

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2023
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:

Currently, the OSTP has 1,495 children enrolled citywide, including Nannie J. Lee’s Youth Achieving Greatness, Therapeutic Recreation, and LINK Club participants.

Program Wrap-ups:

- On September 25, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held a **Teen Pop-Up Event**. Teens in the Link Club at the Francis C Hammond Middle School Campus engaged in a relay-style soccer game and a basketball shoot out.



- On September 27, Patrick Henry’s **Anime Society Club** had the chance to hone their anime fight choreography skills by practicing on break boards.



- On September 30, the Youth Activities Section co-hosted its **Annual Kiwanis Kids Fishing Day at Lake Cook**. It was a beautiful sunny day with a perfect breeze and subtle cloud coverage. Over 25 youth ages 8 to 12 years old, joined 20 Key Club volunteers, 6 Kiwanis Club members and 10 RPCA OSTP staff for a day of fishing, fun and creating amazing memories. The group enjoyed learning how to bait and cast their fishing line as well as learning about what types of fish live in Lake Cook. Over 15 fish were caught and released, someone even caught a hefty catfish.



- On October 3, Patrick Henry staff members, Rodney Bates, and Beverly Black, collaborated with the Successful Aging Committee on the **Robust Walkathon for Seniors**. The event was held at Ben Brenman Park and participants used exercise stations to learn a variety of ways to exercise and stay in shape. There was special participation from public safety representatives of the Alexandria Fire and Sheriff's Department.



- On Wednesday October 11, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted a **Kid Rock Social Hour Pop-Up**. Youth ages 0-4. The families had the opportunity to play in the playroom and have story and music time with Ms. Katie and Vanatta from Duncan Library. We had over 80 participants.



Program Updates:

- The **Alexandria City Employee Cup Series** (City Cup) kickball season has started at Four Mile Run Softball Field. The Alexandria City Employees Cup Series was developed to improve City employees' well-being by making healthy choices and living an active lifestyle while competing against each other in a friendly/fun filled atmosphere. Each agency would be offered the opportunity to compete in three different coed leagues (kickball, basketball & softball). The agency that has the highest total of points at the end of the season will be declared City Cup Champions and will be able to display the award for a period of one year. This season, teams from RPCA, City Hall, Police, DASH and DCHS have started the series.
- The **Creative Play space at Durant** is now back open after our summer break! The play area, intended for kids from 9 months to 4 years, is open from 9:30am-12:30pm Monday through Friday. Recently we partnered with the Buddie Ford Nature Center to have a free meet and greet with one of our animal friends! We hope to do more of these free activities throughout the year for our little friends.



- The **SPLASH program** at Chinquapin Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility has returned. The program introduces 4th grade students to the water and teaches them water safety and basic swimming skills. It's currently on track to host all 15 elementary schools this year and reach over 50 children a day.



- In September, Chinquapin aquatic programs kicked off **bi-lingual swim lessons**. Community members can participate in Spanish swim lessons for children 6mo -17yrs. Bi-lingual lessons are offered Sunday mornings, 9am - 12pm. Enrollment is continuous as this program grows.

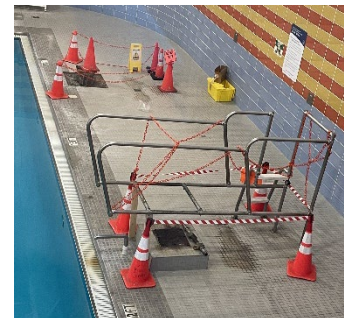
Upcoming Events:

- On October 26, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host **Lights-On After School** in conjunction with After School Alliance. This event calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities.
- On October 27, the Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host their **Annual Family Masquerade Ball**. Families will enjoy an evening of dancing, food, and haunted games.

- On October 27, the Nature Center will participate in William Ramsay’s annual **Trunk or Treat event**. Nature Center staff will provide take-home craft kits and candy.
- On October 27, Chinquapin Aquatic Center will host the **Floating Pumpkin Patch** from 5-7pm.
- On October 27, Patrick Henry Recreation Center will host the annual **Family October Fest**. Participants will enjoy a fun filled evening of arts & crafts, musical chairs, moon bounce, a costume parade, carnival games fun spooky dancing and more family fun activities.
- On October 30, the Nature Center will host “**Art and Nature**” camp. Participants will learn about and work with a variety of mediums that come from the Earth. Registration is closed as this program is full!
- October 30 is an ACPS Teacher Workday. RPCA will host several **Teacher Work-Day Camps**. Kids ages 5-14 can enjoy programs ranging from Basketball, to Cooking, to Gymnastics! Registration is open now.

