

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

City Council
March 14, 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*

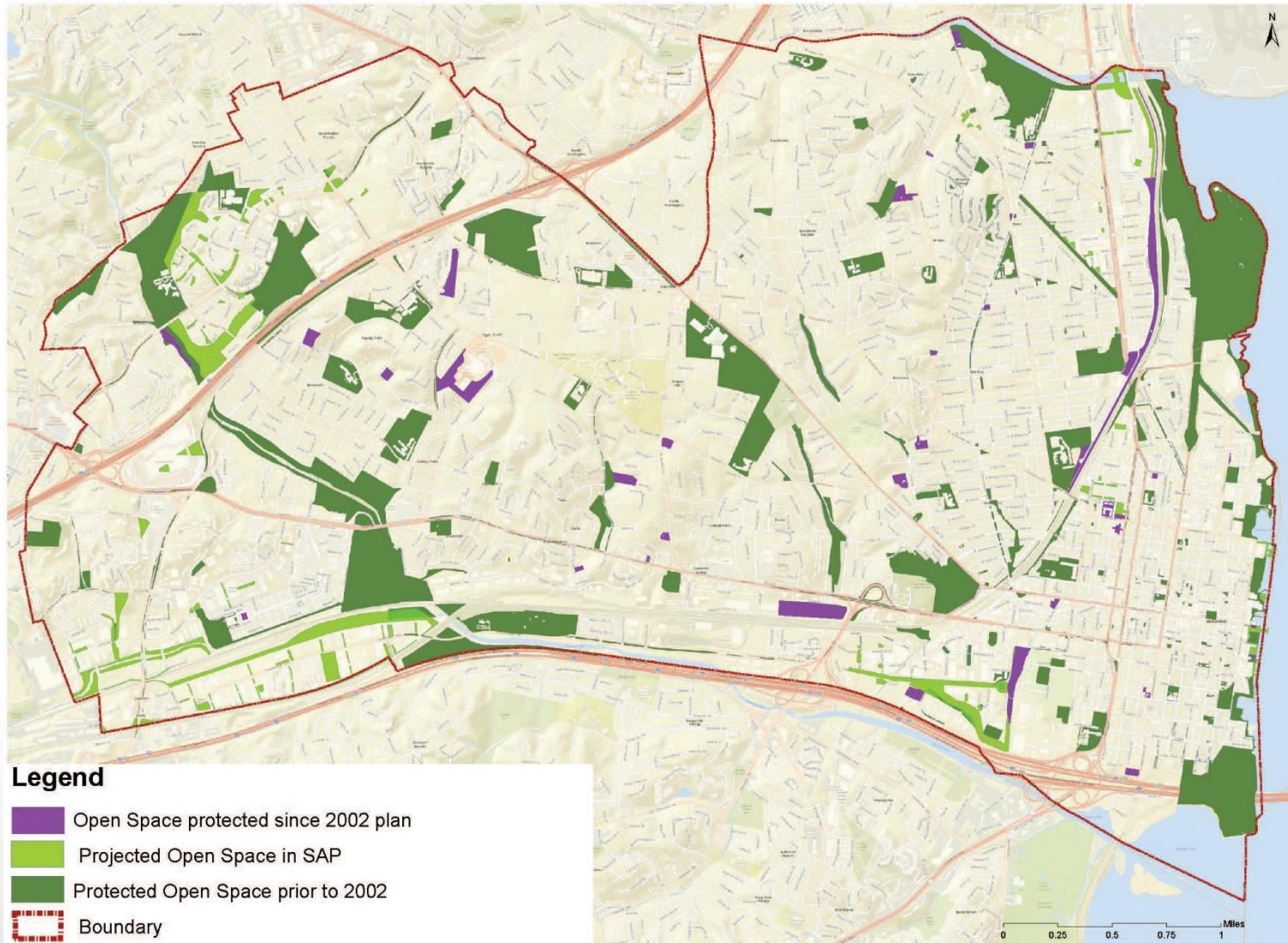
Public Open Space Successes Since 2003

- **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

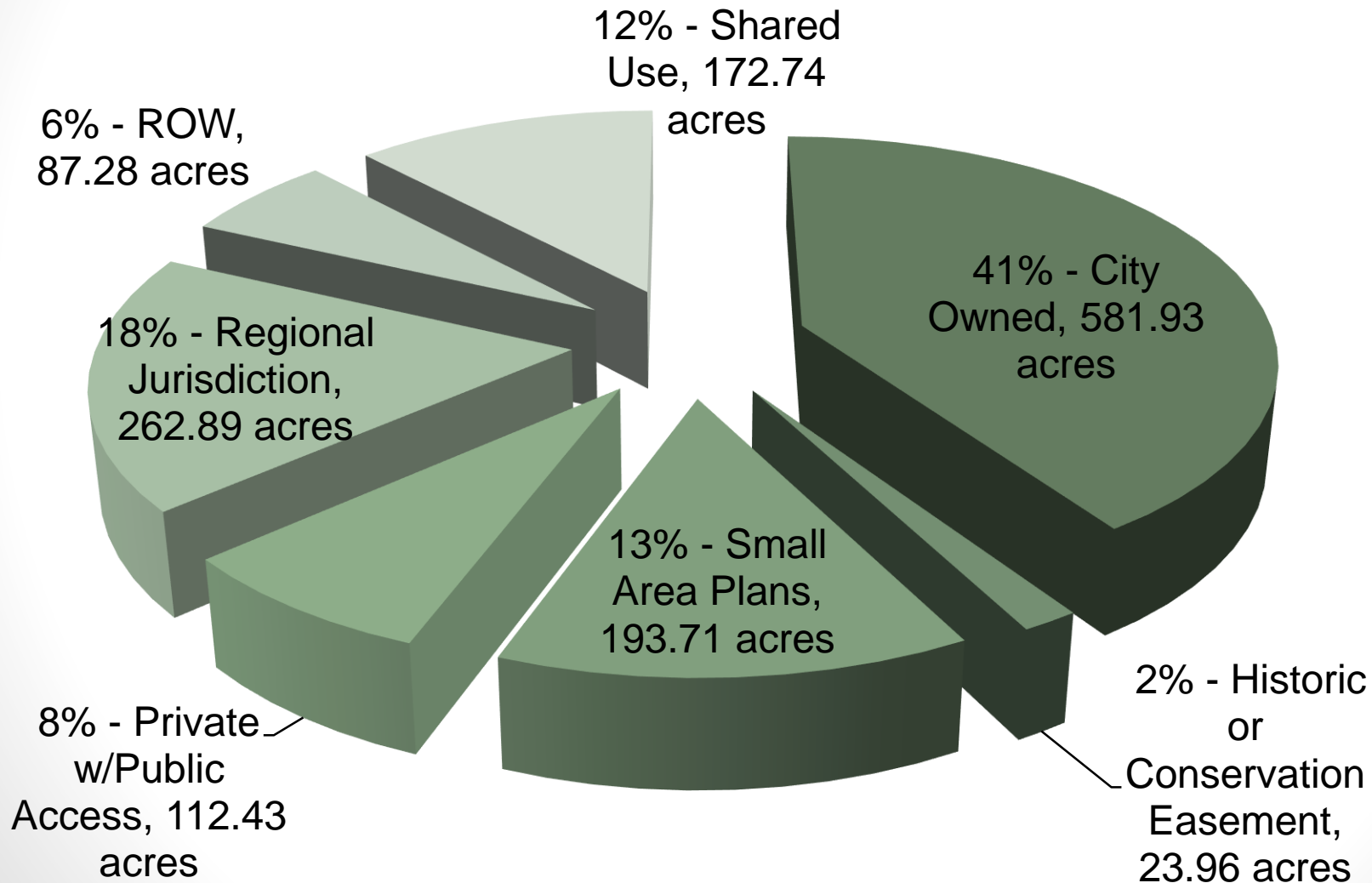
- **Summary Highlights:**
 - *All Small Area Plans adopted in the last decade include a network of public open space and connections with existing City parks*
 - *Approved Management Plan for Fort Ward Park*
 - *Recently adopted Small Area Plans include new and extended trails and on-street bicycle facilities*
 - *Developed 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



