



**City of Alexandria
Open Space Master Plan
2017 Updated Implementation Strategy
A Plan for Action 2017-2026**

Planning Commission
March 7, 2017

Establishment of an Open Space Plan

- In 2003 the City of Alexandria adopted the City of Alexandria Open Space Plan Master Plan, establishing fifteen ambitious goals for protecting, enhancing and expanding open space:
 - **Goal 1:** *Protect and Enrich Existing Parks*
 - **Goal 2:** *Develop Innovative Opportunities for Creating Additional Public Open Space*
 - **Goal 3:** *Complete Implementation of the Potomac River Waterfront Plan*
 - **Goal 4:** *Protect and Expand Stream Valleys and other Environmentally Sensitive Areas*
 - **Goal 5:** *Create an Open Space Network in New Development Areas*
 - **Goal 6:** *Protect and Preserve Institutional Open Space*
 - **Goal 7:** *Protect and Maximize the Use of Public School Open Space*
 - **Goal 8:** *Preserve and Protect Cemeteries*
 - **Goal 9:** *Create Public Open Space from Vacant Land*
 - **Goal 10:** *Link and Expand Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail System*
 - **Goal 11:** *Enhance Streetscape and Gateways*
 - **Goal 12:** *Expand Citywide Street Tree Program and Protect Existing Trees and Woodland Areas*
 - **Goal 13:** *Encourage the Creation of Civic Parks at and Adjacent to Metro Stations*
 - **Goal 14:** *Beautify Interchanges and Highway Corridors*
 - **Goal 15:** *Protect Privately Owned Open Space*

Public Open Space Successes Since 2003

- **Summary Highlights:**
 - *Established responsive ten-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)*
 - *Acquisition of and creation of more than 100 acres of additional public open space*
 - *Partnership with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT); easements and education for private landowners*
 - *Acquisition of five waterfront parcels*
 - *Completed land swap with Old Dominion Boat Club*
 - *Approval and implementation of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan*
 - *Acquisition of parcels along Resource Protection Areas*

Public Open Space Successes Since 2003

- **Summary Highlights:**
 - *All Small Area Plans adopted in the last decade include a network of public open space and connections with existing City parks*
 - *Approved Management Plan for Fort Ward Park addresses storm water concerns at Oakland Baptist Cemetery*
 - *Recently adopted Small Area Plans include new and extended trails and on-street bicycle facilities*
 - *Design guidelines for parkways in the Complete Street Design Guidelines (2016)*
 - *Urban Forestry Master Plan approved in 2009*
 - *Developed Braddock Interim Park*
 - *Completed streetscape improvements in the George Washington Parkway/Washington Street*

