

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2023  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE

**OSTP Update:**

- Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center's Out of School Time Program (OSTP) had the opportunity to venture away from the center on several walking **field trips to McDonald's** during the month of March. These trips were divided into three age groups. All participants had a great time as they made their journey to McDonald's to enjoy a discounted Happy meal with a free ice cream cup. The store manager went out of her way to make the events an enjoyable moment for everyone (90 children and 9 staff).



**Program Wrap-ups:**

- From mid-February to mid-March, participants enjoyed **Roller Skating for Fitness & Fun** at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. The program included guidelines for safety, components of an inline and traditional quad roller skates, basic skating skills, proper techniques, and exercises.



- Leonard Chick Armstrong March **Senior Programs** included:

- Daytime Trip to the Freedom House/ Lunch (March 10) and Fish & Grill Social/Lunch (March 31).
- Returning activities: Coffee Social Hour w/ special guest (AARP Education/Outreach Rep), Zumba Class, Line Dance Class, Arts & Crafts (W/ Ms. Terry), and Senior Club Meeting
- Special Events activities: Game Day (22 seniors-March 17) the group played Pictionary, table games, karaoke, and food.
- Upcoming programs/activities/trips for April include Art Fun w/ Ms. Terry (April 14), Game Day, Coffee Social Hour w/ Special Guest (Sylvia Traymore) and Annual Dance for All Ages (presented by SAC). US Botanic Garden and National Museum of the Marine.



- Each Tuesday during the month of March, OSTP participants at Patrick Henry Recreation Center enjoyed a musical learning experience. Mr. TJ, center staff, taught the girls some music notes with the keyboard and they created their own song to perform in **Patrick Henry's Music Club**.



- On March 3, Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center conducted its annual **Book Swap event** for youth ages 5-12. The event was well attended by the community and drew a crowd of 75-100 participants.



- On March 11, Durant hosted their annual **“Drive In” movie event**. This fun crafty event was a great success as participants “built” their own cars and enjoyed a movie with snacks. A fun way to recycle boxes!



- On March 25, Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center held a free **community Health Fair**. This was a joint event with Neighborhood Health Clinic, and Kathleen & Eddie Arthur Hearts of Love foundation. The event drew a moderate crowd of 165 people who participated in free health screenings.



- On March 31, OSTP hosted its annual **Night of Stars** at Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium. This event showcased over 180 youth aged 5 – 15. Participants were shining stars as they graced the stage with song, dance, comedy, poetry, and drama. Events like this help to foster a love for the arts, promote self-esteem and creativity, and celebrate each person's uniqueness, hidden talents, and diversity. Be on the lookout for press coverage of the event in the upcoming Zebra Press newspaper.



- On April 7, Charles Houston Recreation Center had its annual **Flashlight Egg Hunt**. It was a great success. There were three separate egg hunts, each for different age groups. An evening filled with crafts, games, and bouncy houses.



- On April 8, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted **Crafts & Egg Hunt** with the Easter Bunny. Children and families came out and created crafts, took pictures with the Bunny, and enjoyed the egg hunt.



- On April 8, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted a **Financial Literacy workshop**. The event was supported by United Bank, and helped participants learn about tools and resources available to them to help save and plan for their future.



- On April 8, Chinquapin Recreation Center hosted an **Underwater Egg Hunt** and had the Mobile Art Lab out to assist with art activities.



### Program Updates:

- On March 9, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held its ongoing **Teen Focus Group** meeting. Guest speaker, Ms. Claudia, discussed safe dating. Topics included communication with partners, consent, being mindful, noticing red flags, and remembering that they deserve respect when safe dating.
- The Sports Section hosted the first event for the **Adult Sports – Pop Up & Play Nights** on April 4 at Ewald Park. The events are being held for adults looking for an outlet after work and a way to connect with the community. The next event is scheduled for April 18 at Braddock Park.



