Community Outreach

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
AmpUp!
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

In-person

112+ attended April Visioning Forum

20+ Committee pop-up outreach at events, including farmer's market, beer gardens, National Night Out, Town Day

103 paper surveys collected at pop-up events



April Visioning Workshop

Online

4,000 website visitors

957 contributors

533 responses to Visioning Survey

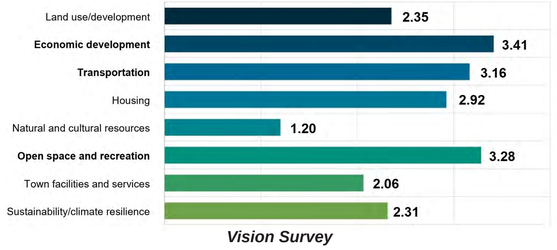
213 contributors provided **624** comments to interactive map + **3,435** votes

496 responses to 2 quick polls



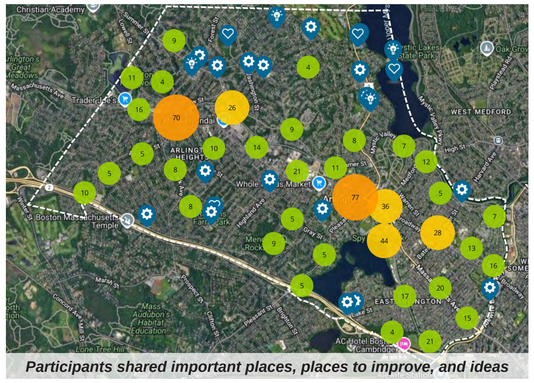
Housing focus group

Which 1 to 3 topics do you think are most important for the Town's future?



Vision Survey

Interactive Map Input



Participants shared important places, places to improve, and ideas

Stay Connected and Informed!

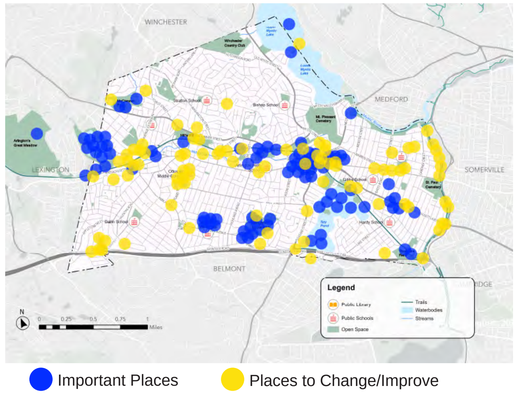
https://www.arlingtonma.gov/CompPlan



Town Day Pop-up

COMMUNITY VISIONING

Important Places and Places to Change or Improve



Important Places Places to Change/Improve

Some of the top places identified through small group discussions:

Important Places

- Arlington Reservoir
- Minuteman Bikeway/ Path
- Arlington Center
- Robbins Farm Park
- Spy Pond
- Robbin's Library

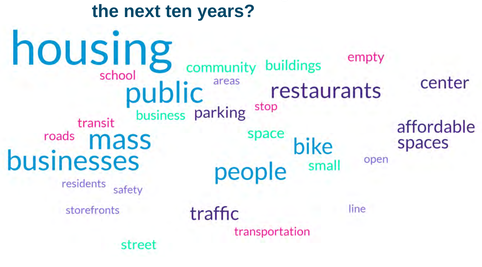
Places in need of Change

- Mass Ave & Broadway corridors
- Arlington Heights & East Arlington
- Poet's Corner
- Alewife Brook
- Underutilized parking lots
- Ottoson Middle School

What do you love most about Arlington?



What would you like to see change over the next ten years?



Imagine Arlington in 2035

Participants were asked to imagine Arlington ten years from now, in the year 2035, and write a brief social media post or newspaper headline they would like to see. A sample of those headlines include:

"Arlington: A model of equity and sustainability in 2035"

"Small Business Booms in Arlington's Revitalized Downtown"

"Safe, Walkable Streets in Every Neighborhood"

"Arlington Aging Well" / "Arlington – Longevity Hub"

"Arlington Center Achieves all 3-story minimum buildings on Mass Ave"

"Arlington: Jazz Capital of New England"

"Arlington Thrives: Play and Stay in Arlington where Nature, Culture, and Community Engagement Co-exist"

"Town celebrates tall trees and low rents"

"Arlington named in top 10 communities in the U.S. for excellent quality of life and car-free living."

"Small businesses flock to Arlington."

"Spy Pond water deemed safe for the entire summer season!"

