

Bluemont Park Online Comments	
Restroom and Shelter	<p>The restrooms and shelter should not be enlarged or separated. Enlarging them will displace open space, which can be used for trees, pollinator plantings and other natural features. Therefore, do not increase the footprints of any structures.</p> <p>Structures should not be separated. Separation would require areas of pavement or mowed grass to permit traveling between the structures. Separation would also displace space that can be used for trees, pollinator plantings and other natural features.</p>
Restroom and Shelter	I like the 2nd from the left most of all.
Restroom and Shelter	connected is better so that you don't have to go out in the weather to get to the restroom.
Restroom and Shelter	minimize tree removal
Restroom and Shelter	<p>Keep it with essentially the same footprint. It needs to have a restroom, tennis office, storage room for cleaning/maintenance? A bicycle maintenance unit would be nice to have. Also, the most important, universally used feature is the covered picnic area. Could you consider a second story to the structure, with a porch for viewing tennis and the rest of the park?</p>
Restroom and Shelter	<p>If you build new structures, consider putting green roofs on them. (If it is practical, consider that for refurbished existing structures. I doubt it would work for the picnic shelter, given the sloped roof, but perhaps for the restrooms.)</p>
Restroom and Shelter	Please have no net gain of impervious space and mature trees.
Restroom and Shelter	Leave them as they are. There is nothing wrong with them.
Restroom and Shelter	<p>The most critical thing is not to harm mature trees, including the one behind the shelter. The second critical thing is not to expand impervious surfaces. Please stay within the existing foot print, or reduce the foot print. This site is right by a Resource Protection Area.</p> <p>On a lesser priority, I have often seen people taking advantage of the current ability to move the picnic tables. They move them out of the way to use the entire shelter for an activity. They arrange all the tables to accommodate activities for large groups of people. They often have just one or two tables being used, and the rest of the space open to other people. I recommend you keep this flexibility if possible. Thank you</p>
Restroom and Shelter	I think the Shelter area could be expanded beyond what it is now. I really like the middle image with grass around it, and the image second from right. The idea of connecting amenities is best.
Restroom and Shelter	Be sure to make some gender-neutral restrooms. Heck, you might as well just make a bunch of smaller single- toilet, non-gender-specific restrooms (each with its own door). The hand washing

	<p>station can be outside. Either that, or make one single non-gender-specific giant restroom for everyone, like they often do in European countries.</p> <p>Also, there should be a water-bottle filling station in addition to a water fountain. Most people in Arlington are accustomed to carrying their own water bottles and are much less likely to buy single-use plastic water bottles if filling stations are readily available. Since this area is trafficked by bike commuters, runners, and other athletes working out, water bottle fill stations would be heavily utilized.</p>
Restroom and Shelter	The current shelter is big and covers a lot of area. Many people can use the shade and tables under the roof. The roof also provide shelter from the rain. I feel like many of the new designs don't offer the same amount of space, shade, and/or protection from the rain/snow. I would not sacrifice function for form.
Restroom and Shelter	First question is 'why'? Seems like the current restroom and shelter are just fine. Is this the best use of our \$\$?
Restroom and Shelter	I enjoy the blend of wood and concrete on these shelters. Charging stations and water connection would be great.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Replace impermeable surfaces with grass. This will reduce stormwater run-off. Do not increase the area that the tennis courts will occupy, as this would decrease the area available for natural features, such as trees and pollinator areas. Enlarge the space between the tennis courts and the Four Mile Run Trail by about four feet in the area that a corner of the tennis court fence is adjacent to the trail. However, do not enlarge the space by a greater amount, as this would displace an area that could be used for natural features while not increasing trail safety. Do not widen the trail.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Separating the course with a type of fencing is a good idea. But, please don't add any more tennis courts.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Lighting should not be brighter than it is now. All lights should be on a timer to shut off when no one is using them as they are now. Both of these will prevent any additional intrusion of lights on residential homes.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	The wide welcoming sidewalks are nice. Shade covers are essential. plantings - maybe some that further encourage the Monarch population are nice. Benches/seating are important. Some solid walls that allow players to practice hitting without a partner would be nice to have. I have read that in Asia, they are experimenting with incorporating recycled plastics that are difficult to use elsewhere into paving materials. Is this something that can be done here? And I gather that Arlington is now using our recycled glass in pavement.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	MAKE SURE LED LIGHTS DO NOT SHINE IN THE HOUSES ON NORTH 5TH ROAD-doing no harm should be the county's first priority

