# City of Fairfax Development Industry Meeting

June 13, 2025 9-11 a.m.

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center



#### **Agenda**

- Welcome
- Department Overviews
- Staff Awards & Recognitions
- Technical Presentations
  - C-PACE and Green Building Policy Update
  - Small Area Plans Zoning Text Amendments Update
- Feedback & Break
- Process Improvements



#### Welcome to the City of Fairfax

Tommy Scibilia, Building and Land Development Review Ombudsman

Mayor Catherine Read



**Code Administration** 

Steven Sites, Chief Fire Marshal and Building Official

- Building permit process
  - ❖ Fee increases for FY26, effective July 1, 2025
- ❖ Site plan review, fire service features
- \* Residential rental permits
- Fire prevention code permits



Community Development and Planning
Jason Sutphin, Community Development Division Chief

- Current Planning/Land Use (Community Development)
- Zoning Administration
- Long Range Planning
- Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corporation



**Community Development** 

Jason Sutphin, Community Development Division Chief

- \* Rezonings, Planned Development Reviews
- Special Use Permits, Special Exceptions that go to City Council
- Certificates of Appropriateness
- Certified Local Government / Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act)
- ❖ Staff to the Board of Architectural Review



#### Zoning

Bereket Merzi, Deputy Zoning Administrator

- Permits (use, grading, tree, building-for zoning requirements, signs, home occupations, temporary use, etc.)
- Administrative items (administrative adjustments, alternative compliance, shared parking, etc.)
- Site plans, plans of development, as-builts, house grading plans
- **❖** Bond administration
- Subdivisions
- Floodplain Permits
- \* Resource Protection Area (RPA) development review



#### Zoning, continued

Bereket Merzi, Deputy Zoning Administrator

- ❖ Variances, Special Exceptions that go to the BZA
- Enforcement inspections and violations (signs, noise, development conditions, use, etc.)
- Zoning Compliance Letters and written interpretations
- Proffer and development condition tracking
- Land use file management
- Front counter customer service & intake
- Staff to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)



Long-Range Planning

Paul Nabti, Planning Division Chief

- Comprehensive Plan
- Small area planning
- Urban Forestry program
- Zoning Ordinance text amendments
- Demographic and economic data
- Mapping and modeling
- Staff to the Planning Commission



#### **Urban Forestry**

Anna Safford, Urban Forest Manager

- Tree removal permits
- Plan review tree conservation plans, landscape plans, and assists Chesapeake bay review
- Construction inspections (pre, post, and tree violations as needed)
- Final landscape inspections
- ❖ Updating city's tree preservation and planting standards and guidelines for development (completed Fall 2024)
- Tree canopy assessments (semi-regularly as new imagery is available)



Urban Forestry, continued

Anna Safford, Urban Forest Manager

- ❖ Urban Forest Master Plan new long-range plan to outline city urban forest goals, areas of focus, and policy needs (underway, estimated adoption late Fall 2025)
- ❖ Non-native invasive species management manages removal and maintenance of non-native invasives in city's parks and forested areas by contractors and volunteer efforts
- ❖ SPROUT initiative a stewardship effort to improve community and habitat health through the planting of trees, non-native invasive removal, and educational opportunities



#### **Public Works**

Satoshi Eto, Public Works Program Manager

- Plan review E&S, SWM, wastewater, PFM compliance, constructability & maintenance.
- ❖ VSMP permitting
- Construction inspections E&S, BMPs, VSMP permit and SWPPP compliance
- Wastewater connection fees
- \* ROW permits



#### **Transportation**

Chloe Ritter, Multimodal Transportation Planner

#### Plan Review

- Multimodal site access and circulation
- Transportation improvements consistent with Comprehensive Plan
- Traffic impact studies
- Transportation demand management
- Compliance review (PFM, ADA/PROWAG, MUTCD)
- Capital project coordination

#### Long Range Planning

- Transit Development Plan
- Move Fairfax City (Safety, Pedestrian, and Old Town Plans)



**Environmental Sustainability**Stefanie Kupka, Sustainability Program Manager

The Environment and Sustainability Division leads initiatives in the areas of:

- Climate Mitigation and Adaptation
- Energy Efficiency and Renewables
- Environmental Protection
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Resiliency

#### Current initiatives:

- Solar Incentives
  - Solarize Virginia
  - Solar Tax Exemption
- Green Building Policy
- ❖ Commercial-PACE Program



#### **Real Estate**

Christine Johnston, Real Estate Assessment Director

- Modeling and projecting potential real estate tax revenue attributed to new construction in the near term and future (5+years) in concert and support of the city's budget quarterly and annual budget process.
- Analyzing feasibility studies.
- ❖ Deed research in the event plans/plats differ from real estate assessment records.
- Valuation and supplementation of real property, attributed to new construction.



#### Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED)

#### Tara Borwey, Assistant Director for Programs

**Christopher Bruno** 

DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CHRISTOPHER.BRUNO@FAIRFAXCITYECONDEV.ORG

Vacant

SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BUSINESS INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**Matthew Easley** 

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Tara Borwey

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PROGRAMS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Stephanie Gerson

TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING SPECIALIST

STEPHANIE.GERSON@ FAIRFAXCITYECONDEV.ORG



Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED), continued

Tara Borwey, Assistant Director for Programs

#### Our Why

- ❖ Grow Fairfax City's tax base
- ❖ Promote best-use real estate development and reuse transactions based on Small Area Plans, Comprehensive Plan and the FCED Strategic Workplan
- ❖ Reduce vacancies by attracting new tenants
- ❖ Foster a successful business ecosystem by providing connections for companies to win work
- Create interesting places to shop and spend
- ❖ Administrators of the Economic Development Authority
- Cultivate strategic partnerships (e.g. John Cabot University, Costello College of Business)





#### Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED), continued

Tara Borwey, Assistant Director for Programs

#### **Business Attraction and Assistance**

#### Lease Incentive for Fairfax Tenants (LIFFT)

- Grant is awarded to new or expanding business in 20 priority office buildings.
- Minimum 3 year lease required.
- Grant amount is determined based on square footage and pre-determined multiplier of \$5-\$8/sf based on the building's tax impact.

#### Façade and Interior Improvement Grant (FIIG)

- Reimburse 50% of expenses for customer facing façade or interior improvements to retail stores or centers.
- ❖ Up to \$20,000 per applicant.
- ❖ Initial \$300,000 ARPA investment and funded again at \$100,000 in FY25; program paused.

#### Technology Zone Tax Abatement

- For new or substantially expanding businesses primarily involved in technology-based products, processes, or services.
- \* Benefit from exemptions for up to five years of Business License (BPOL) taxes. The exemption starts with 100% in Year One, decreasing by 20% each subsequent year until Year Five.
- ❖ 5-year lease minimum.

Mason Enterprise Center—Fairfax: The MEC—Fairfax is a collaboration between the City government, the EDA, and George Mason. Established in the early 2000s, the MEC is governed by an MOA and operated by GMU staff under the oversight of the EDA. The incubator is home to over 50 businesses.

#### Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED), continued

	1. PR & Marketing	2. Operations	3. Partnerships	4. Real Estate Development & Reuse	5. Business Attraction & Development	6. Business Retention & Expansion	7. Place-Based Strategies	8. Special Initiatives	9. Tourism* *Added March 2025
Strategies	Amplify in-house administrative communications functions and skillsets for purposes of promoting and achieving all FCED efforts.	Maintain strong executive leadership and instill day-to-day operations best practices that ensure a properly and efficiently run FCED.	Foster important organizational relationships, locally, regionally, and nationally, to leverage economic development opportunities benefiting all parties and the city as a whole.	Support efforts toward redevelopment or reuse of a building, site, or area, and collaborating frequently with applicants, prospective tenants, and other city departments throughout the development process.	Expand efforts to encourage firms from prioritized sectors from outside Fairfax City to locate headquarters or other operations within Fairfax City, and foster development and retention of homegrown businesses in Fairfax City.	Design systematic efforts to keep local businesses content at their present locations, or a new location within the city.	Pivot from playing all roles required of place-based strategies to one of intermediary and support of partners in providing creative placemaking features and events for public and private spaces.	Focus increased yet limited-time efforts and resources on strategically important and high priority initiatives that advance city-wide economic development goals.	invest in tactics to raise awareness for Fairfax City's profile and offerings locally, regionally, and nationally.
Initiatives*	1.1 Hire one full-time PR & marketing staff	2.1 Regularly communicate progress of FCED efforts	3.1 Continue maintaining/leveraging partnership	4.1 Create/maintain internal database of available, promising sites	5.1 Continue seeking businesses/headquarte rs in prioritized sectors	6.1 Reassess post- pandemic business needs	7.1 Embolden trusted groups with leadership of successful efforts/ events	8.1 Evaluate need/ formation of a Northfax BID	9.1 Establish a new brand identity and visitor-focused website
	1.2 Develop a Comprehensive Marketing Plan	2.2 Provide business tracking for metric- based evaluations	3.2 Support partners in retention, expansion, attraction & development	4.2 Identify highest and best use for city and EDA-owned sites	5.2 Continue/ expand resources for site selection and tours	6.2 Prioritize effectively proven Shop Local Efforts	7.2 Consider place- based strategies, as needed and as resources allow	8.2 Provide case manager/liaison to applicants	9.2 Raise awareness of Fairfax City businesses in tandem with Mason and Eagle Bank events
	1.3 Prioritize marketing guidance/collateral for FCED efforts	2.3 Efficiently budget FCED and EDA activities, grants, and programs	3.3 Strengthen partnership with Mason	4.3 Identify underutilized properties needing investment/ redevelopment	5.3 Continue/ expand incentives for relocation to Fairfax City	6.3 Discover expansion and site selection needs for targeted sectors		8.3 Add special projects, as needed and as resources allow	9.3 Encourage civic pride with a marketing campaign and awards for local businesses
	1.4 Develop and maintain FCED website	2.4 Efficiently manage FCED contracts, grants	3.4 Facilitate creation of collective incubation infrastructure	4.4 Create predevelopment funding grant	5.4 Continue support for/coordination with MEC & other incubation	6.4 Ensure equitable distribution of property improvement incentives			9.4 Explore transferring Visitor Center operations to FCED
	1.5 Enable non-profits to take on neighborhood marketing, over time	2.5 Maintain a safe, hospitable, and equitable work environment	3.5 Collaborate with city staff on future planning efforts affecting ED	4.5 Continue/ expand property improvement incentives	5.5 Continue with at least one dedicated staff & add as programs grow	6.5 Continue with at least one dedicated staff & add as programs			9.5 Explore a small increase in the City's TOT Tax to fund tourism initiatives
	marketing, over time	2.6 Continue EDA meeting & Commissioner management		4.6 Contribute more to Comprehensive and		grow			9.6 Advocate for enhancements to University Drive
		2.7 Continue lease and property management of EDA-owned properties		SAP planning processes  4.7 Provide one dedicated staff to actions in this element					9.7 Invest in gateway signage or promotional banner across Main St
17		2.8 Update job descriptions to be in line with framework		actions in this element					9.8 Revitalize retail activations in Old Town

#### Staff Awards and Recognitions



Certifications earned through the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials in December 2024:

- Alexis El-Hage Certified Zoning Official (CZO)
  - ❖ Also promoted from Zoning Technician I to Zoning Technician II in January 2025
- ❖ Bereket Merzi Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA)
- ❖ Joe Eisenberg Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA)

AICP Certifications earned in June 2025:

- ❖ Amy Lynne Denny, AICP
  - ❖ Also promoted from Planner I to Planner II in April 2025

#### **Technical Presentations**

C-PACE and Green Building Policy Update – Stefanie Kupka

Small Area Plans – Zoning Text Amendments Update – Paul Nabti



City of Fairfax Industry Meeting
June 13, 2025

# Green Building Policy Update

#### City of Fairfax Green Building Policy Development



#### **Public-Sector Buildings**

- New Construction
- Major Renovations
- Existing Buildings



#### **Private-Sector Buildings**

- New Construction
- Major Renovations

#### Green Building Policy Development Timeline



#### Benefits of Green Buildings







**Environmental** 

**Social & Health** 

**Economic** 

#### Priorities in Creating a Green Building Policy

#### Sustainability goals:

- ✓ Reduce greenhouse gasemissions by 80% from 2005levels by 2050
- ✓ Achieve 100% renewable electricity for:
  - 2035: Government operations
  - 2050: Community-wide

#### Community GHG Inventory



# Overview of Research and Engagement

#### Research Overview and Findings



## City of Fairfax Goals

Incorporating green
building rating systems
as requirements for the
built environment is a
priority for the City of
Fairfax



## Neighboring Communities

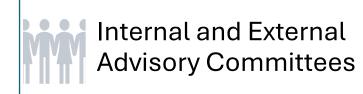
Other communities in the area typically use incentives to encourage participation from developers in private green building policies



#### Virginia Policies

The Virginia HighPerformance Buildings
Act has minimum
requirements for
public buildings

#### Community Outreach and Engagement





City Council



Economic Development Authority



Parks and Recreation Committee



Environmental Sustainability Committee



**Planning Commission** 



# Draft Public-Sector Green Building Policy

#### Public-Sector Project Eligibility

The green building policy shall apply to city buildings, including city school buildings:

- ✓ Existing buildings 1,000 sq ft or greater
- ✓ New public construction 5,000 sq ft or greater
- ✓ Major renovations:
  - Cost exceeds 50% of the building's value, or
  - Project work includes at least one of the following actions:
    - Renovations to 50% or more of a development's gross floor area
    - Replacement of at least 50% of the building envelope



Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center (3,631 SF)

#### Public-Sector Green Building Standards

New construction projects (5,000 sq ft or greater) and major renovations shall:



- ✓ Meet Zero-Emissions Standards
- ✓ Meet electrification-ready standards and use only electric equipment/appliances
- ✓ Demonstrate a **50% reduction in modeled energy use** above the current Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code
- ✓ Earn the following **LEED BD+C (v5) credits** or equivalent: Rainwater Management, Biodiverse Habitat, Enhanced Resilient Design, Light Pollution and Bird Collision Reduction, and Electric Vehicles
- ✓ For all major interior renovations, achieve LEED Interior Design and Construction (ID+C) Gold.



#### Public-Sector Green Building Standards



**Existing public-sector buildings** (1,000 sq ft or greater), the city shall:

- ✓ Conduct energy benchmarking and energy assessments
- ✓ Achieve LEED Building Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Silver certification
- ✓ Tracks and publicly discloses public-sector building energy use

# Draft Private-Sector Green Building Standards

#### Private-Sector Project Eligibility

- The green building policy shall apply to:
  - ✓ Developments subject to the special exception, variance, rezoning, planned development review, or special use review processes, and are:
  - ✓ New construction 5,000 sq ft or greater, or
  - ✓ Major renovations, as defined below:
    - Building's floor area is 5000 sq ft or greater, and
    - Project work includes at least one of the following actions:
      - Renovations to 50% or more of a development's gross floor area
      - Replacement of at least 50% of the building envelope



Wawa (9700 Fairfax Blvd): ~6,000 SF

#### Private-Sector Green Building Standards



- ✓ Achieve at least Silver-level certification under the most recent version of LEED BD+C, EarthCraft Light Commercial, or EarthCraft Multifamily
- ✓ Earn the following LEED BD+C (v5) credits and equivalent credits in EarthCraft:
  - ✓ Rainwater Management
  - ✓ Biodiverse Habitat
  - ✓ Enhanced Resilient Design
  - ✓ Light Pollution and Bird Collision Reduction
  - ✓ Electric Vehicles

Draft Private-Sector
Pilot Tax Abatement Program for
Energy Efficient Buildings

# Pilot Tax Abatement Program Eligibility and Requirements



#### **Tax Abatement:**

To receive a 50% tax abatement on property assessed value for one year

#### **Eligibility:**

- ✓ The gross floor area of the building must be 1,000 square feet or greater;
  and
- ✓ The building must be a new construction development or a major renovation of an existing building.

