

## Vision

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The Town of Vienna envisions a vibrant parks and recreation system that supports a healthy, active, and engaged community through accessible, inclusive, and well-maintained public spaces and programs.

## Goals

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1. Maintain and enhance parks, facilities, and services with a focus on long-term sustainability and accessibility.
2. Support a healthy, engaged community through diverse programs and events by leveraging partnerships and community input to guide planning, policy, and investment decisions.
3. Advance environmental sustainability and resilience through parks and recreation.

## Introduction

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The Town of Vienna's parks and recreation system contributes significantly to community wellness, environmental stewardship, and quality of life. Through inclusive, accessible, and well-maintained public spaces, facilities, and programs, the Town supports physical, mental, and social well-being for residents of all ages.

In 2025, Vienna adopted its first town-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan, *Our Plan to Play*, as a comprehensive framework to guide future investments in parks, facilities, and programs. This Comprehensive Plan chapter reflects the overarching vision and themes of that effort, while deferring detailed strategies and benchmarks to the Master Plan.

The Department of Parks and Recreation operates key facilities including the Vienna Community Center and Bowman House Arts and Crafts Center, and maintains 58 sites, including parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, green spaces, streetscapes, and historic properties. The Department also delivers community-wide special events, recreation, and educational programming spanning the following areas:

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| • Youth Camps and Programs             | • Special Events                             |
| • Teen Programs                        | • Health & Wellness Initiatives              |
| • Adult Programs                       | • Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability |
| • Senior / Active Older Adult Programs | • Community Engagement & Volunteer Programs  |
| • Community garden                     | • Facility and Pavilion Rentals              |
| • Visual & Performing Arts             |  |

While the Town's parks and recreation system primarily serves residents, Vienna's parks and programs are also popular among visitors from surrounding areas, especially during regional events and festivals. Through strong community partnerships and ongoing public engagement, the Town will continue to enhance recreational opportunities and preserve its natural, historical, and cultural assets for future generations.

## Vienna Parks and Facilities Overview

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The Town of Vienna manages a diverse parks and recreation system that includes neighborhood parks, specialty use facilities, natural areas, historical sites, and community-serving spaces such as the Vienna Community Center, Bowman House, Freeman Store, Little Library Museum and Town Green. These resources provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation, cultural experiences, and environmental appreciation.

Access to public and private parks, fitness or recreational programs, and other amenities are considered when determining service levels and new opportunities. Parks located within the Town limits include land owned and maintained by the Town, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, and a trail/park system owned and maintained by NOVA Parks, an inter-jurisdictional organization. Additionally, the Fairfax County Park Authority operates several parks and facilities bordering the Town. There are also several private parks and recreational facilities, including golf, tennis, swimming clubs, and a country club.

### Vienna Parks and Recreational Facilities by Typology

The Town of Vienna currently manages 14 parks, 11 of which are owned and operated by the Town. Waters and Caffi Fields, while owned by the Fairfax County School Board, are maintained and scheduled by the Town through agreements with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services. The Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail, a major linear park and regional trail spanning from Arlington in the east to Purcellville in the west, is owned and operated by NOVA Parks and traverses the Town.

Facilities are categorized by typology to reflect their design intent, scale, and function within the community:

#### **Signature Sites**

Signature sites serve as focal points of community life, offering diverse activities that attract both residents and visitors. The Vienna Town Green, a 2.5-acre public lawn adjacent to historic Church Street and the Freeman Store, hosts concerts, children's events, and community gatherings, with amenities like seasonal landscaping, benches, a veterans' memorial fountain, restrooms, and water fountains. Nearby, the Vienna Community Center functions as the primary hub for indoor recreation and cultural activities. The center provides year-round programming including fitness and wellness classes, arts and crafts, theatrical performances, a Teen Center, and spaces for private and community use.

## **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks support the recreational needs of residents in their immediate vicinity and aim to be accessible within a half-mile walk. Glyndon Park, at 11 acres, offers trails, a baseball field, basketball and tennis courts, and picnic shelters. Meadow Lane Park, a 3.4-acre site, includes a fenced play area, pavilion, restrooms, and sports courts. Moorefield Hill Park, a 9.9-acre site, features shaded playgrounds and shares space with the Town's off-leash dog park. Peterson Lane Park, which is 5.4 acres, includes courts, a playground, and walking trails, and is managed jointly with the Fairfax County Park Authority. Southside Park, spanning 17 acres, is a major athletic and event venue, home to the Town's Fourth of July fireworks and used by local youth leagues.

