

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting

Lee Center
1108 Jefferson Street

Thursday, September 18, 2025
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 – Commissioner Comments
4. Action Items
 - a. Approval July 17, 2025 Minutes
5. Items of Information
 - a. **Old Town Pool Replacement Update**
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services, RPCA
 - b. **Waterfront Plan Implementation Update – Flood Mitigation**
Matt Landes, Portfolio Manager, Department of Project Implementation
6. Next Meeting: October 16, 2025
 - a. Location to be Determined
7. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jack Browand at
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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM
(AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER)

OSTP Update:

Current 2025-26 School Year Enrollment: 1329

Out-of-school time programming is offered at 11 Afterschool Power-On sites, which include two specialty programs — Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG) and TR Achieving Greatness (TAG). OSTP enrollment is expected to continue to increase after September 2 with the start of the 3 LINK Club locations (Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School and Francis C Hammond Middle School) in partnership with ACPS.

Partnerships & Collaborations:

We are proud to collaborate with ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and the Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners contribute valuable enrichment, academic support, and specialized programming at afterschool Power-On locations.

On Thursday, October 23 all OSTP Power-On and LINK Club afterschool locations will celebrate and bring awareness to “Lights on Afterschool”. For the last 25 years the Afterschool Alliance has organized Lights On Afterschool to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things—such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon...

Program Wrap-ups:

- In July, the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center focused on creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for the community. Each day was filled with energy, joy, and enthusiasm from both campers and staff. To extend their spirit of service, the center hosted **“Thanksgiving in July,”** collecting canned goods, boxed items, and other non-perishables to support Food 4 ALX.



- On August 4th, the Youth Activities Section closed out the Summer Power-On/Power-Up program with **Marvelous Monday**, a celebration attended by more than 300 campers and OSTP staff. The day was filled with inflatable obstacle courses, Sweet Frog treats, crafts, field games, music, GameTruck, kickball, face painting, a Glo Dance Party, and more. The event ended with a lively Line Dancing Showdown, where each camp performed for the crowd. This celebration marked a joyful conclusion to a summer of fun, learning, and unforgettable experiences across 14 OSTP locations.



- On August 4, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center along with the Duncan Library hosted **1,2,3 Andres!** Andres is a Grammy winning children's musician who performs in English and Spanish. We had over 500 people in attendance.



- On August 6, the Leonard Armstrong Summer OSTP (ages 9–12) took a final adventure with a **walking field trip** to the local Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins. Excited after weeks of activities, the group enjoyed sweet treats and celebrated the close of a fun-filled summer together.



- On August 7th, Leonard Armstrong Summer OSTP wrapped up the season with an **End-of-Summer Bash** featuring moon bounces, water games, arts and crafts, and outdoor activities. Participants enjoyed food, drinks, and farewell goody bags, making it a memorable send-off at Leonard Chick Armstrong Recreation Center.



- On August 8, the Patrick Henry Center held the **End of the Summer Cookout Blast** for our youth that attended the Summer Power Up Program. The youth had a blast. They participated in relays, obstacle courses, fun water day activities and enjoyed cookout food.



- Also on August 8, the **Patrick Henry Center** host the **Senior Orientation**. The event was well attended. This event was well attended. The presentation featured an overview of the senior recreation programs, benefits of participating in these activities, highlights key programs and services, explaining how to register and participate, and an introduction to fitness instructors with short demonstrations of program offering.



- On August 10, the Community Outreach team partnered with Fire Fighters and Friends to host the **Annual School Supply and Backpack Giveaway** at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. More than 290 participants attended, and every child received a new backpack filled with school supplies.
- On August 15th, the William Ramsay Recreation Center, in partnership with William Ramsay Elementary and the Washington Wizards, hosted a **Back-to-School** event for local families. The celebration included free backpacks and school supplies, face painting, and complimentary haircuts from local barbers. Families also had the chance to meet several rookie NBA players, creating a memorable day of fun, community spirit, and school-year readiness.



- **On September 2nd**, William Ramsay Recreation Center launched its **Fall programming** by welcoming seniors back for a lively line dancing session. Four enthusiastic participants enjoyed music, movement, and socializing, making for a joyful start to the season.



Program Updates:

- **On August 18th**, the **Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility** marked its first anniversary, celebrated with a community event on **August 30th**. The celebration featured class demonstrations, a DJ, giveaways, and a barbecue. Beginning in September, the pool returned to full use with **SPLASH classes** led by ACPS in partnership with RPCA instructors, and students are thoroughly enjoying their time in the water.



