

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 18, 2024  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

**Out of School Time Program (OSTP) School Year Update:**

**Current Summer 2024 Enrollment: 1066**

We are currently offering the OSTP Summer Power-On/ Power-Up program at (14) locations which include (2) specialty programs Camp Adventure and TR Camp Adventure.

**Current 24-25 School Year Enrollment: 921 (LINK CLUB registration has not begun and is not included in the current enrollment capacity)**

We are currently offering Out of School Time programming at (10) afterschool locations, which include (2) specialty programs (Youth Achieving Greatness and TR Achieving Greatness) and will include (3) LINK Club locations for a total of (13) programming opportunities. Enrollment is ongoing until all available slots are filled.

**Partnerships & Collaborations:** ACPS, Americans Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Upcycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners and organizations are providing specialized programming, academic support, or enrichment activities at Summer Power-On locations.

The OSTP Committee is currently working to revise the OSTP Standard Operating Procedures and OSTP Staff Manual, in addition to revising the OSTP Site Monitoring Observation Form to align our program with program quality standards that are conducive to the service we provide.

## Program Wrap-ups:

- Buddie Ford Nature Center held its first **drop-off preschool camp!** Participants learned about animals from different countries all over the world, including Mexico, Egypt, and the Great Barrier reef.
- Buddie Ford Nature Center conducted **Poo-Dunit?** A program focused on the feces different animals produce. Participants made their own poo charts to help them identify what animals might be passing through their backyard.
- During June, OSTP participants at William Ramsay Recreation Center treated their peers to a **special song and dance performance** of Y.M.C.A. This event got the kids excited about performing arts and helped them gain an appreciation for trying new activities even when experiencing initial feelings of nervousness.



- During June, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center teamed up with Senior Services of Alexandria to provide **exercise programs to the Ethiopian community** at the Claridge House. The programs are led by Ms. Karen Rouse, Patrick Henry staff, on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



- On June 8, the Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center Seniors attended their **Annual Senior Cruise** on the Spirit of Washington. They had a historical tour of Washington DC's landmarks while enjoying creative dishes from the lunch buffet, music (DJ), and dancing. The Spirit of Washington rooftop lounge provided a great view of attractions and the opportunity to snap photos to remember the experience.
- On June 12, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held its **End of the School Year Blast** for the OSTP Program. Participants enjoyed carnival games, moon bounce, musical chairs, music, food and more.



- On June 15, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center hosted a special **pre-Father’s Day program**. This event was a true success, attracting more than 40 fathers and their families to enjoy a day of organized activities which consisted of food, relay races, tug of war, three-legged race, dodgeball, escape room activities, and much more.



- On June 15, the City of Gaithersburg hosted the Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance (MARPSA) **Regional Track and Field Games** at Quince Orchard High School. Forty-six Alexandria participants competed against teams from Prince George’s County, City of Gaithersburg, and Rockville.
- Charles Houston Recreation Center recently held its **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sneaker Ball**. We grilled hamburgers & hotdogs and had a DJ, picture booth, 360 photobooth, and games for teens.
- On June 22, Charles Houston Recreation Center held its **Juneteenth event**. Participants enjoyed food, music, games, vendors, and prizes. Community awards were given to 5 community members highlighting their work and contribution to the community. Over 200 people were in attendance.
- On June 22, Charles Houston Recreation Center hosted the **Martin Luther King Jr. Bench dedication** in partnership with the Office of Historic Alexandria. Attendees heard many historical messages and Ira Robinson was honored with a proclamation. Over 80 people were in attendance.
- On June 29, the Charles Houston Recreation Center teen staff took 20 teens to **Kings Dominion**. Participants enjoyed rides, food, and games. The trip was sponsored by the Charles Houston Advisory Council.
- The Sports Section completed the 2023 – 2024 **Alexandria City Cup Series**. The Alexandria Police Department was crowned softball champions. Participating departments this season included RPCA, Police, Fire, City Hall, and DCHS.



- On July 6, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted its **Senior 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cookout**. The Seniors enjoyed music from DJ Jerome Copper, line dancing, games, giveaways, and lots of barbequed foods with side dishes and other refreshments. This program is a partnership between the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the America Restaurant Group and Jen Walker and Associates, and McAuther Myers.



- On July 10, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center in partnership with the Duncan Library hosted Grammy-winning children's musicians **1,2,3 Andres!** The one-hour interactive musical performance was given in English and Spanish.



### Program Updates:

- Summer Camps have been in full swing at Chinquapin! **Alex Swim Camp** has been a notable hit with participants, where children of all skill levels have been able to improve upon and learn new swimming skills.
- The **Summer Power-On programs** offered at Mount Vernon Recreation Center have been participating in a variety of summer camp fun and activities. Participants have enjoyed trips to the pool and enrichment with TSP sports under the grant program.
- Mrs. Orelia Calderon leads the Center for **Alexandria Children's Learn and Playgroup**, which is held at William Ramsay Recreation Center. Mrs. Calderon organizes various engaging activities throughout the school year utilizing our soft playroom and dance studio. Recently, they celebrated the end of the school year with a festive feast, as shown in the photos. The playgroup will resume for the upcoming school year, offering a fun and educational environment for children in Alexandria.