## **Special Use**

Special use sites serve more specific purposes, offering specialized programming or amenities. The Bowman House Arts and Crafts Center provides creative programming in a historic setting. The Community Learning Garden, located behind the Community Center, is a volunteer-run edible and pollinator garden used for education and community engagement. Vienna's Dog Park is a shaded, fully fenced space with benches and water access. The Town also maintains and programs the Waters and Caffi Fields, which are owned by Fairfax County Public Schools.

## **Natural Areas**

Natural areas preserve Vienna's ecological assets while offering opportunities for passive recreation. Northside Park is a 26-acre conservation area with trails and wildlife viewing. Wildwood Park, at 15.6 acres, runs along Wolftrap Creek and includes a restored stream valley, interpretive signage, and a fitness trail. Salsbury Spring Park is a small, serene space at the intersection of Lawyers and Windover Roads, offering seating and mature tree cover near a natural spring.

## **Pocket Parks**

Pocket parks offer recreation in smaller, neighborhood-scale spaces. The Branch Road Tot Lot features a fenced playground for young children and is located near several walkable destinations. Sarah Walker Mercer Park is a one-acre passive park honoring a prominent community member, with walking paths, a rain garden, and commemorative plantings.

## **Historical Sites**

Historic sites offer specialized programs and services unique to properties with historic relevance, attracting interest from Town residents and neighboring municipalities. The impact of these sites is significant, as they help maintain the historic richness of Vienna and continue to enhance the community's culture. The Freeman Store and Museum and Little Library Museum, managed by Historic Vienna, Inc., offer educational programs and preserve Vienna's heritage. Historic Vienna, Inc., a nonprofit partner organization, works to preserve and promote the Town's history through educational programs, exhibits, and community events in coordination with the Town of Vienna.

## **Cemeteries**

Cemeteries such as the Broadway Cemetery, Lynn Street Cemetery, Moorefield Cemetery, and West End Cemetery are managed by the Town and are integral to its historic landscape.

## **Municipal Service Facilities**

Municipal service facilities, including the Beulah Road Mulch Yard, Nutley Property Yard, and Water Towers on Tapawingo and Wall Street, support Town operations but are not intended for public recreational use.

## **Unclassified Properties**

Unclassified properties are municipal parcels that may be evaluated for future recreational or public uses. These include the Annex at 301 Center Street S., Desale Street, Lullaby Lane, and the Robinson Property.

## **Vienna Recreational Programs**

The Town of Vienna provides a wide array of recreational, cultural, and wellness programs that enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages. Through seasonal offerings in fitness, arts, enrichment, and sports, the Department of Parks and Recreation fosters lifelong learning, healthy lifestyles, and community connection.

Most programs are held at the Vienna Community Center and the Bowman House and include both structured classes and drop-in opportunities. The Town also hosts numerous special events throughout the year, which play a vital role in building community pride and engagement.

Program planning is informed by evaluative methods that include resident feedback, needs assessments, lifecycle analysis, demographics, and review of trends at the local, regional, and national levels to ensure offerings are inclusive, diverse, and responsive to the evolving interests of Vienna's population. Specific goals, strategies, and implementation details related to programming and special events are outlined in the Town's Parks and Recreation Master Plan or managed directly by the Department.

The Department is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all residents feel welcome and supported. Staff strive to accommodate needs whenever possible and are dedicated to creating programs and spaces that are accessible to all. When the Department is unable to provide specific accommodation, staff make every effort to connect patrons with additional resources and services available through Fairfax County or other community partners.

## **Alternative Recreation & Fitness Providers**

### **Private Recreational Facilities**

A variety of private recreational facilities are located within the Town of Vienna and contribute to the overall recreational landscape. Notably, Westwood Country Club,

situated in the northeast section of Town adjacent to Maple Avenue, offers full country club amenities, including an 18-hole golf course, tennis facilities, and a swimming pool.

