

Park Naming – New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting



Department of Parks and Recreation
July 26, 2022

Project Location

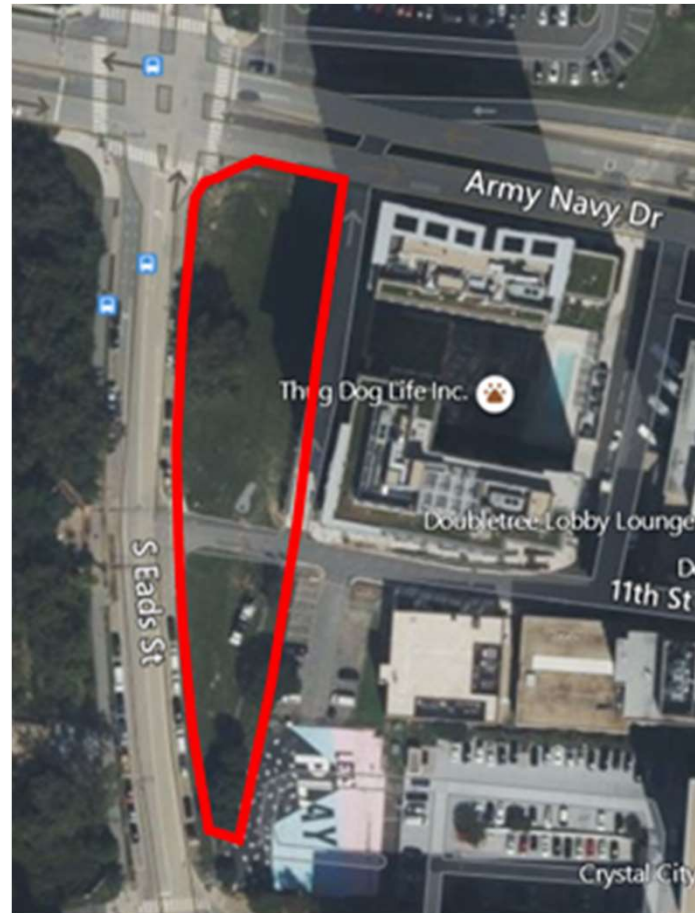


Figure 1 - Aerial View of "teardrop parcels"



Recap of County Naming Policies

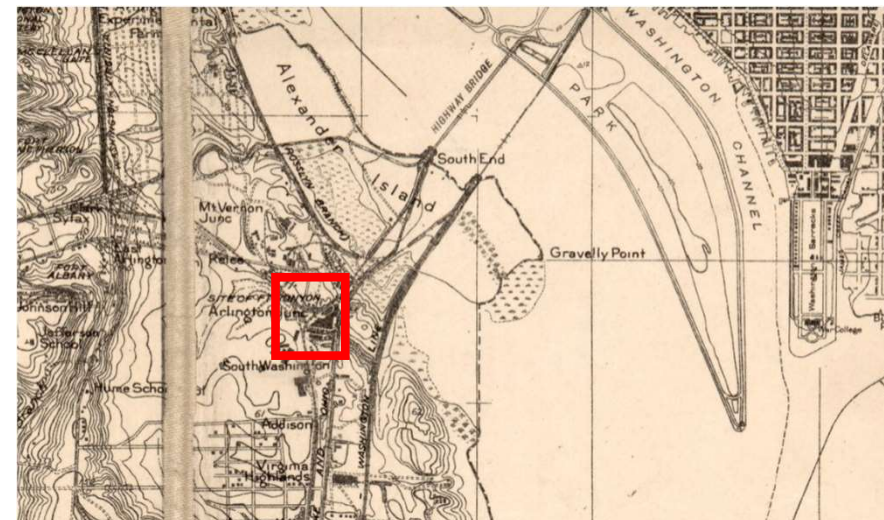
Criteria for Naming County Facilities:

- County facilities, including buildings and parks, shall generally be named according to the **geographical, historical, or ecological relationships** in which the site is located.
- The Commission will seek comment from the following organizations when considering a facility naming or renaming request: Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and the appropriate neighborhood civic association(s).

Potential Park Names

- Teardrop Park
 - Supported by the NCAC at their May meeting
 - Recognizes the colloquial name of the parcel that has been recognized by the community for decades
 - Most popular community response during Park Master Planning process and from a survey completed by the Crystal City Civic Association
- Arlington Junction Park
 - Proposed by a community member at both the NCAC and HALRB meetings
 - Unanimously supported by the HALRB
 - Homage to the location of the intersection of two electric trolley lines: Washington-Alexandria-Mount Vernon line and the East Arlington Branch

	1	2	3	Score
Teardrop Park	50.72%	27.54%	21.74%	2.29
The Canal Park	21.74%	57.97%	20.29%	2.01
Pentagon Park	27.54%	14.49%	57.97%	1.7



Park Naming Request Milestones

June 12, 2021 – County Board approves the Park Master Plan for New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive

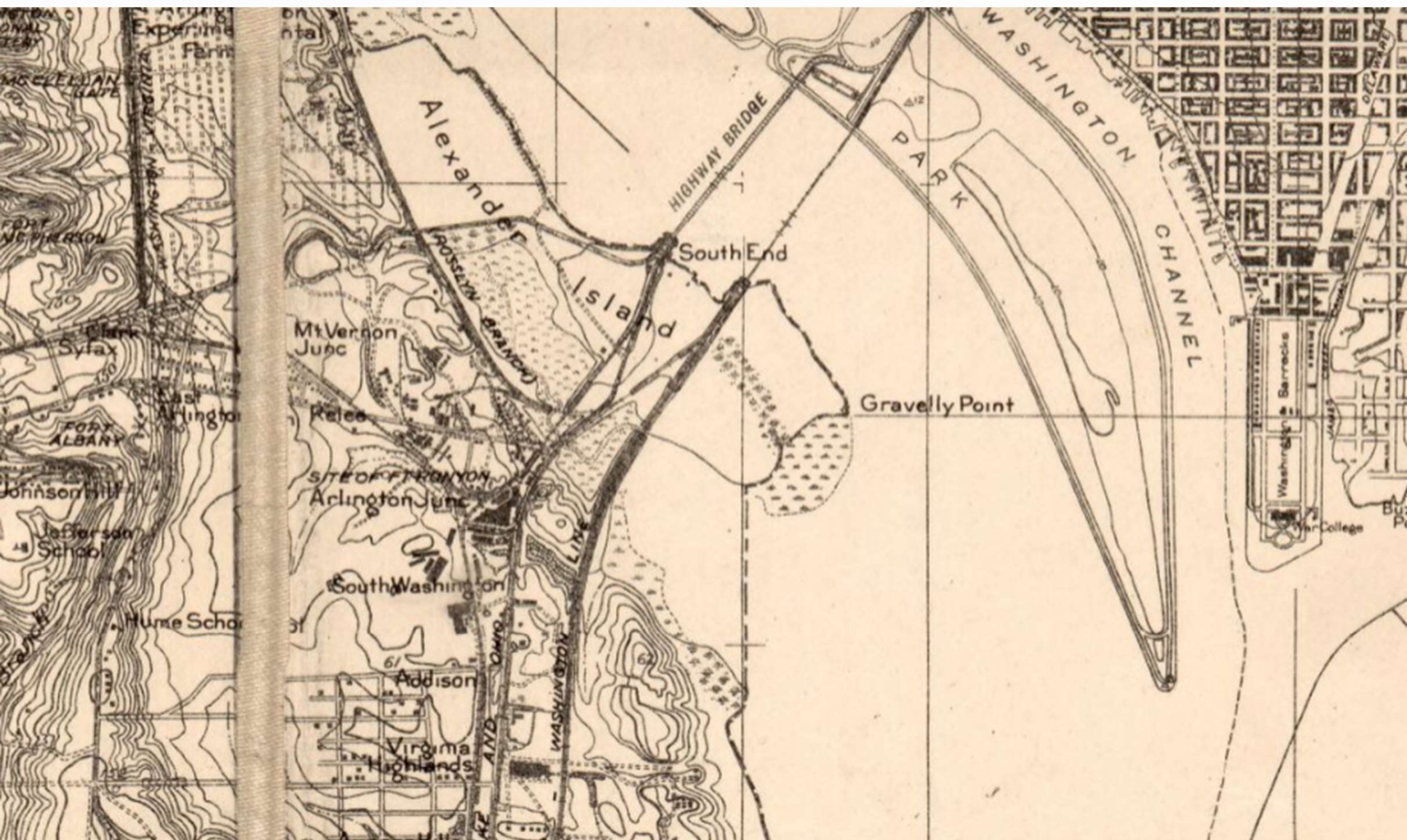
April 19, 2022 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting to consider proposed park names