### Upcoming Events:

- On Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m., come enjoy the **Alexandria Spring Invitational Cheerleading Competition** at Alexandria City High School. The event features teams from Charles Houston, Mt. Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry, William Ramsay and other visiting teams. Tickets are available online.
- On Sunday, April 23 from 10am-2pm, Durant will host their **Sunday Durant Brunch Bunch** for ages 6-12. Fun activities, outdoor playtime and snacks provided!
- The Community Outreach and Safe Place team is finalizing plans for the upcoming **annual Community Cookouts**. These events are designed to provide an outreach opportunity to the community. They help educate and provide resources about summer camp opportunities, outreach programs, Safe Place, City-Wide resources and services, and community events. The Community Cookouts are provided in partnership with RPCA, Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff Department, Alexandria Fire Department, DCHS, ARHA, and other City agencies and local



non-profits. The cookout will take place April 25 – May 25, at designated locations throughout the City.

- On April 28, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosts **Parents Night Out** from 6:30-9pm. Parents will be able to have a fun night with friends while we entertain your kids! Participants will enjoy gym games, movies, pizza, drinks, and snacks. This program is for grades K - 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On April 28, William Ramsay Recreation Center will work with DCHS to host “**Titan Takeover**”. Teens will be treated to music, games, food, art activities, and more.
- On April 29, Lee Center Auditorium will host the **2023 Spring Dance Recital**. 70 young dancers have been working hard since January and are excited to show their families all their hard work!
- On May 5, Charles Houston Recreation Center’s Teen Center is having a **Cinco de Mayo Celebration** from 8-10pm. This event will be used to teach the teens about Mexico’s heritage and culture. Admission is free!
- On May 13, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosts its annual **Mother’s Day Spa** from 11:00am-1:00pm. Moms and daughters will come out and enjoy spa treatments, massages, and manicures.
- On May 15, Chinquapin Recreation Center hosts “**Water Safety Day**” and invites summer camp participants and community members out for a free evening of water safety instruction and activities. We are encouraging all kids signed up for summer camps to attend prior to the start of the outdoor pool season.
- On May 19<sup>th</sup> Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host its first **Sneaker Ball**. Youth and Families will be able to come out dressed in formal wear and sneakers. 6:30pm-9:00pm.

#### **Special Features:**

- On May 6, Durant and UnCut host the **Youth Prom Dress Giveaway**. This partnership enables teens to shop for the perfect dress just in time for Prom! If you still have formal attire that you would like to donate, you still have a chance to do so on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-6pm.

#### **Staff Updates:**

- **Jacob McGrail** (new Full Time Lifeguard) and **Dennis Burstein** (head Wahoo's Swim Coach), along with the help of **Trina Wood** hosted a Lifeguard Class that certified 8 new lifeguards and likely new City Employees over Spring Break.
- Charles Houston welcomes **Tress Wilson** and **Leniece Howard** to the OSTP program staff.
- **Alexis Stubblefield** (Full Time Lifeguard) completed her American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor Certification at the St. James from April 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. She is now able to assist and teach additional Lifeguarding classes this spring and summer!

- **Skylar Borman** graduated from Revenue Development School. This two-year school offered by the National Recreation and Parks Association is a comprehensive and unique professional development program focusing on proven revenue management and development techniques. Also in attendance as first year students were **Jametta Pettway** and **Richard Daley**.
- **Debbie Woodbury** served as the school’s Extern for the Board of Regents, which involved planning for the school, presenting educational sessions, and organizing scholarship events.



- **Shawn Brown**, Center Director for the William Ramsay Recreation Center, graduated from the R.I.S.E. Leadership Academy on April 13. The R.I.S.E. Academy is part of the City Manager’s approach for employee professional development as a new program developed with the intention of identifying the City’s rising leaders. The “R.I.S.E. Leadership Academy” provided participants training and preparation to compete for senior executive positions (interim and permanent) within the city. Working with a small cohort of participants, Shawn and a group of 3 other rising leaders across the city worked on and presented a project proposal to align project management strategies for non-CIP projects. The presentations and graduation took place at the George Washington Masonic Temple to an audience of City leaders.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 20, 2023  
TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES  
FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES  
SUBJECT: PARK SERVICES – PARK MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT MONTHLY UPDATE

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### 1. PARK & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

#### a. Park Maintenance

- Completed mowing of Ben Brenman Meadows. (D. Bates, A. Smith and C. Brown)
- Staff is updating Ft. Ward Area 2 picnic pavilion so that it is ADA compliant.
- Staff removed graffiti.

#### b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- The maintenance team turned on all drinking fountains and public restrooms for the season. They also started turning on irrigation systems throughout the City.
- The maintenance team started the bridge restoration project at Potomac Greens Park.

