



Re-water canal
for paddle boards
? Kajak
Pump House to
Braun's Island

B. Apollo's
Under Pontiac

Boat Waters Access

Slave Trail
Covered Trail

Multiple
Pocket Parks

Seems
to
Conard
& Pals to
Trails &
CSX

IMPROVE
SLAVE-TRAIL

IMPROVE
EXISTING
GREENSPACES

BLVD TO
REEDY
IS CONFUSING

“The City of Richmond has committed to bring every resident within a 10-Minute Walk to a Park or Greenspace, but everyone wants to know....
a 10-Minute Walk to What?”



**Richmond
INSPIRE**

A Citywide Vision Plan for Parks,
Recreation & Community Facilities

RICHMOND 300: A Guide for Growth

- RVA Green Climate Equity Action Plan 2030
- James River Park System Master Plan
- Richmond Connects Strategic Plan
- RVA Clean Water Plan
- Richmond River Front Plan
- Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Revealing Richmond: A Public Art Master Plan
- Richmond Bicycle Master Plan
- Mayor's Equity Agenda: Parks
- Community Garden Opportunity Plan for RVA
- Richmond Vision Zero Plan
- Greater Scott's Addition Small Area Plan
- Shoehoe Small Area Plan
- City Center Innovation District Small Area Plan
- Pulse Corridor Plan

City-Wide Vision

City-Wide Vision:
In 2037, Richmond is a welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, sustainable, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods, ensuring a high quality of life for all.

Vision Values
The city-wide vision is a wide-reaching vision that includes all aspects of city management, not just land use management, and social and economic aspects of city life that are not within the scope of this master plan document. The document focuses on land-use and development strategies to achieve the city-wide vision.

Public Art is critical to discover a place's experiences, culture, and history.
Richmond has a **Review for Art** Ordinance that requires large-scale improvement projects to allocate 1% of the budget to a public art fund that is administered by the Public Art Commission. The Public Art Commission completed a Public Art Master Plan in 2020, which guides the City's investments in public art. Recent public art projects include the **Magasin**, **Water Station**, the **Arch at the foot of the Tyler Professional Football Club**, and the **Installation at the Red Street Courthouse**. Future public art projects and improved development in all parts of the city set the tone for high-quality development and create pride for residents as they look forward to the future prosperity of their neighborhood and the regional community.

"In 2037, Richmond is welcoming, inclusive, diverse, innovative, sustainable, and equitable city of thriving neighborhoods, ensuring a high quality of life for all."

"Expand and improve on street networks and amenities...to enhance transit routes and greenways."

Objective 6.2

Increase the miles of greenways in the metropolitan region network.

- Develop greenways throughout the city, including those along major roads, parks, and waterways.
- Coordinate greenway development with adjacent land uses to create a cohesive network.
- Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to develop public trails systems and shared transit projects.

Objective 6.3

Expand and improve on transit networks and amenities serving bicycles and other non-motorized modes.

- Expand, improve, and maintain on-street bike networks as shown in the Future Concept Map, which connects the network components in the Blue Haze Plan with the Blue Center Plan, and the location of existing, planned, and future bike lanes.
- Expand the scope of bike lanes to include other non-motorized uses, such as scooters and electric bicycles.
- Expand the bike lane network to include more paths in a larger footprint adjacent to transportation hubs and other destinations (e.g., community parks, shopping districts).
- Expand greenway bike, electric, wheelchair, and parking areas to include multi-use paths and shared transit hubs.
- Monitor the zoning ordinance to require bike parking for new uses.
- Improve the lighting of bike racks on streets, and use the bike racks to provide on-street bike parking.

"75% of Richmonders live within a 10-minute walk of a public park...greater importance has been given to the City's public park system."
"Large areas of the city are not within a 10-min walk of a park especial areas of South Richmond annexed from Chesterfield County in 1942 & 1970."

Goal 2: City-Owned Assets

Existing Context
The City of Richmond operates a wide range of facilities that serve the public good, providing services to residents both directly and indirectly. The City owns 4,400 acres of real estate, many of which are large landmarks in the city, as shown in the **Map of Public Assets**. The management of this land is under various City departments and includes:

- 80% of individual facilities, ranging from City health facilities that support various City department functions.
- 10% of facilities, including 27 community centers, senior centers, parks, and other facilities, which are managed by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation.
- 4% of public projects and support facilities, including five public stadiums, in order to facilitate public safety and other events.
- 4% of facilities, including 100 public libraries, which are managed by the City's Department of Public Library Services.
- 10% of public assets, including 27 community centers, senior centers, parks, and other facilities, which are managed by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Capital Improvement Budget must align with the Master Plan.
There is a long history of managing the City's public facilities and assets through the City's Capital Improvement Budget. The City's Master Plan provides a long-term vision for the City's public assets, and the Capital Improvement Budget must align with this vision. Since 2002, the City has made significant investments in its public assets, including the renovation of 100 public library branches, the construction of four new public libraries, the construction of 100 new public parks, the construction of a new Justice Center, and countless other projects. Given that many of the City's facilities are over 50 years old, new facility investments will continue to play a key role in the development of the City's public infrastructure, and the City must invest in new facility investments to ensure the long-term viability of its public assets and the services they provide to its residents and businesses.

Goals

Richmond's goals, priorities, and strategies are organized into three main categories: **Land Use, Transportation, and Community Development**. These goals, priorities, and strategies are designed to achieve the City's vision and values, and to create a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable city for all.

Land Use and Transportation

- Goal 1: Complete Infrastructure** - Accelerate the completion of major infrastructure projects that are critical to the city's economic and social development.
- Goal 2: City-Owned Assets** - Identify, manage, and maintain the City's public assets, including parks, libraries, and other facilities, to ensure they are in good condition and provide high-quality services to residents.
- Goal 3: Urban Revitalization** - Support growth and investment in the city's urban core, including the renovation and reuse of vacant buildings, and the construction of new housing and commercial development.
- Goal 4: Urban Design** - Establish a comprehensive urban design framework that guides the location, form, and appearance of buildings and public spaces in the city.
- Goal 5: Planning Engagement** - Foster a planning process that is inclusive and transparent, and that involves all stakeholders in the city's development.

