



RTCN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

November 2023

Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn announced the creation of the Reston Town Center North Task Force on [May 24, 2022](#), with the purpose of making recommendations to Fairfax County staff and the Board of Supervisors regarding the implementation of the [newly adopted Reston Comprehensive Plan](#) in the area designated as [Reston Town Center North](#). The Task Force members represented the communities surrounding Reston Town Center North (Attachment 1). They were specifically charged with recommending the location of future public facilities including the Reston Regional Library, Embry Rucker Shelter and supportive housing, Health and Human Services Building, as well as a Park Authority Rec Center and athletic field. Priority was given to the location of the new library and shelter since the current facilities are nearing the end of their operational lives, and the timing for their replacement is becoming critical and the funding is available.

The Task Force held eight public meetings and a walking tour of the area (listed on page 2) to gather information on the issues concerning the current status of county facilities on the site, the proposed location for planned uses, and the current available funding to build/renovate county facilities.

[Additional Information](#)

This report outlines the recommendations by the Task Force on placement of county facilities on land owned by the Board of Supervisors, following concurrent zoning changes and a long-planned land swap with Inova. The recommendations outlined in this report were approved by a unanimous vote of the nine members (out of 11) of the Task Force attending the Oct. 26, 2023 meeting.

It should be noted that these recommendations do not include Block 9 – land adjacent to the Reston District Police Station – owned by the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Consistent with a motion approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 7, 2023, there are future plans for redevelopment of these affordable housing parcels. In addition, Blocks 2, 4 and 6 will be owned and developed by Inova via a land transfer that was [approved in concept by the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 22, 2015](#).

Regarding design of new public facilities in Reston Town Center North, there will be opportunities for public input on design recommendations.

Discussion by the Task Force also included possible interim uses of county parcels, specifically Blocks 1 and 8, pending funding and county planning processes. It is recognized that there will be a need for flexibility with community needs changing over time. The Task force is scheduled to reconvene on Nov. 29, 2023 to discuss possible interim uses. Some examples may include a dog park, exercise circuit, accessible playground, walking trails and pickleball courts.

Attachments to this report include:

1. Task Force members and communities representing.
2. Map of existing parcel ownership by Fairfax County and Inova
3. Map of RTCN approved by the Design Review Board
4. Conceptual map of Task Force recommended placement of new public facilities: Reston Regional Library, Embry Rucker Shelter, Health and Human Services Building, Park Authority Rec Center and athletic field. Note: Does not reflect final design.

Schedule of Reston Town Center North Task Force Meetings and Presentations

Jan. 30, 2023

- [Initial Meeting Presentation, January 30, 2023](#)

March 6, 2023

- [RTCN Surrounding Properties - March 6, 2023](#)

March 29, 2023

- [Reston Regional Library - March 29, 2023](#)
- [Health and Human Services in Reston - March 29, 2023](#)

May 9, 2023

- [Fairfax County Park Authority – May 9, 2023](#)
- [Fairfax County Public Schools in Reston - May 9, 2023](#)
- [Reston District Police Station - May 9, 2023](#)

June 13, 2023

- [Demographics in Fairfax County and Reston - June 13, 2023](#)
- [Reston Town Center North - June 13, 2023](#)
- [Inova Health Care Services - June 13, 2023](#)
- [Embry Rucker Community Shelter - June 13, 2023](#)

July 24, 2023: Walking Tour

Sept. 20, 2023: Discussion of first draft of facility placement

Oct. 3, 2023: Digital tabletop exercise and continued discussion of facility placement

Oct. 26, 2023: Discussion and vote on recommended placement as shown on Attachment 4

Reston Regional Library

Funding: Approved Library Bond Funding

Placement: Block 3

The Task Force recommends the placement of a new Reston Regional Library on Block 3 (Attachment 4) facing the Central Green. Library Services should continue at the current location as long as feasible or until a replacement facility is completed.

The Reston Regional Library is one of the most heavily visited in the Fairfax County Library system. It has a dynamic collection of 145,000 items, with more than 500,000 circulated each year. It also has an active volunteer base that has contributed more than \$1 million to support vital community programs such as English as a Second Language lessons.

