

**City of Alexandria, Virginia  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting**

**Charles Houston Recreation Center  
901 Wythe Street**

**Thursday, October 17, 2024  
7 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Chair
2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
  - a. **Staff Report Highlights** – Staff
4. Action Items
  - a. Approval September 26, 2024 Minutes
5. Items of Information
  - a. **Resource Recovery & Cost Allocation Discission**  
Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services
  - b. **2025 Site See Waterfront Public Art Update**  
Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts
  - c. **Recreation Services Community Engagement & Outreach Section**  
Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services
  - d. **Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation Update – Pump Station Analysis**  
Matthew Landes, Portfolio Manager/Division Chief, DPI
  - e. **FY 2026 Budget Priorities**  
Dana Colarulli, Chair
6. Next Meeting: November 21, 2024
7. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jack Browand at [Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov) or 703.746.5504, Virginia Relay 711. We request that you provide 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements can be made.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2024  
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

**OSTP School Year Update:**

**Current 24-25 School Year Enrollment: 1330**

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 (3) LINK Club locations for a total of (13) programming opportunities.

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

The OSTP Committee is in the process of updating the OSTP Standard Operating Procedures and the OSTP Staff Manual. They are also revising the OSTP Site Monitoring Observation Form to ensure our program aligns with quality standards that enhance our services.

**Program Wrap-ups:**

- On September 20, the Nature Center and the Center for Alexandria's Children debuted a **Pop-Up Learn & Play Group**. The event, designed for families with children ages 0-5, attracted over 60 attendees.



- On September 28, the Sports Section hosted a **Youth Home Run Contest** at Miracle Field. Participants enjoyed a friendly competition under the lights, with music, an announcer, and the new video scoreboard.



- On September 28, Recreation Services and the Kiwanis Volunteer Club co-sponsored the **annual Kiwanis Kids Fishing Day at Lake Cook**, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event saw participation from over 40



youth ages 8 to 12, and 45 volunteers from the Alexandria and Fairfax County Key Club Chapters. It was a beautiful day filled with fun, sun, and fishing. We also appreciate the prompt support of DASH Transportation, which provided transportation services for the program.

- Throughout September, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center celebrated **Hispanic Heritage Month** with daily activities in the lobby, including fun sheets, cultural facts, and tasty treats. During the first week, participants enjoyed daily activity sheets and treats for each country. On September 14, we hosted arts and crafts,



featuring Ojo de Dios and mini cup lanterns. The second week included Game Day with a Kahoot! quiz on Hispanic Heritage Month and a Health & Wellness event with Neighborhood Health providing information, testing, and healthy snacks.

The OSTP participants at Patrick Henry Recreation Center contributed by **creating piñatas** within their groups. Parents and the community will vote on their favorite piñata, and the top-ranked one will be displayed at the closing event this weekend.



- On October 2, Nannie J. Lee hosted a **STEAM session for TR participants** from 2 to 6 p.m., where participants engaged in a variety of activities focused on STEAM, including Sensory Time and Exploration of Arts & Movement.
- On October 3rd and 4th, the Fee Classes and Camps section organized and managed nine different camps for the **ACPS Teacher Work Days**, offering care for 116 children ages 5-14 with themes ranging from Art to Sports to Cooking.
- On October 4, **Spirit Club** ([spirit-club.com](http://spirit-club.com)) visited Nannie J. Lee to conduct a demonstration class for TR participants. Spirit Club provides group classes with accessible and supportive exercises, utilizing modifications to help participants feel involved and supported.
- On October 5, staff members from Nannie J. Lee supported the City's **Project Sticker Shock Campaign**. Xavier Friend and Da'Mon Smith were part of a team transporting youth to retail stores across the City to place warning stickers highlighting the legal consequences of providing alcohol to individuals under the age of 21.



### **Program Updates:**

- On September 13, William Ramsay Recreation Center, in partnership with Kids First Years, held its monthly **Community Baby Shower**. The event was successful in connecting 50 new and expectant mothers with various resources in the City of Alexandria.
- On September 18, Mt. Vernon held its first **Parent's Night Out** of the year. Youth participated in an evening of fun and games, while parents enjoyed a night on the town. The program included dinner, table games, gym games, and arts & crafts.
- The Sports Section has started all **fall leagues for the 2024 season**. Current leagues include Tee-Ball & Coach Pitch Baseball, Girls' Volleyball, Coed Soccer, Coed Volleyball, Coed Softball, City Cup Kickball, and Late-Night Basketball.
- The Center for Alexandria's Children, in partnership with the William Ramsay Recreation Center, has resumed hosting **early childhood Learn and Play groups**, led by Ms. Orelia Calderon. Ms. Orelia organizes engaging activities throughout the school year, utilizing both the soft playroom and dance studio, and has been a key figure in the program's success.



