

ASF | ARLINGTONIANS FOR OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Selected Arlington Infrastructure Failures or Shortfalls - July 2015 to March 2022

NOTE: The selected infrastructure systems indicated below, with the exception of utilities managed and maintained by Dominion Power (electric), are the responsibility of the Arlington County government Unless otherwise noted, the infrastructure systems noted below do not include the public schools operated and managed by Arlington County Public Schools (APS). We also have not focused on systems that require the acquisition of public land for new facilities, such as public health, public safety, or parks, as those are subject to a separate set of considerations and many of these issues are covered separately in other ASF publications/resources.

As Arlington grows, demands on existing infrastructure, and requirements for expanded infrastructure of all kinds (including electric) will expand and the Arlington County government will need to continue to maintain and replace this infrastructure and the core services which this infrastructure provides. Current planning processes will not ensure these outcomes. This list documents problems or failures in existing selected infrastructure, namely fresh water, wastewater, Arlington government communications systems, electricity distribution, transportation (roads, bridges, and Arlington-managed mass transit), Arlington county public buildings, stormwater management systems.

This list is not exhaustive, but illustrates the challenges facing residents and the county government which is pursuing policies that are enabling accelerated population growth that may well overwhelm our key infrastructure.

Fresh Water System

DATE	EVENT	LINK
3/15/22	Extended water main repair closes two lanes along Route 29	https://www.arlnow.com/2022/03/15/extended-water-main-repair-closes-two-lanes-along-route-29/

2/25/22	Water Main Break IMPACT: N Quincy St. between 20th St. N to Langston Blvd (Rte 29) is currently closed. Seek an alternate route.	https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832024/notif/ygggqdsus
2/23/22	Water Main Break IMPACT: S Eads St is closed between 15th and 20th St along with S 18th St closed between Bell St and Fern St with detours in place.	https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832024/notif/7pRRRPNkm https://www.arlnow.com/2022/02/23/traffic-alert-busy-crystal-city-intersection-closed-after-water-main-break-possible-sinkholes/
2/17/22	Part of Arlington has lost water pressure, officials say	https://www.arlnow.com/2022/02/17/part-of-arlington-has-lost-water-pressure-officials-say/
2/1/22	'Intense' winter weather leaves county crews flooded with water main breaks	https://www.arlnow.com/2022/02/01/intense-winter-weather-leaves-crews-flooded-with-water-main-breaks/
1/21/22	Water Main Break IMPACT: N Courthouse Rd remains closed in both directions between 13th and 14th street. Seek an alternate route if possible.	https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832024/notif/AggggZWCV
11/18/21	Water Main Break Affects 30 Customers In Bellevue Forest Area	https://patch.com/virginia/arlington-va/water-main-break-affects-30-customers-bellevue-forest-area?utm_source=alert-breakingnews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=alert
10/15/21	Water Main Break LOCATION: 15th St. N at N. Lincoln St. Arlington Science Focus Elem. School	https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832024/notif/dSSSS7cQS

	IMPACT: Follow traffic instructions by workers on scene. Road is partially closed in front of school and is operating with one lane, one direction at a time.	
6/2/21	Discolored Water in Halls Hill Tied to Virginia Hospital Center Construction	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/06/02/exclusive-discolored-water-in-halls-hill-tied-to-virginia-hospital-center-construction/
4/1/21	Water main repairs; Multiple road closures IMPACT: Crews are working on two water main repairs at 1776 Key Blvd and Key Blvd and N Veitch St. Repairs are in progress. Expected completion is 7 pm. Traffic detours are in place.	https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832024/notif/sffffM7oy
3/19/21	Water Main Break Closes Road in Crystal City	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/03/19/water-main-break-closes-road-in-crystal-city/
7/20/20	Glebe Road to Close Near Chain Bridge for Water Main Work	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/07/20/glebe-road-to-close-near-chain-bridge-for-water-main-work/
1/7/20	County Working to Repair Water Main Break, Valve Leak	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/01/07/county-working-to-repair-water-main-break-valve-leak/
11/27/19	Water Main Break, Flooding Close Pentagon Metro Station; Crews have determined that the break is in a private @wmata water line.	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/11/27/water-main-break-flooding-close-pentagon-metro-station/
11/25/19	Section of Potomac Heritage Trail Blocked Following Water Main Break	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/11/25/section-of-potomac-heritage-trail-blocked-following-water-main-break/