In the southwest quadrant of town, two seasonal, membership-based recreation clubs—Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club and Vienna Aquatic Club—serve local residents. Additionally, George C. Yeonas Park, a privately owned facility operated by Vienna Little League and located adjacent to Southside Park, includes three ballfields and is slated for future renovations.

Health and wellness services are also widely available through private businesses throughout Vienna, including gyms, yoga and Pilates studios, and boutique fitness providers. These businesses complement the Town's public offerings by providing flexible, specialized fitness and wellness opportunities.

### **Other Public Parks and Recreational Facilities**

Although not located in the Town, four major parks and recreational facilities operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) are readily accessible to Vienna residents. In addition to the co-management of Peterson Lane Park with FCPA, the closest of these is Nottoway Park, which adjoins the Town along the southwestern edge and offers tennis courts, ball fields, walking trails, picnic facilities, and an historic community house. FCPA also operates Oakmont and Spring Hill Recreation Centers, in Oakton and McLean respectively, which provide full indoor recreational, fitness, and aquatic opportunities as well as outdoor athletic amenities. Meadowlark Gardens, managed by NOVA Parks, on Beulah Road northeast of the Town, provides 95 acres of natural and manicured gardens and fields, a visitor center, and walking trails.

### **Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park**

The Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park, operated by NOVA Parks, follows the route of the former W&OD rail line, which ceased operations in 1968. Constructed in segments between 1974 and 1988, the paved multi-use trail now spans 45 miles across Northern Virginia. It accommodates walking, running, cycling, skating, and horseback riding. The portion of the W&OD Trail that passes through Vienna is approximately two miles long and traverses the Town's southeast and northeast quadrants. The trail serves as both a recreational amenity and a transportation corridor, linking Vienna to surrounding communities and regional parks.

## **Addressing Gaps and Future Opportunities**

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Despite strong community support and high-quality offerings, some gaps remain in walkable access to parks and the availability of certain recreational amenities. These gaps are addressed as part of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and are periodically evaluated through a community needs assessment.

The Town continues to explore opportunities to expand park access in underserved neighborhoods and to adapt facilities and programming to evolving community needs through a variety of partnerships and outreach.

Future efforts will consider small-scale land acquisition, strategic redevelopment of existing properties, and partnerships with private and regional entities to increase access and enhance offerings.

## Community Engagement and Planning

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The development of *Our Plan to Play* included extensive public input through surveys, workshops, and stakeholder discussions. This engagement confirmed broad satisfaction with existing programming and strong interest in facility upgrades, expanded walking and biking options, and continued stewardship of green space.

The Town will continue to formalize and expand strategic partnerships with schools, regional agencies, nonprofits, and private entities to broaden the impact of parks and recreation. Written agreements and shared programming initiatives will be used to strengthen collaboration. Additionally, Vienna will track participation and satisfaction metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of public engagement efforts and ensure community voices are reflected in decision-making.

Moving forward, the Town is committed to ongoing dialogue with residents to ensure that parks and recreation investments reflect community priorities and support a high quality of life for all.

## Maintenance & Natural Resource Management

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A well-maintained park system enhances community well-being and reflects Vienna's commitment to environmental stewardship. Through proactive strategies, sustainable landscaping, and a focus on tree canopy preservation, the Town fosters resilient and attractive green spaces that benefit both people and nature.

Routine maintenance ensures that playgrounds, trails, fields, and infrastructure remain safe and welcoming. The Town incorporates sustainable practices such as energy-efficient lighting and smart irrigation systems, and partners with local organizations and volunteers on beautification efforts.

Horticulture efforts emphasize native and adaptive species that require less water and promote biodiversity. Landscaping is guided by sustainability principles, including organic and integrated pest management techniques. Community-driven efforts such as pollinator gardens and shared gardening spaces encourage public participation in creating and caring for these environments.

### **Urban Forestry & Tree Canopy Preservation**

Vienna also prioritizes tree canopy preservation as a vital part of its urban ecology. The Town maintains a comprehensive tree inventory and follows best practices for planting, pruning, and maintenance. Initiatives like school-based tree plantings and neighborhood greening projects support education and engagement while expanding coverage.

Looking ahead, the Town will continue to advance its sustainability goals through preventative and seasonal maintenance plans, planting programs, preservation requirements for new development, and by establishing a Natural Resources Management Plan. Public involvement, educational workshops, and ongoing grant and partnership funding will help sustain these efforts.