### 2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

#### a. Urban Forestry

- For the month of March, the City of Alexandria's Urban Forestry Unit continued spring tree plantings throughout the city. Comprised of resident requests as well as proactive street tree plantings, Urban Forestry has coordinated the planting of over 750 trees to date, with an additional 300+ expected by the end of May.
- In addition to tree plantings, Urban Forestry prescribed work for 97 service requests and confirmed the completion of 119 work orders.
- During the month of March, Urban Forestry received 151 requests for service & performed 140 investigations.
- Urban Forestry received 8 emergency calls during the month of March. Response to calls received included;





removal of fallen debris by staff as well as coordinating removals of severely damaged trees

b. Horticulture

- Community Gardens: All the plots at both Chinquapin Organic Gardens and Holmes Run Community Gardens were full for the new Garden Season with both returning and new gardeners. The gardens opened for the season on March 1 and the water turned on the first week of April. Board meetings for both Holmes Run Gardens and Chinquapin Community Gardens have begun for the 2023 season with staff attending. These meetings will continue via Zoom as this proved a very successful way for the gardeners to be able to attend.
- Regular scheduled mowing and landscaping for the season begins in April.

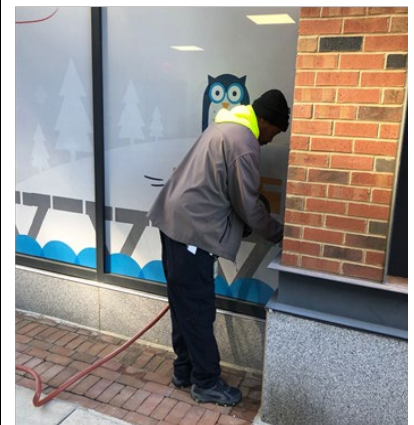
3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry, Callery Pear, Garlic Mustard, and other non-native invasive plants from Chinquapin Park, Dora Kelley Nature Park, Forest Park, Fort Williams Park, and Timberbranch Parkway.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in treating Lesser Celandine and English Ivy at Angel Park.
- Staff supervised the annual mowing of the managed meadows at Ben Brenman Park and Beatley Library.
- Natural lands management volunteer Sissy Walker pulled and bagged Garlic Mustard from Holmes Run Park. Valerie LaTortue and a regular group of volunteers that meet the first Sunday of each month removed non-native invasive plants from the Chambliss Crossing section of Dora Kelley Nature Park. Bonnie Petry and Russ Bailey removed Callery Pear saplings with weed wrenches from the Ben Brenman Park Meadow.

b. Cooperative Initiatives

- City Natural Resource Manager gave “Relictual Floras and Habitats of the Washington, D.C. Region” to the Virginia Native Plant Society 2023 Annual Workshop. Three hundred eighty-six registrants were in attendance.



- Staff properly disposed of 14.5 gallons of herbicides no longer used by Natural Lands Management.

c. Environmental Reviews

- City Natural Resource Manager reviewed the Windmill Hill Park Landscape Improvements and provided comments.
- City Natural Resource Manager reviewed the Old Cameron Run Trail 90% Plan and provided comments.

d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement

- No incidents to report this month.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates

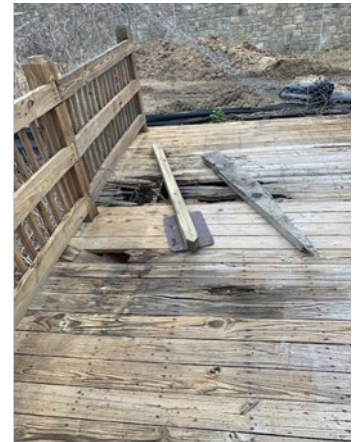
- The Nature Center had 527 visitors in March and provided 59 impromptu programs. Throughout the month we conducted 85 interpretive programs for 267 patrons.
- The Nature Center hosted 5 birthday parties with 149 participants during the month of March.

b. School Programs

- In March, nature center staff conducted 18 programs in line with the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) for 389 Alexandria City Public School students.
- William Ramsay Elementary PreK visited the nature center to learn about animal homes and habitats.
- William Ramsay Kindergarten visited the nature center to learn about our senses and how some animals have unique ways of using their senses.
- Douglas MacArthur 5th Grade visited the nature center to learn about plate tectonics, the layers of the earth, and how we classify rocks.
- Our educators had the opportunity to visit with Patrick Henry Kindergarten students to teach them about Spring and what types of plants and animals we will begin to find as it gets warmer outside.