#### **Green Building Requirements:**

- ✓ Achieve LEED Gold-or-higher-level equivalency
- ✓ Exceed the energy efficiency standards by thirty (30) percent
- ✓ Earn the following LEED BD+C (v5) credits or equivalent: Rainwater Management, Biodiverse Habitat, Enhanced Resilient Design, Light Pollution and Bird Collision Reduction, and Electric Vehicles

#### Next Steps

#### • Summer 2025:

- Solicit public feedback on the Revised Draft Green Building Policy
- Incorporate feedback and prepare Draft Final Green Building Policy

#### • Fall 2025:

Present Draft Final Green Building Policy to City Council

#### • Early 2026:

Public hearing and adoption of an ordinance to enact the Green Building Policy

Visit Engage Fairfax Page: <a href="https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/green-building-policy">https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/green-building-policy</a>

# Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program

### What is C-PACE?





- Powerful financing loan program for commercial property owners and developers to fund clean energy and sustainability projects
  - 100% upfront capital
  - Long-term, fixed-rate financing up to 30 years
- Virginia C-PACE program
  - June 10, 2025: Fairfax City adopted C-PACE ordinance
  - 19 localities in the Virginia C-PACE Program
  - Administered by Virginia PACE Authority
  - Sponsored by Virginia Energy

# **C-PACE:** Eligible Properties



**OFFICE** 



MULTIFAMILY



**INDUSTRIAL** 

**NON PROFIT** 







**RETAIL** 

**AGRICULTURE** 





HOTELS



# **C-PACE:** Eligible Improvements



Energy Efficiency

HVAC

Lighting

Water heaters

Building envelope

Renewables

Solar panels

Geothermal improvements

Wind turbines

Solar plus storage

- Stormwater management
- EV charging equipment

Water Efficiency

Low flow fixtures

Rainwater capture

Grey water systems

Resiliency

Wind

Flood mitigation

Seismic

Environmental Remediation

**Asbestos** 

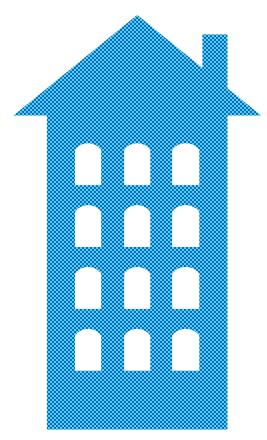
Mold

Ground water



#### **C-PACE** for Localities: Benefits





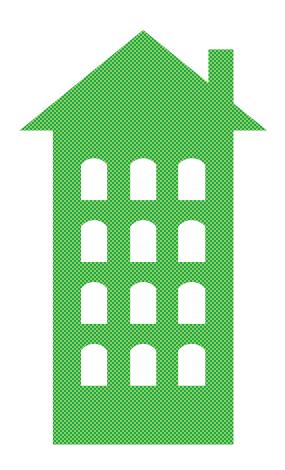
#### Economic Development:

- Revitalizes buildings and improve property values, which leads to more revenue for local communities
- Stimulates the local economy through new development and construction projects
- Energy efficiency/Sustainability:
  - Helps conserve resources and build resiliency in communities
  - Supports internal sustainability goals
  - Is private lending so does not have public funding limitations or changes
  - Provides building owners in the locality with a financing tool that covers certifications and other costs related to building green



# **C-PACE** Benefits for Owners and Developers





- No money out of pocket: 100% financing
- Long-term, fixed interest rate financing (up to 35+ years)
- Immediate savings
- Gap financing
- Property owner may pass through C-PACE Assessment to tenants
- Reduces capital expenditure budget
- Eligible measures cover broad capital and facility improvement needs
- Extends building lifespan while improving comfort
- C-PACE assessment transfers upon sale to the next property owner



# **C-PACE:** Steps to Participate





Learn more about the program: https://virginiapace.com



Fill out the pre-application here to see if your project is eligible for C-PACE.



Select a qualified C-PACE Capital Provider to finance your project.



If eligible, develop your project scope & submit final application.



VPA approves project, Capital
Provider funds project, and
C-PACE is secured on the
property.



Complete construction and pay back as a special assessment on your property.



#### **C-PACE:** Contact Info



**Abby Johnson**, Executive Director and President <a href="mailto:abby@virginiapace.com">abby@virginiapace.com</a>

**Ellen Dickson**, Director of Marketing & Outreach ellen@virginiapace.com

Andy Friedman, Outreach Advisor andy@virginiapace.com

757-603-3555

www.virginiapace.com



# Questions?

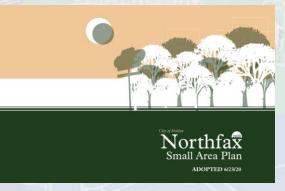
Stefanie Kupka

Sustainability Program Manager

Stefanie.Kupka@fairfaxva.gov

703-385-7816









# Small Area Plans ZONING IMPLEMENTATION Preliminary Recommendations



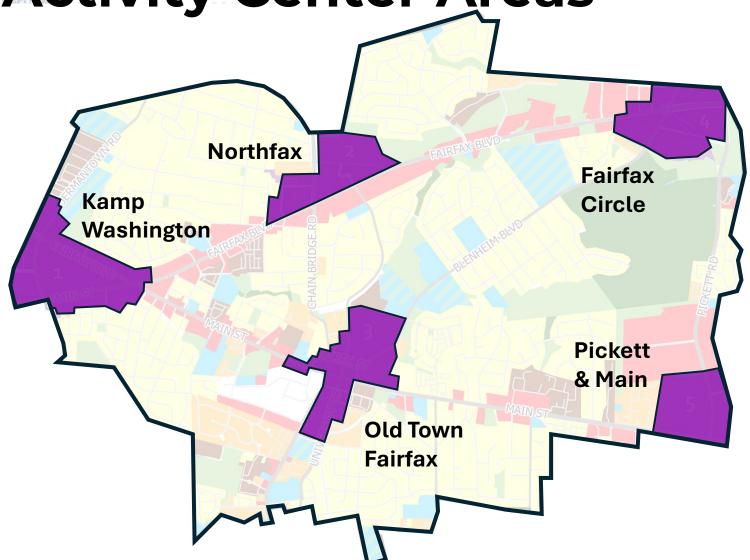
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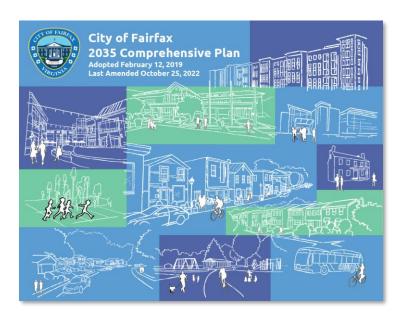


**Project Website:** 

www.engage.fairfaxva.gov

**Activity Center Areas** 





#### Legend

#### Place Types

Single-family Detached Neighborhood

Townhouse/Single-Family Attached Neighborhood

Multifamily Neighborhood

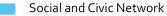
Commercial Corridor **Activity Center** 

- 1 Kamp Washington
- 2 Northfax
- 3 Old Town Fairfax
- Fairfax Circle
- 5 Pickett & Main

