

City of Alexandria, Virginia

# Citywide Park Improvement Plans Four Mile Run Park



October 10, 2012



Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities  
Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Division

# Citywide Park Planning Goals & Criteria



## Goal

*Create plans that identify the priorities for future park enhancements and uses in Alexandria's large, multi-use, municipally-owned parks, balancing the City's recreational, cultural, environmental, and passive use needs.*

## Criteria for Citywide Parks

Over 20 acres

Multi-use

Municipally-owned



# Citywide Park Planning Framework Timeline



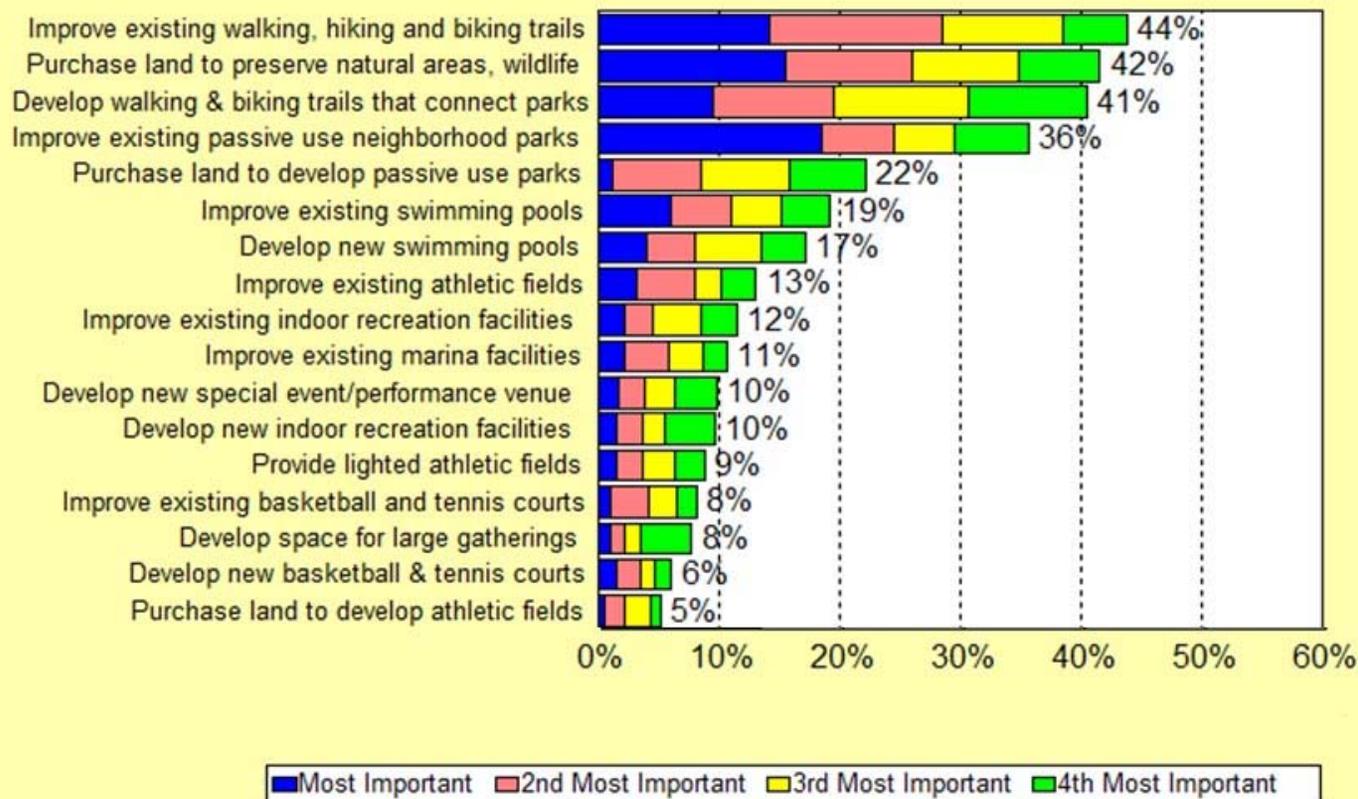
	Spring 2012	Summer 2012	Fall/Winter 2012	Spring 2013	Summer 2013
Conduct Site Inventory	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Review Existing Plans & Documents	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Collect Qualitative Data from City Staff	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Conduct Site Observations	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Light Blue	Light Blue
Review National Benchmarks & Standards	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Dark Gray
Obtain Feedback from Public	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Dark Gray
Hold Public Workshops	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray	Light Blue
Develop Recommendations & Report	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Gray	Dark Gray

