



FOUA's Urban Agriculture Concepts for Metropolitan Park's Public Space

Background

Arlington's Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA) is thrilled that Amazon selected Northern Virginia for its new HQ2 campus, and is excited for the positive impacts HQ2

will bring to our Arlington community and the region. FOUA applauds Arlington County's and Amazon's commitment to the creation of a shared public space integrating National Landings' built environment with biophilic and sustainable design.

FOUA's Design Concepts:

- Beautiful Biophilia
- Sustainable Production
- Maximize the Margins
- Common Ground
- Learning Laboratory

With proven examples from major US and international cities, urban agriculture features enhance a neighborhood's livability and human health metrics, alleviate negative

environmental impacts, and humanize the scale and character of the built environment. Most importantly, yield-producing, public urban agriculture sites will offer a hyper-local food supply to Arlington's food insecure communities and support community markets and the food service economy.

Urban Ag Concepts:

FOUA envisions a portion of Metropolitan Park's public space reserved as a modern agrarian refuge for National Landing's residential community, area visitors, and Amazon employees. Our vision includes the following five design concepts:





- **Beautiful Biophilia:** We champion the confluence of aesthetics and functional design. Urban agriculture features should seamlessly complement the surrounding built and greenway environs, creating a focal point of art, culture, nature in public gathering spaces.
- **Sustainable Production:** We envision sustainable growing practices that include, but are not limited to, ecologically-friendly materials, locally-sourced growing media, regionally appropriate plants, non-invasive pest mitigation strategies, and stormwater catchment to supplement active irrigation.
- **Maximize the Margins:** In addition to a centralized growing site, Metropolitan Park offers novel opportunities to leverage both the common and peripheral spaces: tree canopies brimming with apples, peaches, pears, and figs offer food and shade to the linear parks and sidewalks; uniquely curated vining crops augment the shapes and textures of installed public art works.
- **Common Ground:** Agricultural installations will incorporate the rich history and culture of Arlington and Washington, D.C. These sites will offer visitors, residents, and employees a unique perspective of how urban agriculture enhances Arlington's sense of place and community.
- **Learning Laboratory:** With an education-forward approach, the growing sites will invoke curiosity to experience agriculture and offer students - of all ages - the opportunity to expand their knowledge, and experiment with novel growing techniques in a changing climate.

With the selection of James Corner Field Operations to lead Metropolitan Park's transformation, FOUA sees an unique opportunity to showcase Amazon's commitment to sustainability and demonstrate how ecologically-focused urbanist landscape design strengthens the social, cultural, and experiential bonds that foster and grow a sense of place and community.

FOUA is excited to participate in Arlington County's Park Master Plan process. We look forward to partnering and collaborating with like minded civic, private, and public stakeholders to turn our shared vision into a reality.

We welcome Amazon to our community and are heartened to find opportunities to make Arlington a national leader in urban agriculture and biophilic design!

Please visit our website (<http://home.arlingtonurbanag.org>) to learn more about us and our mission to improve Arlingtonians' access to locally sourced food.