c. Outreach Programs

- We visited with Alexandria Adult Services senior center to provide a program for their participants on our Eastern box turtle. We talked about how they got



Bloodroot



Skunk Cabbage in Chinquapin Park Acidic Seepage Swamp



their name, what types of food they eat, and how they are different from aquatic turtles. Over the course of 2 days, we visited with 17 participants.

- Nature center staff visited Douglass MacArthur Elementary School to talk to their students about having a career in environmental education. Throughout their visit, they reached 300 students and 15 teachers.
- Our staff also visited two recreation centers and reached 65 children and 11 adults. Our program was about animal homes. We talked about what animals need in their homes, how animal homes and like human homes, and introduced participants to a live animal.

d. Onsite Programs

- The Nature Center hosted 7 participants and 2 volunteers at our 4-H Club meeting in March and spent time learning about the different projects the kids can present for the fair. We also got to paint rocks and listen to one of our participants presentations for the fair.
- We held 2 Day camps in March- Art and Nature Day camp and Prehistoric Virginia Day camp. We had 20 participants over the course of the two days.
- During our Constellations program, our 12 participants were able to learn about basic astronomy and create their own night sky with some of their favorite constellations to take home.
- During our Girl Scout program, the troop of 11 Daisy Scouts learned about what to do if they find injured wildlife and how caring for animals is like caring for yourself. We also showed the scouts how we feed two of our animals.

b. Volunteer Hours

- In March, our garden volunteers from the Northern Virginia Master Gardener group and our animal care volunteers contributed 41 hours.
- We hosted another Invasive Plant Pull with the Master Gardener Group and had 6 volunteers who contributed 12 hours in total
- Volunteers from the Friends of the Dora Kelley Park group also began conducting amphibian surveys in the



Toadshade at Dora Kelley Nature Park



Old-age Northern Red Oak at upper Fort Williams Park



park. These surveys are conducted each Spring to record the number and diversity of amphibians in the Dora Kelley Nature Reserve.

c. Noteworthy

- In March, Buddie Ford Nature Center Manager/Naturalist Stephen Florence informed RPCA leadership he would be departing the role in June 2023 to accompany his wife on an overseas diplomatic posting. The process to find a new Manager/Naturalist will begin in the coming weeks.

[Click here to enter text.](#)



# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2023

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*  
PARK SERVICES

**FROM:** BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF *BZ*  
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

**ITEM:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE  
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

### Action Items

- Proposed Text Amendment to the Public Open Space and Community Recreation Zone  
*(Item 4 - Attached)*

### Informational Items

- PRGS Community Engagement Process *(Item 6b - Attached)*
- FY 2022 PARKnership Annual Report *(Attached)*
- Recreational Trails Program Grant Application *(Attached)*

### Capital Improvement Project Updates

- April Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services *(Attached)*

### Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination

- Alexandria West
- Landmark Mall
- Eisenhower East
- North Potomac Yard
- Arlandria-Chirilagua
- Potomac River Generating Station
- High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2024)

## **Sites Currently Closed or Partially Closed to Public Use for Capital Projects**

### **Closed**

- Holmes Run Trail (four locations)
- Four Mile Run Park Bridge
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Dog Park

### **Partially Closed**

- Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter (ADA Access Path)
- Mason Avenue Mini-Park Playground (play equipment out of service)
- Mulligan Park Playground (play equipment repairs)



# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



April 20, 2023

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Citywide Trail Wayfinding Project	This project is a grant request through RTA. The grant requires a 20% match. Grant applications are due May 9.	This project will be docketed for City Council on April 25. A memorandum is included in the Park and Recreation Commission April meeting packet.	Initiation	Citywide	06/28/24	Jose Ayala
2 Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along all four sides of the two rectangular fields.	Purchase Order approval is anticipated by the end of April 2023. Construction activities will be coordinated with field use.	Planning	District 1	05/31/23	Daniel Unkle
3 Waterfront Parks Wayfinding Signs. Install 6 Di2a signs at selected parks.	This project will install new City standard wayfinding signs. New park entrance signs will be installed in six waterfront district parks.	Sign fabrication is complete. Installation is anticipated in mid April at the following locations: 48 South Early Street Park, Fort Williams Park, Goat Hill Park, Interior Park, Pendleton Park, and Timberland Park.	Implementation	District 1	04/30/23	Daniel Unkle
4 Simpson Dog Park Renovation	This project will address erosion and drainage issues in the Simpson Park dog park per the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan.	Major earthwork and grading are underway. Concrete form work is in progress. Tree planting and grass installation will occur in May on the top portion. Construction is anticipated to be complete fall 2023 with the park opening in late 2023.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
5 Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	The construction Invitation To Bid was issued in March. The bid opening is scheduled for early May.	Procurement	District 2	01/31/24	Judy Lo
6 Warwick Pool Replastering	This project will re-plaster and refinish the main pool and beach entry area at Warwick Pool.	The contractor has started work on the pool and anticipates completion the week of April 17. After the re-plaster application work is complete, the surface will cure until mid-May.	Implementation	District 2	05/19/23	Lisa O'Neill
7 Stevenson Dugout Replacement	This project will install two baseball dugout structures and complete the associated grading.	The Development Site Plan is approved. Notice to Proceed was given to contractor and staff is awaiting a final construction schedule. Construction is anticipated summer of 2023 and will be coordinated with field use.	Planning	District 3	08/31/23	Daniel Unkle
8 Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter Access Improvements	Provide barrier free accessible route that connects picnic shelter, picnic tables, and parking. The ADA accessible path will also connect to the sidewalk on Van Dorn Street	ADA parking space striping and stairwell renovations are complete. Handrail footings were installed. Grills will be re-installed and all remaining project work will be finished in May	Implementation	District 3	05/31/23	Judy Lo
9 Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	The construction Invitation To Bid will be finalized in late April or early May. The project is anticipated to be advertised in May.	Planning	District 3	12/01/24	Bethany Znidersic
10 Armistead Boothe Restroom HVAC upgrade design	This project will provide design and engineering to upgrade mechanical systems to allow for all season usage	The design purchase order was awarded for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and necessary building envelop changes. A kick off meeting will be held in late April.	Planning	District 3	10/31/23	David Ghezzi

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2023

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES

**FROM:** LUCRESHA MURPHY-TATE, PARKNERSHIP MANAGER, PARK PLANNING

**ITEM:** FY2022 PARKNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

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**ISSUE:** Park and Recreation Commission update on the FY2022 PARKnership Annual Report.

**BACKGROUND:** The PARKnership Program oversees partnerships, sponsors, volunteers, and donations for the development, design, construction and operation of recreational and park facilities and/or programs with the intent to support the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities' goal for a healthy and thriving City of Alexandria. A community group's partnership is a great opportunity to build relationships with community members around a shared vision for Alexandria's valuable parks or programs.

**DISCUSSION:** The PARKnerships annual report documents the programs activities and finances in FY2022 and the past two previous years. The report documents an increase in volunteer hours, number of volunteers, number of new partnerships and contributions over the past fiscal year. Adopted benches decreased from past years, but still exceed department expectations.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Community partnerships provide in-kind and monetary support for Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities goals and programs. In FY2022 community members contributed over \$304,000 in value from volunteer hours and over \$91,000 in contributions. Additional details are available in the annual report.



# PARKnerships

ANNUAL REPORT | FY2022



PARKnerships  
Building Community in Alexandria



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



# PARKNERSHIPS AT A GLANCE



## Connect the Community

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) PARKnerships Program, continues to connect the community through collaboration with volunteers, community organizations, and sponsors. This year, PARKnerships partnered with over 16 community groups and organizations for facility improvements and innovative youth programming, in addition to sustaining many partnerships already in full swing from prior fiscal years.

Partnering with the community allows residents and local businesses to participate in planning and decision-making processes so RPCA can attain its mission of enriching the City of Alexandria by creating meaningful experiences through public space, cultural activities, and programming.



# PARTNERSHIPS



## Partners

## Project

### Alexandria Choral Society

Hosted pop-up choral concerts at William Ramsay Recreation Center.

### Alexander Heckle (Boy Scout - Eagle Scout Project)

Beautified the Chinquapin Trail by replacing mulch and rebar.

