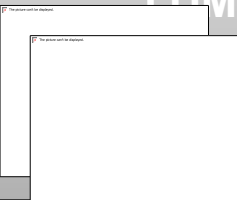


IN

JENNIFER FIORETTI AND RICH DOOLEY | OCTOBER 13, 2026 | CIVIC FEDERATION MEETING
CLIMATE POLICY OFFICE



WHAT WE WILL COVER TONIGHT

- Climate Policy Office: Who we are
- Arlington's Climate Strategies
- Why Climate Action Matters Now
 - Flooding
 - Extreme heat
 - Drought
- Climate Policy Office: Top Activities
- How to Get Engaged

CLIMATE POLICY OFFICE: WHO WE ARE

Mission: To advance policies and programs that harness the power of collective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainability, and build a resilient, carbon-neutral future for all who live, work, and play in Arlington.

Our Team:

- Jennifer Fioretti, Assistant County Manager for Climate Policy
- Richard Dooley, Director of Climate Policy
- Climate Communicator
- Environmental Manager

ARLINGTON COUNTY CLIMATE STRATEGIES

Six key areas:

- Buildings
- Renewable Energy
- Transportation
- Waste Reduction
- Resilience
- Behavioral Change



Carbon neutrality by 2050



WHY CLIMATE ACTION MATTERS NOW

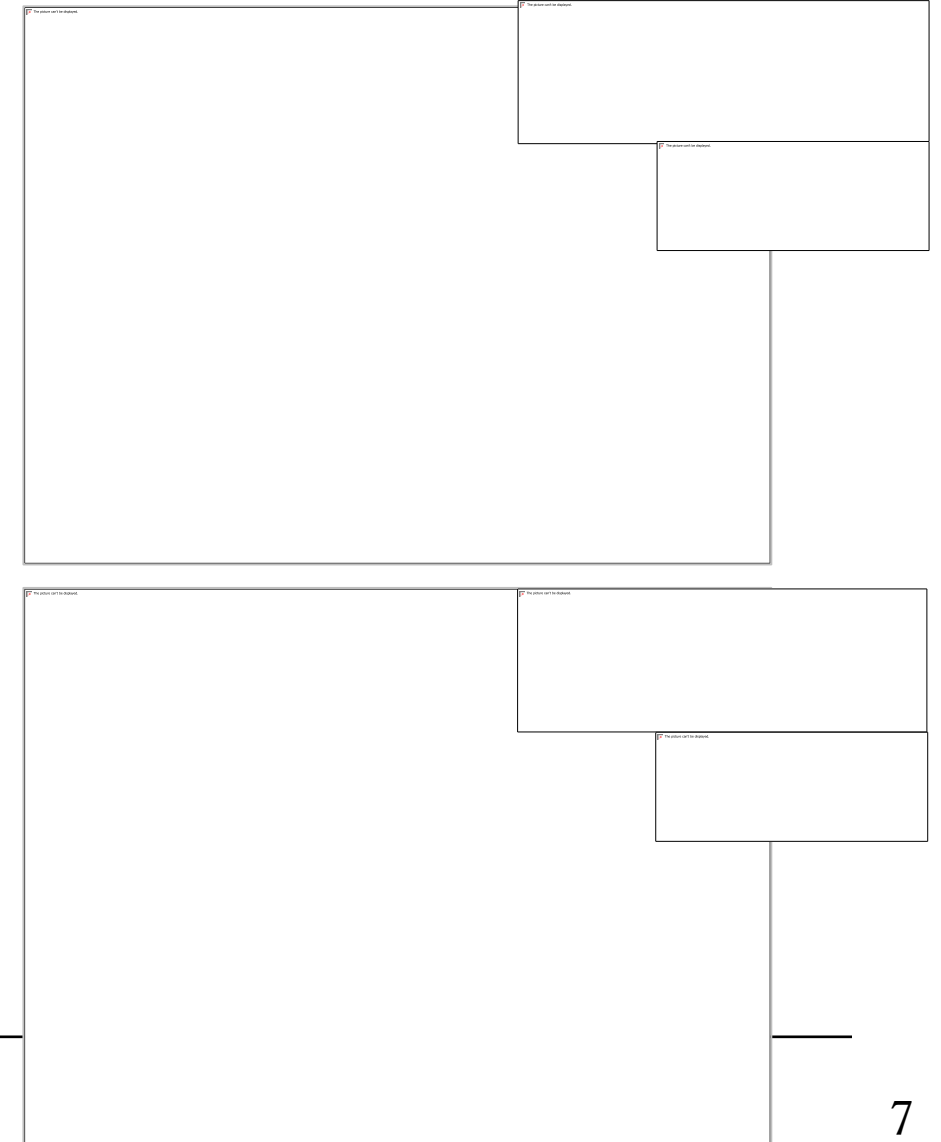
- Increased flooding, extreme heat and drought
- Energy demand & infrastructure strain
- Equity & health implications



NATURAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT KEY CONCLUSIONS

Flooding, extreme heat, drought, and service disruptions are expected to disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, where existing social, economic, and access barriers can amplify health, safety, and recovery challenges.

- Vulnerable neighborhoods overlap with areas exposed to flooding, extreme heat, and drought, increasing the potential for disproportionate impacts.
- Limited access to cooling, transportation, healthcare, emergency resources, and recovery assistance can increase health and safety risks during and after hazard events.
- Compounding hazards and disruptions to critical services may further strain vulnerable populations, reducing their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme events.



Strategies for Addressing Climate Change



CPO TOP ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

GetGreen Mobile Application

Description

- Customize mobile app helps individuals make an impact on climate change through changes in everyday habits
- Partnership between Arlington County and EcoAction Arlington

Implemented: January 2025

Impact:

- 10,000+ actions completed
- 50,000 pounds of CO2 emissions avoided



EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

ECOAMBASSADORS

Description

- Trained climate volunteers intended to extend the reach of local government, serving as trusted climate communicators and leaders in the community
- Partnership between Arlington County, City of Alexandria and EcoAction Arlington

Implemented: October 2025

Impact:

- 2025 Cohort; 26 Arlington Participants
- 2026 Cohort Underway!

EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Biophilic Arlington

Description

- Update and refresh Biophilia in Arlington webpage
- Rebrand

Activities (Q4 2024 – Q1 2025)

- Redesign and deploy webpage
 - **Launched February 2025!**
 - **Impact:**
 - 1,000% increase in web views since Feb 2024.
 - 181% increase in users since Feb 2024.
-

EDUCATION & BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Sustainable Tourism

Description

- Reinvigorate and expand County's Sustainable Tourism Program to position Arlington as a leading destination for eco-conscious travelers, meeting professionals and businesses.

Activities (2025 – 2026)

- Coordinate with ACVS to enhance sustainable tourism messaging on StayArlington.com tourism website.
 - **Launched February 2025!**
- Establish performance metrics for tourism sustainability (e.g., contacts, attendance, website traffic, engagement, PR measures, etc.).
- Re-invigorate Virginia Green Travel Alliance Chapter in Arlington, enhance presence on mission-aligned websites.
- Explore participation in performance improvement programs e.g. the [Global Destination Sustainability Movement](#) and the [GDS-Index](#).