- From September 5–7, the Oswald Durant Center hosted the **Pagume Art Exhibition**, presented by Artist's Ashara. Showcasing more than 100 works from twelve renowned Ethiopian painters, the exhibition celebrated Ethiopian art, culture, and tradition while fostering multiculturalism and community dialogue in Alexandria. Select pieces will remain on display and rotate in the coming months, giving residents ongoing opportunities to experience this cultural exchange.



- On September 6, the **Therapeutic Recreation Adults Miracle League Program** opened its season, followed by the start of the Therapeutic Achieving Greatness program on September 10.



Upcoming Events:

- On August 16th and September 6th, the Aquatics Section hosted its annual **Dog Swim** events at Memorial Pool and Warwick Pool. The final swim is scheduled for September 27th at Old Town Pool. These events are free to the public, with proof of each dog's rabies vaccination required.
- On September 27th, the Youth Activities Section will support the **Annual Kiwanis Kids Fishing Day** at Lake Cook from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event gives youth the chance to enjoy the outdoors—whether fishing for the first time or the hundredth—while learning how to bait, cast, and fish alongside friends, Kiwanis and Key Club volunteers, and City staff.

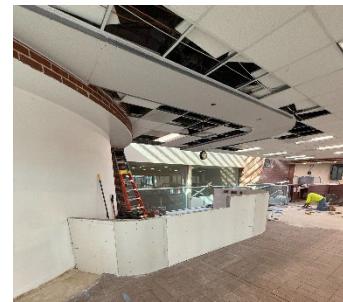


- On October 24, **Mount Vernon Recreation Center** will host its annual Family Masquerade Ball. Families in the City of Alexandria will enjoy dancing, photo opportunities, refreshments, and best dressed costume contest.
- On October 9, Buddie Ford Nature Center, in collaboration with TES, will launch this year's **Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs)** at Ben Brenman Park. Developed by the Chesapeake Bay Program with NOAA support, the MWEE framework aligns with Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) for ACPS middle schoolers. Throughout October, BFNC and TES will host six events totaling 30 hours of instruction.
- On October 4, the Sports Section will host its first-ever **Breast Cancer Awareness 5K** at Lake Cook in Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Avenue. The event runs from 9 a.m. to noon, with a \$25 registration fee for participants ages 10 and older.



Construction Updates:

Construction at the Chinquapin facility began on August 9th and the site will remain closed to the public until Monday, September 22nd. Improvements include enhanced accessibility features and essential pool repairs to ensure safety and functionality. Work will continue after reopening, but with minimal impact on daily operations.



Staff Updates:

- On October 11th, the **OSTP School Year Staff Training** will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The session is designed to strengthen teamwork through interactive activities that promote collaboration and professional growth.
- We are excited to welcome **Ms. Olivia Holdt** as the new Site Supervisor at John Adams Recreation Center. Ms. Holdt joins us from California and brings a wealth of experience, having worked with after-school programs since 2005.
- This summer, we proudly recognized our outstanding staff with certificates and lapel pins for their dedication and hard work. A special thank you to all who made summer programs fun, safe, and engaging for our participants.

Summer Site Supervisors:

○ Ms. Mary – Charles Barrett	○ Ms. Rachel – Power-Up Chick Armstrong
○ Ms. LaTesha – John Adams	○ Ms. Aja – Power-Up William Ramsay
○ Ms. Lakeyda – Douglas MacArthur	○ Ms. Iyona – Power-Up Patrick Henry
○ Ms. Barbara – Ferdinand T. Day	

Recognized Staff Members:

○ John Adams: Ms. Sarah, Mr. Panda	○ Power-Up William Ramsay: Ms. Naida, Mr. Jason
○ Charles Barrett: Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Dontiez	○ Power-Up Chick Armstrong: Ms. Omari, Mr. Khalil
○ Douglas MacArthur: Ms. Smith, Ms. Rosie	○ Power-Up Patrick Henry: Mr. X, Ms. Cheina
○ Ferdinand T. Day: Ms. Shayla, Ms. Jari	

We are grateful for their commitment to our programs and the positive impact they make on our community's youth.

Special Feature:

Community Engagement Division Update

Mentor One Child. Change Two Lives!



*Mentors, interns and staff with our Old Town SOHO program
which serves girls attending Jefferson Houston and Cora Kelley Elementary Schools.
Interns wearing purple SOHO t-shirts are Stephanie (left) and Cynthia (right).*

Space of Her Own (SOHO) is preparing to launch its 23rd season with 26 new mentors and two interns serving fifth-grade girls. In addition, 80 middle schoolers and their mentors are active in the SOHO Club.

Our interns include **Stephanie Coreas Cruz**, a former mentee who hopes to work in human services, and **Cynthia Hernandez**, a junior at Alexandria City High School who plans to study psychology and become a child psychologist.

