

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE

Program Wrap-ups:

- On August 25, Charles Houston hosted a **Teens vs APD basketball game**. The teens were very excited and are looking forward to the Teens vs APD Volleyball game in October.
- Alexandria Boxing Club hosted their annual **Boxing Showcase** at Charles Houston on September 9. With the boxing club taking home at least two trophies.



- The Miracle League of Alexandria hosted a joint **First Responders Day Game** with the Miracle League of Prince William County. The game was played on September 9 at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field. Prior to the game there was a Remembrance Ceremony for the victims and first responders of September 11. First Responders from the Alexandria and Prince William County Police, Fire/EMS and Sheriff's Departments were on-hand to participate in the ceremony. The Alexandria Police Honor Guard were also present.



- The City's annual **Tons of Trucks** event was held on September 9, with 11 City departments collaborating to share over 40 vehicles and activities with over 3,000 attendees.



- 4-H Nature and Animal club, hosted by Buddie Nature Center, has its last meeting for this session on September 14. Over the past year, the club met once a month and prepared presentations and projects that would be submitted at various local 4-H Fairs. Many of our members received ribbons and will be presenting their projects for the meeting on the 14th.
- On July 7th, 20th, 27th and August 3rd the Patrick Henry Recreation Center did walk field trips with the youth of the Summer Power-On program to the **Samurai Hibachi Grill**. The youth were amazed as the chefs displayed their talent while preparing the food.



- Patrick Henry's **Bike Day** – On Tuesdays during the summer program, those with bikes or scooters were able to bring their bike or scooter to camp to participate. Riders were required to have at least a helmet to participate.



- **Get Air Jump Park Field Trip** – During the Summer Power On program, Patrick Henry Recreation Center participants enjoyed a field trip to Get Air Jump Park.



- The Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library provided a **live entertainment presentation** for the youth of Patrick Henry's Summer Power-On program. The music entertainment was provided by Mr. Gary Garlic.



- The Patrick Henry Counselors in Training worked on providing fun games and activities for **Pirate Day** for the youth during the summer program. The program took place on Friday, July 14. Throughout the day, Participants had to find their goal coins hidden throughout the center and use their treasure to pay for each station of activities such as Limbo, walk the plank, Shark bean bag toss, and more. Prizes were provided for each event.



- On August 11, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center held their **Closing Day Carnival**. This special event is held at the end of the summer to celebrate the end of the Out of School Time Summer Power-On program. Attendees enjoyed carnival style snacks, cooperative games, magic shows, and craft activities.



- On July 8, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted its annual **Senior 4th of July Picnic**. Over 150 seniors came out to the event. They had a fun filled afternoon of games and live music from the Jimmy Smooth band. Food was provided from Pork Barrel BBQ.



- During the week of August 14, Mount Vernon Recreation Center held **sports camps** for 35 youth. The youth participated in basketball, soccer, track and field and group games.



Program Updates:

- The Fall 2023 Program Session is under way! Offerings range from Aquatics classes to Martial Arts to Pop Ups! There is something for every interest and every age. It's not too late to sign up, registration is still available.

- The seniors in the Patrick Henry's Body Part Aerobic Class continue to push their way to an active life during the month of July and August 2023.



- Youth Activities' annual **"Marvelous Monday"** event signifies the end of Summer Camp 2023. Over 400 campers attended and engaged in carnival games, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, pizza, and more.



- Charles Houston and William Ramsay Elementary School recently held a **Back-to-school backpacks giveaway**. 800 backpacks with school supplies were provided to those families in need. We partnered with several non-profit organizations, including the Alexandria Sheriff's Department, the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Fire Fighters, and Friends to the Rescue.



- On August 19, Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center collaborated with Elevate Church to conduct its annual **Back to School Backpack Giveaway event**. The event featured food, organized activities, games, crafts, haircuts for boys, nail painting for girls, and giveaways for the entire family. There were over 150 participants from the surrounding neighborhoods. Every child in attendance received a new backpack with supplies.