# Park Planning Needs Assessment



## Q15. Actions That Households Are Most Willing to Support with Their Tax Dollars

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



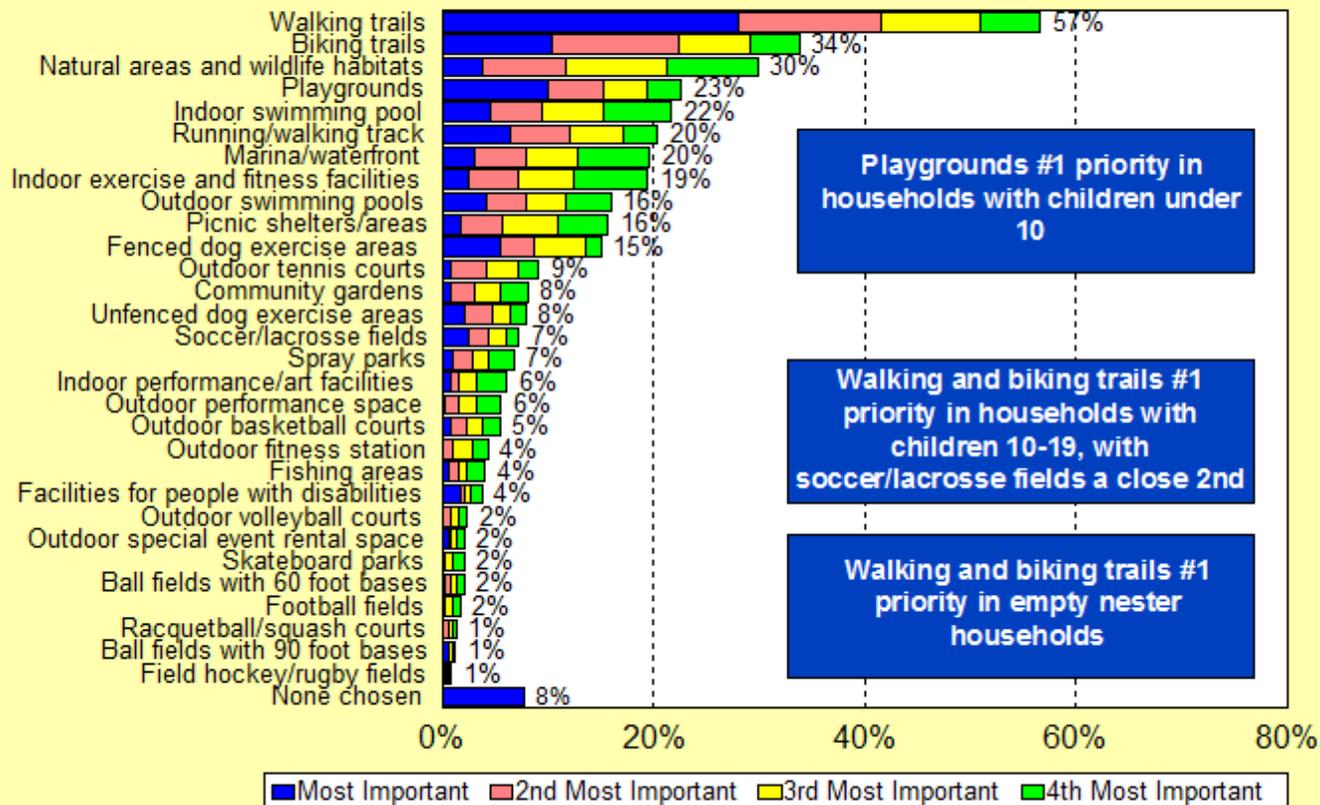
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2011)

# Park Planning Needs Assessment



## Q7. Parks, Recreation, or Cultural Amenities That Are Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



Playgrounds #1 priority in households with children under 10

Walking and biking trails #1 priority in households with children 10-19, with soccer/lacrosse fields a close 2nd

Walking and biking trails #1 priority in empty nester households

# Consistent Findings in all Citywide Parks



## Develop strategy or implementation for:

1. Natural and Historic resource protection
2. Universal ADA accessibility
3. Multi-use paths to reflect user patterns
4. Parking management strategies
5. Upgrade and maintain sports fields
6. Trash receptacle locations and recycling program
7. Standardized way-finding and park regulation signage
8. Locations for public art, in collaboration with the Office of the Arts
9. Infrastructure for event spaces (hard surfaces, electrical outlets, restroom access, water)