By investing in maintenance, landscaping, and urban forestry, Vienna will ensure that its parks remain beautiful, accessible, and ecologically resilient for future generations.

## Goals, Policies, and Strategies

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### **Goal 1: Maintain and enhance parks, facilities, and services with a focus on long-term sustainability and accessibility.**

A well-maintained and accessible park system supports the Town's vision of a healthy and vibrant community. The Town will prioritize sustainable investments and improved connectivity to enhance the quality and usability of its parks and facilities.

#### **Policy 1.1:** Implement the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

**Strategy 1.1.1:** Expand access to greenspace and recreational opportunities by developing unclassified properties owned by the Town that are deemed appropriate as passive or active recreation and access to nature. If resources are available, acquire land in underserved areas.

**Strategy 1.1.2:** Prioritize physical improvements to parks by upgrading outdated amenities, improving accessibility, and addressing safety needs identified through inspections and community input.

#### **Policy 1.2:** Improve Multi-Modal Connectivity

**Strategy 1.2.1:** Expand sidewalks, trails, and bike paths to connect parks and recreational facilities.

**Strategy 1.2.2:** Increase wayfinding signage to facilitate navigation for all users.

#### **Policy 1.3:** Strengthen Facility Upgrades and Maintenance

**Strategy 1.3.1:** Continue conducting regular inspections of parks and recreation facilities to support safe, accessible, and welcoming environments for all users. Expand evaluation methods over time to incorporate evolving best practices in accessibility and inclusion.

**Strategy 1.3.2:** Utilize the Town's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to plan and implement long-term facility investments, including major renovations and new development projects that respond to evolving recreational needs and support universal access.

**Strategy 1.3.3:** Integrate principles of universal design and accessibility in all capital improvements and new facility development.

### **Goal 2: Support a healthy, engaged community through diverse programs and events by leveraging partnerships and community input to guide planning, policy, and investment decisions.**

Diverse programs and events bring the community together and improve public health outcomes. Strong partnerships and robust community engagement ensure that parks and recreation initiatives are inclusive, forward-thinking, and responsive to community



needs. Vienna will continue to prioritize accessible, inclusive programming, spaces, and amenities to meet the needs of all residents through regular collaboration, coordination, and resident driven feedback.

**Policy 2.1:** Expand and Formalize Strategic Partnerships.

**Strategy 2.1.1:** Regularly evaluate agreements and partnerships for the effectiveness and benefit of all parties.

**Strategy 2.1.2:** Continue to utilize partnerships with organizations and regional authorities to develop collaborative opportunities, shared services, volunteer opportunities, and programs in public spaces (e.g., Arts in the Park, environmental workshops, or hiking clubs).

**Strategy 2.1.3:** Collaborate with regional tourism and business associations to cross-market programs, events, and Vienna's parks and recreation system.

**Policy 2.2:** Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Strategy 2.2.1:** Formalize opportunities for community input — particularly from individuals with disabilities, seniors, veterans, accessibility advocates, and underrepresented groups — during the planning and design phases of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects to inform inclusive facility development.

**Goal 3: Advance environmental sustainability and resilience through parks and recreation.**

Parks and recreation spaces play a vital role in supporting Vienna's environmental health. The Town will incorporate sustainable design, maintenance practices, and green infrastructure to reduce environmental impacts, enhance biodiversity, and build long-term community resilience.

**Policy 3.1:** Continue to Integrate Green Infrastructure

**Strategy 3.1.1:** Expand the use of green infrastructure, such as native plantings, rain gardens, and sustainable landscaping, in park designs to create a more resilient natural environment that will benefit future generations.

**Strategy 3.1.2:** Continue to utilize town-owned properties and rights-of-way to increase the Town's tree canopy and maintain green spaces that enhance air quality and biodiversity.

**Policy 3.2:** Reduce the Environmental Impact of Parks and Recreational Facilities

**Strategy 3.2.1:** Promote environmental stewardship by reducing reliance on water, herbicides, and other resource-intensive practices through sustainable landscaping and maintenance strategies.

**Strategy 3.2.2:** Implement sustainable practices—such as waste reduction, water conservation, and eco-friendly operations—across parks, facilities, events, and applicable programs and activities.