Special Features:

- Chinquapin Recreation Center & Aquatic Facility is in the middle of much-needed **updates and repairs** to the diving boards. One of the boards is having the rails repaired and replacing the stand and fulcrum. After consideration of resources and utilization of space at the pool, the decision was made to remove the second diving board. This will allow for much-needed deck space. We expect to have the project completed in early November.



- Chinquapin Recreation Center & Aquatic Facility has sold out of **parking passes** for the students of ACHS (seniors) to park on the loop. 184 parking permits were issued.

Staff Updates:

- Congratulations to **Leonard Booker**, pool manager at CQRC, who earned a gold medal in in the MD Senior Olympic Men’s Single Tennis 60+ division. He also placed in the finals in the Annapolis Fall Tournament on October 4.

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DATE: October 20, 2023
TO: Park and Recreation Commission Members
THROUGH: Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services
FROM: Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief, Park Services
SUBJECT: Park Services – Park Maintenance and Support Monthly Update

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance



Waterfront Park. New awnings installation.



Francis C. Hammond Light pole pad installation

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

No Report

2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a. Urban Forestry

No Report

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry, Oriental Bittersweet, Privet, Rose of Sharon, and other non-native invasive plants from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Fort Williams Park, Fort Ward Park, Chinquapin Park, Forest Park, Timberbranch Parkway, and Monticello Park.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in treating Kudzu, Porcelain-berry, Callery Pear, Siberian Elm, English Ivy, and other non-native invasive plants along the Holmes Run Trail and pedestrian path along Eisenhower

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Avenue and at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Fort Ward Park, Cora Kelly School, Hillside Park, and Beach Park.

- Staff sowed 2 lbs. of locally collected site-appropriate native wildflowers, grasses, and sedges in the Fort Ward Park Meadow

b. Cooperative Initiatives

- On September 14, 2023, City Natural Resource Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation - “Virginia Goldenrods Examined” - to the Virginia Native Plant Society Potowmack Chapter. One hundred-fifty participants registered.
- On September 21, 2023, the City Natural Resource Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation - “Preserving Oak Diversity of Virginia’s Tidewater Region” - to the Virginia Native Plant Society John Clayton Chapter.
- On October 8, 2023, the City Natural Resource Manager led two field trips to Chinquapin Park and Forest Park for the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists Fall Chapter meeting at Chinquapin Park.
- On October 15, 2023, City Natural Resource Manager supervised an ecological restoration workday at Monticello Park with at least 40 volunteers with the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, North Ridge Civic Association, Friends of Monticello Park, and Boy Scouts Troop 129. Two-and-a-half tons of bank run gravel and mulch were spread along trails. Three site-appropriate native trees and six Spicebush shrubs were planted. Three giant, invasive Bush Honeysuckle shrubs were cut and treated, and thousands of ripe berries were painstakingly removed and bagged by volunteers.
- On October 15, 2023, Alexandria Tree Steward Bonnie Petry and community volunteers, under the supervision of Natural Lands Management, worked with 27 volunteers with the veteran’s service group “The Mission Continues” on an ecological restoration planting of site-appropriate native canopy trees at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter and vicinity.

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c. Environmental Review

- City Natural Resource Manager participated in a multi-agency onsite meeting with consultants to discuss the Fort Ward Park Playground Relocation and provided comments and best practices.
- City Natural Resource Manager meet onsite with DPI to discuss best practices for tree pruning for the Four Mile Run Park Bridge Replacement Project.

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- City Natural Resource Manager reviewed the CMF-Lake Cook Planting Project and provided best practices for ecological restoration.
 - City Natural Resource Manager met onsite with staff to review the ecological restoration of the Potomac Greens Park boardwalk area under construction for the Potomac Yard Metro Station.
- d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement
- No incidents to report this month.
4. PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (Beth)
- a. Capital Improvement Project Updates
- October Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (*Attached*)
- b. Active Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination
- Alexandria West
 - Landmark Mall
 - Potomac River Generating Station
 - High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
 - Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
 - Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2024)
- c. Sites Currently Closed or Partially Closed to Public Use for Capital Projects
- Holmes Run Trail (three locations)
 - Four Mile Run Park Bridge
 - Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Dog Park
 - Joseph Hensley Park
 - Mount Jefferson Park (Dog Exercise Area closed) (Playground closed)
- d. Anticipated Closures Commencing Fall 2023
- Charles Barrett Recreation Center playground – November (renovation)
 - Stevenson Park ballfield back stop area – November (dugout installation)
 - Playground surfacing repair projects – October/November - up to two weeks (Mount Jefferson Park, Hunter-Miller Park, Goat Hill Park, James Mulligan Park, Stevenson Park, Boothe, Tarleton Park)
 - Ben Brenman Rectangular Field (recarpeting) - Late November/December