Community Development

- Goal 6: Affordable Housing** - Increase the availability of affordable housing, including the construction of new rental units, and the preservation of existing affordable housing.
- Goal 7: Public Safety** - Reduce crime and improve public safety, including the implementation of community policing, and the expansion of police services to underserved areas.
- Goal 8: Youth Services** - Provide high-quality youth services, including after-school programming, and the expansion of youth centers and recreational facilities.
- Goal 9: Senior Services** - Support the needs of the city's aging population, including the provision of home care services, and the expansion of senior centers and day care facilities.
- Goal 10: Economic Development** - Attract and retain businesses and jobs, including the provision of business development services, and the expansion of the city's economic base.
- Goal 11: Business and Labor** - Foster an environment that supports the growth of existing and new businesses, and the creation of good jobs, including the provision of business development services, and the expansion of labor market programs.
- Goal 12: Workforce Development** - Increase the skills and training of the city's workforce, including the provision of workforce development services, and the expansion of apprenticeship and internship programs.
- Goal 13: Digital Equity** - Increase the digital literacy and skills of the city's residents, including the provision of digital literacy training, and the expansion of broadband access to underserved areas.
- Goal 14: Open Space** - Increase the availability of open space, including the construction of new parks, and the expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities.
- Goal 15: Water** - Improve the quality of the city's water supply, and the management of the city's water resources, including the construction of new water treatment facilities, and the expansion of water conservation programs.
- Goal 16: Resilient & Healthy Communities** - Increase the resilience and health of the city's communities, including the provision of disaster preparedness services, and the expansion of public health programs.

Goal 17 "...and ensure all residents have equitable access to nature and a healthy community."

Objective 4.3

Increase neighborhood access to parks through a well-connected network of open spaces.

- Develop a Park Master Plan providing all Richmonders access to a green public park within a 10-minute walk of their homes, as shown in the **Map of Public Assets**.
- Increase the availability of open space, including the construction of new parks, and the expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities.
- Increase the availability of open space, including the construction of new parks, and the expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities.

Richmond's Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a comprehensive vision for the city's parks and recreational facilities, and a detailed plan for their development and management. The plan includes a wide range of projects, including the construction of new parks, the expansion of existing parks, and the improvement of park amenities. The plan also includes a detailed plan for the management of the city's parks and recreational facilities, including the provision of maintenance services, and the expansion of park programming and services.

Calls for a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan to create a transparent, community-driven vision for parks and recreation.

"21 Community Centers provide after-school programming, and adult continuing education, athletic fields, swimming pools and other enrichment activities."

PARKS & RECREATION



1800s

1880s - 1920s
 Movement toward public parks begins nationally; Richmond sees small urban green spaces established, often serving white neighborhoods.

1930s
 New parks and recreation initiatives emerge in the city, but often mirror segregation patterns.

1940s - 50s
 Post-WWII recreation programs grow, targeting youth and families; facilities are unevenly distributed, favoring white neighborhoods.

1960s
 Recreation departments begin experimenting with inclusive programs, though systemic inequities remain.

Segregated urban development sets the stage for inequity.

Redlining and federal housing policies classify Black neighborhoods as "hazardous," shaping urban disinvestment.

White flight and suburban expansion drain city resources. Public housing and urban renewal displace Black residents, concentrating poverty in the East End.

1970s-90s
 Expansion of city park programs and community recreation centers. Efforts increasingly focus on accessibility, youth programming, and public engagement.

Civil rights era challenges persistent racial disparities in schools, housing, and employment.

1973-1976: Supreme Court halts local elections over racial representation; Richmond elects its first Black-majority council. Despite structural inequities, Black leaders and community organizations drive civic and social change.

Historic park openings and restored recreational areas celebrate cultural heritage and community identity.

2023

Historic Fulton Memorial Park opens, honoring erased Black neighborhoods and advancing healing, visibility, and shared belonging.

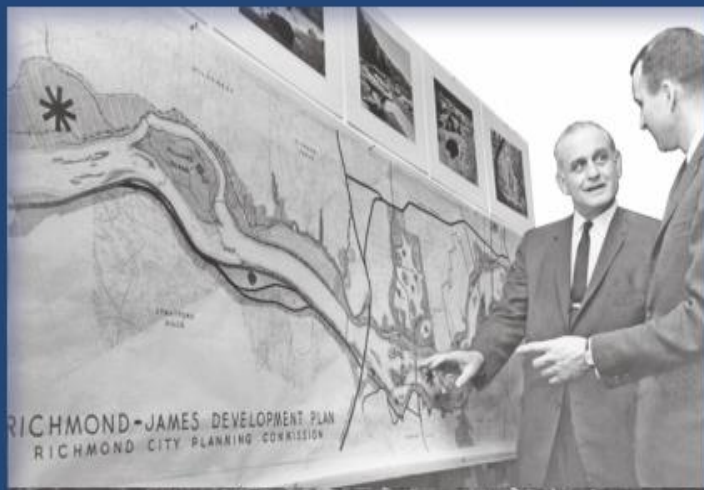
2020s

Parks serve as crucial spaces for protest, expression, and community solidarity. Temporary installations and events reflect social justice themes.

Renovation and creation of new public parks, focusing on revitalization of neglected neighborhoods. Community-based programs expand access and inclusion.

2000s

2013: Anti-Poverty Commission launched. 2014: Office of Community Wealth Building opens, tackling systemic barriers.



Early colonial landscapes began shaping public spaces, though access was limited to elite residents.

1600s-1700s

Long before colonization, the Powhatan Confederacy thrived. English settlers arrived in 1607, displacing Indigenous communities. Richmond founded in 1733 by William Byrd using enslaved labor; became Virginia's state capital in 1779.

