

**ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**c/o Department of Environmental Services**  
**2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705**  
**Arlington, VA 22201**

April 24, 2018

The Honorable Katie Cristol, Chair  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201

**RE: Four Mile Run Valley Policy Framework**

Dear Chair Cristol:

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) encourages the County Board to adopt the Policy Framework for Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV). Representatives of E2C2 attended meetings of the 4MRV Working Group and E2C2 hosted a staff presentation on the Policy Framework on March 26, 2018. Overall, we support Area Plan Concept 1 and the Jennie Dean Park Concept 1 discussed in the Framework. Outlined below, we have listed components of the Policy Framework that we specifically endorse, and we have also discussed areas of concern and recommendations.

E2C2 supports the following components of the 4MRV Policy Framework:

- The Guiding Principles adopted by the 4MRV Working Group, particularly
  - Preserve, protect, and rehabilitate the natural environment and biodiversity of the study area to the greatest extent possible;
  - Maximize green, casual-use space in Jennie Dean Park and in other parks along Four Mile Run; and
  - Improve water quality by implementing best stormwater management practices;
  - Enhance the area's accessibility, with particular attention to safety and pedestrian and bicycle connections.
  
- **Area Plan Concept 1: Retention & Adaptive Reuse**
  - This reflects the majority of the Working Group and community's desire to preserve the industrial and service commercial uses in the area. Area Plan Concept 1 minimizes further disturbance to the already environmentally challenged study area, much of which is located within the Resource Protection Area (RPA).
  
- **Jennie Dean Park Concept 1**
  - Concept 1 prioritizes contiguous casual-use open space while Concept 2 (in both Phases 1 and 2) breaks up the casual-use open space due to the layout of the programmed space.
  - In Concept 1, no new development occurs in the RPA. However, in Phase 1 of Concept 2, the outfield of the small diamond sits directly within the RPA. Additionally, further disturbance to the RPA would occur when the diamond is moved and the large shelter is constructed for Phase 2.
  - Concept 1 preserves more trees than Concept 2.
  - **Recommendation:** Once WETA has vacated the northwest parcel of Jennie Dean Park, we support the removal of the small parking lot adjacent to Shirlington Road, as it sits within the RPA.
  - **Recommendation:** Remove Jennie Dean Park Concept 2 from the Framework.

- **Environment / Sustainability / Open Space Policy Guidance**
  - **Recommendation:** - Enhancing natural resources of the study area should be a priority. Much environmental degradation of this area has already occurred, and we should not wait for property redevelopment to implement green infrastructure practices.
  - Because of the past and current industrial use of properties along Four Mile Run and the threat such uses present to the stream and to the RPA, active efforts should be made to provide outreach and technical assistance to existing businesses to maintain and improve storm water management.

The 4MRV Policy Framework is well drafted, and E2C2 supports its adoption. We appreciate your consideration for our concerns discussed above. We thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Mesmer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Mesmer, Chair  
Environment and Energy Conservation Commission