

# 6 Community Services

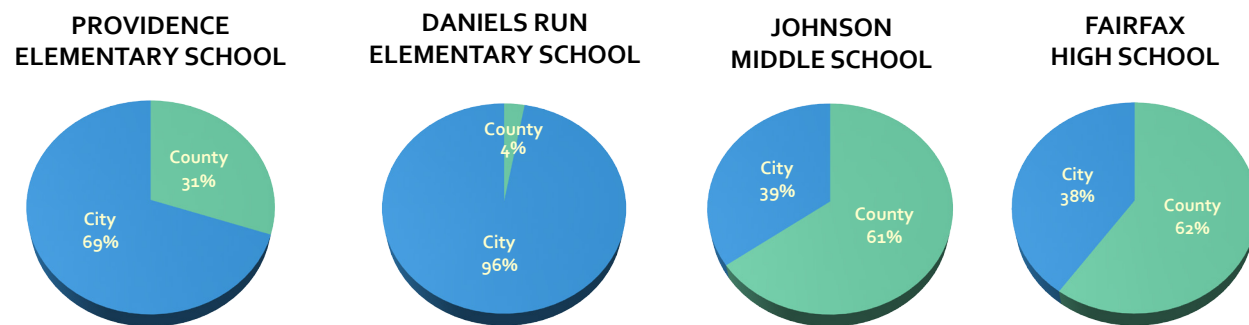
One of the most crucial elements in the long term desirability of the City is maintaining and improving the high-quality services that residents and businesses expect. This Chapter examines health, safety, and welfare issues for which the City provides or facilitates services to its citizens, businesses, and visitors. As an independent jurisdiction, the City emphasizes providing quality public facilities and services. Public facilities are the institutions and land intended for the community's general use and benefit. Some of the primary services provided by the City addressed in this Chapter are Education, Parks and Recreation, Cultural Arts, Government and Public Safety, and Infrastructure and Utilities as described below.

## Education

Nearly 3,000 children who are City residents are enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), with the vast majority of those students attending one of the City's four schools. Through a School Services Agreement with FCPS, the City of Fairfax School Board manages the school buildings, while FCPS hires staff and develops curricula. The agreement also accommodates students from Fairfax County in City school facilities where capacity allows. The percentage of City and Fairfax County students who attend each of the City's four public schools is provided below.

There are also several private schools currently located in the City. Saint Leo the Great Catholic School serves grades Pre-K-8 with a current enrollment of about 400 students. The New School of Northern Virginia is a private liberal arts and science school serving grades 6-12 with a current enrollment of approximately 125 students. Saint Anthony Academy serves grades K-12 with a current enrollment of about 50 students. All public and private schools currently located in the City are shown in Figure 43.

FIGURE 42 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY STUDENTS' PLACE OF RESIDENCE



The City is also surrounded by several higher education facilities. George Mason University's Fairfax Campus began with 356 students in 1964, after construction of the first four buildings. Today, 17,590 full-time equivalent students come to the Fairfax Campus, which includes 58% of all Mason's on- and off-campus enrollment. The Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College opened in 1967 and is now the largest of all NOVA campuses. The 2022-2023 enrollment for all campuses was 28,572 full-time equivalent students. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) offers classes to Northern Virginia residents in their retirement years both from its Roberts Road campus and via online courses.

FIGURE 43 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, K-12

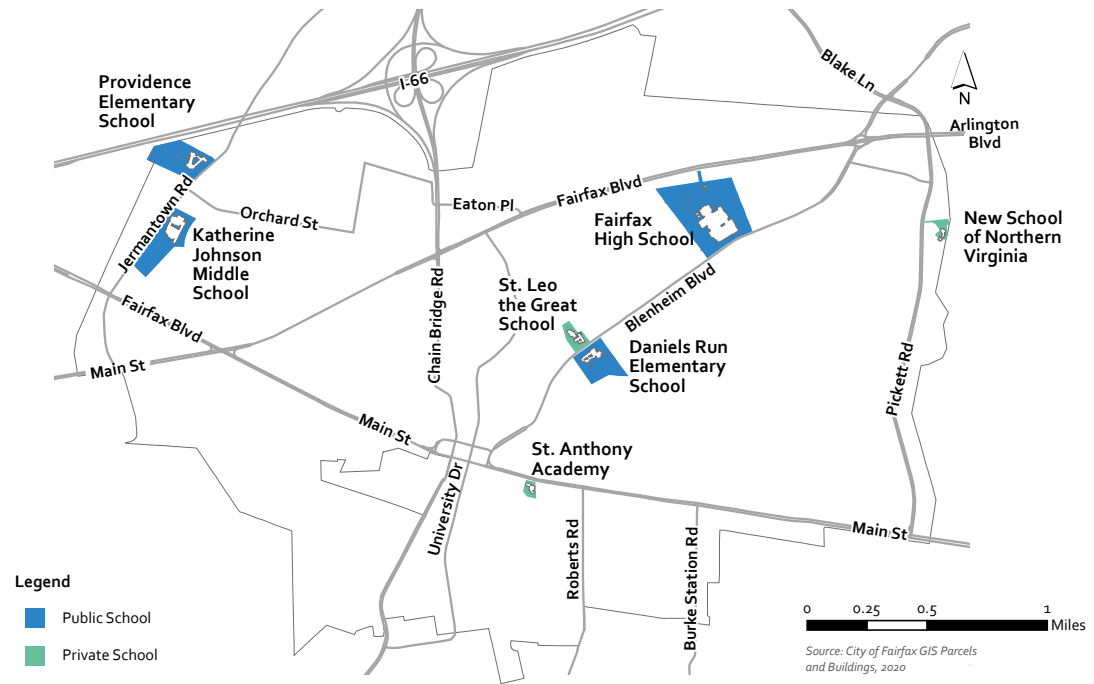
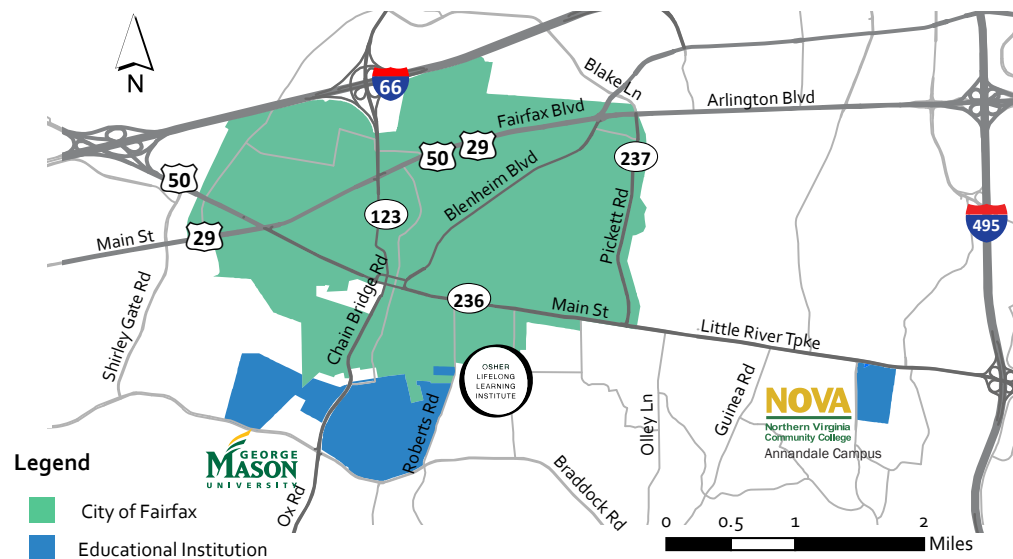


