



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

January 28, 2026

To: Mayor Alyia Gaskins and Members of the City Council
Jim F. Parajon, City Manager

From: Louise Roseman, chair of the Waterfront Commission

Subject: Comments on Proposed National Park Service Improvements in Old Town North

The National Park Service requested public comments on proposed improvements to the waterfront and Mt. Vernon Trail in Old Town North. The Waterfront Commission submitted the following comments on NPS's online comment portal:

The City of Alexandria's Waterfront Commission welcomes this opportunity to provide input on the National Park Service's proposed actions to improve the waterfront and Mt. Vernon Trail in Old Town North. The Mt. Vernon Trail is a very popular amenity for both recreational and transportation purposes and we believe the improvements being considered by the NPS will be greatly appreciated. With the impending redevelopment of the former Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) site, we hope that the NPS will work in collaboration with the HRP Group and the City of Alexandria to transform what is now an eyesore into vibrant and attractive outdoor spaces.

Personal Non-Motorized Motorcraft Launch. The Commission strongly supports NPS's proposal to add a personal non-motorized watercraft launch to improve public access and recreation. We have several recommendations that we believe are important to maximize the usability of this addition to the waterfront.

- Long-term storage facility. The distance from where a car can drop off a kayak or paddleboard to the launch site and the significant elevation drop to the water would make it challenging to bring a personally-owned watercraft to and from the launch pier. Owners of kayaks and paddleboards would benefit from the convenience of having the availability of a longer-term storage area near the pier for their watercraft.
- Short-term storage facility. People who are on the river in their kayak or paddleboard and want to stop at this site and explore the area need to have a place to temporarily store their watercraft while they do so. We support the installation of site near the pier for temporary storage of watercraft for these users.
- Rental kiosk. We also encourage the NPS to provide a kayak/paddleboard rental kiosk near the launch pier in order to extend the benefits of this pier to many more people.

Steps to Improve Safety on and Access to Mt. Vernon Trail. The Commission believes that safety of the Mt. Vernon Trail along the PRGS site and further north would be greatly enhanced by widening the trail to provide for separation of pedestrians and bikers. We agree that replacing the aging cage section next to the PRGS pump house with a boardwalk and enhancing sight lines

will improve safety along this section of the trail. We also support the addition of new access points from the PRGS site to the trail.

Scenic Overlooks. We support the addition of new scenic overlook(s) and bench(es) along the trail. This will provide new areas for users of the trail to relax and take in the beautiful views. The NPS should also consider steps that can be taken to improve the view of the shoreline from the perspective of those on the water.

Trail Stabilization. We agree with the NPS's assessment that emergency stabilization of the trail immediately south of the metal cage is needed and are pleased to see that this project is planned for later this winter or in the spring.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on these important matters. We hope the NPS will engage in similar initiatives going forward to make improvements to Jones Point Park and Dangerfield Island.

c: Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Alethea Predeoux, Deputy City Manager
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