May 12, 2022 – Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC)

May 18, 2022 – Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)

July 2022 – Park and Recreation Commission final recommendation (by PRC vote) for the proposed park name.

November 2022 – If the park naming is recommended by the PRC, the County Board will take final action on the proposed, park name.





ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

Diane Probus

Parks and Recreation Department

July 26, 2022

Beaver Pond Park

Park Renaming

Beaver Pond Park

The pond was originally designed and constructed as a stormwater detention facility to collect and slow stormwater runoff from Interstate 66. Due to its filling up with sediments from stormwater runoff, it was no longer functioning as originally designed and invasive plants and trash were continual issues.

- The future designed wetland will provide water quality treatment for runoff from more than 300 acres of urban and suburban land.
- This important project is one of the ways the County plans to comply with Virginia stormwater discharge regulations and contribute to restoring the Chesapeake Bay.



Park Improvements:

- Trail connection between Fairfax Dr. and Washington Blvd.
- New wetlands observation platform with seating and educational panels.
- Restoration of native wetland and upland plantings.
- Wildlife habitat improvements including turtle basking stations

PARK NAMING ENGAGEMENT

A two-part public engagement was initiated in June to provide an opportunity for public input on a potential park name. The first online form gave respondents a chance to suggest park names which fit the County's Park Naming criteria. Two of the applicable criteria are listed below:

“County facilities, including buildings and parks, shall generally be named according to the geographical, historical, or ecological relationships in which the site is located.

“To Commemorate an Individual’s Service: Facilities may be named after an individual who made significant contributions to Arlington County through participation in community, state, or national service. A facility can be so named five years or more after the individual is deceased.”

PROPOSED PARK NAME

The second online engagement form had four potential park names that people could rank from the most preferred to the least preferred. A total of 481 respondents gave their input resulting in the ranking shown below.

“Ballston Wetlands” (meets geographical and ecological relationships criteria)

“Crossroads Wetland Park” (meets historic and ecological relationships criteria)

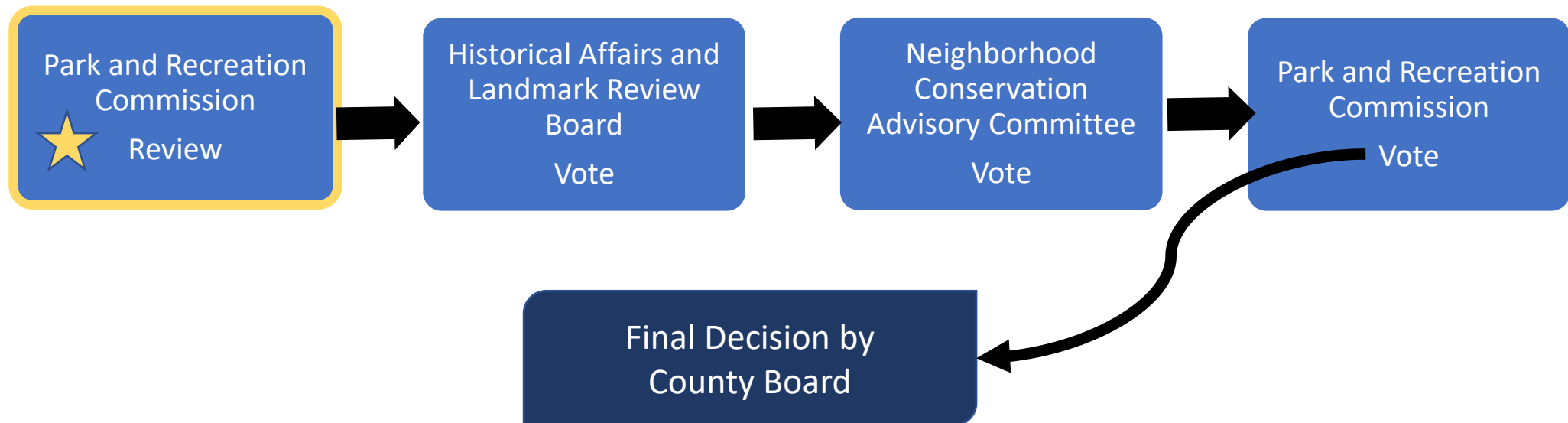
“Thaddeus Lowe Park” (meets historic criteria)

“Wetlands Vista Park” (meets geographical criteria)

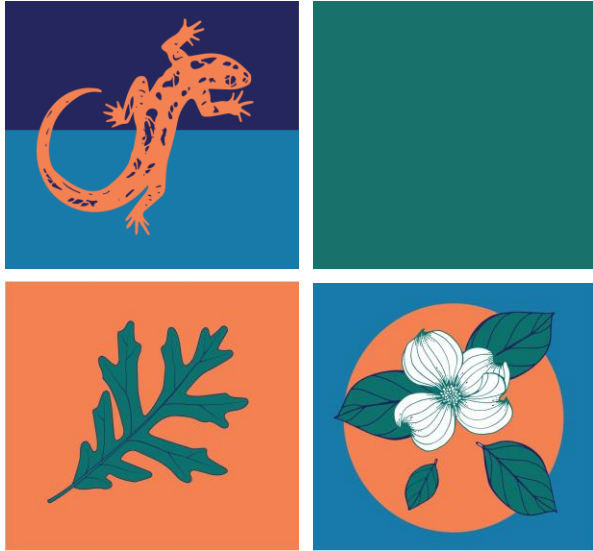
“Ballston Wetlands” was ranked the highest of the four potential names.

COUNTY REVIEW PROCESS

The name “Ballston Wetlands ” relates to the park’s geographic location at the western end of the urban area and identifies the park’s prominent natural feature.