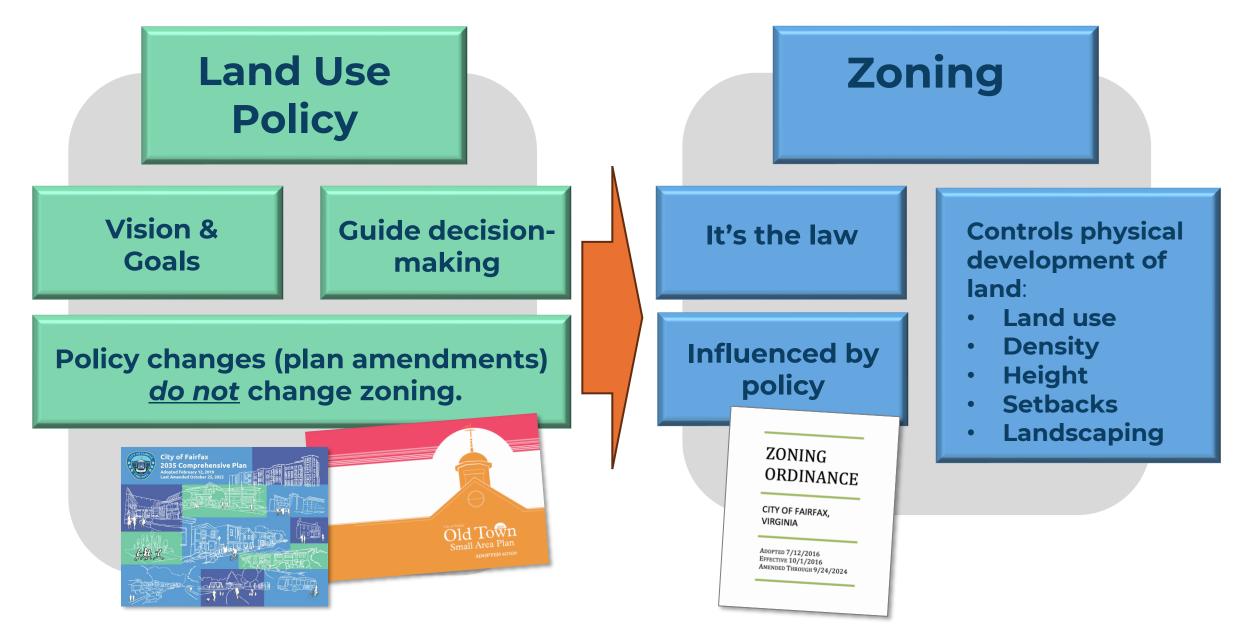
#### Green Network



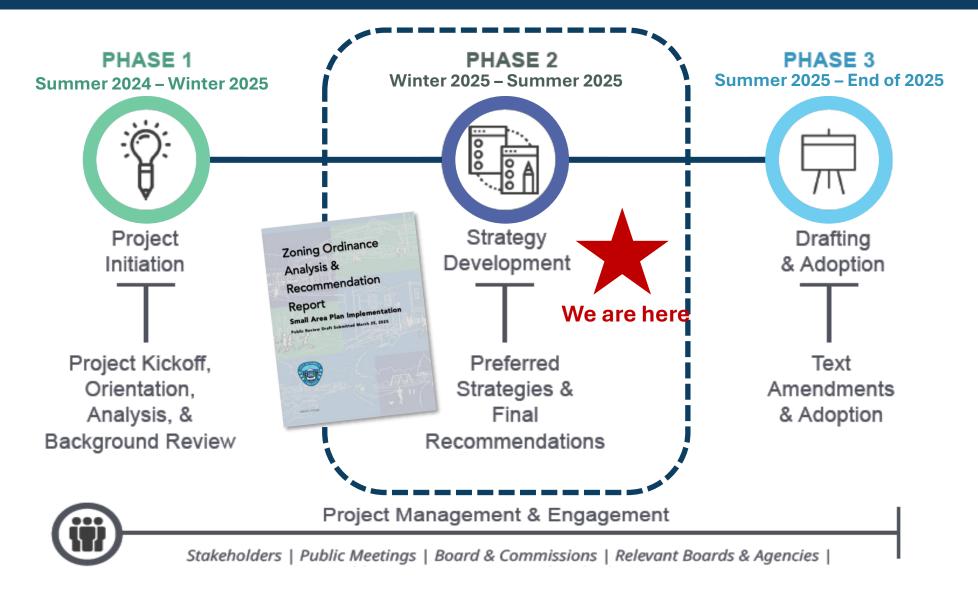




#### Small Area Plans vs. Zoning Ordinance



#### **General Project Phasing**





**Project Website:** 

www.engage.fairfaxva.gov

# Topics

- 1. Desired Uses & Frontages
- 2. Open Space & Trees
- 3. Land Development
- 4. Height, Density, & Community Benefits
- 5. Zoning Framework



#### Mixed-Use Development

#### **Analysis Summary:**

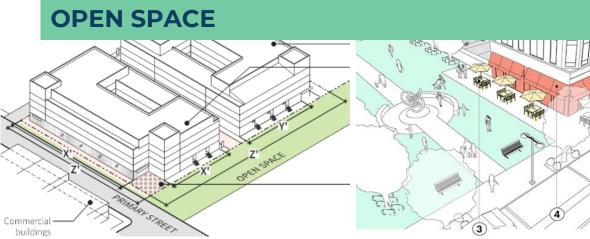
- Envisioned for all Activity Centers
- Currently granted via Special Use Permit & review by City Council
- Currently 75%
   nonresidential is required
   for mixed-use buildings
   with upper-level residential

- Consider alternate pathways:
  - Allow "by-right" to remove barriers & facilitate mixed-use development in Activity Centers.
  - Strengthen the City's Zoning
     Ordinance standards for mixed-use
     development (e.g., development
     frontages, use regulations, etc.)
  - Update City's Design Guidelines with guidance for mixed-use development in Activity Centers.

# PRIORITY RETAIL Example (left): ReCode Los Angeles







Example (right): San Joes Design Guidelines Example (left): Lee's Summit Parks & Open Space Principles



#### **Open Space**

#### **Analysis Summary:**

- Build consistency & give clarity to standards & definitions
- Add more green space
- Represent city values:
  - Interconnected network
  - Variety of scales & programs
  - Activated space
  - Resilient & Sustainable species

- Set minimum (e.g., 10-15%)
- Define open space types:
  - Delineation b/w public vs. private & active vs. passive
  - Outline spatial qualities & performance-based criteria

- 1. High Value Open Space (150%)
  - a. Archeological & Historic Resources
  - b. Land Dedication for Parks
  - c. Linear Parks & Trails
  - d. Tree Conservation Areas
  - e. Virginia Natural Heritage Resources
  - f. Wildlife Habitat
- 2. Standard Open Space (100%)
  - a. Active Recreation
  - b. Agricultural
  - c. Buffers & Screening
  - d. Community Open Space
  - e. Landscaping
  - f. Overhead Utility Easement in nonresidential areas
  - a. Passive Recreation
  - h. Setbacks & Yards
  - i. State-Required Bioretention and Wet & Dry Pond Areas
  - j. Trail Corridor
- 3. Less Valuable Open Space (50%)
  - a. Land dedicated to the County for public use
  - b. Off-site
  - c. Overhead utility easement in residential areas
  - d. Parking for open space areas
  - e. Bioretention and Wet & Dry Pond Areas

Lower Value = More Land

**Higher Value** 

**Less Land** 



Example (above): Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance

- Assign open space valuation:
  - High Value
  - Standard Value
  - Less Value
- Incentivizes developers to prioritize scarcity of land to satisfy minimum open space requirement

#### **Tree Canopy & Street Trees**

#### **Analysis Summary:**

- Critical character element
- Invasive species management
- Resilient & sustainable tree and plant species
- Constrained sidewalks
- Competing streetscape elements
- Old Town exempt from street trees

