

**Resolution of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association
Vision for a New and Better Lubber Run Community Center
April 9, 2014**

Arlington is a national model for smart growth. With a diverse population, vibrant commercial districts, and attractive residential neighborhoods, Arlington is a great place to live, work and play.

Intensive development in central Arlington over the last two decades has resulted in wonderful amenities, but has also created competing demands for our increasingly scarce open and green spaces. This is particularly true in the area north and east of Lubber Run Community Center (LRCC), which has seen greatly increased density and which also has the highest concentration of affordable housing within the county.

An essential element in maintaining Arlington's quality of life is the preservation of recreation and parkland amenities, particularly when they are easily accessible by foot, bicycle or public transit. We are concerned that, rather than recognizing LRCC as an ideal place to provide the variety of services needed by a growing and multicultural population of central Arlington, county staff has proposed that the community center be repurposed for other uses.

LRCC currently provides vital community services in substandard space. It hosts a preschool; after-school programs for elementary students, teens and at-risk youth; a public-access computer center, as well as recreation and fitness classes. It also supports the adjacent Barrett Elementary School by providing access to outdoor play space as well as overflow parking for Barrett staff and parents. Unfortunately, many unmet needs remain.

It is vital to move forward on rebuilding LRCC while maintaining the surrounding well-used green recreation areas and green spaces that serve an increasingly dense and diverse central Arlington.

We envision a new Lubber Run Community Center that:

- **Creates a “right-sized” LEED facility** that is environmentally redesigned to maintain existing green and recreational spaces, to include swales/rain gardens for stormwater runoff mitigation, and to preserve mature trees and wildlife habitat.
- **Serves people of all ages** ranging from preschoolers to teens to seniors “aging in place” and those living in senior centers such as nearby Culpepper Garden and The Carlin.
- **Uses flexible space to offer increased services for our diverse community**, including expanded pre-kindergarten and afterschool programs, English language classes, adult education, computer center, recreation and fitness facilities, and adequate space for community meetings and activities.

(over)

- **Supports overcrowded Barrett Elementary School** by providing daytime meeting spaces for parents and staff, after school programs, game rooms and outdoor playgrounds and green space.
- **Maximizes outdoor “unmanufactured” recreational spaces**, provides a community garden and serves as a gateway to Lubber Run Park.
- **Provides space for performances and music practice** which integrate arts opportunities with the resources at nearby Lubber Run Amphitheater.
- **Enhances smart growth** with transportation serving the community center with its own bus stop and bikeshare station.

We urge Arlington County to move forward on rebuilding the community center. Rebuilding LRCC has been included in county Capital Improvement Plans since 1996. It has been delayed and deferred for nearly 20 years. Now is the time to start on this important project.

Specifically, we ask the Arlington County Board to:

1. **Remove the LRCC site from further consideration for alternative uses;**
2. **Move design and building of the new LRCC up to 2016 in the county’s 2015-2024 Capital Improvement Plan; and**
3. **Begin environmental and traffic studies and the community engagement process required to begin the design of a new Community Center.**