

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

**2900 Business Center Drive
Thursday, March 19, 2026
7 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Chair
2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
*Council member visit
3. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
 - a. Staff Report – Commissioner Comments
4. Action Items
 - a. Approval February 19, 2026, Minutes
5. Items for Information
 - a. FY 2027 Proposed Budget Brief
Faye Maslaki, Division Chief, Administrative Services
 - b. Ewald Renovation Process Timeline and Update
Judy Lo, Park Services
6. Next Meeting: April 16, 2026
 - a. Durant Center (1605 Cameron St.)
7. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Laura Durham at Laura.Durham@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: MARCH 19, 2026
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

OSTP School Year Update:

Current 25-26 School Year Enrollment: 1329

Out-of-school time programming is offered at 12 Afterschool Power-On sites, which include two specialty programs — Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG) and TR Achieving Greatness (TAG) and three 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 and LINK Club locations.

Program Wrap-ups:

- Mount Vernon Recreation Center proudly hosted one of its many **Fun Fridays** in celebration of Black History Month. We had the wonderful opportunity to welcome special guest Culture Queen, who delivered an engaging performance and taught Black history through music. Participants enjoyed an interactive experience filled with learning, movement, and fun as history came to life through song.
- On February 11, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted its **Senior Craft Social “Sip & Paint.”** Seniors enjoyed an afternoon filled with creativity, fellowship, and fun as they gathered to paint, socialize, and express their artistic talents in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere.

- On February 12, Nannie J. Lee hosted a lively **Valentine's Day Party** filled with food, drinks, group games, crafts and themed activities. The event also served as a valuable opportunity to meet with parents and guardians who had questions about summer camp, registration, and upcoming programs. It was a fun and welcoming way to engage both participants and families while strengthening community relationships.



- On February 13, William Ramsay hosted a special evening of fun and relaxation for families in the Out of School Time Program with **Parent's Night Out: Love to Play Edition**. While parents enjoyed a well-deserved night off, children spent the evening participating in festive-themed activities, enjoying snacks and drinks, playing group games, taking part in team challenges, and ending the night with a cozy movie. The event created a joyful atmosphere filled with laughter, connection, and play for all who attended.



- On February 26, participants at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center created and unveiled a vibrant **Black History Museum** in the main entrance. The event began with a ribbon-cutting and guided tour featuring hand-painted portraits of influential Black leaders including Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Jesse Jackson. Youth also displayed artistic artifacts and informational exhibits highlighting the achievements of Black innovators. The museum welcomed families, staff, and visitors, offering an engaging and educational celebration of Black excellence and history.



- On February 27, Nannie J. Lee staff supported the Alexandria Adult Day Services Center’s **Black History Month celebration** at Kauffman Auditorium featuring guest Sylvia Traymore Morrison. Staff highlighted notable Black inventors—from Augustus Jackson (1832) to George E. Alcorn (1984)—engaging seniors in discussions about their innovations and lasting impact.



- On February 27, Charles Houston OSTP had a **Black History Program** titled, “The Love Event”! The children recited classic Black History Poems, original pieces, Fun Facts about Black Inventors, danced to classic songs from Black Artist, and rendered musical selections from black musicians. OSTP staff partnered with the Peer Advisors to help the children rehearse. This event was nothing short of a success!



- On February 27, Mount Vernon Recreation Center concluded Black History Month with a **Jamaican-themed Fun Day** featuring crafts for children and traditional foods such as rice and peas, sweet plantains, and meat patties, celebrating Caribbean culture and community.
- On March 2, Mount Vernon Recreation Center proudly hosted **Read Across America**, a nationwide reading celebration created by the National Education Association to promote literacy and inspire a lifelong love of reading. We were honored to welcome special guest readers who shared stories with the children and led engaging, interactive activities designed to foster a love of books and learning. The event was filled with excitement, imagination, and meaningful connections between community leaders and our young readers.

Guest Readers:

Phil Caldwell, DCHS Special Projects Incentive Manager
 Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist
 James Parajon, City Manager
 Arianna Kelly, Nature Center
 Hashim Taylor, RPCA Director

- As a service project the student council at Douglas MacArthur Power-On afterschool program initiated a **food drive** to collect canned food items and non-perishables for ALIVE! The student council along with the afterschool participants and their families collected over 780lbs of food for the community.



Program Updates:

On February 19, William Ramsay Recreation Center launched its first Essentrics class for seniors, with sessions running through March 26. This low-impact program combines stretching and toning through flowing movements, offering older adults a great opportunity to stay active, socialize, and connect. Ten participants are currently registered.