- Offer alternatives to 10% tree canopy (per VA code):
  - Design alternatives (e.g., building frontage)
  - Off-site or in-lieu (currently supported)
- Update Master Tree List & species standards to include resilient and sustainable species
- Establish hierarchy for street tree placement

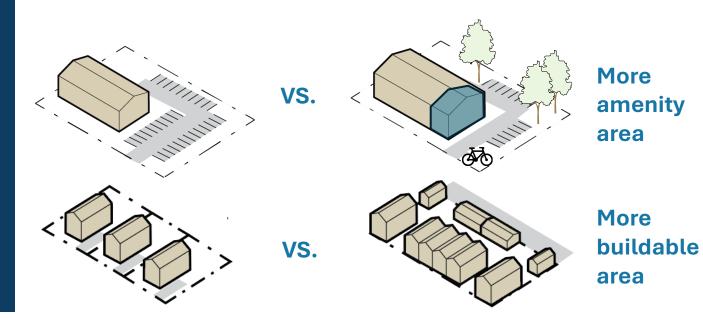


#### **Smaller Development & Land Assembly**

#### **Analysis Summary:**

- Small, flexible spaces are good for neighborhood-friendly services & amenities. Zoning Ordinance should promote & encourage incremental & small-scale development
- Advantages of Land Assembly:
  - More buildable area for developer
  - Potential for increased profit to landowners
  - Greater public benefit on larger lots vs. smaller lots. (e.g., infrastructure)

- Relieve small lots of "land hogs"
  - E.g.) Parking, etc.
- Incentivize lot assembly.



#### **Parking**

#### **Analysis Summary:**

- Requires enormous amount of space;
- High parking ratios can be a barrier for development
- Cursory peer review suggests "right-sizing" City parking standards for mixed-use, compact development is ideal

#### **Preliminary Recommendation(s):**

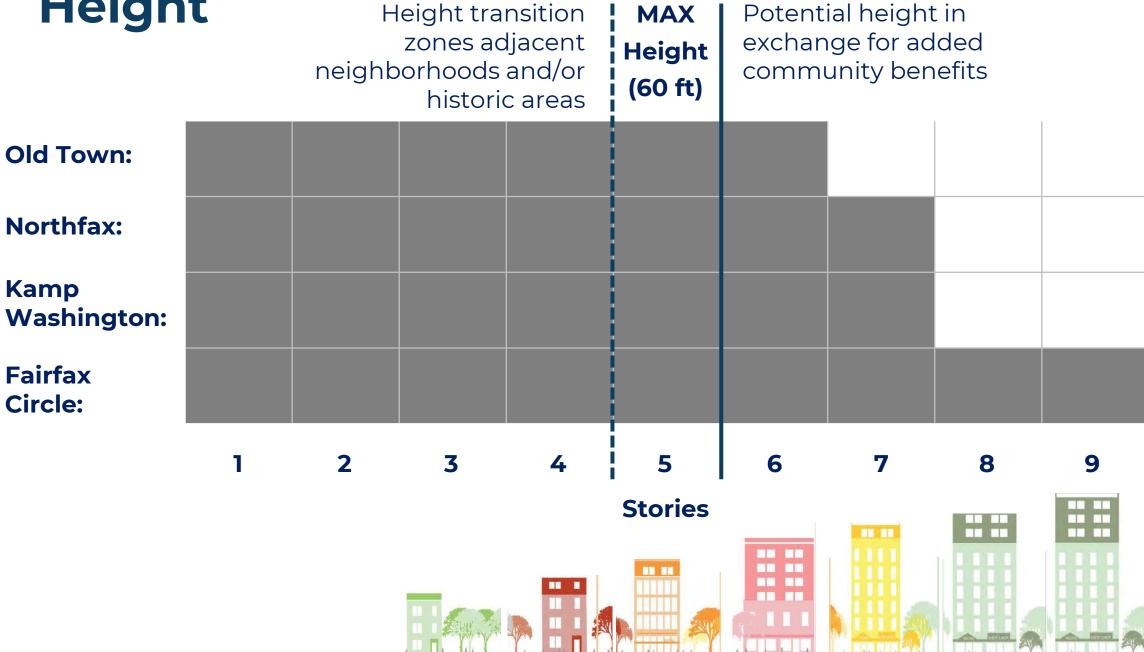
- Ease & adjust parking requirements w/ strategies:
  - Lower ratios
  - Alternative parking plans
  - Shared parking agreements
  - Reduction incentives
  - Add flexibility for change of use
  - Location & design standards

Note: A parking demand analysis may be necessary if the city desires to take on public parking management role & responsibility (e.g., on-street parking & public

parking).



#### Height



#### **Density**

#### **Analysis Summary:**

- Density is challenging to perceive & compare
- Applies to residential, not nonresidential
- Net vs. Gross Density
- Dwelling Unit vs. Bedroom
- Critical to connect density w/ community goals and balance w/ design controls

- Set baseline density for Activity Centers.
  - E.g.) 40 du/ac
- Incentivize increased density
  - E.g.) public space; land assembly; historic preservation
- Utilize design controls w/ density
  - E.g.) building frontage, design guidelines, design criteria, etc.

#### **Community Benefits**

#### **Identified Community Benefits:**

- 1. Green Buildings
- 2. Public Open Space
- 3. Sensitive Environments & Ecology
- 4. Enhanced Stormwater
- 5. Public Art
- 6. Transportation & Mobility
- 7. Unique Uses
- 8. Historic Preservation & Adaptive Reuse

\$ \$\$

Community Benefit	Zoning Requirement	Development Bonus		
High-Performance Buildings		•	0	
Public Open Space	0	•	•	
Sensitive Environments, Ecology, & Native Plant Species	0	•	0	
Enhanced Stormwater		0	•	
Public Art	0	•	0	
Transportation & Mobility	•	•	0	
Unique Use		•	0	
Historic Preservation & Adaptive Reuse	0	•	•	

O Feasible

\*based on identified strengths,

Most Suitable\*

advantages, & cost to developer

# Zoning Framework

#### **Zoning Framework Evaluation**

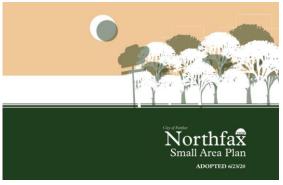
Strategies	Commercial Urban	New Zoning District	Planned Development	Overlay	Design Guidelines	Performance Zoning	<b>Development Patterns</b>	Form-Based Zoning	Incentive Zoning
Uses	0	•	•			0		•	
Frontage		•	•	0	•	0	0	•	
Special Uses	0	0	0			•			•
Open Space	0	•	•	0	•	•	0	•	•
Tree Canopy		0	0	0	0	•			
Master Development Plan	0	•	•	•			0	0	
Infill Development	0	•	•	•	•	•	0	0	•
Land Assembly	0	0	0				0	0	•
Parking	0	0	0	0	0	•	0	0	•
Building Height	0	•	•	0	0	0	0	•	•
Density	0	•	•			0	0	0	•
Community Benefits		0	0			0		0	•

\*based on identified strengths & advantages of zoning option

O Feasible

Most Suitable\*









#### **How to Provide Input:**

#### **City Project Manager**

Paul Nabti, <u>paul.nabti@fairfaxva.gov</u>

#### **Consultant Project Lead**

Justin Wallace, jwallace@planningandlaw.com



**Project Website:** 

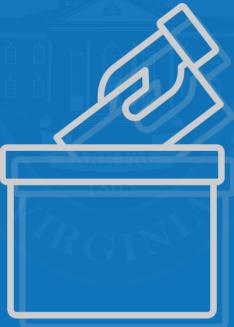
www.engage.fairfaxva.gov

# Topics

- 1. Desired Uses & Frontages
- 2. Open Space & Trees
- 3. Land Development
- 4. Height, Density, & Community Benefits
- 5. Zoning Framework