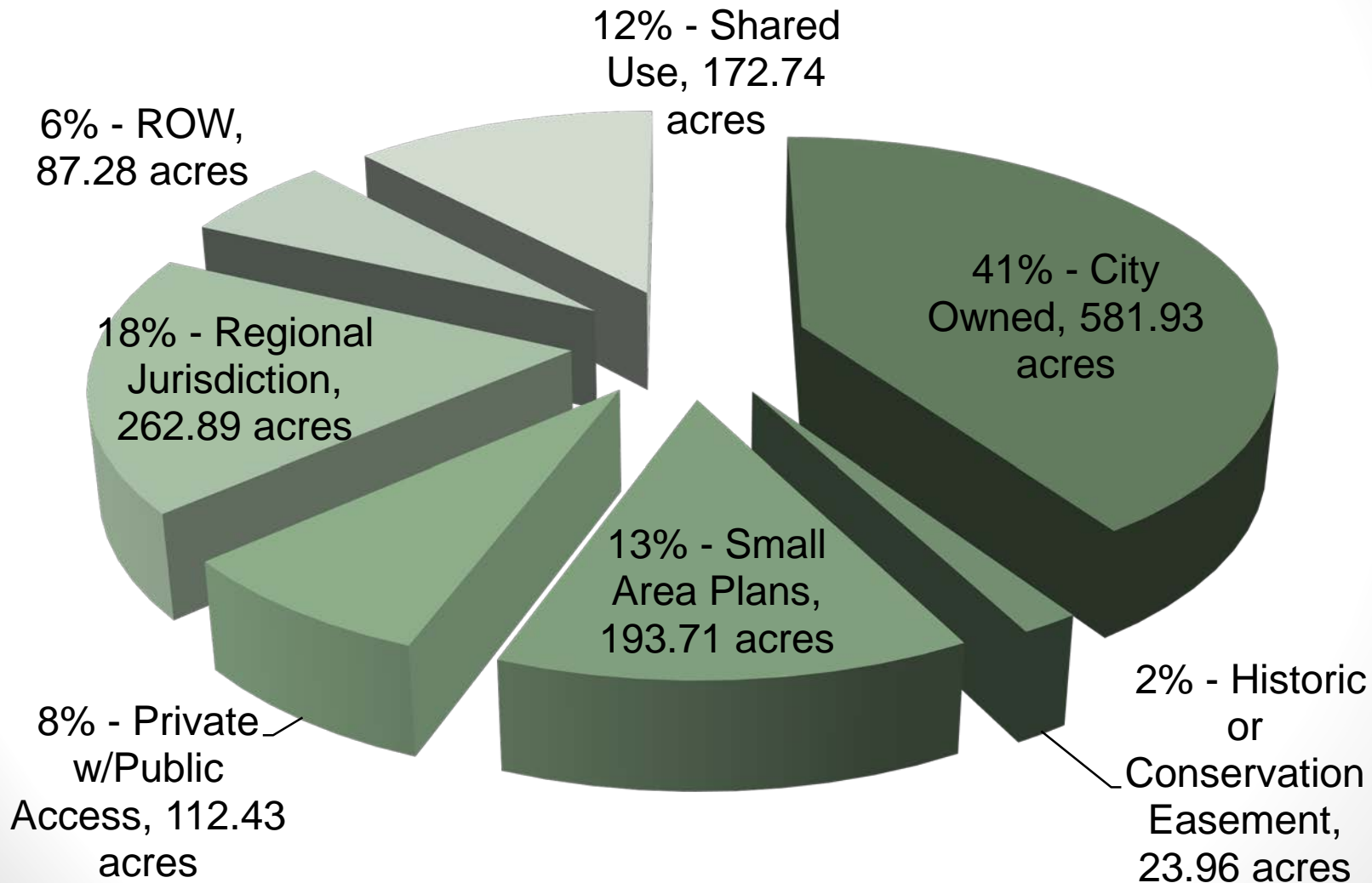
Protected Public Open Space Since 2003

Figure 2. 2017 City of Alexandria Protected Open Space Plan, highlighting Areas Protected Since 2002 (in purple)