- On March 6, Minnie Howard hosted **ACPS' first middle school swim meet**, followed by a second meet on March 13. Participation was strong this year, with students preparing for two upcoming April meets that will also include diving.
- On March 3, Minnie Howard and Chinquapin Recreation Centers participated in a **surprise audit** conducted by the American Red Cross. Both teams were well prepared and successfully demonstrated their aquatics skills and commitment to maintaining safety in our pools.



- On March 5, the **Inspire to Lead** mentoring program launched at William Ramsay Recreation Center welcoming West End middle school students for an evening of games and creative activities designed to help them connect with one another and with volunteer mentors. Supported by NRPA grant funding, the program focuses on serving youth who may be experiencing attendance or behavioral challenges at school and who could benefit from group mentoring.

Upcoming Events:

- World Water Day: Sat., March 21 at 10 a.m. at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center
- Dance for All Ages: Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at ACHS
- Ballet Recital: Sat., April 18 at 12 noon at Lee Center

- Alexandria Cheerleading Competition: Saturday, April 25 at 2 p.m. at ACHS
- Pop Up Bingo: Friday, March 27 from 6pm-8pm at William Ramsay Recreation Center
- Teen Appreciation Day: March 20th
 - Charles Houston Recreation Center – 6pm – 8pm
Sip & Paint: 6:00 pm
Basketball Game: 7:00 pm
Uno Tournament/Saran Wrap Ball: 8:00 pm
 - William Ramsay - 7:00 pm – 10:45 pm
Game Truck
Karaoke
Wing Bar
Open Gym Basketball
 - Patrick Henry - 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
3v3 Basketball
Futsal
Glow up studio (hair, nails, temporary tattoos) / Tik-Tok Booth
Gaming Zone
Open Mic Battle
Raffle
 - Leonard Armstrong - 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Raffles & Prizes
Karaoke Challenge (Boys vs Girls)
Board Games Tournament
Video Game Tournaments
Sports Picture Wall
- On March 23–27, the Power-On and LINK Club programs will participate in **Rev Your Bev**, a campaign led by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth that encourages Virginians to choose water as their primary beverage to support childhood obesity prevention. Throughout the week, participants will take part in Rev Your Bev lessons, crafts, and experiments.
- On April 17, the Out of School Time Program (OSTP) will host **its annual Night of Stars** at the Lee Center. This highly anticipated event celebrates the creativity and talent of OSTP participants through performances in spoken word, poetry, music, dance, and more, and has drawn more than 400 attendees in previous years.

Special Features:

- This spring, RPCA and the Community Engagement Team will launch **Caring University** (CaringU), a free learning institute for youth and the adults who support them. Courses will be offered in multiple languages with both online and in-person options. Topics will focus on helping parents, staff, and coaches better support youth. For training ideas or opportunities, contact madeline.nance@alexandriava.gov

- **Volunteers** love being part of RPCA’s mission. Since the beginning of 2026, we’ve averaged one inquiry per day from residents (and even non-residents) interested in volunteer opportunities. The Community Engagement team has been sharing a variety of ways to get involved — but we’d appreciate your help to create even more meaningful, high-impact opportunities. We’d love to hear your ideas about how volunteers can help make RPCA’s services even better. Please reach out to Katie.Stohs@alexandriava.gov with suggestions or questions!
- We are launching a **new donor and sponsorship campaign** to help offset Wahoos program costs. Hosted in RecTrac, the campaign will give registrants the option to contribute toward items like swimsuits, towels, and swim caps, or make an “Other” donation to support the Wahoos. Individuals and organizations will also be able to express interest in becoming a Wahoos sponsor. This effort aims to help reduce costs for participants while expanding opportunities for community support of the Wahoos program.

Staff Updates:

- **Tarryn Lee & Coline Hay** completed the second year of Revenue Development and Management School (RDMS). RDMS is a partnership between the National Recreation & Park Association, National Training Center at Oglebay and North Carolina State University and is a two-year professional development program designed for recreation professionals focused on generating, managing and sustaining revenue.
- Minnie Howard has promoted two of their seasonal lifeguards, **Janiya Farmer and Rachael Vandergrift** to pool operators, and a third seasonal lifeguard, Sierra McClintick to a seasonal head guard.
- From March 11–14, RPCA Recreation Program Managers, Coordinators, and part-time Recreation Leaders attended the **National Afterschool Association Conference** at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. The *Dream, Dare, Do* conference focused on creating supportive environments for youth and teens. Staff will share key takeaways and how they plan to apply what they learned.
- On March 30 and April 6, **CPR/First Aid training** will be held for RPCA and OSTP staff. To date, more than 60 staff members have been certified or recertified.
- On Saturday, April 18 and Saturday, April 25, **Medication Administration Training (MAT)** will be held for RPCA and OSTP staff.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 19, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ^{JB}
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