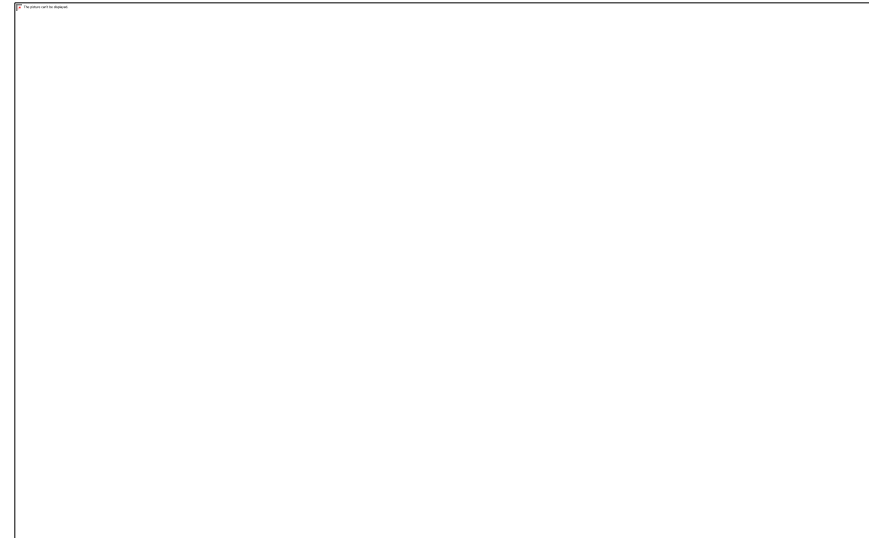
Residential Climate Toolkit

Description

- Climate toolkit includes digital and physical assets necessary to communicate the impacts of climate change, county climate goals, opportunities and resources to take action.

Activities

- Design residential climate toolkit
- Identify and train climate allies and mission driven organizations to use climate toolkit
- Deploy and track formal engagements using toolkit
- Evaluate opportunity to create Climate Ambassadors Program



EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Residential Climate Communications Campaign

Description

- **Unified climate brand** that communicates hope and resilience, reinforcing that meaningful, collective action today is essential for Arlington to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.
- **Root all messaging in Arlington's commitment to equity and inclusion**, highlighting how climate action delivers shared benefits (like lower energy costs and healthier neighborhoods) especially for communities most impacted by climate change.



EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Virtual One-Stop-Shop Climate Hub

Description

- User friendly, county webpage information hub where residents, businesses and visitors can learn more about County climate policies, programs and services in one location.

Activities

- Arlington Home Energy Hub (2026) - AIRE Completed
 - County climate landing page (2026) - Underway
-

GOVERNMENT

County Leadership Network



Strategic initiative
designed to
empower County
leadership with
knowledge and
skills necessary to
lead climate
action within
county.



Platform for
ongoing learning
and information
exchange



Fosters a
collaborative
environment to
tack climate-related
challenges
effectively.



Activities
(Q4 2024 –
Ongoing)
Host quarterly
interdepartmental
meetings

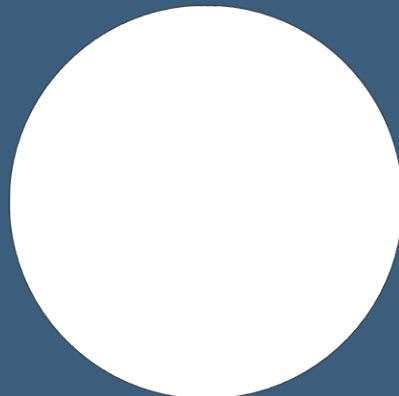
Featured Speakers



Dr. Kate Marvel
NASA,
Climate Scientist



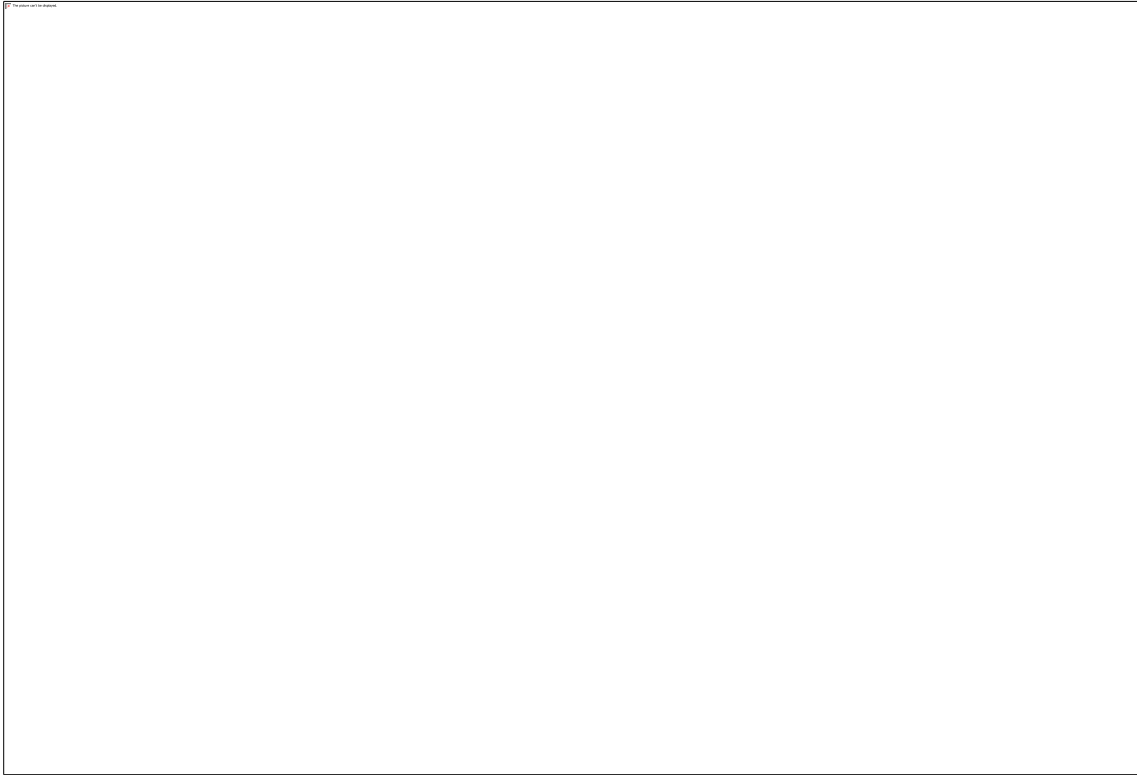
Jason Samenow
Capital Weather
Gang,
Chief Meteorologist



Sunny Wescott
Dept. Homeland
Security,
Chief Meteorologist

GOVERNMENT

Climate 101 Training



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Project Scope:

Expand the scope of the current Community Energy Plan (CEP) to create a comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) that includes greenhouse gas mitigation strategies as well as adaptation and resilience strategies.

Next Steps:

- Workshops
- Roundtables
- Focus Groups
- CAP Advisory Group monthly meetings
- Goals, policies, and prioritized actions

GOVERNMENT

Sustainable Libraries Certification (work underway)

