

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
VIRTUAL ONLY

Thursday, March 21, 2024
7 p.m.

AGENDA

Note: This meeting is being held virtually consistent with the Park & Recreation Commission [Electronic Participation Policy for Remote Participation and All-Virtual Public Meetings](#) as adopted on January 19, 2023.

- Register in advance: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wKt4FhR5SFOKHWQU0YeEFw
 - Dial-in: 301-715-8592
 - Meeting ID: 969 9023 1199
 - Passcode: 840040
1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Acting Chair
 2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
 3. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
 4. Action Items
 - a. Approval February 29, 2024 Minutes
 5. Items of Information
 - a. **Staff Report Highlights** - Staff
 - b. **PRGS Open Space Update**
Jose C. Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services
 - c. **Waterfront Plan Implementation Update – Flood Mitigation**
Matthew Landes, Portfolio Manager/Division Chief, DPI
 - d. **Alexandria West Open Space Report**
Jose C. Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services
 6. Next Meeting: April 18, 2024 - TBD
 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.

**Park & Recreation Commission - Assignments & Appointments
FY 2024**

| Topic | Type of Appointment/Role | Commissioner(s) Assigned | Summary | Web Page | Resources | Community Engagement | City Areas |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Zoning for Housing - Phase II | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Dana Colarulli | Zoning for Housing is a comprehensive proposal of reforms to expand housing production and affordability and address past and current barriers to equitable housing access. The area of interest pertains to exploring ways to increase public access or public easement while also promoting development. | Online | Initiatives-Recommendations | Community Engagement | Citywide |
| Waterfront Commission | City Council Appointed | Stuart Fox | The purpose of the Alexandria Waterfront Commission is to advise the City Council and staff on issues related to Alexandria's historic Potomac River waterfront, and advise on implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan. The Commission is composed of 21 members representing a particular neighborhood, community organization, or City committee. | Online | Online | Online | Citywide |
| Youth Sports Advisory Board (PRC Subcommittee) | Commission Appointed | David Brennan | The advisory board is made of representatives from each of the youth sports organizations and high schools within the City of Alexandria who meet on a regular basis to discuss common issues surrounding youth sports and make recommendations to improve the youth sports programs, facilities and fields within the City of Alexandria. | Online | Online | Online | Citywide |
| Monumental Sports Development Project (Potomac Yard CDD) | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Jeffery Miller - Primary Rep Dana Colarulli & Tookie Organek - Secondary Reps | Pending completion of agreements and General Assembly and City Council approval, the new Entertainment District will feature an industry-leading arena for both the Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards, the global business headquarters for Monumental Sports & Entertainment, an expanded esports facility, and a performing arts venue — in addition to new retail, restaurants, and conference and community gathering spaces. | Online | Online | Online | Citywide |
| Eisenhower East CDD Update | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Katy Matthews | To establish open spaces and develop infrastructure in accordance with the Plan's recommendations. | Online | Plan | N/A | Park District 1 |
| Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Development Project | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Jeffrey Miller | The plan is to create a Mixed-Use/Innovation District with innovation-focused facilities serving as an economic anchor. It will increase open space by ~5 AC and provide necessary infrastructure in Old Town North and beyond. | City Page | Open Space Concept | October 19 Community Meeting | Park District 1 |
| George Mason Elementary School Modernization Project | TBD | Geoffrey Goode Katy Matthews | Rebuild of the George Mason Elementary School and open space enhancements. Construction FY 2026 | Online | Study Assessment | TBD | Park District 2 |
| Alexandria West Small Area Plan | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Geoffrey Goode | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enable the 10- to 30- 30-year-old land use plans to be updated comprehensively to address community needs and incorporate current City policies and best practices. •Address the issue of housing vulnerability and affordability by leveraging housing resources, policies, and funding opportunities to meet this challenge and •Develop an approach to guide and shape future development and clarify expectations for the community, City, and developers. | Online | Goals | List | Park District 3 |
| Landmark/Van Dorn Area Planning Development Project | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Philip Voorhees | The project will be anchored by the relocation and expansion of Inova's new state-of-the-art Alexandria Hospital, and it will add ~3.5 AC of a diversity of Open spaces. | Online | Plan New Chapter | Community Engagement | Park District 3 |
| Patrick Henry & Minnie Howard Schools | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | Katy Matthews | Opening of Minnie Howard school and updates to the Partick Henry School site. | | | | |
| Eisenhower West Development Plan | Voluntary Commission Assigned / Monitor | | Victory Center Development Plan - An existing office building on 2.8 acres of land will be converted into 400 residential units with 316 structured parking spaces. The 5.3-acre parking lot will be redeveloped into 60-70 townhomes, an eight-story multifamily building, and additional open space in future phases of Stonebridge's plan. | Developer Web Page | WBJ Article | N/A | Park District 3 |