RICHMOND





free concerts held annually



11-46%
Increase in the city's
population growth by 2037



free community art events



+11.7% Asian Population
census 2010 - 2024

-11.7% Black Population
census 2010 - 2024

+21.7% White Population
census 2010 - 2024



56.8% Richmond's
households have
median income
under \$75,000



+15%
projected growth in ages
65-74 by 2029



free access to community pools



free lunches for kids



+40% projected
growth in ages
75+ by 2029



PUBLIC WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

3
FULL ROUNDS
of Community
Engagement

11
WORKSHOPS
throughout the city

36
Neighborhood
Meetings and
Pop-Ups Events

22,000
UNIQUE VISITORS to
the project website

+3000
RESPONDENTS paper
and online survey

"Fix and improve what we have, interconnect them to the extent possible."

"A fully walkable city, with parks and community gardens everywhere you go. Less dependency on cars for transportation because everything is walkable or bikeable."

"All playgrounds and parks must be accessible for all people. Use schools as anchors where possible. Every newly built school should have a community space managed by Rec and Parks. Put playgrounds at libraries."

"That they [parks] are used by all city residents, **regardless of means or socioeconomic status.** I want them to be top quality and a notable asset in Richmond City."



LEGEND

- PRCF Parks and Facilities
- 📍 Public Engagement Workshop Locations
- City Boundary
- Council Districts
- Residential Areas
- Roads
- Lakes, Rivers, Streams
- Existing Trails

Vision

Richmond's parks, greenways, and community centers are safe, thoughtfully designed, well-maintained, and loved by all. Our parks strengthen and connect all neighborhoods, inspire healthier lives, and create the fabric of a resilient and beautiful city.

Driving Principles



Access

Walkable Parks for All
Connected System

Everyone in Richmond can walk to a great park in 10 minutes or less. Parks are easy to reach using safe, comfortable, and beautiful streets and paths.



Welcoming

Safe and Welcoming Parks
Cultural Preservation & Celebration

Richmond's parks, trails, and centers use public art, park design, and programs to celebrate Richmond's people and culture. Parks are welcoming and reflect the neighborhoods they serve.



Equity

Community-Driven System
Beautiful Parks, Strong Neighborhoods

Richmond's parks and recreation projects are shaped by the community. They make neighborhoods stronger without pushing people out. The City is open about where it spends parks and recreation dollars.



Environment

Cool, Healthy, Resilient City
Green, Design, Sustainability, & Stewardship

Richmond's parks help keep the city cooler, greener, healthier, and better prepared for the future. The City leads the way in green design and stewardship of the environment.



Quality

Standard of Excellence
Sustainable Funding and Partnerships
World-Class Staff

Richmond's parks and community centers are built to last, maintained to high standards, and supported by ongoing investment in staff, funding, and partnerships. Staff are encouraged to be lifelong learners and dedicated stewards of the city's parks and recreation system.



Community

Recreation & Programming For All
Park-Based Urban Agriculture
Community Resilience Hubs

Richmond's parks and community centers bring people together through diverse and inclusive programming. Recreation centers are engines of social, economic, and environmental resilience.

206

Action Items

96

New Park and
Community
Center Projects

82

Existing Site
Improvement
Projects

Mayoral Action Plan

Mission

To provide trustworthy leadership and high-quality services that meet the needs of our vibrant city.

Vision

Richmond: A city where all people and places thrive.

Pillars for a thriving Richmond

A thriving City Hall
(that gets things done)

Thriving neighborhoods
(that meet our housing needs)

Thriving families
(where every child succeeds)

A thriving economy
(that leaves no one behind)

Thriving and inclusive communities
(where everyone's rights are protected)

A thriving and sustainable built environment
(planned for future generations)

A city that tells its stories
(and tells the truth about its past)