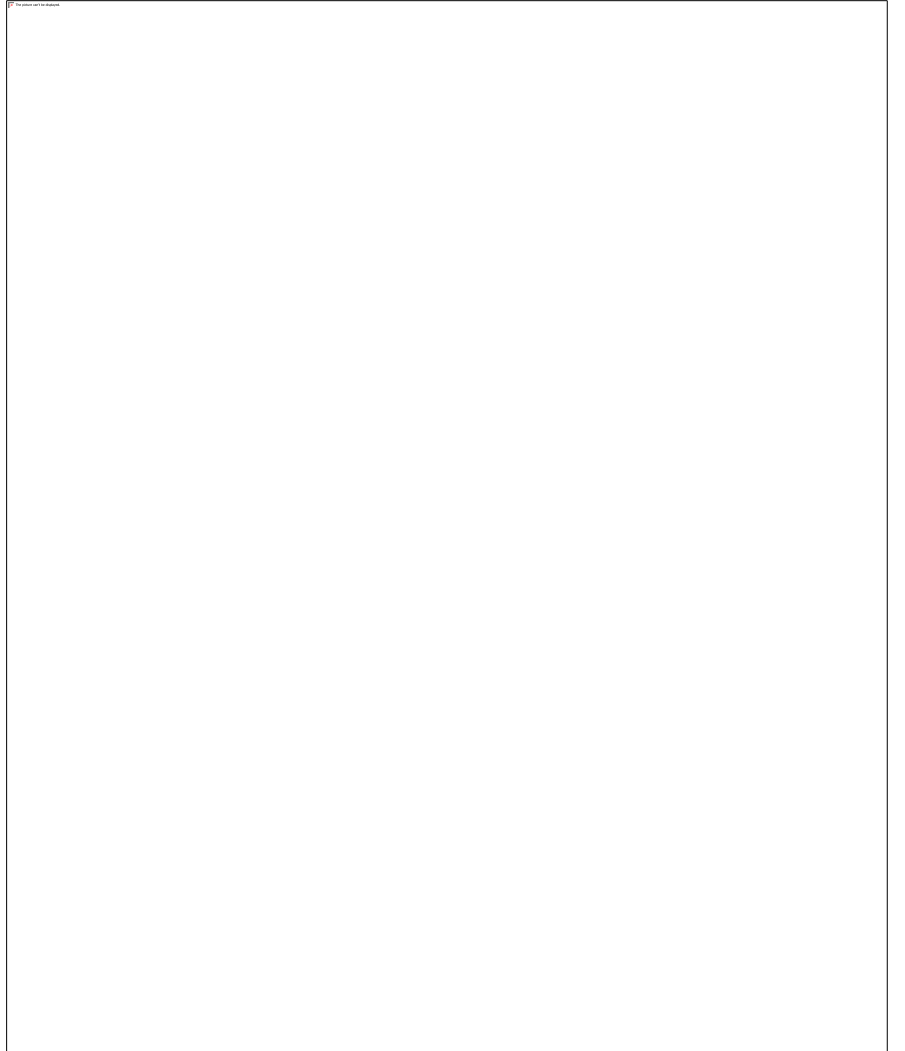
Description

- **Core purpose:** Recognizes libraries that meet environmental, social, and economic standards
- **Environmental impact:** Cuts energy and water use, reduces waste, and supports green building design
- **Community benefits:** Expands inclusive programs, local partnerships, and learning for all ages
- **Economic value:** Lowers operating costs, opens grant doors
- **Simple process:** Self-assess, document, apply, get feedback, and keep improving
- **Shared trust:** Communicates lasting commitment to people and planet
- **Next step:** Start with a self-assessment and share with fellow libraries

Policy

Description

- C-Pace Update (2024)
- Climate Action Resolution (2025)
- Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Prohibition (2026)



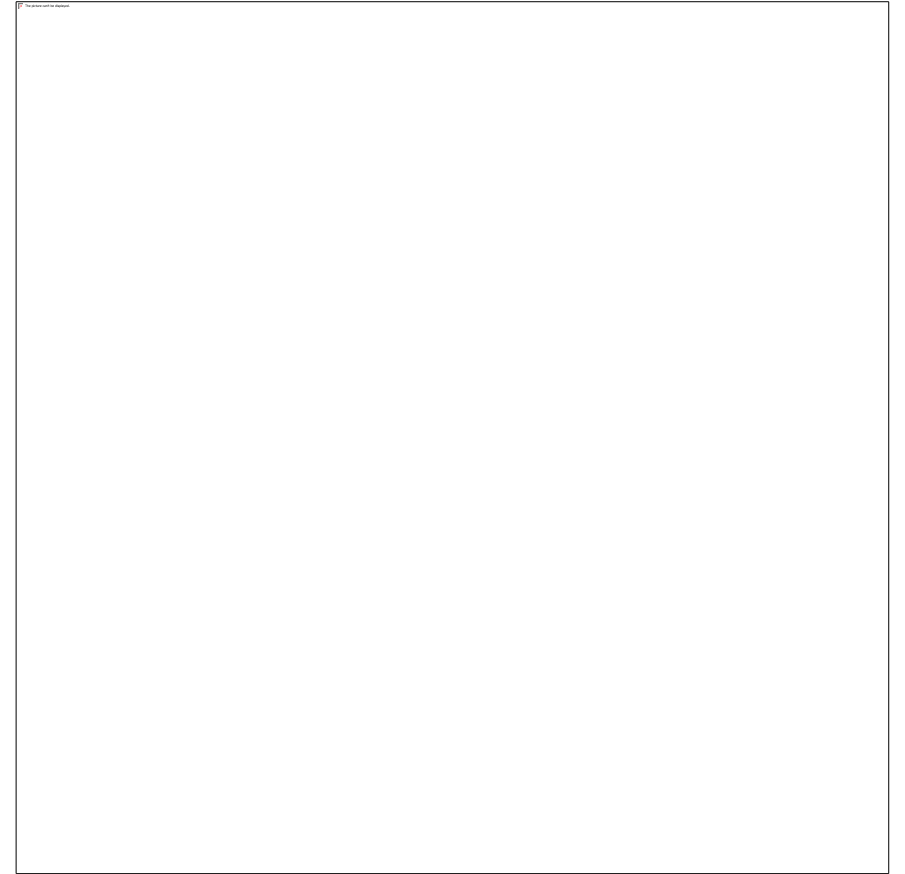
HVAC Energy Efficiency Education Program

Description

- Educate homeowners and contractors on weatherization and energy efficient HVAC systems.
 - Encourage and assist homeowners to develop a weatherization and HVAC replacement plan.
 - Partner with workforce development organization to deliver/enhance HVAC contractor training on energy efficient HVAC systems.

Activities (2025 – Ongoing)

- Joint ARL/ALX HVAC Listening Session – April 2025
- Elements incorporated into the Arlington Home Energy Hub
- Additional research underway



EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

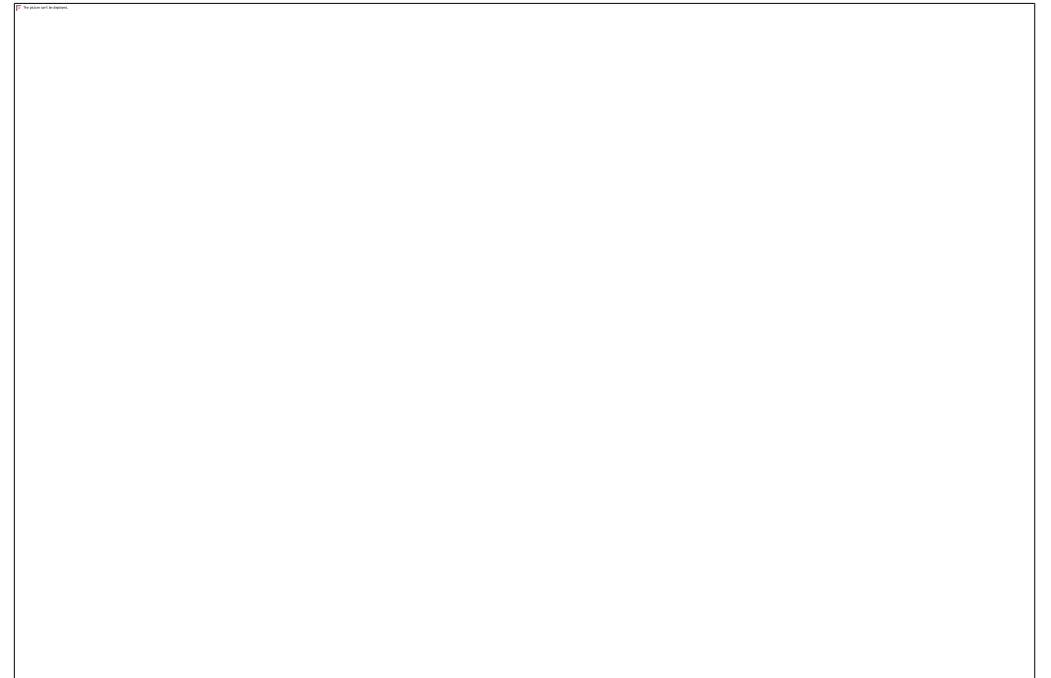
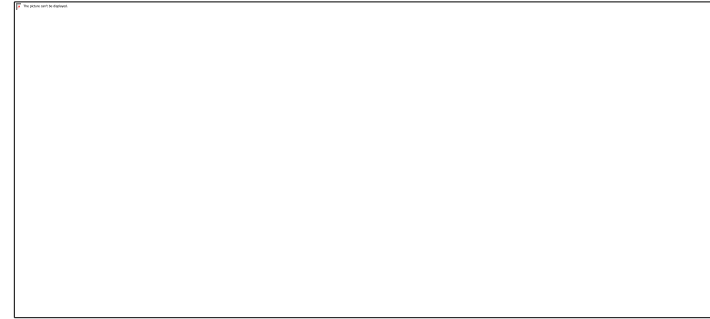
Corporate Climate Leaders

Description

- Foster active collaboration between local businesses and the County to address climate change.
 - Share relevant evidence-based information to inspire corporate climate action.
 - Training and resources.
 - Celebrate corporate climate achievements.

