

Livability 22202

Developing better, more livable neighborhoods in and around Pentagon City and Crystal City.

Open Space Working Group

March 2, 2021

7-9 pm

Meeting Rules:

- Ensure your first and last name appear correctly when you enter. (If you need to rename yourself, place your cursor on your name, click “More” and then “Rename.”) Without a full name, you will be sent back to the Waiting Room for security reasons.
- Please keep video and mike off unless called on to save bandwidth.
- You are encouraged to ask questions or make comments via Chat at any time. They will be read or answered at the end of each agenda item. Raise Your Hand (under Reactions) if you wish to speak.
- Please try to keep comments and questions brief and respect the right of others to talk.
- The meeting will be live streamed on the CCCA Facebook page and recorded.

Livability 22202

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Open Space
Working Group,
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Agenda:

1. Briefings on recent meetings with County staff (DPR, DES, CPHD) and the Parks & Recreation Commission
2. Presentation of the Civic Federation White Paper on Equity in Arlington County Open Public Spaces
3. What does OpenSpace mean to us?
4. Future of the HUG and further projects with FOIA
5. Furthering the Integrated Pedestrian Map
6. Roaches Run Clean Up Days in April
7. Cherry Blossom Festival activities in 22202
8. National Landing BID project ideas for open space

Agenda Item 1

Presentations of Open Space Report and Integrated Pedestrian Map

- February 8 (DPR)
- February 18 (DPR, DES, CPHD)
- February 16 (Parks & Recreation Commission)



Open Space Report (Dec 2020) Fact Sheet Summary

The principles identified reflect the need for holistic planning to strengthen connectivity, natural ecosystems, and community-building:

- Improve hostile pedestrian environments and develop walking/biking loops throughout 22202
- Promote connectivity of open spaces from Arlington Ridge to Crystal City and Long Bridge Park
- Connect Crystal City to the natural areas of Roaches Run on the east side of the railroad right-of-way
- Identify goals for natural systems: reduce heat island effects, mitigate stormwater impacts, provide wildlife habitat, incorporate solar energy
- Increase shade trees, plant natives, and use plantings to provide seasonal color and interest year-round

Open Space Report available at Livability22202.org

Agenda Item 2

Civic Federation White Paper on Equity in Arlington County Open Public Spaces

In the fall of 2020, the Arlington County Civic Federation's Parks and Recreation Committee used publicly available data sources to examine equitable proximity for County residents with respect to open public spaces (OPS).

- OPS is defined for this analysis as county parkland spaces where there are no “buildings, parking lots, and recreational facilities within the parks’ boundaries,” defined generally as natural “treed” areas as well as green “open” spaces that are open and available to the public without reservation or restriction.
- Walking Distance or Proximity to OPS is defined for this analysis as “total OPS approximate[d] at 10- to 15- minute walk zone for each resident or student.”
- Authors: Jesse Boeding, Jon Huntley, and Kari Klaus

Agenda Item 3

What does Open Space mean to us?

- Our objective is to increase the amount, quality, and access to open space in 22202.
- But “open space” means many things to different people.
- In fact, Arlington County’s 2020 [Public Spaces Master Plan](#) (PSMP) dropped the term “Open space” as being too ambiguous; it uses the broader term “public space” and breaks it down into categories. It no longer uses the terms “passive” and “active” space.
- What does open space mean to you? What words come to mind?
- Do the following pictures represent your vision of open space? Why or why not?

A recreational field? A fenced ball field?



an activated street? a Plaza with benches?



How about Casual Use? (e.g., reading, picnic, movies, events, etc.)



How about exposure to nature? Or walking trails?



Questions for Discussion

- What words describe your vision of open space?
- What purposes should open space serve?
- Does 22202 have the right balance of open space types?
- What types of open space does 22202 lack?
- What is your favorite area in 22202 to walk?
- Has the COVID pandemic changed the way you think about open space?

