

Arlington Community Facilities Study

A resource and facilities plan for our future

Together, we are laying a solid foundation for Arlington's next chapter.

The Community Facilities Study is a collaborative effort between the County, Arlington Public Schools (APS) and the broader community. The study will:

- bring together a collaborative and diverse group of perspectives
- build community consensus
- consider future revenue and facilities needs
- establish a framework that will guide future decision making

The result will be a plan that describes where we are and where we are going as a community. The framework will inform County and School Board decision-making regarding the community's needs for additional schools and student capacity, fire stations, vehicle storage sites and other facilities over the next 5, 10 and 20 years.

Arlington faces several challenges that impact planning for the future.

- Recent changes in the federal job market cost Arlington more defense-related jobs than any other community in the nation.
- Downsizing federal government offices has contributed to a recent spike in the County's office vacancy rates - an impact on commercial tax base revenues.
- Residential property values have increased causing a significant loss in the County's market-rate affordable housing since 2000.
- Arlington's population is forecasted to grow by 36% between 2010 and 2040, to a total population of 283,000.
- School enrollment is also growing and projected to exceed 30,000 students in five years (2014-15 enrollment is 24,529), increasing capacity needs.
- With growth comes increased demands for public services, open space and recreational options within limited physical space and available resources.

The Community Facilities Study is facing these challenges head-on through open dialogue and collaboration.

Key questions the study is addressing:

- What are our facility needs for schools, fire stations, recreation, and transportation vehicle and other storage?
- How do we pay for these needs?
- What principles should we use to help us decide where to locate them?
- In the context of changing demographics and economics, what opportunities and challenges are there in our aging affordable and workforce multi-family housing stock?
- What do changes in the Federal government presence and the residential and private commercial marketplace mean for County revenues?

Join this community conversation:

- Attend [upcoming meetings](#)
- Contact us at ACGFacStudy@arlingtonva.us
- Find us on social media [@planArlingtonVA](#) #cfsarlington
- Visit the website to:
 - Join the [Resident Forum](#)
 - View the [latest news, presentations, documents + videos](#)
 - Subscribe to [study updates](#)

Arlington has enjoyed remarkable achievements, thanks to a history of smart decisions rooted in community engagement.

A community-based vision helped Arlington protect neighborhood character while planning for the expansion of Metro in the 1970's. This was a pivotal point in forming the compact, urban environment we know today. The results of the community working together include:

- attractive, walkable neighborhoods
- unbeatable transportation
- a superior school system
- a smart, creative workforce
- lowest unemployment rates in the region
- exceptional financial management and consistent Triple-AAA bond rating
- a high level of services and programs for businesses and residents

What's the latest? What's next?

Visit the [project website](#) for key takeaways on study topics:

- February
[Financial Resources](#)
- March
[Demographics, Forecasts & Projections](#)
- April
[Validating Forecast Methods, County Vision, Past Siting Processes; Facilities Inventory](#)
- May
[Siting Considerations; Initial ID of Financial Challenges](#)
- June
[Matching Facility Needs; Future Financial Resources](#)

Visit arlingtonva.us and search "community facilities study"

What is the study's timeline?

The study was initiated in January 2015 by the County and School Boards with the adoption of a [Study Charge](#) and appointments to the [Study Committee](#).

The committee and Resident Forum began meeting in February 2015. Thus far, two meetings are held per month with additional subcommittee meetings as needed. Two community open houses are anticipated for June and July 2015.

In order to inform the development of the 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs), proposed criteria and a related process for siting any new County or School facilities or adding new uses to existing facilities or sites will be presented to the two Boards in September 2015.

The committee's final report will be presented in November 2015 and may include recommendations for next-step public processes, as necessary, to develop targeted policy recommendations related to any aspect of the charge.

Following receipt of each of the two reports, the County Board and School Board will determine appropriate next steps which will likely include commission reviews, work sessions, and/or public hearings before taking any actions deemed necessary.

Visit the [project website](#) to view the study charge, schedule and upcoming meetings calendar.

How does this study relate to other County and School initiatives and plans?

Because this study is a broad-based effort that will take a holistic view of community needs, there will be subject areas that overlap with other initiatives and plans. County and APS staff are coordinating information sharing with the study committee and Resident Forum. Related initiatives of note include:

- [APS More Seats for More Students](#)
- [Affordable Housing Master Plan](#)
- [Public Spaces Master Plan Update](#) (starting May 2015)
- [Arlington Future Office Market Study](#)
- [Retail Action Plan Update](#)

For a complete list of related initiatives, plans and background, visit the [project website](#).

Who is participating in the study?

Everyone is invited to participate in this conversation. The study is a collaborative effort between the County, Arlington Public Schools and the broader community.

A diverse cross-section of perspectives make up the 23-person [Study Committee](#) with members from advisory boards, school councils and associations, civic associations and other organizations. They represent a combination of County, School, neighborhood and business interests.

Both the County and School Boards have appointed Board liaisons to the group and assigned staff support.

A [Resident Forum](#), open to all interested Arlingtonians, meets with the committee and provides broad input throughout the process.

Outside experts, speakers and consultants will be brought on board as needed for specific topics and tasks.

What is included in the term "facilities"?

The study's charge states the purpose of the study is to "build a consensus framework regarding future revenue and facility needs that will inform County and School Board decision-making related to meeting the community's requirements for additional school, fire station, vehicle storage sites and other facility needs".

Examples of vehicle storage could include buses; examples of other facilities could include salt and mulch storage sites.

Public libraries and County office spaces are not included.

Public art, open space, parks and affordable housing will be referenced in context to this process, however all are being evaluated and planned for within their respective [Comprehensive Plan](#) element processes. Refer to the [Public Spaces Master Plan](#) and the [Affordable Housing Master Plan](#) for more information.