

Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee
Written Public Comment- 05/15/2025

Entry Date	Comment
05/15/2025	<p>The Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) states in Priority Action 9, Action Step 2.3.1., page 88 (Compile and clarify design standards for all types of trails): “Design standards may include landscaping ... and maximum widths of mowed buffers adjacent to trails”, among other things. However, the County has not begun to implement many of those recommendations.</p> <p>In particular, I ask your committee to advise the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) that it should start to develop a design standard for the maximum width of mowed buffers adjacent to trails. Three-foot wide buffers should be adequate, as the County and NOVA Parks have signed an agreement that established this buffer width for a part of the W&OD Trail that travels near Bluemont and Glencarlyn Parks, near N. Carlin Springs Road. Excessive mowing has destroyed and prevented the growth of many natural areas near the W&OD Trail and other trails that travel through parks because the County does not limit the widths of mowed trail buffers. This design standard is therefore urgently needed.</p> <p>In addition, the PSMP contains several recommendations that encourage the conversion of mowed lawns to meadows and other natural areas, including Priority Action 11, Action 3.2., page 98 (Protect, restore and expand natural resources and trees) and Priority Action 11, Action Step 3.2.10., page 102 (Create pollinator corridors within parks and street medians, as appropriate). Please therefore ask the DPR to start implementing those recommendations by identifying unused mowed lawns that it can convert to natural areas.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <p>An area of frequently-mowed grass on a hillside north of the W&OD Trail, southeast of an electrical substation and west of N. Kensington Street.</p> <p>An area of frequently-mowed grass east of N. Sycamore Street, west of Four Mile Run, and south of an entrance ramp to eastbound I-66.</p> <p>I also suggest that your committee meet more frequently than it presently does. This will permit your committee to more actively implement the PSMP and to address many of the recommendations that the PSMP contains.</p>
05/15/2025	<p>I write to highlight how important the PSMP Refresh is to Arlington's pickleball community. We have been waiting many, many years for the establishment of a Target Level of Service for pickleball; not having one has held us back time and time again when advocating for playing opportunities. We experience long wait times for pickleball, while staring at empty and under-used courts that could be vibrant pickleball communities. We anticipate that when the survey numbers come in, the number of pickleball</p>

	<p>players in Arlington will be larger than the number of tennis players, and thus a mandate will be established that allocates resources (court space and time) accordingly. We urge the committee to recognize that the current PSMP Action Item 1.4.3 - to expand pickleball "to meet demand" has not been fulfilled, and thus it's important to prioritize pickleball moving forward to address this shortfall. Pickleball deserves a dedicated facility at least as large, if not larger, than what is being built for tennis at Bluemont Park, and deserves to have court space and time proportional to our numbers, with an emphasis on the drop-in play format that is the heart and soul of pickleball communities across the country. Thank you for being cognizant of our plight, and of DPR's shortfall in fulfilling PSMP Action Item 1.4.3. This PSMP Refresh is incredibly important to us, and the growth and vibrancy of pickleball for the next 5+ years depends on it.</p>
05/15/2025	<p>Love what youre doing with courthouse area. However, to brighten up the park across from the commodore (where the murals were just installed on the pavement) and to make it feel safer, I ask that you install lights on the large tree covering the park. This will make the public park a less viable option for sleeping and will help brighten up the space.</p>