



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

September 30, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: George Mason Modernization -- Open Space and Playing Fields

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the City's Park and Recreation Commission, we write to ask that you strongly urge the School Board, ACPS staff, and the George Mason Modernization planning team to prioritize the following in their current planning efforts: (1) ensure that the park space adjacent to the modernized George Mason Elementary retains two diamond fields, (2) maintains approximately the same square footage of natural grass fields that currently exist, and (3) incorporates a new rectangular turf field. These adjustments would not only preserve current recreational facilities but would also expand them, adding much-needed playing surfaces for both students and the community.

Diamond fields and natural grass areas are vital for a variety of activities that promote physical health, teamwork, and social interaction. They serve as spaces for organized sports as well as unstructured play, which are crucial for child development, and the mental and physical well-being of all members of the community. Retaining these fields in their current capacity ensures that future generations will continue to benefit from them, just as students and families do today.

Let us also take this once-in-a-generation opportunity to increase the amount of outdoor play space available to our community by including a rectangular turf field to the site. The new field would add a durable, all-weather play surface to the existing diamond and natural grass fields noted above, expanding the recreation facilities available for the school and broader community. We recognize there are space demands when doing any reconstruction, but we would urge the planning team to be creative and responsive to community input on proposed designs to accommodate these priorities. Given the growing demand for recreational space in Alexandria,

particularly with the city's increasing density, this enhancement would be a substantial community asset, supporting both school programs and recreation leagues year-round.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Commission if we can further advise on this issue.

Sincerely,


Dana Colarulli (Sep 30, 2024 23:57 EDT)

Dana Colarulli, Chair
Park & Recreation Commission


Geoff Goode (Sep 30, 2024 15:48 EDT)

Geoff Goode, Planning District II
Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Honorable Mayor & Members of City Council
Alexandria City Public School Board Members
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Superintendent of Schools
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief Operating Officer
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Sophie Huemer Director of Capital Programs, Planning and Design
Members of the George Mason Modernization Planning Team
Park & Recreation Commission Members
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Staff Liaison, Park & Recreation Commission










PRC George Mason Letter Final 9-30-24

Final Audit Report

2024-10-01

Created:	2024-09-30
By:	Wilma Newby (wilma.newby@alexandriava.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAXqcr0Zs7lkvNfV7sJ0OKZ7HmvqazkGI

"PRC George Mason Letter Final 9-30-24" History

-  Document created by Wilma Newby (wilma.newby@alexandriava.gov)
2024-09-30 - 7:44:30 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Dana Colarulli (danacolors@gmail.com) for signature
2024-09-30 - 7:44:35 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to geoffrey.goode@gmail.com for approval
2024-09-30 - 7:44:35 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by geoffrey.goode@gmail.com
2024-09-30 - 7:46:10 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Dana Colarulli (danacolors@gmail.com)
2024-09-30 - 7:46:11 PM GMT
-  Signer geoffrey.goode@gmail.com entered name at signing as Geoff Goode
2024-09-30 - 7:48:23 PM GMT
-  Document approved by Geoff Goode (geoffrey.goode@gmail.com)
Approval Date: 2024-09-30 - 7:48:25 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document e-signed by Dana Colarulli (danacolors@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2024-10-01 - 3:57:30 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2024-10-01 - 3:57:30 AM GMT