

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

**Patrick Henry Recreation Center**  
**4653 Taney Ave.**

**Thursday, January 16, 2024**  
**7 p.m. Regular Meeting**

**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 November 21, 2024 Minutes
5. Items of Information
  - a. Park Framework Plan Implementation Update  
Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services
  - b. Athletic Field Renovation Update  
Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief Park Services
  - c. Park Maintenance Plan Update  
Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner III, Park Services
6. Next Meeting: February 20, 2025
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.

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 16, 2025  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

**2024-2025 OSTP School Update**

**Current Enrollment:**

The current 2024-2025 school year enrollment stands at 1,310 students.

**Out-of-School Time Programming (OSTP):**

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*
- 3 LINK Club locations

**Goals and Strategic Alignment:**

The OSTP Committee is actively working on four key goals designed to align our efforts with the Division's Strategic Initiatives. These action items aim to:

- Improve internal processes
- Create a seamless interface experience for OSTP customers

**Partnerships and Collaborations:**

Our partnerships with ACPS, Upcycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and Buddie Ford Nature Center provide specialized programming, academic support, and enrichment activities at OSTP Power-On afterschool locations.

## Updates to OSTP Standards and Procedures:

- The OSTP Committee is in the process of updating the *OSTP Standard Operating Procedures* and the *OSTP Staff Manual*.
- The *OSTP Site Monitoring Observation Form* has been revised, and site monitoring visits will resume in February 2025. These visits are designed to ensure the program aligns with quality standards, enhancing our services.

## Summer 2025 Program Registration:

Preparations are underway for the upcoming Summer 2025 program. Registration details are as follows:

- **Pre-registration:** Sunday, February 2, 2025 – Friday, February 7, 2025
- **Open registration:**
  - Online: Begins Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
  - In-person: Begins Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

## Program Wrap-ups:

- The "I Am Thankful" program, held on November 20, 2024, at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, celebrated gratitude with family-friendly performances and activities. Children showcased skits, dances, and performances about thankfulness, followed by an outdoor s'mores experience using the Sterno S'mores Maker Junior.

### Event Highlights Include:

- **Stage Performances:** Children performed skits and dances expressing gratitude for family and friends, fostering a sense of community.
- **Outdoor S'mores Experience:** Families enjoyed making s'mores together, with all supplies provided by the Patrick Henry team for a seamless experience.



- RPCA offered multiple **winter break camps** with flexible options for this year's school break. Some camps ran for the full two weeks, while others were available for just one or two days to accommodate the holiday schedule. This flexibility provided support for families with travel plans. A total of 126 campers attended the winter break camps.

- On December 7, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay Recreation Centers hosted a teen futsal game at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. Promoting community, fitness, and teamwork, the game ended with Patrick Henry's 11-3 victory. Players showed impressive effort, reflecting the centers' dedication to youth development through sports, with more events planned.



- On December 7, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center held its **Breakfast with Santa**. Participants had the chance to meet, have a meal, and take photos with Santa, played by Phillip Caldwell. They also enjoyed creating holiday crafts and a visit from the Buddy Ford Nature Center.



- On December 9, the Youth Sports Advisory Board recognized several volunteers from sports programs at their monthly meeting. The following individuals were honored:
  - Angel Rivera (volleyball)
  - Dag Vega (tee-ball)
  - Alex Guevara (swimming)
  - Bella McLemore (swimming)
  - Meagan Stobie (soccer)
  - Kim Speed (lacrosse)
  - Ryan Ware (baseball)
  - Tom Blackwood (baseball)

- On December 10, **Mt. Vernon Seniors** created holiday seashell gifts, perfect for many uses. They enjoyed music, food, and great company during the event.



- On December 13, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center hosted its annual **OSTP Holiday Program**. Over 120 participants performed a play based on holiday traditions, including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. More than 200 parents and community members attended the program.



- The **Alexandria Holiday Invitational** was held at Alexandria City High School on Sunday, December 15. The competition featured teams from Patrick Henry, Mt. Vernon, William Ramsay, and Charles Houston, along with visiting teams from Ft. Hunt, Crozet, and Annandale.



- The Buddie Ford Nature Center partnered with the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility to host a **Winter Wildlife Pop-Up Event**. This event featured live animals, bingo, and information about how animals survive the winter for 90 attendees.

### Program Updates:

- **Registration is open** for the Winter 2025 session! Classes start as early as January 6.
- Youth in the John Adams Power-On afterschool program completed a 12-session **engineering workshop** with Nova Labs, creating projects like bridges, mousetraps, electric cars, rockets, and robots while exploring physics, engineering, and technology.