- On October 4, Charles Houston Recreation Center the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Teen vs Cop Basketball game**.



- On October 4, **Art on the Avenue** was held on the field of Mount Vernon Recreation Center. Thousands of artisans and artists alike gathered for the multicultural art festival. Various types of artists, including, but not limited to jewelers, glassmakers with workers and sculptures, musicians, and food vendors for children's activities showcased their work for the community.



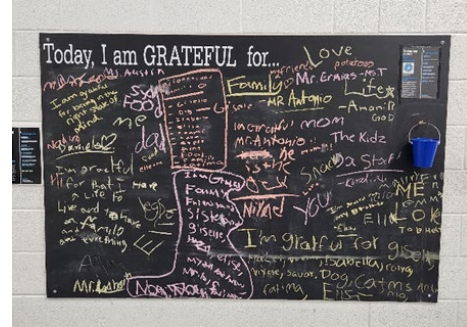
- Participants of the Patrick Henry Recreation Center's **Lego Lab program** participated in a creative freeform barrier-building game, where the goal was to protect a specific Lego piece from being knocked down by opponents. Using strategy to defend their structures and dexterity to break through enemy barriers, the kids demonstrated impressive ingenuity in their preparations.



- On Saturday, September 21, OSTP staff attended a **"Back to the Basics" training**, featuring Ms. Shanna Townes, who presented on Restorative Justice and Group Management. The session provided tools for improving group management and building positive connections with youth. Staff also participated in STEM Project-Based Learning, building a roller coaster from everyday items, and completed a SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges) Analysis using chalk to brainstorm ideas and feedback.



- The Patrick Henry Recreation Center youth and teen participants continue to express themselves on the “**Today, I am Grateful for...**” chalkboard. This is a way for them to express their feelings positively.



### Upcoming Events - events that will take place in the next 30 days:

- On October 14, 2024, the Nature Center will begin its **Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)** collaboration with T&ES and the Office of Climate Action. Throughout the month, around 1,000 ACPS 7th graders will rotate through stations at Ben Brenman Park to learn about stormwater quality, watershed management, and invasive species.
- On October 15, 2024, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center will host **Bully-Free activities** for the OSTP program in recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, supporting the Mayor’s "Bully Free Starts with Me" Campaign.
- On October 19, 2024, Chinquapin Recreation Center will hold a **Dive-In Movie Night** from 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM, where attendees can enjoy a film from the pool.
- On October 19, 2024, the Patrick Henry Center, in partnership with the Chrysalis Development Group, will host a **Spooky Mad Science Expo** from 3-7 pm.



- On October 20, 2024, Chinquapin Recreation Center will host a **Floating Pumpkin Patch**, offering pumpkin picking in the pool. Registration is available in four timeslots between 2-5:45 PM.

- On October 25, 2024, the Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host its **Annual Family Masquerade Ball**, featuring an evening of dancing, food, and haunted games.
- On October 25, 2024, in partnership with Naomi Brooks Elementary School, **Boo Fest with Trunk-o-Treat** will take place at 6:30 PM. Families will enjoy games, crafts, a moon bounce, food, and more.
- On October 25, 2024, the Fee Classes and Camps section will offer 11 camps to keep kids engaged during **ACPS Teacher Work Days**, providing fun activities and supervision.
- On October 25, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosts its annual **Family October Fest** program from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The program will feature a Haunted House, Arts & Crafts, Moon Bounce, and Spooky Fun Activities. Cost \$5.00 per person.
- On October 24, 2024, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host **Lights-On After School** in collaboration with After School Alliance, highlighting the importance of afterschool programs for children, families, and communities.
- On October 28, 2024, the William Ramsay Recreation Center, in partnership with ALIVE, will host its **monthly food distribution** starting at 8:30 AM.
- On October 31, 2024, the William Ramsay Recreation Center will host its **Hallo-Teen Event**, offering teens a fun and safe Halloween experience with cookie decorating and free candy.
- On October 31, 2024, Durant and the Senior Programming team will host the **Seniors 55+ Masquerade Ball** from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM, featuring dancing, a costume contest, and lunch.

### **Special Features:**

- The William Ramsay Recreation Center continues to update and **upgrade older facility equipment**. New additions to the center include a new pool table, a new bumper pool table, and a new foosball table for the community to enjoy whenever they visit the Recreation Center.
- The Chinquapin Recreation Center is pleased to announce that we have **resumed the rental of aquatic inflatables** for use in the Rixse Memorial Pool. This reintroduction will provide an exciting and engaging experience for our patrons, enhancing the enjoyment of our aquatic programs.