## Feedback & Break

- ❖ Fill out cards on table and submit anonymously
- ❖ A couple volunteers to share



## **Process Improvements Overview**

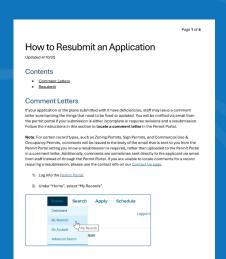
Tommy Scibilia, Development Review Ombudsman

- Permit Portal (ACA) Enhancements
- Inquiry Responses
- Longterm Projects
- **❖** Website Enhancements

# Process Improvements Permit Portal (ACA) Enhancements



- Day-to-day improvements
- New record types
- User guides





E Accela ✓ ☆ ○ Set status  ⑤ Overview								
+ Add task   V								
Name	Department	Size	Status	Last modified on	Release Date	Due date		
▼ Gathering Requirements								
	Code	S	Urgent	May 29		(6)		
⊘ Fee Groups - Code 1 □	Code	M		May 15		(1)		
⊘ Cannot result final inspection until trades are finaled 1○	Code	S		May 15		(1)		
⊘ New Connection fee for Commercial Plumbing Records 3 ○	Public Works	L	Paused	Feb 6		(1)		
	City Manager	L		Dec 23, 2024		(6)		
	IT	S		Jan 3		(6)		
Add task								
▼ IT Ready								
Separate Display for Mechanical and Gas Permits	Code	XS		May 9		(1)		
SPR and FAL record types do not require contractor's license	Code	XS		Feb 24		(1)		
⊘ CUO Approval Email Update 1○	Code	XS		Feb 13		(8)		
	Code	XS		Jan 9		(6)		
⊘ Tree Removal Permit - Auto Emails, Workflow, Required Info update 4 ○	CDP	M		Jan 22		(8)		
⊘ Fixture Fee Invoice - PW Contact Info 3 ○	Public Works	XS		Feb 7		(8)		
▶ ⊘ Property Owner Email Required 1 ⊃ 1 😂	City Manager	L		Jan 3		(6)		
	City Manager	S		Jan 23		(6)		
Add task								
▼ IT Working								
⊘ Ad-Hoc Reporting 5○	IT		Urgent	Jun 3		(6)		
Property Owner, Business Owner, TBD updates, and LLCs	Code	S		May 29		(6)		

### **Inquiry Responses**

- Phone calls/emails
- Process questions
- Status updates
- Complaints
- Technical questions

1		Date 🔻	Name	Phone	Email	Question	Туре	Staff Contacted	Resolved 📢	Notes
	_	- In Innas				Password reset	_	N/A	6/9/2025	Percyse
98	5 6	5/8/2025				Password reset	ı	N/A		Reset pa Email: A
	6	6/10/2025				Zoning review failed.	PZ	N/A		(f
98		0/10/2023				Why?	F2	IN/A		screeng
50						( Can you				
						change the contact to receive emails from the system to me				Email: A
	6	6/9/2025				instead of the engineer ( ' C ) ' ' ) and set the	Т	Yaser Abbasi	6/10/2025	
98	7					builder as a delegate ( ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ')?				because
98		5/10/2025		(	<u>                                     </u>	10955 Fairfax Blvd Suite 110: Follow up on inquiry from 6/4/25.	PG	N/A	6/11/2025	Email: I
98		5/11/2025		Staff	Staff	: Can they feasibly set up a second location in a prefab structure?	PG	N/A	6/11/2025	Email: C Would be site, wo another freestar
99	0	6/11/2025	[ -			: Can I print out a site plan and bring it to the city to discuss with a planner?	PZ	N/A	6/11/2025	Phone: \
99		5/11/2025				Proposing additions that more than double the SF of house, but under 2500 SF disturbance. House Grading Plan needed?		N/A	6/11/2025	Phone: I work sit footprin and if th know.
99	2	5/11/2025			_	: ROW Permit status update. Left messages with PW inspectors and no answer yet.	CRP	Satoshi Eto	6/11/2025	Email: A

### **Longterm Projects**

#### Completed since June 12, 2024:

- Preconstruction meeting scheduling
- RUP inspection automation
- Business license interdepartmental coordination
- How-to-apply Guides and flowcharts
- Development process flowcharts
- Business license flowchart and checklist
- In-home daycare flowcharts and checklists
- Permit review metrics

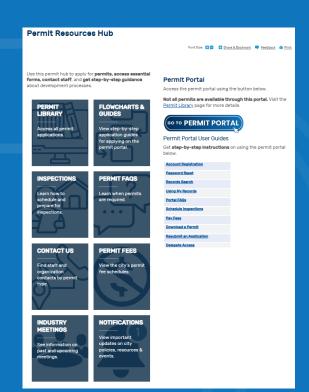
### In progress:

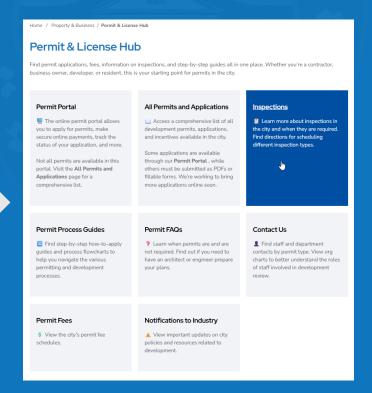
- Electronic plan review (site plan)
- Combined building and zoning permit record



### **Website Improvements**

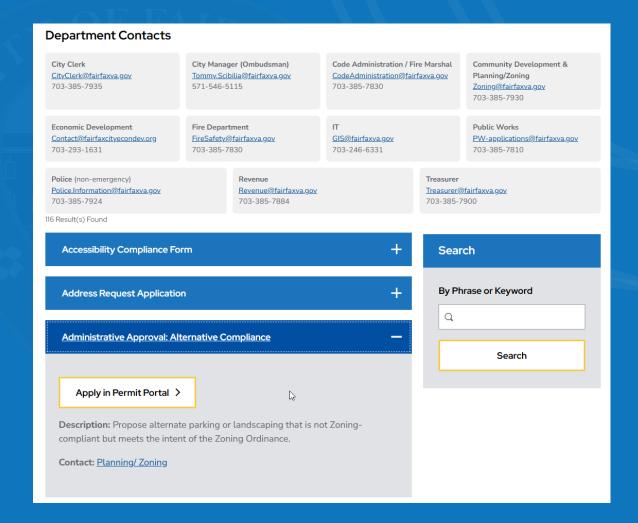
Permit Resources Hub  $\rightarrow$  Permit & License Hub





### Permit & License Hub

❖ All Permits and Applications





### Permit & License Hub

Inspections

#### Other Inspection Types

The city requires other specific inspections. For more information, visit our <u>All Permits and Applications</u> webpage.

- Backflow Prevention
- Elevators
- Home Child Care
- · Outdoor/Community Pools
- Rental Units

#### **How To Request Inspections**

Access step-by-step instructions for requesting different inspections during development and construction.

