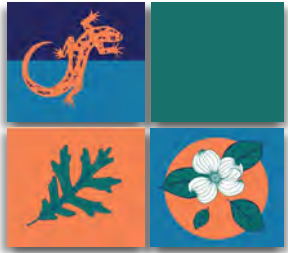


## Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) Update

- Introduction
- Planning Process
- Public Engagement
- Plan Content and Edits
- Next Steps





# FNRP Overview and Planning Context



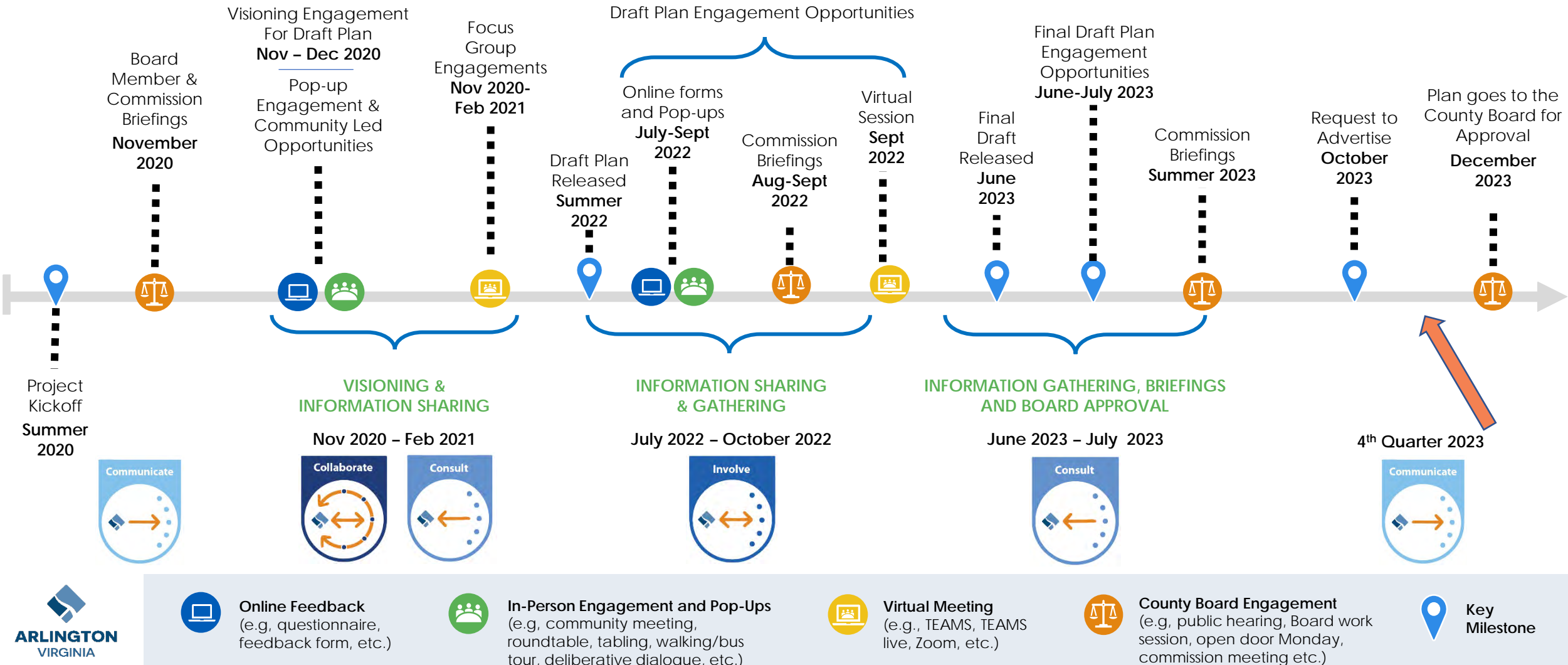
- A new element of Arlington's Comprehensive Plan
- A combined update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan
- Policy guidance for integrated natural resource and urban forest management across private and public land in the County

# Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Public Engagement Timeline

**Origin:** Element of Comprehensive Plan

**Funding:** General Fund

**Staff Contact:** Ryan Delaney (fnrp@arlingtonva.us)





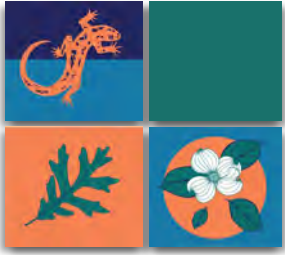
# Planning Process

## NRJAG Members:

- Caroline Haynes (Chair)
- Phil Klingelhofer
- David Howell
- Joan McIntyre
- David Evans
- Mikalia Milton
- Shruti Kuppa
- Jill Barker
- Sarah Baryluk

Comprised of members from FNRC, PRC, and C2E2 charged with oversight of FNRP.