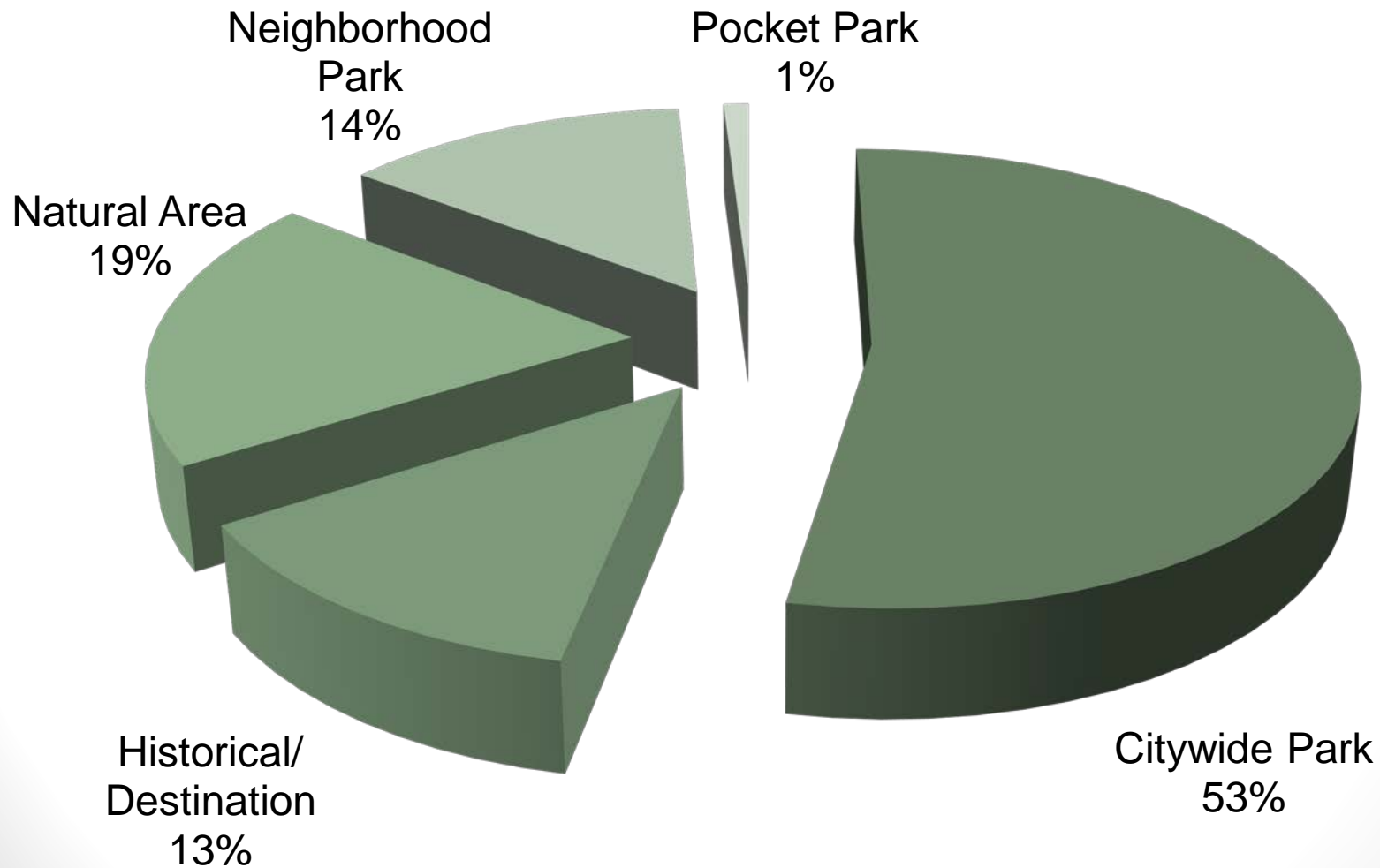


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Protected Public Open Space

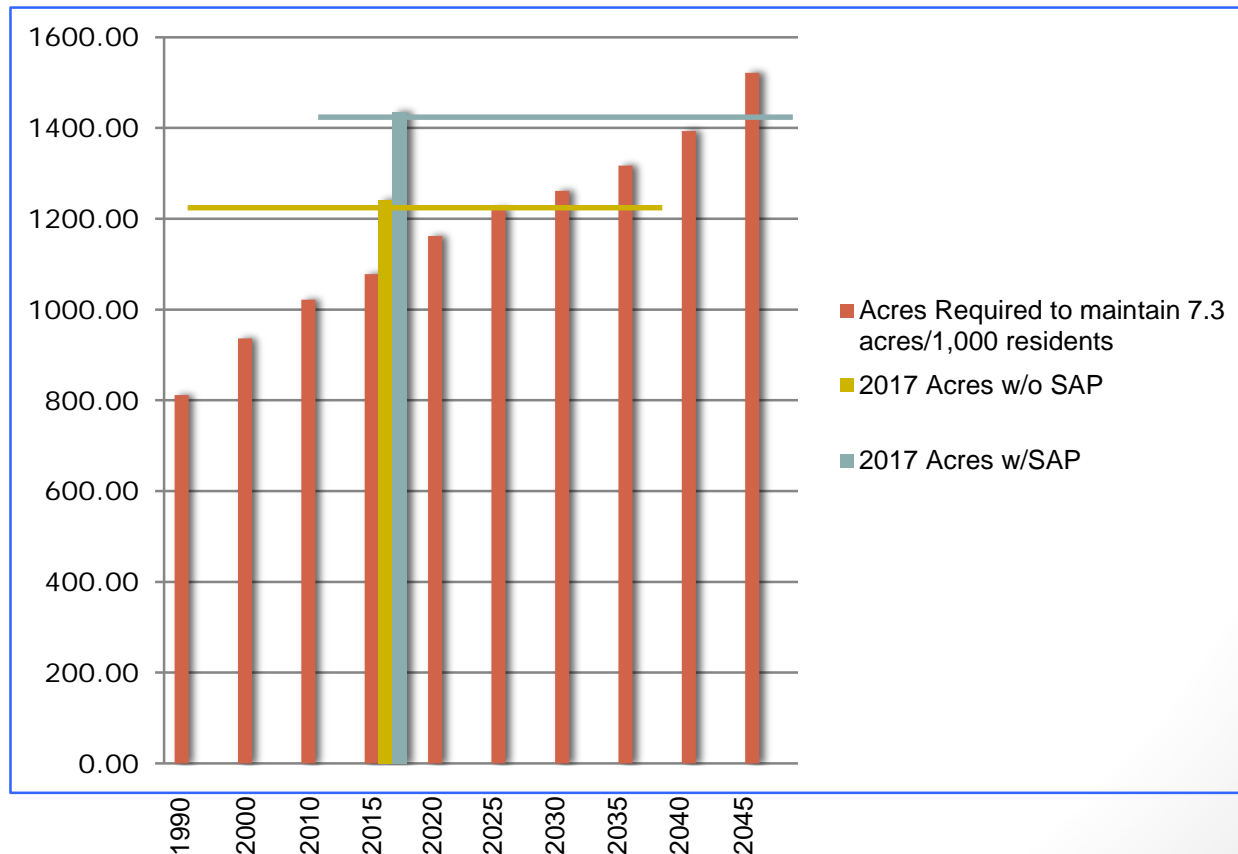


City of Alexandria Protected Open Space



Public Open Space Challenges

- Maintaining the Ratio:
 - A Growing Population with a Fixed Geographic Boundary



Public Open Space Challenges