### Brendan Putnam (Boy Scout - Eagle Scout Project)

Improved the quality of East Randolph Avenue Park by planting a black gum tree, purchasing and placing three Adirondack chairs in the park, and installing a park regulation sign.

### Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC)

Partnership to provide a playgroup at the William Ramsay Recreation Center with staff as volunteers.





# PARTNERSHIPS...



## Partners

## Project

**Coral De la Cruz-Novey  
(Girl Scout Project)**

Girl Scout Silver Award Project to help reduce litter in two of Alexandria's parks, Four Mile Run Park & Holmes Run Park.

**Del Ray Community  
Partnership**

Partnered to replant flower beds in the garden at 2700 Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Flyminds Agreement**

Teaching robotics through STEM at Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

**Fresh Start Refugee**

ESL Programming for Afghan refugees at William Ramsay Recreation Center.

**Hope Nelson  
(Community Partner)**

Build, install and manage a Little Free Pantry at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

**Momentum Collective Inc.**

Mount Vernon Recreation Center partnership featuring an after-school puppetry program.



# PARTNERSHIPS...



## Partners

## Project

**Montessori Kids Universe  
of Cameron Square**

Park use for outdoor play time at Armistead L. Boothe Park for students between the ages of 3 and 6.

**Potomac Crescent  
Waldorf School**

Park use at Windmill Hill Park/Playground for outdoor play for both pre-school and school-age students.

**Skanska**

Planted 5 trees at 1101 Janneys Lane in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Spitfire Agreement**

An extracurricular book club built around a collection of children's literature featuring strong and diverse, female protagonists.

**Tree Stewards of  
Arlington/Alexandria  
(Ben Brenman Tree Planting)**

Donated and planted 35 native canopy trees as well as provided a donation for watering maintenance at Ben Brenman Park.

**Two Birds**

Park use for pre-school play time at Leatrice Byrd Playground.



# ADOPT-A-BENCH



In this park on October 14, 2017  
Bennett Resnik and Lauren Bulka  
decided to build a life together.

Rick Reed - Everyone’s “Buddy”  
May 24, 1953 - August 17, 2022

Live for today  
Tara Marie McMahon  
Greatly loved, deeply missed

Adopt-a-Bench had another successful year resulting in 12 adopted benches. Many residents decided to commemorate a loved one by placing a plaque on an existing bench within an Alexandria park. Most of the donors seek this opportunity to find healing and peace after the loss of a loved one. While the waterfront parks are a popular location, residents enjoy the beautiful parks on the West End as well. The memories of walking, playing, and jogging in a park are the perfect reflection of their loved one. Many animal lovers have also seen this as an opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of their pet.





# VOLUNTEERS



**10,151**  
Hours

**1,119**  
Volunteers

**\$304,007**  
Work Value

The latest figure from Independent Sector, with the Do Good Institute, announced on April 18, 2022 that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$29.95, which is a 4.9% increase from 2020 to 2021.





# CONTRIBUTIONS



**\$91,155.57**  
Contributions

Partnership monetary contributions to park and recreation facility improvements  
(including Community Matching Fund dollars).





# BY THE NUMBERS

## FY2020 – 2022

	FY20	FY21	FY22
Volunteer Hours	1,421.50	2,112	10,151
Volunteers	645	527	1,119
Work Value	\$40,341.29	\$63,254.40	\$304,007
New Partnerships	13	7	16
Contributions	\$59,470	\$76,054.92	\$91,155.57
Adopt-A-Bench	10	24	12



**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2023

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES

**FROM:** JOSE CARLOS AYALA, PRINCIPAL PLANNER, PARK PLANNING  
BRYAN HAYES, COMPLETE STREETS COORDINATOR

**ITEM:** GRANT APPLICATION TO 2023 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM AT THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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**ISSUE:** Park Planning will submit a grant application to 2023 The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Recreational Trails Program to fund wayfinding signs on trails.

**BACKGROUND:** The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has opened a grant round for \$1.4 million for recreational trail programs in the Commonwealth.

The Recreational Trails Program, or RTP, is a federal 80-20 matching reimbursement program established to construct and rehabilitate recreational trails and trail-related facilities such as trail maintenance, repair, and amenity projects on existing land and water trails. For this year’s call for projects, the RTP will only fund maintenance or enhancements to existing trails.