# Four Mile Run Park Existing Conditions



# Four Mile Run Park Existing Conditions



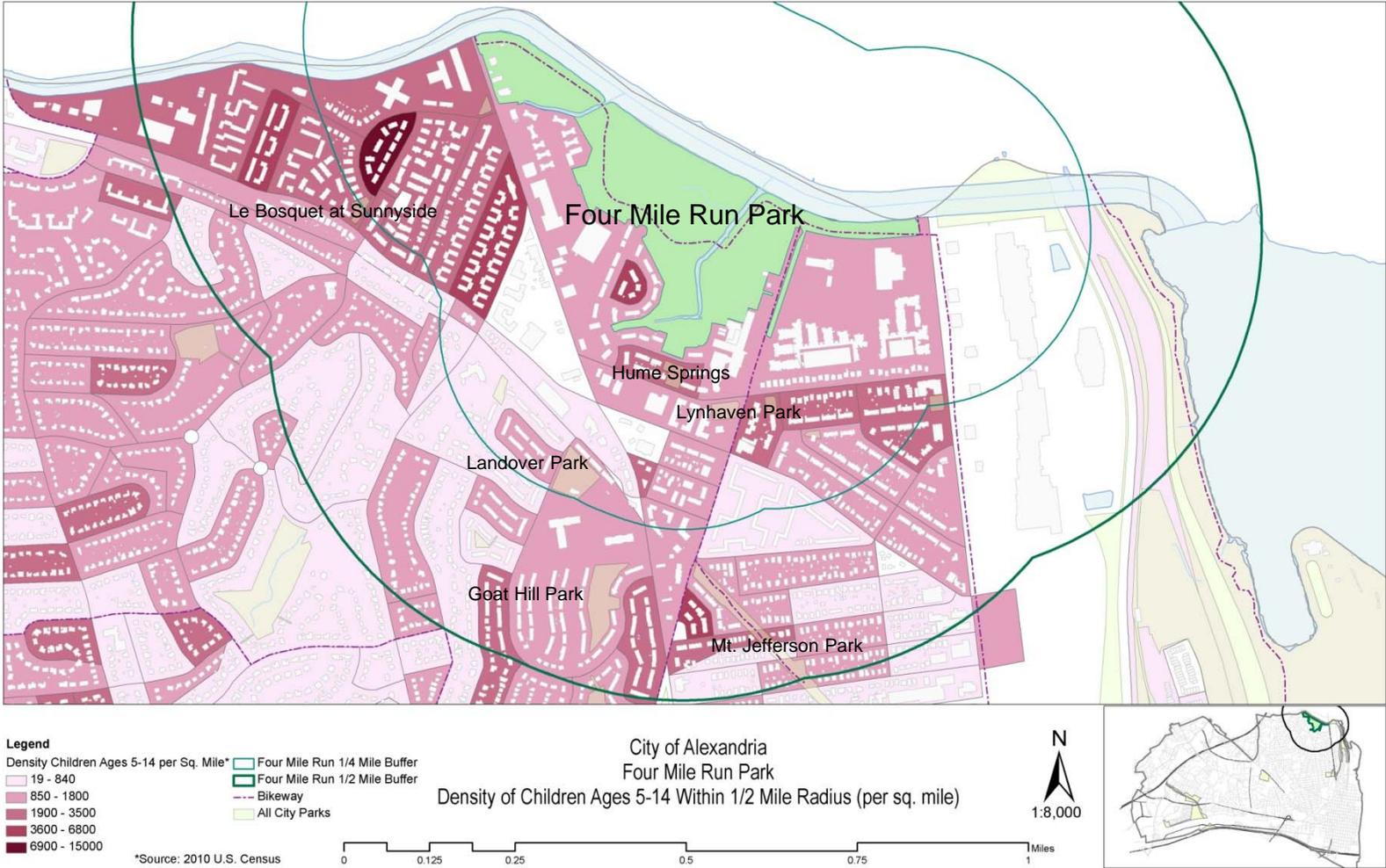
# Four Mile Run Park Extension



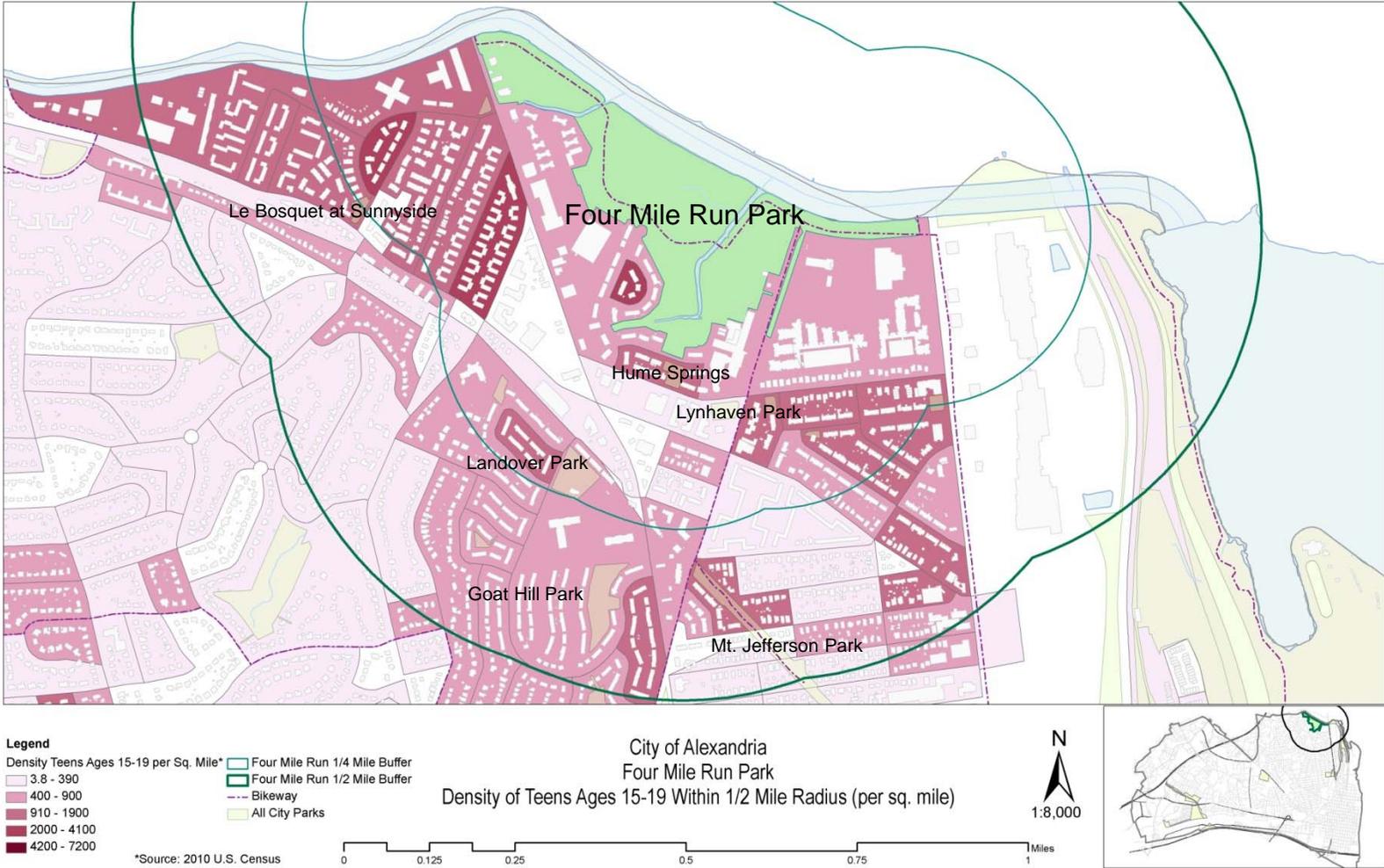
# Four Mile Run Park Density, Age 0-4



# Four Mile Run Park