

## Livability22202 Community Priorities [Draft Oct. 2, 2023]

Community Priorities largely remain those identified in the Livability22202 Action Plan, Nov 2019. Have been working toward these for a while, refining.....

Here the community is providing updated guidance which priorities are particularly urgent, emergent issues, and areas to do better. Will continue to refine and mitigate.

### Community Engagement and Validation Process

Initial priorities – 10-15 community residents from the 3 CA's, presented to CPCC

Community meeting – 26 October

Focused workshops – Community Center, Green Ribbon...

### Draft Priorities

- First Tier - Elementary School, Community Center, Libraries, Open Space
  - Elementary School - 22202 needs a new centrally located, walkable elementary school to alleviate overcrowding at Oakridge. Siting of the new school will be critical and should not adversely impact open space.
  - Community Center - The neighborhood needs a centrally located, walkable community center that meets the needs of our current and future population. The center should retain the existing senior programs and community room and include additional features to be identified in community workshops. These may include art gallery and studios, dance studios, performance places for theater, dance, comedy of various sizes and flexibility; places for hands-on workshops and lectures; game rooms; and flexible community meeting spaces of all sizes.
  - Libraries – The existing Aurora Hills library is a dated facility. A larger centrally located, walkable library is needed in addition to a smaller, separate branch in Crystal City.
  - If the library and community center can be built in a single central location such as the existing site, the current library/community center programs should continue operations in a temporary facility during construction.
  - Planning, Design and Delivery of Open Space: Throughout 22202, the community needs more green open space and less hardscape, preserving and increasing tree canopy. However, delivery of planned parks is lagging site delivery, particularly in Crystal City. Complete the park planning in Crystal City and Virginia Highlands Park, ensuring community needs are assessed and met, and build them. The addition of new county facilities should not decrease the net amount of open space.
- Second Tier:
  - Housing – Because of our extraordinary successes in delivering additional affordable housing units of all kinds the last few years, the community would like to shift focus to other priorities to ensure that the infrastructure is delivered for

current and future residents. The community has an ongoing interest in helping existing and future residents to remain in the neighborhood.

- Green Ribbon (pedestrian and bike network): Provide continuous biophilic connected routes throughout 22202 and beyond, particularly to increase porosity through the superblocks– and that are green, supporting the local functioning ecosystem! Develop more detailed design guidelines for the green ribbon that support this vision across the community.
- Route 1 - The community continues to strongly disagree with the current plan to bring Route 1 at 18<sup>th</sup> street to grade, and considers it critical that the alternative options of the pedestrian underpass or the Barnes Dance be incorporated into the design. The TDM (traffic demand management) for Route 1 and other projects should also be integrated into an overall 22202-wide master TDM plan.
- A comprehensive community-wide transportation and plan is required across development projects and neighboring communities and counties, that considers traffic calming and other tools to ensure multi-modal transit and safety across 22202.
- Revitalize The Underground – Both as a commuter route as well as new uses for the empty retail spaces.
- Third Tier
  - Child care services: Even though there have been considerable progress in the provisioning of child care in 22202, with the increasing population, the community needs more affordable childcare options, including qualified individuals offering licensed child care at their homes.
  - A second entrance for the Pentagon City Metro, at 15<sup>th</sup> & Hayes on the Virginia Highlands Park corner. Historically this has been one of the most used stations in the Metro and a second entrance has been on the neighborhood's list for many years in order to ease congestion.
  - Essential Services: The neighborhood needs to maintain supermarkets and other essential services with appropriate parking.
  - A pilot project to test feasibility of a "jitney" service to provide local, connecting transit option for those who cannot bike or walk to local resources.

#### Emergent Issues

- 23<sup>rd</sup> street restaurant row small area plan – preserve and maintain the historic character of restaurant row and independent retail.
- Synetic departure – paucity of arts and culture offerings in 22202

#### Opportunities to do better/ best practices

- Improved porosity through superblocks
- Concurrent delivery of parks with sites
- Green ribbon detail planning (gaps, eco-system support)
- Less hardscape, more green space in parks and open space