

**Community Facilities Study  
Facilities Subcommittee**

Responses to Questions from April 27 Meeting – May 20, 2105

**1. Why are planners staffed in various departments?**

*The planning function is integral to the work performed by many County departments. While there have been discussions about consolidating planners into fewer departments at various points in time, to perform the work most efficiently, planners need the support and resources of other staff in their department (i.e. transportation planners and engineers). Instead of a centralized planning group or function, cross-departmental teams are used extensively to ensure that staff from different departments contributes to projects as well as consult/share information/coordinate review with their department. This arrangement is consistent with how neighboring jurisdictions operate.*

*It is important to note that while planners are often hired as generalists, they typically develop subject matter expertise within their departments' areas of responsibility (such as land use, housing, development review, urban design, transportation, environment, recreation, and historic preservation) which allows them to perform more complex work and become more valuable resources to their departments.*

**2. Does the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) have adequate capacity for the population growth projected through 2040?**

*The WPCP has adequate capacity for the forecasted 2040 population. Data from the WPCP Master Plan was reviewed along with current Plant flows and the most recent round of COG population forecasting, and those projections confirm that adequate capacity is available through 2040.*

*The Water Distribution Master Plan (2014), Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan (2002), and WPCP Master Plan (2001), as well as elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan, guide the growth of the water and sewer system as well as the planned capacity of the WPCP. The Water, Sewer and WPCP Master Plans are generally reviewed every 10 years and updated if necessary, incorporating the most current round of COG population forecasting at the time of plan adoption. These plans consider the growth of the system across a 20- to 30-year time horizon. The Sewer System and WPCP Master Plans are scheduled to be updated in 2016 and will incorporate the latest available forecasting information at that time.*

**3. What Standards are used by DPR?**

*Parks and Recreation Standards- General Information*

*Many parks and recreation agencies have been looking for ways to quantify their needs for parks and recreation. In 1983, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published a book "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" written by Roger Lancaster. In that publication recommendations were made regarding park sizes, acreage, service areas, and standards regarding the number of available recreational facilities per 1,000 population. These standards become known in the parks and recreation industry as the "NRPA standards".*

*For example, this publication recommends 1 volleyball court per 5,000 residents. For its 216,700 residents, the County would need 43.34 volleyball courts (the County only has 10). Similarly, this publication recommends 1 swimming pool per 20,000 people, therefore, the County would need 10.84 swimming pools, and it only has 4 (3 APS owned indoor & 1 outdoor owned by NVRPA).*

*Since this book was published, many jurisdictions have realized that, although the “NRPA standards” can be valuable when referenced as the norms for capacity, they are not necessarily targets for which each community should strive. Each community is different, and there are many factors not addressed by these guidelines. For example, these standards don’t account for deviations between localities, public input, location/distribution, condition of the facilities, access, etc. As a result, many communities have decided to develop parks and recreation standards specifically tailored to their local needs.*

#### DPR- Needs Assessment and Standards Development

*The current Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) adopted in 2005 does not include standards for parks and recreational facilities. One objective of the PSMP Update underway is to develop standards tailored to the County. Standards will be developed by benchmarking against other comparable communities, through an extensive community dialog and other forms of needs assessment. The community outreach will include a statistically valid survey, workshops, public meetings, stakeholder interviews, website, Advisory Committee meetings, etc. In densely built urban areas, such as Arlington, where land is very limited, standards have to reflect the reality and the demand for more space has to be strategically addressed.*

*The question could be asked, “If the County does not have standards, how does it decide what to use new park land for?” Our opportunities to significantly increase land and build new facilities such as new fields, have been limited. For example over the last 20 years the only new fields built in the County, that did not result from the rearranging of existing fields, are the fields at Long Bridge Park and Powhatan Springs Park. When determining what was to be developed in those locations or in other new parks such as Mosaic Park or James Hunter Park, DPR heavily relies on community input to better understand and meet the community’s needs. Whenever there is a new master planning process or park redesign, community input is sought as an essential element in the park planning/development process. By engaging residents the communities’ needs are understood and the appropriate uses are selected. Additionally County staff is able to identify where and what programs and facilities are under pressure from users. This can often serve as a check on if the community discussion is revealing the same needs as the utilization and waitlist numbers are showing.*

#### **4. Facility Inventory Maps**

[All Facilities](#)

[County & Schools Land Holdings](#)

[County Administration](#)

County Community & Cultural Centers  
(in progress)

[County Operations](#)

[County Parking Garages](#)

[County Fire Stations](#)

[County Storage Facilities](#)

[County Human Services Facilities](#)

County – Closed Facilities or Closure  
Imminent as of May 2015 (in progress)

[County Libraries](#)

5. [County Facilities Inventory, including heights of buildings](#)

*Site Area information is not available.*

6. [APS Land & Building Inventory](#)

7. [DPR Facilities Inventory](#)

8. **What projects, with costs, are currently included in the CIP? What's in the pipeline but not in the CIP?**

*The information presented in these [tables](#) identifies projects currently listed in the CIP (FY2014-2025). In addition, several emerging needs are in the pipeline but are not yet included in the CIP. The CIP is reviewed on a biannual basis and the next cycle begins later this year with a new CIP adopted in June 2016.*

*Facilities identified in area plans and sector plans are added to the CIP at the appropriate time; these plans have a much longer timeline than the CIP and are not costed out at the time of plan approval.*

9. **To accommodate increased demands for space, can the County add additional stories to existing facilities?**

*When a building is designed, the footings, foundations and columns are typically sized and placed to accommodate the structure being built. It is possible, during the design phase, to make future plans for additional stories to be added at a later date. After the building is constructed, it is cost prohibitive to re-engineer the building to accommodate the additional structural changes needed to support the additional floors and weight of a new design. The County currently has three structures that were engineered to support an additional level. They are: (1) the Parks and Recreation building located at the Trades Center that would allow a second story to be added above the shops; (2) the parking structure at the Trades Center that will accommodate a third story of passenger vehicle parking; and (3) the Reed School.*