



**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

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Dear Planning Commission Members:

In 2002, an interdepartmental staff team and the Open Space Steering Committee produced the City of Alexandria Open Space Master Plan, establishing fifteen ambitious goals for protecting, enhancing and expanding open space. The plan established a framework to address Alexandria's short and longer term open space needs by acknowledging and protecting the City's existing open spaces and identifying additional open space opportunities for the future. City Council adopted the Open Space Master Plan in 2003 and an interdepartmental work team developed an action plan in 2004.

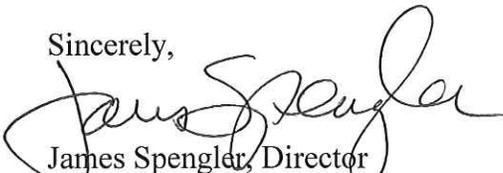
In the fall of 2016, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) hired Lardner-Klein Landscape Architects (LKA) to identify successes in the protection and expansion of public protected open space since the plan creation in 2002. In addition, LAK, in cooperation with an interdepartmental work team, developed a ten-year strategy to continue the implementation of the Open Space Plan.

The City of Alexandria Open Space Plan 2017 Updated Implementation Strategy identifies priority actions for the next ten years for new investments, activities, and projects in support of protecting additional and enhancing existing public open space. These actions include a focus on data collection and analysis, policy, and opportunities to form and support innovative partnerships between public and private sectors.

The Park and Recreation Commission endorsed the City of Alexandria Open Space Plan 2017 Updated Implementation Strategy on February 16, 2017. City Council will receive the updated implementation strategy at their legislative session on March 14, 2017. *Please note this strategy plan supports the implementation of the City Council approved 2003 Open Space Master Plan and therefore does not require Planning Commission approval.*

Through the culmination of these efforts, RPCA is pleased to provide you with the ***City of Alexandria Open Space Plan 2017 Updated Implementation Strategy***, which you can view by visiting the [Open Space Plan](#) on the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities website.

Sincerely,



James Spengler, Director
Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities