

Alexandria Times

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Reopening African American Heritage Park

BY SOFIA CALAVITTA

The Office of Historic Alexandria and the Division of African American History proudly celebrate the June 2025 reopening of the Alexandria African American Heritage Park, located at 500 Holland Lane. The park was closed to the public for some time due to issues with water overflow from the stream on the property.

A project conducted to better manage the stream and prevent flooding has now been completed, including the addition of new groves and seven new interpretive signs. The property was designated by the city as historically significant for the history of African Americans in Alexandria in 1985 after an archaeological project investigated graves on the abandoned block and discovered they were once maintained by members of the Silver Leaf (Colored) Society.

The Silver Leaf Society was a burial society that established the Black Baptist Cemetery on that site in 1885. This recognition by the city came after more than half a century and after the cemetery had fallen into disrepair.

In honor of the remains and burial site on the grounds of the park – and the deep ties to the past and present Alexan-



PHOTO/RIVERRENEW PROJECT TEAM

The back side of the African American Heritage Park looking over Alexandria National Cemetery.

dria community – statues and public art were created for the park by the sculptor Jerome Meadows. Meadows’ pieces were installed for the grand opening in June 1995, and 30 years later, his art, “Truths That Rise From The Roots Remembered,” acknowledges the contributions of Alexandria’s African American community.

In addition, new signage

and a Reflection Grove have been added to the park site to expand the interpretation of Alexandria’s Black History.

Celebrate this Juneteenth on Thursday by enjoying storytelling at 1 p.m., the annual Juneteenth concert by The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices at 2 p.m. in Market Square and by visiting the Alexandria African American

Heritage Park. Please see the Office of Historic Alexandria’s website for additional Juneteenth programming. The Alexandria African American Heritage Park is now open to the public for future generations.

*Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.*