Activities (Q2 2025 – Ongoing)

- Inventory climate friendly businesses & identify network partners
- Host Green Business Summit
- Launch Corporate Climate Leaders network



Emissions Reduction Planning and Resource Toolkit

Description

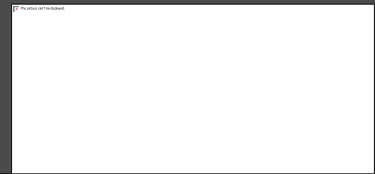
- Curate planning and resource toolkit to better assist building owners and managers to organize and implement an Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP).

Activities (Q4 2025 – Q4 2026)

- Literature review
- Business owner/manager needs assessment
- Customize planning and resource toolkit to assist with developing ERP and strategies for implementation and tracking.



HOW TO GET ENGAGED



WHY COMMUNITY ACTION MATTERS

- County operations generate only a small share of Arlington's emissions.
- 97% of emissions come from the community.
- Buildings (53.3%) and transportation (36.5%) are the largest sources of emissions.
- Reaching carbon neutrality depends on residents, businesses and the broader community to make a difference.

HOW TO GET ENGAGED

Save Money at Home

- **Home Energy Audit:**
 - [Take a free Virtual Energy Audit from Dominion and benchmark](#)
 - [Home Energy Audit 101](#)
- **Energy Efficient Appliances:** Consider appliance use
 - Join a heat pump coop
- Use LED Bulbs, smart thermostats and more.
- **Switch to Renewable Energy:**
 - [Learn more about solar co-ops](#)
- **More Resources:**
 - [Arlington Home Energy Hub](#)
 - [Visit Virginia Energy Connect for more energy resources](#)

Sustainable Transportation

- **Go Car Free:**
 - Learn how to navigate Arlington without a car through the [Car-Free Diet program](#)
 - Opt for public transit, biking, or walking
 - [Learn more about micro-mobility in Arlington](#)
- **Combine errands**
- Switch to electric, plug-in hybrid or hybrid vehicles. [Learn about EV infrastructure in Arlington.](#)
- Telework or ride-share if possible.
- Consider how you fly

Waste and Recycling

- **Compost:**
 - Participate in [Food Scraps Program](#)
 - Participate in Yard Waste Program
- **Recycle:** [Curbside recycling and collection](#)
- **Reduce Food Waste:** [Tips](#)
- **Adopt a Street:** [Help keep our streets clean.](#)
- **Shop Local:** [Shop Arlington](#)
- **DIY/Borrow:** Check out the Central Libraries [Maker Space](#), [Borrow Tools at Lending Library](#), [Borrow Things](#), [Fix it Events](#)

HOW TO GET ENGAGED

Forestry and Natural Resources

- **Plant a tree:**
 - [Register for a free tree](#)
- **Native Plants:**
 - [Arlington's native plant sale](#)
 - [Say goodbye to grass. Learn how you can create native landscapes at home.](#)
- **Support Pollinators:** Plant pollinator gardens
- **Kick Invasive Plants:** [Learn more about removing invasive plants in your community.](#)

Resiliency

- **Stay Informed:** [Sign up for Arlington Alert](#)
- **Buy/Grow Local:**
 - [Visit one of 10 Arlington Farmers Markets.](#)
 - Join one of Arlington's community gardens.
 - Learn about [yard sharing](#).
- **Stormwater At Home:** [Ways to manage stormwater at home](#)

Volunteer and Engagement

- **Engage the community:** [Become an EcoAmbassador](#)
- **Join** [Arlington Tree Stewards](#) or [Arlington Regional Master Naturalists](#).
- **Support APS:** [Learn more about Schools green programs](#) and how you can help support them.
- **Spread the Word:** Table at a local event, present at a neighborhood meeting, post on social media.
- **Learn more:** [Download GetGreen Arlington.](#)
- **Share your voice:** Proposed NextEra-Dominion merger, state legislation

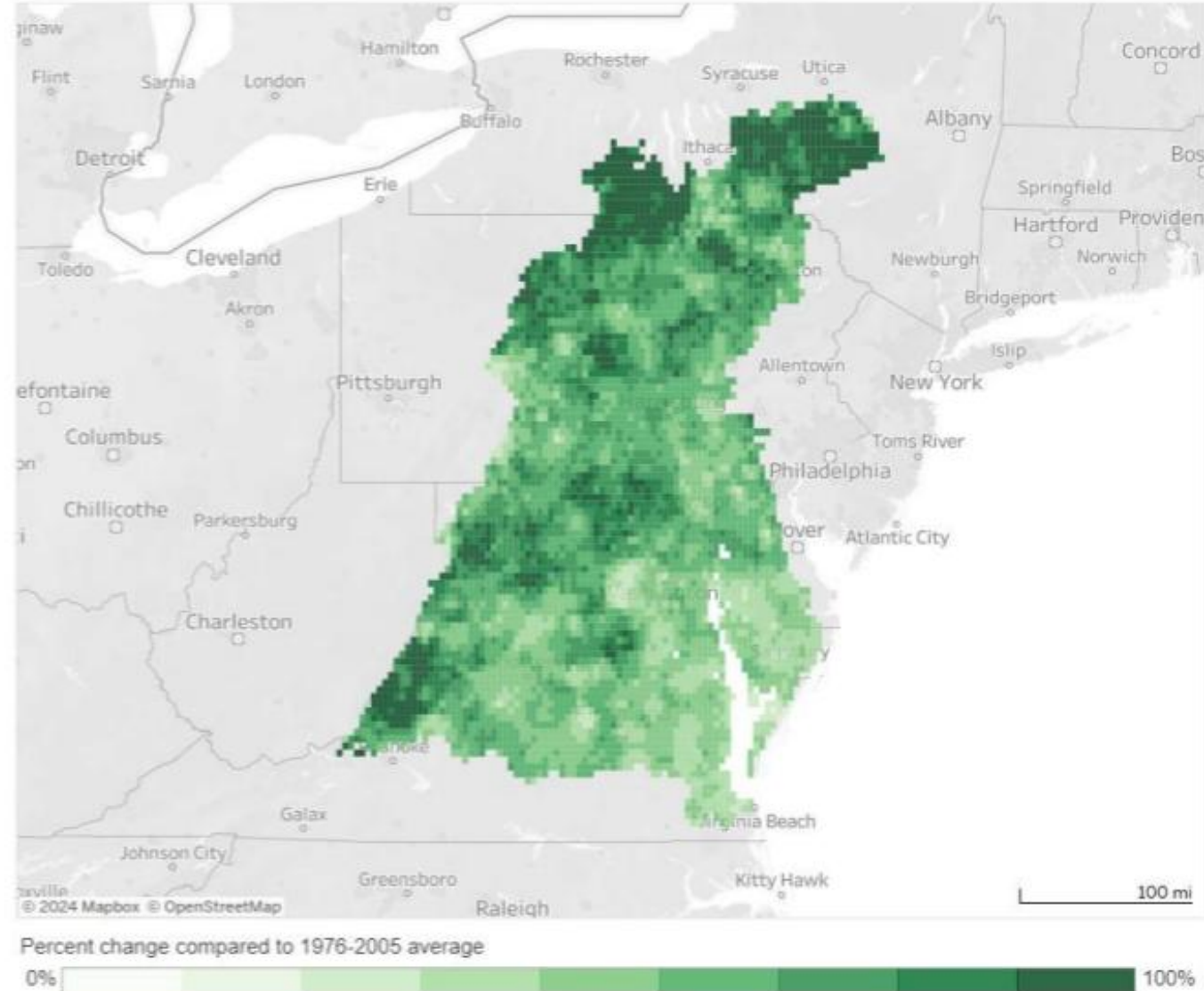
FLOODING

EXTREME RAINFALL

- Intensifying Weather
 - Heavy rainfall events becoming more frequent
 - Flooding is increasing
- Rising Seas
 - Over one foot of sea level rise in the last century