Values

Integrity

Encouragement

Excellence

Equity

Partnership

Related Richmond INSPIRE Driving Principles

Quality, Equity

Equity, Access

Community, Welcoming

Quality, Equity, Community

Welcoming, Equity

Environment, Access, Quality

Welcoming, Equity, Community



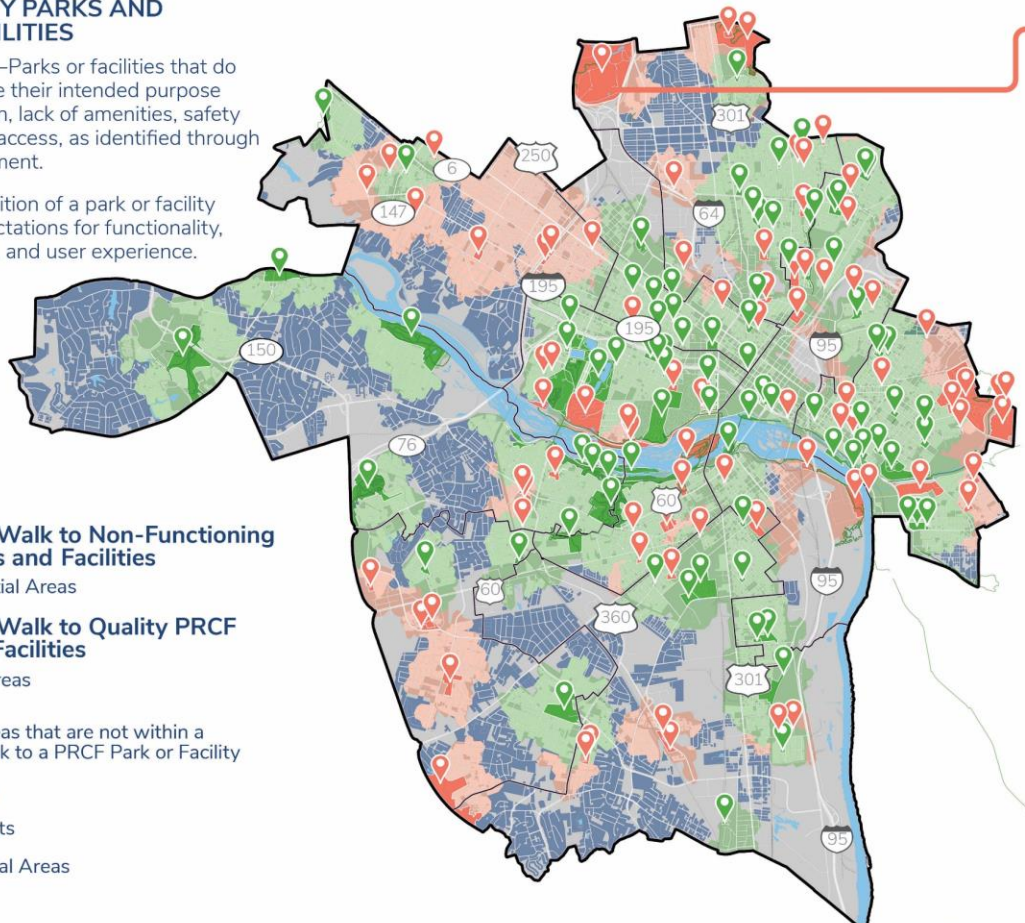
DEPARTMENT OF
**PARKS, RECREATION
AND COMMUNITY
FACILITIES**

UNDERSTANDING QUALITY AND CONDITION

DEFINING QUALITY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Non-Functioning—Parks or facilities that do not adequately serve their intended purpose due to poor condition, lack of amenities, safety concerns, or limited access, as identified through systemwide assessment.

Quality—The condition of a park or facility when it meets expectations for functionality, safety, maintenance, and user experience.



LEGEND

- 10-Minute Walk to Non-Functioning PRCF Parks and Facilities
- 10-Minute Walk to Quality PRCF Parks and Facilities
- Residential areas that are not within a 10-minute walk to a PRCF Park or Facility
- City Boundary
- Council Districts
- Non-Residential Areas
- Roads
- Lakes, Rivers, Streams
- Existing Trails

4718 assets

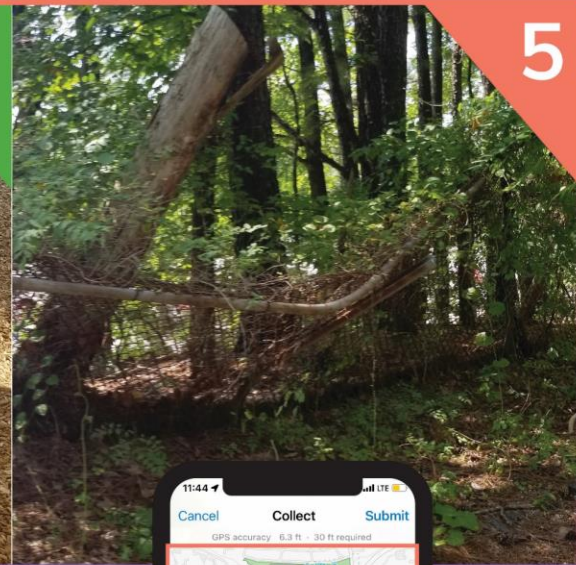
assessed from recreation centers and pools to benches lights, courts, and more were assigned a condition score. **Establishing a living database of every park and facility asset.**



SOURCES: City of Richmond, County of Henrico, VGIN, ESRI, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Design Workshop, Condition by Hana Engineers in August-September 2024



1

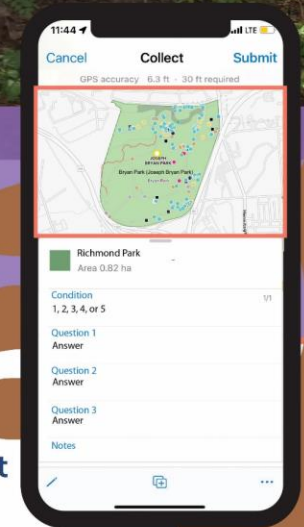


5

Bryan Park

171 assets

3.0
Average Overall Condition Score



- 1 - Like New
- 3 - Tipping Point, Needs Investment
- 5 - Not Functioning, Unsafe

47%

of PRCF parks and facilities are rated 3 or lower

\$75 million

Systemwide Deferred Maintenance Estimated to bring everything to GOOD condition.