Upcoming Events:

- Looking for a fun, healthy taste of recreation? Join us for 2 upcoming pop-up fitness activities! Choose between a **Gentle Yoga Pop Up** on Saturday, September 24th from 2-3pm or **Advantage Tennis Teen/Adult Triples Social** on Friday, September 29th from 6-7pm.
- September 25th is a ACPS Teacher Workday, and recreation is supporting parents by offering a variety of **Teacher Work Day Camps**. Choose from Hoop Life Basketball, Coding and Design, Tiny Chefs Cooking, Art Box Theater, Tennis 4 Kids, or Gymnastics camps for ages 4-14.
- **Fishing Day** at Lake Cook co-sponsored by Kiwanis Kid, September 30.
- On October 1, Charles Houston Recreation Center will host **Octoberfest** 12-5pm. This event will have food, a pie eating contest, a moon bounce, music, and lots of family fun!
- **National Bullying Prevention Month** - In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, Mt. Vernon Recreation center will host a fantastic Bully Free activities for the youth in the OSTP program on October 11, to support Mayor's "Bully Free Starts with Me" Campaign.
- On October 14, Buddie Ford Nature Center will host a booth at the Watergate Youth Committee's 7th annual **Spooky Mad Science Expo**.
- On October 26, Mount Vernon Recreation center will host **Lights On After School** in conjunction with After School Alliance to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities.

- On October 27, the Patrick Henry Center will host their **Annual Family October Fest program**. The event will feature moon bounce, spooky musical chairs, fun games and activities and our House of Screams Haunted House.

Special Features:

- Due to extreme heat conditions, RPCA’s aquatics team reopened the **Old Town Pool** for a few more days of swimming from September 5 – 9, serving many happy swimmers with a cool activity.



- On July 29, RPCA opened a **temporary shelter** at Charles Houston Recreation Center serving 10 occupants from a senior living community following severe thunderstorms that caused widespread power outages.

- On August 16, RPCA collaborated with Alexandria's Office of Emergency Management on an Emergency Shelter Drill at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. Participants had the opportunity to gain experience with sheltering operations, practice setting up cots, and conduct mock registration intake in preparation for any City sheltering needs.



Staff Updates:

- Coline Hay joined the Buddie Ford team as the new Recreation Manager!
- Patrice Gribble-Fetter joined the Buddie Ford team as an Environmental Educator!
- Debbie Woodbury presented at the 2023 Annual Virginia Recreation and Park Association Conference. Her session was titled “The Demand for Diversity: An Introspective Look for Leaders.”



City of Alexandria

Memorandum

DATE: September 18, 2023

TO: Park and Recreation Commission Members

FROM: Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services
Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief, Natural Resources
Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Planning & Capital Development
Derek Clayton, Division Chief, Park Maintenance
Tonja Walls, Division Chief, Park Support

SUBJECT: Park Services – September Staff Report

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

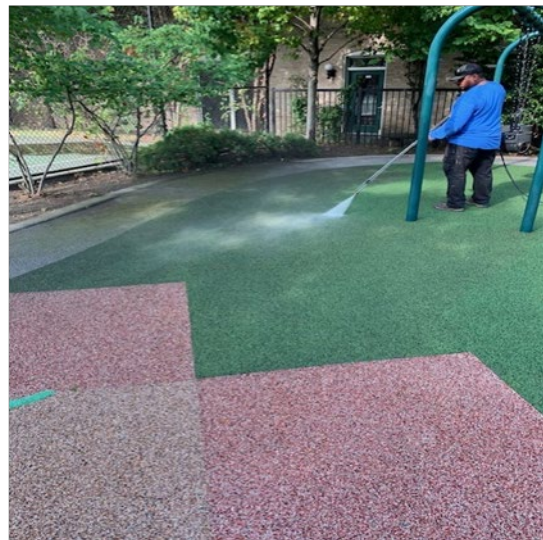
- a. Park Maintenance – No Report
- b. Park Facilities Maintenance



Restoration of the Boardwalk/Bridge at Holmes Run/Dora Kelley Trail

City of Alexandria

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Cleaning/Power Washing Playgrounds



Playground After Power Washing

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2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE – No Report

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry, Oriental Bittersweet, and other non-native invasive plants from Beverly Park, Dora Kelley Nature Park, Fort Williams Park, Chinguapin Park, Monticello Park, Timberbranch Parkway, and Windmill Hill Park
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in treating Porcelain-berry, Callery Pear, Siberian Elm, Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy, and other non-native invasive plants at the Telegraph & Duke Meadow Complex, Mount Jefferson Park and Greenway, and Tarleton Park and Holmes Run Trail.