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

CLOSED OR PARTIALLY CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

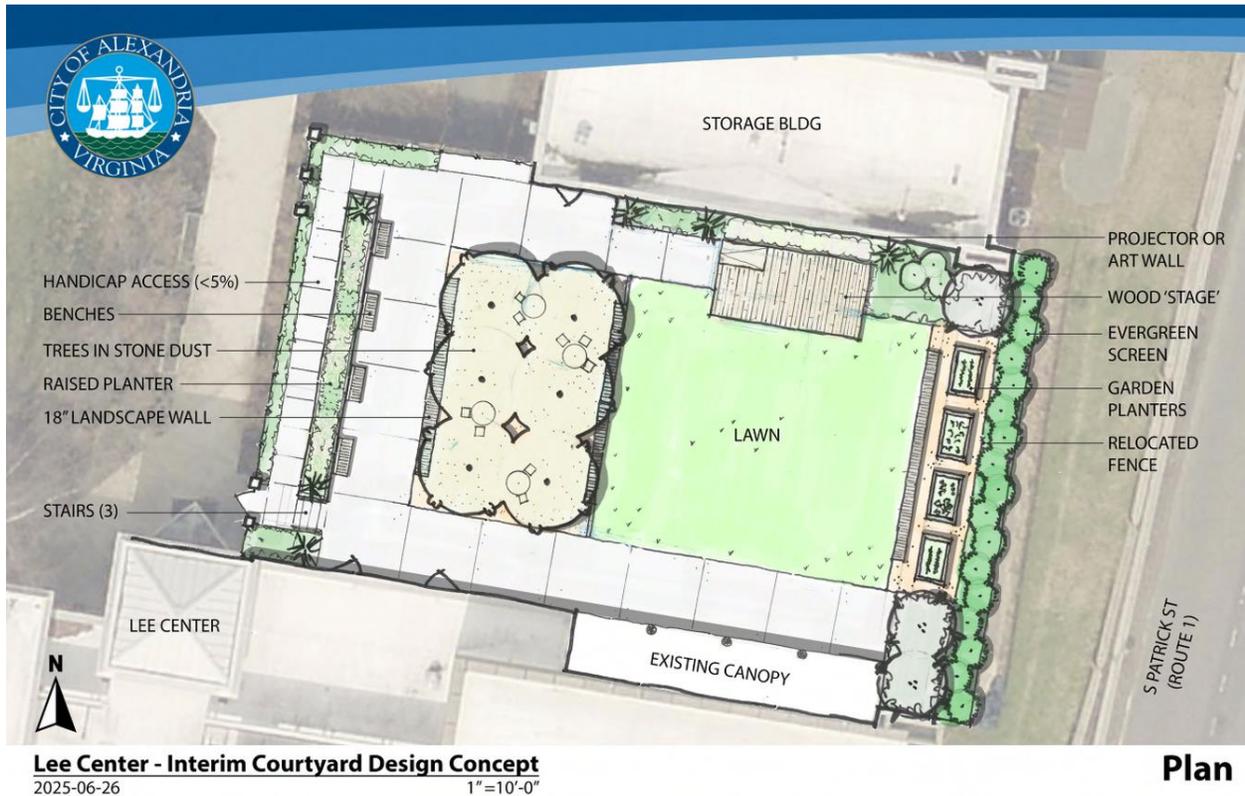
- Colasanto Park (active construction)
- Holmes Run Trail Site 1 (construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction restrooms only)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (active construction)
- Fort Ward Playground (construction)
- Upcoming Closures:
 - Hooffs' Run Park between Oak and Walnut includes a tennis court - (start is anticipated mid-late April 2026 – storm sewer culvert replacement)
 - Lee Center parking lot south of Miracle Field (former pool conversion construction is anticipated April 2026 – September 2026)

Lee Center Pool Site Conversion

In fall 2025, demolition of the decommissioned pool at the Nannie J. Lee Center was completed. In spring 2026 the site will be converted into a multi-use courtyard space. The space will have seating areas, a small deck/stage, and tree and landscape plantings to support therapeutic recreation programs and Lee Center activities. The contract has been awarded, and the Contractor's start date is set for the end of March 2026. Construction will take approximately

six months to complete.

In addition, an interdepartmental staff team is working to improve the building and grounds after having been closed for several years. These updates include restoration of the shade structure, refurbishing the restrooms, cleaning of the NANNIE J. LEE sign, and other aesthetic and functional repairs.



Kent Place Open Space Network Connection

Staff are currently coordinating with several City departments to preserve and formalize a linear open space connection along Kent Place between Argyle Drive and Russell Road. This effort represents an important opportunity to strengthen Alexandria's open space network by protecting a strategic corridor that can contribute to long-term connectivity, environmental stewardship, and community access to green space.