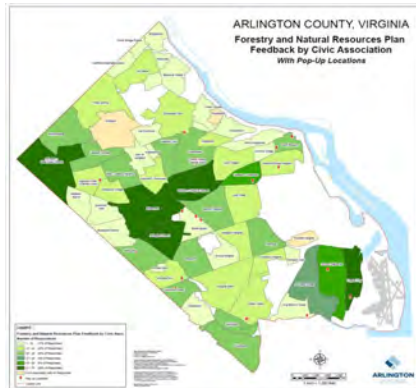
- Interdepartmental core team
- Regular input from the Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) and constituent commissions
- Benchmarking research
- Robust public engagement



# Public Engagement - Overview

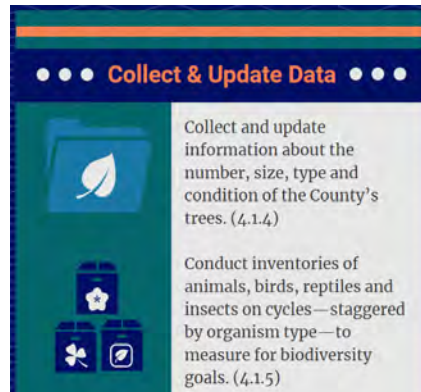
## Online Engagement

1,113 Participants  
Three Online  
Engagement Periods  
(2020, 2022, 2023)



## Education

Promotional Videos  
Infographics & Signs



## Pop-up Events

21 Bi-lingual Pop-Ups  
1,130 Participants



## Virtual Sessions

Open House, Focus  
Groups & Office Hours



## In-Person Sessions

In-Person Open House



Committee and Commission Briefings (NRJAG, FNRC, C2E2, PRC, LRPC/PC, PSMP-IAC)

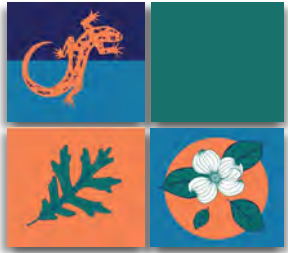




## Approach to the Plan

- A new, integrated, ecology-focused perspective on environmental planning
- An emphasis on equity and environmental justice
- A community-wide approach to conservation emphasizing education, outreach, and volunteerism
- A focus on reconnecting nature to daily life





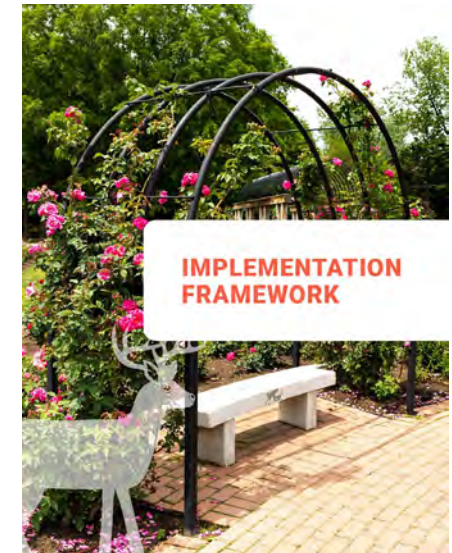
# FNRP Content



**NATURE BELONGS  
IN ALL OUR  
NEIGHBORHOODS**



**STRATEGIC  
DIRECTIONS**



**IMPLEMENTATION  
FRAMEWORK**





# FNRP Content – Strategic Directions



## 1. **Conservation**

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

## 2. **Climate Mitigation, 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**

Manage organizational resources for maximum return

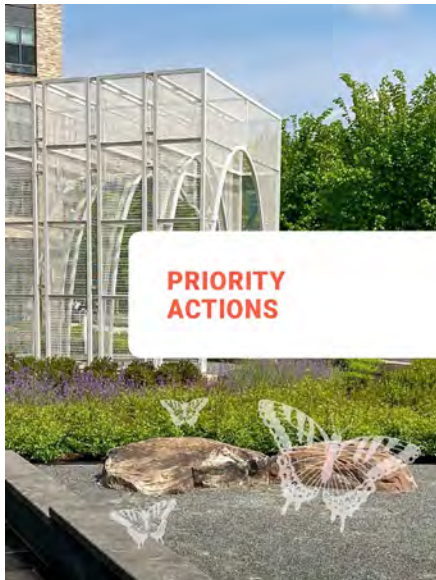




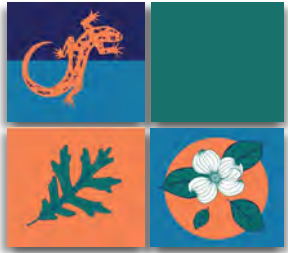
# FNRP Content - Draft Priority Actions

Top 10 priority actions from over 80 plan recommendations.

Priority actions identified through planning process.



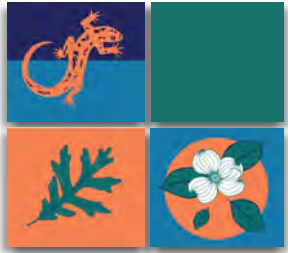
- 1.1.1 – Reestablish and maintain at least 40 percent tree canopy through tree planting and conservation programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.
- 1.1.2 - Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.
- 1.1.5 - Advance urban forestry and natural resource goals through County public space acquisitions.
- 1.2.1 – Seek legislation at the state level that authorizes Arlington County to develop locally-appropriate policies to conserve and manage its natural resources.
- 1.2.3 - Enhance development standards to optimize retention or replacement of tree canopy, natural vegetation, permeable surfaces and biophilic elements.
- 1.4.3 - Recruit and train community, cultural and faith-community leaders in addition to existing partner groups to serve as nature ambassadors and proponents of grassroots conservation.
- 2.1.1 – Direct resources to neighborhoods currently underserved by existing tree canopy, ecosystem services or access to natural areas.
- 3.1.6 - Adopt a native plant requirement for public and private sites to expand use and retention of local and regionally native plants.
- 3.3 – Establish a County-wide natural infrastructure and conservation connectivity network
- 4.4.1 - Move from “reactive” to “proactive” maintenance of publicly owned natural assets, outside of extreme storm events and other emergencies.