Density, Age 5-14



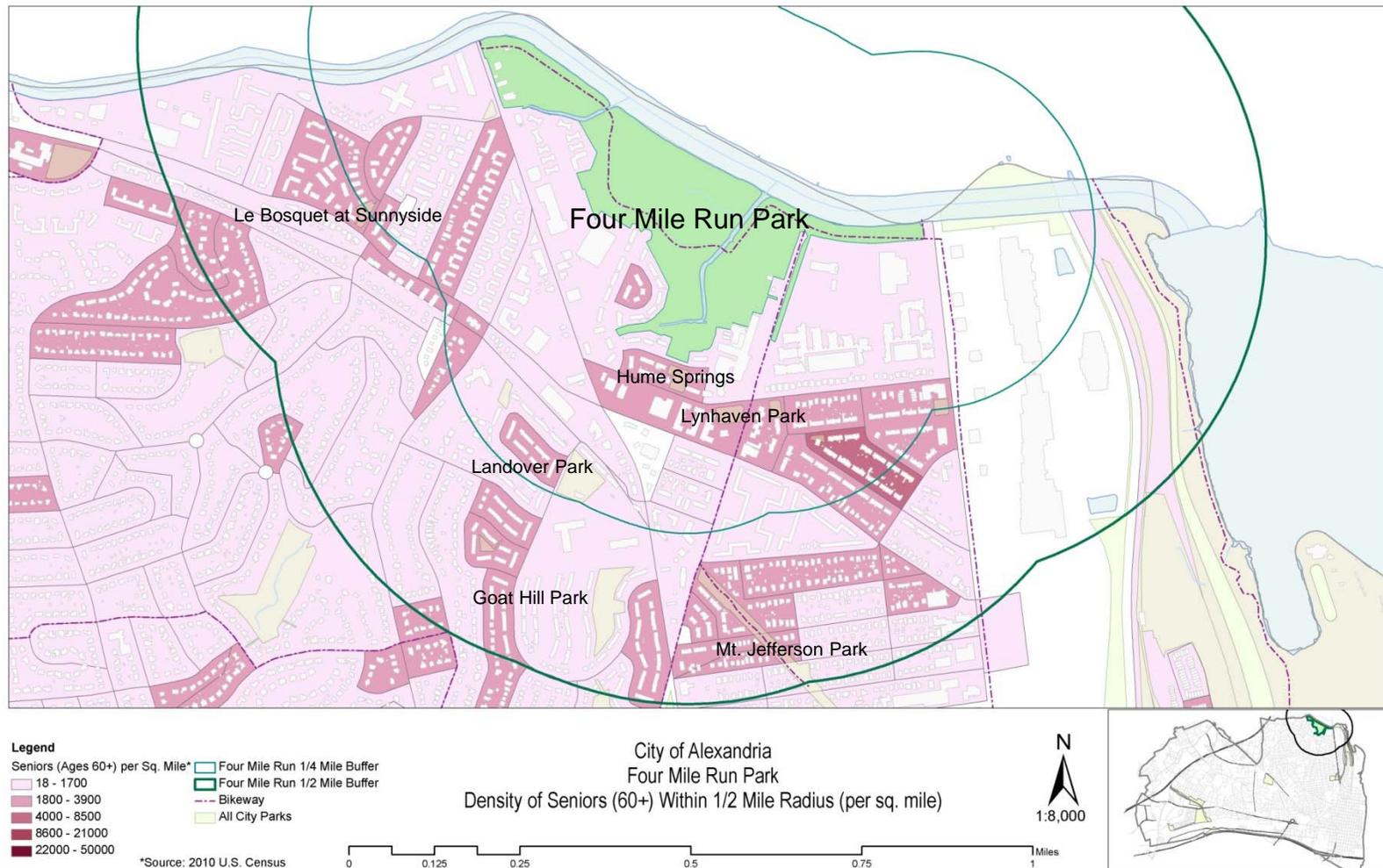
# Four Mile Run Park Density, Age 15-19



# Four Mile Run Park Density, Adults



# Four Mile Run Park Density, Seniors



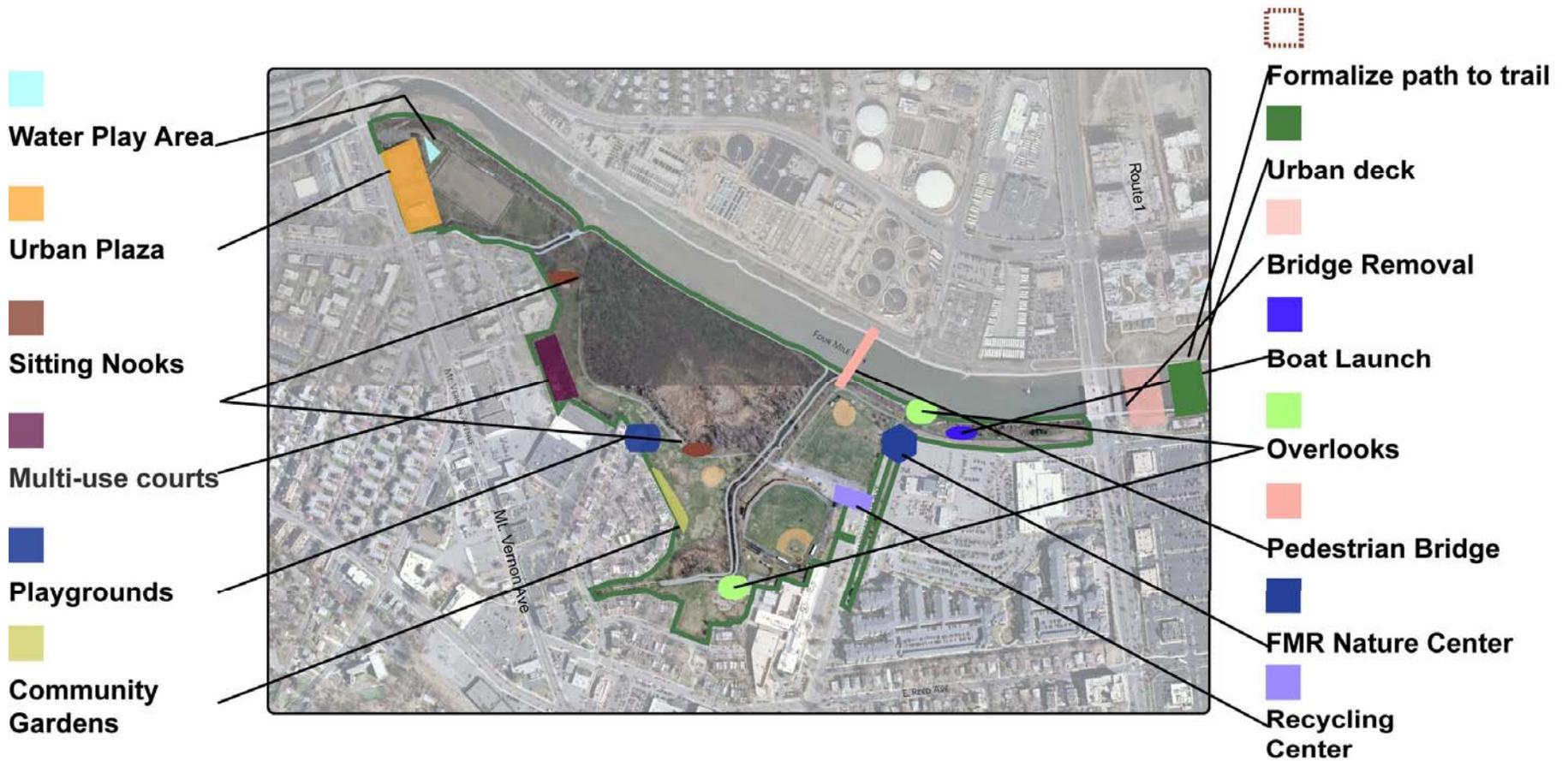
# Four Mile Run Park Existing Plans



- **Open Space Plan (2002)**
- **Arlandria Long-term Vision and Action Plan (2003)**
- **Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan (2006)**
  - Create a “dynamically stable stream channel” using natural stream channel design techniques.
  - Improve corridor habitat and ecology to support native terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species.



# Four Mile Run Restoration Proposed Near-Stream Amenities



# Four Mile Run Park Anticipated Projects



Phase II of park expansion improvements (currently unfunded)

