

Parks and Recreation

Recreation and open space make an essential contribution to a healthier population and a greener city. They are integral to the City's quality of life and provide beauty, respite, and opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. In addition, City staff takes pride in providing quality experiences for the community through services and programs that enrich people's lives and contribute to total development of the individual, family, and the community.

In June 2014, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) presented the City of Fairfax Strategic Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Trails, Open Space, Events and Cultural Arts to the City Council. Referred to as the Strategic Master Plan, it contains measurable goals, objectives and policies that the City Council, PRAB and the Commission on the Arts use as guidance when determining program and facility needs. The Strategic Master Plan should be referenced for specific contributions toward the actions listed for this Guiding Principle.

Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with...
inviting, well-maintained
parks, trails, open spaces and
multi-generational community
centers.



Parks and Recreation Goal 1

Develop high-quality park infrastructure.

A high-quality park system should serve the community's needs with a range of services and facilities for all age groups and abilities provided in a safe environment. As the City's population grows, new interests and demand for a variety of activities will require periodic evaluation of the facilities the City offers. It is also important to look at the locations of facilities to ensure all neighborhoods are provided with equitable access to parks and recreation amenities and programs. High-quality, accessible parks, facilities, recreation, and open space should be acquired, preserved, developed, and redeveloped throughout the City for public health, enjoyment and environmental purposes. (Actions specifically relating to the City's trail network may be found under Multimodal Transportation Outcomes MM2.2 and MM2.3.)

OUTCOME PR1.1: A well-connected system of parks that provides citizens with healthy choices for recreation.

ACTION PR1.1.1 Identify and address gaps in the connections between the City's parks and open space.

ACTION PR1.1.2 Identify opportunities for future open space in neighborhoods that are undersupplied in public recreation and open space opportunities.

ACTION PR1.1.3 Enhance public access to parks and recreational facilities by making necessary infrastructure improvements.

ACTION PR1.1.4 Partner with the Department of Public Works on efforts to improve pedestrian and bicycle networks throughout the City.

OUTCOME PR1.2: A greater awareness of the City's natural resources and commitment to protect and enhance them.

ACTION PR1.2.1 Implement measures to preserve privately-owned land adjacent to parks and trails in perpetuity, e.g., utilizing conservation easements, deed restrictions, etc.

ACTION PR1.2.2 Adopt tree preservation guidelines for parks, open space, and trails.

Parks and Recreation Goal 2

Provide programs and services that meet the needs of the community.

High-quality programs, facilities, and services – including large-scale community events that draw significant attendance – can improve the tax base, increase property values, attract businesses, produce revenue to offset operating costs, and provide indirect benefits to our economy, contributing to the City’s continued growth and development.

OUTCOME PR2.1: Robust programming of the City’s parks and public facilities that provides opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to participate.

ACTION PR2.1.1 Conduct a study to determine how the City’s long-term needs for a community center and senior center can be best met, and implement the recommendations of this study, including construction of recommended facilities.

ACTION PR2.1.2 Update Parks and Recreation facilities to ensure they are accessible to individuals of all abilities.

ACTION PR2.1.3 Expand and enhance facility, program, and service offerings through innovative funding, management best practices, and cost recovery efforts.

ACTION PR2.1.4 Enhance Old Town Square as a destination and community gathering place by providing a venue for arts, recreation, and green space.

OUTCOME PR2.2: Expanded and enhanced partnerships with City businesses and other organizations such as City of Fairfax Schools, Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, FCPS, George Mason University, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, and others to complement the services provided by the City.

ACTION PR2.2.1 Identify opportunities to expand partnerships with institutional and business communities.

ACTION PR2.2.2 Establish relationships and partnerships with various underrepresented, underserved, or diverse demographic groups in the City to assist with developing programs and services to meet the needs of these communities.

OUTCOME PR2.3: Rehabilitation or construction of public facilities to meet the programmatic and recreational needs of the community.

ACTION PR2.3.1 Enhance safety, accessibility, quality of service, and cost effectiveness through comprehensive operations and maintenance programs and services.

ACTION PR2.3.2 Inventory the condition of existing public facilities and identify any necessary updates and repairs.

Parks and Recreation Goal 3

Market programs, special events, facilities, and services.

A broad range of marketing and public relations techniques are necessary to develop public awareness, strengthen community relations, bring a larger audience from outside of the City to our events, and further invigorate the local economy. The City will use innovative promotional and marketing initiatives to increase awareness, participation and support of programs, special events, facilities and services.

OUTCOME PR3.1: A well-informed community that utilizes the City's quality programs and attends events.

ACTION PR3.1.1 Conduct public opinion surveys of Parks and Recreation customers to identify desired changes in facilities and programming.

ACTION PR3.1.2 Utilize a variety of communications platforms to publicize facilities, programs and events to the community.

OUTCOME PR3.2: City facilities and events are a regional draw, resulting in increased economic vitality for local businesses.

ACTION PR3.2.1 Increase awareness, participation, and support of programs, facilities, and services using innovative promotional and marketing initiatives.