Early Goldenrod in bloom at the Hammond School Meadow



Field Thistle at Tarleton



Black-eyed Susan in bloom at the Telegraph and Duke Meadow Complex



Partridge Pea

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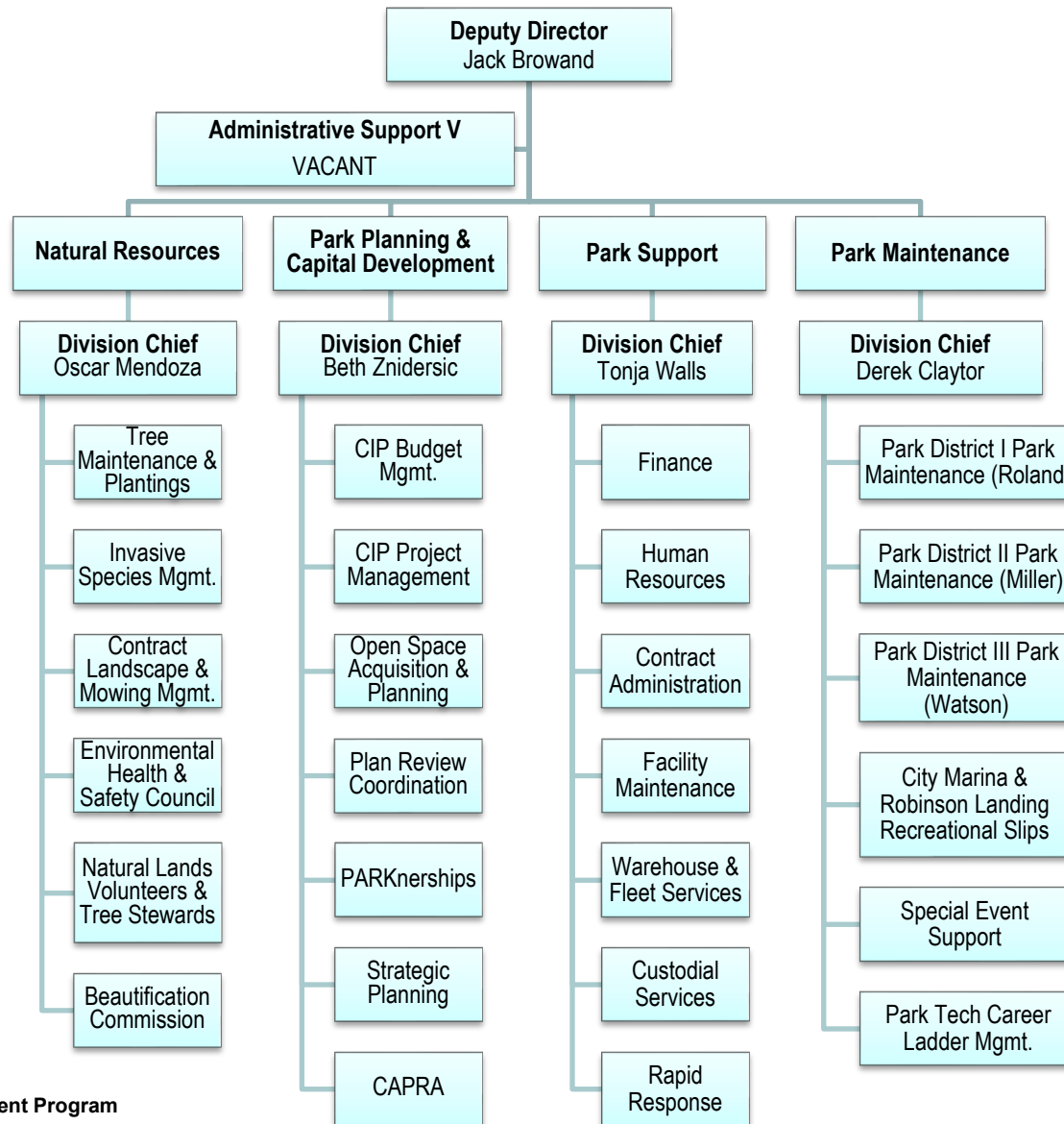
- b. Cooperative Initiatives
 - On September 14, 2023, City Natural Resource Manager gave a Zoom presentation - “Virginia’s Goldenrods Examined” - to the Virginia Native Plant Society, Potowmack Chapter. One hundred-fifty persons registered for the event.
 - c. Environmental Review
 - City Natural Resource Manager reviewed a proposal by the Del Ray Civic Association for native plantings and non-native invasive plant control at St. Asaph Park and provided comments and best practices.
 - City Natural Resource Manager reviewed the City Invasive Plant List section of the Landscape Guidelines for Planning and Zoning, Park Planning, and Urban Forestry and provided comments and revisions.
 - d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement
 - No incidents to report this month.
4. PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
- a. Capital Improvement Project Updates
 - September Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (Attached)
 - b. Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination
 - Alexandria West
 - Landmark Mall
 - Eisenhower East
 - North Potomac Yard
 - Arlandria-Chirilagua
 - South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Strategy
 - Potomac River Generating Station
 - High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
 - Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
 - Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2024)
 - c. Sites Currently Closed or Partially Closed to Public Use for Capital Projects
 - Holmes Run Trail (three locations)
 - Four Mile Run Park Bridge
 - Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Dog Park
 - Joseph Hensley Park
 - Mount Jefferson Park (Dog Exercise Area closed)
 - d. Anticipated Closures Commencing Fall 2023
 - Charles Barrett Recreation Center playground – October (renovation)
 - Stevenson Park ballfield back stop area – November (dugout installation)

