

FY 2023 Community Matching Fund Public Hearing Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
October 20, 2022

Background

- RPCA established the Community Matching Fund with the approval of the FY 2017-FY 2026 Capital Improvement Budget.
- The Fund is part of RPCA's PARKnership Program, a program that oversees partnerships for the development, design, construction and operation of recreational and park facilities and/or programs.
- The Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among City of Alexandria community organizations by providing matching 1:1 dollars for groups that propose fundraising for park and recreation improvement projects.

Process

- In FY23, there are a total of \$100,000 City matching funds. RPCA will give 1:1 matching awards in an amount up to \$50,000. Awards may vary given in any amount between \$2,500 (for project totals of \$5,000) to \$50,000 (for project totals for \$100,000).
- **Total Available City Matching Funds in FY23 = \$100,000**
- Any community group that lives and/or works in the City of Alexandria can apply for the matching fund. Proposals must show that the project will:
 - Provide a public benefit, free and open to all members of the public;
 - Be located on City owned parks property or recreational facility;
 - Emphasize self-help, with project ideas initiated, planned and implemented by the neighbors and community members impacted by the project; and
 - Demonstrate the ability to raise the community match within one year.

Public Hearing Process

- Applications were accepted April 6 through June 25
- We received four applications, one of which did not meet the qualifications. Senior Management and technical staff experts reviewed the applications. The following proposed projects will be presented in the following order:
 1. Lake Cook Pocket Park
 2. Paddling Access at Four Mile Run
 3. Tucker Community Garden
- **Staff recommends that the three projects above move forward to the Public Hearing with a total City Award of \$73,119**



Public Hearing Process

- Community members have provided letters in support of the FY23 projects.
- RPCA has taken written public comments by email to lucresha.murphy@alexandriava.gov until October 19, 2022.
- RPCA staff will make final recommendations at the October 20, 2022 Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing.



Park and Recreation Commission Action Items

- (1) Receive the applications and staff recommendations for the FY 2023 Community Matching Fund
- (2) Hold the proposed FY 2023 Community Matching Fund Public Hearing on Thursday, October 20, 2022, and approve the staff recommendations.

FY 2023 Community Matching Fund



Lake Cook Pocket Park

- **Applicant:** Townes at Cameron Parke Resident Group
- **Location:** Lake Cook Pocket Park
- **Project Description:** This project includes planting native trees, implementing invasive species management, and signage to help identify the park and create a sense of place upon which future improvements can be built. Improvements include planting native trees, implementing invasive management, and signage to help identify the park and create a sense of place upon which future improvements can be built.
- **Total Project Cost:** \$25,000
- **Proposed City Contribution:** \$12,500
- **Public Comment:** We received written comments that show support for the project.
- **Staff Discussion:** Improvements are consistent with the 2020 Pocket Park Improvement Plan recommendations. Staff recommends before execution of the project; the group will work with the Natural Resources Division regarding implementation of the invasive species management and tree planting.
- **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval.

Lake Cook Pocket Park



Paddling Access at Four Mile Run

- **Applicant: Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation**
- **Location: Four Mile Run Park – Commonwealth Ave.**
- **Project Description:** The project is a public water access point, including a raised boardwalk from the Four Mile Run Trail to a gangway extending to a floating dock, maintaining ADA-compliant slopes and level landings.
- **Total Project Cost: \$436,885**
- **Proposed City Contribution: \$50,000**
- **Public Comment:** We received four written comments that show support for the project.