2.7

Average Overall Condition - Indicates a Need for Reinvestment

UNDERSTANDING THE BASELINE OF WALKABLE ACCESS










2,677
Park Acres

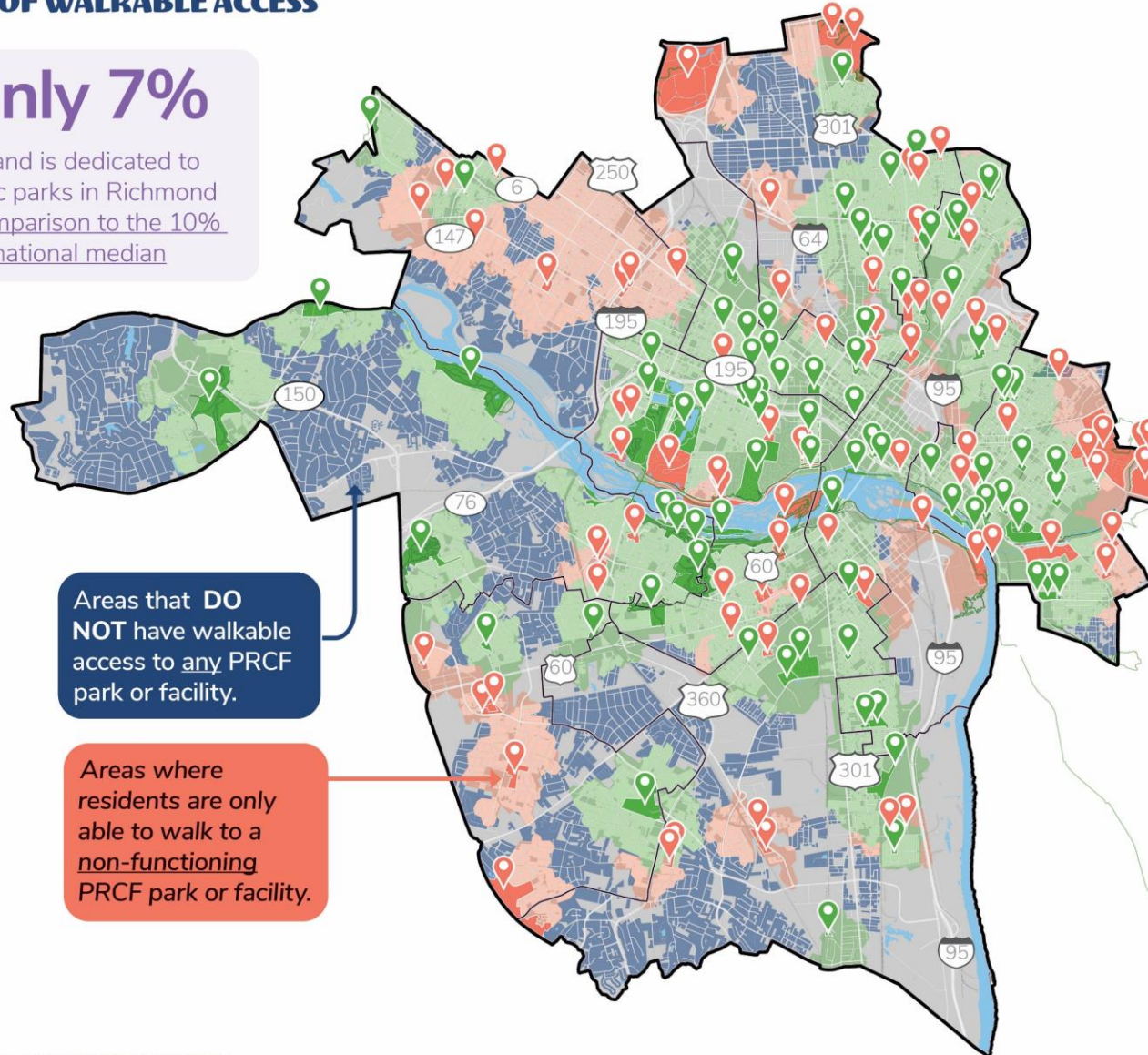
163
Parks

Only 7%

of land is dedicated to public parks in Richmond in comparison to the 10% national median

LEGEND

-  10-Minute Walk to Non-Functioning PRCF Parks and Facilities
-  10-Minute Walk to Quality PRCF Parks and Facilities
-  Residential areas that are not within a 10-minute walk to a PRCF Park or Facility
-  City Boundary
-  Council Districts
-  Non-Residential Areas
-  Roads
-  Lakes, Rivers, Streams
-  Existing Trails



Areas that **DO NOT** have walkable access to any PRCF park or facility.

Areas where residents are only able to walk to a non-functioning PRCF park or facility.

27%

of Richmonders **CANNOT** walk within 10-minutes to any PRCF provided park or facility

59%

of Richmonders **CAN** walk within 10-minutes to a quality PRCF park or recreation facilities

43% vs 70%

43% of residents south of the James River live within a 10-min walk to a quality PRCF park or facility compared to 70% North of the river

6 vs 11 Acres

PRCF provides 6 quality acres per 1,000 residents, compared to 11 acres of any PRCF-provided park or facility and the 13.3-acre national median per 1,000 residents (TPL, 2024).



A FUTURE OF EQUITABLE INVESTMENTS



Social & Community Indicators

- Crime Index
- Linguistically Isolated Population
- Households with Population Under 18
- Households with Population Over 64
- Households with 1+ Disability
- Historically Underrecognized Communities



Economic Indicators

- Households with Food Stamps/ SNAP
- Poverty Rate
- Unemployment Rate
- Location Affordability
- Housing Burden
- Racial and Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty
- Households with 0 Vehicles



Health Indicators

- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Mental Distress
- Physical Inactivity
- Green Space Access



