SHIRLINGTON PARK
ADOPTED GUIDANCE

Four Mile Run Valley Park Master Plan (Adopted 9/22/2019)
Four Mile Run Valley Area Plan (Adopted 11/17/2018)
UNIQUE DESIGN ELEMENTS: SHIRLINGTON PARK

CONCEPT TO INCLUDE:
- vegetation management
- stormwater management
- riparian restoration
- gateways
- wayfinding
- placemaking
- amenities
- overlooks w/ educational/interpretive component
- riparian access
- public art

PARK MASTER PLAN
Shirlington Park Entrances and Gateways

Shirlington Park, located along South Arlington Mill Drive, is visually accessible from any point along the roadway and from the neighboring residential and commercial buildings of the Village at Shirlington to the south. From the north side of FMR, Shirlington Park can be viewed at some points along Jennie Dean Park and the dog park, but the view is predominantly blocked by trees and other riparian vegetation. The park may be entered at many points from the south side with multiple crosswalk locations along South Arlington Mill Rd., west from South Walter Reed Drive and east from Shirlington Road. The park may be accessed from the north at its western and eastern boundary and also at the pedestrian bridge from Jennie Dean Park.

Guidelines

- Ensure that park entries are also focal points that draw views toward the park and highlight the points of entry
- Create gateways into the park at the primary park entries (South Walter Reed Drive, Shirlington Road, and pedestrian bridge) that include wayfinding/placemaking signs or markers, decorative paving, landscape design, seating, public art and interpretive components
- Provide for the safety and comfort of all park users at the park entries and gateways
- Use advanced lighting technology to focus pedestrian lighting on walking surfaces and minimize light trespass to adjoining areas

Figure 86  a. Gateway locations (yellow circles)
   b. Examples of vertical gateway features
   c. Examples of gateway features incorporating light
   d. Example of color galvanized steel and abstraction of nature

PUBLIC ART EXAMPLES:
- sculpture
- thematic
- temporary art installations
- interactive features

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legends:
- Potential Public Art Areas
- Potential Public Art Locations
- Overlook
- kiosk
- Riparian Access
- Gateway/entrance
- Existing Path
- Shirlington Park
- Stream
Using Planting Design to Reinforce Visual Gateways and Define Casual Use Spaces

Guidelines

- Restore riparian woodlands through an invasive species management program and the planting of new overstory
- Reintroduce native species along streambanks and at overlooks as interpretive and educational features (herb, shrub and canopy layers)
- Use planting design to frame views into the park areas and to add variety and interest at focal points and gateways
- Use planting design to define spaces used for both casual use (social spaces and seating areas) and active recreation (parcours/exercise stations)
- Use massing of understory plants at the edges of existing riparian woodlands to increase visual interest and establish a distinct image that frames focal views and social spaces

Figure 87: Visual gateways and focal points at intersecting streets

Figure 88: Casual use space in Shirlington Park

Figure 89: Native flowering shrubs and ferns as mass plantings to define woodland edges, establishing a distinct visual image at focal points, and to define social spaces
Shirlington Park Structures - Overlooks

Existing structures to remain within Shirlington Park include the parcours facilities which may remain as is or be enhanced over time. New structures proposed in Shirlington Park include overlooks at three locations, made accessible by a riparian access path.

Guidelines

- Construct overlooks with materials in keeping with the design character of Shirlington Park and the larger PMP study area
- Locate overlooks for minimal impact on the landscape, supported by a concrete footing outside of the regulatory floodway, cantilevered out over the stream and supported by timber piles
- Locate overlooks near crosswalks/focal/access points
- Ensure that overlooks provide a space suitable for casual use and views of the FMR
- Consider providing an interpretive component at overlooks, celebrating FMR or other natural features

Figure 90  a. Proposed overlook locations  
  b. Example of overlook nestled into adjoining vegetation  
  c. Section illustrating how overlook is sited in relation to streambank to minimize construction impacts
Shirlington Park Circulation

Guidelines

• Retain the existing shared use path in place with the potential for improvements over time to mitigate conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians
• Provide signage to encourage bicyclists who wish to travel at higher speeds to use the W&OD Trail to the north
• Provide a six foot wide soft riparian access path (stone dust or similar) at key locations within the park to offer social and casual use spaces away from wheeled vehicles with closer proximity to FMR
• Locate the riparian access path a minimum of two feet from the top of bank with guardrails (cable rail) provided at steep slope locations
• Ensure that future transportation improvements at South Walter Reed Drive and Shirlington Road strive to reduce conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobiles at access points to Shirlington Park
• Widen the pedestrian bridge (if feasible) to allow for easier circulation of bicyclists and pedestrians and provide a more prominent gateway feature