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 21, 2024
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 and/or Summer Status:

We are currently offering out-of-school time programming (OSTP) at (12) afterschool locations which include (3) LINK Club locations, (2) ESSER locations, and (2) specialty programs (Youth Achieving Greatness and TR Achieving Greatness). The LINK Club programs are a partnership with ACPS funded through 21st Century Learning Grants and ACPS Covid Recovery funds (ESSER).

Current Summer Enrollment for Power-On: 767, many locations still have space.

We are currently offering the OSTP Summer Power-On/ Power-Up program at (14) locations which include (2) specialty programs Camp Adventure and TR Camp Adventure.

Partnerships & Collaborations: ACPS, Americans Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Virginia Cooperative Extension (4-H), Upcycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners and organizations are providing specialized programming, academic support, or enrichment activities at Elementary and Middle School OSTP, LINK Club and ESSER sites.

The OSTP Committee is currently working to revise the OSTP Standard Operating Procedures and OSTP Staff Manual, in addition to revising the OSTP Site Monitoring Observation Form to align our program with program quality standards that are conducive to the service we provide.

Program Wrap-ups:

- During February, Nannie J. Lee celebrated “**LOVE**”, the love for black history, the love for Valentine’s Day, and the love of all things “Red”. The participants in the Youth Achieving Greatness and Therapeutic Achieving Greatness Program enjoyed the activities, games, and crafts circling the awesome observances in February. On Valentine’s Day, there was a “love table” with goodies and sweets for families. This was the staff’s way of showing love and appreciation for allowing us to service a great after-school program for their children.
- On February 16, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted **Teen All-Star Night**. The event showcased the athletic prowess of local teens through a series of engaging competitions. The night included a 3-Point Contest, Dunk Contest, and a 3 vs 3 tournament. Beyond the competitions, the event emphasized the values of community and sportsmanship, fostering connections among the local youth. The Teen All-Star Night proved to be a resounding success, creating lasting memories and strengthening community bonds.



- On February 20, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center held its **Black History Month event**. Youth participated in Black Social Dance: From Jazz to Hip Hop and Beyond! They learned fun and iconic moves from Black American social dance forms to connect the past to the present and the impact black dance and dancers have had on American culture over multiple decades.



- On February 23, Leonard Chick Armstrong Recreation Center hosted **Movie Night**. The event attracted several moviegoers of all ages to watch an old classic.... TROLLS. All participants had the opportunity to get cozy and comfortable by bringing their pillows, blankets, and chairs for a great movie night adventure.

- On February 24, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center **Circle of Girls Teen Group** attended a field trip to the Huffman AMC Theater to see “**Bob Marlie**” for Black History Month. 16 teens attended the trip.



- On February 29, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted their annual **Black History Month program**. Youth participants have been practicing diligently and were excited to showcase their hard work. Patrick Henry's OSTP participants put on various performances for their parents themed around black history for the center's Black History Month program. Children and parents alike enjoyed the evening's performances with each group giving their all-in support and remembrance of African American history.



- On March 1, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center celebrated **Read Across America**. It is a nationwide reading celebration created by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1997 to promote literacy and encourage a love of reading among children. We had readers come in and read with the children and do special activities with them. Special thanks to staff from the “Buddie” Ford Nature Center and Alexandria Fire Dept. for participating. Thank you to the readers: James Parajon (City Manager), Randy Little (Division Chief), and Laura Durham (Deputy Director).