Education Indicators

- Population without High School Diploma
- Population without College Education

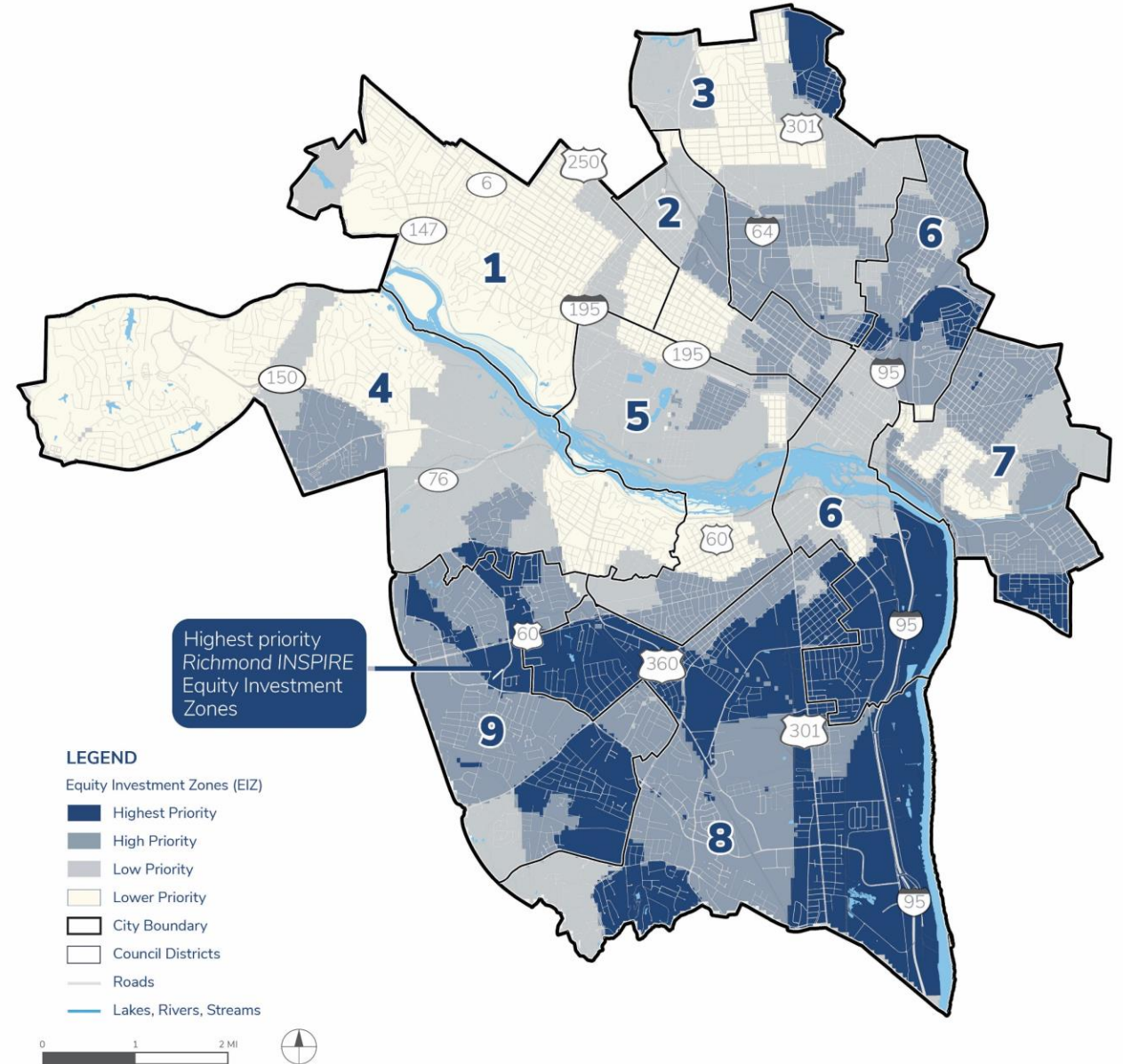


Neighborhood & Built Environment Indicators

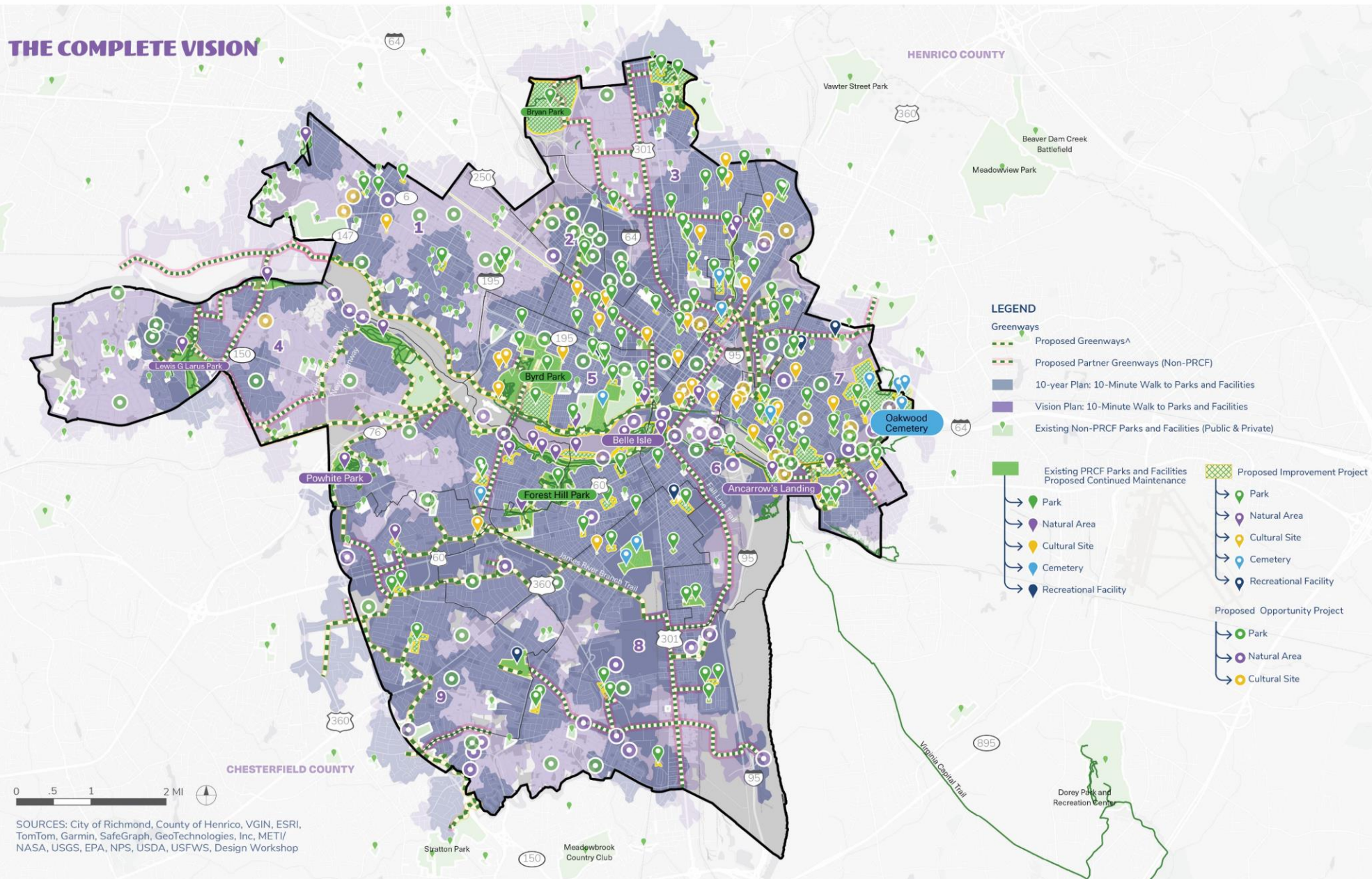
- Canopy Coverage
- Imperviousness
- Industrial Land Use
- Transit Access

EQUITY INVESTMENT ZONES (EIZ)

Census block groups where parks and recreation investment can have the greatest impact. These zones are used in combination with other criteria to guide decision-making.