FIGURE 44 LOCAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

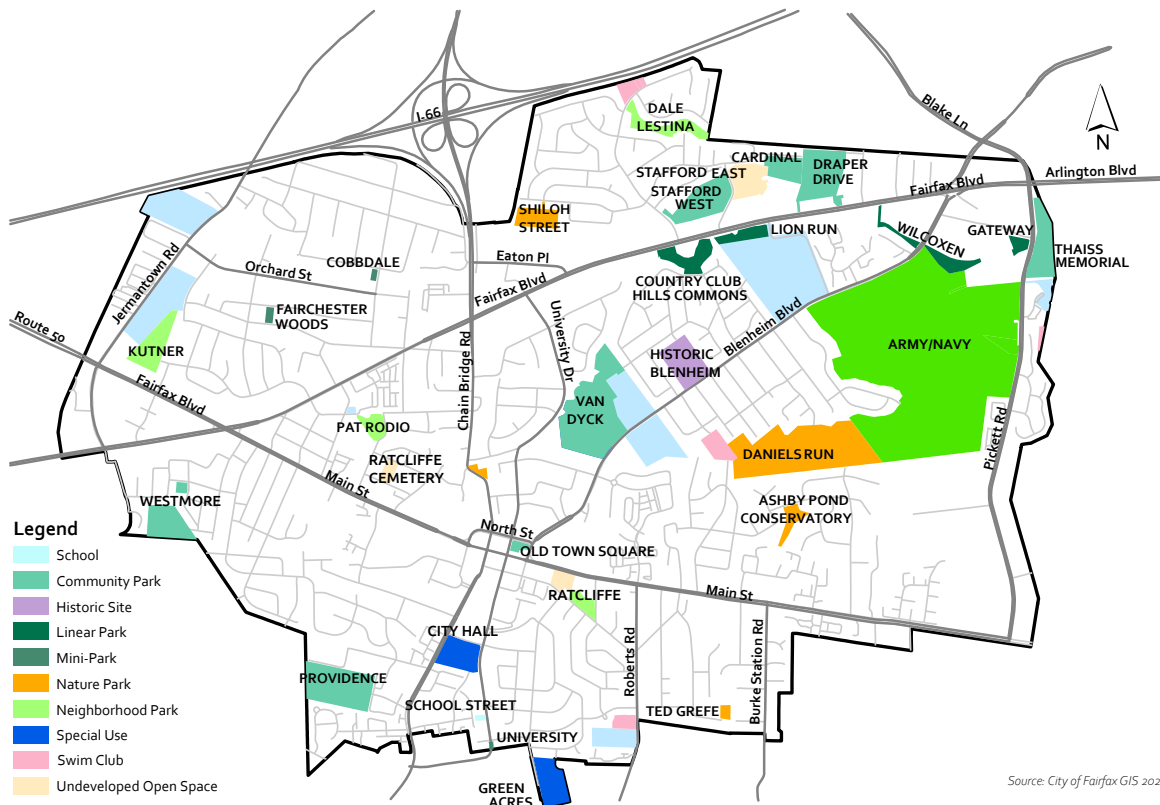


## Parks and Recreation

A diverse network of approximately 200 acres of public parks and open space areas, including recreation fields, natural areas, informal open spaces, and a trail system is provided throughout the City, as shown in Figure 45. Most trails in the City are multipurpose recreational trails serving the needs of pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists.



