Public Space Considerations

Marco Antonio Rivero, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
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Site Area/Context

- Nearby Parks & Publicly Accessible Spaces (within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius)
  1. Long Bridge Park
  2. Metropolitan Park
  3. Virginia Highlands Park
  4. Grace Murray Hopper Park
Site Area/Context

1. Long Bridge Park

- Amenities include (but are not limited to):
  - Casual Use Spaces
  - Drinking Fountains
  - Esplanade
  - Parking
  - Playground
  - Rain Gardens
  - Restrooms (including accessible restrooms)
  - Three (3) Synthetic, Lighted Rectangular Playing Fields
  - Walking Paths
  - **Coming Soon: New Aquatics & Fitness Center, Casual Use Space, and Esplanade Extension**
Site Area/Context

2. Metropolitan Park

- Amenities include (but are not limited to):
  - Casual Use Spaces
  - Drinking Fountains
  - Public Art
Site Area/Context

3. Virginia Highlands Park

- Amenities include (but are not limited to):
  - Lighted, Athletic Courts (Basketball, Tennis) and Sand Volleyball Court
  - Casual Use Spaces
  - Charcoal Grill
  - Drinking Fountains
  - Gazebo
  - Two (2) Lighted, Adult Softball Fields, One (1) Synthetic, Lighted Rectangular Field, One (1) Natural Grass, Rectangular Community Field
  - Parking
  - Paved Trail
  - Petanque Courts
  - Picnic Shelter (and tables)
  - Two (2) Playgrounds
  - Restrooms (including accessible restrooms)
  - Sprayground
Site Area/Context

4. Grace Murray Hopper Park

- Amenities include (but are not limited to):
  - Casual Use Spaces
  - Decorative Water Feature
  - Public Art
  - Walking Paths
Nearby Privately Owned Spaces

Examples:

1. Pentagon Row Plaza
2. Crystal City Water Park
Metropolitan Park Design Guidelines (2004, 2013, 2016) and Previous Site Plan Considerations

- Two acre publicly accessible park (includes a “Central Green”)
- Mix of “passive” and “active” uses
- Prominent north/south pedestrian connection
- Tot-lot shall be incorporated
- Public plaza space incorporated either within Central Green or along prominent street frontage
- Accommodate public art
- Separate play space for dogs
- Shade structure, unique seating, gardens
Level of Service (LOS) – Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) (2019)

- The **Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)** utilizes two (2) types of standards:

  1. The **population-based standards** indicate how many of each amenity Arlington may need between now and 2035 or has enough of a particular amenity.

  2. The **access-based standards** indicate where Arlington needs more or fewer of each type of amenity.

- Used in combination, these tools provide a snapshot of the LOS provided by current public space amenities and a roadmap for addressing the future number and location of amenities.
Level of Service (LOS) – PSMP (2019)

Examples:

**Basketball Courts:**
- 1/3,000 residents; additional two (2) basketball courts may be needed by 2035

**Community Gardens:**
- 1/30,000 residents; additional two (2) community gardens may be needed by 2035.

**Off-Leash Dog Parks:**
- 1/25,000 residents; additional three (3) dog parks may be needed by 2035.

- Casual Use Spaces

  - “The objective is to ensure that casual use spaces are considered to be an intentional, integral part of Arlington’s public space system. Casual use spaces should not be leftover after other uses are accommodated; these spaces should be purposefully designed and designated as part of the public space system.”

  - “Some casual use spaces, such as forested or landscaped areas, are available at all times, while others, such as fields with community use or school grounds, are available for casual use when they are not being used for other purposes.”

- Casual Use Spaces
  - Examples
    - Accessible forested areas
    - Accessible landscaped areas
    - Esplanades
    - Fields with community use
    - Grill/picnic areas (including shelters)
    - Open lawn with/without seating
    - Plazas
    - School grounds
  - Park Master Plans
    - “New park master plans developed by the County should include intentionally designed casual use spaces.”
      *(Priority Action #5, 1.3.)*

- Design Guidelines for Privately-Owned, Public Spaces (pgs. 235-243)

  - “The purpose of these design guidelines is to provide direction on the design and function of these spaces. The guidelines are meant to be used in coordination with other applicable County policies and regulations with the goal of achieving safe, accessible, comfortable and enjoyable spaces for everyone. These guidelines are also meant to facilitate biophilic planning and promote ways for people to regularly access and connect with nature.”

  - Six Focus Areas:
    1. Planning and Layout
    2. Access and Circulation
    3. User Comfort
    4. Landscaping
    5. Amenities
    6. Signage
Park Master Planning Considerations

- There will be separate, **park master planning processes** anticipated for each park space determining what amenities are considered for Metropolitan Park and other nearby development areas (i.e. PenPlace and the Teardrop Parcels next to 400 11th Street South).

- Staff will work with the various communities, the respective developers, and interdepartmentally to provide a vision and design guidelines for public spaces.
Park Master Plan and Associated Design Guidelines

- Post-approval, a community engagement process will shape the Park Master Plan (PMP) and associated Design Guidelines for the public space areas located on the Metropolitan Park site.
  - **Coordination with the Developer’s design firm(s)** to manage the planning, design and community engagement process. Potential design firm(s) to be evaluated by the County prior to the Developer’s final selection.

- **Potential Community Engagement Process** (based on previous successful processes)
  - Approximately three (3) engagement opportunities (“Collaborate” level)
  - Background/data, visioning exercises, initial collection of community feedback
  - Provide two (2) or more concepts for the park design
  - Provide a refined concept plan and introduce park design guidelines
  - Online questionnaire(s) to collect County-wide feedback (during engagement period)
  - Park and Recreation Commission, Urban Forestry Commission, and Public Art Committee Review
  - County Board Consideration of the final PMP and associated Design Guidelines
Thank you.