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COMMUNITY VISIONING

Shared Priorities - Some Themes from Public Input

- **Increasing Affordable and Multifamily Housing**: Many expressed the need for more affordable housing that is affordable to a variety of income levels. Many suggested re-purposing underutilized spaces to accommodate more housing.
- **Prioritizing Mixed-use Development**: Many also highlighted the need to foster greater mixed-use development in commercial centers and in industrial areas. Some mentioned how more mixed-use development could be a pathway for achieving greater housing equity and maintaining the town's character.
- **Improving Public Transportation and Accessibility**: Improving public transportation and enhancing the pedestrian environment and biking infrastructure was a top priority for many groups. Many discussed the need to provide safer access to amenities and nature through well-lit streets, improved sidewalks, and "complete streets" designs.
- **Enhancing Natural and Open Spaces**: Many priorities involved preserving and enhancing Arlington's open/green spaces, tree canopy, and native plants and wildlife. Increasing accessibility and public education on environmentally conscious and more sustainable practices was also cited.
- **Strengthening the Economy and Businesses**: Reducing commercial vacancies, supporting existing businesses, and increasing the Town's capacity for local commerce were another reoccurring priority.
- **Creating a Strong Community, Culture, and Quality of Life**: Many mentioned the need to strengthen and promote a strong community identity and to create greater community vibrancy through diverse public places and third places [social space that is not home (first place) or work (second place)]. Many also stressed inclusivity especially for seniors and people with disabilities.

How Is This Public Input Being Used?

The public input collected throughout the planning process is used in combination with findings from the existing conditions analysis and conversations with Town staff across departments to:

- **Capture community perspectives across a variety of topic areas**
- **Revise the plan's vision and goals**
- **Consider potential strategies**
- **Inform prioritization and implementation of the plan**