Agenda Item 4

Future of the HUG

- What is it?
 - Pilot project of Livability22202 and Friends of Urban Agriculture
 - An urban garden in Virginia Highlands Park to showcase how community-driven agriculture can transform and enhance urban spaces, and demonstrate the power of partnerships across public, private, civic and non-profit communities.
 - Sponsored by the National Landing BID and Arlington County DPR
- Where are we?
 - We're at Phase 2 ready to prepare for spring planting.
 - First harvest at end of April.
 - Volunteers needed: <https://forms.gle/yDfUJztXgLAxEVnQ7>



SPRING 2021 ACTION SUMMARY



PHASE I

January 1 - February 26

Water Tank Design

Team Meeting I

Volunteer Recruitment

Signage Creative Started



PHASE II

Feb 27 - March 20

Garden Workday - 2/28

Water Tank & Fence
Workday

Press Release /Social
Media

Volunteer Organizing

**PLOT Spring Kickoff
3/13 - 3/20 (online and
in person activities)**



PHASE III

March 21 - April 25

Team Meeting II

Seedling Workshop

Plant installation Workday

Volunteer Training

First Harvest & Delivery

Could we, should we expand the HUG?

- Possible Venues:
 - Long Bridge Park (County-owned, could be an AFAC project)
 - Gateway Park (privately owned, we've talked about a small Master Gardeners project)
 - Other small parks in Aurora Highlands or Arlington Ridge
- Should we do it?
 - JBG and/or County permissions would be needed
 - Volunteers would be needed to plan, install, and monitor
 - A neighborhood volunteer coordinator would need to run the project(s)
 - Donors would be needed to fund the project (e.g., \$6,000 each)
- To volunteer: <https://forms.gle/yDfUJztXgLAXEVNQ7>

Agenda Item 5

Furthering the Integrated Pedestrian Map

- What can we do?
 - Multi-stakeholder biophilia working group will refine the community vision for biophilia into input that can be turned into guidelines
 - *NOTE: This is new ground – not a lot of existing work in this area – so this is not a forum where existing standards and policies provide much guidance.*
- Where can we engage?
 - SPRCs – highlight need to support connectivity to, from and through the sites
 - PDSP update – Biophilia Working Group, PDSP Community Workshops

Livability2202 Connectivity Map

- Need for better connectivity was emphasized by community in Livability2202 Workshops in 2019-2020
 - Connect the neighborhoods
 - Initiate and sustain community
 - Reduce reliance on car
 - Increase pedestrian safety
 - Connect with nature
- Connectivity among open spaces, residences, community facilities, transit nodes, and retail high streets
- Create connectivity with biophilic characteristics
 - Extend a park-like feel along the connections
 - Not always aligned with the street grid
 - Increase opportunities for engagement with nature
 - Consider ecological characteristics as well



Key Engagements in 2021

- Pentagon City PDSP Update
 - Guidelines for achieving connectivity
 - Identification of critical routes – metro access, parks
 - Increase open space, improve access to existing open space
 - Codify expectations on privately owned open spaces, connectivity through privately owned sites and alignment with county open spaces
- SPRCs
 - Amazon on Pen Place site, RiverHouse: Opportunity to demonstrate implementation of guidelines
 - Crystal City Parks
- Route 1 Feasibility Study
 - Improving East-West access for pedestrians and bicyclists across Route 1
 - Extension of biophilic and eco-corridors across Route 1



Biophilia Working Group

- Goal – Work with community to develop inputs to the biophilia section of the PC PDSP guidelines, leveraging the open space report, biophilia principles and additional community input
- Timeline: 60 days
- Group: Elizabeth Gearin, Caroline Haynes, David Howell, Natasha Atkins, and several other urban naturalists/gardeners in 22202
- Draft approach: Starting from biophilic principles, (1) generate 22202 themes to identify specific biophilic characteristics, (2) identify specific gaps and opportunities in 22202 where connectivity and connection with nature is good, missing, could be improved. Refine the work product over a series of meetings and provide for community review, then provide to PDSP update as input to guidelines.
- Meets Friday mornings with Matt Matuaszek, Kris Krider, Irena Lazic and DES