Mentors shared why they chose SOHO:

- *Amy* values being a steady, positive presence for girls during formative years.
- *Deja* wants to give back after being shaped by strong women mentors herself.
- *Katie* appreciates SOHO's focus on fifth grade, a pivotal age, and looks forward to building long-term relationships through structured activities.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

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

PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief

Capital Improvement Project Summary Update

- September Park Planning & Capital Development Report, Park Services (*Attachment 2*)

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

- Colasanto Park (active construction)
- Holmes Run Trail Site 1 (construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction – partial/lower field reopened)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Four Mile Run Park Rectangle Field (turf renovation)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (active construction)
- Four Mile Run Park Futsal Court (court repairs)
- Four Mile Run Park – Commonwealth Ave. - Kayak Launch construction (partially closed)
- Upcoming Closures:
 - Fort Ward Playground (starting Fall - renovation)
 - Four Mile Run Park –Edison St. (starting Fall - Flood Action Alexandria project)
 - Hooffs Run Park between Oak and Walnut includes tennis court-(starting Fall – storm sewer culvert replacement)

Fort Ward Playground Accessibility Project

Project Manager: Judy Lo, Principal Planner

In 2023 Park Planning and the Office of Historic Alexandria began a community planning process to evaluate locations within Fort Ward for improving playground accessibility as recommended by the Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan. Several potential sites were evaluated, taking into account sensitive cultural and natural resources and other site constraints, to identify a more suitable, accessible playground location. Based on community input, including feedback from the Fort Community descendants, the playground will be relocated to the top of the hill from its current location.

In spring of 2025 design and approvals were completed. The updated playground will feature play equipment suitable for children ages 2-12 years including accessible play components, and fabric canopies to provide shade. Other improvements include new ADA parking, an accessible ramp entrance, an accessible water fountain, benches, bike parking, and picnic tables.

Stormwater management strategies will incorporate extensive native tree plantings to increase tree canopy, reduce soil erosion, and minimize land disturbance and while also providing natural shade and supporting biodiversity. The existing playground area will be restored as a forested area.

In Summer 2025, procurement for construction was completed and the contract was awarded to Stevens Construction Corp., based out of Annandale, Virginia. Construction is anticipated to begin Fall 2025 and be completed by Summer 2026. A pre-construction community meeting will be held this fall.



Fort Ward Park – Proposed Playground Equipment

Forest Park Trail Maintenance (Kinston Ave. entrance)

Project Manager: Elizabeth Williams, Laborer Supervisor, Park District II

The maintenance activity included trimming of vegetation, hand grading of the trail section and placement of gravel.



Holmes Run Trail Project – Sites 2 & 3

Project Manager: Jack Browand, Deputy Director

Site 2 and 3 of the Holmes Run Trail opened Friday, September 12. With the opening of these portions of trail, trail users will have a continuous off-street trail from Beauregard St. to Eisenhower Ave. Final minor construction and cleanup activities will continue for one to two weeks weather permitting.