- **Nannie J. Lee Recreation** Campers have been having a thrilling experience filled with fun at **Camp Adventure**. From a full-inclusive summer experience with friends, laughter, and great adventure the Teenie Weenie, Therapeutic Recreation, Mini, Youth, and Camp Adventure on the Rise campers are fully engaged in a variety of enrichment activities, adventurous field trips, arts & crafts, STEM, sports, cooperative group games, and swimming.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center **summer camp participants** have enjoyed many activities and trips. They've done recycling-based scavenger hunts, created and performed their own skits, and have enjoyed trips to the outdoor pool and the rec's newest Game Room.



### Upcoming Events:

- On July 27, the William Ramsay Recreation Center, in collaboration with ALIVE, will host its next **community Food distribution**.
- **Fall class registration** will open on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> for residents and Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for non-residents. These class sessions will run from September through December and include many favorite holiday-themed events, teacher workday camps, and beyond!
- On August 14, Buddie Ford Nature Center will host its monthly **Invasive Plant Pull**. The event will target oriental bittersweet and porcelain berries.
- The Patrick Henry Recreation Center will host **FARM MARKET FRESH**, every Wednesday from 8:00 am through 1:00 pm in our installations.

### Special Features:

- The Charles Barrett Recreation Center is undergoing **HVAC repairs** which have minimally impacted the summer camp operation. Repairs are expected to be completed within the next 2 weeks.

- The Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility passed its **pre-operational inspection** with the Alexandria Health Department. The construction crew is hard at work on the remaining tasks to be completed.



**Staff Updates:**

**Zeriah Arrington** has joined RPCA as a Recreation Leader at the William Ramsay Recreation Center.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 18, 2024

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES 98  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

**ITEM 3.a.:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE  
PARK SERVICES

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### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief**

As we prepare for natural area inspections, our annual invasive control program remains a priority. This year, we will continue to target problematic species such as kudzu, cendeline, and other broadleaf invaders, including Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, and multiflora rose. Through consistent monitoring and treatment, we aim to mitigate the spread of these invasive plants and protect the integrity of our natural habitats.

For the new fiscal year, the Natural Resource Division will concentrate efforts on meadow restoration and the early detection and treatment of invasive plants within natural areas. These initiatives are crucial for preserving the biodiversity and ecological health of Alexandria's green spaces.

### **PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief**

#### **Capital Improvement Project Summary Update**

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

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

- Holmes Run Trail (Site 1 – design & Site 2 & 3 – construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction)
- Mount Jefferson Park Dog Park - (drainage redesign complete – in approval process)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk - (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Lee Center Multi-Use Courts (active construction)

#### **Eagle Scout Project – Beautification and Improvement of Lee Center 4-H Outdoor Space Project Managers: Lucresha Murphy-Tate, PARKnership Manager**

Boy Scout, Henry Mead, selected to beautify and improve the space outside the 4-H office for

his Eagle Scout Project. The before and after pictures below show that the space was overgrown, and the flower beds were falling apart leaving it in poor working conditions for both staff and students of 4-H. Henry repaired the planting beds, planted shrubs in the flower beds that would attract butterflies or birds. He power washed the gazebo and concrete so it can be used for meetings and activities outdoors, mowed and removed unused items from the space, and built a portable table. 4-H plans to work with local students to care for the shrubs in the planting beds as in past years.

**Before – 4H Outdoor Space**



**After – 4H Outdoor Space**



**North Potomac Yard Park  
Project Managers: Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner III**

Construction began on North Potomac Yard Park in early 2023 as part of the development agreements for North Potomac Yard. A successful collaboration with the community, private development and the City, this new five-acre park is the final segment of the continuous park on



the east edge of Potomac Yard as envisioned in the 1999 Small Area Plan. The first elements of construction focused on establishing infrastructure, stormwater systems, and utilities, followed by the installation of trellis foundations and bridges. The main element of the park is the Potomac Yard Trail shared-use path that links Four Mile Run to the existing trail south to Braddock Road. As work progressed during the year, zones for fitness activities, natural play areas, and seating options were built. By autumn 2023, construction focused on native trees, plants, and lawn areas. As final touches and punch list items are completed this summer, the park is geared to open to the public, offering green spaces for families and students, cyclists, and nature enthusiasts.



**PARK MAINTENANCE**  
**Derek Claytor, Division Chief**

Park District 1- Has been removing weeds from the mulched flower beds, removing driftwood, and general clean-up of all parks located along the waterfront in preparation for the City's 275 Birthday Celebration.