In-Stream Restoration

Bridge Removal

Playground renovations scheduled for FY15

Possible site for future stormwater management

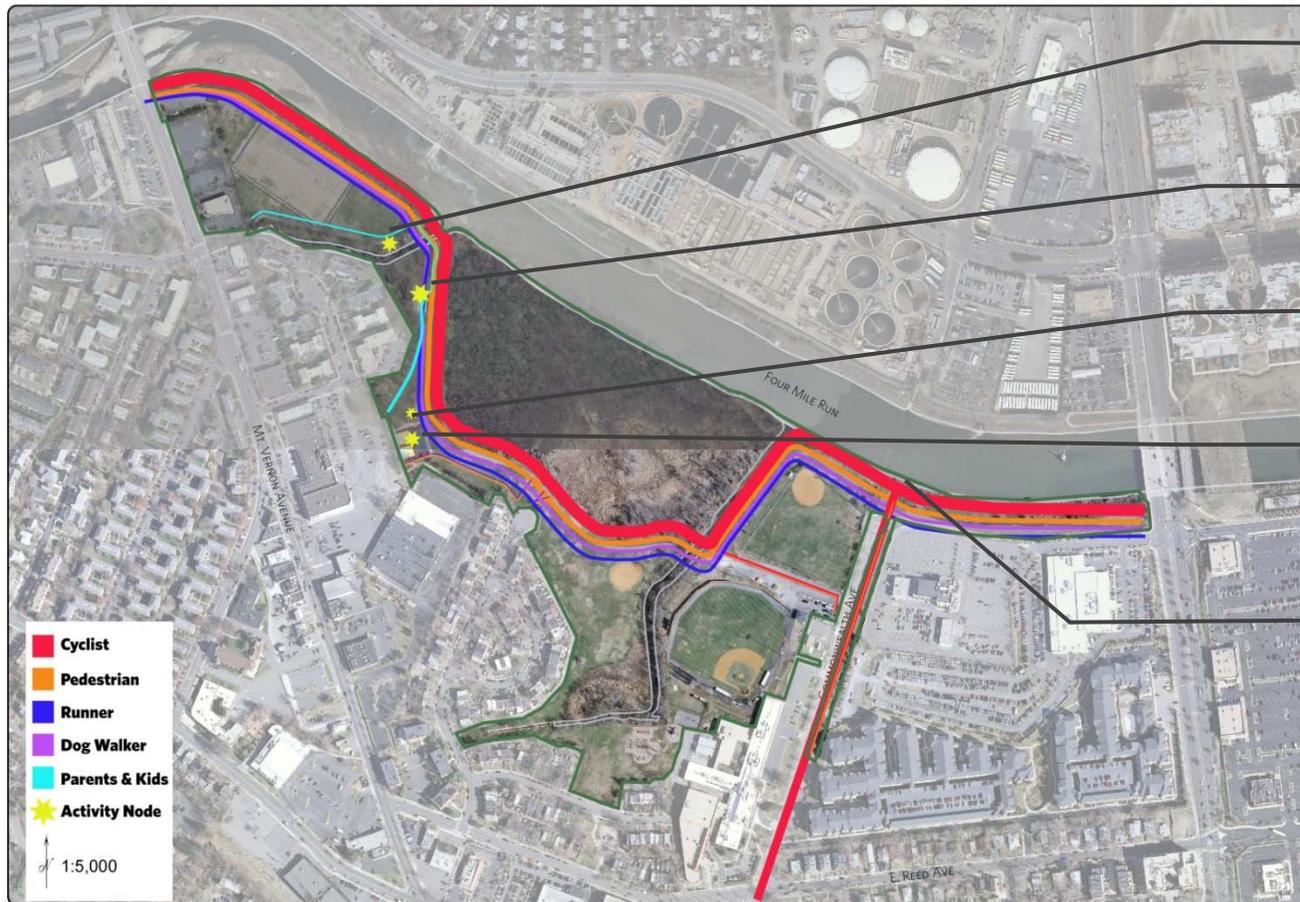
Pedestrian Bridge in design (construction unfunded)

Field re-grade scheduled for FY15

Courts to be relocated within park per condition of Mt. Vernon Village Development