- On March 5, Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center hosted a **Survival Skills Day Camp**. Participants learned how to find and treat freshwater, what plants and fungi not to eat, and the materials needed to build fires and shelters.



- On March 8, through a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, the Durant Center hosted a **Teen Glow Party**. Over 100 teens participated.

- On March 8, Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center participated in Douglas MacArthur Elementary School’s **career day**. Approximately 300 students experienced a day in the life of an environmental educator as well as an animal caretaker.



- On March 9, the **Winter Basketball League** ended its season with the championship games played at Alexandria City High School. 1076 participants played in the league in boys’ and girls’ divisions (108 teams total). This season, the Sports Section adjusted the age from 17 to 18. By adjusting the age, 25 additional boys and girls were able to participate in the 18U division instead of aging out of the league.



- On March 12, Sports Staff (Tamika Coleman & Marvin Elliott) attended the **Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks’ Sports Alliance (MARPSA) Awards Ceremony** in Annapolis, Maryland to present Alexandria representatives with the Dennis Callahan “Good Sport” Awards. The Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks’ Sports Alliance is a consortium of Recreation and Parks Departments, sports officiating groups, and sport’s governing bodies in the region. The Dennis Callahan Good Sport Awards is a MARPSA-sponsored program providing the opportunity for member jurisdictions to recognize young athletes, coaches, and administrators who have modeled Good Sports actions and

behaviors in local athletics. Alexandria staff were honored to recognize Delray Waters (athlete), Matt Lahr (coach), and Robert Hay (official) as Alexandria's award recipients.

Program Updates:

- During February, Patrick Henry Recreation Center's **Hip Hop Fitness & Circuit Training** class has continued to increase in popularity. Currently, at maximum capacity with 10 participants, this class is a cardiovascular fat-burning workout for adults. It aids in firming and sculpting your body through hip-hop dance and timed interval circuit training geared toward increasing endurance, burning calories, and strengthening and toning muscles and flexibility.



- On Friday mornings, Patrick Henry Recreation Center offers a **Silver Artisan Program**. The senior participants enjoy knitting, painting, watercolors, crafts, and Mandalas. The number of new participants is steadily increasing.



Upcoming Events:

For a preview of upcoming events, please see: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/rpca-community-activities>

- On April 20, RPCA will host the **Alexandria Spring Invitational Cheerleading Competition** at Alexandria City High School.
- On March 23, Chinquapin Recreation Center and Aquatic Facility will host their 10th annual **Underwater Egg Hunt**.
- On March 23, the holiday Bunny is making a stop at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center for a **morning of crafts and an egg hunt**. Children under 5 must be with an adult.
- On March 24, Patrick Henry Recreation Center is hosting **Bloomin Pickles Tournament**.

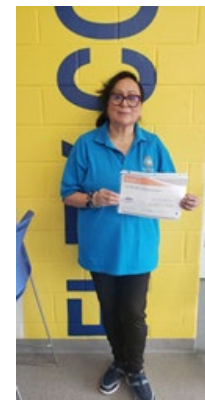
- On March 30, Charles Houston Recreation Center will hold an **Egg Hunt**. Participants will hunt for eggs, play games, and have refreshments.
- On April 3, the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center will hold its first **Green Teen Club** meeting. This free club will allow those ages 11-18 to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities and discussions on sustainability, environmental justice, and green careers.
- On April 15, the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center is hosting **Animals in the Park**. This community event will be held at Mount Jefferson Park. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet live animals and learn about how Alexandria is helping animals from the Nature Center, other city departments, and outside organizations.
- On April 20, Charles Houston Recreation Center will hold a **Health and Fitness Expo**.
- From April 23 to July 13, the Community Outreach and Safe Place team will facilitate **Community Cookouts** throughout the City of Alexandria. These community outreach events help educate and provide resources about summer camp opportunities, outreach programs, Safe Place, City-Wide resources, programs and services, community events and updates as well as building the relationship between the community and law enforcement. Event dates are forthcoming.