FIGURE 45 OPEN SPACE AND PARKS BY TYPE

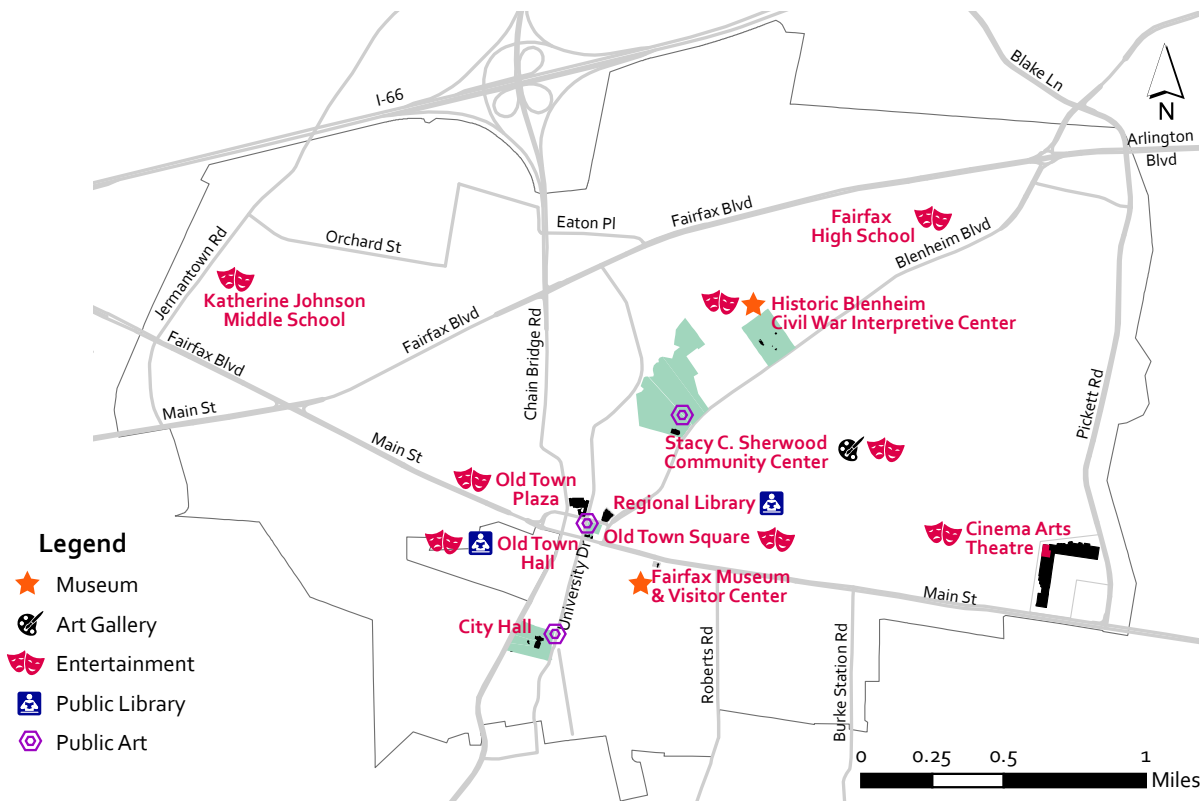


Source: City of Fairfax GIS 2024





FIGURE 46 CULTURAL FACILITIES AND PUBLIC ART



### Cultural Arts

The City’s cultural arts activities and special events draw people to the City and contribute to the unique sense of place and close-knit community, offering distinctive venues to unite members of the community. Currently, public art and cultural facilities are focused mainly in and around Old Town, as shown in Figure 46. The City has a museum, art galleries, and other performance venues; however, there is a lack of performing arts venues for theater and other performance groups.

## Police

The Police Department, the City's primary law enforcement agency, is responsible for protecting life and property, preventing crime, detecting and apprehending criminal suspects, and maintaining order. The ability to anticipate, prevent, and manage crime, minimize threats to property, and minimize damage from environmental hazards all contribute to public safety.



## Fire

The Fire Department handles fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services, and emergency medical transportation within the City, is "first due" to 4.51 square miles in the County, and will respond anywhere in the County upon request through an automatic aid agreement. In return, Fairfax County provides a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) service for all fire and rescue vehicles as well as "first due" engines and rescue response in the areas along Pickett Road near the tank farm and along Jermantown Road near the schools, as well as backup response in the remainder of the City.



## Emergency Management

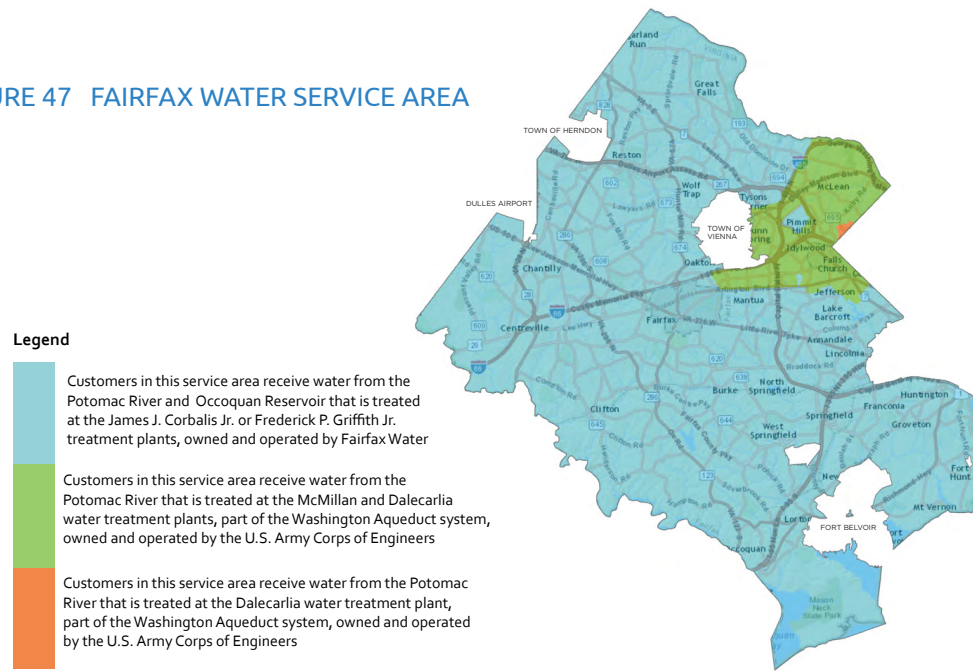
The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) ensures community safety through comprehensive coordination, monitoring and preparedness activities. Acting as the central liaison among emergency response agencies, OEM continuously monitors for potential threats, alerts relevant entities, and develops robust training schedules for emergency personnel. Additionally, OEM maintains critical documents such as the Emergency Operations Plans and the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan, ensuring they are up-to-date with current mandates. Through public education and outreach, OEM empowers the community to be prepared and resilient in the face of emergencies.

## Utilities

The City sold its water system to Fairfax Water on January 2, 2014. Since that sale, Fairfax Water has been providing water services to the City as shown in Figure 47. The City operates its own wastewater collection system as shown in Figure 48. Wastewater originating in the City's wastewater system is treated by Fairfax County at its Noman M. Cole, Jr., Pollution Control Plant. The City manages, maintains, and repairs its stormwater system, which consists of approximately 60 miles of storm drain pipe and 3,650 storm sewer structures throughout the City.

The City does not own or operate any electric, telephone, or cable utilities. It does, however, own over 13 miles of fiber-optic communication lines as part of the traffic signal communications network, and rights-of-way where other transmission lines are located. Approximately 67 miles of City streets contain utility poles supporting overhead electric, telephone, and cable television wires.