Cora Kelly School redevelopment scheduled for FY16

# Four Mile Run Park Site Observations, Weekdays



People sitting on utility structures and bridge

Playground is heavily used, despite lack of seating for parents

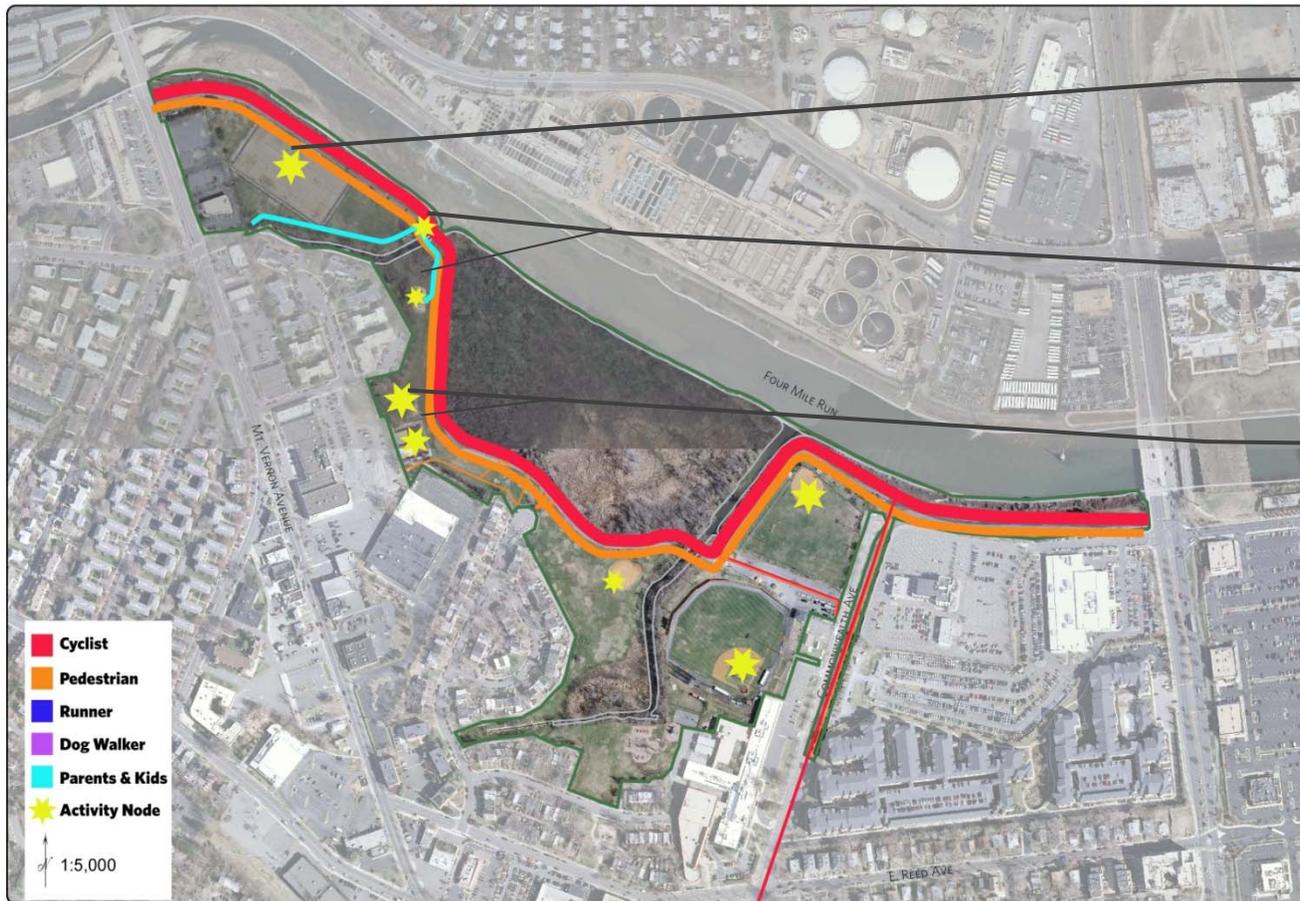
Group gambling on the ground

Courts lightly used by children with scooters or other non-intended uses

Cyclists are the most numerous park users

# Four Mile Run Park

## Site Observations, Weekday Night



Soccer games with permitted field, full parking lot & vehicles parked on grass

Playground and gravel area filled with kids playing and riding bikes

Soccer game in open area and on futsal courts with many spectators

# Group Exercise



1. Complete individual surveys  
*(for those who have not filled out the online survey)*
2. As a group, Identify:
  - a) The top five park assets
  - b) Where pathways should be for optimal park circulation, including connections to the neighborhoods and Cora Kelly Recreation Center and School
  - c) Where the multi-purpose courts could be re-located
  - d) Existing conditions that need improvement
  - e) Programs/facilities that are not in the park, but should be
3. Review both the list of improvements and program needs, prioritize the top five.

# Next Steps



1. Tell your friends and neighbors to take the survey before the end of November:

**[www.alexva.us/aww](http://www.alexva.us/aww)**

2. Workshops in for other Citywide Parks:

- Simpson, October 17 @ Mt. Vernon Rec
- Chinquapin, October 24 @ T.C. Williams
- Hensley, October 29 @ Lee Center
- Holmes Run, November 7 @ Samuel Tucker
- Ben Brenman/Boothe, November 14 @ Samuel Tucker

3. Synthesis and Analysis

4. Spring Workshops