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

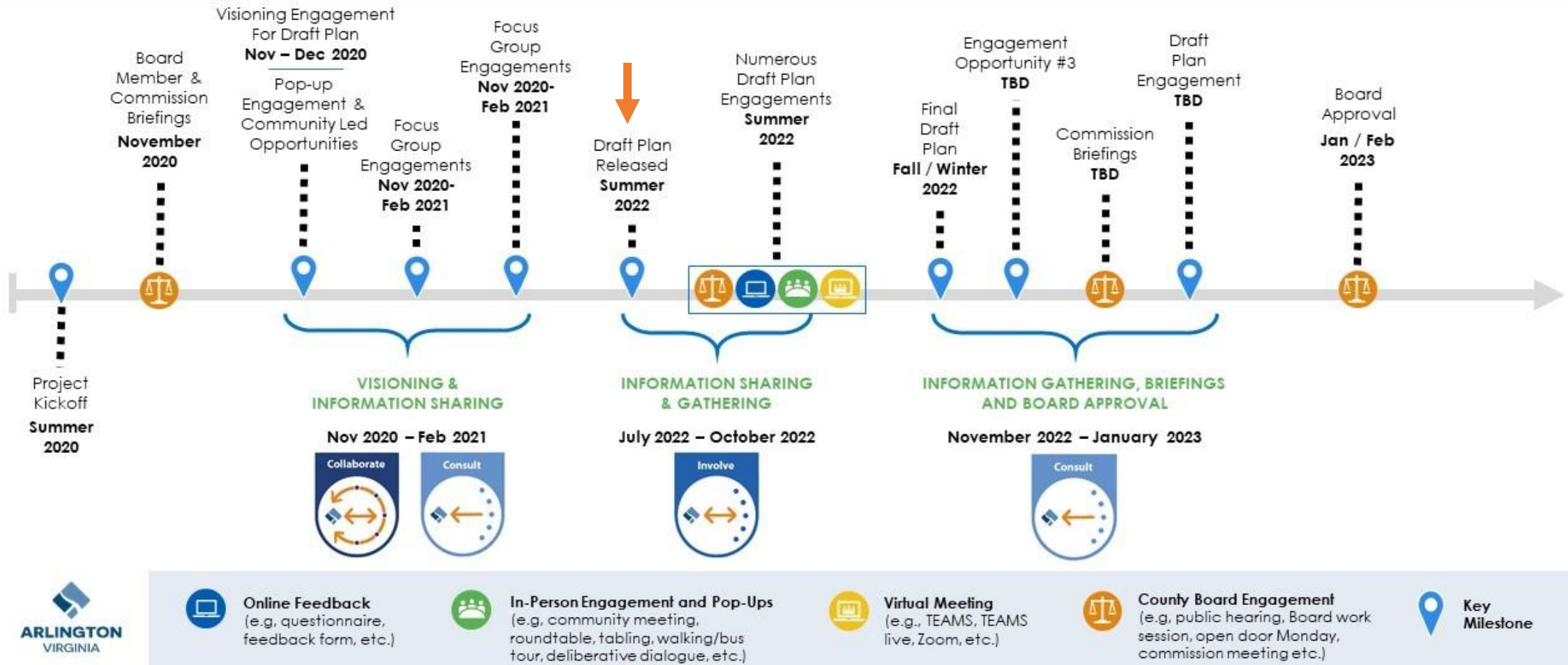


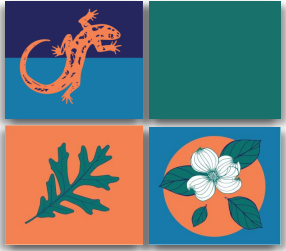
Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update

- Intro and Status Update
- Plan Overview
- Engagement Overview
- Next Steps



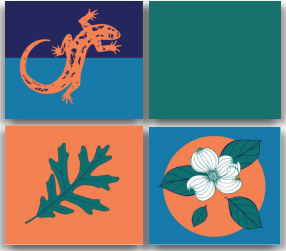
Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Public Engagement Timeline





FNRP Organization – Introduction and Context

- **Introduction**
 - Value of Nature
 - Vision Statement
- **Planning Context**
 - Public Realm and Private Property in the FNRP
 - Natural History of Arlington
 - Existing Conditions
 - Racial Equity
 - Challenges and Opportunities



FNRP Organization – Draft Strategic Directions

1. Conservation

Increase and protect tree canopy, natural areas and biophilic features throughout the County

2. Climate Adaptation and Resilience

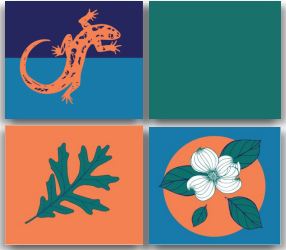
Employ Arlington's natural assets to protect public health and well-being

3. Biodiversity

Share vibrant landscapes with people, plants and animals

4. Operations and Maintenance

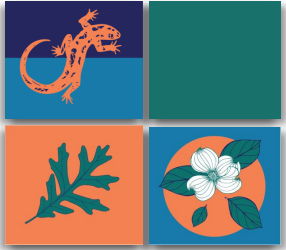
Manage organizational resources for maximum return



Draft Strategic Directions – Overview

SD 1: Conservation

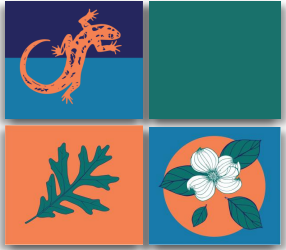
- 1.1 - Sustain Arlington's tree canopy and natural lands
- 1.2 - Expand spaces for trees and natural areas
- 1.3 – Assess and account for all the benefits trees and natural areas provide to Arlington



Draft Strategic Directions – Overview

SD2: Climate Adaptation and Resilience

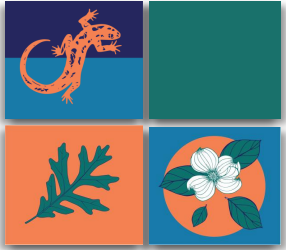
- 2.1 - Direct resources to climate-vulnerable hot spots
- 2.2 - Consider site plan and building requirements that maximize climate protection capacity of trees and green space
- 2.3 – Cultivate and extend Arlingtonians’ commitment to conservation of trees and natural resources



Draft Strategic Directions – Overview

SD3: Biodiversity

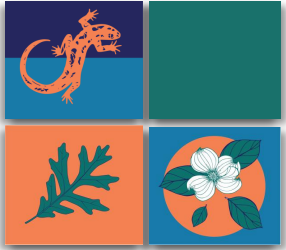
- 3.1 - Support healthy ecological communities of native plants and wildlife
- 3.2 - Monitor and manage the threats to ecological health and integrity
- 3.3 - Establish a County-wide natural infrastructure and conservation connectivity network



Draft Strategic Directions – Overview

SD3: Biodiversity

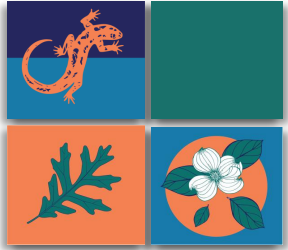
- 3.4 - Restore and manage water resources with a holistic, ecological approach
- 3.5 - Support the biodiversity that can coexist with humans in the built environment



Strategic Directions – Overview

SD4: Operations

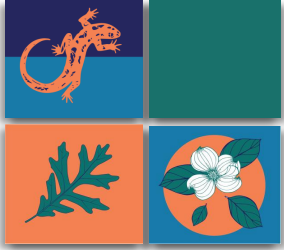
- 4.1 - Set explicit outcome-oriented performance measures for each maintenance activity and schedules for assessing performance
- 4.2 - Continue to develop and review partnerships with independent entities outside the County's boundaries or its direct control
- 4.3 - Provide a single platform to recruit, train and mobilize natural resource stewardship and forestry volunteers



Strategic Directions – Overview

SD4: Operations

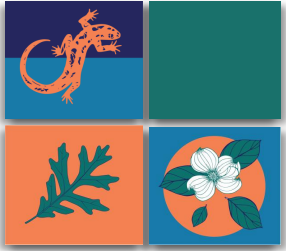
- 4.4 - Adopt regular, cyclical maintenance schedules for street trees and natural resources
- 4.5 - Target financial sustainability in support of forestry and natural resource management activities
- 4.6 - Practice and promote environmental responsibility in maintenance operations



FNRP Organization – Comprehensive Plan Structure



- FNRP will be an element of the Comprehensive Plan, rather than a sub-element of the PSMP
- Interdepartmental review of the draft confirmed the scope of the plan warrants status as a separate element

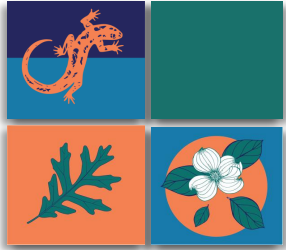


Engagement for the Draft Plan – Summer 2022

- Online Feedback Form (8 weeks)
- Online Draft for Comment (8 weeks)
- Pop-Ups (August/September)
- Commission Briefings (July and September)
- Community Forum (September)



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D8BRG5J>



Engagement for the Draft Plan – Pop-Ups



Share your feedback on Arlington's draft
**Forestry and Natural
Resources Plan**

Share your thoughts, sign up
for updates and learn more at
Arlingtonva.us/FNRP





How Should Arlington County Plan for the Future of Our Forestry and Natural Resources?