Tennis Courts and Lighting	Courts that are like Va. Highlands would be nice. But please keep the number of them and the footprint the same. Please put in another hitting backboard. The current one is used a lot.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Lights might be OK, if they do not shine light up into the sky. Also they should not disrupt any nearby neighbors. They should cut out at midnight.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Court surfaces crack regularly, so resurfacing is in order, but the rest of it should be skipped. No value add here.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	The most critical thing is not to expand impervious surfaces. We value the park for its natural areas, and don't want to loose the natural areas, or common-use green space for larger tennis facilities. Please either convert one court to pickle ball, or convert one court in Bon Air park for pickle ball. Thank you
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Access to courts should be at least every other court. I do think there is value in increasing the spacing between the courts for safety purposes. A shelter in the middle between courts is very beneficial, like at towers park. Additionally, the way the fencing is laid out at Towers/Va Highlands Courts is helpful to control balls moving from court to court (fencing comes out perpendicular to the fenceline in the rear of the court. Lights are absolutely necessary and should be evenly distributed for best lighting for late night play.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Use solar-powered lights! I like that there's plenty of bike parking. Is it possible to put in a public-use pump station as well? This would be used not only by cyclists, but also people playing ball sports in nearby fields.
Tennis Courts and Lighting	I do not like the benches on the court option. I do like the 'sail' type of shade. I also like the seating facing the courts. Could there be a combo of shade and seating facing the courts outside the court?
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Same question as the last: I've played on those courts since the late 1980s. Seem to be in good shape to me--so not sure why the County wants to spend more money on them
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Pickleball is becoming very popular in Arlington, please consider finding space for 1-4 courts. Thanks!
Tennis Courts and Lighting	Looks good no new ideas/comments
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	Get the parking lot out of the RPA. Eliminate the duplicative maintenance access route.
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	Reduce the size of the parking lot to permit an expansion of natural areas containing trees and pollinator plantings. The parking lot is rarely full and has too much impermeable surface. Further, parking spaces are available nearby in Bon Air Park, at the school, and on nearby streets.
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	I recommwns the lot have a permeable surface.

<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>Never ever consider putting in a parking garage. This would be an eyesore and users of the park would not use it when there is street parking available since most don't want to walk any further than necessary.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>Greenery makes parking areas prettier and may promote desirable fona. Is some type of porous paving realistic? This might reduce storm water run off. Any possibility of increasing tree canopy and shade would seem like a plus. Shrubbery around the perimeter of the parking lot camouflages the cars and creates a more pleasing appearance.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>I like the proposal to keep the route one way with a single entrance and exit. That helps with safety.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>NO parking garage under any circumstances--minimizing disruption to neighbors should be a priority.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>Impervious materials would be helpful for storm water. As would retention of the largest trees and perennial plantings. Can you put in a light at the intersection?</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>Maintain the entry points of the maintenance access routes as access points for cyclists.</p> <p>Another entry point for vehicles would increase impermeable surfaces and seems unnecessary.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>The existing parking area is a fine layout. Repave it and leave it alone or at least do not increase its footprint.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>Do nothing. Do not spend the money on parking lots.</p>
<p>Vehicular Circulation and Parking</p>	<p>The most critical thing is not to expand the existing footprint. We value the natural areas, and common-use green space in the Park, and do not want to loose any of it.</p> <p>The other essential issue, is not to harm the mature trees in and around the parking lot.</p> <p>If possible, please use this renovation of the parking lot to expand impervious surfaces.</p> <p>The park is well-served by the 1A and 1B buses that go directly to and from the Ballston metro. The area is also well-served by the ART bus system. Park users should be encouraged to use mass transit.</p>