- Retaining Existing Protected Open Space

- *More than 13% of the City's protected open space is provided or promised through SAPs*
- *If the ratio of 7.3 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents is to be maintained, it is critical that the promised acreage is delivered in total*

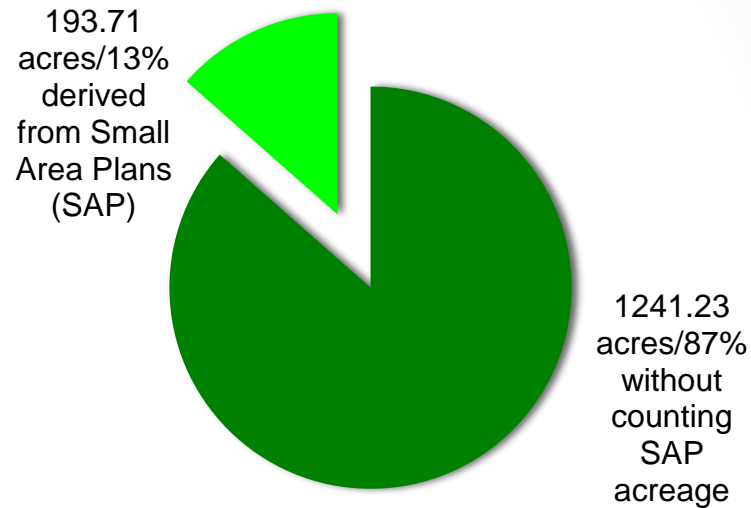
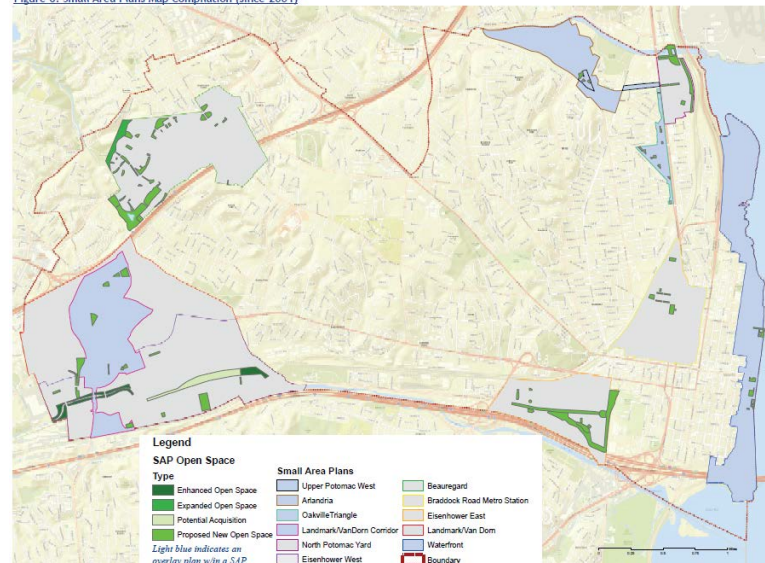


