



# Community Profile

## Overview

The City of Alexandria is located in northern Virginia and is bordered by the District of Columbia (Potomac River), Arlington, and Fairfax counties. With a population of approximately 150,000 and a land area of 15.47 square miles, Alexandria is the seventh largest city in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Alexandria is a unique and historic place that is experiencing substantial urban redevelopment demands and opportunities as a result of a high market demand for urban living in a quality environment. Although the City is part of the larger metropolitan area that includes Washington D.C., it has retained its historic character. About one-quarter of the City's 15 square miles has been designated as a national or local historic district. Thousands of the buildings used as homes, businesses and museums are considered monuments to the past.



Alexandria City Hall



Alexandria Waterfront

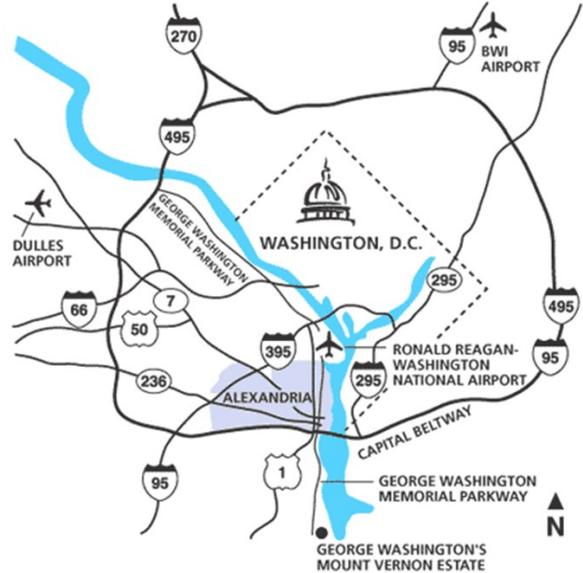
Photo Credit: Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association



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## Location

Alexandria is located in Northern Virginia, roughly 4.8 miles south of Washington, D.C., within the original boundary stones that included Alexandria as part of the Nation’s Capital. It is bounded to the east by the District of Columbia and the Potomac River, to the south and west by Fairfax County, and to the north by Arlington County. Domestic and international air service is provided by Ronald Reagan National Airport, just five minutes from downtown Alexandria, and two other major airports within 40 miles: the Washington Dulles International Airport and Baltimore-Washington International Airport. Regional access is available via I-95, I-395 and I-495. The Metrorail allows for travel into Alexandria from anywhere in the D.C. area, and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) provides commuter rail service from the Northern Virginia suburbs to Alexandria, Crystal City and downtown Washington, D.C. Amtrak also has a stop at Alexandria’s historic Union Station on King Street.



D.C. Area

Image Credit: Visit Alexandria

The City is an active participant in regional agencies such as the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.