The new Reston Regional Library will be a stand-alone (not co-located) larger facility, with a recommended minimum of 40,000 square feet, including expanded community meeting space. Following best practices in community design, the new library facility should serve as a location for placemaking, which means designing spaces to create community interaction in indoor and outdoor settings. Adequate parking and equitable transportation access should be ensured so all residents can access the library.

As recommended, the location of the new library on Block 3 will overlook open green space (Central Green) enabling design opportunities to incorporate natural lighting and natural views into the library, as well as opportunities to expand programming outside, such as children's story times and teen projects.

Embry Rucker Shelter/Supportive Housing

Funding: Approved Housing Bond Funding

Placement: Block 5

As previously noted, the Embry Rucker Shelter, built in 1986, is sorely outdated and does not have the needed capacity for the families and single adults it serves. It is recommended that the new facility be approximately 25,000 square feet to include medical beds, day-use services for training and workforce development, as well as approximately 18 permanent supportive housing units in direct support of the County's One Fairfax Policy.

The current shelter is only 11,000 square feet, with capacity for 11 families with children and 24 single adults and five medical beds. There is only one common space for laundry, eating and TV. There is a small outdoor play area and no computer/recreation/quiet study room.

The location of the shelter on Block 5 will enable access to transportation and employment opportunities. The future relocation of the Health and Human Services to be adjacent on Block 5 will ensure enhanced access to vital wrap-around services. The current shelter will continue to operate until the new facility is completed.

Health and Human Services Building

Funding: Future Economic Developing Authority bonds

Placement: Block 5

There are currently two county Human Services locations serving the Reston community, one currently located on Block 1 at 1850 Cameron Glen Dr. (57,350 square feet) and one at Lake Anne (43,000 square feet). Both of these locations have several challenges including the age of the buildings, decentralized programs and inadequate space. Lake Anne is a leased space with limited parking.

Both will be co-located on Block 5 – in a new facility that is approximately 160,000 square feet. Its placement on Block 5 with the Shelter/Supportive Housing will enable efficient access to services. The new facility will provide more equitable access to employment services, childcare assistance, adult and aging programs and services, health and wellness, as well as behavioral health and substance abuse services. As the planning process proceeds, there will be a review of current and anticipated service needs by the county.

The new facility will have convenient access to transit and Reston Town Center amenities, including restaurants and coffee shops.

When the new Health and Human Services Building is built and functioning, the current facility on Block 1 will be demolished. Due to the size of Block 1, county staff noted that this is the only appropriately sized- parcel available to accommodate a future FCPS elementary school. The timeline is projected to be a minimum of 30+ years. The Task Force believes that due to the extended timeline for a school facility, interim uses should create a vibrant common open area that provides opportunities for recreation, civic engagement and community events.

Rec Center and Athletic Field**Funding:** Future bonds TBD**Placement:** Rec Center: Block 8 and Athletic Field: Block 7

As part of an agreement with the Board of Supervisors, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) transferred a five-acre parcel to the county to consolidate parcels for recreation uses at Reston Town Center North. The agreement includes the location of a new 90,000 square foot Rec Center at Reston Town Center North. The Task Force recommended that the new Rec Center be located on Block 8 adjacent to a proposed athletic field on Block 7.

Prior to design and construction, the Fairfax County Park Authority will conduct a user survey to ensure that the new Rec Center meets the community's needs. These could include accessible/affordable recreational amenities not found in this part of the county, such as an Olympic- size pool, competitive dive area, wellness center, indoor courts and running track. Other services could include childcare, summer camps and classes for all ages.

It is expected that when the current Embry Rucker Shelter on Block 7 is demolished, the new athletic field will be built shortly thereafter. The new Rec Center construction is on a much longer timeline. There will be an opportunity for interim uses, which should create a vibrant common open area that provides opportunities for recreation, civic engagement and community events.

