



Biophilic Cities Network

Board of Supervisors Presentation
August 6, 2025



What is the Biophilic Cities Network (BCN)?

- Aspirational
- Non-binding
- Vision-driven





Network Mission

- Connect people and nature
- Inspire sustainable urban design
- Support ecological stewardship
- Promote health and wellbeing
- Strengthen community resilience
- Encourage nature-based urban economies



Membership Benefits

- Resource library
- Policy coordination
- Peer learning
- Annual conferences
- County-University relationship



Strategic Benefits

Quality of life

Economic development

Education and learning

4

QUALITY OF LIFE

Encourage a vibrant community with economic and recreational opportunities that serve all community members.

4.1 Develop AC44 Comprehensive Plan updates and Zoning modernization.

4.2 Update Project Enable to include County's role in Economic Development.

4.3 Implement Housing Albemarle.

4.4 Integrate parks planning with multi-modal transportation planning across the County.

4.5 Enhance overall access to parks and recreational opportunities with an emphasis on urban neighborhoods.





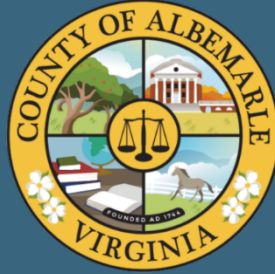
| Continent | No. Cities |
|---------------|------------|
| North America | 20 |
| Europe | 5 |
| Asia | 5 |

Partner Cities



Partner Cities Characteristics

- Largest city: Singapore (6,000,000)
- Smallest city: Fremantle, Australia (36,000)
- Virginia localities
 - County of Arlington (235,463)
 - Reston Association (63,542)
 - City of Norfolk (235,037)
 - City of Richmond (227,595)
 - City of Charlottesville* (45,863)

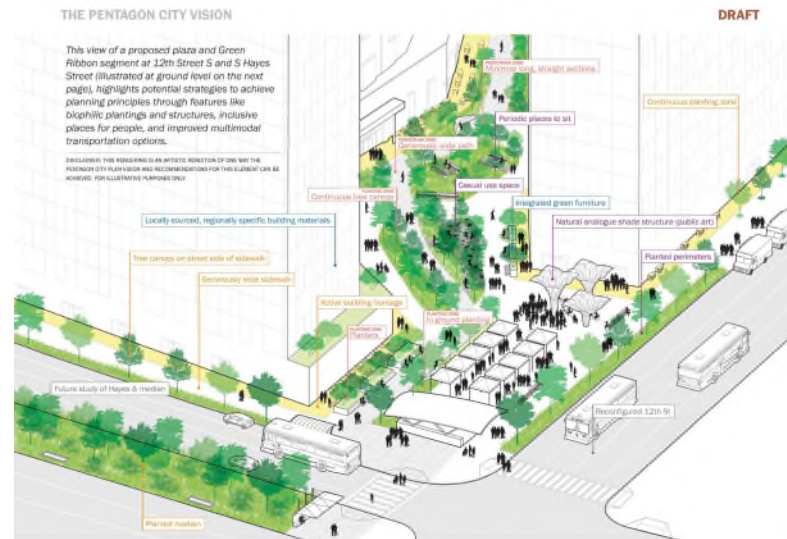


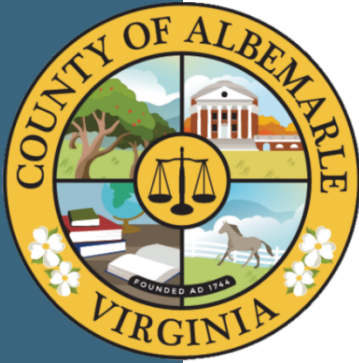
Community Examples



Arlington County

- Pentagon City Plan
- Annual internal workshops





City of Norfolk



- Comprehensive Plan development
- Minimum Tree Canopy Zoning Amendment

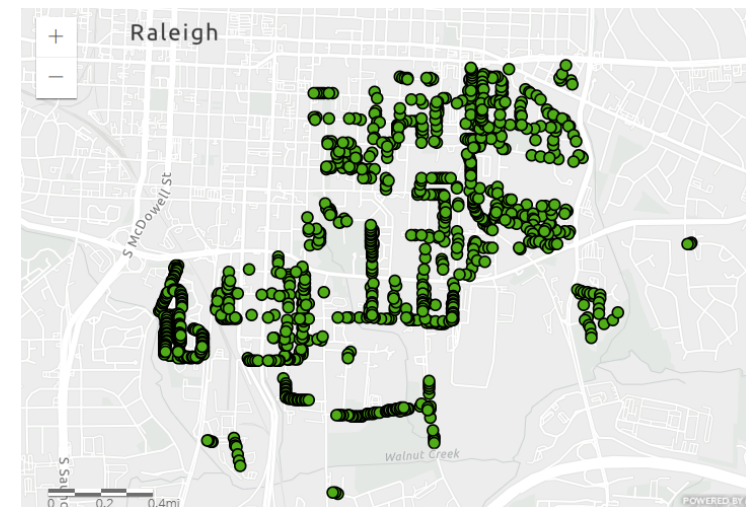




City of Raleigh (NC)



- Street Tree Equity Project (STEP)
- Comprehensive plan update





Membership Advantages

- Inform ongoing and future land use policy
- Complement existing biodiversity goals & climate action
- Address urban issues such as
 - Urban heat islands
 - Urban mobility impairments
- Aspirational, non-punitive



Steps to Join

BOS Resolution



Designation of existing Staff as Coordinator(s)



Application submission
(500- to 1000-word narrative, goals, 5+ indicators)



Initial membership for 2 years, thereafter
renewable every 2-5 years





Potential Indicators

1. Percentage of housing units in the Development Area that is within a 15-minute walk of a park
2. Percentage of Rural Area protected by conservation easements
3. Total number of multi-use trail miles
4. Number of acres under active management of invasive species
5. Number of Resilient Together event attendees