Linear easements such as the Kent Place corridor serve as valuable components of the City's green infrastructure system. These spaces can function as connective landscapes that link existing parks, trails, and neighborhood open spaces while supporting multimodal circulation, ecological resilience, and urban tree canopy expansion. By maintaining these corridors, the City can incrementally build a more cohesive and accessible open space framework that enhances both recreational opportunities and environmental performance.

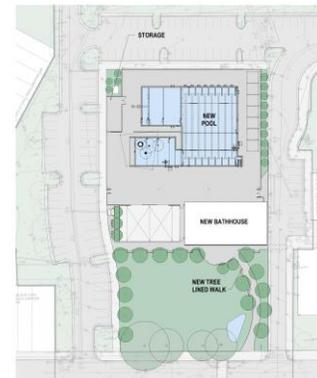
This work is being advanced through close interdepartmental collaboration and is guided by the

policy direction and recommendations outlined in the City of Alexandria Open Space Master Plan. The Master Plan identifies the preservation of strategic open space corridors and easements as a key strategy for expanding the City’s open space network, improving equitable access to parks, and strengthening connections between neighborhoods and existing recreational assets.

By proactively integrating across departments and aligning with adopted planning policies, staff are working to ensure that the Kent Place easement contributes to a more connected, resilient, and well-integrated open space system for residents and visitors in Alexandria, Virginia.

Old Town Pool Replacement

The [Old Town Pool Replacement Project](#) will modernize the existing outdoor pool with new facilities to include a competitive/recreational lap pool, zero entry shallow entry with water play features, Green Building Certified bathhouse and new supporting systems. RPCA received its SUP letter of completeness and design is anticipated to be complete in the summer of 2026. Procurement activities will begin in the fall of 2026 with contract award and notice to proceed winter/spring 2027. The Old Town pool will be closed for the 2027 pool season with an anticipated opening early summer 2028. Next steps:



- **Park & Recreation Commission Public Hearing**
April 16, 2026
- **Planning Commission Public Hearing**
May 5, 2026
- **City Council Public Hearing**
May 16, 2026
- **Board of Architecture Review (BAR)**
June 17, 2026

Mt. Vernon Trail Improvements – National Park Service

- **Slope Failure near Bridge 26** — Spot repairs are upcoming along the trail between Slaters Lane and Tide Lock Park to address a slope failure that has begun encroaching onto the trail. Mobilization is expected to begin as early as Monday, March 19. During construction, a temporary trail detour will be in place along E Abingdon Drive.
- **Mount Vernon Trail Rehabilitation (North)** — This project will rehabilitate and widen Mount Vernon Trail between the City of Alexandria and Theodore Roosevelt Island. The project was recently awarded through a design-build procurement, and the contractor is currently conducting surveys and preliminary site investigations to inform the engineering design. As the project design progresses, we will have additional information to share about the anticipated construction schedule and impacts. The general scope of the trail improvements can also be found in the Environmental Assessment, which is

available online at this link: [ParkPlanning - George Washington Memorial Parkway South Section \(South Parkway\) and Mount Vernon Trail Improvement Plan/Environmental Assessment](#).

Eugene Simpson Athletic Diamond Fields Renovation

In January, the Contractor began extensive excavation of the Big Simpson diamond sports field in preparation for installation of the new synthetic turf field. Significant snowfall in the latter weeks of January impacted construction activities, and the Contractor is actively working to recover from the schedule impacts associated with this weather event.

Utility relocation work along East Monroe Avenue is currently underway and will continue through the next several months. Additional work to install stormwater management infrastructure is ongoing within the park. Installation of retaining walls along the dog park has been completed. Infrastructure for the new trail connection from Monroe Avenue to the rectangular fields is in progress with additional work scheduled for the park lights and asphalt surfacing. Construction of new below-grade dugouts and grandstand bleachers is ongoing.

As hauling operations increase to deliver construction materials and remove excavated materials, additional construction traffic is anticipated along East Duncan Avenue. To protect private vehicles and maintain safe sight lines, the City has implemented temporary daytime parking restrictions along East Duncan Avenue. These restrictions avoid limiting parking directly in front of residential homes and are expected to remain in place until the most intensive phase of park construction is complete. The City appreciates the public's cooperation and will remove the restrictions as soon as feasible. A representative graphic has been posted online to help communicate these parking restrictions. Please visit the project webpage for regular project updates <https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan>



E. Duncan Parking Restrictions



- Temporary daytime parking restriction are required on E. Duncan Avenue
 - Intended to protect private vehicles parking in the right-of-way
- Anticipated to be required until robust construction of the park is completed
 - Limits are approximate and may be adjusted according to permitted use

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

Attachment: Capital Improvement Projects Report