



Biophilic Arlington and Equitable Access to Nature

Caroline Haynes
Civic Federation
April 9, 2024



BIOPHILIA:

Humans possess an
innate connection to the
natural world



80%

Americans live in an urban environment and are increasingly disconnected from the natural world.



Science catching up
with what we know
intuitively:

We feel better, physically and
emotionally, and more productive
with regular engagement with
nature

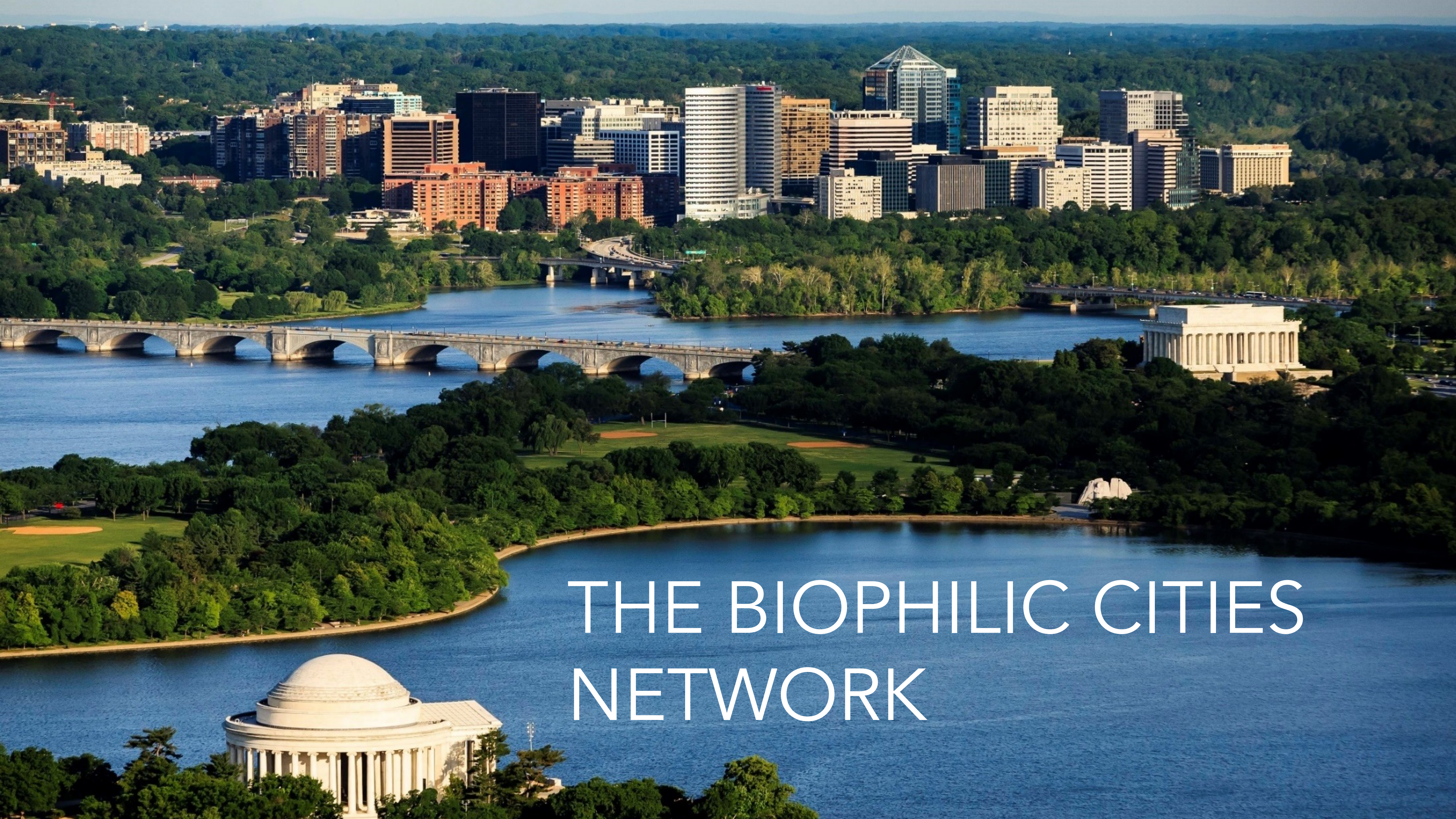
Nature - makes people happier, healthier, more prosperous