# FNRP Content - Implementation Framework



Item	Description	Time Frame Ongoing, Short, Medium, Long	Responsible Parties	Potential Partners	Cost Range Estimate \$-\$\$\$	Potential Funding Sources
1. Conservation						
1. Sustain Arlington's tree canopy and natural areas						
1.1.1	Maintain 40 percent tree canopy County-wide through conservation and tree-planting programs tailored to local conditions and ecological contexts.	Ongoing	DPR, CPHD, DES	NVCT, NVRC, EcoAction Arlington, nonprofits, VDOT, NPS, NOVA Parks, DOD, DOS, private property owners, County commissions, BIDs, development community	\$\$\$	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding, state funding, private funding
1.1.2	Ensure 70 percent of Arlington's trees are regionally native by 2035.	Long	DPR, CPHD, DES	NVCT, NVRC, EcoAction Arlington, nonprofits, VDOT, NPS, NOVA Parks, DOD, DOS, private property owners, BIDs, development community	\$\$	Operating budget, capital budget, federal funding, state funding, private funding



## 2023 Edits - Introduction

- Highlight racial equity and environmental justice in the Executive Summary.
- Increased the sense of urgency, particularly in regards to climate, in the Introduction.
- Cross referenced Natural History of Arlington section with the Historic and Cultural Resources Plan.
- Expanded discussion of by-right development in the Planning Context.
- Added new section on environmental organizations and volunteer groups to Existing Conditions.





## 2023 Edits - Introduction

- Clarified discussion of tree canopy decline and added references to the Tree Canopy Fund and Tree Canopy Equity Program to the Existing Conditions.
- Updated the “Wildlife” section of Existing conditions to “Flora and Fauna”, and added a discussion of trends.
- Reorganized the Priority Actions, Executive Summary, and Introduction to the Strategic Directions to better introduce the plan to readers.



## 2023 Edits – Strategic Directions

- 1.1.1 – Reframed as “*Reestablish* and maintain *at least* 40% tree canopy.”
- 1.1.6 – Added a recommendation to include tree canopy targets in sector plans, area plans, and similar County planning efforts.
- 1.2.4 – Added reference to utility undergrounding to avoid tree impacts.
- 1.4 – Expanded references to existing partnerships, volunteer organizations, and programs.
- Streamlined the text of the Biophilic Design section.



## 2023 Edits – Strategic Directions

- 2.1.1 – Clarified that communities with low tree equity scores have already been identified, and the recommendation is to work closely with those communities to make positive change.
- 4.1.4 – Refined reporting recommendation to “Report annually on implementation progress”.
- 4.1.8 – Updated the placeholder for DPR’s deer impacts study with results from the assessment.
- 4.3.1 – Emphasized existing volunteer partners as the foundation to build on when strengthening volunteer efforts.

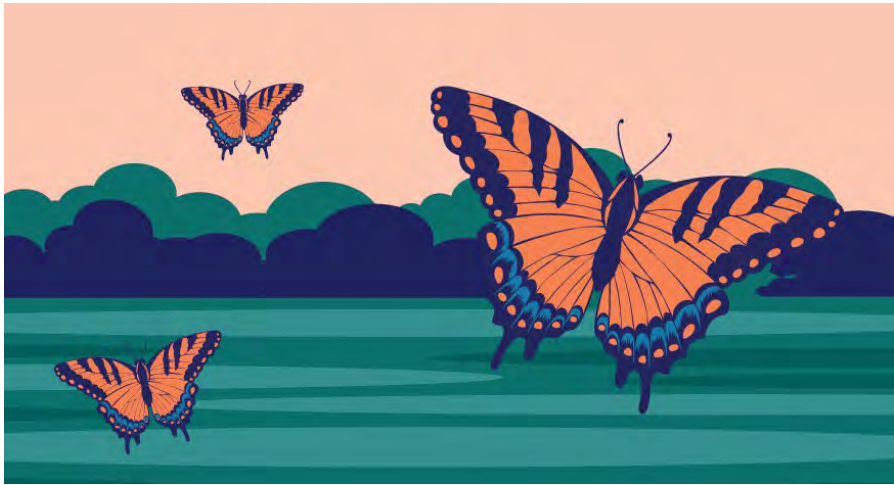




## Next Steps

- Commission Briefings
  - NRJAG, PRC, FNRC – October
  - NRJAG, PRC, C2E2, FNRC, PSMP-IAC – November
- Public Hearing to Consider Adoption
  - Planning Commission – December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - County Board – December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023





FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN

# NATURALLY ARLINGTON





# Park and Recreation Commission

**Langston Boulevard Area Plan**  
*Request to Approve Area Plan,  
GLUP/MTP/ZO amendments*

**October 26, 2023**



# Planning Process - Milestones





# Public Engagement



## Recent Engagement

Multiple engagement strategies since release of Draft 1 (June 2023) including:

- online feedback form
- open houses
- focus groups (Community Forum and Civic Associations)
- Commission Briefings including Park and Recreation Commission (September 19)
- County Board Work Session (September 12)
- Planning Commission RTA Hearing (October 2)
- County Board RTA Hearing (October 14)

## Next Steps

- Planning Commission Adoption Hearing (November 1)
- County Board Adoption Hearing (November 11)