- The Durant Center has updated one of the multipurpose rooms with the **installation of large mirrors**. This room is primarily used as a fitness and dance space, and the new mirrors have helped make this room feel more fitness-focused.



### Staff Updates:

- **Ms. LaToya Sebree** is the new Program Coordinator for Youth Activities, having joined RPCA on Monday, September 16. She previously lived in Norfolk, Virginia, where she worked as a Recreation Specialist with the City of Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation. Ms. Sebree holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Management from Canterbury University and is passionate about working with youth of all ages. She is dedicated to promoting the development of youth and supporting the professionals who serve them. We are thrilled to welcome her to our team and look forward to her contributions in growing, improving, and enhancing the Out of School Time program.



- **Randy Little** (Recreation Services Division Chief), **Jamie Aylor** (Program Manager), and **Cheryl Anne Colton** (Office of the Arts and NRPA Board Member) attended the 2024 NRPA Conference in Atlanta, themed "Where You Belong." Randy Little and Jamie Aylor were featured speakers, presenting an Education Session titled "Recreation Leader Onboarding Academy." The 1-hour session was well-received by over 60 attendees. During the week-long conference, the team received recognition for their CAPRA Re-certification.



- The Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility team has been **actively recruiting staff**, offering free lifeguard training to applicants. The team continues to expand, successfully hiring many Alexandria residents, including several students attending the Minnie Howard Campus.





- Chinquapin staff conducted a **Water Safety Instructor training course**, where four new staff members completed the program and received their certifications, enhancing the team's ability to deliver vital water safety education.
- Chinquapin held a **Lifeguard training course**, certifying eight new staff members. This training reinforces our commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all visitors at the Chinquapin Recreation Center.
- **Juanita Braddock** has been promoted to full-time Head Lifeguard at the Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility.
- **James Morrison** has joined RPCA as a full-time Head Lifeguard at the Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 17, 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 indicated in our last report, a comprehensive ground foliar treatment was applied at Home Run Bank in Tarleton Park. This treatment targeted several non-native invasive species (NNI), including broadleaf plants, tree of heaven, bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and mimosa. The site assessment was completed in late August, identifying these invasive species and the extent of their spread. Following the treatment, the park will go through a period of monitoring to track any regrowth and the emergence of new invasive plants. Areas where mechanical control proved insufficient due to deep-rooted species were treated with herbicide to ensure thorough control. The benefits of this approach for Tarleton Park include improved biodiversity, as the removal of invasive species will allow native plants to thrive, helping restore balance to the ecosystem. Additionally, this will reduce long-term maintenance costs and improve the park's overall health and aesthetic appeal. Follow-up treatments will be conducted as necessary to ensure the long-term success of the restoration efforts.

### URBAN FORESTRY

Phil Jubert, Urban Forest Manager

- *Tree Planting* - Urban Forestry is on pace to plant a near record number of trees (our planting records go back to 1990). If the fall planting season goes as planned (weather permitting), our total tree tally will be 1,018 on a 12-month rolling basis, our second highest output.
- *Volunteer* - Multiple community groups are donating their time this fall and helping to plant 100 trees throughout Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, and Mt. Jefferson Park. In September, we planted 34 trees in Mt. Jefferson. In October, we will be planting in 4MR on October 19<sup>th</sup>. If you want to volunteer, please arrive at the park at 9am.
- *Outreach* - Urban Forestry is hosting our first meeting as a Bee City USA participant at the end of October.

- *Safety* – A contracted arborist on private property died from electrocution. Our Department was not involved, but this is a reminder that our residents should hire Certified Arborists, which guarantees that technician has at least 5 years of experience.
- *Urban Forest Master Plan* – We are targeting spring 2025 for the begin of our UFMP update process. We are finishing the data gathering phase now to make preparations.

## **PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief**

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

- October 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)
- Holmes Run Rippley Street Bridge (deck repairs)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction)
- Mount Jefferson Park Dog Park - (punch list in progress)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk - (closed for inspections and structural repairs)

### **North Potomac Yard Park**

**Project Managers: Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner III**

After more than a year of construction, North Potomac Yard Park is open to the community. The park, a successful collaboration with the community, private development and the City, was open for community access on Wednesday. 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. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 19 at 8am.