THE COMPLETE VISION



SOURCES: City of Richmond, County of Henrico, VGIN, ESRI, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Design Workshop

DREAM VISION OUTCOMES

15 acres
of Quality Parkland per 1,000 Residents

100%
of Richmonders Live Within Walking Distance To A Quality Park


98 miles
of Proposed Greenways (all types)

100%
of Parks and Facilities Meet Quality Design Standards

96
New Parks or Facilities

850 acres
of Land Newly Conserved as Natural Area

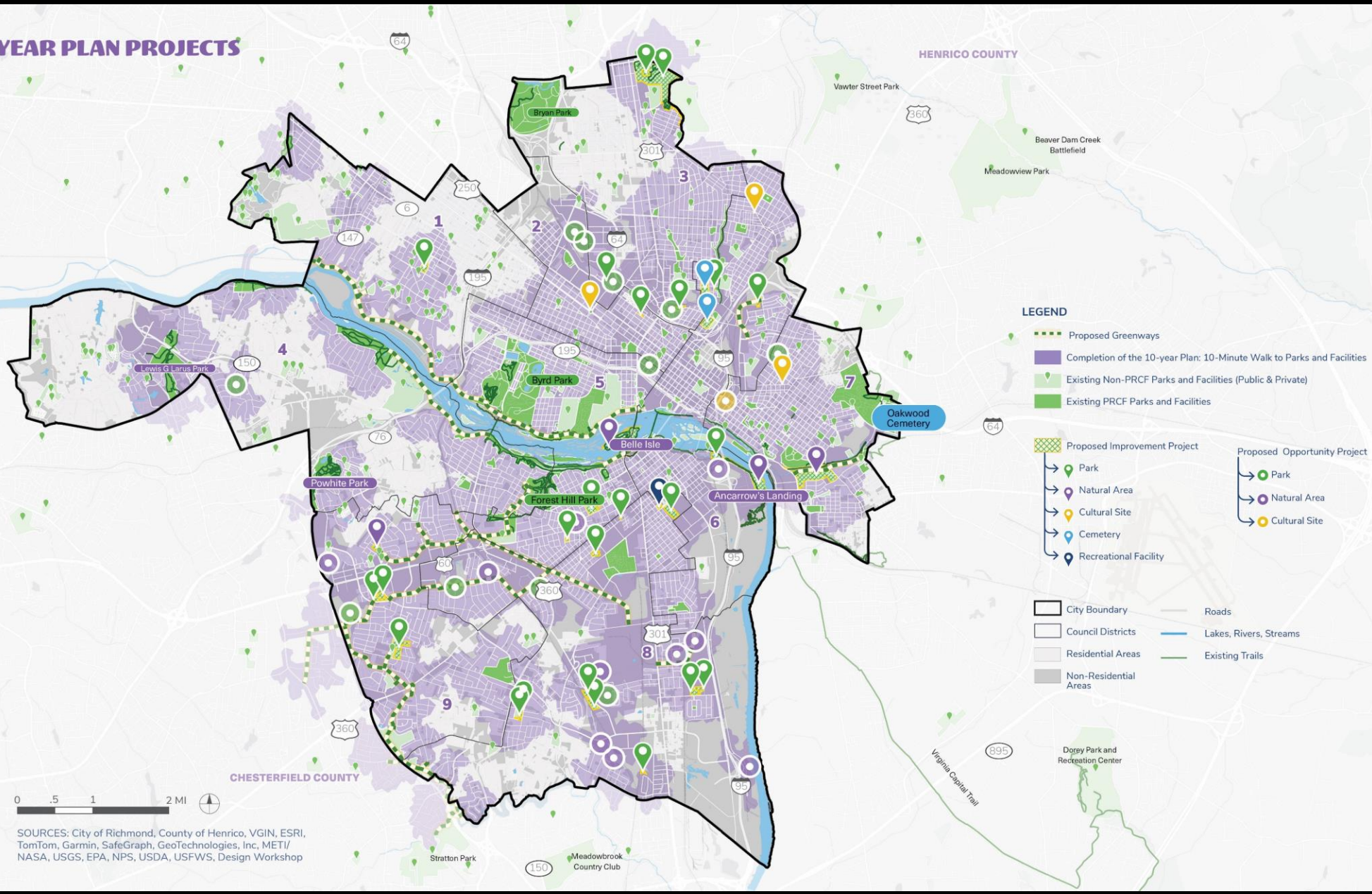
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PRIORITIES

 Vision Plan

Filtering projects using community-driven criteria



10-YEAR PLAN PROJECTS



SOURCES: City of Richmond, County of Henrico, VGIN, ESRI, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Design Workshop

10-YEAR PLAN OUTCOMES

9 acres

of Quality Parkland per 1,000 Residents - an Increase of 3 acres per 1,000 Residents

74%

of Richmonders Would Live Within Walking Distance to a Quality Park - a 15% Increase

27 miles

of New Greenway Trails

34 parks

Improved to Meet Quality Design Standards

23

New Parks or Facilities

400 acres

of Land Newly Conserved as Natural Area

Vision

Richmond's parks, greenways, and community centers are safe, thoughtfully designed, well-maintained, and loved by all. Our parks strengthen and connect all neighborhoods, inspire healthier lives, and create the fabric of a resilient and beautiful city.

Driving Principles



Access

Everyone in Richmond can walk to a great park in 10 minutes or less. Parks are easy to reach using safe, comfortable, and beautiful streets and paths.

34 Action Items, See Chapter 4



Welcoming

Richmond's parks, trails, and centers use public art, park design, and programs to celebrate Richmond's people and culture. Parks are welcoming and reflect the neighborhoods they serve.

32 Action Items, See Chapter 5



Equity

Richmond's parks and recreation projects are shaped by the community. They make neighborhoods stronger without pushing people out. The City is open about where it spends parks and recreation dollars.

15 Action Items, See Chapter 6



Environment

Richmond's parks help keep the city cooler, greener, healthier, and better prepared for the future. The City leads the way in green design and stewardship of the environment.

43 Action Items, See Chapter 7



Quality

Richmond's parks and community centers are built to last, maintained to high standards, and supported by ongoing investment in staff, funding, and partnerships. Staff are encouraged to be lifelong learners and dedicated stewards of the city's parks and recreation system.

54 Action Items, See Chapter 8



Community

Richmond's parks and community centers bring people together through diverse and inclusive programming. Recreation centers are engines of social, economic, and environmental resilience.

