

I. MASTER PLAN VISION AND GOALS

1. VISION STATEMENT

Arlington is built on deep and lasting connections. Each of us is connected to the shared history of this place and the stories we bring to it, and we are committed to working together to forge a shared future, aware of our connections to each other and respectful of our differences. We are connected through our neighborhoods and the sense of belonging we feel in them, and we value our connections to the larger region around us. We also take pride in our schools, our parks, and our public spaces. As we work to keep our neighborhoods welcoming to all, we remain committed to preserving Arlington’s economic and cultural diversity.

We recognize that the future of Arlington is connected to the natural resources and systems we depend on and enjoy, as well as the local and regional economic relationships that have developed over time. We envision a future in which our fiscal and environmental health are in balance and wisely stewarded.

Although this plan consists of multiple sections, it is a single document, representing a coherent vision for Arlington’s future. Looking forward, we know that Arlington will continue to change, and change will present both opportunities and challenges. We have tried to foresee and account for these changes, knowing that Arlington will also face situations we could not predict when this plan was written. To help guide us through the future – both known and uncertain – we have tried to create a plan that calls attention to parallels as well as the potential conflicts and trade-offs in the choices that lie ahead.

2. MASTER PLAN GOALS

A. Land Use

- Balance housing growth with other land uses that support residential services and amenities.
- Encourage development that enhances the quality of Arlington’s natural resources and built environment.
- Attract development that supports and expands the economic, cultural, and civic purposes of Arlington’s commercial areas.

B. Transportation

- Enhance mobility and increase safety by maximizing transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access and other alternative modes of transportation.
- Manage congestion safely and efficiently by improving traffic operations.
- Manage the supply of parking in commercial areas in order to support Arlington businesses.

C. Housing

- Encourage mixed-use development that includes affordable housing, primarily in well-established commercial areas.
- Provide a variety of housing options for a range of incomes, ages, family sizes, and needs.
- Preserve the “streetcar suburb” character of Arlington’s residential neighborhoods.
- Encourage sustainable construction and renovation of new and existing structures.

D. Economic Development

- Improve access to public transit and parking.
- Support conditions that benefit small, independent businesses.
- Maximize the buildout potential of commercial and industrial properties.
- Promote Arlington’s historic and cultural assets as leverage for economic development.

E. Historic & Cultural Resources

- Maintain, protect, preserve, and promote historic and diverse cultural resources in all neighborhoods.
- Provide attractive, well-maintained spaces for residents to meet, play and grow.
- Promote arts and cultural activities for all ages.

What do we mean when we say...?

Sustainability: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Streetcar Suburb: A town whose growth and development was shaped by the use of streetcar lines as a primary means of transportation.

Mixed-Use Development: Buildings that contain more than one use, such as first-floor retail space and upper-story offices or housing.

F. Natural Resources

- Use sustainable planning and engineering approaches to improve air and water quality, reduce flooding, and enhance ecological diversity by managing our natural resources.
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Ensure that Arlington’s neighborhoods, commercial areas, and infrastructure are developed in harmony with natural resource concerns.
- Value and protect the physical beauty and natural habitats of Arlington.

G. Open Space & Recreation

- Treasure our open spaces, parks, recreational facilities and natural areas.
- Expand recreational and athletic facilities, programs, and opportunities, for all residents.
- Maintain and beautify our public parks, trails, play areas, and streetscapes.

H. Public Facilities & Services

- Coordinate and efficiently deliver town services.
- Build, operate, and maintain public facilities that are attractive and help to minimize environmental impact and that connect Arlington as a community.
- Balance the need for additional revenue with ability and willingness of property owners to pay for new expenditures and investments
- Guide public facility investments through a long-term capital planning process that anticipates future needs.