**PARK MAINTENANCE**

**Derek Claytor, Division Chief**

**Simpson Athletic Turf Repair  
Verizon Utility Work Restoration**



**PARK SUPPORT**

**Tonja Walls, Division Chief**



**Irrigation repair at Potomac Yard Park**

This was an emergency repair impacting the entire system and flooding the walk path. This shows the dedication that the maintenance team has in completing their necessary tasks even though it had started to rain.

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



# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



October 17, 2024

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Ball Court Light Structural Study	Structural assessment of all sport court light poles.	The scope of work for the project is in progress and will be sent out for proposals.	Planning	Citywide	03/01/22	Daniel Unkle
2 RPCA Needs Assessment	This project will conduct a needs assessment to better understand the community's desires for park and recreation facilities, and will provide statistically valid data to inform future planning for open space and community recreation.	The 2024 Community Needs Assessment will kick off in the fall following selection of the contractor.	Procurement	Citywide	02/28/25	Jose Ayala
3 Powhatan Park Renovation	New paths, plaza, game tables, and shade structure	Staff is currently working on preliminary design. The project will implement the recommendations of the Powhatan Park Neighborhood Improvements Plan (2015).	Planning	District 1	12/01/25	Daniel Unkle
4 Potomac Greens Gazebo Repairs	This project will replace deteriorated wood throughout the structure and address other repairs needed to maintain the useful life of the structure.	The Vendor E&G Services presented a quote. We are in the process of obtaining the Purchase order to begin work.	Procurement	District 1	12/01/24	Derek Claytor
5 Robinson Landing Promenade Railings	Fabricate and install new safety railings along the Waterfront promenade between Duke and Wolfe St. (FY21 carryover)	The contract for the railings was awarded. Design is under review by Code Enforcement. Installation is planned for winter 2025.	Implementation	District 1	06/30/22	Jack Broward
6 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.	The project received Dark Sky International Phase II Certification. Project Complete.	Complete	District 1	07/15/24	Daniel Unkle
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 reopened to the community on Monday, July 15 at noon. Staff continue to complete the remaining outstanding items. New park signs will be installed in October and additional signs, such as the donations sign will be installed in November. Replacement plantings are being scheduled. These installations do not require the dog park to be closed.	Close-out	District 2	12/31/24	Bethany Znidarsic
8 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The Invitation To Bid (ITB #1084) process for the project is nearing completion and a contract is anticipated to be awarded in October.	Procurement	District 2	05/12/25	Bethany Znidarsic
9 Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	The developer reviewed all outstanding punchlist items with the City and are working to address all items. The drought conditions earlier this summer have impacted some of the park plantings including the establishment of turf in the dog park. Replacement plantings will be scheduled during the fall planting season. It's anticipated the dog park will reopen in the fall after the turf is renewed and all punchlist items for the dog park have been satisfactorily addressed. The City is also scheduling trail maintenance work this fall along the nature trail located south of Fannon St.	Close-out	District 2	04/17/25	Judy Lo
10 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. All demolition activities completed. Fencing and athletic lighting is completed. Installation of synthetic turf and remaining landscape ongoing. Anticipated completion is November 2024.	Implementation	District 3	08/31/24	Jack Broward
11 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. Work continues on the fields and supporting utilities. Please see the project website for more information: alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation	Implementation	District 3	01/01/25	Bethany Znidarsic
12 Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	Staff are coordinating work to advance the playground design to 90% construction documents. A new consultant will be hired to complete the construction documents.	Design	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo
13 AL Boothe Synthetic Turf Field Conversion	This project will convert the natural turf field in Armistead L. Boothe Park to synthetic turf.	The project team is working on the final approvals for the project and will move into procurement at the end of the year. Construction is anticipated in mid 2025.	Planning	District 3	03/14/25	Bethany Znidarsic
14 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 100%. Construction procurement will begin in fall 2024 with construction start anticipated in winter 2025. Site 2 (west 395 bridge) & Site 3 (Ripley crossing) are under active construction. Completion of sites 2 & 3 is anticipated fall 2025.	Implementation	District 3	12/29/23	Jack Broward
15 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.	The project received Dark Sky International Phase II Certification. Project Complete.	Complete	District 3	07/15/24	Daniel Unkle
16 Ewald Park Playground Renovation	This project will renovate and re-locate the Ewald park playground as recommended in the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan.	A community survey regarding the 2015 park improvement recommendations was released in late August. The survey will be open until October 31. Staff are planning additional community engagement this fall and winter. Other planning phase activities are in progress.	Planning	District 3	07/09/27	Judy Lo
17 Fort Ward Park Plant New Trees	This project will plant new trees with a 2 year establishment guarantee	Design and bidding complete. The procurement package is being processed for final approval.	Implementation	District 3	10/02/26	Daniel Unkle