ATTACHMENT 1

Reston Town Center North Task Force Members

Kate Hanley, Chair: Stratford House

Sandra Barksdale: Reston Town Center Apartments (also referred to as Bowman Towne Court)

Paul Curtin: Edgewater at Town Center Cluster and Cluster Association

Kris Dabadie: The Paramount Condominium

Alex Gonski: West Market Community Association

Fran Hudson: Oak Park Condominium Association

Rhonda Henshaw: Edgewater at Town Center Condominium

Eric Miller: Midtown North

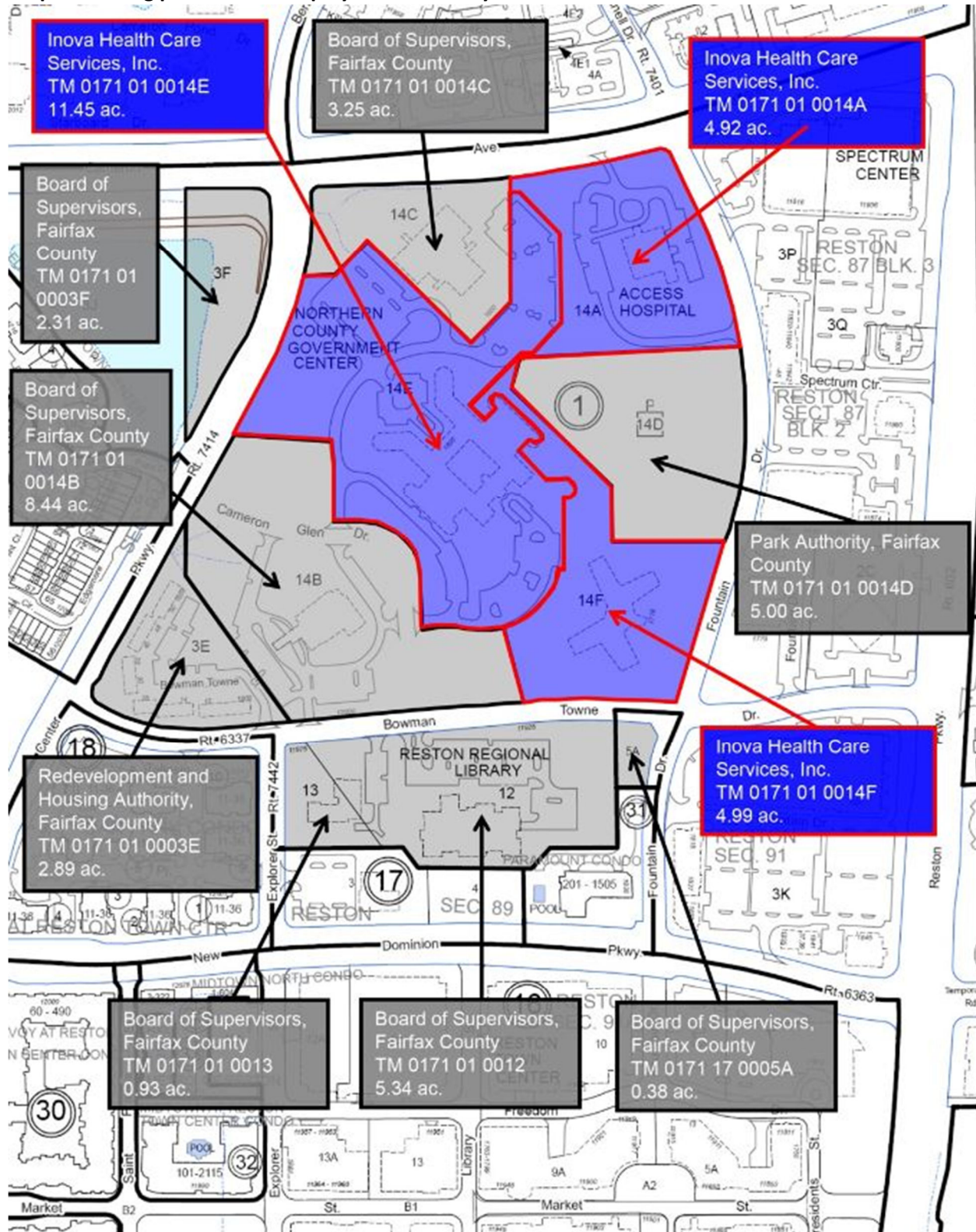
Simone Nathan: Midtown Condominium Association

Courtney Thomas: Court Cluster Association

Patricia Vives: Savoy

ATTACHMENT 2

Map of existing parcel ownership by Fairfax County and Inova.



ATTACHMENT 3

Reston Design Review Board (DRB) Approved Amended Concept Plan (Approved July 20, 2021)



ATTACHMENT 4

Conceptual Map of Future Public Facility Placement Recommended by RTCN Task Force (Oct. 26, 2023)

Note: Does not reflect final design of public facilities.

