

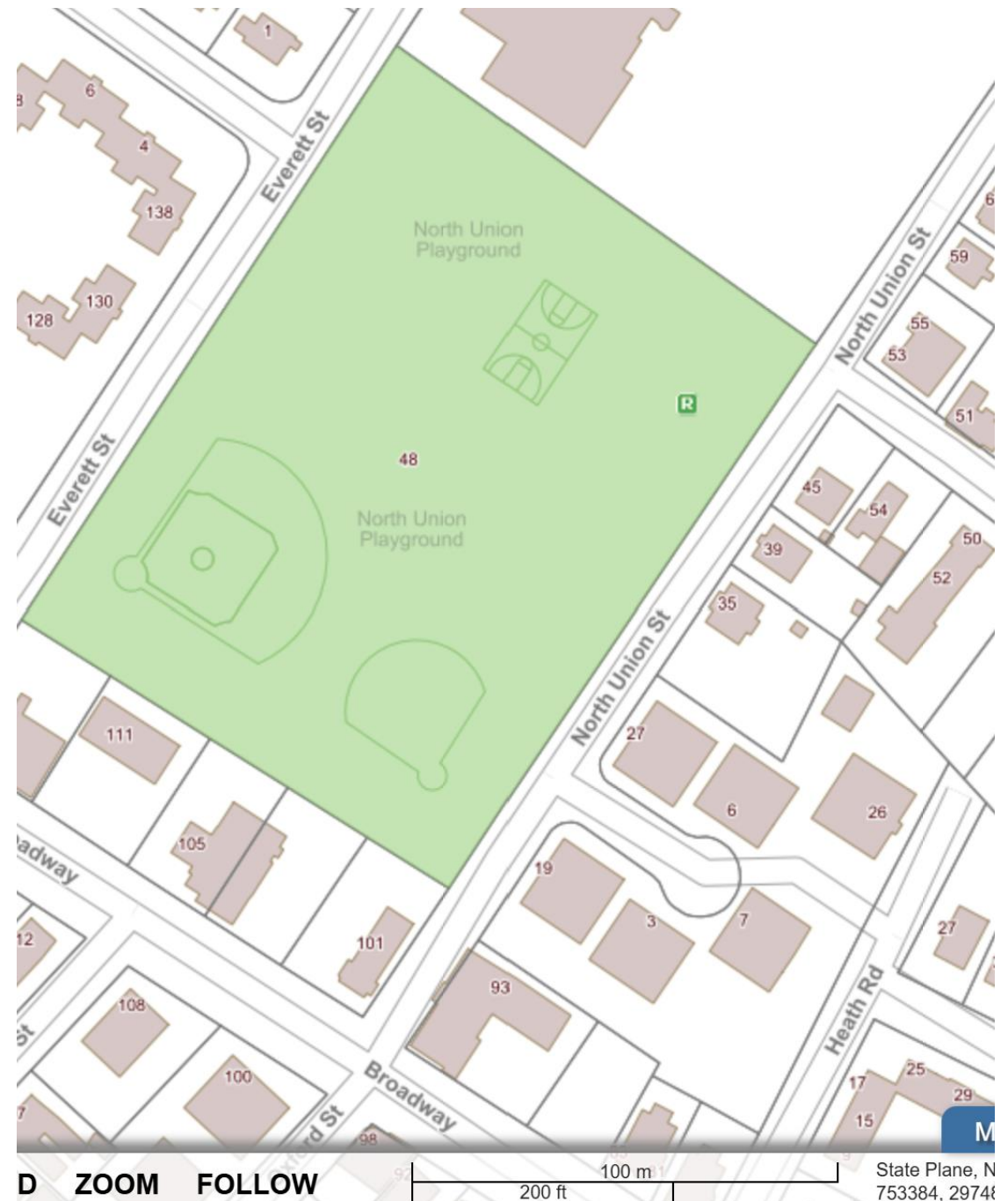
North Union Parking Discussion

October 2024

North Union: between Norcross and Broadway

- Two-way residential street
- 24' curb-to-curb
- Significant pedestrian, bike and automobile traffic
- Playing field activity leads to occasionally high parking demand

Residents have complained about navigating the street and driveway access when parking is filled up on both sides.



Observations

- 5:15 PM Monday 9/30
- An event in the playing field was ending
- Significant auto, bike and pedestrian traffic
- No-one parked on the southbound (playing field) side
- Northbound side was filled, including several cars less than 3' from driveways

More generally, the northbound side usually has some vehicle parked, with the southbound side only being used for parking during games in the playing field.