Use sticky
dots to select
up to 5 of your
top priorities.

Develop new topic specific plans		Update and/or develop standards for public spaces	
Update existing management strategies		Update and/or develop standards to apply for private development projects	
Educate the public through partnerships		Develop tools and benchmarks to improve tree equity	
Educate the public through County programs		Improve how we collect data to support trees and natural resources	
Encourage volunteerism		I don't know	
		None of the Above	

To share more feedback, go to
Arlingtonva.us/FNRP or scan the QR code.



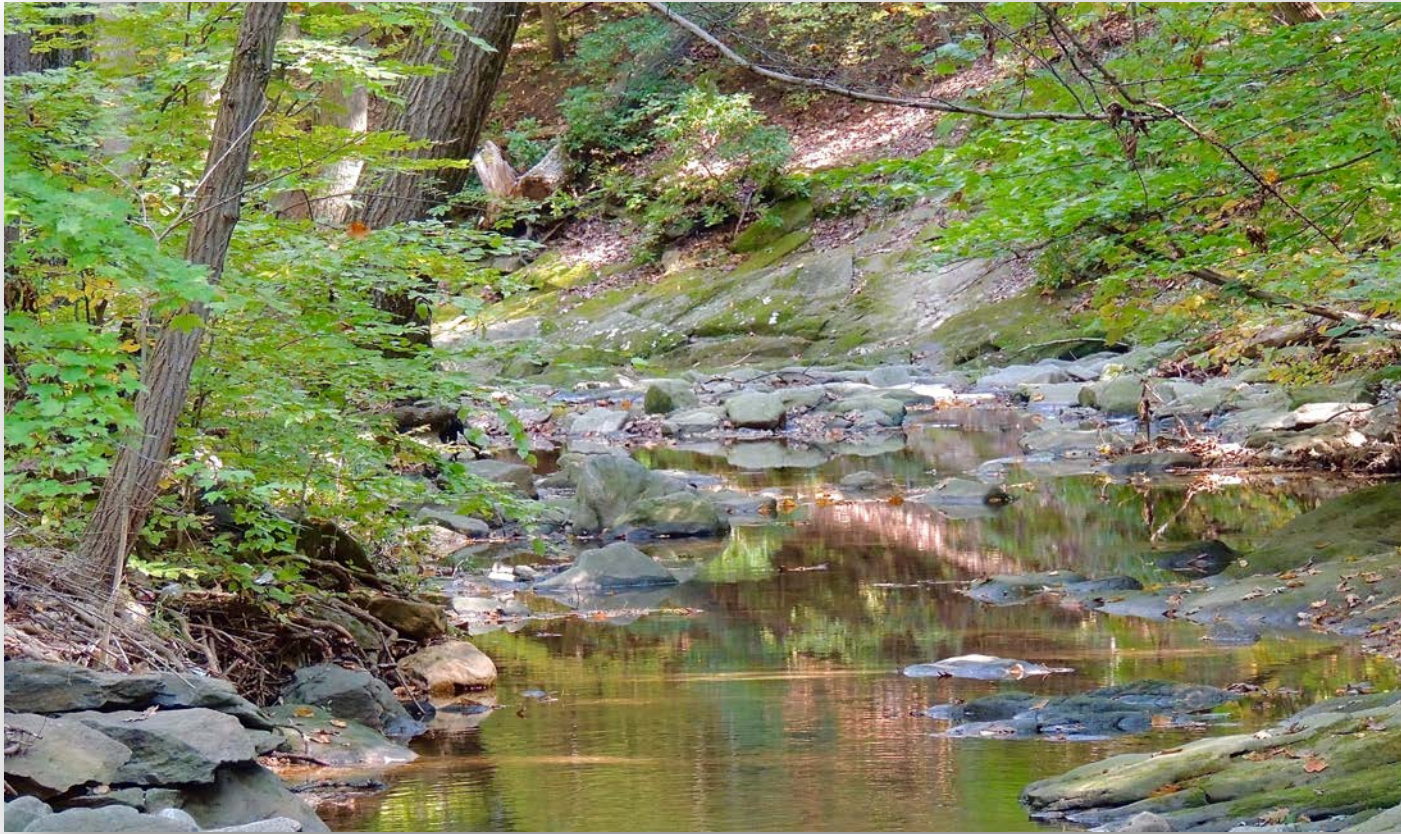
PRC July 26, 2022 | 7:00 PM



FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN

NATURALLY ARLINGTON





Biophilic Cities

A Natural and Human Approach to
Sustainable Urban Futures

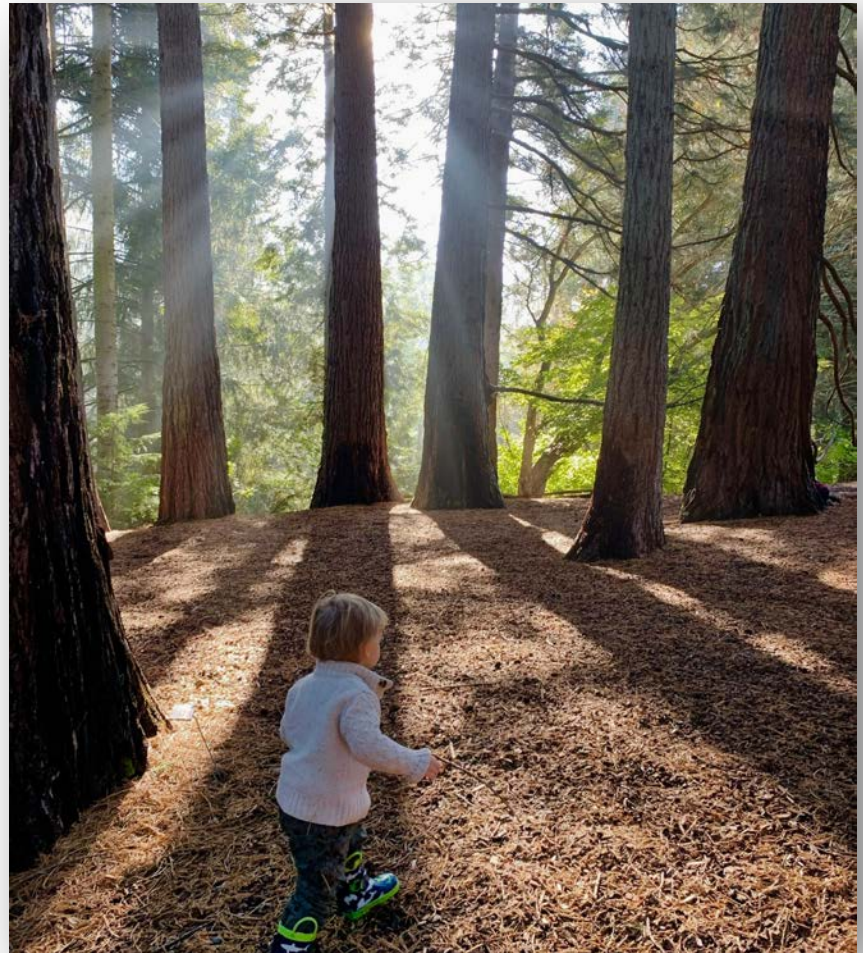
Biophilia Defined

- From Greek, meaning love of life. ["bios" and "philia"]
- First used by psychoanalyst Erich Fromm: a psychological attraction to all that is alive and vital.
- In his 1984 book, *Biophilia*, biologist E.O. Wilson discussed the human affinity for nature and living things, regarding this characteristic as being genetically based.
- In contemporary common use it means the innate human affinity for and connection with nature.