Figure 6. Small Area Plans Map Compilation (since 2001)



Updated Implementation Strategy Table

- In 2004, City Council approved the initial Implementation Plan developed by the Open Space Steering Committee
- The updated Implementation Table outlines the **Strategies** and **Actions** necessary to build upon the City's successes to date in meeting the fifteen goals established in the *2002 City of Alexandria Open Space Master Plan*.
 - **Strategies**: Organize and cluster the specific actions recommended to achieve each goal
 - **Actions**: Specific time related tasks to implement identified strategies

Updated Implementation Strategy Table

Goal 1: Protect & Enrich Existing Parks

Strategy: Advocate, Monitor, Protect and Pursue Public and Private Funding Sources

Action: Establish standardized contribution formulas for private developments that are not able to meet open space requirements on site for open space acquisition or for the improvement and maintenance of nearby parks: such contributions should be based on identified needs and area specific (i.e., within the Small Area Plan where development occurs); consider structure similar to Traffic Management Plans

Time Frame: Year 1 & 2

Open Space Master Plan 2017 Updated Implementation Strategy

- **February 16**

- Endorsed by Park & Recreation Commission

- **Next Steps:**

- **March 14**

- Presentation to City Council

- **Ongoing:** Interdepartmental Coordination

Open Space Master Plan 2017 Updated Implementation Strategy

Questions?

**Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
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Resource Slides

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- *Establishing Park & Open Space Types*

Figure 1. City of Alexandria Open Space Typologies				
Classification	Description	Size	Service	Estimated Planning Process Timetable
Citywide	Contains multiple uses within park boundary including: attracts visitors from all over the City Example: Chinquapin Park	15-20 acres	0-25 miles from users	2013-2014 <i>Complete</i>
Neighborhood	May include multiple uses within park boundary; attracts nearby residents Example: Beverley Park	20,000 sq. ft. to 5 acres	0-5 miles from users	2014-2015 <i>Complete</i>
Pocket Park	Small open space; mainly single use attracting nearby residents Example: Sunset Mini Park	Under 20,000 sq. ft.	.25-0.5 mile or less from users	2017 <i>Underway</i>
Natural Resource Areas	Includes open spaces that are primarily passive-use or preservation areas Example: Clermont Natural Park	No Minimum or Maximum	Citywide	2017 <i>Underway</i>