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



October 25, 2023

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along all four sides of the two rectangular fields.	Construction began the week of October 10, 2023 and is anticipated to be complete in late October. Coordination with user groups is in progress to minimize impacts to programs.	Implementation	District 1	10/31/23	Daniel Unkle
2 Lee Center Tennis Court Lighting Replacement	This project will replace the existing tennis court lights with a new LED lighting system with remote lighting controls.	Project is complete and the final light inspections will occur late October.	Implementation	District 1	09/29/23	Daniel Unkle
3 Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Jefferson Houston	Design and Installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	All permits have been obtained. The poles are anticipated to be installed in late October/November to minimize disruption to ACPS use of the site. Coordination is ongoing with Dominion Energy to provide service for the lights.	Implementation	District 1	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
4 MacArthur School Recreation Programming Space Construction	New recreation office and program space at Douglas MacArthur School	Facility opened in August 2023. Work continues on the playground. Anticipated completion of outdoor features is October/November 2023.	Implementation	District 2	12/29/23	Jack Browand
5 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 contractor has made progress on the remaining work items. The landscape installation is in progress. Construction is anticipated to be complete fall 2023 with the park opening in late 2023.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
6 Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	In early September a contract was awarded to the Bright Construction Group, Inc. based in Falls Church, VA. Notice to Proceed was issued to the Contractor on September 19 and a pre-construction meeting was held on September 28. Construction and building permits have been submitted. Pending permit approvals, mobilization will begin in early November. Work is anticipated to take 180 calendar days. The play equipment has been fabricated and was received in September.	Implementation	District 2	01/31/24	Judy Lo
7 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The solicitation documents are in review and the Invitation To Bid date will be finalized with Procurement staff. The solicitation documents are anticipated to be posted late October.	Procurement	District 2	09/02/24	Bethany Znidersic
8 Four Mile Run Park Bridge Replacement Construction	This project will replace the existing bridge in Four Mile Run Park near the parking area for the two diamond fields at the end of Commonwealth Avenue.	Contract is awarded and landside bridge construction began in October. Landside construction is anticipated to be completed in February 2024. Bridge fabrication and delivery continued to be mid to late spring 2024. Anticipated completion is July 2024.	Implementation	District 2		Jack Browand
9 Fort Ward Park ADA Parking (Design)	Upgrade existing parking to meet ADA requirements	100% design documents are anticipated to be complete in late October. Project review meeting with stakeholders was held the week of October 10, 2023.	Design	District 3	11/17/23	Daniel Unkle
10 Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter Access Improvements	Provide barrier free accessible route that connects picnic shelter, picnic tables, and parking. The ADA accessible path will also connect to the sidewalk on Van Dorn Street	The forest conservation area will be surveyed. Tree plantings to establish the forest conservation area will be scheduled this fall.	Close-out	District 3	10/31/23	Judy Lo
11 Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	The construction contract was formally awarded. Construction preparations are in progress and the community will see additional work in October in advance of heavy construction in November. Construction is anticipated to be complete in early 2025.	Implementation	District 3	12/01/24	Bethany Znidersic
12 Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field.	The purchase order for the turf renovation and replacement is in progress. The work will be scheduled in late November/early December and coordinated with user groups to minimize impacts to field programs.	Procurement	District 3	12/29/23	Bethany Znidersic
13 Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	At the May 11 community meeting, staff presented the final playground location as Option B, moving the playground to the top of the hill. The consultant, Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects has been hired and will prepare the playground plans. Site survey, tree inventory, and geotechnical investigation will be scheduled throughout October and November. Any ground disturbing activity will follow ground disturbance protocols. A community meeting and open house are planned for November to provide updates on the design development process. Additional project information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan#CommunityEngagement	Design	District 3		Judy Lo
14 Ewald Park Site Design	Design of Ewald Park per the 2015 Neighborhood Parks Plan	Staff is developing the scope of work for planning and design and anticipates hiring the consultant by early winter 2023. The project will kick off the first quarter of 2024 with community engagement activities.	Initiation	District 3	06/30/23	Judy Lo
15 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 4, 4600 Duke Street is complete and open. Sites 2 (west 395 bridge) & 3 (Ripley Crossing) is in construction procurement; and site 1 Dora Kelley is in design.	Planning	District 3	12/29/23	Jack Browand
16 Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Francis Hammond	Design and Installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	All light poles and fixtures have been installed per the City Council approved Special Use Permit. City electrical permit is pending. Coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing to energize the system.	Implementation	District 3	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
17 Tucker Gardens	This Community Matching Fund project, with the Tucker PTA, will provide new educational gardens in Boothe Park, adjacent to Tucker School.	Fencing and new water hydrant have been installed. The Tucker PTA has installed the planter boxes and wood chip surfacing.	Implementation	District 3	12/29/23	Judy Lo