The Urban Paradox

- Humans evolved in and with nature.
- We are still innately attuned to the natural world—biophilia.
- Humans retain genetic traits that respond to natural stimuli, such as: sights, sounds, smells and tactile sensations.
- These responses can involve all five senses and impact the nervous, endocrine and circulatory systems.

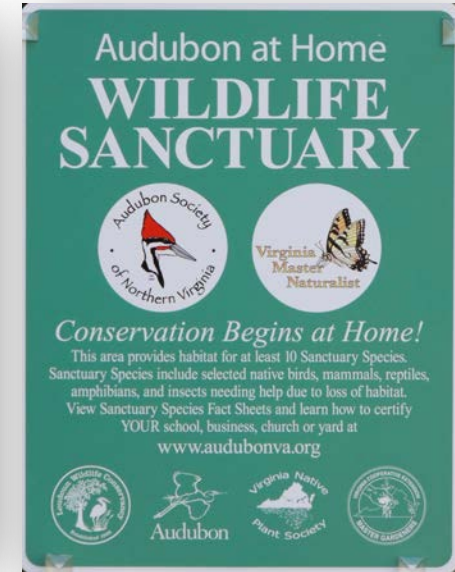


Humans have also adapted socially and culturally to live in large groups. Urbanism is now a dominant feature of contemporary human existence.



However, urban living and urban development can separate inhabitants substantially, if not entirely, from nature.

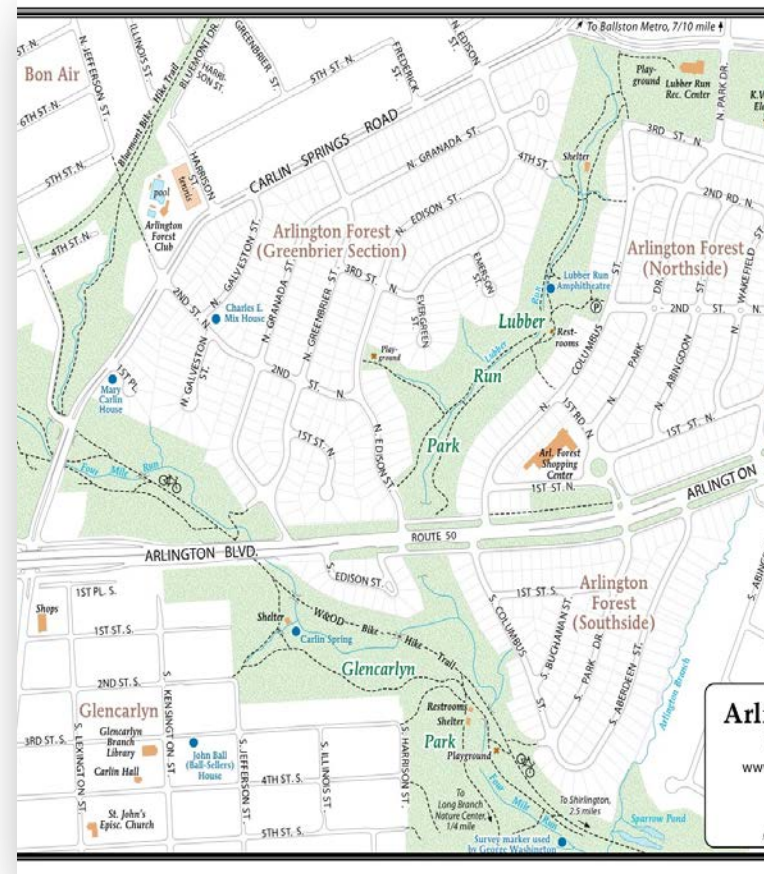
The Biophilic City Concept



- A biophilic city is an urban jurisdiction that recognizes the importance of natural spaces and places for its residents.
- Biophilic cities intentionally designate natural spaces and natural features as a priority in urban planning, development and public infrastructure.
- For these cities, the biophilic approach is a strategic perspective on plans, policies, programs and resource allocations.

A Biophilic Community

- A community for which natural space is everyday space.
- Opportunity to experience nature is both readily available and regularly practiced.
- Leaders and residents are increasingly aware and appreciative of the value and vulnerability of urban natural space.
- Around the globe, cities are formalizing their commitment to a natural urban environment as both an expression of identity and a guideline for development.



The Biophilic Cities Project



- Founded in 2012 by Dr. Tim Beatley, Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities at the University of Virginia School of Architecture.
- Project provides information, guidance, conferences, and a collaboration platform for academics, professionals, and urban leaders about biophilic principles, planning and design.

How Biophilia Matters

- Biophilic planning and design is human-centered.
- Biophilia is validated by emerging research—including new concepts and data—on the intricate relationship between humans and their habitat.
- It creates a multiplier effect for any urban community's quality-of-place goals.
- It also brings quality-of-existence benefits to each individual resident.



- *Environment and Energy*
- *Health and Well-being*
- *Education and Child Development*
- *Natural Resources and Biodiversity*
- *Economics and Business*
- *Social Activity and Community Participation*

Environment and Energy



- Biophilic features are complementary to existing laws, goals and practices.
- Many standards can be achieved technically without also being biophilic. (eg: LEED, storm water)
- Biophilic design enhances direct benefits to residents, raising awareness and commitment.



- *Air quality*
- *Water Quality*
- *Soil conservation*
- *Weather resilience*
- *Climate resilience*
- *Light and sound mitigation*
- *Heat-island reduction*

Health and Well-being

- Direct benefit to individuals.
- Measurable and documented in an expanding array of research.
- Beneficial effect on blood pressure, cortisol levels and heart rate.
- Enhances resilience to stress, anxiety and fatigue.
- Can help reduce frustration and irritability, and improve mental focus, restoration and stamina.
- Medical patient benefits include more rapid recovery, reduced need for pain medication and better emotional state.
- Family members of patients and medical staff also benefit, and medical system costs are can be reduced.



Education and Child Development



- Classroom productivity benefits from recess time in biophilic spaces and natural elements indoors.
- Nature can provide unique opportunities to explore and discover, and bolster self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Nature is dynamic and complex. Its rhythms and patterns fascinate, nourish creativity and curiosity, and stimulate cognitive development.
- Regular outdoor activity can help with attention deficit and anxiety, and improve mental focus.
- Awareness of nature helps teach stewardship and responsibility.
- Urban nature is an effective lab for many classroom subjects.

Biodiversity and Habitat

- Nature closer to people means people closer to nature.
- Proximity brings awareness, discovery, learning and appreciation.
- Caring and stewardship are key ingredients to conserving local biodiversity.
- Urban citizen science matters to residents and to science, and helps maintain real-time knowledge of our natural resources.
- Accessible nature broadens the base of public engagement for common urban goals.



Economics and Business



- Recognition for decades that nature sells, but did not have a science-based reason why.
- Nature has significant economic value that can be measured.
- Contributes to employee and student performance, improving results.
- Fosters profit enhancements due to better employee productivity.
- Improves community desirability for new investment and corporate location decisions.
- Natural space is better for retail sales and customer satisfaction.
- Nature is quantifiably beneficial to property values and tax revenue.