Agenda Item 6: Roaches Run Clean Up Days

- Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary and adjacent wooded area: a long contiguous natural space
 - Multiple custodians and owners: CSX, JBG Smith and National Park Service
- Recommendation: Develop a greenway between the GW Memorial Parkway and the railroad tracks from the south end of Crystal City to Roaches Run
 - Walking trail loop with multiple access points from Crystal City
 - Integrated into an overall system of pedestrian greenways in 22202
 - An extension of a 2012 NPS plan for Roaches Run
 - Multiple custodians and owners: CSX, JBG Smith and National Park Service



Open Space: Roaches Run

- **Status**

- JBG Roaches Run offer tied to 2525 Crystal Drive Site Plan
 - *On hold pending outcome of building height study in 2021*

- **Possible Next Steps**

- **Community clean up day April 2021(Annual Potomac River Clean-Up)**
- Community outreach to determine the balance between community access and support for eco-system
- Engage Arlington County, Commissions, Property Owners to bring their technical expertise to the development of this open space

- **Other activities to consider are:**

- Seeding wild rice for birds may be supportive of the migrating and overwintering birds
- A survey of the flora and fauna
- An invasive species removal activity

JBGS is interested in supporting a cleanup day, reach out to NLBID part of next steps

Agenda Item 7

Cherry Blossom Festival activities in 22202

What is it? What Will Happen?

- The National Cherry Blossom Festival Council has approved the Aurora Highlands Civic Association to coordinate events March 20-April 11 at Virginia Highlands Park as an official part of the Festival.
- There will be activities throughout the Festival including:
 - kite flying
 - Zumba
 - origami artwork
 - music
 - games
 - a pet photo session
 - food
 - cherry blossom sculptures
 - and potentially a parade April 10-11 through the neighborhood.
- The National Landing BID, JBG Smith, and Amazon are sponsors.
- See the [AHCA website](#) for more details and come on down.

Let your spirits soar at Virginia Highlands Park where you can elevate your kite-flying skills with our public-use kites. Don your pink spandex for outdoor Zumba classes. Soak in the cherry blossom spirit through art installations and musical performances.

Redesign Virginia Highlands Park

- Selection as a Cherry Blossom site is a recognition of the work done by AHCA to enliven VHP with multi-use casual uses suitable for the needs of residents living in high-density residences
- A Livability22202 goal for Virginia Highlands Park is to increase open space dedicated to general and casual use.



Agenda Item 8
National Landing Business Improvement District
(BID)
Support for Open Space

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel, President and CEO, National Landing BID

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel
Executive Director, National Landing BID

MARCH 2, 2021

NATIONAL LANDING OPEN SPACE



NATIONAL
LANDING

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD



METRO PLAZA



METRO PLAZA



WINTER LIGHT INSTALLATION



NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

- Festival: March 20 - April 11
- Blossom Kite Fly: March 27 & 28
- Porch Parade: April 10 & 11 (register by 3/15)
- Art in Bloom: Two sculptures in National Landing, Water Park and Long Bridge Park
- City in Bloom: Providing decals to restaurants/retail and "pinking" up the neighborhood
- Coloring Wall at Virginia Highlands Park
- The National Landing Love Bug will be popping up at a new surprise location with a new Cherry Blossom look for the duration of the festival



PARKLETS AND MEANWHILE SPACES



CRYSTAL CITY OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK

OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

WORKSHOP ONE: VISION & GOALS



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP ONE:

- HOSTED BY NATIONAL LANDING BID
- JUNE 24, 2020, 7:00PM - 8:00PM
- VIRTUAL WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

WORKSHOP ONE OBJECTIVES

- REVIEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND OUTCOMES
- INTRODUCE OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK VISION, VALUES AND APPROACH
- IDENTIFY THE COMMUNITY'S GOALS AND PRIORITIES

OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION



IN ADVANCE OF WORKSHOP TWO:

- OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION POSTED ONLINE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO VIEW AT THEIR CONVENIENCE
- ONLINE SURVEY TO OBTAIN FEEDBACK

FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES:

- IN DEPTH REVIEW OF PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK AND PARK TYPOLOGIES
- COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF OPEN SPACE IN SECTOR PLAN AND THE CRYSTAL CITY PARKS STUDY AREA
- COMPARE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THE SECTOR PLAN DETAILS WITH THE PROPOSED OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PLAN
- HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMMING SUMMARY FOR EACH PROFFERED PARK, INCLUDING:
 - CRYSTAL PARK
 - 23RD STREET PLAZA
 - CENTER PARK
 - METRO MARKET SQUARE
 - GATEWAY PARK