General comments

- There are many 24 – 25' two-way streets in Arlington
- These streets work if parking occupancy is low, to leave areas with no vehicles parked where opposing cars can pass each other
- Over the past 20 years, vehicle widths have increased. Increased vehicle widths make it less likely that at least 10' of open width remains when vehicles are parked across from each other
- Issue was studied back in 2007, leading to a recommended process for one-side parking, based on public safety or abutter requests. See [ParkingPriorities.doc \(arlingtonma.gov\)](#)

General options

1. No action, apart from enforcement of existing rules

- Too close to driveways and intersections. Leaving 10' clearance

2. Limited no parking areas to provide meet-pass opportunities

- a. Providing meet-pass opportunities at least once every 200'
- b. Being located across or adjacent to narrow driveways (which are more challenging to navigate than wider driveways)
- c. Being located across from locations where large vehicles are likely to stop (e.g., school bus drop-offs)
- d. Taking advantage of locations where parking is already restricted (e.g., fire hydrants)

3. Remove parking on one side of the street completely. This is appropriate where there are public safety concerns with navigating the street, or where a significant number of trucks and buses need to use the street.

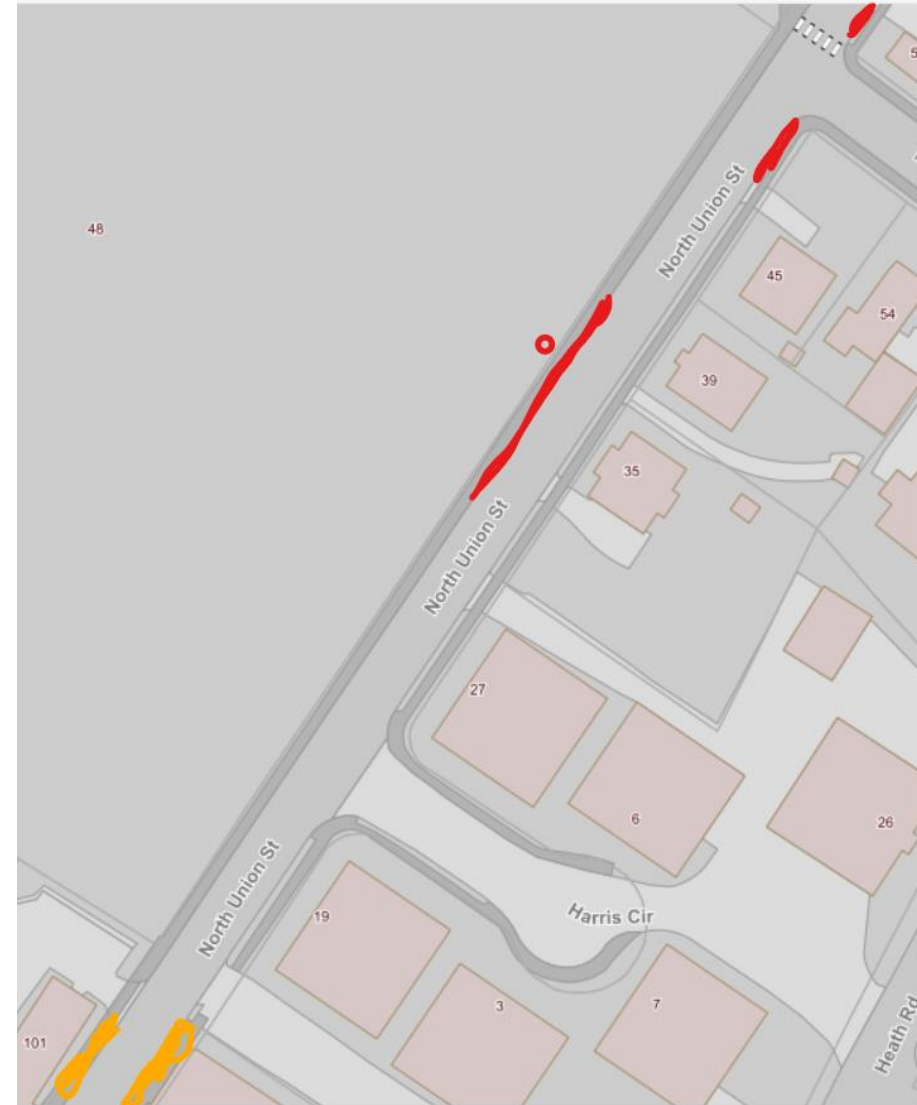
4. Temporary restrictions on nearby streets during events

One-way conversions are generally not recommended: higher speeds and higher VMT via out-of-route travel are contrary to Arlington's sustainability goals

North Union Options (area south of Thompson School)

1. Limited no-parking zones

- Near Norcross and its crosswalk (parking is already illegal)
- ~100' near the existing fire hydrant on north Union
 - Is across from two narrow driveways
 - Would remove ~4 spaces, plus the space in front of the hydrant
- A posted no-parking zone already exists near Broadway



North Union options (continued)

2. Remove all parking on the southbound (playing field) side between Norcross and Broadway
3. Remove all parking on the northbound (residences) side between Norcross and Broadway
 - Fewer parking spaces removed than with option 2
 - Addresses the issue of parking too close to driveways