

**From:** [Gizele Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Aaron Shriber](#); [Bob Duffy](#); [Commissioner Daniel Weir](#); [Commissioner Devanshi Patel \(devanshi2005@gmail.com\)](#); [egearin@egearin.com](#); [Commissioner Elizabeth Morton](#); [Commissioner James Lantelme](#); [JM Schroll](#); [Commissioner Jane Siegel \(janesiegel@icloud.com\)](#); [Commissioner Leonardo Sarli](#); [Commissioner Nia Bagley](#); [Commissioner Sara Steinberger \(aripcsteinberger@gmail.com\)](#); [Commissioner Stephen Hughes \(Stephen.T.hughes@gmail.com\)](#); [Commissioner Tenley Peterson \(tenley.arlington@gmail.com\)](#); [Gizele Johnson](#); [Jennifer Smith - CPHD](#); [Matthew Pfeiffer](#)  
**Cc:** [wwross53@gmail.com](#); [Margaret Tulloch Rhodes](#)  
**Subject:** Shirlington Special GLUP Study Comments -- Park and Recreation Commission  
**Date:** Monday, July 6, 2020 11:44:14 AM

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**From:** William Ross <[wwross53@gmail.com](mailto:wwross53@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 11:42 AM  
**To:** Gizele Johnson <[Gjohnson@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Gjohnson@arlingtonva.us)>  
**Subject:** Shirlington Special GLUP Study Comments -- Park and Recreation Commission

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** This email originated from outside Arlington County.

Planning Commissioners --

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) has participated in the recent Special GLUP and Site Plan processes involving the Shirlington area. This note, though not formally discussed by the PRC, reflects submitted commissioners' views. Subject to your discussions, we will produce a letter for the County Board.

Overall, we found the study a very comprehensive, thoughtful document. We appreciate the emphasis on several principles or goals; parks and public space, biophilic design and sustainability, circulation and pedestrian connections, civic uses, public art, and updating or expanding privately and publicly owned public spaces.

We particularly support language in the document that proposes that public easements should be secured where public access has been permitted, but where the easement is not officially recorded. We are not aware of such a declared intention in other county planning policy documents.

We do find the biophilic references weaker than we would like to see. The concept, designated in the Public Spaces Master Plan, and sanctioned by the County Board in December, 2019, should be an overarching theme for the GLUP and other county plans and policies. The biophilia concept is useful for helping tie the values of the trees, natural landscape areas, pedestrian walks and other lifestyle aspects (including outdoor art) together. Having a stronger and more robust referencing and description (not just using the term itself without much content) would explain the value and guide future planners and designers.

Related to the above, we would support a more direct, explicit reference to other county planning documents, such as the Public Spaces, Master Transportation, Historic Preservation, Public Art, Urban Forest Plans, etc. where appropriate. Although this is a document designed to support amendments to the GLUP, we note that the fourth bullet of the study scope calls for it to address "recommendations of County plans and policies, as applicable." And yet as far as we can tell there is no mention of these other plans and policies even as a general reference, in the document.