Inspection Type	How To Request
Building and Trade Permits	How To Schedule Building Permit Inspections     (₱DF, 100kB)
Preconstruction Meetings	How To Request a Preconstruction Meeting (PDF, 513KB)
Fire Prevention Code (FPC) Permits	Submit completed <b>FPC-Application.pdf</b> (PDF, 4MB) to CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov
Use Inspections	N/A. See above, part of the CU&O process.
Residential Use Permit (RUP)	How To Request RUP Inspections (PDF, 206KB)
Public Works Inspections	Contact PW-Inspectors@fairfaxva.gov



Permit & License Hub

Permit Process Guides

#### **Permits**

Guides for the following permit types:

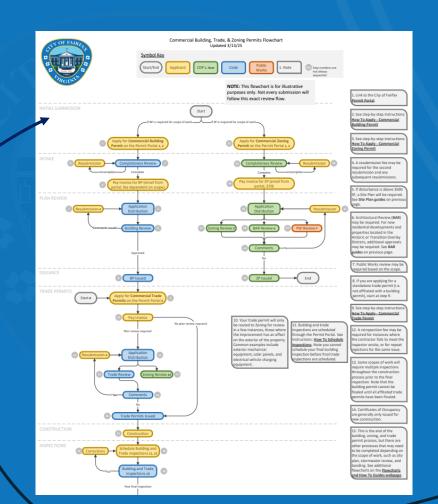
- Building and trade
- Zoning
- <u>Use</u>
- Fire safety
- Tree removal
- Sign permits

#### **Building and Trade Permits**

Permit Type	Description	Pocess Fowchart	How To Apply
Building Permit - Commercial	Building permit for commercial structures or any structure 4 stories or greater in height. Includes demolition, new construction, additions, alterations, tenant fit-outs, and relocatable buildings.	<u>View</u>	<u>View</u>
Building Permit - Residential	Building permit for residential demolition, new construction, additions, alterations, and relocatable buildings.	<u>View</u>	<u>View</u>
Building Permit - Elevators	Building permits for installation of new elevators or modifications to existing elevators.	View Comm View Res	<u>View</u>
Trade Permit - Commercial	Electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing permit for commercial structures or any structure 4 stories or greater in height.	<u>View</u>	<u>View</u>
Trade Permit - Residential	Electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing permit for residential structures up to three stories.	<u>View</u>	<u>View</u>

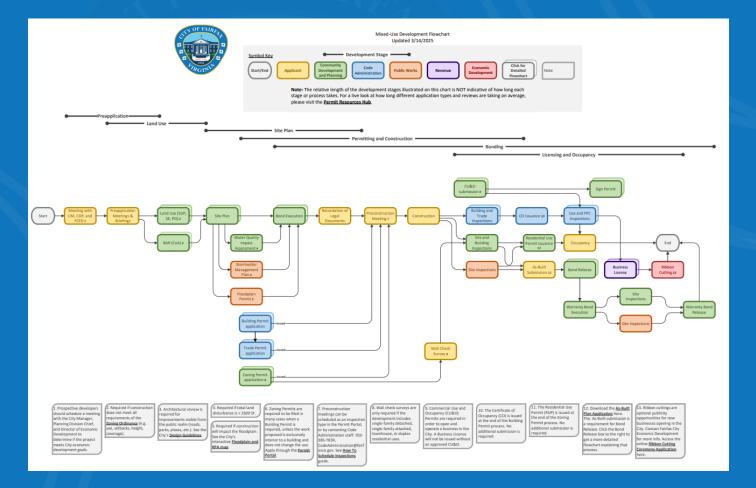
Need help? Contact Code Administration:

- 703-385-7830
- CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov



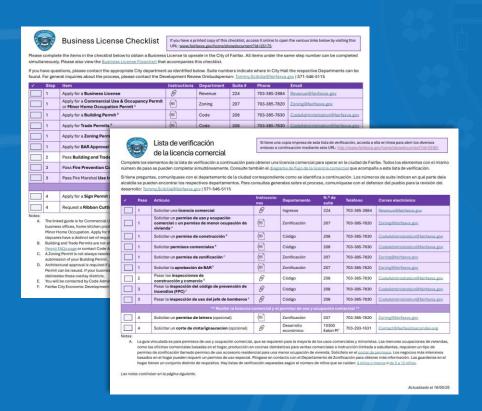


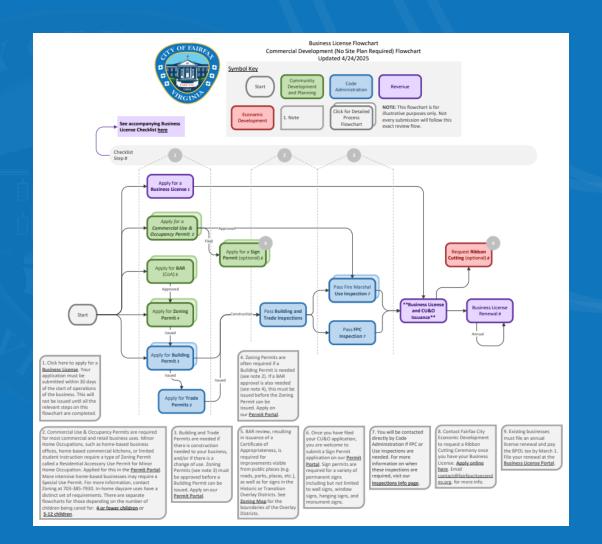
### Permit & License Hub



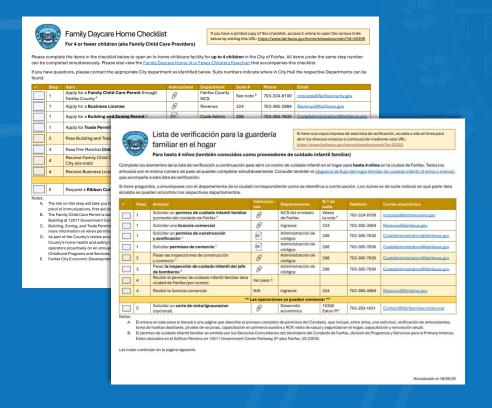


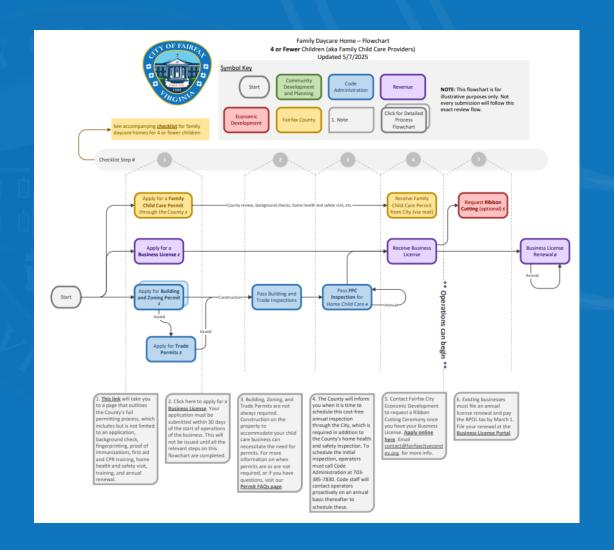
### Permit & License Hub



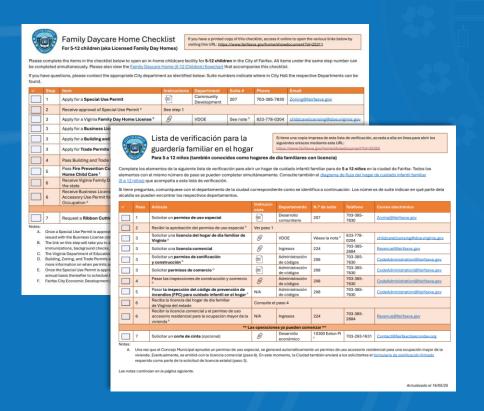


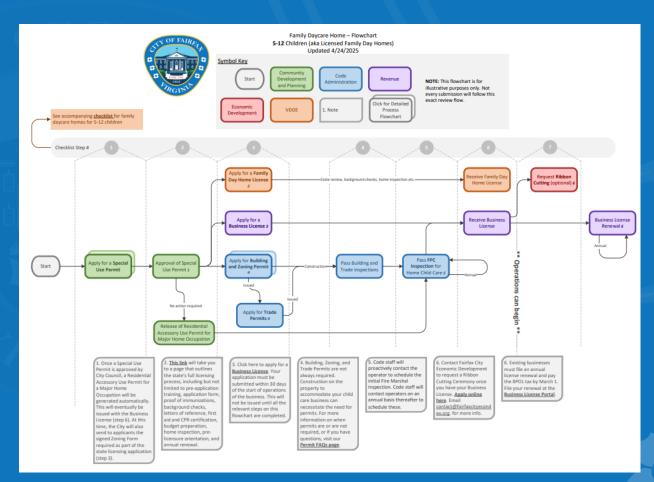
### Permit & License Hub





### Permit & License Hub





### Permit & License Hub

Permit FAQs

#### **Permit FAO**

Font Size: 🕕 🗖 🚺 Share & Bookmark 📮 Feedback 👛 Print

Review the information below to determine when certain permit types are required and whether a design professional like an architect or engineer is required to prepare your plans.