The Neighborhoods of Alexandria

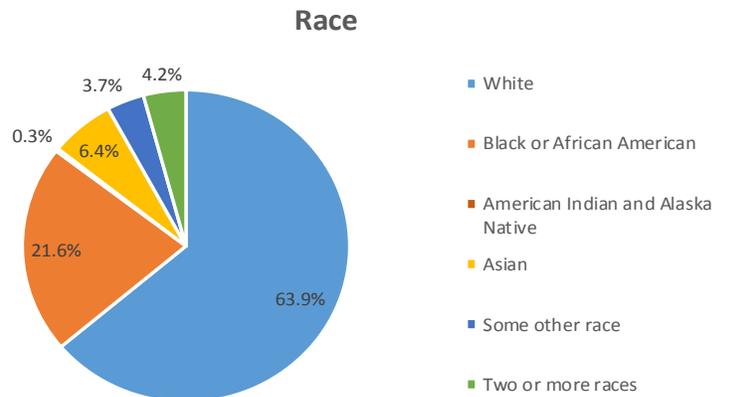
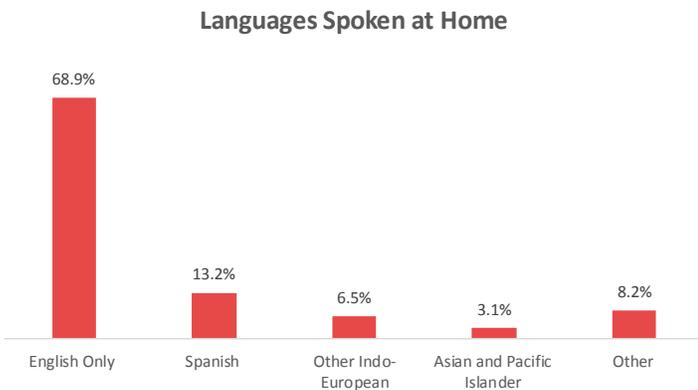
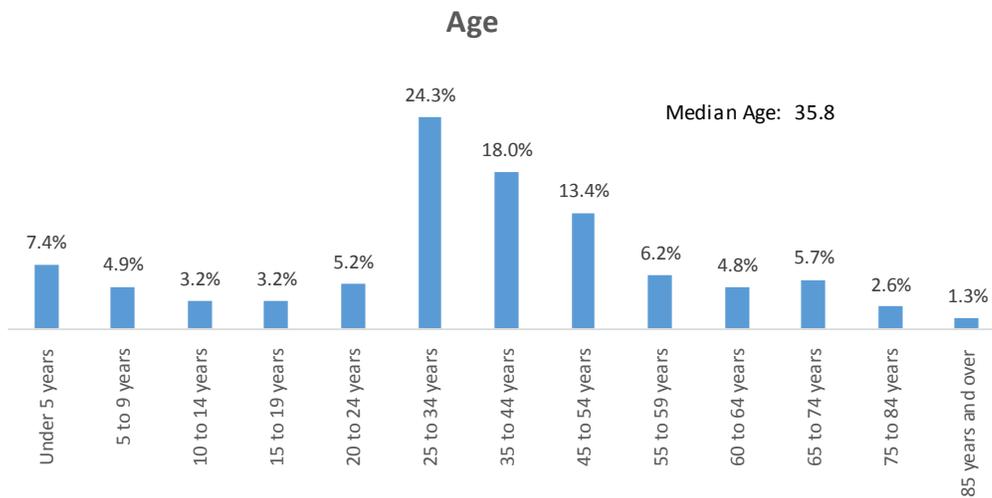
Image Credit: Visit Alexandria



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## Demographics

The average household size is 2.20 with a median household income of \$87,319, and the average family size is 3.08 with a median family income of \$109,228. The population of Alexandria is very well-educated; 91.3% are high school graduates or higher and 61.5% have a bachelor's degree or higher. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey, 9,813 veterans call Alexandria home.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey



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## History

The City of Alexandria owns and operates seven of the premier historic sites in Alexandria, including the Black History Museum, the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Park, Friendship Firehouse, the Lyceum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, and Gadsby's Tavern (a favorite meeting place of Marquis de Lafayette and President George Washington). Other notable historic landmarks include Robert E. Lee's boyhood home; Christ Church, where famous Virginia statesmen worshiped; and the City's Farmers Market, at 262 years old, the nation's oldest farmers market that has been meeting continuously at the same site, Market Square.

During fiscal year 2015, 210,548 residents and tourists visited the historic sites, museums, and events. The American Alliance of Museums has designated Alexandria as one of eight municipal "Accredited Museum Systems" in the United States.



Christ Church  
Photo Credit: Rich Grant

## Governance

Alexandria is an independent city with no county affiliation, and derives its governing authority from a Charter granted by the Virginia General Assembly. Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, which means that local governments have only the authority expressly granted to them by the Virginia Constitution or by the Virginia General Assembly in the City Charter or in general law.

The City adopted the Council-Manager form of government in 1922. The governing body of the City is the City Council, which formulates policies for the administration of the City. The City Council is composed of a Mayor and six Council Members elected at-large, on a partisan basis, for a three-year term (not staggered). The Mayor is chosen on a separate ballot and presides over sessions of the Council.

The Alexandria City Council operates under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which prohibits closed sessions of the Council except for specific matters regarding personnel, pending litigation and land acquisition. Accordingly, nearly all sessions of the City Council are open to the public, where citizens actively participate in public hearing discussions. Legislative sessions of the City Council are held on Tuesday evenings twice per month except in July and August. Public hearings, which focus largely on land use and development decisions, are held on one Saturday per month when Council is in session, allowing citizens an opportunity to speak on matters that concern them.

Civic engagement is highly valued by residents and the City government. The City has 58 internal boards and commissions, but also has appointees that serve on regional boards and commissions. These bodies compose a formal system through which citizens can advise City Council on major issues. Boards and commissions are responsible to City Council, and appointments are made by Council at their regular legislative meetings.



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The City Council appoints the City Manager who serves as the City’s Chief Executive Officer responsible for implementing the policies established by the City Council. The City Manager, Mark Jinks, was appointed in April 2015 to serve as Alexandria’s Chief Executive Officer.

The City budget provides for approximately 2,500 full-time employees, excluding school and DASH bus system employees. The City of Alexandria’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 approved All Funds Operating Budget is \$808.5 million. The FY2017- FY2026 approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is \$1.67 billion.



Council Members from Left to Right: Timothy B. Lovain, Paul C. Smedberg, Mayor Allison Silberberg (seated), John Taylor Chapman, Vice Mayor Justin M. Wilson (seated), Willie F. Bailey Sr., and Redella S. “Del” Pepper.

## Economy

Alexandria is home to many thriving businesses and organizations, which includes a large representation of technology companies, engineering and architecture firms, marketing, public relations and web design firms. Alexandria has the fourth-largest concentration of professional and trade associations in the country with approximately 400 associations, behind only New York City, Washington D.C., and Chicago. These associations employ nearly 11,000 people with some notable associations being the United Way, American Diabetes Association and The Salvation Army. Large federal government agencies include the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), the Department of Defense Washington Headquarters Service and a new headquarters for the National Science Foundation currently under construction in Alexandria.

November 2014	
Total Employment	90,696
Private Employment	63,464
Government Employment	22,989
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 1,322
Labor Force	97,241
Unemployment	3.6%
Median Home Sales Price	\$ 494,400

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

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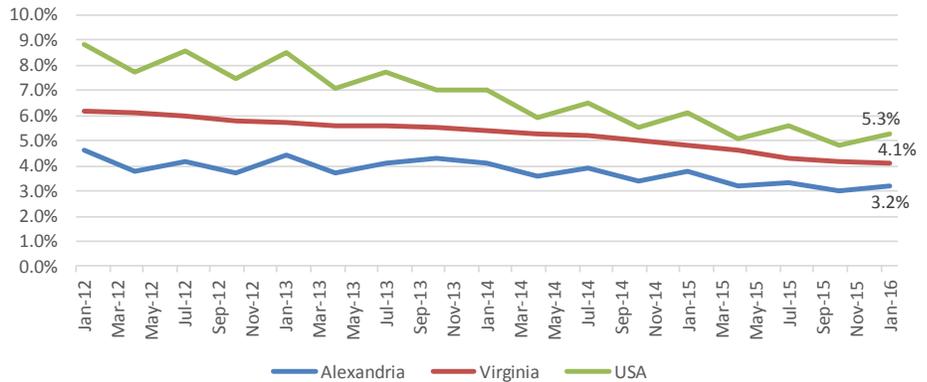


## 10 Largest Employers

U.S. Dept. of Commerce
U.S. Dept. of Defense
City of Alexandria
Alexandria City Public Schools
Inova Health System
Washington Metro Area Transit Authority
ABM Janitorial Services M Inc.
Institute for Defense Analysis
Northern Virginia Community College
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 3rd Quarter (July, August, September) 2014.

