

# 1. Land Use and Open Space

Enhancing the City's tree canopy and open space are two focus areas comprising the Land Use and Open Space chapter of the EAP. As stated in the Open Space Master Plan (2003, updated 2017), the City of Alexandria has committed to protecting & promoting public open space. It is an investment in a higher quality of life for ourselves and future generations. We seek to protect public open space because:

- It connects the community: Our parks and facilities are the public's common ground that equitably bring together our vibrant and diverse community.
- It improves well-being: Our programs and facilities motivate the community to make healthy choices and live active lifestyles through all stages of life and at all levels and abilities.
- Its an investment in our environment: Our commitment to natural spaces provides physical, mental, and community benefits, while offering opportunities to engage with and conserve our natural resources.

The tree canopy goal establishes the priority to preserve and expand a healthy urban tree canopy. The Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) department leads the tree canopy initiatives and the Planning & Zoning department supports the goals through development and non-development reviews. The RPCA monitors and maintains the City's public open space and the Planning & Zoning department balances the private and public open space needs in Small Area Plans and as implemented in private and public development and non-development projects.