- On December 12, the Patrick Henry Teen Circle of Girls had a **Pancake program** in the Arts and Crafts room. Each teen girl had an opportunity to make her own tasty pancake from scratch.



- On December 18, Douglas MacArthur Power-On afterschool program held its **annual Gingerbread House Workshop** as part of their winter celebration. Children aged 5-12 created festive gingerbread houses using provided supplies.



- On December 18, the Patrick Henry Center held its **annual Winter Wonderland celebration!** The parents and youth enjoyed hot chocolate and candy canes while watching performances from each huddle to kick off the winter season. The program was well attended.



- On December 18, the Leonard Armstrong Out of School Time Program (OSTP) hosted its annual **Holiday Fiesta**. For three hours, children enjoyed crafting holiday projects, playing games, dancing to festive music, and indulging in holiday treats, making it a fun and memorable celebration of the season.



- On December 19, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted its **Winter Wonderland Performance and Holiday Celebration** for the Therapeutic and Youth Achieving Greatness Program. Activities included making holiday cards for seniors, gingerbread houses, ornaments, and a Winter Wonderland Room. The Adult Social Club also celebrated the Festival of Lights with a holiday party alongside the Miracle League of Alexandria.



### Upcoming Events:

- On January 29, the William Ramsay Recreation Center and its partner, the Local Motion Group, will begin the second session of Wednesday **Night Ballet Classes**.
- On January 30, Alexandria's Mentoring Partnership will host a **mentor recruitment event**. This is a great opportunity to mentor a child-in-need.

AMP Mentor Open House

JANUARY 30 @ 5-7:30 P.M.

Join us for a fun game night  
to explore AMP programs!

**Location:** Campagna Center  
(418 S Washington St.)

**Register at**  
alexandriava.gov/rpca/  
amp-open-house

mentoring@alexandriava.gov
[alexandriava.gov/Mentoring](https://alexandriava.gov/Mentoring)

- On January 31, the William Ramsay Recreation Center will host **Family Bingo Night** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- On February 7, the William Ramsay Recreation Center and its partner, Kid's First Years, will host the next **Connect and Play** event. This free event invites families with young children to explore activities that promote growth and learning.

### **Special Features:**

- On January 9, Buddie Ford Nature Center is strengthening its partnership with the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists. The Nature Center will host an informational meeting for **Master Naturalist volunteers**, providing an opportunity to gain support from experienced naturalists.

### **Staff Updates:**

- The William Ramsay Recreation Center would like to give special recognition to **Nyla Marshall**, who joined us in December and has been a major asset to our team. She has greatly contributed to our efforts to provide fun, safe, and meaningful experiences for the children in the Out of School Time Program.
- The Sports Section hired seven teenagers as Recreation Leader I's and is currently training them to serve as **youth basketball officials** for the 2025 season. The group began their training on January 4 with the classroom portion. These seven new employees will join three returning officials to referee 8U division games alongside a veteran official this season.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 16, 2025  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** JACK BROWAND, INTERIM DIRECTOR *JB*  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
**ITEM 3.a.:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE  
PARK SERVICES

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**PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief**

**Capital Improvement Project Summary Update**

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

**Capital Improvement Project Memorandum**

- Ball Court Capital Projects Schedule for 2025 (*Attached*)

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

- Holmes Run Trail (Site 1 – design & Site 2 & 3 – active construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk - (closed for inspections and structural repairs)

**Attachments**

1. Ballcourt Capital Budget Schedule
2. January 2025 Park Planning & Capital Development Report

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

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JANUARY 16, 2025  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
**FROM:** DANIEL UNKLE, URBAN PLANNER III, PARK SERVICES, RPCA  
**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, INTERIM DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES, RPCA *JB*  
**RE:** FY 2025 BALLCOURT SCHEDULE UPDATE

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**ITEM:** The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities conducts cyclical maintenance of outdoor hard-surface ball courts through the City's Capital Improvement Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Park and Recreation Commission receive the update for the FY 2025 ball court repair schedule.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) is responsible for the upkeep of 53 public tennis, multi-purpose, and basketball courts throughout Alexandria. These courts are heavily used by residents for general play, classes, programs, and special events. In addition, courts throughout the City are used by Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and rented by neighborhood private schools. Courts are maintained and renovated on a regular schedule through the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Renovations include patching or replacing surfaces, drainage work, fencing, grading, light repair/replacement and color coating. Other maintenance activities are performed through operating budgets.

