Understanding Arlington County's Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan guides coordinated development and sets high standards of public services and facilities in the County. It is a decision-making tool for the County Board, the Planning Commission and County Departments. The plan was established in 1960 and originally included five elements. Today, it includes these eleven elements:

- General Land Use Plan: Guides the overall location of land and development.
- Master Land Use Plan: Guides the overall location of land and development.
- Stormwater Master Plan: Provides a framework for managing streams, and stormwells.
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Plan: Outlines policy to preserve and restore streams, the Potomac River and the Bay.
- Master Transportation Plan: Guides a multi-modal transportation system, organized by six modal elements.
- Affordable Housing Master Plan: Defines current and future needs for housing supply, access and sustainability.
- Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan: Provides policies needed to maintain system facilities and wastewater services.
- Stormwater Master Plan: Provides a framework for managing stormwater and stormwells.
- Water Distribution Master Plan: Evaluates system facilities, operations and policies to maintain a high level of service.
- Community Energy Plan: Establishes a framework for transforming how we generate, use and distribute energy.
- Public Spaces Master Plan: Guides planning for parks, natural resources, urban forestry and public art.
- County Vision: Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.

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