## County Board Meeting October 14

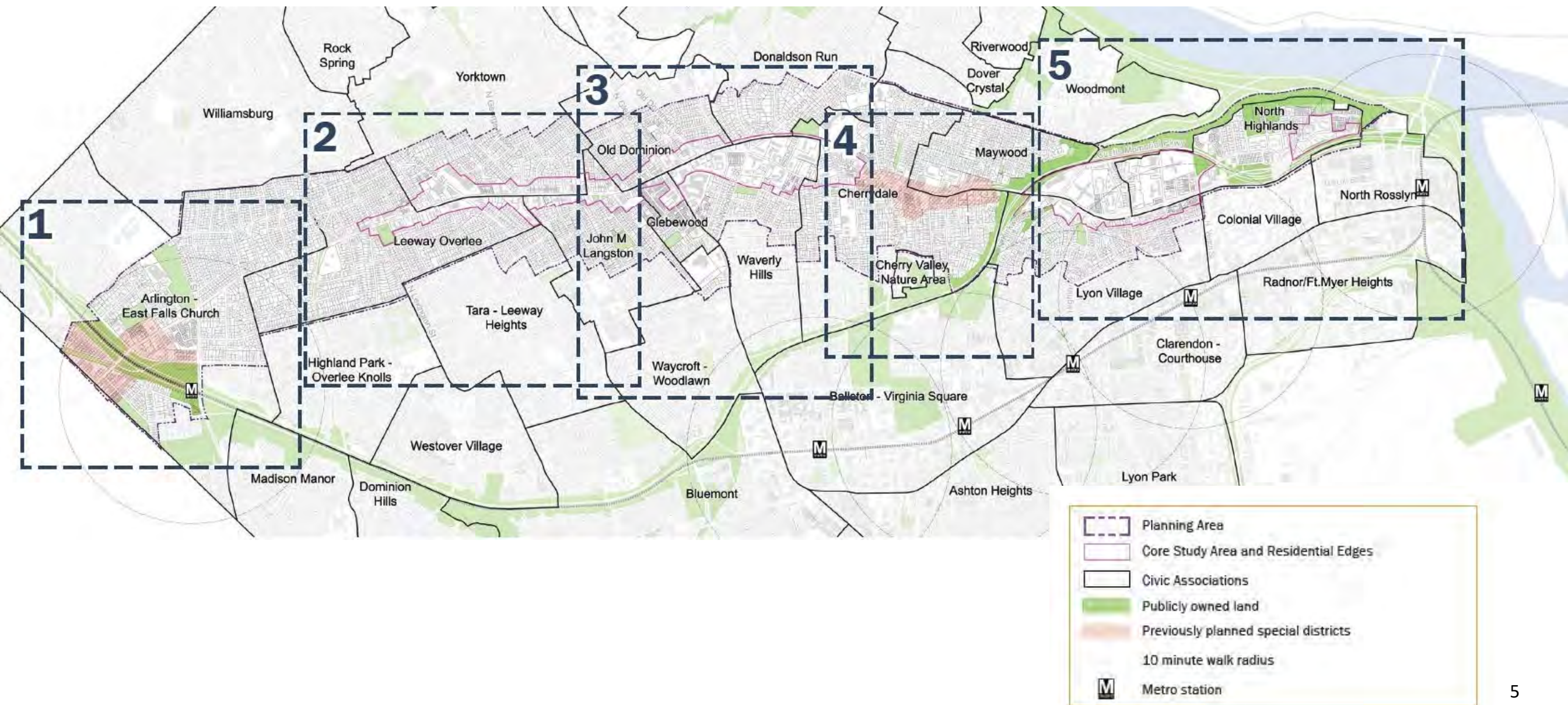


Approved advertisement of public hearings for adoption of Langston Boulevard Area Plan and associated amendments and approved two revisions to Draft Plan:

- ❑ Remove a policy recommendation, and associated text, that called for consideration of potential consolidation of public uses, including recreational facilities and activities, when future planning processes are undertaken to determine the long-term use and design of the corridor's public land.
- ❑ Change the timing for consideration of timing and prioritization of review of the Cherrydale and East Falls Church adopted plans from “as to be determined through establishment of the Planning Division’s Annual Work Plans” to “short term”.



# Neighborhood Areas



## Boldly Planning For People and Power of Place 2050 – Resilient, Renewable, and Re-energized

Draft Area Plan envisions **Economic Sustainability**, **Environmental Resilience**, and **Equity** as its foundation:

- reflecting a sustainable and equitable approach to land use planning,
- supporting and strengthening the diverse commercial base,
- leveraging proximity to transit and existing activity centers to reduce travel times and carbon emissions, and
- meeting housing needs of increasingly diverse residents and household types.

**Policies and Recommendations for:**

**Built Environment**

Land Use



Economic Vitality



Housing



Public Schools & Facilities



Building Form



Historic & Cultural Resources



**Public Realm**

Transportation & Urban Design



Public Spaces



Sustainability & Resilience



**Design Principles & Guidelines for Built Environment and Public Realm**





## Potential For Change



### **Maintaining Status Quo is not viable** - By-right development will exacerbate challenges:

- Expansion of impervious surfaces, increased downstream flooding and urban heat island effect, and reduced tree canopy coverage.
- Fragmented streetscape improvements and unsafe area for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Overall housing supply and number of affordable units corridor-wide remain low; likely loss of MARKs (market-rate affordable housing) through renovation or by-right redevelopment.
- Greater costs, more time needed, and fewer strategic private-public projects to attain stormwater detention and mitigation and enhanced transportation options.