Increase in no. of days with >2" of rain by 2100 Moderate emissions

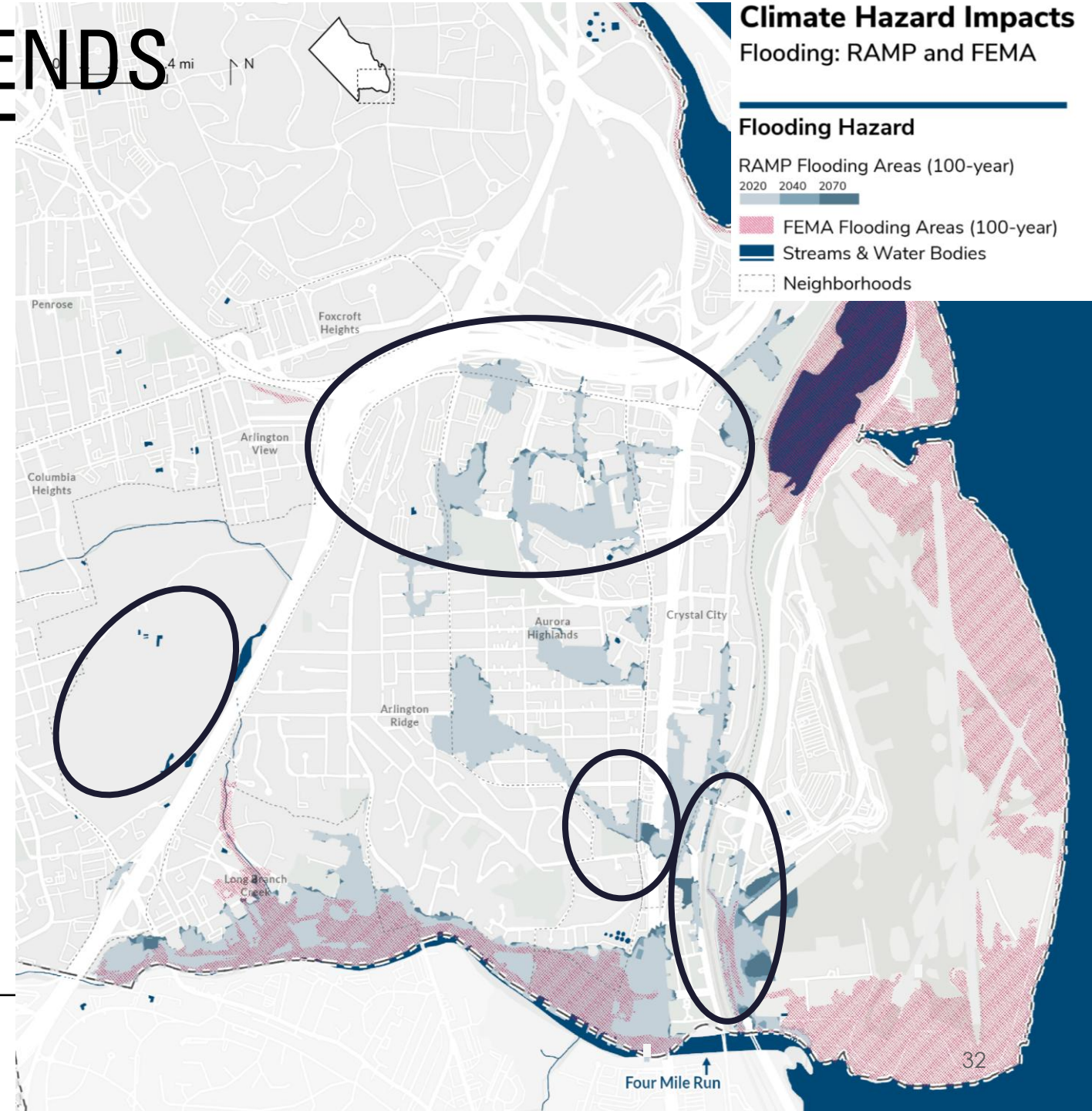
Figure 3b. Projected change in the average annual number of days with precipitation above 2" (2066-2095: Moderate Emissions (RCP 4.5))



FUTURE FLOOD RISK TRENDS

Future RAMP Flooding

- Projected future flooding footprint is expected to remain similar to today due to the topography and hydraulic characteristics of the County's waterways.
 - Limited newly exposed example areas by 2040 or 2070 (**blue ovals**).
 - **Majority of assets exposed in 2070 are already exposed today**
- In areas currently exposed to flood risk, flood waters will likely be deeper in the future based on projected rainfall increases for 2040 and 2070 scenarios for a 100-year, 24-hour storm.



FLOOD EXPOSURE FINDINGS

Flood risk is concentrated along stream corridors and the Four Mile Run watershed, affecting transportation assets, critical facilities, and areas of social vulnerability.

Key Impacts:

1. Essential Services

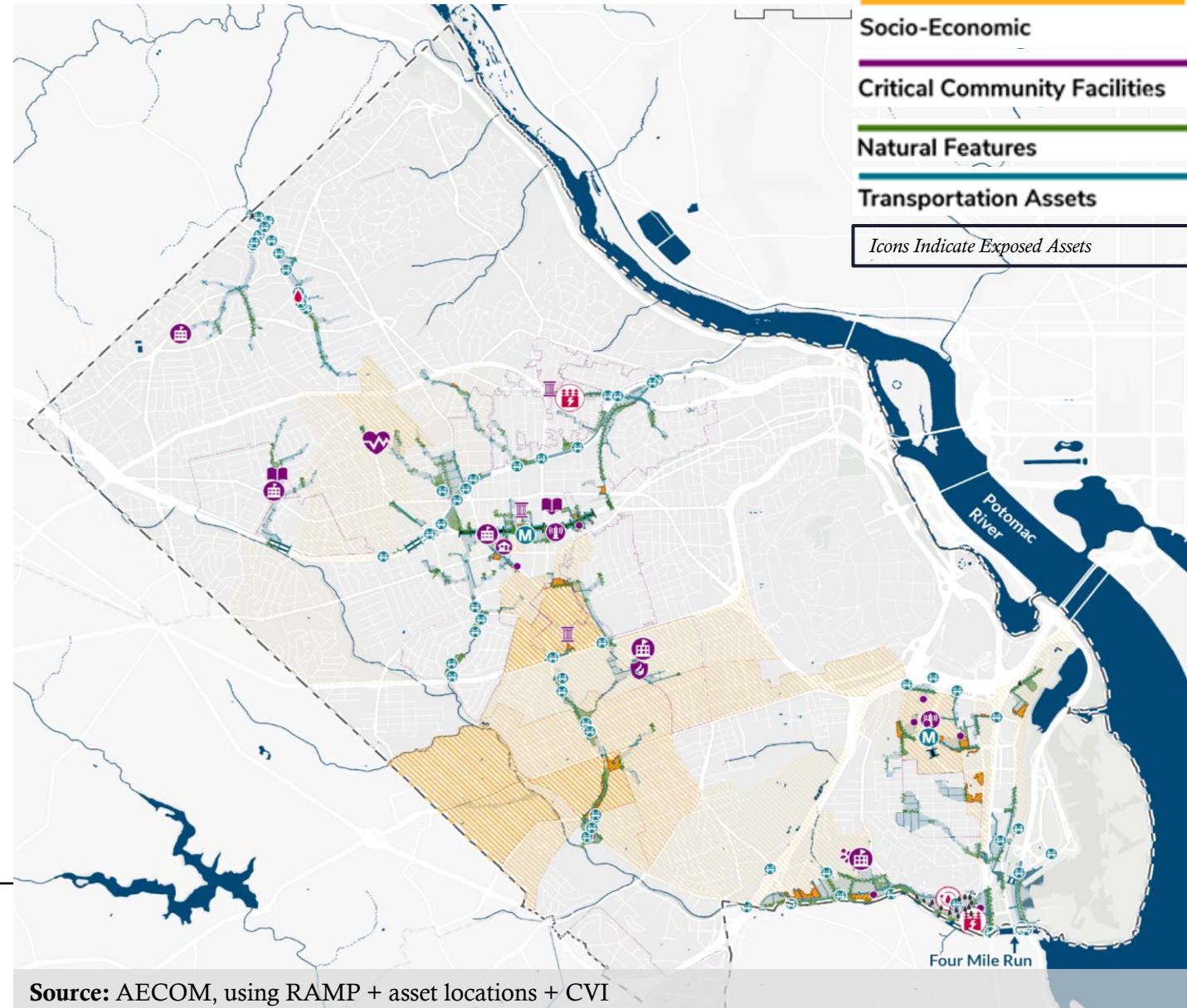
Exposure includes Arlington's only hospital, wastewater treatment plant, and multiple electrical substations