Social Activity and Community Participation

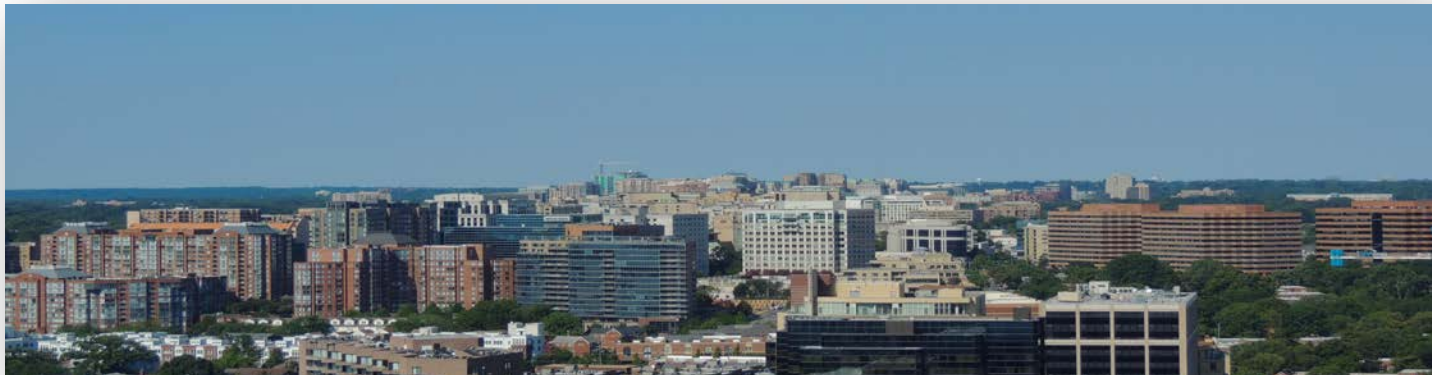
- Sharing nature promotes local pride and common interests.
- Natural spaces and places with natural features are preferred places for many social activities.



- Natural walkways, paths and parks encourage walking and biking for transportation.
- The value of nature stimulates community engagement about our county and its livability.
- Valuing nature promotes volunteerism and stewardship of community spaces, which also lowers direct public costs.

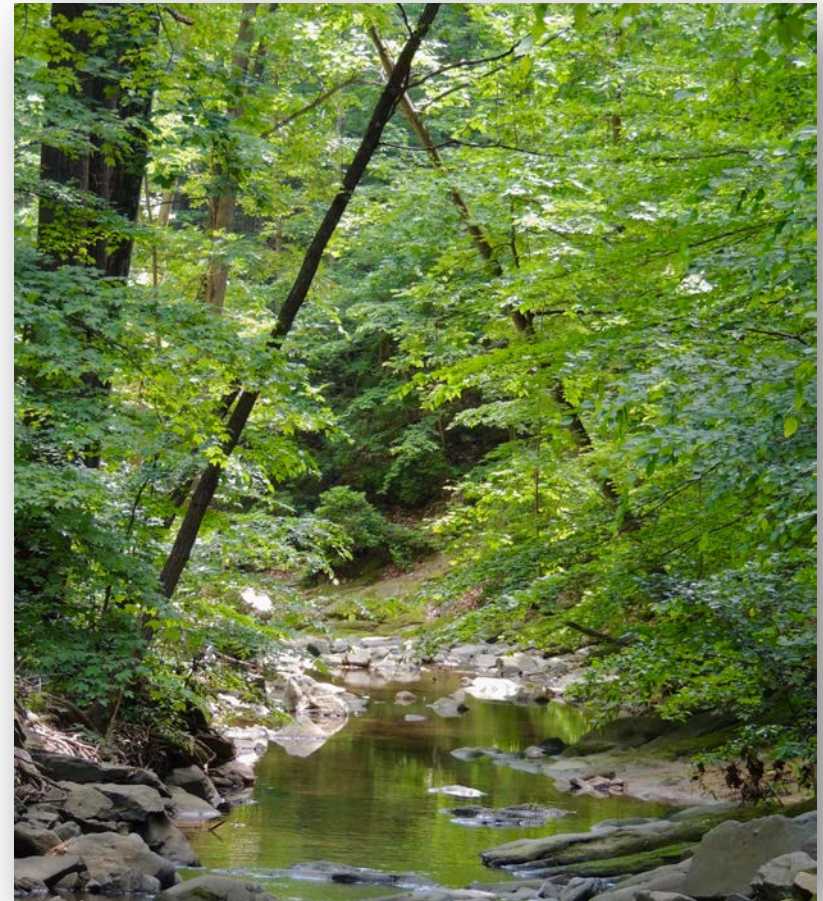
How Would We Be Biophilic?

- Ensuring that nature is a key element in our strategic vision and in our plans, policies, practices, and in our official county communications.
- Investing in nature as a fiscal priority, including protection and preservation of existing natural spaces, land acquisition to create natural park spaces, and adding multiple value to county facilities and infrastructure through biophilic design.
- Encouraging actions to enhance natural features in the built environment, and include biophilic design elements in both public and private development projects.



Biophilic Arlington: A Naturally Human Approach

- Living in proximity to nature makes people happier, healthier, and more productive.
- Accessible nature is elemental to social equity, community identity and environmental and economic sustainability.
- Having urban nature requires proactive efforts to preserve and enhance natural spaces and to create natural features in the built environment.
- Biophilic planning and design can bring tangible and proven benefits for a sustainable county and a nurturing habitat for residents.
- The Arlington County Board has demonstrated visionary leadership by committing Arlington to a biophilic future, and by resolving to be a partner in the Biophilic Cities Network.





Creating a Biophilic Community in Arlington

Caroline Haynes
Park and Recreation Commission
July 26, 2022

Local Challenges

- Projected 28% population growth in next 22 years.
- Significant increase in population density from 8,729 to 11,147 per square mile.
- Overall tree canopy is about 40%, but some areas losing trees at an alarming rate.
- Smart Growth provides efficiencies in transportation, infrastructure and services; BUT...
- Parks, open space and nature have not been a high priority.



Photo by David Howell

Changing Community Priorities

- Increased appreciation for and demand for access to the natural world prior to COVID, but amplified dramatically during pandemic
- Community survey results from 2008 and 2016: Strong increased support for natural areas and wildlife habitats (21% to 50%) and multi-use trails (57% to 73%)
- Significant growth in membership of volunteer organizations supporting natural communities (Master Naturalists, TreeStewards, Master Gardeners, Arlington EcoAction)
- Broader cross section of citizens engaging in advocacy and activism on natural resources and trees



Photo by David Howell



ABOUT BIOPHILIA

An aerial view of a community garden project in a park. Several people, mostly wearing white t-shirts, are working on a sloped garden bed. They are planting small green seedlings from black plastic pots into the soil. The garden is surrounded by trees and a paved walkway. In the background, there are concrete steps and a curved stone wall. The overall scene is one of active participation in nature.

Science catching up
with what we know
intuitively:

We feel better, physically and
emotionally, and more productive
with regular engagement with
nature



80%

Americans live in an urban
environment and are increasingly
disconnected from the natural
world.



THE BIOPHILIC CITY PROJECT

PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN

SD3: Protect, restore, enhance and expand natural and historic resources, and increase resource-based activities.

3.3.1. Explore opportunities to participate in and join the Biophilic Cities movement.

Appendix III: Privately Owned Public Space Design Guidelines

These guidelines are also meant to facilitate biophilic planning and promote ways for people to regularly access and connect with nature. An important next step will be to define and conceptualize design within the context of biophilic practices.



