

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Jason Williams

March 28, 2023
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 23-1

SECOND: Rich Wilson

RE: RECOMMEND DCSM MODIFICATIONS TO ENSURE TRAILS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ARE INCLUDED IN ANY SITE PLAN

ACTION:

WHEREAS, The Design Construction and Standards Manual (DCSM) identifies the requirements which apply to the review and approval of site development plans and plats, and construction in accordance with those plans. The current version of DCSM does not require site plans to include trails that have been identified in the Comprehensive Plan and specifically, the newly adopted Countywide Trails Plan; and

WHEREAS, Other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia, using such as the attached document, have required development of their planned trails on public and private property through their Public Facilities Manual; and

WHEREAS, While Section 900 of the DCSM refers to trails, it does not make reference to those that appear in the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, Inclusion of the words "Trails shown on the Countywide Trails Plan must be constructed by the developer where these trails abut or cross property to be developed or improved. Construction of these countywide trails must occur in conjunction with development."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council recommends to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors that they ensure development compliance with the Countywide Trails Plan for all development that requires a site plan submission.

Votes:

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 1 (virtual attendance)

Absent from Meeting: 5

SIGNED: 

Liz Cronauer, Chair, Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council

8-0200 TRAILS

8-0201 General Information

1. 8-0201.1
The [Countywide Trails Plan](#) depicts the general location of proposed public trails along roadways, streams, and utility easements. The [Countywide Trails Plan](#) was adopted in 1976 by the [Board](#) as part of the [Comprehensive Plan of Fairfax County](#). On October 28, 2014, the [Board](#) adopted an amendment to the [Countywide Trails Plan](#) which updated trail cross sections and incorporated the [Bicycle Network Map](#) by reference.
2. 8-0201.2
The [Countywide Trails Plan](#) is implemented primarily through the rezoning, subdivision plan and site plan review process; the [Capital Improvement Program](#); the [FCPA](#) park development process; and occasionally through private community efforts.
3. 8-0201.3
Trails shown on the [Countywide Trails Plan](#) must be constructed by the developer where these trails abut or cross property to be developed or improved. Construction of these countywide trails must occur in conjunction with development as required by the standards and criteria set forth in [§ 8-0202 et seq.](#) and as required by other County regulations and [FCPA](#) policies.
 - A. A.
The final location of trails is approved by the [Director](#) after review by the [FCDOT](#) and/or [FCPA](#) and other reviewing staff as applicable.
4. 8-0201.4
In lieu of the required construction of trails shown on the [Countywide Trails Plan](#), an alternate trail or access facility (such as a road) may be approved by the Director upon favorable recommendation from [FCDOT](#) and/or [FCPA](#). Alternate facilities should be adjacent or roughly parallel to the street or stream designated on the [Countywide Trails Plan](#). The design and location of alternate facilities should provide equal or better access than the planned trail. A public access easement to the [Board](#) or [FCPA](#), as appropriate, is required where these alternate facilities cross privately owned land or coincide with private access facilities. This will ensure that alternate trails or access facilities become part of the Countywide Trails System.
5. 8-0201.5
As part of the requirements of the [Countywide Trails Plan](#), developers may be required to construct trail segments to link developments to countywide trails or to private community trails, recreation areas and facilities. Such access may be deemed to improve circulation and access. [FCDOT](#) and/or [FCPA](#) and other reviewing staff determine the trail type, surface and width in accordance with current standards and anticipated use.
6. 8-0201.6
When countywide trails are to be constructed, maintenance and operation jurisdiction must be determined during the site/subdivision plan approval process and depicted on the plan. Public access/trail easements must be conveyed to the [Board](#), [FCPA](#) or the [NOVA Parks](#), as deemed appropriate by the Director. The easement width and jurisdiction must be clearly indicated on the site plan and recorded in the County land records. Table 8.4 describes the maintenance and operation jurisdiction of proposed and existing trails.

Figure 1. Fairfax County PFM Section 8-0200 – attached to T&BC Resolution 23-1