

**ARLINGTON COUNTY**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

May 5, 2021

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

RE: Open Space Connectivity

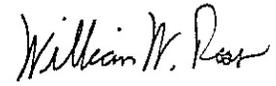
Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The PRC would like to support proposals for efforts to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between open spaces as important contributors to experience in the public realm. We received comments from Christer Ahl of the Crystal City Citizen’s Review Committee at our April 27 commission meeting. We appreciate the presented “necklace” analogy of making sure that users and visitors of parks can safely and enjoyably transit on “strings” between “pearls” of open, green space.

In our recent involvement with planning processes through SPRCs, LRPCs, and Special GLUP exercises, we have come to view urban connectivity as one of the highest priorities. The elimination of “super blocks” has become a paramount topic of discussion for such sites as Washington-Kirkwood Rd., Harris Teeter Glebe Rd., Holiday Inn Rosslyn, Clarendon Sector Plan (St. Charles block), Pentagon City (Pentagon Mall) PDSP. The discussion has almost always revolved around eliminating barriers to pedestrian and bicycle transit through and around these sites. The easing of connectivity between open space sites, touted in the 22202 Livability report is a parallel worthy objective.

We will continue to support the commitment of dedicated funds for acquiring open space throughout the county to take into account opportunities as they arise. Independent of the size or presence of dedicated park areas, we support better connections between existing open spaces that are more easily and safely accessible for walkers and bikers, thus making those spaces more intensively utilized. We support opportunities, through private developer funds or county-funded capital projects, to install paths, stairs, adequate sidewalks, safe bike lanes, etc., to improve such open space connectivity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a distinct "R".

William Ross

Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

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