First Implementation Step of PSMP:

County Board Adopted **Biophilic Resolution**, December 17, 2019

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Arlington County Board that Arlington County supports joining the Biophilic Cities Network and commits to monitoring and reporting on the following Biophilic indicators:

1. Expanded biophilic planning and design principles throughout existing policies and processes, such as comprehensive plan elements, sector plans, site plans, park master plans, and multimodal transportation plans and projects;
2. Educational opportunities for the community, including residents and development stakeholders, about the benefits of biophilic principles to further the presence of nature in our buildings, facilities, homes and public spaces;
3. Expanded natural elements within Arlington's built environments, as well as conservation of our natural resources;
4. Creation of publicly accessible urban nature projects;
5. Equitable access to green spaces, parks and other natural elements.



Arlington officially joined the Biophilic Cities Network In March 2020

Biophilic City Network Part

- *Austin, TX*
- *Barcelona, Spain*
- *Birmingham, UK*
- *Curridabat, Costa Rica*
- *Edinburgh, Scotland*
- *Edmonton, Canada*
- *Fremantle, Australia*
- *Milwaukee, WI*
- *Miami,-Dade County, FL*
- *Norfolk, VA*
- *Panama City, Panama*
- *Phoenix, AZ*
- *Pittsburgh, PA*
- *Portland, OR*
- *Raleigh, NC*
- *Reston, VA*
- *Richmond, VA*
- *San Francisco, CA*
- *Singapore*
- *St. Louis, MO*
- *Toronto, Canada*
- *Visakhapatnam, India*
- *Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain*
- *Washington, DC*
- *Wellington, New Zealand*

14 PATTERNS OF BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Nature In The Space

1. Visual Connection with Nature
2. Non-Visual Connection with Nature
3. Non-Rhythmic Sensory Stimuli
4. Thermal and Airflow Variability
5. Presence of Water
6. Dynamic and Diffuse Light
7. Connection with Natural Systems

Natural Analogues

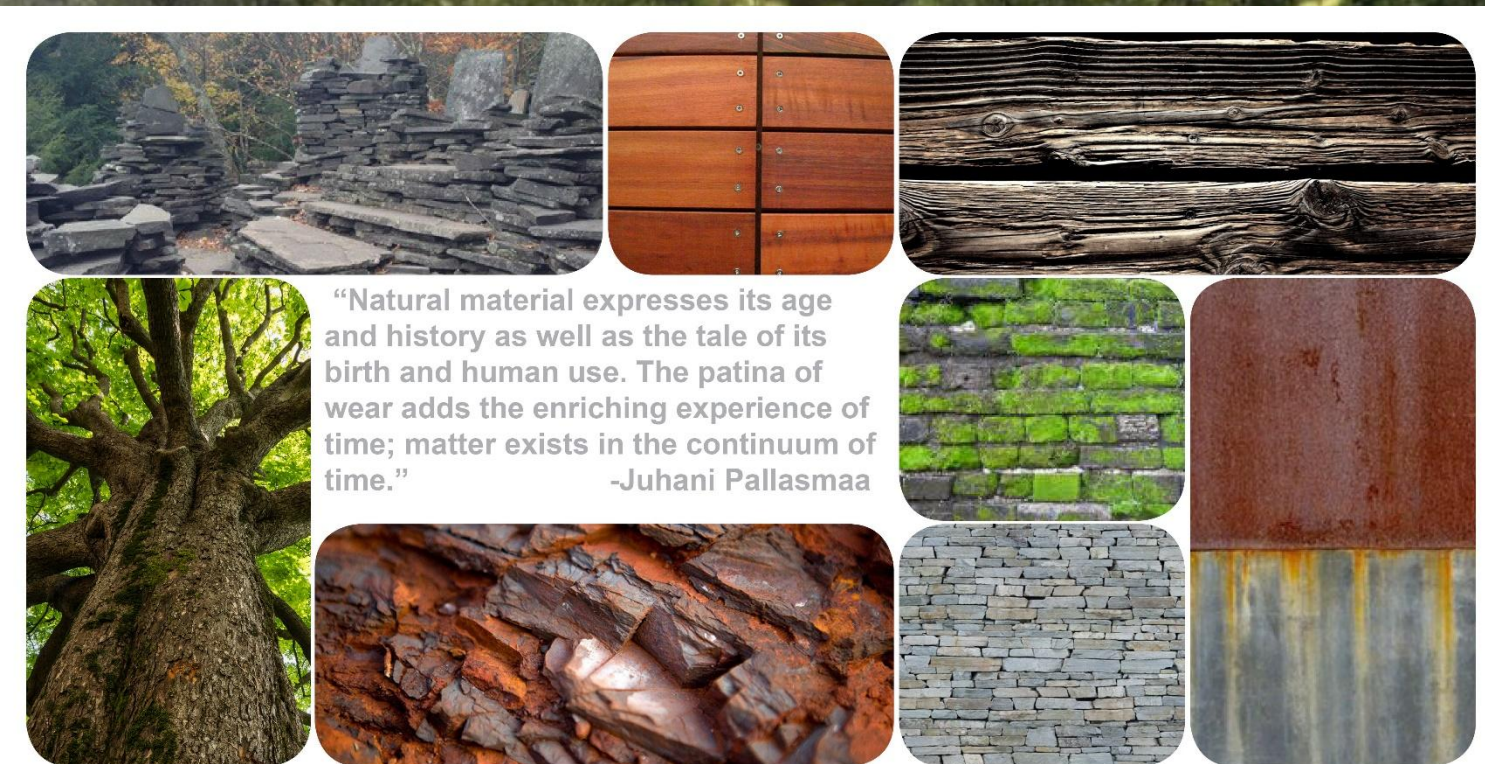
8. Biomorphic Forms and Patterns
9. Material Connection with Nature
10. Complexity and Order

Nature Of The Space

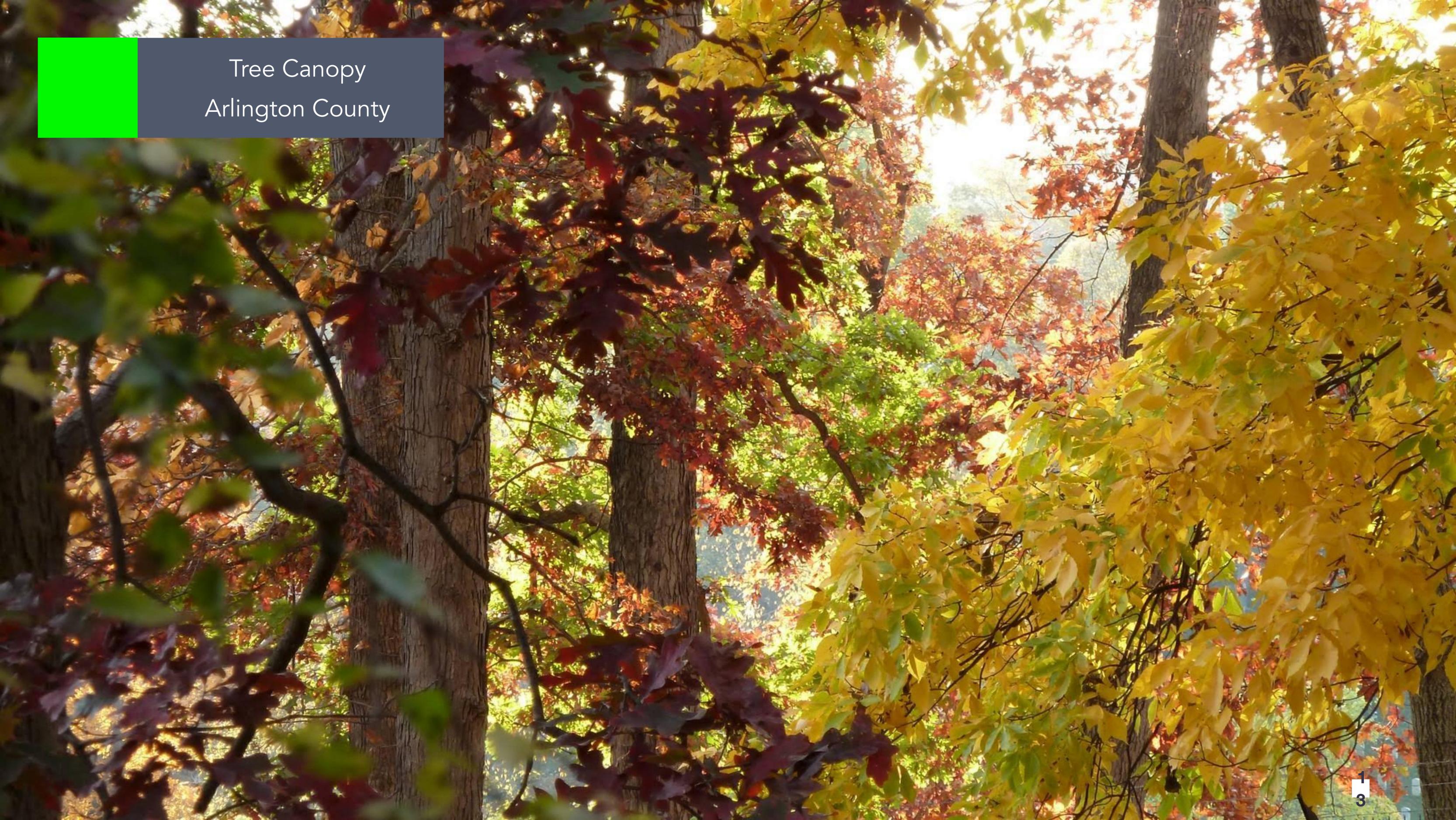
11. Prospect
12. Refuge
13. Mystery
14. Risk