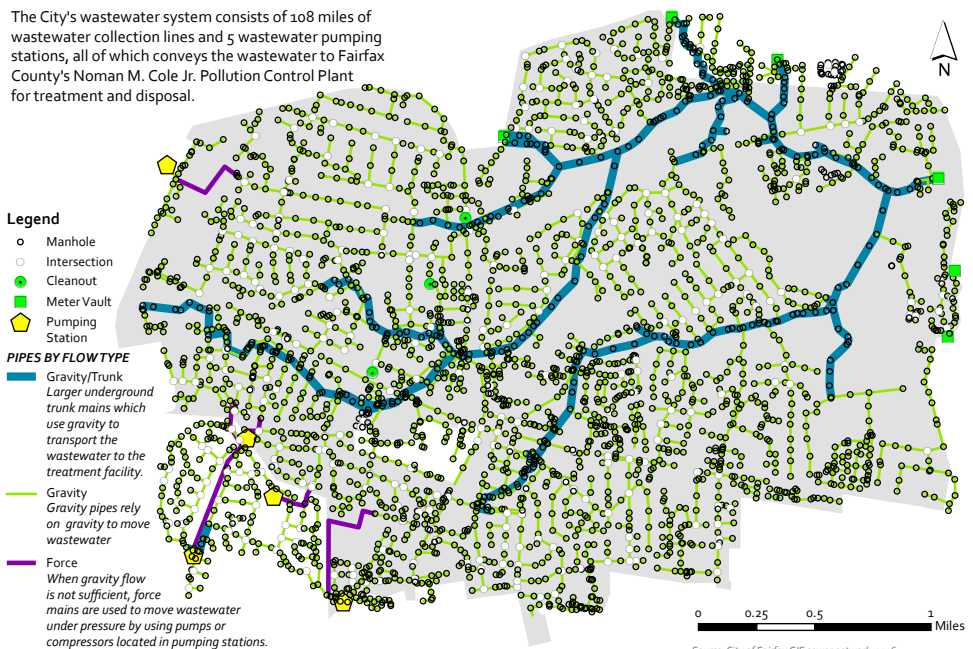
FIGURE 47 FAIRFAX WATER SERVICE AREA



Source: Fairfax Water 2016 Annual Water Quality Report

FIGURE 48 WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

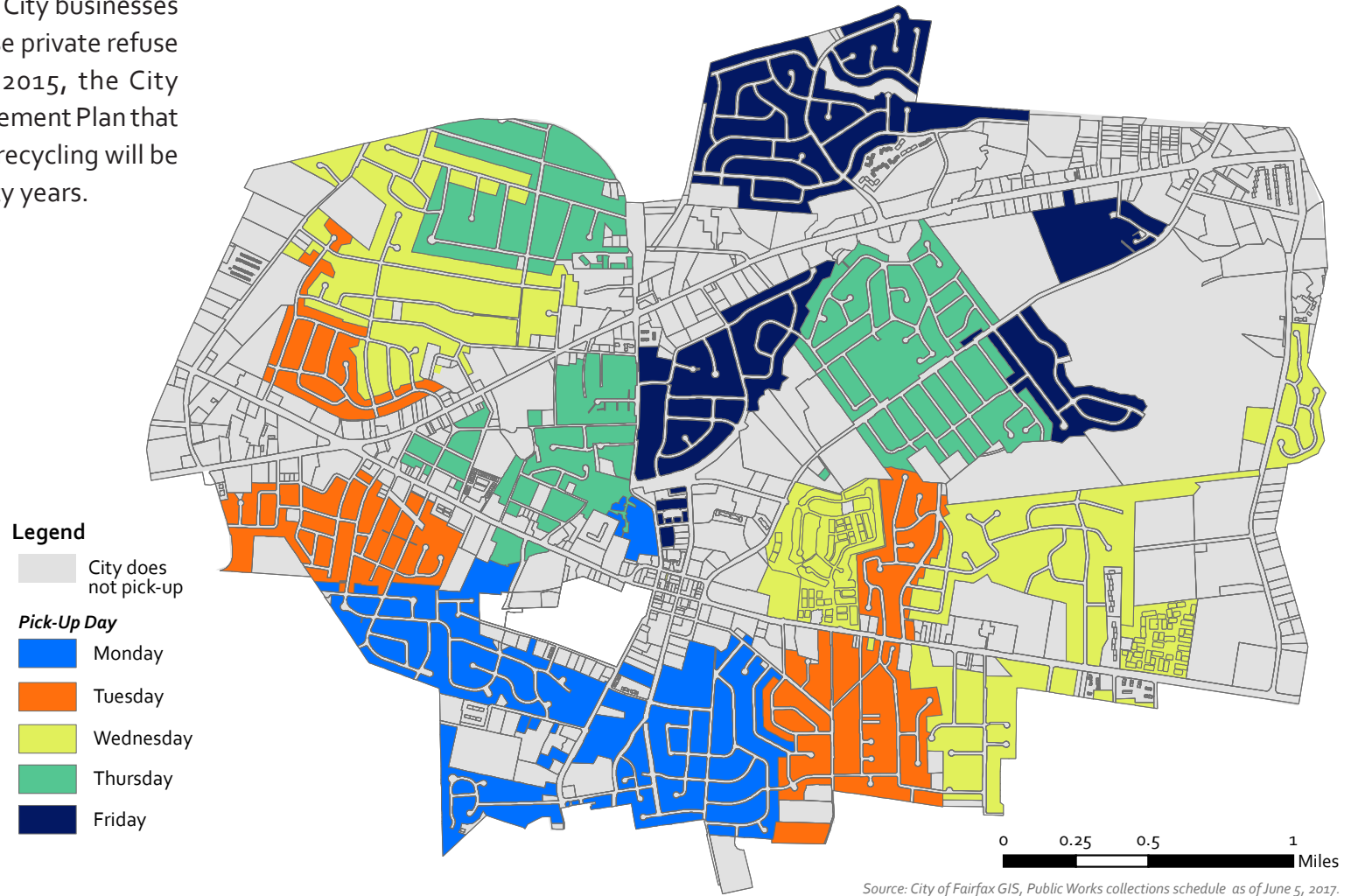
The City's wastewater system consists of 108 miles of wastewater collection lines and 5 wastewater pumping stations, all of which conveys the wastewater to Fairfax County's Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant for treatment and disposal.



Source: City of Fairfax GIS sewer network 2016

The City provides weekly refuse and recycling collection for residents in detached homes, duplexes, and townhouses. Curbside collection service is shown in Figure 49. City businesses and multifamily complexes use private refuse and recycling services. In 2015, the City adopted a Solid Waste Management Plan that outlines how solid waste and recycling will be managed over the next twenty years.