City of Alexandria

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- Playground surfacing repair projects – early October - up to two weeks (Mount Jefferson Park, Hunter-Miller Park, Goat Hill Park, James Mulligan Park, Stevenson Park, Boothe, Tarleton Park)

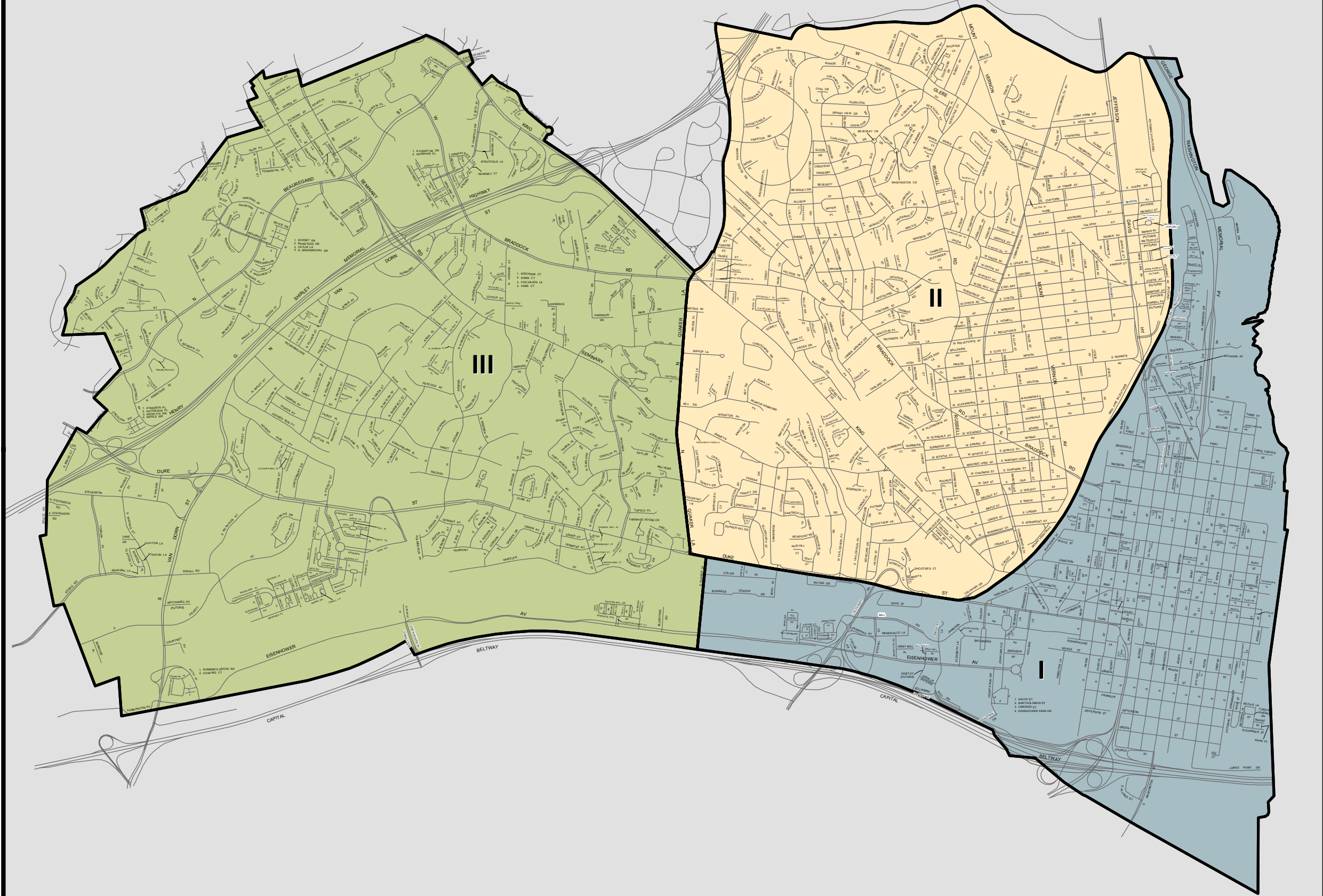
Park Services – Activities



Note: CIP is Capital Improvement Program

City of Alexandria Planning Districts Map




January 2012

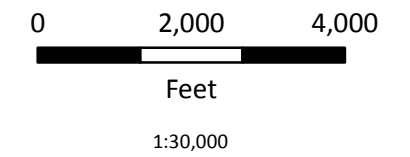


Legend

Planning Districts

Name

-  I
-  II
-  III



This map was produced by the GIS Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Mapping Standards:
Coordinate System - NAD83 State Plane Virginia North
Projection - Lambert Conformal Conic
Map Units - Feet