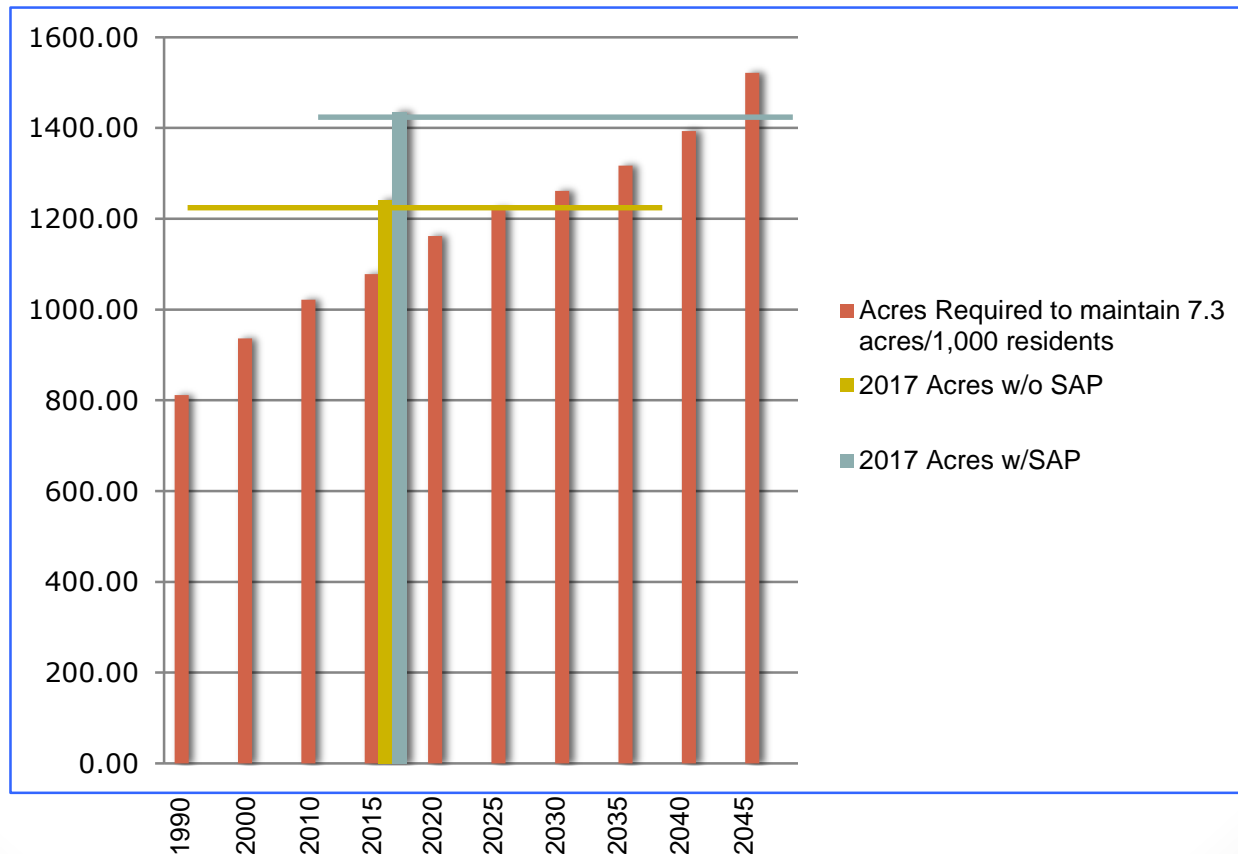
City of Alexandria

Protected Public 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*

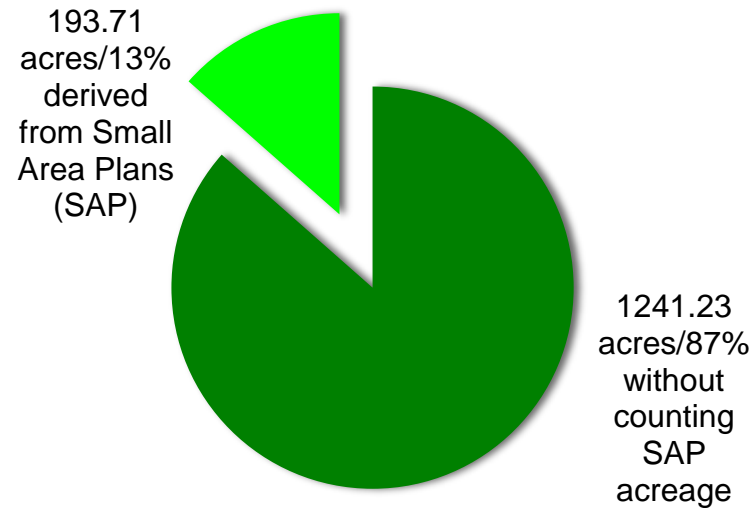
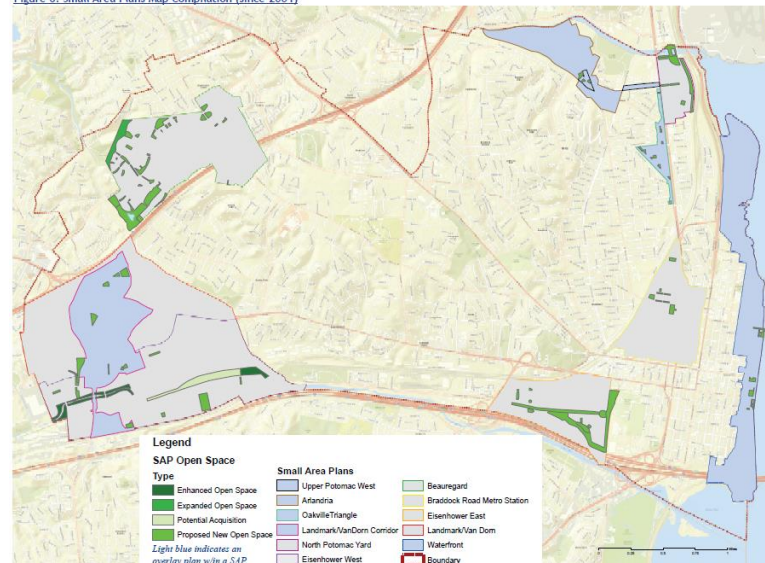


Figure 6. Small Area Plans Map Compilation (since 2001)



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 approved *2003 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 - Example

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

- **March 7**

- Presented to Planning Commission

- **Next Steps:**

- **Ongoing:** Interdepartmental Coordination

Open Space Master Plan 2017 Updated Implementation Strategy

Questions?

**Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Park Planning, Design & Capital Development**

Jack Browand – jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov

Laura Durham – laura.durham@alexandriava.gov

Dana Wedeles – dana.wedeles@alexandriava.gov