### **Proactively Planning For Change guides public and private investment**

- Draft Area Plan, in coordination with other policies, plans, and regulations, will guide decisions for new buildings, site improvements, and other infrastructure in a coordinated way.





## Recent Engagement & Key Input Themes



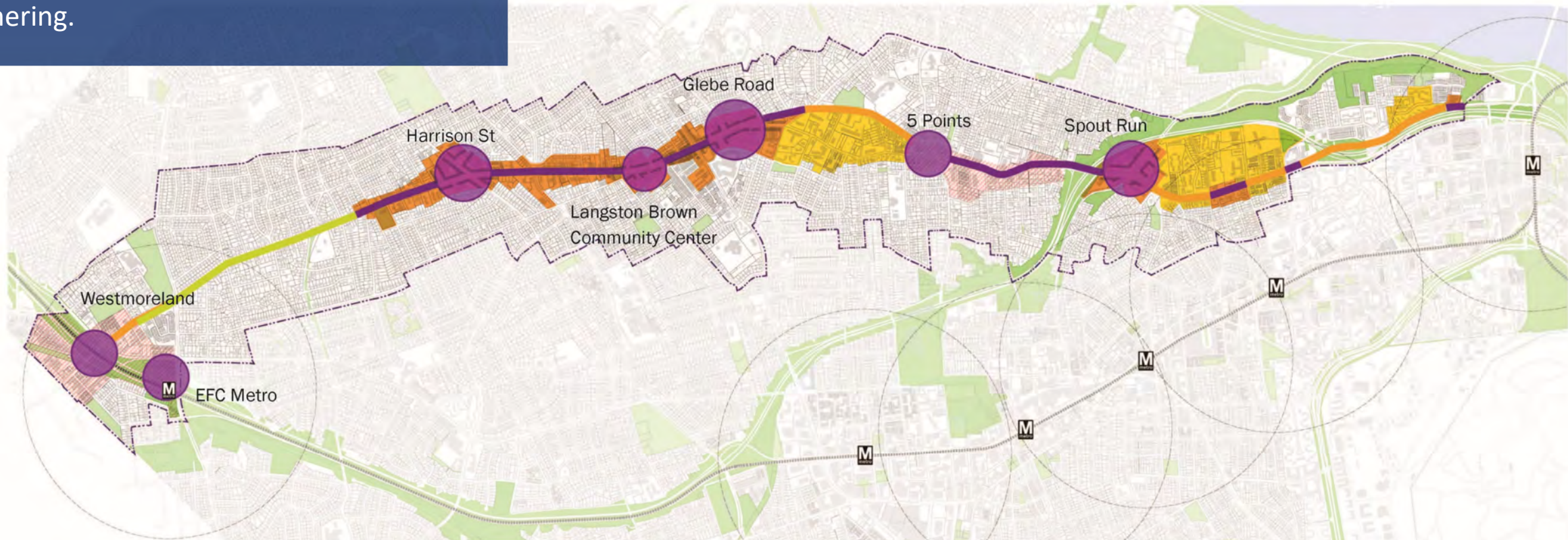
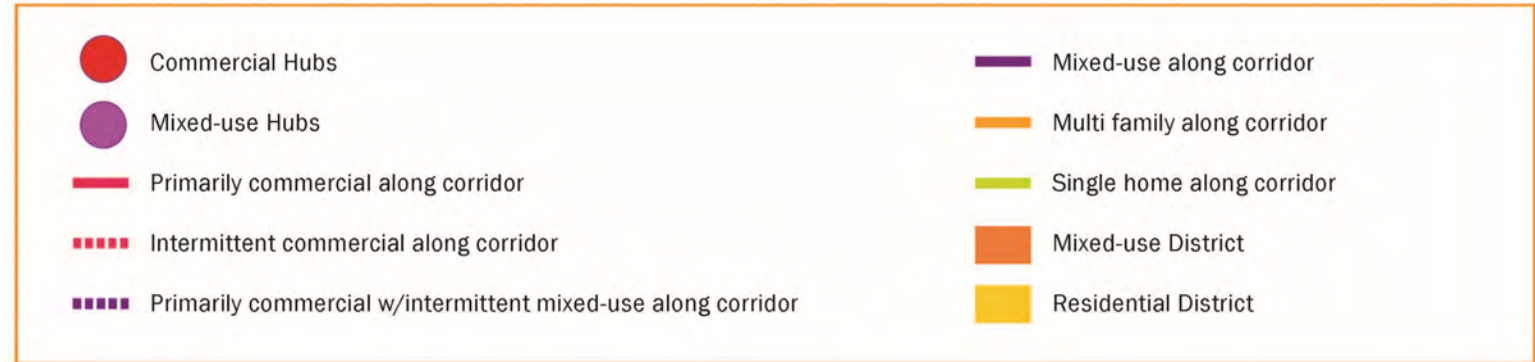
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- Plan's Scale and extent of change and potential impacts of transformation on corridor businesses
- Plan's vision for increased housing supply and affordability
- Appropriateness of Plan's Building Height recommendations
- Historic Preservation opportunities
- Plan's elements to create a multimodal corridor and accommodate new growth
- Overall supply, access, and ownership of new public spaces
- Improving stormwater management and greening the corridor
- Plan implementation

# Future Land Use Framework

## Land Use Goal:

Transform Langston Boulevard into a vibrant, green, multi-modal main street corridor through expanded land use and density that will support new households, shops, jobs, and opportunities for social gathering.





