

PLANNING COMMISSION SCHOOLS COMMITTEE - POLICY RESEARCH

Topic: Co-location of Facilities

Summary of Planning Commission Schools Committee Discussion

- Existing Comprehensive Plan policies resulting from the 2016 School Policy Plan Amendment support the co-location of County and FCPS facilities.
- The adopted FY 2019 – FY 2023 Adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes list of County and FCPS properties for potential co-location.
- FCPS and the Park Authority currently work together. High Schools use Park Authority facilities and the community uses FCPS recreation facilities as there is a shortage of park space.
- Schools must be within close proximity to Park Authority facilities in order to utilize them, as the costs and time associated with transporting students to Park Authority facilities further away is prohibitive.

Suggested Planning Commission Recommendation – Land Use

- Consider the co-location of school fields and recreation space on Park Authority owned facilities.
- Encourage collaboration and co-location of FCPS facilities with compatible County facilities.
- When County RECenters are renovated, coordination with FCPS should be considered.

Consider adding the following Plan Language Recommendations highlighted in red:

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2017 Edition, Public Facilities, Amended through 7-25-2017, page 8

Objective 9: Design schools and educational facilities to allow for optimal site utilization while providing optimum service to, and compatibility with, the local community.

- Policy a. Design schools to maximize a site's utility, while providing for safety and aesthetics. Provide for possible future expansion and allow for efficient flow of traffic. Provide adequate stacking space and circulation for school buses, student drop off, and offstreet parking, as required. The impact of school traffic on local road networks should, to the extent possible, be minimized.
- Policy b. Design and construct schools with appreciation for, and attention to, environmentally sensitive lands.
- Policy c. Locate schools in relation to residential or mixed-use areas, the road network, traffic patterns and transit where available to optimize the resulting safety and convenience for students, residents, and commuters. When possible, elementary schools should be located in, or on the periphery of, residential or mixed-use areas to ensure proximity and convenience for students and the local community.
- Policy d. Provide for compatibility between schools and adjacent properties with appropriate screening and fencing, in accordance with the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance. When designing and constructing schools, preserve as much mature natural vegetation as possible.

- Policy e. Design buildings for educational purposes so that intensity and character are compatible with surrounding planned and existing development.
- Policy f. Consider Area Plan design guidelines, as appropriate, for schools and buildings for educational purposes.
- Policy g. Consider co-location of different levels of education and other types of programs, with the option of shared facilities such as cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, library, and administrative offices.
- Policy h. Encourage ~~Consider~~ co-location of FCPS facilities and land with compatible county facilities and land. ~~schools with other public uses such as a library or a recreational center.~~

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