**DISCUSSION:** In 2024, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities completed extensive renovation work at several facilities across the city. Notably, the tennis courts at the Lee Center underwent a full renovation, including the installation of new asphalt, posts, and fencing. At Potomac Yard Park, the tennis courts were repaired to address cracks and received a high-quality Mapei resurfacing. Additionally, new pickleball courts were added at Potomac Yard Park, enhancing the versatility of the facility for community use. The basketball court at Lee Center also received attention, with crack repairs and the application of a fresh color coat to improve both function and appearance. Finally, the George Mason tennis courts were repaired, to address cracks, and touch up the surface to ensure a safer, more durable facility.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities has scheduled repairs and improvements for several locations. Courts are identified and prioritized

for repairs based on condition assessments performed bi-annually by a team of City staff. The courts are then programmed into the Department's 10-year CIP Program. In the FY 2025 CIP, basketball courts scheduled for surface repairs are located at Ewald Park, Potomac Yard Park, and Windmill Hill. These facilities are scheduled for crack repairs and color coating. Additionally, the backboards will be replaced at Potomac Yard Park as part of the life-cycle replacement program. Based on the configurations of the courts, dimensions of the physical surface, and conflicts with the goal posts, these locations are not scheduled for multi-use conversions. Conversions will be re-evaluated when the courts are scheduled for full surface replacement.

The Four Mile Run multi-use court is scheduled for resurfacing. This work will only impact the top layer of the existing court and will improve the usability and experience for both basketball and futsal play.

The Montgomery Tennis Courts are also scheduled for resurfacing and repairs. The repairs will include replacing the nets, net posts and anchors. The project will only address repairs and will not include conversion to multi-use courts due to the current programming levels, including high school tennis, league play, and recreational play. Conversion to multi-use will be evaluated when the courts are scheduled for full renovation.

Staff are currently finalizing cost estimates for the repairs and resurfacing work with court contractors. An installation schedule will be added to the [capital project webpage](#) once schedules are confirmed with contractors.

**STAFF:**

Jack Browand, Interim Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Judy Lo, Principal Planner, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



January 16, 2025

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	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 2025 RPCA Community Needs Assessment is anticipated to be sent out for responses in early February. Individual households will be selected for participation to ensure that the survey is statistically accurate based on the census.	Planning	Citywide	05/01/25	Jose Ayala
2	Community Matching Fund	The Community Matching Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among Alexandria community organizations by providing matching dollars for groups that propose fundraising for park improvement projects. The Fund is designed to foster public/private partnerships and cultivate innovative ways for residents to have a greater stake in improving the park and recreation facilities that they use. Community groups interested in receiving matching funds will compete for grant aid amounts up to \$50,000	RPCA will manage a new round of the Community Matching Fund in 2025. Applications will be accepted this spring and the website will be updated with dates and deadlines in the coming weeks. Dates have been recorded for the community matching fund application process.	Initiation	Citywide	11/28/25	Lucresha Murphy-Tate
3	Parking Lot and Road Repairs	This project will repair asphalt parking lots and roads, and may include reconstruction of concrete curb and gutters, speed tables, curb ramps, and associated pathways. Anticipated locations include Chick Armstrong Recreation Center, Chinquapin Recreation Center, Armistead Boothe Park, Ewald Park, Fort Ward and other high priority locations rated Poor/Fair in the 2022 Pavement Condition Index.	Procurement is complete for the work. Improvements will be scheduled for the spring and the schedule will be coordinated with programs to minimize impacts to the community.	Procurement	Citywide	09/01/25	Jesse Van Wick
4	City Gateway Planting Renovations	This project will renovate planting beds throughout the City's 14 gateway locations in partnership with the Beautification Commission. These highly visible locations are viewed by thousands each day. The renovations will enhance and improve the appearance of the City by incorporating sustainable native plantings.	Phase I of the landscape enhancement around the City's newly installed gateway signs has been successfully completed. Six ornamental beds were created and enhanced with native plants. Phase II is scheduled for spring and will cover the remaining seven locations.	Initiation	Citywide	11/01/24	Oscar Mendoza
5	Shared Use Path Repairs	Project will repair the Citywide network of off-street shared use trails. Work may include trail re-surfacing, reconstruction of trail subbase, root pruning, crack repair, sealant and drainage improvements. Anticipated locations include but are not limited to the Holmes Run trail, Eisenhower Ave. trail, Metro Linear Park, Mt. Vernon Trail, Waterfront Park, Cameron Station Linear Park, Ben Brenman Park, Potomac Greens Park, Chambliss Trail, Mill Road and Oronoco Bay Park. Locations are rated Poor/Fair in the 2022 Pavement Condition Index	Staff met with the contractor before the holidays to discuss scope, schedule, and budget. Repairs are anticipated to begin in spring.	Implementation	Citywide		Jesse Van Wick
6	Powhatan Park Renovation	New paths, plaza, game tables, and shade structure	Staff is currently working on concept design and the design contract scope of work. The project will implement the recommendations of the Powhatan Park Neighborhood Improvements Plan (2015).	Planning	District 1	12/01/25	Daniel Unkle
7	Waterfront Park Furniture Replacement	This project will replace the existing moveable site furnishings located throughout the park	New furniture has been ordered and delivery is anticipated in March. Furniture will be deployed to various parks throughout the spring and summer.	Procurement	District 1	09/01/25	Daniel Unkle
8	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 contractor completed the repairs on the pergola structure in December. The area is open for community use.	Complete	District 1	12/01/24	Derek Claytor
9	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 is open for community use. Staff continue to complete the remaining outstanding items. New park signs were installed in October and additional signs, such as the donations sign will be installed in February. Replacement plantings are being scheduled for the spring. These installations do not require the dog park to be closed.	Close-out	District 2	02/01/25	Bethany Znidersic
10	Chinquapin Rec Center Elevator Upgrade	Replacement of the existing elevator with an interior lift and exterior elevator.	The design is complete and the construction contract for Phase I improvements is anticipated to be released for bids in late January. Construction scheduling will be coordinated with RPCA's team to minimize disruption to the community. Partial closures/temporary impacts to portions of the building are anticipated during construction.	Procurement	District 2	12/01/25	Jenine Kotob
11	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Pre-construction work is in progress and construction is anticipated to mobilize in February/March. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway</a>	Procurement	District 2	05/12/25	Bethany Znidersic
12	Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	The City resurfaced the nature trail from Fannon St to Route 1. Contractors addressed the clean up of brush along the west sides of the dog run, including removal of a tree that sustained storm damage. Chain link fence fabric was installed on the picket fence to eliminate the large openings. Double gated entrances will be installed in the coming weeks. The dog park is open.	Close-out	District 2	04/17/25	Judy Lo
13	Simpson Park Renovation Construction	Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project	The construction Invitation To Bid is open for bids. The bids will be due in February. The community will see interested contractors reviewing the site, but the park will remain open for community use as usual. Utility relocation work will begin in January. The fields are anticipated to be closed in July. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan</a>	Procurement	District 2	01/30/26	Bethany Znidersic
14	Lockett Field Natural Turf Renovation	Initial Scope: This project will remove the infield mix and prepare the site for conversion to a baseball field, amend the soil, fine grade the site, and re-sod the field.	Project is underway. Utilities are being located on site in mid-January. Construction work on the fencing and field is anticipated to begin mid-January, weather dependent.	Implementation	District 2	04/01/31	Jesse Van Wick