FIGURE 49 RESIDENTIAL REFUSE AND RECYCLING CURBSIDE COLLECTION



# Opportunities and Challenges

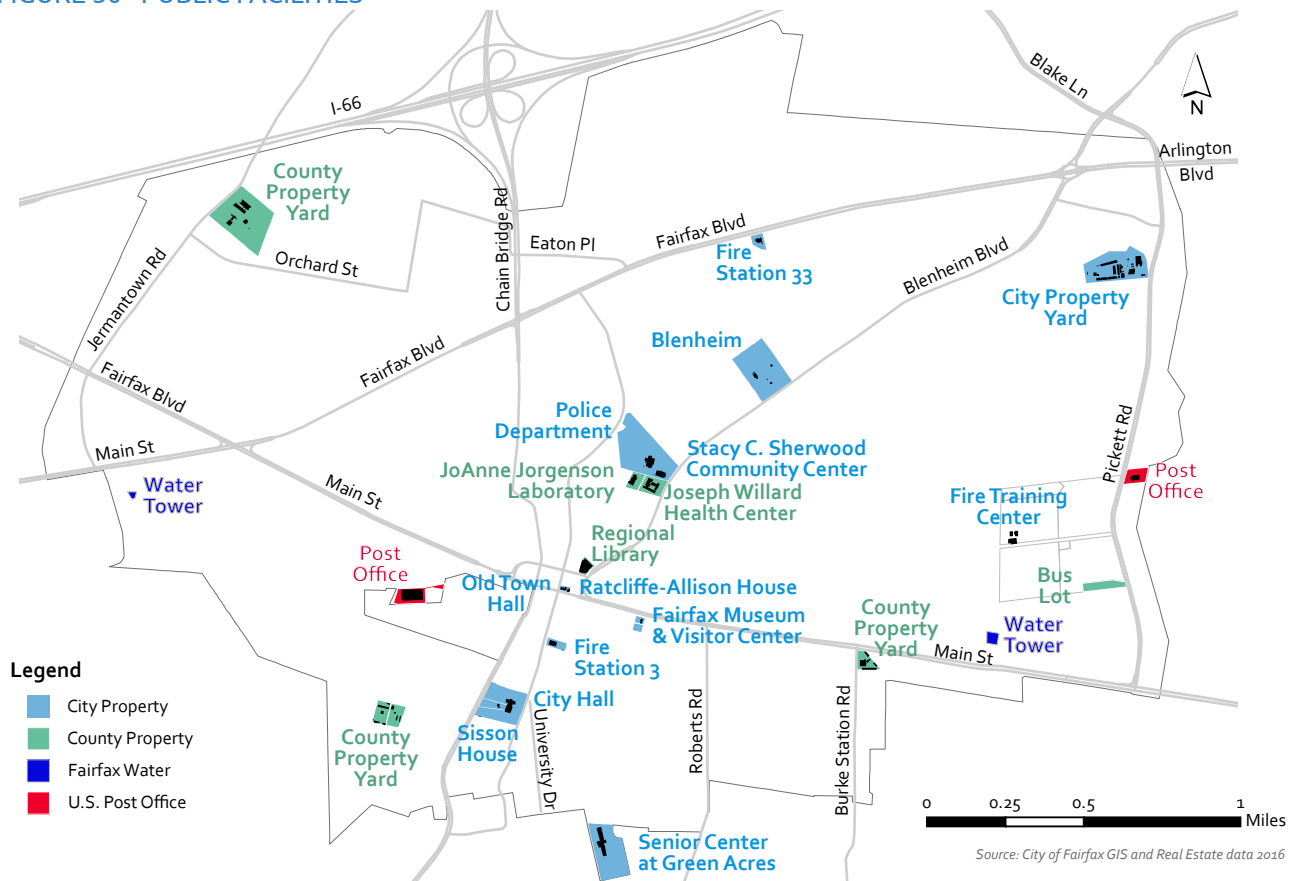
## Ongoing maintenance of public facilities

Public facility locations are shown in Figure 50. Several of these facilities in the City are historic structures that have withstood years of service. Ensuring that community services and facilities are phased with changing demand is a major component of facility management, since the quality of public facilities contributes to the City's quality of life.

## Service agreements

The relatively small size of the City makes provisions for some public services inefficient. The City provides many services to its citizens through contractual agreements with Fairfax County and regional agencies. This provides for more efficient service delivery while allowing the City to retain some control. Aside from the School Services Agreement with FCPS, City residents may use any of eight regional and fourteen community libraries that compose the Fairfax County library system. Fairfax County also provides health and human services assistance, including environmental health, communicable disease programs, and public health services.

FIGURE 50 PUBLIC FACILITIES



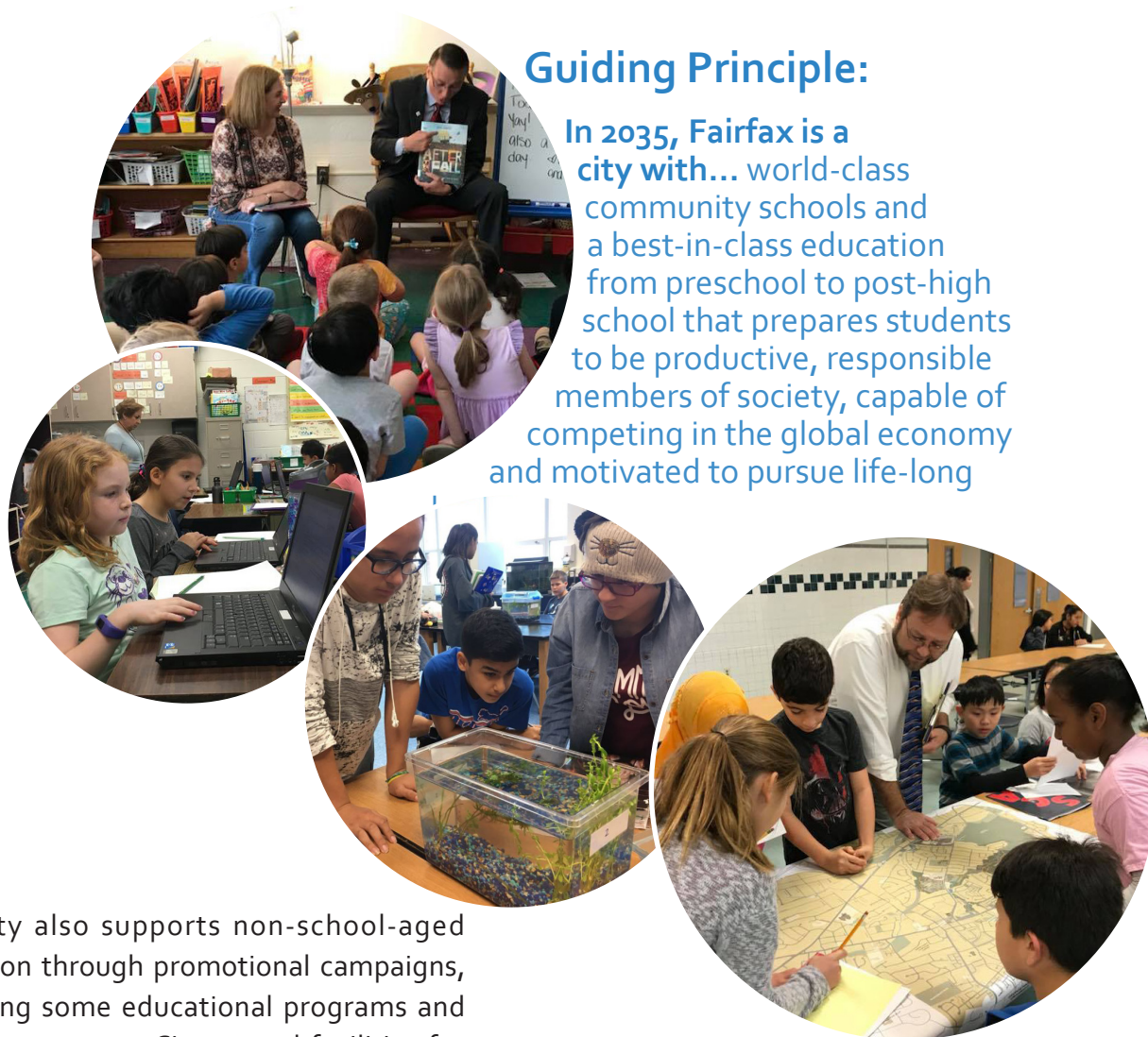
## Growth and development

Population growth and new development can impact demands on public facilities and services. Demands, however, can be monitored to ensure that the resulting impacts are realized in advance and factored into the decision-making process for accommodating new development.