Special Features:

- **Picnic reservation season** began on March 4. The Registration & Reservation Office helps community members plan outdoor picnics from April through October annually.
- **2024 summer camp registration** began on February 23.

Staff Updates:

- Staff from the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center, Charles Houston Recreation Center, and Division Administration recently completed **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training and Certification**.
- Patrick Henry’s Staff achievements – Both **Mr. Nathan Patterson** and **Ms. Aida Pitot Bolivar** have completed the Employee Food Safety Online Course and Exam. They both passed the Food Handler training and received their Certificate of Achievement through ServSafe National Restaurant Association.



- Recreation Coordinators **Richard Daley** and **Jametta Pettiway** graduated from Revenue Development and Management School. This two-year program offered by the National Recreation and Park Association focuses on revenue management and development techniques. It is targeted toward agencies that rely in part on generating revenues. Recreation Coordinators Ayannah Arrington and Tim Catron also attended for their first year.



Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



March 21, 2024

| 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 two sides of the two rectangular fields. | Construction is complete on the south side of the field. The north side of the field is anticipated to be complete in April. Coordination with user groups is in progress to minimize impacts to programs. | Implementation | District 1 | 04/16/24 | Daniel Unkle |
| 2 | Site See 2024 | Calendar 2024 Art Installation | The newest Site See installation "Interstellar Influencer (Make an Impact)" is coming to Waterfront Park with an opening celebration on Saturday, March 23 from 1-4pm. Using metal, light, and mist the 1:2000 scale installation explores the impact of an asteroid that hit the earth 35 million years ago and created what is now the Chesapeake Bay. The installation will be up through early November, 2024. | Implementation | District 1 | 11/15/24 | Diane Ruggiero |
| 3 | 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. | Contracting issues have delayed the completion of the project. The project is anticipated to be substantially complete in March and the dog park is anticipated opened to the community shortly after. City staff are exploring various options to complete the project as efficiently as possible to minimize the delay to the community. | Implementation | District 2 | 04/01/24 | Bethany Znidersic |
| 4 | Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction | This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation. | Installation of the poured in place safety surfacing started on March 12. The concrete walkways and site furnishings were installed. The contractor is completing the remaining stormwater components, and will begin site restoration. A soft opening is anticipated for mid-April. New fencing, trees and landscape plantings will be scheduled later this spring. | Implementation | District 2 | 04/30/24 | Judy Lo |
| 5 | Mount Jefferson Park Improvements | This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions. | City and Stonebridge (developer) completed design and permitting activities for regrading and landscape improvements for portions of the park, including the dog park, with poor drainage. Implementation of the approved landscape and drainage plan will occur through winter 2024 and into spring 2024 as weather conditions allow. The opening of the dog park and completion of remaining landscape improvements will be announced as a completion schedule is refined. Landscape bond release is anticipated for spring 2024. | Close-out | District 2 | 04/17/25 | Judy Lo |
| 6 | Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction | This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain. | The Invitation To Bid (ITB #1084) for the project is posted and accepting bids. The bid opening is anticipated in March. | Procurement | District 2 | 05/12/25 | Bethany Znidersic |
| 7 | 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. | Bridge delivery and placement occurred on February 2015. The concrete deck has been poured and asphalt work with trail connection to the bridge is anticipated to be completed the week of March 18. After staff inspection, the bridge may be opened for community use while final landscape work continues and a temporary safety railing is placed. | Implementation | District 2 | 07/30/24 | Jack Broward |
| 8 | Hensley Park Renovation Phase I | This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014). | Construction is in progress and is anticipated to be complete in early 2025. Please see the project website for more information: alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation | Implementation | District 3 | 01/01/25 | Bethany Znidersic |
| 9 | 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 the first quarter of 2024. The project will kick off the second quarter of 2024 with community engagement activities. | Initiation | District 3 | 02/16/27 | Judy Lo |