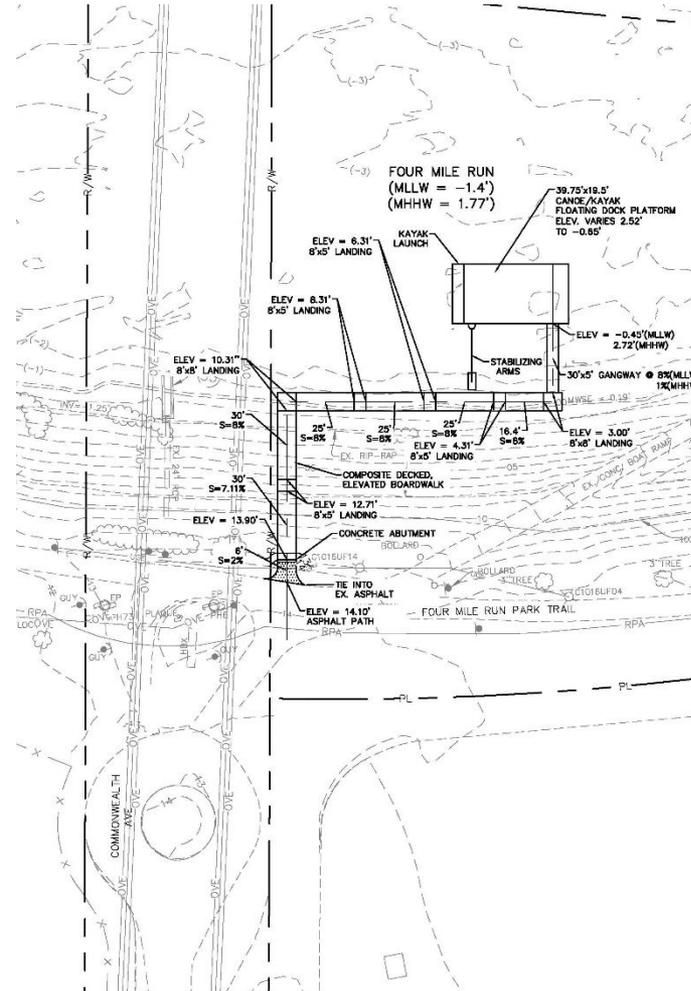


Paddling Access at Four Mile Run cont.

Staff Discussion: The proposed improvements are consistent with the Alexandria Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities Strategic Plan (2018), the Alexandria Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014), and the multi-jurisdiction Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan (2006) to improve public access to Alexandria's waterways. Design of the dock and boardwalk are complete and additional permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and other permits will be required. The group intends to fundraise the majority of the total project cost through the Recreational Trails Program grant, which the group received in September. If approved, staff suggest City funds go toward project materials, such as the floating dock, rather than general construction or professional services. Since the requested City match is less than the total project cost, the group must also show substantial progress towards meeting the total project cost.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval.

Paddling Access at Four Mile Run



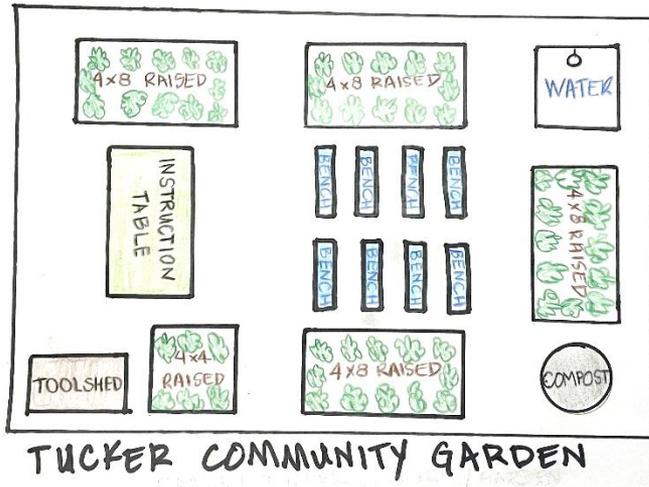
Tucker Community Garden

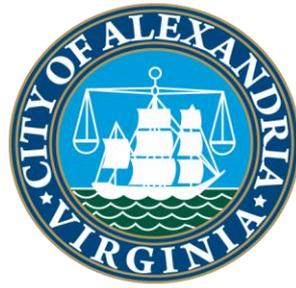
- **Applicant: Samuel Tucker Elementary School PTA**
- **Location: Armistead L. Boothe Park**
- **Project Description:** The Tucker Community Garden Project will develop and 'green' a natural space adjacent to the Samuel Tucker Elementary School and provide an outdoor learning classroom for students.
- **Total Project Cost:** \$21,238.38
- **Proposed City Contribution:** \$10,619.19
- **Public Comment:** We received four written comments that show support for the project.

Tucker Community Garden

- **Staff Discussion:** The proposed improvements are consistent with the 2014 Citywide Park Improvement Plan for Armistead L. Boothe Park, which identifies a location for student gardens. The plan recommends a location further north along Cameron Station Blvd., however, this location is preferable due to proximity to water access and trash/recycling receptables. Staff recommends updating the Improvement Plan to reflect the new location. Due to several existing underground utilities in this location, the placement of planters should be carefully thought out to minimize conflicts. The PTA and Tucker Community Garden Task Force will maintain the gardens, soliciting help from the community.
- **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval.

Tucker Community Garden





Discussion, Questions, and Commission Approval