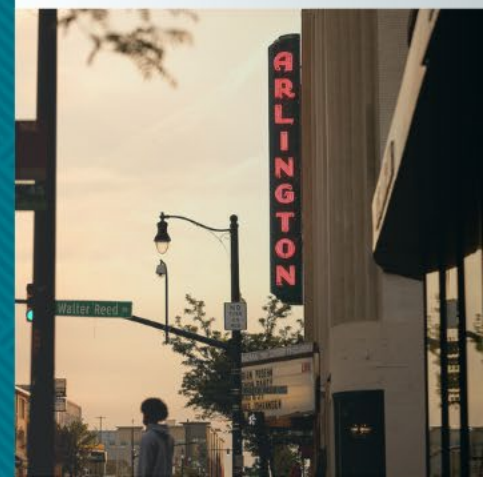
Questions

County Manager's Proposed FY 2026 Budget

Department of Parks and Recreation



*Commissions Briefing
February 27, 2025*





ARLINGTON COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201



March, 2025

The Honorable Takis Karantonis
Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Karantonis,

I am pleased to provide the Sports Commission's views on the FY 26 Arlington County Budget. While we are generally supportive, we do have one area of concern—the 10% increase in fees for DPR programming.

While we support the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) efforts to ensure cost recovery from its programming, we are concerned that this increase on top of the 7% increase this year may put the cost of some programming beyond the means of some residents. In particular, we are concerned about the impact on DPR's gymnastics programs. At the highest level this increase will push the fee to over \$5,000. Rather than increasing the gymnastics fee by 10%, we suggest spreading the increase over 2 years. At the same time, we'd suggest that DPR examine its cost recovery model for gymnastics to ensure that fees and costs are in alignment.

If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Mingus'.

John Mingus, Chair
Sports Commission



ARLINGTON COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201



March, 2025

The Honorable Takis Karantonis
Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Garvey,
I am pleased to provide the 2024 annual report on the activities of the Sports Commission.
If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Mingus".

John Mingus, Chair
Sports Commission

Summary

The Commission met 12 times. Our activities have been guided for several years by four priorities: (1) examining the capacity and use of recreational facilities; (2) understanding and supporting underserved groups and communities; (3) increasing our engagement with advisory Commissions and key stakeholders; and (4) participating in County projects and processes as warranted. We made progress in each area and adapted our agendas to discuss pressing issues.

Structure, Operations, and Membership

The Commission, which is authorized to have 15 members was not fully staffed throughout most of 2023. Commission members included: Jason Desplain, Bryan Eckle, Hamilton Humes, David Lansing, John Mingus, Khal Monaro, Deb Ryan, Nancy Sharkey, Lizzy Stell, Megan Sullivan, George Thompson and Meredith Wearing. John Mingus served as Chair for 2024. Jason Despain and Lizzy Stell served as the Vice Chair.

In 2019, the Commission identified over 40 sports, constituent groups, and advisory bodies that the Commission does or should represent. In 2024, we continued our efforts to learn about these groups and will continue these efforts in 2025.

The Commission was an official member of 2 County workgroups: the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC);¹ and the Greenbrier Park Operations Committee.² The activities of the first is addressed in this report.

Issues Addressed in 2024

The Commission's 202 deliberations and discussions addressed many of its four priority areas as well as several new issues, covered below under "Other Topics".

Examining the Capacity and Use of Recreational Facilities

- Budget – The Commission were pleased with the FY24 budget which hired the field maintenance staff funded by the field fund. We were also glad to see that the synthetic turf replacement programs continued to be funded.
- PSMP IAC – In 2024 the Commission continued to be a member of the PSMP IAC.
- Kenmore– The Commission spoke before the board during consideration of Kenmore MOAs.
- The Commission also advised DPR staff as they began their efforts to measure field utilization.

Underserved Groups and Communities

In June of 2022, the Commission received the initial report of the Combating Hate in Sports Working Group (CHWG). In 2023, we renamed this group the PROMISE working group (PROMISE comes from the elements of the pledges that final report included). In 2024, we tasked this group with reporting back on best practices from other leagues and organizations with a final report due in 2025.

¹ This group provides input and feedback to the county on the implementation of the PSMP. Focus areas include the Integrated Forestry & Natural Resources Master Plan; field utilization/lighting/turf; Zoning Regulation review; and casual use spaces.

² The Committee facilitates dialogue among Greenbrier Park users and the surrounding neighborhood.

Improving Commission Networks

The Commission improved its networks in 2024 through:

- continued investment in its relationship with the PRC;
- participation in official groups like the PSMP IAC and other informal groups that allow us to meet and interact with representatives from other advisory bodies and parts of the community.

Continued expansion of its networks in 2025 will help the Commission build and leverage partnerships to improve its advisory and advocacy activities.

Participating in County Projects and Processes

As noted above, the Commission actively supported the Kenmore project as when the funding MOAs came before the board.

Other Topics

- Boathouse– We received a briefing from the Arlington Boathouse foundation about this project.
- Arlington United- We received a briefing from the baseball group which created a new merged baseball program for players at U13 and above.
- Williamsburg Lights-We began a process to understand the challenges to getting lights installed on the fields at Williamsburg.

2025 Annual Plan

Topics the Commission plans to address in 2024 include:

- PSMP implementation
- Increased interaction with all sports groups in Arlington and improved representation of their interests in Commission business
- Receiving and acting on the phase 2 report from the PROMISE Working Group.
- Progress on various sports and recreation facility projects
- Begin the work of community outreach to understand the communities concerns about lights at Williamsburg
- Start a process to understand the challenges raised by increasing specialization of youth in a single sport at a young age.
- Work with sports groups to develop an understanding of the participation rates and challenges of increasing participation in various sports leagues/programs in different parts of the county.
- Work with sports groups in Arlington to understand their issue and to be their voice
- Other issues that may arise that are consistent with the Commission's role and charter

Sports Commission Partner Organization Reach-out: Soccer

John Mingus

3/27/25

Arlington Soccer Landscape

- Formal
 - DPR Partner Organizations
 - Youth-Arlington Soccer
 - Adult
 - Arlington Coed Kicks Soccer League
 - Arlington Women's Soccer League
 - Bolivian Veterans Soccer League (men, age 35+)
 - Old Guys Soccer League (men, age 50+)
 - DPR Programing
 - Classes/Clinics
 - Drop in
 - DPR Rentals
- Informal– pickup culture

Arlington Soccer

- Established 1970
- Programing from age 2 through end of HS
 - Pre-school programs are enjoyable, age-appropriate activities to children who are learning the game of soccer.
 - Recreational Soccer for Kindergarten through end of HS
 - Arlington Development– positioned between travel and recreation. Professional coaches assisted by parent volunteers
 - Travel– tryout based programs for kids age 8 and up
 - Top level teams at older age groups compete at highest level of US Youth Soccer
- 9,000 players across all programs
- Also has amateur teams for college and post-college students

Challenges

- Fields-access to turf space, lighted space
- Increasing costs for many items (i.e. health insurance, registration fees, background checks, etc).