2. Transportation

Flooding affects roadways, transit routes and bus stops concentrated along major corridors.

3. Community Vulnerability

Several flood-prone areas overlap with neighborhoods containing affordable housing and higher concentrations of vulnerable populations



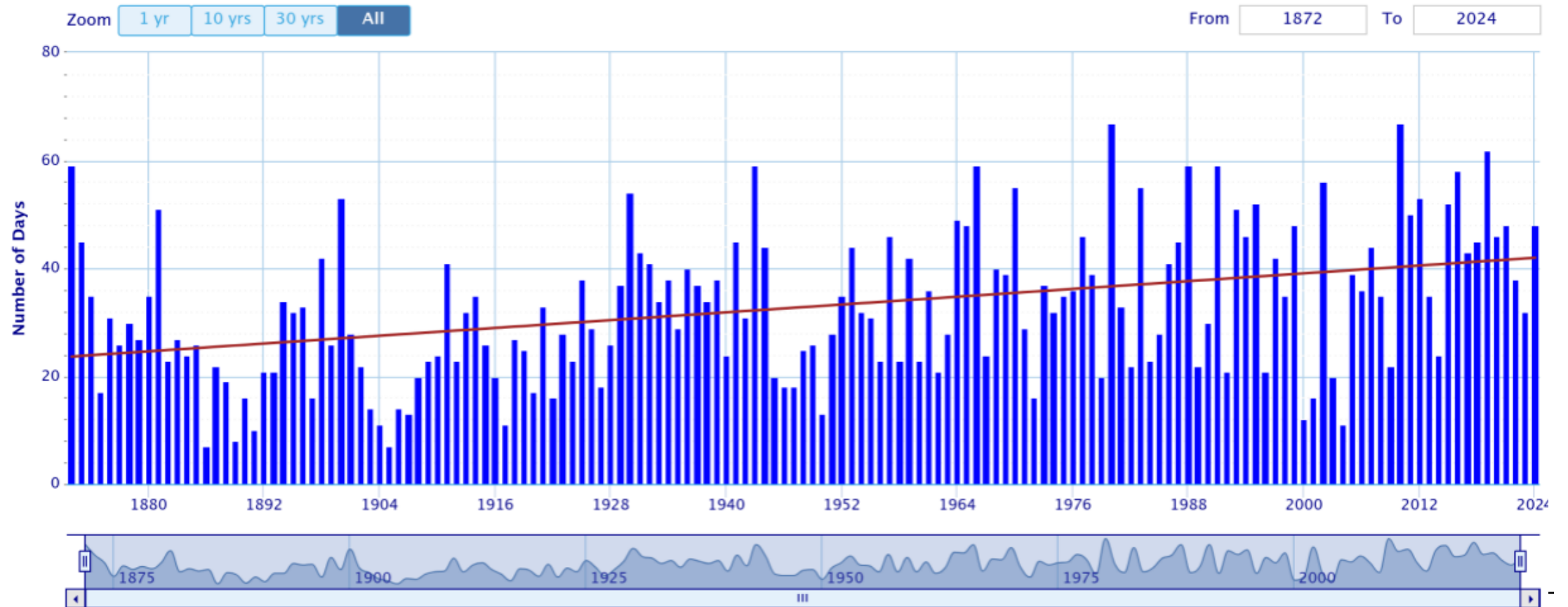
Source: AECOM, using RAMP + asset locations + CVI

EXTREME HEAT

EXTREME HEAT

Number of Days Max Temperature ≥ 90 – Jan through Dec – Washington Area, DC (ThreadEx)

Use navigation tools above and below chart to change displayed range

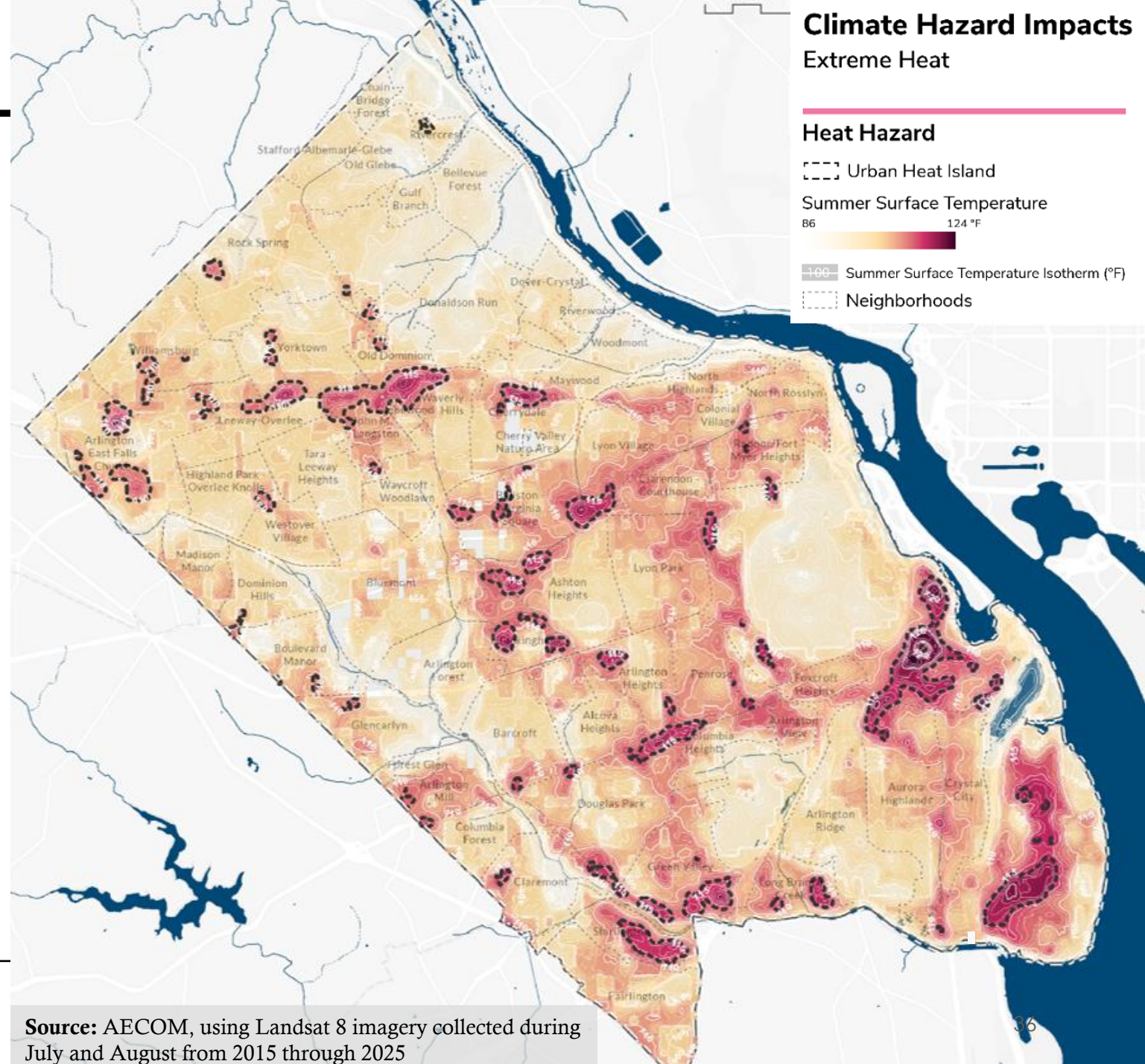


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EXTREME HEAT

Extreme Heat: A period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90°F for at least two to three days.