Unemployment Rate - U.S., Virginia, and Alexandria



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Alexandria, Virginia through February, US data through March

*\*Alexandria unemployment is not seasonally-adjusted, while U.S. and Virginia are seasonally adjusted.*

## Tourism



Old Town Alexandria  
 Photo Credit: R. Kennedy for ACVA

Alexandria boasts a tourism industry that hosts over 3.35 million visitors and brings in \$754 million in visitor spending each year. It is the fourth most visited city in Virginia. This visitor spending generates \$24 million in revenue for the City via local tax revenue. Twenty-three hotels with 4,193 rooms within the City of Alexandria support 6150 jobs with a payroll of \$122 million. For FY 2015, the average occupancy rate was 72.4 percent. For the same time period, the average daily rate for hotel rooms in the City was \$149. Tourism helps support Alexandria's quality of life and amenities for residents, including its 370 restaurants, a dozen museums, cultural attractions, and more.

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In addition to its historic sites, Alexandria includes a variety of attractions. One of the metropolitan area's largest concentrations of international restaurants can be found in Old Town. The Torpedo Factory Art Center, located on the City's waterfront, provides an opportunity for the public to meet more than 200 professional artists. The City's Del Ray/Rosemont areas offer beautiful tree-lined streets, eclectic shops, and various annual community events.



Del Ray

Photo Credit: Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association

## Education

The Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) is one of the most diverse school systems in the country with students coming from 127 different countries and speaking 115 different languages. ACPS employs 1,458 teachers and student enrollment as of October 2015 was 14,729. The school system is comprised of 16 schools: twelve elementary schools, one pre kindergarten-8 school, two middle schools, and one high school with 2 campuses. Talented and gifted services are received by 10.9% of students. T.C. Williams High School offers 27 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and in 2015 and 1,968 AP exams were administered. In June 2015, the high school saw 694 students graduate.

Alexandria is also home to four post-secondary institution locations: George Washington University Alexandria Graduate Education Center, Virginia Tech Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, Northern Virginia Community College, and Strayer University Alexandria Campus.



T.C. Williams High School

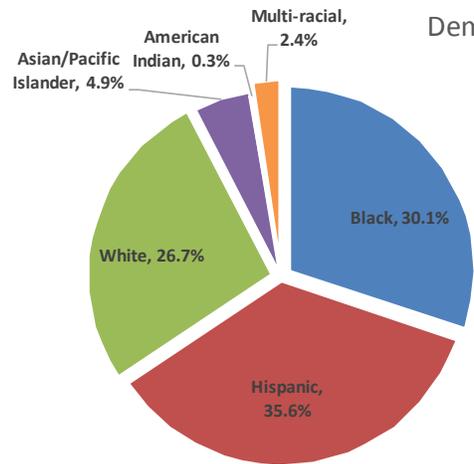


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ACPS Students	
Eligible for free or reduced price meals	58.8%
Receiving talented and gifted services	10.9%
Students requiring English Language Learners (ELL) services	28.4%
Students receiving special education services	10.8%

Source: ACPS

The Alexandria library system consists of one central library, the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, and three branch libraries, the Kate Waller Barrett Branch, the Ellen Coolidge Branch and the James M. Duncan Branch. The Kate Waller Barrett Branch is the location of what many believe to be the first organized sit-in of the Civil Rights Movement on August 21, 1939. The sit-in was organized by Samuel Wilbert Tucker, who now has a local elementary school named after him, and involved five young African-American men who one by one entered the whites-only library, picked out books, and quietly began reading until they were arrested. This event adds to the City's rich history and speaks to the progressive nature of its citizens.