	<p>There is also unrestricted parking in the neighborhood. I live on the Bluemont side of the park, and have not seen any problems with parking by park users in the neighborhood. The need for parking increases when there is a youth soccer game, or a park activity, but I am not aware of any of my neighbors being bothered when park users use neighborhood streets to park for such events. Thank you</p>
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	<p>Don't have strong feeling about parking, but care should be taken to ensure there is no net loss in number of spaces. This location is not well accessible by transit, so you have more people who drive to it and parking is a necessity. The county is far too quick to approve net loss of parking with new projects.</p>
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	<p>When are they going to finish repaving the bike path alongside this lot? The underpass was under construction for what seemed like forever, yet they never fixed those huge bumps/cracks on the trail.</p> <p>It's good that the center is a green space. It should also dip down to act as a floodwater catchment system (like a rain garden). Fill with flowering native species to make it pretty. No need for this area in the center to be walkable. People don't want to or need gathering space in a paved lot.</p> <p>Any work you do to improve rainwater runoff should be explained in posted placards. Also, consider using a lighter color, like white stone pavers or something to decrease the albedo in the lot.</p>
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	<p>I like the parking lot the way it is now. It has always worked just fine. Again, please do not sacrifice function for form.</p>
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	<p>A secondary exit/entry point off Manchester would be difficult given the grade, but if it could be done, how would that look like?</p>
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	<p>Get the parking lot out of the RPA. Eliminate the duplicative maintenance access route.</p>
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	<p>Fix the terrible pavement.</p>
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	<p>Do not increase the width of the Four Mile Run Trail. The trail is never congested, because the parallel W&OD Trail is nearby.</p> <p>The Arlington County Board has recently endorsed the funding of a NOVA Parks project that would widen the W&OD Trail and create a new paved pedestrian trail throughout Bluemont Park. For that reason, there is no need to even consider widening the Four Mile Run Trail.</p> <p>Increasing the width of the Four Mile Run Trail in this area would needlessly add impermeable surfaces. In addition, widening the trail would reduce space available for natural areas, such as areas containing pollinator plantings and trees.</p>

	To increase safety, enlarge the space between the Four Mile Run Trail and the tennis court at the point at which a corner of the tennis court fence is adjacent to the trail, creating a "pinch point". However, do not separate the trail and the tennis court by more than four feet and do not remove any trees. This can best be accomplished by moving the tennis court and keeping the trail in its present location.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Benches here and there at "nodes" would be an improvement.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Do not eliminate any trees or shrubs when making these improvements.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Resting points in the vicinity of the park for cyclists and walkers makes sense. We should plan bike space for those who want to make a brief stop at the rest rooms, maybe get a quick drink at a water fountain and be on their way.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Any improvement to the underpass below Wilson. Not a lot of room and frequently floods
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	pedestrian safety should be a priority-hopefully that can be accomplished without removing any trees.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	You do need some additional bike path access from the Four Mile Run Trail, but putting in a wide bike lane along the street and the tennis courts is overkill.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Given the nearness of a parallel trail, the W&OD trail, it does not seem necessary to widen the four mile run trail in the park. The pavement on that trail was damaged by the July storm and should be repaired.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Given that there is going to be a substantial widening of the adjacent W&OD trail for bikes, please do not widen this spur of the bike trail any more.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	Fine.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	<p>The essential issue is NOT to expand impervious surfaces. The pedestrian routes are within a Resource Protection Area, and partly within a flood plain. My neighborhood depends on this flood plain to protect their homes.</p> <p>I purposely visited the park after a heavy rain to consider what might be the affect of this Upper Bluemont Renovation project. There was ample evidence that a significant amount of water had poured along the existing paved path and into Four Mile Run. The large amount of silt on and along the paved path, the distinct pattern the water had carved when it made a path in the mud on the sides of the bike path, the way the plants had been pushed down by water, and the enormous amount of dirt in Four Mile Run attested to the fact that water had rushed down the path into Four Mile Run.</p> <p>We value the natural areas of the park, and the common use green</p>

	<p>space. Please do not take that away to expand the paved path.</p> <p>I walk through the park nearly every day with my two dogs. The baseball field severely disrupted our walk, pushing us into pinch points on the paved path. Pedestrians can navigate the pinch-points on the Four Mile Run trail, but it is tricky when a high-speed cyclist is also there.</p> <p>I want to encourage cycling, but if you don't think it would be disruptive to cyclists, you may want to use signage to encourage cyclists to use the W&OD trail, rather than the parallel Four-Mile Run Trail -- or you could ask cyclists to slow down on the Four Mile Run trail, and look for pedestrians (which would encourage people who want to ride fast to stay on the W&OD trail.</p> <p>Please don't expand impervious surfaces for "gathering spaces." People can gather in the grass, or other natural areas.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	ensure the trail is not too narrow and is well marked for bikes to know where they have to stop.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	<p>Nodes is a good idea if they are like the ones that are off-trail. Avoid any gathering places that would have a tendency to block traffic. Adding in more frequent water & shaded shelter rest areas like the one at the intersection of the W&OD trail and Custis trail (further N of Wilson) would be helpful and well-used. If you want people to "gather", make sure to include more seating. This would also go well with the previously-mentioned bicycle tire pumping station idea and butterfly garden idea.</p> <p>Also, if you're going to paint parts of the trail, then it would be nice to have some "keep right" reminders painted along the trail to remind people on foot not to clump in giant groups, which block the trail for cyclists and runners.</p>
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	I don't understand the pictures - what are they supposed to mean? Asphalt with more lines? Sure.
Pedestrian and Bike Circulation	No new ideas here
Stormwater Management and RPA	<p>Do not increase impermeable surfaces by enlarging the footprints of buildings, enlarging the tennis courts, enlarging the parking lot or widening the Four Mile Run Trail. Add a green roof with pollinator plantings to the restroom and picnic shelter.. Create a rain garden in an appropriate location.</p> <p>Do not remove any trees. Plant new trees. Replace all mowed lawn areas with pollinator/meadow plantings. This includes the grassy area between the parking lot and the Four Mile Run Trail, the area between the Four Mile Run Trail and the W&OD Trail</p>