# Building Form and Height Framework

## Building Height and Form Goal:

Through building form, improve the public realm and transform Langston Boulevard and its neighborhoods into a walkable environment with diverse and context-sensitive buildings.

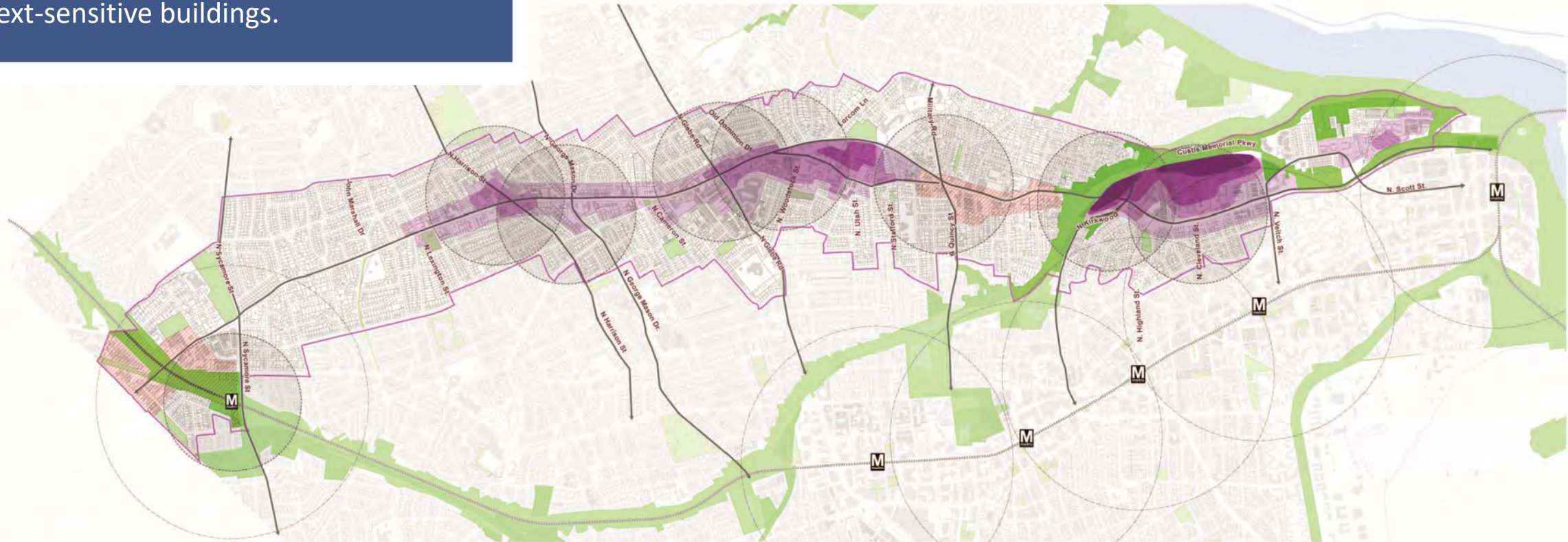
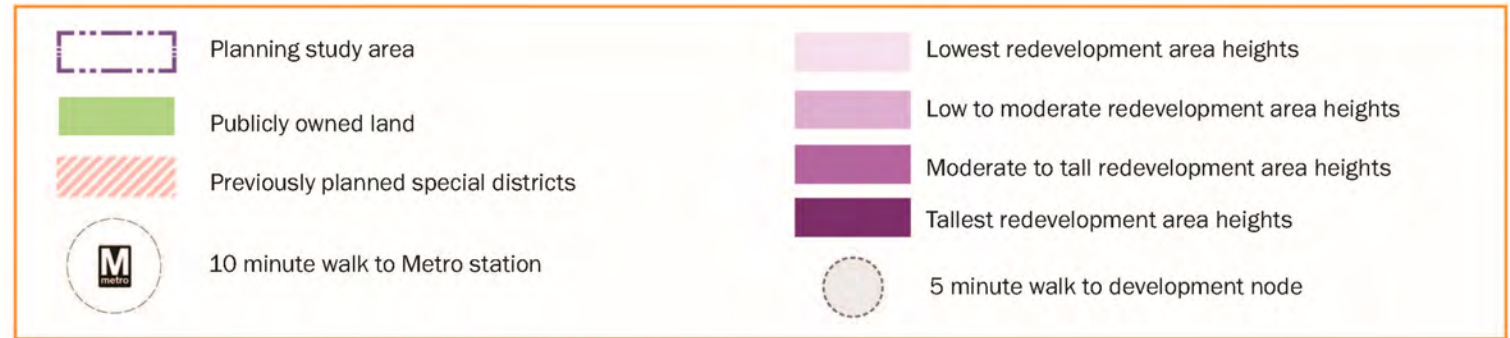


Figure 3.09: Diagram illustrating allowable building heights along the Corridor



# Public Space Framework

**Public Spaces Goal:** Ensure that the Langston Boulevard community is connected to and well served by a diverse mix of public spaces that balance community needs.