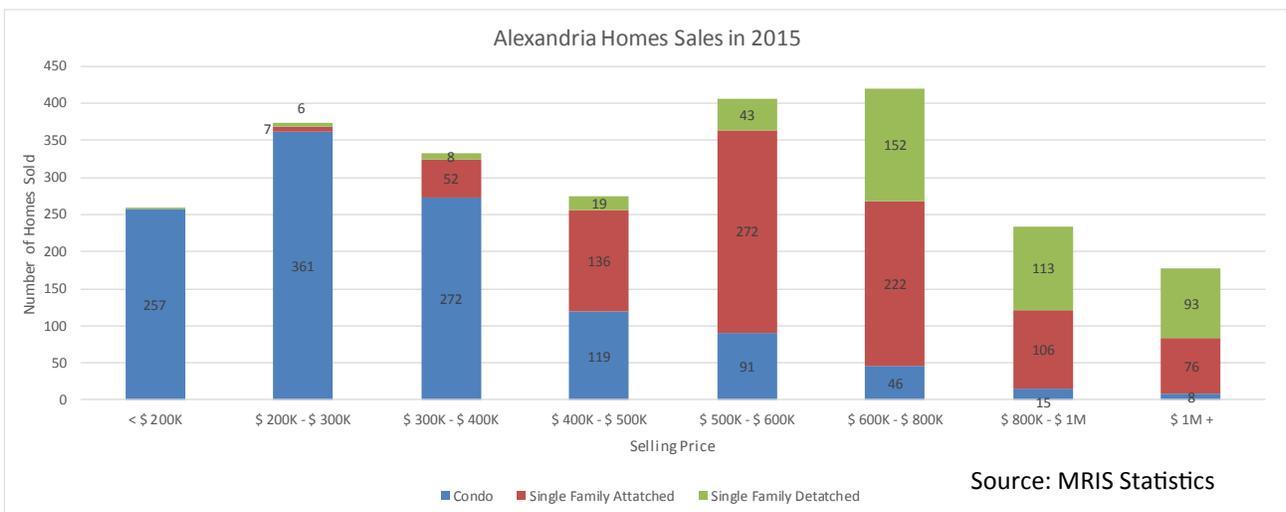
ACPS Student Demographics

Source: ACPS, as of September 2015

Based on book, magazine, and newspaper sales in the City, Amazon.com named Alexandria the Most Well-Read City in America for the third year in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

## Housing

Over the last decade, Alexandria has grown in population, number of households, number of housing units, and percentage of homeowners. The 2015 Population Estimates Program of the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the City has a population of 153,511 people.



Source: MRIS Statistics



# Community Profile

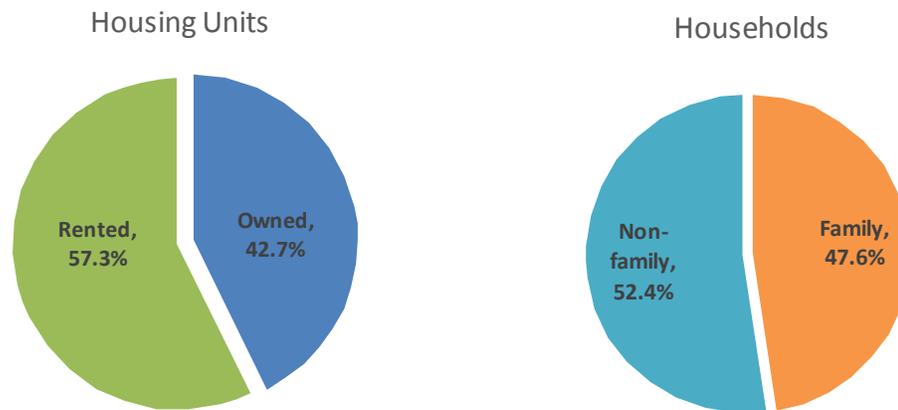
The 2014 American Community Survey estimated there to be 73,502 housing units, 89.7 percent of which are occupied. 42.7 percent of the units are owned while the remaining 57.2 percent are rented. 47.6 percent of households are family households while 52.4 percent are non-family households (households either containing only the householder or additional persons who are not relatives of the householder).

The City’s 2015 estimated population represents a 19.7% increase from the 2000 Census, with population growing by more than 25,000 people during this time. The number of housing units within the City rose by 14.4% from 64,251 in 2000 to 73,502 in 2014. The average household size has grown from 2.04 persons in 2000 to 2.20 person in 2014.

The Office of Housing coordinates and administers city housing and housing-related programs and services, and makes recommendations to the City Manager and City Council on housing policy and potential affordable housing investments. They work closely with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) on housing issues.