Green Roof Lubber Run Community Center



"Natural material expresses its age and history as well as the tale of its birth and human use. The patina of wear adds the enriching experience of time; matter exists in the continuum of time."
-Juhani Pallasmaa



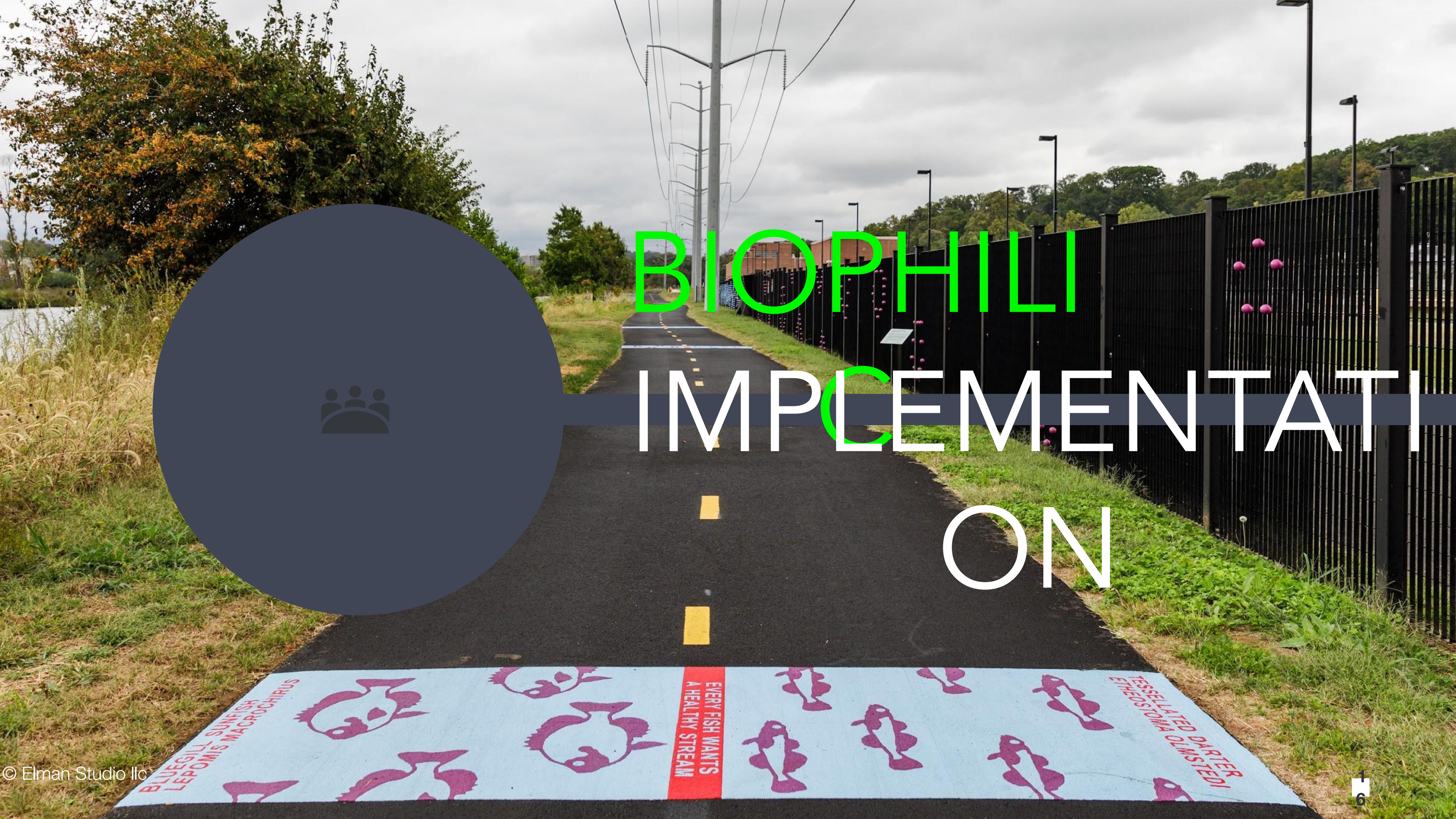
Tree Canopy
Arlington County

Casual Use Space
Fort C.F. Smith Park



Seating Area
Francis A. Gregory Library
D.C.





BIOPHILI

IMPLEMENTATI

ON



BLUEGILL - SUNFISH
LEPOMIS MACROCHIRUS

EVERY FISH WANTS
A HEALTHY STREAM

TESSELATED DARTER
ETHOSOMA OLIVACEI

BIOPHILIC IMPLEMENTATION

1. Biophilic Institutions, Planning, and Governance
2. Natural Conditions, Qualities and Infrastructure
3. Human Health and Wellbeing Factors
4. Biophilic Engagements, Participations, and Knowledge



BiophilicCities

A group of students are gathered around a stream in a forest. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and foliage. A large fallen log lies across the stream. The students are wearing jackets and hats, suggesting a cool environment. The scene is peaceful and natural.

Arlington Outdoor Lab

Nature in Classrooms
Alice Fleet Elementary
School



Trails
Access to Nature



Nature-Based Programming



Yoga in the Park



Steps taken to date toward implementation:

- Staff organized and held a two-day virtual workshop in July of 2021 for over 150 county staff to raise awareness of the topic and explore opportunities to include biophilia in the broad range of county planning and programs
- Green Building Program updated to include biophilic design elements
- Pentagon City Planning Study incorporated key biophilic concepts
- Many biophilic elements included in adopted site plans including Met Park, Pen Place, ArdisSenior Living, Marriott and others
- CPHD annual work plan includes reference to implementation of resolution
- Update of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan expected to include biophilia as a key planning concept



Integrating the natural
environment into the
built environment =

environmental resiliency+
sustainability+ economic
vitality

Benefits of Biophilic Design have a multiplier effect





THANK
YOU!