11/13/19	Glebe Road to Close Tonight for More Water Main Repairs	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/11/13/glebe-road-to-close-tonight-for-more-water-main-repairs/
11/8/19	Boil Water Advisory In Effect After Large Water Main Break	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/11/08/breaking-chain-bridge-schools-closed-due-to-large-water-main-break/
8/14/19	Emergency Water Main Work Planned Tonight in Westover	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/08/14/emergency-water-main-work-planned-tonight-in-westover/
7/31/19	Hundreds Without Water Service in Ashton Heights	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/07/31/hundreds-without-water-service-in-ashton-heights/
7/18/19	Hundreds Without Water Service Due to Burst Pipe	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/07/18/hundreds-without-water-service-due-to-burst-pipe/
7/1/19	Shirlington Road Closed in Nauck Due to Water Main Break	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/07/01/shirlington-road-closed-in-nauck-due-to-water-main-break/
6/26/19	Clarendon Blvd Still Closed in Courthouse Due to Water Main Break	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/06/26/traffic-alert-clarendon-blvd-closed-in-courthouse-due-to-water-main-break/
6/7/19	Road Closure in Courthouse Due to Water Main Break	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/06/07/road-closure-in-courthouse-due-to-water-main-break/
4/9/19	BREAKING: Large Water Main Break in Crystal City	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/04/09/just-in-large-water-main-break-in-crystal-city/
4/3/19	Peter's Take: Will Water Main Breaks Increasingly Leave Us High and Dry?	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/04/03/peters-take-will-water-main-breaks-increasingly-leave-us-high-and-dry/
3/21/19	DEVELOPING: Water Main Break Leaves GMU, Others High and Dry	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/03/21/developing-water-main-break-leaves-gmu-others-high-and-dry/

9/6/18	Peter's Take: Arlington Needs a More Aggressive Water Main Replacement Program	https://www.arlnow.com/2018/09/06/peters-take-arlington-needs-a-more-aggressive-water-main-replacement-program/
8/30/18	South Arlington Water Main Breaks Cut Off Service for Thousands Overnight	https://www.arlnow.com/2018/08/30/south-arlington-water-main-breaks-cut-off-service-for-thousands-overnight/

Wastewater Systems

DATE	EVENT	LINK
2/25/21	Sanitary Sewage Release LOCATION: Four Mile Run Creek, downstream of S Arlington Ridge Rd IMPACT: Avoid contact with Four Mile Run Creek downstream of S Arlington Ridge Rd until further notice due to a sanitary sewage release. County Water/Sewer/Streets is responding.	https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832024/notif/qcccyPK5
9/8/20	Sewage Leak Prompts Warning About Local Stream	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/09/08/just-in-sewage-leak-prompts-warning-about-local-stream/
1/21/20	Sewage Leak Prompts Another Call to Avoid Four Mile Run	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/01/21/sewage-leak-prompts-another-call-to-avoid-four-mile-run/
1/12/20	County: Avoid Portion of Four Mile Run Due to Sewage Release	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/01/12/county-avoid-portion-of-four-mile-run-due-to-sewage-release/

8/14/19	Peter's Take: Arlington Sewer Infrastructure Needs a Warning Label	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/08/14/peters-take-arlington-sewer-infrastructure-needs-a-warning-label/
4/10/19	Sewage Backup Floods Five Houses in Madison Manor	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/04/10/sewage-backup-floods-five-houses-in-madison-manor/
11/14/17	Donaldson Run Sewage Leak Stopped Overnight, Repairs Continue Today	https://www.arlnow.com/2017/11/14/donaldson-run-sewage-leak-stopped-overnight-repairs-continue-today/
11/13/17	Sewage Leaks into Donaldson Run Stream After Pipe Breaks	https://www.arlnow.com/2017/11/13/sewage-leaks-into-donaldson-run-stream-after-pipe-breaks/
7/14/15	Keep Avoiding Donaldson Run Due to Sewage Spill, County Says	https://www.arlnow.com/2015/07/14/keep-avoiding-donaldson-run-due-to-sewage-spill-county-says/

Arlington Government Communications Systems

DATE	EVENT	LINK
2/23/22	Arlington's summer camp registration system melts down again, despite changes	https://www.arlnow.com/2022/02/23/new-arlingtons-summer-camp-registration-system-melts-down-again-despite-changes/
11/17/21	County Manager apologizes for thousands of broken links on new website	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/11/17/county-manager-apologizes-for-thousands-of-broken-links-on-new-website/?mc_cid=98e386497c&mc_eid=8678cdbc2b