Within Alexandria, both public and private owners of rental housing offer assisted housing affordable to low and moderate income residents of the City through participation in state, local or federal programs. These units are available to income eligible households and some programs give priority or restrict admission to specific populations such as elderly or disabled residents.

Some programs and services administered by the Office of Housing include: the Affordable Homeownership Units Set-Aside Program, which markets a limited number of affordable resale-restricted units in new developments; Homeownership Assistance Loans, which offers no-interest, deferred payment loans for down payment and closing cost assistance toward the purchase of City-assisted properties for eligible applicants; and the Affordable Rental Units Set-Aside Program, which sets asides affordable rental opportunities within market-rate apartment properties.



Source: U.S Census Bureau, 2010-2014 5-Year American Community Survey

## Public Safety

The City of Alexandria is devoted to maintaining a safe and secure community by ensuring all community members, visitors, employees, and their property are protected from harm. Effectively achieving this goal involves collaboration between law enforcement and the community through public outreach and the recruitment of civilian volunteers. The City also collaborates with the surrounding area through the Northern Virginia Emergency Services Mutual Response Agreement, which allows the fire, rescue and emergency medical service agencies of one jurisdiction to assist in other jurisdictions if necessary, creating a level of cooperation in providing emergency services to citizens of the collective Northern Virginia community.

# Community Profile



The mission of the Alexandria Police Department is to provide competent, courteous, professional and community oriented police services. Alexandria maintains a modern, highly trained police department, with a current authorized strength of 307 sworn officers and 118 civilian employees. The Alexandria Police Department has been internationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 1986 and was reaccredited in 1991, 1996, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013. CALEA accreditation is a rigorous and difficult process that, if achieved, affirms the professional status of law enforcement agencies worldwide.



Alexandria Police Department



Alexandria Fire Department

The mission of the Alexandria Fire Department is to plan for and deliver responsive and caring emergency service, mitigate emergencies and disasters, prevent the loss of life, protect property and enforce applicable construction, fire, and building maintenance codes for the City residents and the general public in order to maintain and enhance public safety. The Alexandria Fire Department employs 247 uniformed personnel and 31 civilian personnel. A network of ten stations protects the City. Among the department's specialized teams are the Northern Virginia Regional Hazardous Materials Team, Technical Rescue, Marine Operations and the Special Operations Team. Alexandria also has a volunteer organization, the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD). The AVFD has served the citizens of the City for more than two hundred years, with President George Washington as one of its earliest members. AVFD members provide assistance in the areas of firefighting, emergency medical services, communications, canteen and administration.

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is responsible for the operation of the Detention Center, courthouse and courtroom security, service of all court legal documents, execution of court orders, transportation of prisoners, execution of arrest warrants, and general public safety and law enforcement. The Detention Center Bureau is responsible for managing the security of the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Alexandria where approximately 400 inmates are housed. About two-thirds of these inmates are being held for state and local charges. These inmates are individuals committed by the courts to the Sheriff's custody. The Detention Center operates under a management style and architectural design that facilitates increased staff and inmate contact and works to reduce tension and improve security within the correctional setting. It has been accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA) since 1989 and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) since 1991.



# Community Profile

The Alexandria Department of Emergency Communications (DEC) ensures the effective delivery of routine and emergency calls for service to the City of Alexandria public safety departments. Its mission is to serve the public by saving lives, protecting property and providing assistance to the public. This is accomplished by receiving and dispatching 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire, and EMS in a courteous, prompt, efficient, and professional manner. The department's state-of-the-art headquarters was completed in 2011 and a new computer aided dispatch (CAD) system was deployed in 2015. The department also recently implemented text-to-911 functionality in 2016.

## Community and Human Services

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) provides essential safety net services that measurably improve or maintain the quality of life for Alexandrians. Additionally, the behavioral health programs provide compassionate and effective services that support self-determination, recovery, and resiliency for residents affected by mental illness, intellectual disabilities, and substance use disorders. More than 650 DCHS employees provide services through three direct service centers.