Biophilic design – connects people with nature



https://www.google.com/search?q=water+park+arlington+va&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwjZ17HYuYHyAhWkfN8KHRBQBgUQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=water+park+arlington+va&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzoECAAAQz0FCAAQsQM6AggAOgclABCxAXBDOggIABCxAXCDAToGCAAQBRAeOgYIABAIEB46BAgAEBhQvokEWO-eBGD8nwRoAHAAeACAAYVCIAdEKkgECMjKYAQCGAQGgAQnd3Mtd2l6LWltZ8ABAQ&scIent=img&ei=Twr_YJn0AaT5_QaQoJko&bih=679&biw=772&rtz=1C5CHFA_enUS846US856#imgrc=wtgG-n55FmutMM

https://www.designboom.com/architecture/mvrdv-de-oosterlingen-amsterdam-oostenburg-island-06-15-2021/?utm_source=designboom+daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MVRDV+will+transform+streets+of+amsterdam+with+green+%27de+oosterlingen%27+block



THE BIOPHILIC CITIES NETWORK

Arlington's Participation in Biophilic Cities Network

- Expand biophilic planning and governance
- Expand educational opportunities on the benefits of biophilic design
- Incorporate natural infrastructure in built environment and protect existing natural resources
- Create publicly accessible urban nature projects
- Provide equitable access to nature



Equitable Access: Leave no spaces behind

- Wholistic approach integrating all spaces, public and private, must be viewed through biophilic lens
- Access to daily exposure to nature is especially important for residents living and working in multi-family housing
- Connecting spaces, such as roads and sidewalks, must also be viewed as design opportunities to incorporate natureful corridors
- Parks and green spaces may not be equitably distributed, so increasingly important to focus on creating natureful spaces of all sizes and locations
- If not contributing to the solution, then part of the problem

A photograph of a residential street featuring a landscaped median with various plants and flowers. A white car is visible on the left side of the road. The text "Green Street" is overlaid on a dark grey box in the top left corner.

Green Street

Green Roof
10 @ Clarendon



Parklets
Clarendon-Barton
Interim Public Space



Green Roof
Lubber Run Community
Center



Rain Garden
Long Bridge Park



Implementation on multiple levels, multiple fronts

PENTAGON CITY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK




The design of the Green Ribbon will vary by site and context, including whether the segment is part of a redevelopment project, pursued by the County on public property or right-of-way, or established on an existing site or access way in advance of redevelopment to enable greater connectivity. This example shows how the Green Ribbon could be integrated into development with interspersed frontage zone (including building access and outdoor spaces) and continuous, layered planting areas on both sides of the pedestrian path.



The section above shows a conceptual section of the Green Ribbon, including the pedestrian path and planting areas that make up the Green Ribbon, as well as adjacent frontage zones. These are not strict divisions—in most places, planting zones may intersperse within frontage area, or even into the pedestrian path. The frontage zone will vary by context; it may include further plantings, access to retail and services, outdoor dining, entrances or amenity spaces to residents, or other uses that help achieve an indoor-outdoor transition in redevelopment and help create a safe walking path. In some cases, the Green Ribbon may be located along right-of-way where there is a frontage zone on only one side. The design of the Green Ribbon through a site, and how redevelopment responds to it, should be an important topic for SPRC review.

public space

An aerial photograph of a city at dusk. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered in a park-like area with trees and a large outdoor screen displaying a group of people. In the background, several modern high-rise buildings are illuminated, and a tall, thin tower is visible in the distance. A semi-transparent dark blue box with white text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Integrating nature into the built environment = equity, environmental resiliency and economic vitality

Benefits of Biophilic Design have a multiplier effect





Take Away:

Citizen participation in County processes is critical to making Biophilic Arlington and equitable access to nature a reality