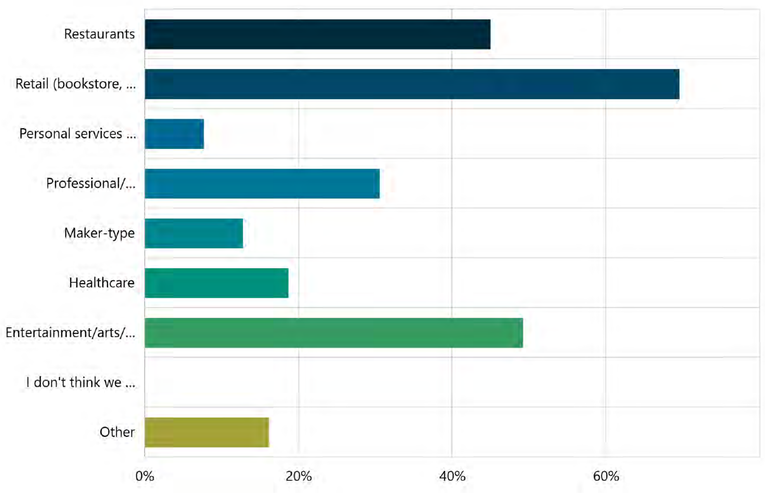


April Visioning Workshop

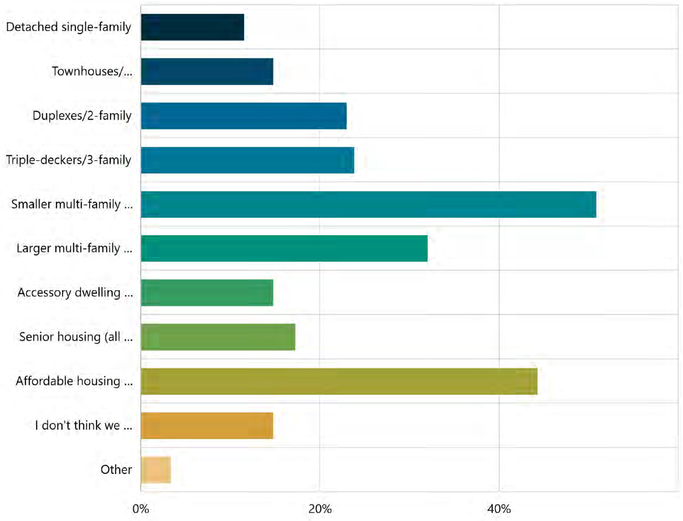
Online Polls

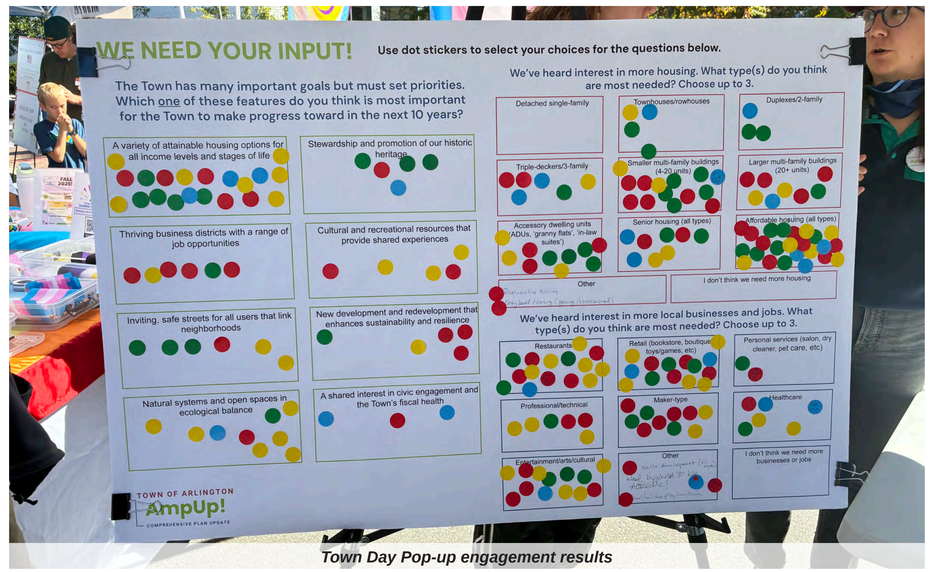
Two short polls gathered more specific input on top issues emerging from engagement.

What type(s) of local businesses and jobs do you think are most needed?



What type(s) of housing do you think are most needed?





Town Day Pop-up engagement results

AmpUp! Vision & Goals

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

This vision statement and goals are updated from the 2015 plan based on public feedback and committee guidance. Some have been revised, others have been added or replaced.

A VISION FOR ARLINGTON

Arlington will be a welcoming place with attainable housing options, flourishing business districts, and a strong sense of community. Key features will include:

- A variety of attainable housing options for all income levels and stages of life
- Thriving business districts with a range of job opportunities
- Inviting, safe streets for all users that link neighborhoods
- Natural systems and open spaces in ecological balance
- Stewardship and promotion of our historic heritage
- Cultural and recreational resources that provide shared experiences
- New development and redevelopment that enhances sustainability and resilience
- A shared interest in civic engagement and the Town's fiscal health

How much do you generally agree with the revised vision statement above to guide Arlington's next ten years? Place **a sticker** in one of the boxes below.

1	2	3	4	5
Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Highly agree

How much do you generally agree with the revised goals at right to guide Arlington's next ten years? Place **a sticker** in one of the boxes below.

1	2	3	4	5
Highly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Highly agree

Please share any comments or other feedback on the vision and goals.

REVISED DRAFT GOALS

Overall:

- Preserve and improve the Town's fiscal stability

Land Use:

- Increase the amount and variety of residential and non-residential development opportunities
- Encourage development that enhances Arlington's natural resources, built environment, and sustainability
- Attract development that supports and expands the economic, cultural, and civic vibrancy of Arlington's commercial areas

Mobility:

- Increase safety for all roadway users by enhancing pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access
- Manage traffic operations to improve safety, balance local and through trips, and address the needs of all roadway users
- Actively manage the supply of parking to support businesses, neighborhoods, and new development

Housing:

- Encourage mixed-use development that includes attainable housing options at all income levels, especially near transit and in established commercial areas
- Provide a variety of housing options for a range of incomes, ages, family sizes, and needs
- Enhance the fabric of Arlington's residential neighborhoods while allowing new housing and amenities
- Encourage sustainable new construction and renovation of existing structures

Economic Development:

- Improve regulatory processes to benefit small, independent businesses
- Increase the build-out potential and value of commercial and industrial properties
- Promote Arlington's historic and cultural assets to support visitor-based economic development
- Improve the customer experience through streetscape improvements, wayfinding, parking, and access upgrades
- Create and support organizational capacity related to economic development

Natural Resources and Open Space:

- Use sustainable and resilient approaches to improve air and water quality, mitigate flooding impacts, and enhance ecological diversity
- Ensure that Arlington's neighborhoods, commercial areas, and infrastructure are developed and maintained to build resilience and mitigate climate change impacts
- Protect and enhance the physical beauty and natural resources of Arlington
- Improve open spaces, parks, recreational facilities, and programming to meet the population's changing needs

Historic and Cultural Resources:

- Preserve and promote historic and diverse cultural resources in all neighborhoods
- Provide space for arts and cultural activities for all ages
- Provide a variety of attractive, well-maintained public spaces

Public Facilities and Services:

- Coordinate and efficiently deliver Town services
- Build, operate, and maintain public facilities that are attractive, minimize environmental impact, and help connect Arlington as a community
- Direct public facility investments through a long-term capital planning process that anticipates future needs
- Maintain and beautify our public parks, trails, play areas, and streetscapes
- Support Arlington Public Schools and enhance educational opportunities for all