

Resolution in Support of the 2020 Park Bonds

Whereas, Arlington's parks and recreation facilities add to the quality of life and property values; and

Whereas, various magazines and nationwide studies have recognized Arlington's parks and recreation facilities among the best in the country; and

Whereas, a healthy urban forest produces oxygen, sequesters and stores carbon dioxide, removes pollution (ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter), reduces rainwater runoff, and lowers building energy consumption; and

Whereas, according to Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services, regulated development activity is adding an average of nearly nine acres of impervious surfaces to Arlington per year, and 45.2 percent of Arlington is currently paved with impervious surfaces; and

Whereas, Arlington County's Open Space Policy endorses these principles:

- Open Space – Arlington County shall insure, for this and future generations, the provision of an adequate supply of beneficial open space which is safe, accessible and enjoyable and take the necessary steps to protect, enhance and acquire open space to meet these needs.
- Acquisition – The County shall give high priority to preserving, enhancing and expanding public open space assets, with particular attention to the protection of important, threatened natural and heritage resources and the securing of open space throughout the County.
- Recreational, Natural and Heritage Resources – The County shall insure the best utilization of parks and recreation facilities. The County shall preserve appropriate land areas in a natural state to conserve ecological resources, protect environmentally and historically significant areas and carefully maintain active and passive recreation areas and open space in neighborhoods and metro corridors; and

Whereas, Arlington County's 2016 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey showed that:

- Arlington households rate trails and natural areas & wildlife habitats as the types of outdoor parks and recreation facilities most important to them;
- Arlington households rate hiking trails and natural areas & wildlife habitats as the types of outdoor parks and recreation facilities for which there is the most unmet need;

See <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2017/02/iTree-2016-Written-report.pdf>.

See <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2018/07/F3-Stormwater-Impervious-Surface-Statistics.pdf>

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See <https://arlisys.arlingtonva.us/index.html#/collection/CBO%20-%20Board%20Minutes%20-%201992>

See September 26, 1992 page 557

See <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2016/01/Arlington-County-Parks-Rec-Survey-Findings-Report-May-9-2016.pdf>

- The outdoor facilities that are rated as the highest priorities for investment are:

1. Hiking Trails
2. Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitats
3. Paved, Multi-Use Trails, and

Whereas, the November 2020 ballot has a question asking if Arlington County shall issue \$3,630,000 in bonds to finance the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation:

\$ 485,000	Tuckahoe Playground	Design and construction for the replacement of the synthetic playground surface
\$ 645,000	Rosslyn Highlands Park	Final installment for the design and construction funds for the Rosslyn Highlands Park, including a multi-purpose court, play spaces, plaza, pathways, landscaping, a lighted synthetic turf athletic field, and a playground. (Total project funding is \$9.8 million, including \$2 million in developer contributions)
\$2,500,000	Trail and Bridge Modernization Program	Replacement of the pedestrian bridges in Glencarlynn and Lubber Run parks, which were destroyed in the July 2019 storm. Continuation of annual trail modernization which includes milling and repaving.
\$3,630,000	Total Parks and Recreation Referendum	Source: FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan Memorandum, June 16, 2020

Note: this year's proposed bond issue is about half of the biennial capital budget, presented for consideration under the uncertainty of the spread of COVID-19. We should expect an off-year bond issue on the 2021 ballot for the other half of the biennial capital budget

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation

1. Supports the proposed 2020 parks and recreation bond issue and encourages all voters to vote yes; and
2. Urges Arlington County Board to:
 - a. Implement a park land acquisition policy and use park bond revenues to achieve park land acquisition of at least three acres per year on average over the next ten years
 - b. Use parks and recreation bond financing only for capital improvements with a useful lifetime longer than the bonds' maturity period
 - c. Not use money raised from the sale of parks and recreation bonds to fund the destruction of mature trees or the replacement of natural areas with impervious surfaces

<https://budget.arlingtonva.us/bonds/bond-referenda> says

2. Local Parks & Recreation

\$3,630,000

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$3,630,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation?

This proposal will fund a variety of parks and recreation projects. The projects to be financed under this proposal are expected to be \$2.5 million for the trail and bridge modernization program, \$0.5 million for parks maintenance capital projects, and \$0.6 million for Rosslyn Highlands Park. The County Board may reallocate bond funds among other parks and recreation projects within the County's Capital Improvement Plan, as amended from time to time, to the extent necessary or desirable.