Electricity Distribution

DATE	EVENT	LINK
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1/3/22	UPDATED: Power outages building as snow accumulates and branches snap	https://www.arlnow.com/2022/01/03/power-outages-building-as-snow-accumulates-and-branches-snap/
11/24/20	Large Power Outage Affects Parts of Arlington, Falls Church and McLean	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/11/24/just-in-large-power-outage-affecting-parts-of-arlington-falls-church-and-mclean/
10/29/21	Widespread power outage in North Arlington amid reports of trees falling	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/10/29/just-in-widespread-power-outage-in-north-arlington-amid-reports-of-trees-falling/
9/15/21	BREAKING: Widespread Power Outage Reported in Parts of N. Arlington	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/09/15/breaking-widespread-power-outage-reported-in-parts-of-n-arlington/
7/28/21	UPDATE: Power Outages in Arlington After Strong Storm	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/07/28/arlington-under-severe-thunderstorm-warning/
5/27/21	UPDATED: Power Outage Reported in Shirlington and Fairlington	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/05/27/power-outage-reported-in-shirlington-and-fairlington/
3/23/21	Power Outage Reported in Virginia Square Area	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/03/23/power-outage-reported-in-virginia-square-area/

Transportation - Arlington-Managed Roads and Bridges

DATE	EVENT	LINK
11/18/21	Deterioration forces additional closures on Arlington-Alexandria bridge	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/11/18/deterioration-forces-additional-closures-to-arlington-alexandria-bridge/ https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/News/Articles/2021/Lane-Closure-for-Bridge-Connecting-Arlington-with-Alexandria

Arlington County Public Buildings

DATE	EVENT	LINK
3/3/21	Growing concern over air quality in classrooms - 30% of classrooms in "affluent" Arlington failed to meet basic air ventilation standards. Superintendent says the Arlington school system has spent months and four hundred thousand dollars on upgrades to get 98% of classrooms up to code. He admits they should have done this long ago, cites lack of resources as one of the reasons they've been slow ensuring basic air quality for students. Parents not happy.	https://www.nbcnews.com/now/video/growing-concern-over-air-quality-in-classrooms-as-schools-reopen-101856325631
3/12/20	APS Grapples with Wakefield Water Problems	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/03/12/aps-grapples-with-wakefield-water-problems/
10/26/18	Fire Station 7 in Fairlington to Shut Down Temporarily Due to 'Structural and Safety Concerns'	https://www.arlnow.com/2018/10/26/fire-station-7-in-fairlington-to-shut-down-temporarily-due-to-structural-and-safety-concerns/

Transportation - Arlington-Managed Mass Transit

DATE	EVENT	LINK
10/29/19	ART Bus Services Lags Over Mysterious Maintenance Problems	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/10/29/art-bus-services-lags-over-mysterious-maintenance-problems/

Stormwater Management Systems

DATE	EVENT	LINK
9/17/21	Viral Video Shows Marines Helping Stranded Driver During Thursday's Flooding	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/09/17/new-viral-video-shows-marines-helping-stranded-driver-during-thursdays-flooding/
9/16/21	UPDATED: Columbia Pike Blocked By High Water Amid Flash Flood Warning	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/09/16/flash-flood-watch-issued-for-arlington-9/
8/20/21	Flooding to 'Significantly' Delay Reopening of N. Glebe Road	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/08/20/flooding-to-significantly-delay-reopening-of-n-glebe-road/
8/9/21	Two Pedestrian Bridges Damaged by 2019 Floods Set to be Replaced	https://www.arlnow.com/2021/08/09/two-pedestrian-bridges-damaged-by-2019-floods-set-to-be-replaced/
9/10/20	UPDATED: Route 110 Closed Due to Flooding	https://www.arlnow.com/2020/09/10/flash-flood-warning-issued-for-portion-of-arlington/
8/22/19	Flood Damage Estimate for County Property Now Nearly \$6 Million	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/08/22/flood-damage-to-arlington-county-nearly-double-initial-estimates/
8/7/19	Peter's Take: County Policies, Practices, Exacerbate Lubber Run Flooding	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/08/07/peters-take-county-policies-practices-exacerbate-lubber-run-flooding/

7/11/19	'This is Going to Be All Out of Pocket' — Residents Drowning in Repair Costs After Floods	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/07/11/this-is-going-to-be-all-out-of-pocket-residents-drowning-in-repair-costs-after-floods/
7/10/19	UPDATED: Arlington County Declares Emergency After Major Flash Flooding	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/07/10/arlington-county-declares-disaster-after-flash-flood-emergency/
7/8/19	BREAKING: Torrential Rain Causes Major Flash Flooding in Arlington County	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/07/08/flash-flood-warning-issued-for-arlington-3/
6/18/19	Reminder: Don't Drive Through Flooded Streets	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/06/18/reminder-dont-drive-through-flooded-streets/
4/24/19	Peter's Take: What Arlington Should Do to Prepare For More Flooding	https://www.arlnow.com/2019/04/24/peters-take-what-arlington-should-do-to-prepare-for-more-flooding/
8/30/18	Peter's Take: Arlington Flooding — Planning for the 'Unexpected'	https://www.arlnow.com/2018/08/30/peters-take-arlington-flooding-planning-for-the-unexpected/