WORKSHOP TWO: CONSENSUS BUILDING



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP TWO:

- HOSTED BY NATIONAL LANDING BID
- WORKSHOP DATE: JULY 22, 2020 7-8PM
- VIRTUAL WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

WORKSHOP TWO OBJECTIVES

- REVIEW THE PREVIOUSLY POSTED PRESENTATION OF THE OPEN SPACE FRAMEWORK PLAN FOR CRYSTAL CITY
- OBTAIN COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ABOUT PARK PROGRAMMING

WORKSHOP THREE: CONCLUSIONS



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP THREE:

- HOSTED BY NATIONAL LANDING BID
- WORKSHOP DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2020 7-8PM
- VIRTUAL WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM
- REVIEW OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
- PRESENT THE REFINED PARK PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS



**NATIONAL
LANDING**

PENTAGON CITY

CRYSTAL CITY

POTOMAC YARD

Tracy Sayegh Gabriel

Executive Director, National Landing BID

Conclusions

- How can you engage with ongoing efforts to increase and promote open space in 22202?
- What's Next? Ongoing projects and areas to engage:
 - Integrated Pedestrian Map to connect green spaces
 - Roaches Run Development
 - Pentagon City PDSP
 - Site Plans (PenPlace, RiverHouse)
 - Park design processes upcoming with County
- If you'd like to lend your ideas and energy to the working group, email to be put on the mailing list: fullercarols@gmail.com



Definitions Vary

- OPS is defined for this analysis as county parkland spaces where there are no “buildings, parking lots, and recreational facilities within the parks’ boundaries,” defined generally as natural “treed” areas as well as green “open” spaces that are open and available to the public without reservation or restriction. Walking Distance or Proximity to OPS is defined for this analysis as “total OPS approximate[d] at 10- to 15-minute walk zone for each resident or student. ([CivFed White Paper](#))
- Open space is **any open piece of land that is undeveloped** (has no buildings or other built structures) and is accessible to the public. Open space can include: Green space (land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation). Green space includes parks, community gardens, and cemeteries. ([EPA New England](#))
- Open space generally refers to undeveloped land or water area. Specific definitions vary by jurisdiction, so local laws should be consulted for applicable requirements. ([USLegal.com](#))
- In [land-use planning](#), urban green space is [open-space](#) areas reserved for [parks](#) and other "green spaces", including plant life, water features -also referred to as [blue spaces-](#) and other kinds of natural environment.[1] Most urban open spaces are green spaces, but occasionally include other kinds of open areas. The landscape of urban open spaces can range from [playing fields](#) to highly maintained environments to relatively [natural landscapes](#). (Wikipedia)

Information For the Record

Arlington County's 2020 **Public Spaces Master Plan** (PSMP) dropped the term "Open space" as being too ambiguous; it uses the broader term "public space" and breaks it down into categories. It no longer uses the terms "passive" and "active" space. Instead, it says:

- **Public space** — Space that supports recreation and leisure, natural resources, casual use, historic and cultural resources and is either publicly owned or has guaranteed public access — including parks, plazas, trails, streets and recreation facilities.
- **Casual use space**: space that supports casual, impromptu use, including relaxation, reflection, informal activities or connection with nature.
- **Green space**: a publicly accessible area with a focus on natural vegetation, such as grass, plants or trees, that may include built environment features, such as urban parks, as well as less managed areas, including woodland and nature reserves.
- **Plaza** — A pedestrian-oriented community gathering area — primarily in high-density areas amid bustling streets and buildings — to sit, play and relax that may, depending on its design, also serve as an event space. Often includes impervious surfaces and has close physical and functional relationships to surrounding retail, food and drink establishments.
- **Biophilic community** — A place that cherishes natural features that already exist and works to restore and repair what has been lost or degraded. A place that emulates nature by incorporating natural forms into its cityscape and buildings, and plans and designs in conjunction with nature. A place that facilitates connecting humans with nature.