AC44
ALBEMARLE COUNTY 2044

Community Input Themes: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space



This document includes an overview of community engagement opportunities and major themes heard through community input related to Parks, Recreation, and Open Space. These themes, along with direction from the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, technical research and best practices, and input from staff and partner agencies, inform the development of Comprehensive Plan recommendations.

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

We asked for community input on:

- The successes and challenges of the current Growth Management Policy (per the 2015 Comp Plan) and what should be prioritized with a Policy update
- Options for updating the Growth Management Policy to address 1) projected demand and population growth; 2) equitable access to services/resources; 3) implementing the Climate Action Plan and build community resilience
- The draft Guiding Principles and whether they guide us toward a more equitable and resilient community

AC44 Guiding Principles



Engagement opportunities included:

- 3 online questionnaires
- 4 round tables
- 5 pop-ups
- 4 open houses

Phase 1 Engagement Totals:

- **Attendance at in-person and virtual events: 254**
- **Online questionnaire responses: 637**
- **Website visits: 6,964**







PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

We asked for community input on:

- Challenges, priorities, and opportunities for each Comp Plan topic
- What we want our community to be like in 2044, with questions including:
    - How do you want to get around the County in 2044 (e.g. walk, bike, drive, take transit)?
    - What business or job opportunities do you need to ensure you are financially stable and secure in 2044?
    - How might your housing needs change between now and 2044?
    - What types of businesses, amenities, recreational opportunities and housing do you wish you had closer to where you live?
    - How do you think your life will be different in the next 20 years as a result of climate change, and what should local government due to address future climate change impacts?
- Planning toolkits for coordinated land use and transportation planning, with the specific topics of Activity Centers, Development Areas boundaries, Rural Communities, Community Resilience Hubs, and Rural Interstate Interchanges
- Draft Goals and Objectives for each Comp Plan topic

Phase 2 Engagement Totals:

- **Attendance at in-person and virtual events: 443**
- **Online questionnaire responses: 861**
- **Community chat kits and field notes: 52**
- **Website visits: 16,186**

Engagement opportunities included:

- 3 rounds of online questionnaires
- 10 pop-ups
- 6 open houses
- 2 workshops
- 6 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings
- Community chat kits
- Stakeholder meetings with organizations and groups such as the Jefferson Area Board for the Aging (JABA), the County's Economic Development Authority (EDA), Charlottesville Area Developers Roundtable (CADRe), and County Committees including the Natural Heritage Committee, the Architectural Review Board, the Historic Preservation Committee, and the Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee





COMMUNITY INPUT THEMES

The following summary highlights the major themes from community engagement heard to date related to Parks, Recreation, and Open Space:

Provide more parks, trails, and connectivity, especially in the Development Areas

- Provide more pocket parks and greenway trails near communities currently lacking such amenities
- Provide more parks, recreation and trails access near residential development
- Improve options in the Development Areas for walking, biking, and taking transit to get to parks and trails
- Improve signage and wayfinding for parks facilities and trails

Provide recreation and amenities with a variety of activities

- There is a need for more facilities and programs for teenagers in our community
- Improve amenities at parks and recreation facilities, such as restrooms, picnic tables, and benches
- Improve access to nature areas to view plant and animal life
- Expand existing sports facilities, including playing fields and courts
- Provide outdoor public spaces for music and entertainment
- Provide more recreational opportunities in the evening outside of school and work hours
- Provide more indoor recreation facilities

Increase accessibility

- Improve access to parks, trails and other facilities, including wheelchairs, strollers and individuals with special needs
- Improve vehicle access and parking for parks and recreation facilities

Sustainable land management

- Enhance greenways and blueways networks by protecting tree canopy, stream buffers, wildlife habitats, and wildlife corridors
- Expand pocket parks and community green spaces that provide native vegetation (including for pollinators) and tree coverage

Improve water access and blueways

- Expand water access and boat launches, especially for the Rivanna River
- Provide more splash parks and public pools