28 Action Items, See Chapter 9

206
Action Items

96
New Park and
Community Center
Projects

82
Existing Site
Improvement
Projects

Sneak Peek into the Plan

A quick look at some of the key topics covered in the plan.

Connect and Welcome People to Recreation

- Walk, bike, or roll to parks safely
- Expand trails, greenways, and river access
- Create safe and welcoming spaces
- Upgrade and create new parks, playgrounds, and facilities



Explore more: Access, Equity, and Welcoming Chapters

Improve and Care For Places

- Develop plans and partnerships to care for all spaces
- Learn and apply best practices to use available funds effectively while improving spaces
- Keep spaces clean, safe, and well-maintained
- Strengthen maintenance systems and asset management
- Invest in staff, operations, and service quality



Explore more: Quality and Environment Chapters

Bring Our Places to Life

- Provide programs and classes for all ages
- Create spaces for gathering, play, and everyday use
- Support arts, culture, and public expression
- Reflect community identity in parks and facilities through community-driven design
- Activate parks with events and community life
- Make all sites more accessible for all users



Explore more: Community and Welcoming Chapters

Invest Equitably and Sustainably

- Invest where needs are greatest
- Improve stormwater management and green infrastructure
- Support community gardens and food access
- Strengthen funding, partnerships, and long-term planning
- Expand tree canopy, shade, and climate resilience



Explore more: Quality, Equity, Environment, and Community Chapters

75 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT ON 90% DRAFT

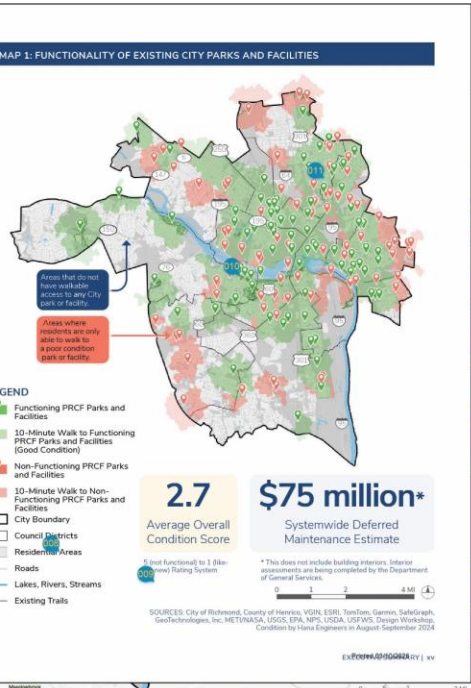
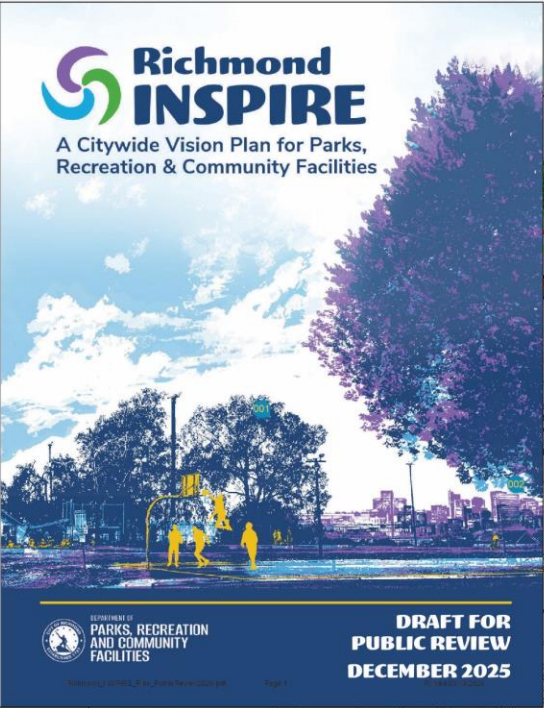
90% Draft was Available from December 19, 2025, through March 6, 2026

2,200
ONLINE PLAN VIEWS

75
DAYS PUBLISHED FOR REVIEW

Feedback was accepted through a 3-Question Sentiment Survey and Direct Document Comments via Konveio

Every comment was reviewed individually and received a comment and intended action

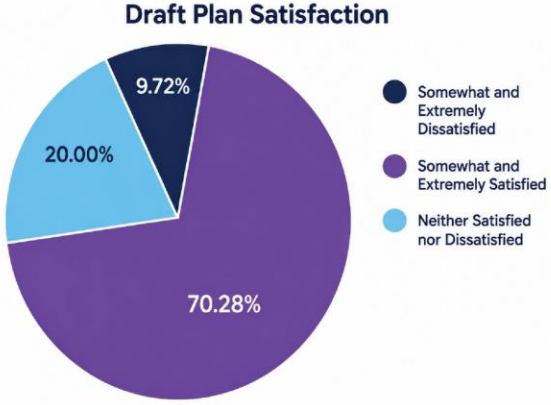
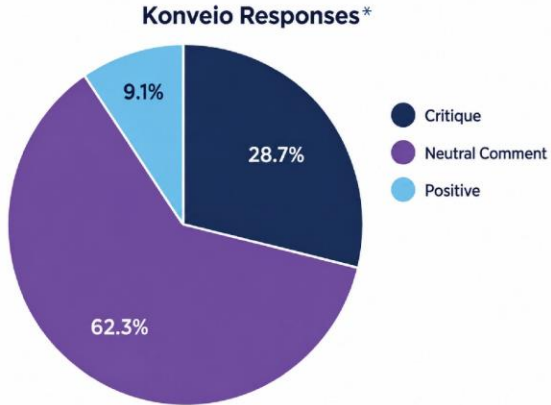


REVIEW-PERIOD PRESENTATIONS, POP-UPS, OR MEETING ATTENDANCE IN EACH COUNCIL DISTRICT

ADVERTISED THE DRAFT PLAN THROUGH VARIOUS METHODS TO REACH DIVERSE RESIDENTS

440
TOTAL COMMENTS ON THE PLAN DOCUMENT (KONVEIO)

175
SENTIMENT SURVEY RESPONDENTS



*Sentiment assessment