

Environmental and Recreation Impact Summary

January 23rd 2020 School Board Meeting

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Take a walk in the City of Alexandria. Stroll along an historic or modern tree-lined street to one of the weekly farmers markets, small shops, parks, or along the improvements to the waterfront and feel the vibrancy and the tranquility of the City of Alexandria while you see elements of sustainability all around you.*

* Introduction, City of Alexandria Environmental Action Plan 2040

Environmental Impact

Alexandria Environmental Action Plan 2040

George Mason Plan is a very near opposite of City-wide planning objectives

George Mason Plan has direct negative impacts on guiding principles of the city's Environmental Action Plan and Strategic Plan, in particular for Land Use and Open Space, and Water Resources.

guiding principles*

The following guiding principles are rooted in the definition of sustainability and reflect the goals established in Alexandria's 2015 Strategic Plan. This interdependent network of guiding principles and policies is consistent with a systematic and integrated approach to sustainability.

LAND USE & OPEN SPACE

The City's land use and open space policies must harmonize its built and natural environments to ensure that growth does not jeopardize environmental sustainability and preserves Alexandria's character. The City's land use policies will accommodate increases in people and jobs through green development that:

- X • Ensures that land use is designed to encourage walking, biking, and public transportation through mixed-use zoning, interconnected pathways, and targeted density increases around public transportation hubs.
- X • Creates greater opportunities for sustainable compact development and redevelopment that requires the use of green building practices and prioritizes provision of usable open space and recreational areas.
- X • Ensures that City building codes, zoning ordinances, and other land use regulations reflect the goals of this Charter, so that sustainability requirements are consistently applied to all preservation, redevelopment, and development across Alexandria in ways appropriate to the character of the particular neighborhood.
- X • Ensures that development protects and enhances natural resource capacity.
- X • Protects, enhances, and increases Alexandria's open space and green infrastructure including wildlife habitat, parks, trails, tree canopy, and watersheds.
- X • Ensures that land use decisions do not foster or perpetuate social injustice.

WATER RESOURCES

Alexandria's past, present, and future are indelibly linked to the Potomac River and the quality of life the river sustains. Water quality in Alexandria will be managed in a sustainable manner consistent with good stewardship of the local streams, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay for the public health, ecological and recreational benefits of current and future generations. The City will:

- Promote public health by continuing to ensure safe and reliable drinking water.
- X • Use environmentally responsible flood management, stormwater control, and wastewater treatment to protect the public's health and property.
- X • Promote - through sustainable practices - safe, swimmable, and fishable waterways for its citizens and visitors, and enhance the ecological integrity of its downstream waters, by minimizing stormwater runoff and pollutants drainina to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.
- X • Advocate water conservation and reuse in order to preserve the quantity, not just the quality, of our water resources.

X = Guiding Principle Negatively Impacted by George Mason Plan

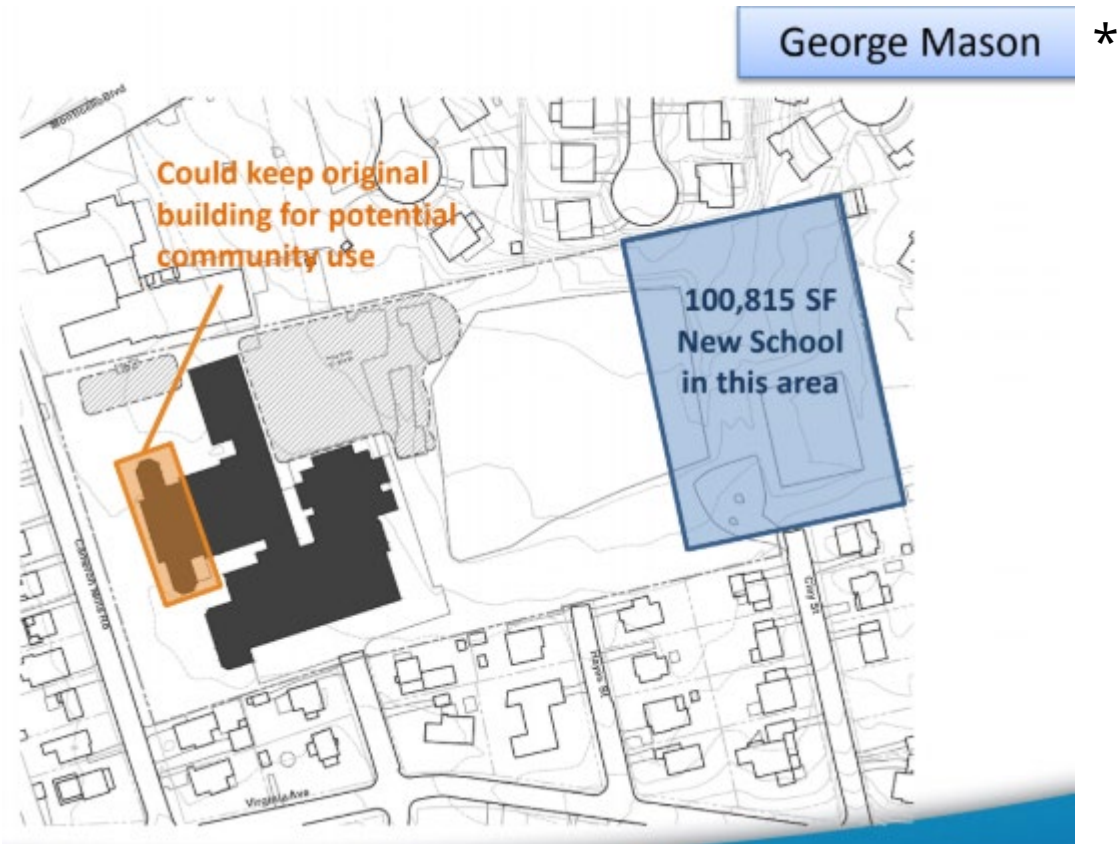
* Pages 6-7 Eco-City Charter, City of Alexandria, VA

Environmental Impact

Unique Site Water Consideration

Proposed Site Plagued with High Water Table, Springs

George Mason Plan selects most challenging and expensive building location, careful and holistic testing will be need to understand true construction cost, and total cost of operation as well and impacts on surrounding neighborhood for water impacts.



- Springs visible and different times of the year, reveal high water table and pressure
- Drainage issues constant for eastern half of property
- Neighboring properties have assessments warning of impacts, should GM property be developed
- Consulting and testing must be holistic, objective, and transparent to reveal full cost, and quantify large risks

Recreation Impact

High Recreation Utilization

Proposed Plan eliminates scarce recreation and green spaces

George Mason Plan would eliminate popular recreation for kids. George Mason fields and tennis courts are among the most highly utilized recreation facilities in the city, and among the only in the North Ridge neighborhood.

Recreation Facts: North Ridge Neighborhood ranks in **bottom third** of all Alexandria neighborhoods in park space

Only 2% of North Ridge acreage are parks



For tennis season alone, approximately **150 kids per week** are registered for team practices, GM afterschool, and weekend clinics with no nearby alternative*

* Interview with Coach Jeff of Advantage Tennis