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
15	George Mason Recreational Space	Initial Scope: This project will fund a full sized gym, dedicated RPCA storage and office space, as well as outdoor accessible restrooms for the new George Mason facility.	Alexandria City Public Schools is in the design phase for the George Mason Elementary School Modernization Project. The School Board selected a design concept which will now go into design development. Please see the ACPS website for more information: <a href="https://gm.acps.k12.va.us/about/facility-modernization-maintenance">https://gm.acps.k12.va.us/about/facility-modernization-maintenance</a>	Design	District 2	08/03/26	Bethany Znidersic
16	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.	Final fencing and landscape delayed due to weather. Anticipated completion of the athletic field synthetic January 2025 and landscape spring 2025.	Implementation	District 3	12/20/24	Jack Broward
17	Holmes Run Dog Area Improvements (Duke St. Dog Park)	This project will renovate the dog park to add a fence and a new entrance configuration to separate large and small dogs.	A water fountain will be added this winter/spring. The equipment has been ordered and procurement is in progress to install it, the water line, and the water meter.	Procurement	District 3	12/02/24	Derek Claytor
18	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. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="http://alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation">alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation</a>	Implementation	District 3	03/01/25	Bethany Znidersic
19	Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	The Notice to Proceed was issued to Gordon in early December. Supplemental field survey was completed and stormwater outfalls were evaluated. The schematic design and stormwater concept were completed.	Design	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo
20	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 Znidersic
21	Ewald Park Site Design	Design of Ewald Park per the 2015 Neighborhood Parks Plan	Two park redesign options were developed based on the results of the fall 2024 community survey. Staff are obtaining community feedback about the design options. Community engagement is scheduled throughout December, January and February. The park design survey will be open through January 31 and can be accessed on the project webpage: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/john-ewald-park-improvements">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/john-ewald-park-improvements</a>	Planning	District 3	02/16/27	Judy Lo
22	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 solicitation is planned for January 2025 with construction start anticipated in spring 2025. Completion of site 1 is anticipated spring 2026. 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	12/01/25	Jack Broward