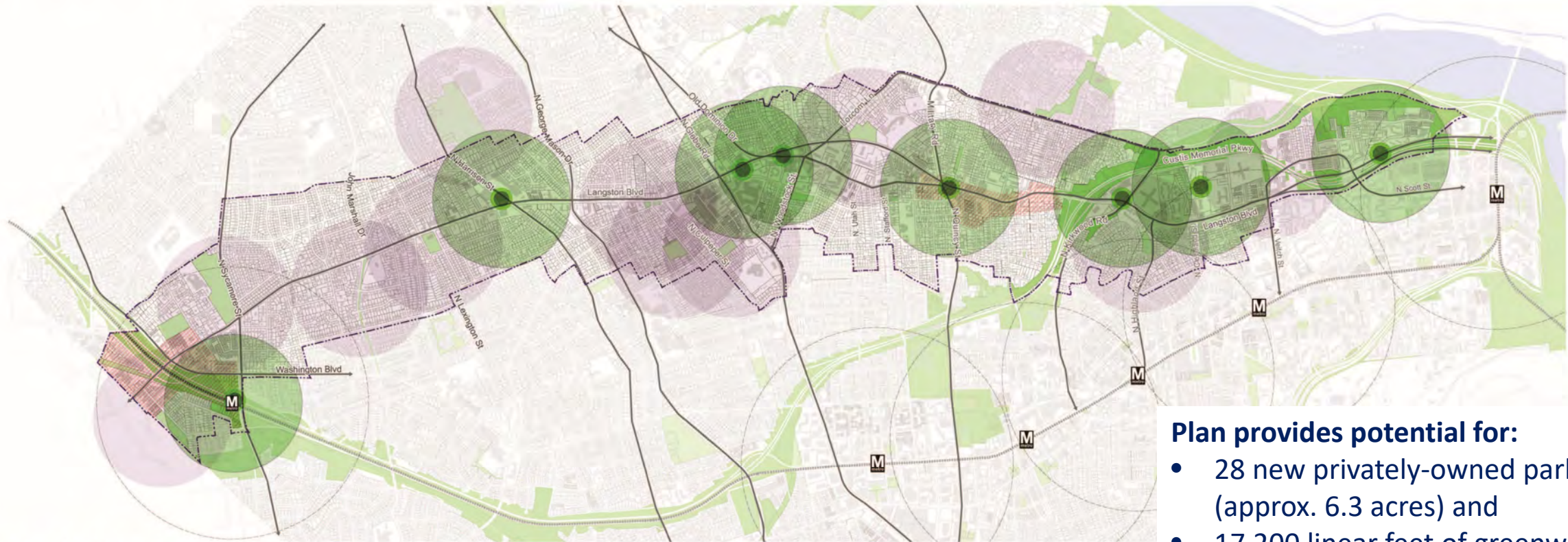


Figure 3.26: Diagram depicting approximate locations of desired public spaces

**Plan provides potential for:**

- 28 new privately-owned parks/plazas (approx. 6.3 acres) and
- 17,200 linear feet of greenways



## Plan Changes to Address Input – Public Spaces

### September RTA Draft:

- ☐ County will evaluate Public Space needs periodically to address changing context
- ☐ Accommodate children play areas and provide accessible public spaces regardless of age or ability consistent with PSMP
- ☐ Support special event programming hosted by private organizations
- ☐ County may design and construct public spaces on public right-of-way and private property when not otherwise implemented through private redevelopment (depending on site specific conditions, timing, and funding)
- ☐ County may assist with higher-cost public space improvements when adjacent redevelopment occurs
- ☐ County will undergo a public process to seek community input and will evaluate feasibility for consolidating public programs and services (where needed, possible and appropriate) and retaining park space at both County and APS sites

## Plan Changes to Address Input – Public Spaces

### September RTA Draft:

- ☐ Area 5 West Public Space Map/associated text at/near Lyon Village Shopping Center site:
  - ☐ Change from a 5,000 sf “elevated plaza” to an “elevated pedestrian/bicycle connection” along rear of site to link Custis Trail to new development, in response to owner concerns that plaza can create use conflicts;
  - ☐ Change from a 10,000 sf street level plaza (north corner) to improvements on public land surrounding trail to enhance visibility and access to trail, in response to owner concerns about site constraints and potential conflicts with limited service/loading access points.
  - ☐ Clarify buildings near entrances to Custis Trail should:
    - ☐ Have a minimum 20 feet-wide setback to widen and enhance entrance to trail and
    - ☐ Provide upper story architectural design and/or ground level activation to support activity and encourage “eyes” on trail.
- ☐ Updated Draft includes a 5,000 sf street level plaza (south corner), an elevated pedestrian/bicycle connection (rear), and improvements to existing public land surrounding trail to enhance visibility and access to trail.