If you have any questions or are unsure whether a permit is needed, call Code Administration at 703-385-7830 or email CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov.

#### Do I need a permit?

- Building permits
- Electrical permits
- Mechanical permits
- · Plumbing and gas permits
- Fire protection permits

Do I need an architect or engineer?

#### **Building Permits**

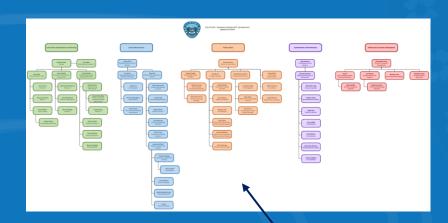
#### When is a building permit needed?

The following work requires a building permit. This list is not exhaustive.

- 1. Adding, removing, or modifying load-bearing OR non-load-bearing walls
- 2. Modifying or adding new framing for a structure (walls, floor, ceilings, rafters, etc.)
- 3. Adding or modifying the size of an opening for windows and doors
- 4. Removing or disturbing asbestos
- 5. Changing the occupancy of a building or space therein
- 6. Structure demolition
- 7 Renairs not exempted in Building Code Section 108 (see the following section)

### Permit & License Hub

Contact Us



#### Specific Inquiries

Building, Trade, and Fire permits

#### Office of Code Administration / Fire Marshal

- Email: <u>CodeAdministration@fairfaxva.gov</u>
- Phone: 703-385-7830

Zoning Permits, Use Permits, Site Plans, Subdivisions, Land Use Cases, Architectural Review

#### **Department of Community Development and Planning**

- Email: Zoning@fairfaxva.gov
- Phone: 703-385-7930

#### **Business Licenses**

#### Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue

- Email: Revenue@farifaxva.gov
- Phone: 703-385-7884

### Grant Opportunities for Businesses Fairfax City Economic Development

• Email: Contact@FairfaxCityEconDev.org

• Phone: 703-293-1631

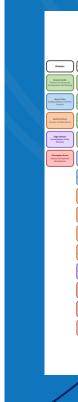
Stormwater, Utilities, and Public Infrastructure

#### **Department of Public Works**

- Email: PW-Applications@fairfaxva.gov
- Phone: 703-385-7810

#### **Org Charts**

- By Department
- By Role —





### Permit & License Hub

Permit Fees

#### **Permit Fees**

Easily access information about permit fees for various applications related to Planning and Zoning and Code Administration.

Select the appropriate category below for details.

#### Planning and Zoning Application Fees

✓ View Application Fees for Planning & Zoning (PDF, 168KB)

Planning and Zoning fees include:

- Zoning Permits
- Sign Permits
- · Tree Removal Permits
- Site Plan
- Land Use applications (special exceptions, special use permits, planned developments, rezonings)
- BAR/Certificates of Appropriateness

#### **Building Permit Fees**

<sup>⑤</sup> View Application Fees for Code Administration (, ○B)

Code Administration fees include:

- · Building Permits
- Trade Permits (electrical, gas, mechanical, plumbing)
- Fire Protection Permits (fire alarm, fire sprinkler, alternative fire extinguishing system)
- Fire Prevention Code (FPC) Permits
- Inspections



### Permit & License Hub

Notifications to Industry

#### **Notifications to Industry**

#### Notifications to Industry provide updates on:

New or revised building and land development procedures

Changes to codes, policies, or permitting requirements in the City of Fairfax

#### To receive notifications:

Visit the city's Stay Connected! Subscriber Page

Select the email subscription type

Enter your preferred email address

Click on the notifications to industry subscription topic

#### For information on industry meetings:

Registration for the 2025 Development Industry Meeting has opened!

Register today! >

#### **Published Notifications to Industry**

- April 16, 2025
  - House Grading Plan Package Updates (PDF, 161KB)
- March 17, 2025
  - Permit Resources Hub (PDF, 141KB)



### Permit & License Hub

Industry Meetings

The City hosts an annual Development Industry Meeting, where those involved in development in the City are invited to gather, meet staff, learn about updated policies and procedures, and provide valuable feedback on how the process is or is not working.

See information on the upcoming industry meeting and past industry meetings below. For questions, please contact the Development Review Ombudsperson:

Tommy Scibilia, AICP | Tommy.Scibilia@fairfaxva.gov | 571-546-5115

#### 2025 Development Industry Meeting

June 13, 2025 9-11AM, Doors open 8:30AM

Stacy C. Sherwood Center 3740 Blenheim Boulevard Fairfax, VA 22030

#### Register here

#### Meeting Materials:

- Save the Date
- Agenda

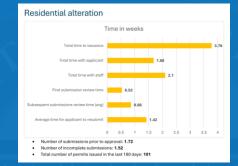


### Permit & License Hub

❖ Permit Review Metrics (NEW)

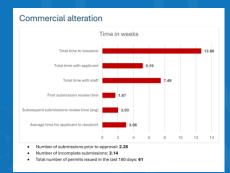


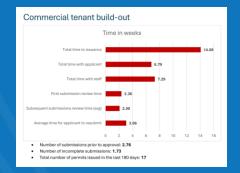


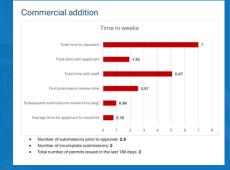


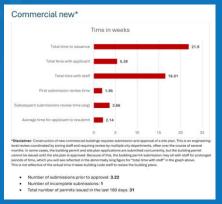














## Questions?



# Thank you for attending the **2025 Development Industry Meeting**

Special thanks to Fairfax City Economic Development for providing swag for this year's event.



### **Presenters**

#### **Code Administration**

❖ Steven Sites, Building Official and Chief Fire Marshal <a href="mailto:Steven.Sites@fairfaxva.gov">Steven.Sites@fairfaxva.gov</a> | 703-385-7847

#### **Community Development and Planning**

- Jason Sutphin, Community Development Division Chief Jason.Sutphin@fairfaxva.gov | 703-293-7155
- Bereket Merzi, Deputy Zoning Administrator
  Bereket.Merzi@fairfaxva.gov | 703-293-7130
- Paul Nabti, Planning Division Chief Paul.Nabti@fairfaxva.gov | 703-385-7934
- Anna Safford, Urban ForesterAnna.Safford@fairfaxva.gov | 703-385-2026

#### **Public Works**

- Satoshi Eto, Public Works Program Manager Satoshi. Eto@fairfaxva.gov | 703-273-6073
- Chloe Ritter, Multimodal Transportation Planner
  <u>Chloe.Ritter@fairfaxva.gov</u> | 703-273-5652
- Stefanie Kupka, Sustainability Program Manager Stefanie.Kupka@fairfaxva.gov | 703-385-7816

#### **Real Estate**

Christine Johnston, Director of Real Estate Christine.Johnston@fairfaxva.gov | 703-385-7844

#### **Fairfax City Economic Development**

Tara Borwey, Assistant Director for Programs <u>Tara.Borwey@fairfaxcityecondev.org</u> | 571-229-6912

#### **Ombudsperson**

Tommy Scibilia, Development Review Ombudsman Tommy.Scibilia@fairfaxva.gov | 571-546-5115