	<p>and the slope between Manchester Street and the parking lot/picnic shelter/tennis courts.</p> <p>Trees, meadows and pollinator plants trap and absorb stormwater. In contrast, areas containing mowed grass permits stormwater to run off into streams and storm sewers.</p>
Stormwater Management and RPA	Please consider that the first line of defense against flooding is mature tree canopy and that much of these parks is a flood zone. So no built features that require tree removal.
Stormwater Management and RPA	Gardens, perhaps porous pavement? Breaks between courts to allow opportunities for run-off to be absorbed.
Stormwater Management and RPA	stormwater management has been erratic, given how long it's taken to repair July damage in the park
Stormwater Management and RPA	Maximize stormwater solutions along the 4Mille Run path.
Stormwater Management and RPA	Look for tree planting opportunities and maybe a rain garden.
Stormwater Management and RPA	Plant more trees.
Stormwater Management and RPA	Go ahead, but mother natures overflows no matter what you do, esp as you keep focusing on hardscape all around.
Stormwater Management and RPA	<p>Yes! I am very glad and grateful that you plan to better manage storm water, rather than allowing it to flow straight in to Four Mile Run. As I mentioned in my previous answers, I was saddened to see how much storm water rushes into Four Mile Run after a normal, heavy rain (as opposed to the July 8 flooding).</p> <p>Please do not harm any mature trees. Please do not expand impervious surfaces.</p>
Stormwater Management and RPA	Ensure adequate drainage is thought through so that tennis courts do not have standing water in them
Stormwater Management and RPA	<p>Can you make raingarden/bioswale area in the center of the new parking lot? It is the heavily paved areas that contribute most to flash flooding. You could also make the parking lot a previous surface, like gravel or interlocking pavers. You could keep one section paved for accessibility (so there is a level surface foe people in wheelchairs, etc.), but make the majority pervious.</p> <p>You could also add bioswale/raingarden areas between tennis courts, since those are also large paved areas.</p> <p>Also, raise the bike trail a bit in places that dip down, so that water doesn't pool ON the trail, but instead runs off to the sides of the trail (and hopefully into the stream).</p> <p>Plant more native grasses that have longer root systems to help with soil erosion along the banks of stream.</p>

Stormwater Management and RPA	Which ever you pick, please, please, please make sure it is not a safe haven/habitat for mosquitos!!!
Stormwater Management and RPA	One of the most effective stormwater management approaches is increasing the number of trees (especially mature trees). Please consider increasing the tree canopy as much as possible (and ensuring that the fewest possible existing trees are lost).
Stormwater Management and RPA	Definitely explore this opportunity within the existing parking lot, RPA, and field areas.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	<p>Do not remove any healthy trees for any reason. Plant new trees.</p> <p>It is important to replace all mowed lawn areas with pollinator/meadow plantings. This includes the grassy area between the parking lot and the Four Mile Run Trail, the area between the Four Mile Run Trail and the W& OD Trail and the slope between Manchester Street and the parking lot/picnic shelter/tennis courts.</p> <p>The existing pollinator area in Upper Bluemont Park is much too small. It does very little to support pollinator populations.</p> <p>Pollinator plantings need to replace all frequently mowed areas in Upper Bluemont Park. Pollinator areas need to be mowed once a year, outside of the growing season, to prevent the growth of invasive vines and shrubs. The best time for this annual mowing is early spring (late March and early April), after the pollinator plants have distributed their seeds.</p> <p>All pollinator areas must contain common milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>), which monarch butterflies prefer when laying eggs. Monarchs prefer to lay eggs on young, rapidly growing milkweed plants. Monarchs lay few eggs on old, tough milkweed leaves. Most <i>A. syriaca</i> leaves are old and tough when monarch reproduction peaks in late summer. Therefore, it is necessary to cut <i>A. syriaca</i> to the ground in June and/or July. This will permit the plants to rapidly regenerate when monarch reproduction reaches its peak in August and September.</p> <p>The present pollinator area in Upper Bluemont Park contains swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>). Although the species hosts monarch larvae, <i>A. incarnata</i> does not spread by rhizomes (unlike <i>A. syriaca</i>). As some <i>A. incarnata</i> plants die each year, the species needs to be replanted at least once every five years. The pollinator area in Upper Bluemont Park has already lost most of its <i>A. incarnata</i> plants, even though the County established the area only three years ago. Therefore, the County should do not plant any new <i>A. incarnata</i> unless it establishes a schedule for replacing plants that have died.</p>