District 1 also assisted with the transport and installation of this bench dedicated to Dr, Martin Luther King, Jr. located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Park District 2 has been preparing to open the newly renovated Simpson Dog Park on July 15, 2024. They also hosted the Alexandria Little League Allstars Tournament which required above average maintenance with extreme heat advisories in effect as well as Frank Mann Field. (Home of the ACES)



- cc Bethany, Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Planning & Capital Development
- Oscar, Mendoza, Division Chief, Natural Resources
- Tonja Walls, Division Chief, Park Support
- Derek Claytor, Division Chief, Park Maintenance

# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



July 18, 2024

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along the north and south sides of the two rectangular fields.	Fencing and netting are complete on the north and south side of the field. Contractor is working on closing out punch lists.	Close-out	District 1	06/11/24	Daniel Unkle
2	Marina Piling Repairs	This project will replace one damaged pier in the City Marina. The pier will be replaced in kind and in the same location.	A purchase order has been submitted. Work will be scheduled to minimize impacts to stakeholders.	Procurement	District 1	09/30/24	Michael Durham
3	Oronoco Bay Park Piers and Boardwalk	This project will assess the existing boardwalks and decks in Oronoco Bay Park. Deck repairs will be completed for portions that can be fixed. Portions that require full replacement will be analyzed and the consultant report will provide recommendations for further action.	The pier and boardwalk were closed to ensure the safety of the community following inspections that determined the structures are not suitable for use. Further engineering investigations are being pursued to assess the structural conditions and recommendations for next steps.	Implementation	District 1	03/31/25	Derek Claytor
4	Lee Center Tennis Court Renovation	Renovation of the two multi-use courts including full surface replacement.	The Construction contract was awarded and the work is in progress. Construction is scheduled to be complete in late July. The construction has been coordinated with user groups and information regarding the project is posted onsite and on the City website. The courts will be closed during the work.	Implementation	District 1	10/04/24	Daniel Unkle
5	Lee Center Basketball Court Surface Repairs	This project will repair the court surface to address existing cracks.	The Construction contract was awarded and the work is in progress. Construction is scheduled to be complete in late July. The construction has been coordinated with user groups and information regarding the project is posted onsite and on the City website. The courts will be closed during the work.	Implementation	District 1	10/04/24	Daniel Unkle
6	Old Town Pool Replacement Design	This project will include planning and design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.	The owner advisor team contract was awarded in May. Site visits and kick-off meetings were held in June and additional staff workshops were conducted in July. A community meeting is planned for early Fall. Procurement for the design team is anticipated to be issued this fall.	Planning	District 1	04/30/25	Jack Broward
7	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 Eugene Simpson Stadium Dog Park will reopen to the community on Monday, July 15 at noon. The City completed major outstanding items following the termination of the construction contractor. The park is now safe and ready for community use. Park users will notice a few unfinished items to be completed such as a new message board, replacement plantings, and reconnecting the lights that do not require the dog park to remain closed for intended use. Updates will be posted on the project website regarding completion of final items.	Implementation	District 2	07/19/24	Bethany Znidersic
8	Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	The improvements are substantially complete. New trees and landscape plantings were installed in June and replacement fencing will be installed in July and August.	Close-out	District 2	08/16/24	Judy Lo
9	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The Invitation To Bid (ITB #1084) for the project closed in mid-April. The City is reviewing the bids and information received from the bidders.	Procurement	District 2	05/12/25	Bethany Znidersic
10	Four Mile Run Park Bridge Replacement Construction	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.	The bridge is open to the public. Land side safety railings are in fabrication. Substantial completion is anticipated in July.	Close-out	District 2	07/30/24	Jack Broward
11	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.	The new parking lot has been paved. The next phase of work will include the demolition of the temporary parking area and grading for the installation of the synthetic turf field and final landscape improvements. Anticipated completion is September 2024.	Implementation	District 3	08/31/24	Jack Broward
12	Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	Construction is in progress and is anticipated to be complete in early 2025. The athletic field base material installation is in progress and work continues on the retaining wall installations. Please see the project website for more information: alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation	Implementation	District 3	01/01/25	Bethany Znidersic
13	Armistead Boothe Restroom HVAC upgrade design	This project will provide design and engineering to upgrade mechanical systems to allow for all season usage	The restroom improvements plan is complete. Coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing to upgrade the service to the site.	Design	District 3	12/31/24	David Ghezzi
14	Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field with a new impact board, carpet, and organic infill.	The project is complete ahead of schedule. The field will be open for play and programming will resume in August.	Close-out	District 3	07/19/24	Bethany Znidersic
15	Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	The consultant team continued work on the playground design concept. A virtual community meeting was held on June 26, where staff provided updates on the progression of the playground design.	Design	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo
16	Holmes Run Trail Repairs Construction	This project includes the restoration of four sections of Holmes Run Trail damaged and closed following July 2019 heavy rains.	Site 1, Dora Kelly Park, bridge design is at 90%. Design completion anticipated in August. Construction procurement will begin in fall 2024 with construction start anticipated in winter 2025. Site 2 (west 395 bridge) & Site 3 (Ripley crossing) notice to proceed began June 3. Construction activities are anticipated to begin in August following receipt of permits. Site 2 & 3 completion anticipated fall 2025.	Implementation	District 3	12/29/23	Jack Broward