The Center for Adult Services provides programs and services in Aging, Adult Protective Services, Clinical & Emergency Behavioral Health Services, and Community & Residential Support Services for persons with mental illnesses, intellectual disabilities and substance use disorders. The Center for Children and Families provides programs and services for Behavioral Health, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Child Welfare and Child Protective Services, Early Childhood, and Youth Development. The Center for Economic Support provides programs and services for Public Benefits, Homelessness Prevention, and Employment and Training.

DCHS envisions a community in which residents enjoy a sense of well-being, safety and self-sufficiency.



Young Alexandria residents



# Community Profile

## Transportation

The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) strives to improve the overall quality of life within the City of Alexandria through the development of a superior infrastructure. In order to contribute to the physical, social and economic growth of the City of Alexandria, T&ES provides engineering, environmental quality, traffic control, transit, construction, inspection and surveying, street, sewer and fire hydrant maintenance, and refuse and recycling collection.

The City of Alexandria has long been committed to making cycling a safe and convenient method for getting around.

With over 57 miles of on-street and off-street bike lanes, sharrows, and trails, using a bike quickly, safely, and enjoyably to get around has never been easier. The City's expansion of the Capital Bikeshare program, installation and designation of new bike lanes and routes, as well as the continual installation of bicycle parking throughout the City are just a few of the initiatives that make the City of Alexandria a nationally recognized Bike Friendly Community with a silver rating from The League of American Bicyclists. The Complete Streets Policy of 2011 was reenacted in 2014, recognizing that the users of our transportation system include pedestrians, bicyclists, riders and drivers of public transportation, in addition to motor vehicles.

Alexandria has many great walking, biking, and multi-use trails, a popular one being the National Parks Services' Mount Vernon Trail. Nearly 18 miles long, the Mount Vernon Trail is a multi-use trail that follows the Potomac's Virginia shoreline from Theodore Roosevelt Island to George Washington's Estate located at Mount Vernon. The trail offers wonderful views of the Potomac River and DC monuments. Along with Mount Vernon, the trail offers access to Old Town Alexandria and Arlington National Cemetery.



Cyclists in Alexandria  
Photo Credit: Richard Nowitz



WMATA Metrorail  
Photo Credit: Larry Levine for WMATA

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) operates Metrorail, which has 117 miles of rail lines and 91 stations throughout Virginia, DC and Maryland. Four stations along the yellow and blue lines are located in the City - Braddock Road, King Street, Eisenhower Avenue, and Van Dorn. WMATA also operates Metrobus with bus stops and routes throughout the City and the newly opened Metroway along the Route 1 corridor between Pentagon City and Braddock Road Metrorail stations. Metroway, which opened in August 2014, is the City's first bus rapid transit service operating in dedicated lanes.



# Community Profile



The Alexandria Transit Company's (ATC) DASH bus system provides safe, reliable, and courteous bus service within the City of Alexandria and connects with Metrobus, and the other local bus systems, Metrorail, Virginia Railway Express. DASH serves the Pentagon Metrorail Station during the peak periods and the Shirlington Transit Center on its AT9 route. The DASH fleet consists of 86 buses on 11 routes, serving over 4.2 million passengers annually. As of 2016, over 50% of the DASH fleet consists of eco-friendly Hybrid Electric low floor buses. The base fare for a DASH ride is \$1.60 and offers a free, 4-hour transfer pass on SmarTrip. ATC also operates the King Street Trolley, which is free to all riders, along King Street between the King Street Metrorail Station and the Waterfront.

King Street Trolley

Photo Credit: Richard Nowitz/Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association

## Recreation and Parks

The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department (RPCA) supports the well-being of Alexandria's residents by ensuring access to a variety of quality recreation, park and cultural experiences. There are 36 playground areas, 4 swimming pools, 24 outdoor basketball courts, 36 tennis courts, 49 athletic fields, 18 dog parks, 20 miles of trails, 7 neighborhood recreation centers, 1 nature center, and 1 adult/arts activity center. The City has over 1,000 acres of publicly accessible open space (this includes both public and private land that is open for public use), and 566 acres of it is City owned park land.



Ben Brenman Park