- Arlington currently has 30+ days of temperatures above 95 °F
- Extreme heat impacts the entire County, but highly developed areas have higher average temperatures
- Areas experience higher temperatures than surrounding areas are called Urban Heat Islands (UHI)



EXTREME HEAT HAZARD FINDINGS

Rising temperatures may expand heat exposure beyond today's urban heat islands, increasing or adding exposure to assets and populations

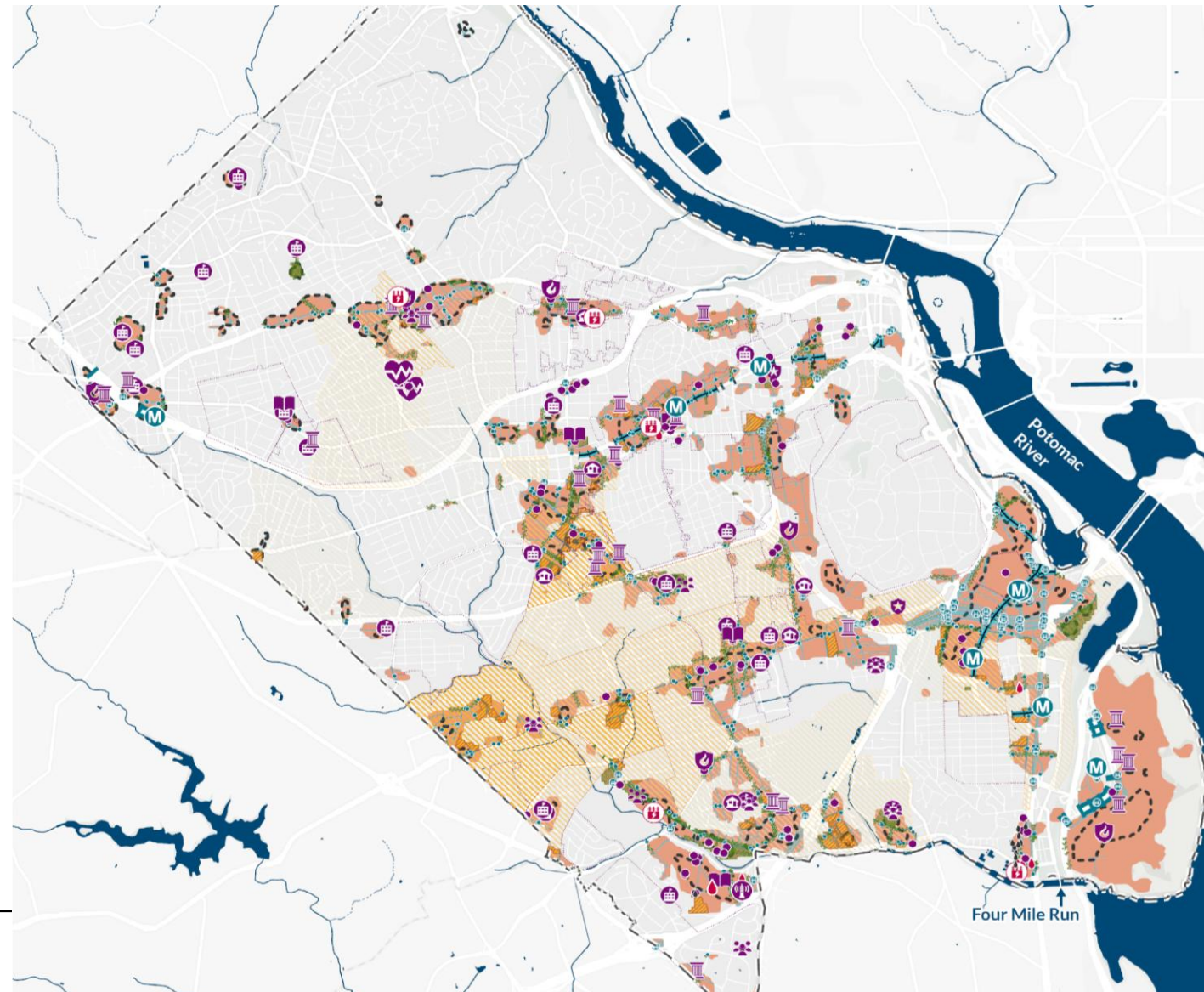
Key Findings:

1. Essential Services

Risks to critical infrastructure and community services by increasing stress on electrical systems, driving higher demand for cooling, healthcare, and emergency response, while disproportionately impacting vulnerable assets.

2. Community Vulnerability

Extreme heat disproportionately affects vulnerable communities by concentrating exposure along key transit corridors and in high-risk neighborhoods, increasing health risks and financial burdens for residents with limited access to cooling and other resilience resources