In 2021, the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) completed The Park Facility Standards Manual (Standards) and established minimum design, construction, and performance expectations for the City's park features. The Standards intend to inform and guide park and open space planning, capital improvements, and capital maintenance and to sustain life-cycle resource investments in public spaces such as wayfinding. The City’s adopted Alexandria Mobility Plan also calls for improving wayfinding for people walking and biking as a key action to creating a safe and comfortable walking and bicycling environment.

**DISCUSSION:** The City’s off-street trails provide access to key destinations such as Metro Stations, parks, neighborhoods, schools, commercial areas, and other trail connections within Alexandria and beyond. The City proposes to request up to \$312,000 in RTP funds to design and implement improved wayfinding on the City’s off-street trail network. This would make it easier for trail users to navigate the system and reach their desired destinations. The maximum grant request is \$312,000, including the required 20% local match.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** A local match of up to \$65,000 is required and would be funded by the City’s Shared-Use Paths Capital Improvement Program. These are existing funds, so no additional funds would be required to support this grant.

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**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES

**FROM:** JOSE CARLOS AYALA, PRINCIPAL PLANNER, PARK PLANNING

**ITEM:** POTOMAC RIVER GENERATING STATION (PRGS) UPCOMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

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**ISSUE:** The PRGS applicant team will present the upcoming community engagement process, at which time the community will provide input on the programming and design of the open spaces expected for the site.

**ACTION:** That the Park and Recreation Commission provide suggestions or addresses concerns regarding future community engagement for the publicly accessible open space design.

**BACKGROUND:** The project site is in the Old Town North neighborhood, bounded by Slaters Lane to the north, the PEPCO substation to the west, National Park Service lands including the Mount Vernon Trail and Potomac River to the east, and the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks to the south. It comprises one lot of record (with two adjacent lots, previously subdivided, under PEPCO ownership and excluded from the CDD). The existing lot area is 818,993 square feet or approximately 18.80 acres, not including a 2,901-square-foot portion of PEPCO property that will be conveyed to the applicant pending approval of a forthcoming subdivision. To the north, across Slaters Lane, is Marina Towers, a high-rise residential building; to the west, the PEPCO substation and parking lot and W. Abingdon Drive; to the south, south of the rail corridor are a mix of residential and commercial buildings; and to the west, the National Park Service land. The site is 1.0 miles from the Braddock Metro Station and approximately 1 mile from the future Potomac Yard Metro Station.

Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP) presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on January 20, 2022, outlining their project overview and vision. During the presentation, HRP explained how the project would seamlessly integrate with the surrounding neighborhoods, incorporating a publicly accessible open space network of at least (+/-) 5.0 acres.

HRP also conducted a poll from November 29, 2021, to December 16, 2021, gathering feedback on open space design and programming. This feedback helped inform their project plans, as discussed during January 20, 2022, presentation.



**DISCUSSION:** The HRP team has developed a community engagement process to gather input from diverse community members about how publicly accessible open space in this city section should be programmed and integrated. This process aims to ensure that the community's needs and preferences are considered in the planning process.

The community engagement process will run from Spring to Fall and involve various outreach activities to encourage broad participation. The HRP team will also seek input from key stakeholders and community groups to ensure that various perspectives are represented.

Once the community engagement process is complete, the HRP team will present preliminary findings and draft designs at a future Park and Recreation meeting. This will provide another opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback and input. Finally, the plans for the publicly accessible open space will be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval in early 2024.

Overall, this process demonstrates a commitment to transparency and community engagement and ensures that all stakeholders have a say in developing open-space programming in this city section.

Attachment:

1. Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP)'s January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Potomac River Generating Station Park and Recreation Commission presentation.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** APRIL 20, 2023

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** ANA VICINANZO, PARK PLANNER III, PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT  
JOSE CARLOS AYALA, PRINCIPAL PLANNER, PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT  
ABIGAIL HARWELL, URBAN PLANNER III, PLANNING AND ZONING

**THROUGH:** JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

**ITEM 4:** PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY RECREATION ZONE

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**ISSUE:** Proposed text amendment to the Public Open Space and Community Recreation (POS) zone; Section 6-100 of the Zoning Ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Park and Recreation Commission endorse the proposed text amendment to the Public Open Space and Community Recreation (POS) zone.