# Education

Between the City's public schools, its proximity to higher education institutions, and its accessibility to lifelong learning offerings, education factors heavily into the City's quality of life. Excellent public education is not just a priority for current residents, but is also an investment in the City's future, and City policies should continue to ensure that educational opportunities are prioritized for future generations. The City will strive to provide excellent instructional services and superior facilities, geared to the needs of our evolving and diverse population. The City of Fairfax School Board maintains its own Strategic Plan and is responsible for the School Services Agreement with FCPS, through which the City is able to ensure outstanding facilities and instructional accommodations for the 3,000 public school students who reside within City limits. As the City grows and student needs evolve, both the City government and the City of Fairfax School Board should continue to prioritize educational services in order to provide the highest possible levels of service for the future needs of the City's school-aged population.



## Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with... world-class community schools and a best-in-class education from preschool to post-high school that prepares students to be productive, responsible members of society, capable of competing in the global economy and motivated to pursue life-long

The City also supports non-school-aged education through promotional campaigns, operating some educational programs and allowing access to City owned facilities for educational programs provided by other entities.

# Education Goal 1

Ensure the City's public education needs are met.

The school services agreement with FCPS provides outstanding instructional programs for City students, combined with an impressive amount of local control. While all four of the City's public schools have been renovated since 2000, changes in student needs, technology, and enrollment must continually be monitored to ensure facilities remain exceptional.

The City School Board possesses a deed of covenant on the existing Green Acres site at the south end of the City to accommodate a third elementary school should enrollment increase to a point where Daniels Run and Providence Elementary Schools could not reasonably be expanded to accommodate the growth. The School Board has selected Providence Park as an alternative site for a future school, which would be more appropriate if it is consolidated with the adjacent West Drive Property Yard.

**OUTCOME E1.1:** The School Services Agreement with FCPS, guided by the City of Fairfax School Board, provides City students with the highest quality education.

**ACTION E1.1.1** Continue to advocate for city schools while following the established guidelines of the School Services Agreement and to monitor its implementation.

**ACTION E1.1.2** Establish regular communication between the school board, the school superintendent, Mayor and Council, other City staff and others as needed to ensure school needs and other school related information are understood by all parties.

**OUTCOME E1.2:** Public school facilities and grounds meet the current and future needs of the school-aged population.

**ACTION E1.2.1** Consider impacts to school facilities and coordinate with school operations during the development review process.

**ACTION E1.2.2** Continue cooperation between City government and the City of Fairfax School Board to assess and plan for impacts from future residential development.

**ACTION E1.2.3** Monitor potential Fairfax County school boundary adjustments to anticipate impacts on City school enrollment.

**ACTION E1.2.4** Utilize the Facility Condition Assessment and Facility Masterplan recommendations to evaluate options for the School Board's future use of the Green Acres site.

**ACTION E1.2.5** Continue to ensure a safe learning environment, proper program capacities, and the availability of the latest technology and functional accommodations.

**ACTION E1.2.6** Promote environmentally friendly practices for school facilities and grounds.

Further discussion on this site is provided in the Parcel Specific Recommendations in the Land Use Chapter of this plan.

# Education Goal 2

Ensure access to educational and training opportunities for all generations.

City residents place a high priority on education at all stages of life, from early childhood education to continuing education and adult lifelong learning. Prioritizing the continued growth and development of the City's educational offerings and linkages by collaborating with local education providers and institutions will help enhance the City's livability for future generations.

**OUTCOME E2.1:** All children will have access to Pre-K opportunities.

**ACTION E2.1.1** Continue to promote Pre-K opportunities for all City Pre-K children.

**ACTION E2.1.2** Increase access to early childhood literacy and after school care at the City's community facilities, City of Fairfax Regional Library, and other institutions.

**ACTION E2.1.3** Seek opportunities to establish new affordable childcare services.

**OUTCOME E2.2:** The City's residents will have access to facilities and programs that foster an informed community.

**ACTION E2.2.1** Maintain access to the City's community facilities, City of Fairfax Regional Library, and other institutions for ongoing dialogue in educational events and discussions.

**ACTION E2.2.2** Continue to provide residents and businesses with access to timely information on City government programs and initiatives via applicable media outlets.

**OUTCOME E2.3:** Partnerships and community resources provide opportunities for training and continuing education.

**ACTION E2.3.1** Continue to foster good relations with nearby education providers such as George Mason University and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).

# 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. The City is committed to providing accessible spaces for all members of the community and preserving open and natural areas throughout the City. 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.

## 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 have 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 and trails provides citizens with healthy choices for recreation and transportation.

**ACTION PR1.1.1** Implement the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Masterplan.

**ACTION PR1.1.2** Identify and address gaps in the connections between the City's parks and open space.

**ACTION PR1.1.3** Identify opportunities for future open space in neighborhoods that are undersupplied in public recreation and open space opportunities.

**ACTION PR1.1.4** Enhance public access and ensure accessibility for all to parks and recreational facilities by making necessary infrastructure improvements.

**ACTION PR1.1.5** Continue to provide and enhance accessible green spaces and trails that positively impact the physical and mental health and well-being of the community while also protecting the environmental quality of the city.

**ACTION PR1.1.6** Partner with the Department of Public Works on efforts to improve pedestrian and bicycle networks throughout the City.

**OUTCOME PR1.2:** Natural resources in the City on private and public lands are protected and enhanced.

**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.

**ACTION PR1.2.3** Promote awareness of the City's guidelines, requirements, and commitment to natural resource protection.

# 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 provides opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to participate.

**ACTION PR2.1.1** Construct a community center consistent with the recommendations of the completed Community Center Feasibility Study.

**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 and Old Town Hall as destinations and community gathering places by providing a venue for arts, recreation, and green space.

**OUTCOME PR2.2:** Partnerships to complement the programs and services provided by the City are enhanced and expanded.

**ACTION PR2.2.1** Identify opportunities to expand partnerships with businesses and institutional communities such as City of Fairfax and Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, George Mason University, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, NOVA Conservation Trust, and others.

**ACTION PR2.2.2** Establish relationships and partnerships with 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:** Rehabilitated and newly constructed public facilities 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 prioritize 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 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.



# Cultural Arts

## Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with... a thriving cultural arts program that supports a variety of special events, art spaces and performance venues.