	<p>It is necessary to plant species that pollinators actually prefer. These include forbs such as A. syriaca, bee balm, Black-Eye Susan, Queen Anne's Lace, coneflower, and Joe Pye Weed.</p> <p>Important pollinator plants also include sassafras trees, which host the larva of spicebush swallowtail butterflies and promethium moths. Black cherry and tulip trees host the larvae of Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. Each of these three tree species are disappearing from Arlington, as the County rarely plants them on its streets and in its parks. As a result, populations of those butterflies and moths have drastically decreased in the county. It is therefore necessary to plant sassafras, black cherry and tulip trees in Upper Bluemont Park, rather than to plant species of trees that are already common in Arlington.</p>
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	See above. No more hardscape in a known flood zone.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Yes, remove invasives., adding pollinators is good.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Make sure you maintain as natural look as possible
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Keep existing trees. Plant more. Pollinator plants should be retained and more planted.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	tree preservation should be a priority, as should minimizing impact of the new lighting on neighboring homes
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Need to retain the largest trees and to enhanced the pollinator gardens there.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Expand the pollinator garden. Make sure there is monarch butterfly habitat, look for opportunities to add trees.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Plant more native trees, shrubs and other plants.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	<p>Please do not harm any existing mature trees.</p> <p>Invasive removal is important, but please be careful about removing non-native trees because they help with storm water management, and provide wildlife habitat.</p> <p>I support use of landscaping for storm water management, but I prefer landscaping that creates and supports natural areas, rather than garden-type vegetation that needs to be tended. Thank you</p>
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	preserve trees.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Just plant lots of native plants. This would be an awesome area to make a little butterfly garden and turn it into one of those sitting areas. It would be a very peaceful place for people to stop and rest and enjoy native plants. Another one of those sign posts with infographics about natives and pollinators would top it off.

	<p>And please don't cut down any big trees. Not sure what you mean about redesigning the canopy, but the old growth trees should not be removed unless they are sick or dying. Look up the market in Waikiki to see a great example of smart architecture that was designed to accommodate an old banyon tree. The old trees add a natural beauty that the young trees cannot compare to. Plus, the older trees are much much better at capturing carbon and providing natural shade (and it's like 10 degrees cooler under the trees than under a man-made shelter).</p>
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	I like the picture with the huge pavilion with many trees. I also like all the flowers. Can you do both?
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	Number one priority should be increasing the tree canopy (with a diverse collection of native trees to maximize biodiversity).
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	No new ideas.
Tree Canopy, Landscaping and Pollinators	In any and all circumstances, a significant effort should be made to preserve tree and canopy cover as it currently exists. An evaluation approach should focus its energy on opportunities to expand and increase more trees and endemic plant and fauna species within the park.
Additional Comments	
Additional Comments	Decrease impermeable surfaces. Replace all mowed grassy areas with pollinator meadows. Do not remove any healthy trees, even if it means revising construction plans. Add trees. Do not widen trails or increase the footprints of the tennis courts, parking lots and buildings. Construct green roofs containing pollinator plants on all structures, including the picnic shelter, ranger station and restrooms.
Additional Comments	I would support retaining all current amenities, including the trees and plants.
Additional Comments	Quit spending money on this stuff. No value in most of these expenditures.
Additional Comments	We should increase the number of courts available for playing tennis. There is a lack of large tennis facilities in the COunty, and courts should not be made for multi-use. We need more tennis courts.
Additional Comments	Be sure to include trash and recycling bins in all public use spaces. When you make it easy for them, people are way more likely to dispose of trash properly instead of littering. Make sure they're the kind of receptacles that are covered on top, or have a swinging lid so that trash like plastic wrappers doesn't get picked up and taken out by the wind.

	Also, can you add in some well-placed bat boxes? Bats are pollinators, too, and they help with mosquitoes and other pests.
Additional Comments	None, looking forward to the project's progress!