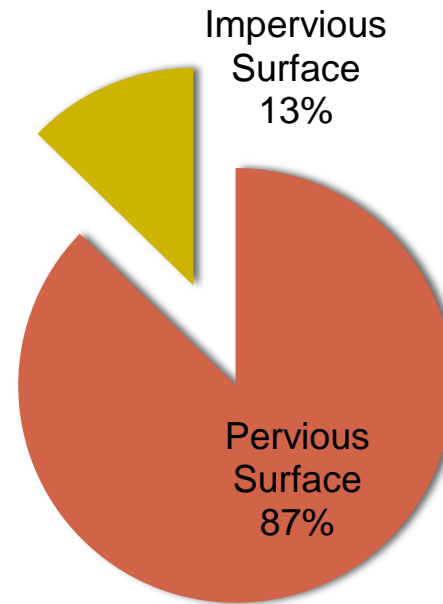
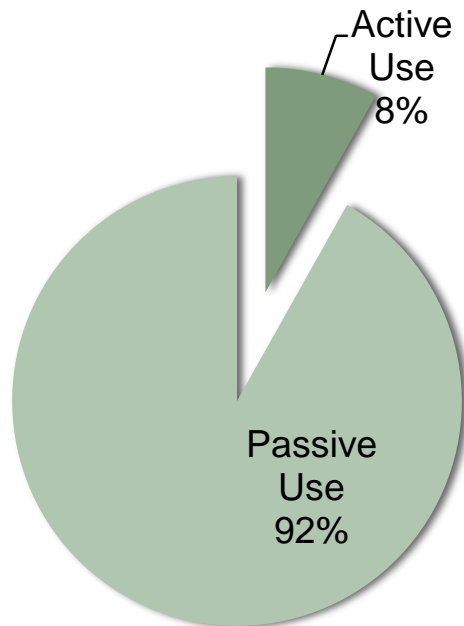
2017 City of Alexandria Protected Public Open Space

Figure 1. City of Alexandria Open Space Typologies

Classification	Description	Size	Service	Estimated Planning Process Timetable
Shared Use	Includes parks that share facilities with schools and recreation centers Example: Patrick Henry Field	5-20 acres (average)	0-25 miles from users	Included as part of the 2013-2014 Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan
Destination/ Historical	Attracts users from beyond the region, typically because of particularly unique features Example: Fort Ward Park, Waterfront Park System	Varies	0-100 or more miles	Park Plans completed individually for these sites because of their unique character
Regional	Includes lands or facilities administered by other regional entities Example: Cameron Run Regional Park	50-75 acres	0-100 miles from users	Planned by external jurisdictions
Corridors/ Linear Parks/ Trailways	Includes trailways, corridors and linear parks that serve primarily as linear bikeway corridors, may include ROWs Example: Metro Linear Park	No Minimum or Maximum	0-100 miles from users	Bicycle/ Pedestrian Master Plan Complete

City of Alexandria

Protected Public Open Space



Key Definitions

- **Active Use.** Active recreational uses of open space land include primarily programmed activities. The mapping was drawn from identified recreation features in the City's GIS data layers and observations from aerial photographs. Designated Active Use includes: Athletic Fields (baseball, football, soccer, softball, multiuse); Court Sports (basketball, multi-use, tennis, volleyball); Facilities that support such activities (batting cages, press box, spectator seating); Fenced Dog Park, Swimming Pools (kiddie, full size); Performance Space; Playgrounds (sandbox, tot lot, playground); and Skateboard Park.
- **Passive Use.** Passive recreation uses of open space include primarily unprogrammed uses and activities. The mapping identifies any area NOT designated as Active Use as Passive Use. Passive Use amenities include gardens or garden plots, picnic shelters, natural areas, trails, and unfenced dog parks.
- **City-Owned vs. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).** Occasionally, the public is understandably confused regarding ownership, control and authority over public lands within the City. Many ACPS sites provide publicly accessible recreation uses such as playgrounds and athletic fields. Although publicly funded with tax dollars, ACPS's School Board holds the ownership of ACPS property and has authority over its use and disposition.
- **Protected Open Space.** Land that the City of Alexandria has some form of ownership or control of its use. Examples include fee ownership, easements and shared-use agreements. Replaces terms parks, parklands in earlier documents.
- **Public Access.** Public access signals open use by any one member of the public. Public access can be granted in private properties through a public access easement, which is signaled in the property's plat. Historic, scenic, or conservation easements most commonly as found in the City of Alexandria require public access at least one day out of the year. All other open space controlled by the City is considered to be publicly accessible for all residents and visitors to use.