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

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



September 18, 2025

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Shared Use Path Repairs	<p>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</p>	<p>The first area for improvement (Holmes Run Trail) has begun. The website and site signage provide additional information for the community. The contractor began work on May 5. https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2025-04/trail_maintenance_notice.pdf</p>	Implementation	Citywide	07/31/25	Jesse Van Wick
2	Duke Street Corridor Study		<p>On June 9, 2025, the Department of Planning and Zoning launched the Duke Street Land Use Plan Hybrid Community Planning Process with a Kick-off Meeting and Community Open House. The event introduced the plan's purpose, shared community input, and outlined ways for the public to stay engaged. This planning process will continue through late 2026 and is expected to conclude in early 2027.</p> <p>RPCA has hired a consultant to evaluate the current parks and open spaces in the corridor. This assessment will provide recommendations for future park enhancements and new recreational amenities to meet the community's evolving needs.</p>	Implementation	Citywide	12/01/25	Jose Ayala
3	Powhatan Park Improvements (Phase 1)	<p>Implementation of the Neighborhood Park Plan recommendations #3, #6, #7, #8 and #9. https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/neighborhood-plan-powhatan.pdf</p>	<p>The task order has been awarded and the purchase order has been issued. The design consultant is working on conceptual designs and stormwater management approach. Community engagement is planned for this fall and will be posted on the project webpage: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/powhatan-park-improvements-project</p>	Design	District 1	01/25/27	Daniel Unkle
4	Old Town Pool Replacement Design	<p>This project will include planning and design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.</p>	<p>The design contract notice to proceed occurred in mid-June. Staff are working through permit requirements and establishing community engagement plan to be implemented fall 2025. The design phase will continue through July 2026. A community meeting is scheduled for September 15.</p>	Design	District 1	08/31/26	Jack Browand
5	Windmill Hill Basketball Court Surface Repairs	<p>This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and reline the basketball court.</p>	<p>The court resurfacing was completed over the summer and the court is open for community use.</p>	Complete	District 1	09/01/25	Daniel Unkle
6	Four Mile Run West Field Turf Renovation	<p>This project will remove the remaining sod, amend the soil, fine grade the site, and re-sod the field.</p>	<p>The field is under construction. Construction is anticipated to be complete in mid-September and the site will be closed to allow the turf to establish.</p>	Implementation	District 1	09/30/25	Derek Clayton
7	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	<p>This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.</p>	<p>Construction completion has been adjusted to December due to weather delays. Construction is in progress with a focus on the two vaults at this stage. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy and Virginia American Water continues and power is anticipated to be provided in October. Please see the project website for more information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway</p>	Implementation	District 2	12/19/25	Bethany Znidersic
8	Four Mile Run Water Access	<p>This Community Matching Fund project, with the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, will provide a new accessible water access (kayak launch) at the end of Commonwealth Ave.</p>	<p>Due to weather and soil conditions the project completion date has changed to this fall. The contractor has installed 90% of the helical piles with additional piles to be installed for the last segment of the boardwalk. The floating dock was delivered and installed. Construction of the boardwalk has also started. Approximately 50% of the railing and structural components are complete. The fiberglass deck material will be delivered in September.</p>	Implementation	District 2	12/01/25	Judy Lo
9	Simpson Park Renovation Construction	<p>Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project</p>	<p>The construction contractor received notice to proceed in early July. On-site mobilization is complete and construction activities are in progress. The initial phase of utility relocation work is complete. Please see the project website for more information regarding portions of the park that will be closed and project updates: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan</p>	Implementation	District 2	09/30/26	Bethany Znidersic
10	Four Mile Run Park Multi-purpose Court Color Coating	<p>This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and relining the basketball and futsal courts.</p>	<p>This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and relining the court. Crack repairs were addressed and removal of the old color coating started in early September. The remaining work including new color coating and relining will be scheduled in September, weather permitting.</p>	Implementation	District 2	09/29/25	Daniel Unkle
11	Potomac Yard Park Basketball Court Repairs	<p>This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and relining the basketball court.</p>	<p>The court repairs are complete and the courts are reopened for community use.</p>	Complete	District 2	09/01/25	Daniel Unkle
12	George Mason Recreational Space	<p>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.</p>	<p>Alexandria City Public Schools is currently in the construction phase for the George Mason Elementary School Modernization Project. The project Development Special Use Permit was approved at the City Council public hearing on May 17. Please see the ACPS website for more information: https://gm.acps.k12.va.us/about/facility-modernization-maintenance</p>	Design	District 2	08/03/26	Bethany Znidersic
13	Fort Ward Park ADA Parking	<p>Upgrade existing parking to meet ADA requirements</p>	<p>Phase 1, lower level parking lot asphalt complete. Second phase project anticipated for implementation fall 2025, with mobilization to begin at the end of September, weather permitting. Partial closures of the parking lot will occur during the construction work.</p>	Implementation	District 3	10/31/25	Daniel Unkle
14	Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	<p>This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).</p>	<p>Construction is in progress. The lower field and parking lot are open for community use. The upper field is in progress and a soft opening is anticipated in late September. The park restrooms will be complete in the fall of 2025 and will be fenced for safety until complete. Please see the project website for more information: alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation</p>	Implementation	District 3	10/01/25	Bethany Znidersic
15	Fort Ward Playground Relocation	<p>Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan</p>	<p>The solicitation was advertised in May and the bids were opened on June 24. Purchasing completed all due diligence with bidders and the contract was awarded in early September. Staff are coordinating the pre-construction meeting, including a community meeting, with the anticipation that work will begin this fall.</p>	Implementation	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
16	Ewald Park Improvements	This project will implement the 2025 Park Improvement Plan recommendations	Staff submitted the application for the 2025 Land and Water Conservation grant round. Staff issued the Task Order for design services and will continue procurement for design services. The Office of the Arts initiated the public art project and formed the Public Art Task Force, which held its first meeting in September.	Design	District 3	02/16/27	Judy Lo
17	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 construction notice to proceed is August 1, 2025. Construction duration anticipated 12-15 months. Site 2 (west 395 bridge) & Site 3 (Ripley crossing) are under active construction. Formal opening to occur September/October. Note: Site 2 & 3 when completed will provide full trail connection from Van Dorn St. to N. Beauregard St.	Implementation	District 3	12/01/25	Jack Browand
18	Ewald Park Basketball Court Repairs	This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and reline the basketball court.	The court repairs and color coat surfacing were completed over the summer. The court is open for community use.	Complete	District 3	09/01/25	Daniel Unkle