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Map Produced:
01-01-2012



Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



September 21, 2023

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Alex West Open Space Research	The purpose of this project is to collect and evaluate information pertaining to recommended improvements for identifying currently accessible public areas and suggesting future needs within the Alexandria West Plan. The compiled data will be utilized to revise the ParkLink GIS app and assist the Park Planning personnel in presenting proposals for the Alexandria West Plan.	The consultant has identified the open space amenities within the Alexandria West and Beauregard Small Area Plans. The consultant is working with staff to evaluate area needs and draft recommendations for open space and programming. The research is anticipated to be complete in October.	Planning	Citywide	10/16/23	Jose Ayala
2 Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along all four sides of the two rectangular fields.	The fencing contract was awarded and soil testing was completed. Construction is anticipated in October. Coordination with user groups is in progress.	Implementation	District 1	10/31/23	Daniel Unkle
3 Lee Center Tennis Court Lighting Replacement	This project will replace the existing tennis court lights with a new LED lighting system with remote lighting controls.	New lights, lights poles, and meter have been installed. Coordination is ongoing with Dominion Energy to energize the new system. The project is anticipated to be complete in September.	Implementation	District 1	09/29/23	Daniel Unkle
4 Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Jefferson Houston	Design and Installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	RPCA has awarded the purchase order for the lights and installation. The construction permits are under review by the City Code Administration Department. The poles are anticipated to be installed in late October/November to minimize disruption to ACPS use of the site. Coordination is ongoing with Dominion Energy to provide service for the lights.	Implementation	District 1	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
5 Lee Center Basketball Court Lighting Replacement	This project will replace the existing basketball court lights with a new LED lighting system with remote lighting controls.	New lights, lights posts, and meter have been installed. Coordination is ongoing with Dominion Energy to energize the new system. The project is anticipated to be complete in September.	Implementation	District 1	09/29/23	Daniel Unkle
6 Old Town Pool Replacement Design	Design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.	The owner advisor team procurement is in progress and the design team scope of work is in final review. Procurement is anticipated to be issued this fall.	Initiation	District 1	04/30/25	Bethany Znidersic
7 MacArthur School Recreation Programming Space Construction	New recreation office and program space at Douglas MacArthur School	The building will be substantially complete in July and open in August. More information can be found at: https://www.acps.k12.va.us/departments/facilities-operations/office-of-capital-programs-planning-design/douglas-macarthur-modernization	Implementation	District 2	12/29/23	Jack Broward
8 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.	The contractor has made progress on the retaining wall and grading work. The landscape boulders were delivered to the site and staged within the fence. Tree planting and sod are anticipated to be installed in September. Construction is anticipated to be complete fall 2023 with the park opening in late 2023.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
9 Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	The contract was awarded to Bright Construction Group in early September. Staff will hold a Post-Award meeting and issue the Notice to Proceed. The contract duration is 180 calendar days. Mobilization is anticipated to commence by early October.	Implementation	District 2	01/31/24	Judy Lo