**BACKGROUND:** The Public Open Space and Community Recreation (POS) zone was established to protect, preserve, and enhance publicly owned open spaces, parks, recreational facilities, and other similar areas. Therefore, it has been conceived to be highly restrictive regarding uses permitted by right and those which require a Special Use Permit (SUP). Currently, it is the most restrictive zone in the Alexandria Zoning Ordinance allowing essentially only passive uses in our parks such as trails, gardens, landscaped areas, and seating without an SUP. There are 62 City parks that are zoned POS.

Many of Alexandria's parks include uses that are not permitted by right under the POS zone. These uses are typically found in contemporary parks and include amenities such as playgrounds, sports courts, fitness equipment, and ancillary recreational components such as backstop fencing, safety netting, flagpoles, scoreboards, restrooms, outdoor storage, and other similar structures.

**DISCUSSION:** The text amendment to the POS zone is one of the initiatives related to the Open Space Policy Plan process to address the City's Open Space needs. In collaboration with the Department of Planning and Zoning, staff have reviewed the POS Zone for potential updates. The proposed text amendment aims to:

- **Create efficiencies:** Staff time, project time, and costs are shortened through the reductions of Special Use Permits needed for common park elements.
- **Implement typical recreational uses and park safety:** The proposed amendment allows for the implementation of industry standards for park equipment and amenities, like backstops, player benches, and ball netting at ballfields, without requiring a Special Use Permits.
- **Aid the implementation of approved plans:** The proposed amendment allows for the recommendation of Park Improvement Plans and other approved Citywide plans to be implemented more quickly.

Summary of the amendment:

1. Update the definition of park to reflect common uses, including playgrounds, sports courts & fitness equipment;
2. Update the definition of congregate recreation facilities to add community recreation buildings, skating and miniature golf uses;
3. Permit standardized accessory uses and structures of parks, including restrooms, storage sheds, scoreboards, netting, shade structure;
4. Update allowable building and structure heights from 15 to 30 feet, and up to 50 feet with a Special Use Permit;
5. Allow pathway and parking lot lighting for safety;
6. Reduce the amount of uses requiring a Special Use Permit but continue to require congregate recreation facilities; and
7. Clean zoning ordinance language for consistency.

Community Engagement Process:

Staff conducted a month-long community engagement process holding and presenting to 10 different community groups, creating a project webpage, circulating two eNews releases, and contacting community leaders about the proposed zone text amendment and process. Public comment was collected from March 16 until April 19.

- Park and Recreation Commission - March 16 (Patrick Henry Recreation Center)
- Community Meeting - March 20 (Virtual)
- Waterfront Commission - March 21 (City Hall)
- Public Arts Commission - March 21 (Lee Center)
- Open Space Steering Committee - March 28 (Virtual)
- Alexandria City Public Schools – March 29 (staff coordination meeting)
- Federation of Civic Associations - March 29 (Virtual)
- Youth Sports Advisory Board - April 10 (Mt. Vernon Recreation Center)
- Beautification Commission - April 13 (Charles Houston Recreation Center)
- Historic Alexandria Resources Commission - April 18 (Llyod House)
- Park and Recreation Commission - April 20 (Charles Houston Recreation Center)



### Community Feedback:

The majority of the feedback was positive and in support of the text amendment. There was support in the amendment's ability to implement approved park improvement recommendations more quickly and efficiently. There were several concerns that, if approved, the text amendment would skip community input or would lead to an increase in development in the City's parks. It is RPCA's policy that park improvements and amendments to plan recommendations conduct a community engagement process either through the Park Improvement Planning process or a separate community engagement process (when the improvements do not fall within a plan or a change is proposed). The Park Improvement Plans, amendments to the plans, or park improvements undergo a public process and are presented to the Park and Recreation Commission for review and endorsement. This policy will remain if the text amendment is adopted. Therefore, development of parks that are not supported by the community would not be implemented. Additionally, all existing City policies and requirements, such as needing building permits, grading plans, or having to fulfill the requirements of the City's Landscape Guidelines, would remain.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

### **STAFF:**

Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner III, Park Planning

Jose Carlos Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Planning

Abigail Harwell, Urban Planner III, Planning and Zoning