The City takes pride in the wide variety of cultural events, programs, and facilities it provides to enhance the quality of life for its residents. The City is committed to preserving and protecting its heritage, recognizing evolving socioeconomic and cultural patterns, and promoting the arts as an integral part of our spirit and vitality with wide ranging economic benefits.

In January 2013, the Commission on the Arts (COA) prepared a Strategic Plan with near-term (one to three years) and long-range objectives for cultural arts in the City. The plan “envisions an economically and culturally booming City with a vibrant arts community serving as a leading arts destination,” supporting the Comprehensive Plan Vision. The goals of this Guiding Principle seek to support and build upon the COA Strategic Plan, exploring

opportunities for inclusion of the arts as the City develops.

Historically, the arts organizations in our community have been the City of Fairfax Band and the Fairfax Art League. Over the past two decades, four theater companies have emerged, as well as several smaller performance groups. The range of performances is constrained by the lack of theater spaces.

In recent years, a constant barrier to growth for performance and visual arts groups has been a lack of dedicated and appropriate spaces. New public art has also sprouted in Old Town and throughout the City, supported by the City’s Public Art Program.



# Cultural Arts Goal 1

## Integrate cultural facilities into the City.

The City currently lacks adequate facilities for visual and performing arts, including a community theater that could provide space for the larger audiences that regional and national artists could bring to the City, and permanent dedicated spaces for visual arts. Although Fairfax High School and Katherine Johnson Middle School have auditorium/theater spaces, theater groups are severely challenged to obtain time in these facilities and are concerned about rental fees. The City must continue to evaluate and expand its cultural venues and to cater to the increasing entertainment expectations of its residents and promote the character and economic vitality of the City, making it a regional arts destination. This should be supported through expanded public art facilities.

**OUTCOME CA1.1:** Cultural facilities provide opportunities for engagement with local, regional and national artists and artworks.

**ACTION CA1.1.1** Identify short- and long-term needs for performance spaces, visual arts spaces, and other facilities to support a robust City arts program.

**ACTION CA1.1.2** Establish new or expand existing performing arts facilities, and consider recommendations of the Performing Arts Feasibility Study for a dedicated facility.

**ACTION CA1.1.3** Support the creation of Arts and Cultural Districts in accordance with Code of Virginia 15.2-943.1 with priority to Old Town Fairfax to encourage the establishment of new dedicated arts and cultural venues.

**ACTION CA1.1.4** Identify underutilized or vacant private facilities that can function as temporary performance spaces.

**OUTCOME CA1.2:** Public art such as murals and sculptures is displayed to identify, enhance, and promote the cultural nature of the City.

**ACTION CA1.2.1** Promote the City's cultural arts identity through public art.

**ACTION CA1.2.2** Implement the City of Fairfax Public Art Policy and consider additional policies and practices that promote cultural vitality.

**ACTION CA1.2.3** Create a public art network by integrating art into existing parks and public spaces.



# Cultural Arts Goal 2

## Encourage a broad representation of arts.

There are a wide variety of interests in arts programs and events resulting from the ever-changing demographics of the City. Strategic partnerships with local institutions, such as George Mason University's Center for the Arts and Northern Virginia Community College's Fine Arts Program should be constantly sought and promoted to expand opportunities for City residents of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities. Alternative means of providing and promoting programs must continually be explored as well.

**OUTCOME CA2.1:** Collaboration and partnership with local schools, colleges, and universities to provide performance, rehearsal, and educational opportunities for artists.

**ACTION CA2.1.1** Support establishment of performance, rehearsal, and educational opportunities for artists through collaboration and partnerships.

**ACTION CA2.1.2** Establish a mechanism for continuous collaboration with local schools, colleges, universities, and arts organizations on education for artists, and for arts programming.

**ACTION CA2.1.3** Explore public-private partnerships to develop performance and rehearsal spaces.

**OUTCOME CA2.2:** Cultural programming in the City increases opportunities for a wide range of cultural experiences.

**ACTION CA2.2.1** Identify and create plan to optimize use of existing and future public facilities for cultural arts programs.

**ACTION CA2.2.2** Enhance awareness of current and future programs and facilities.

**ACTION CA2.2.3** Develop and execute a plan to increase funds through strategies such as charging admission to selected events and increasing sponsorships, contributions, and grants.

**ACTION CA2.2.4** Develop a masterplan of events to ensure a wide range of opportunities for cultural experiences that are distributed throughout the year.

# Government and Public Safety

Municipal government services directly affect daily life for residents and businesses including trash pick-up, dog licensing, sign permits, facility rentals, or emergency services. These services not only allow a community to function, but also impact its overall quality of life.

Public safety services include law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and emergency management. The continuity of governmental services offers reassurance that essential services are in place to respond to basic community concerns and needs.



## Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with... exceptional governmental, police and fire safety services.



# Government and Public Safety

## Goal 1

Provide state-of-the-art-facilities for local government and public safety operations.

Anticipating future growth patterns and planning for infrastructure and services to meet the needs of such growth are critical elements in determining the future of the City and its development framework. The City's location in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area promises to provide the stimulus for continued growth. This growth will affect the resources required to provide the desired level of public services, safety response, and protection. The City must continually monitor demands on government and public safety resources in order to determine needs for facility and service enhancements.

**OUTCOME GPS1.1:** Public facilities and equipment support the efficient functioning of City staff to provide valued services to City residents and businesses.

**ACTION GPS1.1.1** Maintain and update City facilities to ensure all are safe, accessible to individuals of all abilities, energy efficient, and modernized to meet the changing needs of the community and operations.

**ACTION GPS1.1.2** Construct new buildings, when warranted, that are accessible, sustainable, and properly located, including co-locating multiple uses to meet the needs of the community and operations.

**ACTION GPS1.1.3** Pursue right of first refusal agreement with Fairfax County on County-owned property located within the City.

**ACTION GPS1.1.4** Establish level of service standards to estimate demands on community services resulting from new development.

**ACTION GPS1.1.5** Continue to include the public safety staff in the review of development proposals.



# Government and Public Safety

## Goal 2

Provide high-quality community services.

The City must balance fiscal challenges with the need to maintain public facilities and equipment. Improper maintenance and inadequate facilities can result in disruptive needs for repair and costly replacements. The City will provide high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective community services with optimal levels of service to meet public needs on a daily basis, as well as during times of stress.

**OUTCOME GPS2.1:** Customer service tools are user-friendly, convenient, and use the latest technology available.

**ACTION GPS2.1.1** Monitor trends and advancements in technology as they become available to determine if they would benefit City staff’s ability to deliver services.