Figure 91  a. Diagram showing locations of access loops for overlooks in relation to FMRT
b. Example of stone dust trail
c. Illustration of overlook integrated into natural setting of streambank
d. Example of cable railing with simple interpretive features integrated within design
FIGURE 3.8: OVERLOOKS, ACCESS AND TRAIL UNDERPASS OPPORTUNITIES

LEGEND
- Proposed Overlook
- Proposed Riparian Access Path
- Existing Water Access
- Proposed Water Access
- Proposed Trail Underpass

Note: exact locations are to be determined, based on further study.
FIGURE 3.23: CONCEPT FOR SHIRLINGTON ROAD BRIDGE UNDERPASS

Note: This illustration is highly conceptual, and is intended to help visualize an idea that was identified in the 4MRV process. Final details regarding the connection to and through Jennie Dean Park would have to be developed and reviewed at the appropriate time prior to implementation.

Note: A similar concept could be considered for Walter Reed Drive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Recommended Actions (policies, studies, public improvements)</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Potential Funding Source</th>
<th>Page #</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Seek opportunities to better manage flooding.</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>DES</td>
<td>CIP</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Pursue drainage easements, over time, to allow for proper maintenance, repair and/or improvement of the facility.</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>DES</td>
<td>CIP / PRIVATE</td>
<td>3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td><strong>Natural / Open Space Network</strong></td>
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<td><strong>A3.1 Open Space Network</strong></td>
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<td>a</td>
<td>Develop a cohesive open space network with enhanced recreation opportunities that can support health and wellness.</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>DPR</td>
<td>CIP</td>
<td>3.10</td>
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| b  | As part of a corridor-wide public art project:  
  • Integrate natural and cultural resource education and interpretation; and  
  • Work with local artists to incorporate artistic elements.                                                                                                                                   | O      | AED                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
|    | **A3.2 Park Master Plan Spaces**                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |                      |              |        |
| a  | Jennie Dean Park - Improve and replace existing amenities, while incorporating new spaces and amenities to meet growing recreation demands.                                                                                                                | ST     | DPR                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
| b  | Shirlington Park - Improve its function as a casual use space and gateway between Shirlington Village and the arts, recreation, and business uses north of Four Mile Run stream.                                                             | MT     | DPR                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
| c  | Shirlington Dog Park - Keep the dog park as it is today, in terms of maintaining its current size and configuration, while providing for its future sustainability by seeking innovative ways to address environmental, operational, safety, and aesthetic conditions (including, but not limited to, stormwater management and shoreline maintenance). | LT     | DPR                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
|    | **A3.3 Acquisition / Phasing**                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |                      |              |        |
| a  | Acquire additional properties east of Nelson Street, over time, to implement the vision for an expanded Jennie Dean Park.                                                                                                                                  | LT     | DPR                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
| b  | Seek CIP or other funding for future phases of park development (beyond Phase I, Jennie Dean Park).                                                                                                                                                       | LT     | DPR                  | N/A          | 3.10   |
| c  | Investigate obtaining public access to the western end of the Shirlington Dog Park from Walter Reed Drive.                                                                                                                                                | ST     | DPR / DES            | TBD          | 3.10   |
|    | **A3.4 Access**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |                      |              |        |
| a  | Improve access along the north and south sides of Four Mile Run while providing overlooks and safe, stable water access at key points in order to reconnect with water and nature while accentuating scenic views along the waterway.                                         | ST - LT| DES / DPR            | CIP          | 3.10   |
| b  | Improve sidewalk conditions and intersection accessibility along South Four Mile Run Drive as part of a complete street enhancement.                                                                                                                     | O      | DES                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
| c  | Improve pedestrian paths, accessibility, and wayfinding along South Walter Reed Drive, South Oxford Street, and Shirlington Road.                                                                                                                          | O      | DES                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
| d  | Create potential trail underpasses or overpasses at South Walter Reed Drive and Shirlington Road to allow for continuous connectivity.                                                                                                                      | LT     | DES                  | CIP          | 3.10   |
|    | **A3.5 Allie S. Freed Park**                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |                      |              |        |
| a  | Conduct stream restoration and stabilization as part of an enhanced riparian buffer.                                                                                                                                                                       | LT     | DPR / DES            | CIP          | 3.12   |