Source: AECOM, using Landsat 8 imagery for existing UHIs + asset locations + CVI

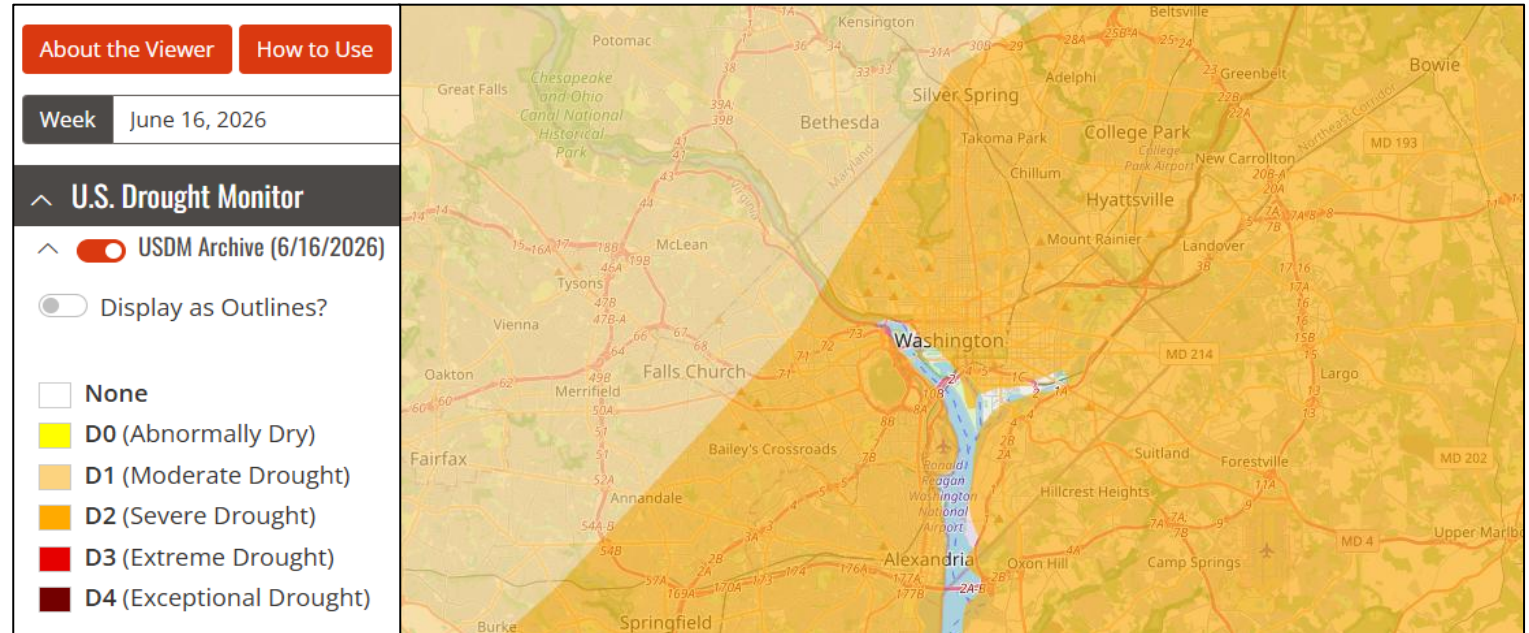
DROUGHT

DROUGHT EXPOSURE AND SEVERITY

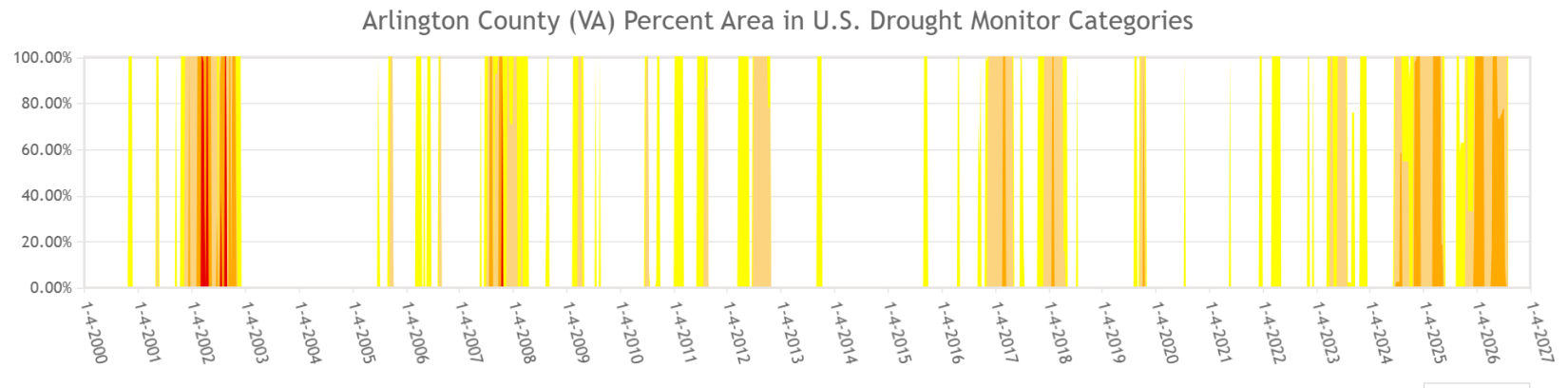
- The County has experienced moderate to extreme drought intermittently over the past 25 years.
- Drought conditions, when present, broadly impact the entire County, though severity may vary across locations.
- This means near universal potential exposure across the County potential rather than impacting only discrete locations.

Drought: Period of dryness due to lack of rainfall. Often connected with high temperatures.

Drought Conditions in Arlington County Region, June 16, 2026.



Source: USDA Drought Monitor.



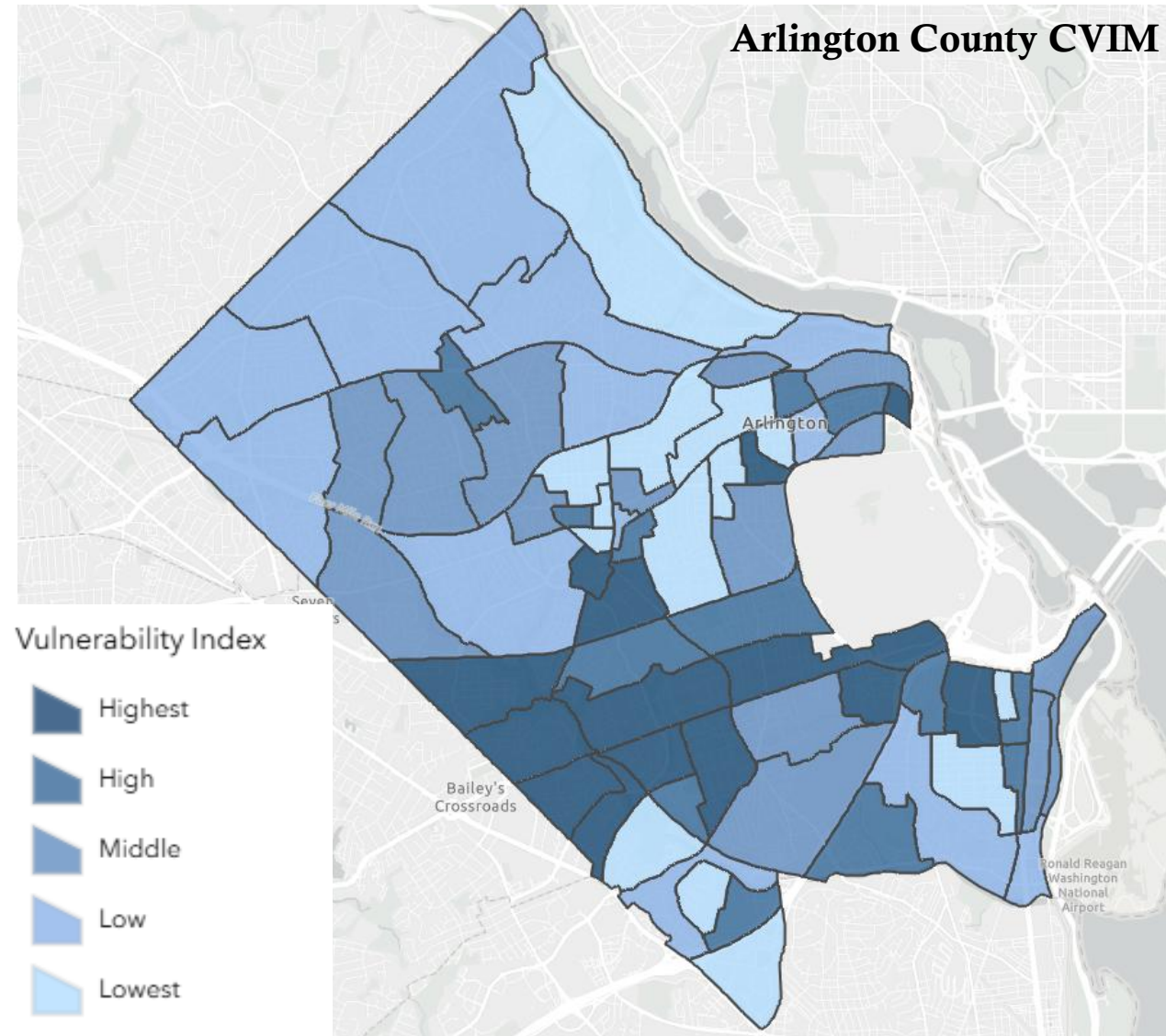
DROUGHT TRENDS

Drought Indicator	Historical	Projected	
	1991-2020	2030-2050	2050-2080
Change in Annual Precipitation	43 in	45 in (+5%)	46 in (+7%)
Average Annual Temperature	56°F	59°F (+5%)	62°F (+10%)
Average Annual Summer Temperature	75°F	78°F (+4%)	81°F (+8%)
Change in Annual Days Over 95°F	33 days	47 days (+42%)	66 days (+100%)

Source: Atlas of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5).

SOCIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- The Community Vulnerability Index Map (CVIM) identifies Census tracts with higher concentrations of potentially vulnerable populations
 - Factors Included:
 - persons of color
 - children (<18) and older adults (>65)
 - low-income households and individuals
 - persons with low educational attainment
 - persons born outside of the United States
 - Climate hazards can disproportionately affect communities with greater social vulnerabilities
-



Higher CVIM scores indicate greater concentrations of vulnerability factors relative to other Census tracts in Arlington