**OUTCOME GPS2.2:** Police protection and service maintain a safe environment for residents, workers, and visitors.

**ACTION GPS2.2.1** Prevent crime through safe environmental design.

**ACTION GPS2.2.2** Implement the Police Department’s long-range plans.

**ACTION GPS2.2.3** Continue moving toward an evidence-based policing model for resource allocation.

**ACTION GPS2.2.4** Provide enforcement measures to help improve pedestrian safety.

**OUTCOME GPS2.3:** Responsive fire and rescue services protect lives and property.

**ACTION GPS2.3.1** Support the implementation of the Fire Department’s long-range plans.

**ACTION GPS2.3.2** Maintain and update City fire facilities and equipment to ensure all are safe, accessible to individuals of all abilities, energy efficient, and modernized to meet the changing needs of the community and staff.

**OUTCOME GPS2.4:** Coordination and collaboration are maintained with appropriate jurisdictions, agencies, and groups for emergency preparedness and response.

**ACTION GPS2.4.1** Implement the action plan of the City of Fairfax Annex to the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan as updated.

**ACTION GPS2.4.2** Survey assets and expand upon them to best capitalize on investment in preparedness.

**ACTION GPS2.4.3** Continue education programs with a focus on creating resilient environments and advocating for emergency readiness.

**OUTCOME GPS2.5:** Essential health and human services are readily available for all community members.

**ACTION GPS2.5.1** Improve access and availability to health and human services, amenities, and products.

**ACTION GPS2.5.2** Increase transit service options available to destinations where healthy food is sold or distributed such as food banks, farmers markets, and grocery stores.

**ACTION GPS2.5.3** Develop a marketing strategy targeting individuals in the City who could benefit from services provided by outside agencies.

# Infrastructure and Utilities

## Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with... safe, well-maintained infrastructure and use of advanced technology.



Well-maintained infrastructure and utility systems are critical to the City's continued growth and development. The services covered under this Guiding Principle include water, wastewater, stormwater, energy, telecommunications, and solid waste and recycling. These services support existing and future development and contribute to the health, safety, and welfare of the community's residents, businesses, and visitors. As technology advances, the City will have greater opportunity to expand the use of information and communications technologies to enhance livability, economic growth, public safety, and sustainability.

The proper functioning of infrastructure systems can have major environmental implications. Water, wastewater, and stormwater systems are embedded in the region's hydrology, and the quality of our watersheds is heavily influenced by the operation of these systems. Overhead utility wires are a distracting visual element within the streetscape and present a maintenance concern. Trees must be trimmed away from the overhead lines on a regular basis, resulting in odd-shaped and unnatural-looking trees unable to grow to their fullest potential. Undergrounding utilities can enhance safety, improve aesthetics, reduce maintenance, and improve street tree health.

# Infrastructure and Utilities

## Goal 1

Provide quality utility services and infrastructure systems.

Utilities and infrastructure will be compliant with applicable federal and state standards and requirements to meet anticipated growth and development needs. The City should continue to ensure its infrastructure and utility systems meet the demand of projected growth and the community's needs. Significant investments in infrastructure (such as stormwater management facilities) will be needed to keep pace with maintenance, regulatory requirements, and advancing technology.

**OUTCOME IU1.1:** Clean, safe, and reliable potable water is supplied to all City residents, businesses, and institutions.

**ACTION IU1.1.1** Continue to work with Fairfax Water to ensure the City has access to safe and reliable drinking water.

**ACTION IU1.1.2** Encourage residents and businesses to conserve water in an effort to protect and preserve the water supply.

**OUTCOME IU1.2:** A reliable and efficient wastewater system collects, conveys and treats wastewater.

**ACTION IU1.2.1** Continue to perform regular testing, maintenance and improvements to the City's wastewater collection system to ensure compliance with federal and state environmental regulations.

**OUTCOME IU1.3:** The stormwater system is sustainable and efficient.

**ACTION IU1.3.1** Continue to implement the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) and the City's stormwater management program to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.

**ACTION IU1.3.2** Continue to maintain and improve the City's stormwater system.

**ACTION IU1.3.3** Establish design and implement standards for green infrastructure in public rights of way.

**ACTION IU1.3.4** Implement and support green infrastructure strategies in public right of way projects where appropriate.

**OUTCOME IU1.4:** Reliable energy and telecommunications infrastructure are accessible to all City residents, businesses, and institutions.

**ACTION IU1.4.1** Partner with utility providers, local municipalities, and regional groups to improve access to utility data and service outage data.

**ACTION IU1.4.2** Coordinate upgrades, replacement, and expansion of non-City provided utilities, including electricity, water, natural gas and communications networks.

**ACTION IU1.4.3** Work with utilities, developers, and state agencies to relocate above-ground utility lines underground, where feasible, with an emphasis on major corridors.

# Infrastructure and Utilities Goal 1



**ACTION IU1.4.4** Encourage the placement and appearance of utility infrastructure (e.g. substations, transmission towers and lines, and switching boxes) to minimize visual disruption and negative effects on quality of life, and to enhance streetscapes.

**ACTION IU1.4.5** Work with utility companies to ensure the reliability and availability of electricity, water, natural gas, and communications services during both normal times and times of stress (e.g. storm events, flooding, extreme heat, etc.).

**OUTCOME IU1.5:** A safe and well-connected right-of-way system that provides a functional surface transportation system and utility infrastructure services throughout the City.

**ACTION IU1.5.1** Evaluate and ensure that there is adequate lighting along all major streets.

**ACTION IU1.5.2** Convert light fixtures and street lights to light emitting diodes (LEDs) and down-cast lighting.

**ACTION IU1.5.3** Continue development of a citywide strategic asset management program for all city-maintained infrastructure.

**ACTION IU1.5.4** Provide rights-of-way that will permit the expansion of tree planting strips and tree wells to provide more suitable growing conditions for street trees.

**OUTCOME IU1.6:** Reliable and efficient solid waste and recycling services and infrastructure are provided.

**ACTION IU1.6.1** Maintain and enhance solid waste and recycling infrastructure in City parks, trails, sidewalks, and public facilities, and at events.



# Infrastructure and Utilities Goal 2

Expand the use of advanced technology.

Advanced technology infrastructure helps support economic growth and public safety, improve access to information, and ensure a broad range of communications services. Technology is rapidly progressing while the price of these advanced technologies is decreasing. The City will monitor, evaluate, and utilize advances in technology to improve efficiency, connectivity and quality of life.

**OUTCOME IU2.1:** All City residences, businesses and institutions have access to reliable and affordable advanced technology and telecommunications infrastructure and services.

**ACTION IU2.1.1** Periodically update policies and regulations for the design and siting of telecommunications facilities to ensure they remain applicable with fast-changing technologies.

**ACTION IU2.1.2** Explore public-private partnerships as a way to enhance the City's telecommunications infrastructure.

**ACTION IU2.1.3** Evaluate and implement, where appropriate, innovative pilot initiatives that advance new technologies (e.g., regenerative power, solar-powered charging stations, etc.).