10 Braddock and Commonwealth Drainage Improvements	Improve drainage within park and install pollinator garden.	Design documents have been created based on the 2020 Pocket Park Plan recommendations and is obtaining quotes for construction.	Design	District 2	12/01/23	Daniel Unkle
11 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The solicitation documents are in review and the Invitation To Bid date will be finalized with Procurement staff. The solicitation documents are anticipated to be posted in September/October.	Procurement	District 2	09/02/24	Bethany Znidersic
12 Four Mile Run Park Trail Bridge	This project will replace the existing bridge in Four Mile Run Park near the parking area for the two diamond fields at the end of Commonwealth Avenue.	Bridge and site design is complete. Substantial completion between October 2023 and February 2024. Due to current market conditions, bridge fabrication is estimated at 30-40 weeks.	Implementation	District 2	03/01/24	Jack Broward
13 Stevenson Dugout Replacement	This project will install two dugout structures at the existing ball field. Irrigation has been relocated and contractor is currently obtaining permits. Anticipated construction is July-August of 2023.	Permits approved and pre-construction conference in late July. Contractor anticipated to start construction in November after the end of the sports season.	Implementation	District 3	12/01/23	Daniel Unkle
14 Fort Ward Park ADA Parking (Design)	Upgrade existing parking to meet ADA requirements	Staff are reviewing the 90% design documents from the design team.	Design	District 3	11/17/23	Daniel Unkle
15 Patrick Henry Outdoor Improvements	Project includes installation of athletic field and field lighting, parking lot and other landscapes improvements delayed due to MacArthur Swing Space determination.	Contract awarded to Keller Construction. Construction activities are planned from August 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This period includes demolition of old school, parking lot, field and final landscape, and installation of athletic field lighting.	Implementation	District 3	08/31/24	Jack Broward
16 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	The forest conservation area will be surveyed. Tree plantings to establish the forest conservation area will be scheduled this fall.	Close-out	District 3	10/31/23	Judy Lo
17 Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	The construction contract Notice of Intent to Award was issued. A community preconstruction meeting was held on Tuesday, September 12. Construction preparations are in progress and the community will see additional work in September and October in advance of heavy construction in November. Construction is anticipated to be complete in early 2025.	Implementation	District 3	12/01/24	Bethany Znidersic
18 Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field.	The purchase order for the turf renovation and replacement is in progress. The work will be scheduled in late November/early December to minimize impacts to field programs.	Procurement	District 3	12/29/23	Bethany Znidersic

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
19 Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Francis Hammond	Design and Installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	Contractor started work the week of August 7. All light poles and fixtures have been installed per the City Council approved Special Use Permit. Work is ongoing with Dominion to energize the system.	Implementation	District 3	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
20 Tucker Gardens	This Community Matching Fund project, with the Tucker PTA, will provide new educational gardens in Boothe Park, adjacent to Tucker School.	Fencing and new water hydrant have been installed. The Tucker PTA will begin installing the planter boxes and landscaping this fall.	Implementation	District 3	12/29/23	Judy Lo