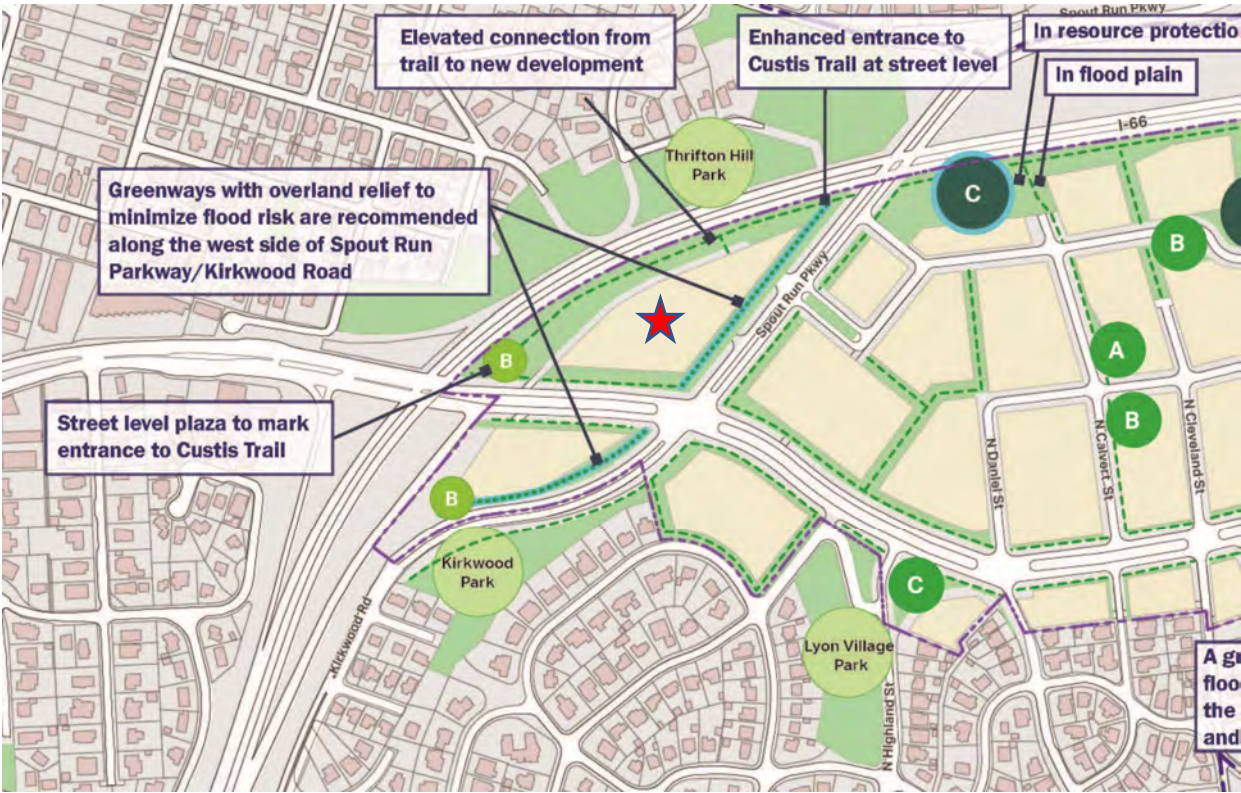


# Public Spaces – Area 5 West

June Draft



September RTA Draft



★ Lyon Village Shopping Center Site

## Plan Changes to Address Input – Public Facilities

### October Final Draft:

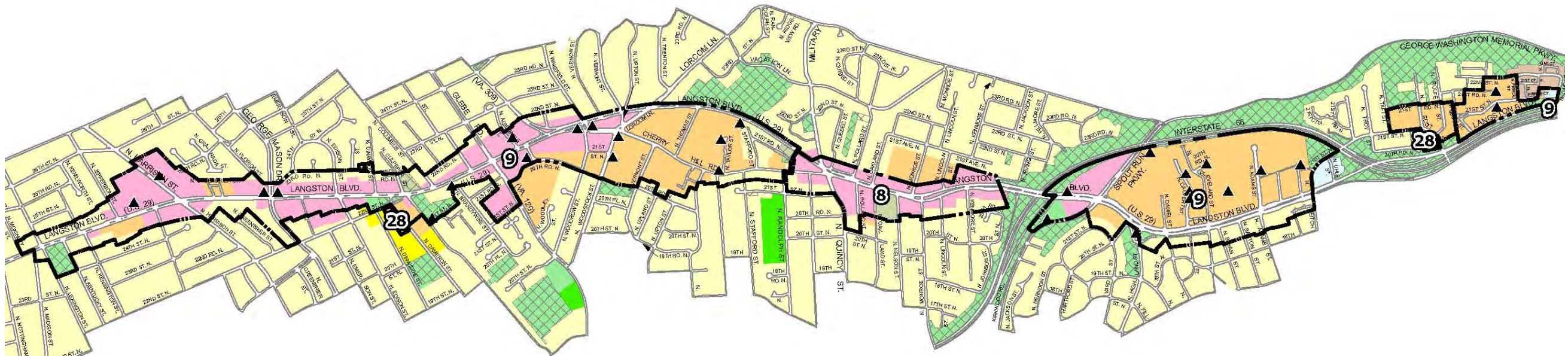
- ☐ Removed Public Facilities Policy PF.8:
- ☐ Removed Public Facilities Strategy No. 7:
- ☐ Added language in 3.1.3. Adapting for Public Facility and School Needs (introduction text), to clarify that when future planning or studies for the Lee and Langston Brown Community Center sites are conducted to consider new or expanded public uses and co-location of uses, it should be considered with public input.
- ☐ Merged recommendation to consider opportunities to consolidate recreation facilities and activities (in 3.1.3.) and clarified that it should be considered where appropriate and possible.



# Implementation Recommendations

## General Land Use Plan (GLUP) Amendments:

- Establish the Langston Boulevard Planning District
- Add open space triangles for planned public space locations
- Remove Housing Conservation District (HCD) areas within proposed Langston Boulevard Planning District
- Remove parcels within Cherrydale Revitalization District, adjacent to areas where redevelopment has occurred per Cherrydale Plan goals.



Park & Recreation Commission to recommend Adoption by the County Board of the:

- ☐ Final Draft Langston Boulevard Area Plan and
- ☐ Associated General Land Use Plan, Master Transportation Plan Map, and Zoning Ordinance amendments for Plan implementation