

ASF Proposal: Arlington County Comprehensive Plan Introduction

(**Boldfaced items** reflect *the existing* 1960 Comp Plan introductory goals and objectives, which the County states “have not been changed since 1960”;¹ non-boldface are ASF edits)

WHEREAS, in order that Arlington may remain a safe, healthy, convenient and prosperous community and an attractive place in which to live and work, with stable or expanding values and containing potentialities for growth and continued economic health, a master plan is being prepared for guiding the coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the County with provision for a high standard of public services and facilities based upon the following policies and principles

1) General Land Use Plan -

(a) Retention of the predominantly residential character of the County and limitation of intense development to limited and defined areas,

(b) Conservative and selective development of vacant and redevelopable land to preserve a low-medium population density in the County, with adequate open space to protect community amenities;

(c) Promotion of a sound business, commercial and light industrial activity in designated areas appropriately related to residential neighborhoods and in such degree as is consistent with the basic concept of Arlington as a suburban residential community;

(d) Development of governmental facilities which will promote efficiency of operation and optimum public safety and service including the areas of health, welfare, culture, and recreation.

2) Water Distribution System

An adequate supply of water effectively distributed.

3) Sanitary Sewerage System

Maintenance of sewage disposal standards acceptable to the immediate County area and its neighbors in the entire Washington Metropolitan Area and consistent with the program of pollution abatement of the Potomac River.

4) Storm Water Drainage System

An adequate storm water drainage system for the County.

5) Major Thoroughfares and Collector Streets²

A system of traffic³ routes which is designed to form an integral part of the highway and transportation system of the County and Region; and such a system as will assure a safe and convenient flow of traffic, thereby facilitating economic and social interchange within the County.

6) Affordable Housing

“[A]n adequate supply of housing available to meet community needs;” “all segments of the community have access to housing;” and County “housing efforts contribute to a sustainable community.”⁴

7) Chesapeake Bay Preservation

“[P]reserve and restore local streams, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay” with a focus on how “they have been affected by urban land activities.”⁵

8) Community Energy

“Increase the energy and operational efficiency of all buildings,” “Ensure ... energy resilience,” “Increase Arlington’s renewable energy resources,” “Move more people with fewer greenhouse gas emissions,” “Advocate and support residents and businesses acting to reduce their energy usage.”⁶

9) Forestry and Natural Resources

“[A]ddress” “the impacts of a changing climate, increasing urbanization, invasive species and indifference, reconnect nature to our daily lives, and ensure the benefits of a healthy ecosystem are maintained for future generations of all species.”⁷

10) Historic and Cultural Resources

“[P]rioritize[]” “inclusion” “while ... preserving the built environment and cultural heritage of the County”⁸

11) Public Spaces

“[P]reserve[e] and maximiz[e] benefits of existing public spaces and guid[e] the development of future public spaces, [for a] system that is inclusive, sustainable, and supports recreation and leisure activities, environmental infrastructure, economic development and social health.”⁹

12) Public Art

“[E]mbrace[] artistic thinking and excellence in the imagination, design and activation of publicly-accessible spaces and facilities.”¹⁰

13) Waste Management

“Employ a comprehensive solid waste management system that considers the State of Virginia’s waste management hierarchy” and “[e]nsure that the County ... meets the State of Virginia’s recycling goal.”¹¹

THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, now hereby declares its intention to continue to adopt, from time to time, as work on the whole ~~Master~~ Comprehensive Plan further progresses part or parts of the ~~Master~~ Comprehensive Plan covering the several areas enumerated above and in keeping with the policies outlined.

¹ County Board Resolution, August 27, 1960 obtained by ASF via the Freedom of Information Act and on file with ASF; [County Staff statement](#) (goals not changed since 1960)

² This was the original title for what is today the Master Transportation Plan and should be edited to reflect the new name

³ “Traffic” includes all modes of movement—vehicular, public transit, pedestrian, and otherwise. See [“Traffic,” Dictionary.com](#) (“the vehicles, persons, etc., moving in an area, along a street, etc.”)

⁴ [Arlington County Affordable Housing Master Plan](#), pp. 17, 23, 29

⁵ [Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan](#), p. 4

⁶ [Community Energy Plan](#), pp. 20-31

⁷ [Forestry and Natural Resources Plan](#), p. 7

⁸ [Historic and Cultural Resources Plan](#), p. 6

⁹ [Public Spaces Master Plan](#), p. 10

¹⁰ [Public Art Master Plan](#), p. 10

¹¹ [Solid Waste Management Plan](#), p. 3