

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM III

Program Wrap-ups:

- **Tons of Trucks** was held on Oct. 15. It was the first year of the event since COVID, and 1,600 attendees explored 20 vehicles from eight City departments. RPCA utilized a mix of registration options this year, resulting in 38% pre-registration before the event, 19% QR code registration while walking into the event, and 43% on-site registration at the event entry.



- On October 20, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center participated in **Lights on Afterschool**; a program celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities. For this year's theme, *Worldwide Day of Play*, youth across the city engaged in physical fitness games and activities.

- On October 21, Charles Houston Recreation Center OSTP had the opportunity to take part in the **National Park Service Sail, Pride of Baltimore II** down the Chesapeake. This was a historically reminiscent reproduction of a War of 1812-era privateer, for a two-hour day sail in Alexandria. Children were able to learn about Maryland's rich maritime history, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, and the War of 1812 and privateers in the Chesapeake.



- On October 21, the **Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying Committee** attended Charles Houston Recreation Center to do a presentation for youth ages 8-12. The event was well attended, and the children really enjoyed it.



- On October 28, Mount Vernon Recreation Center held its **Annual Masquerade Ball** with 175 participants compared to last year's 100. Attendees dressed in Halloween costumes and masquerade ball attire, and enjoyed music, dancing, a costume contest, and pictures and a spooky haunted house.



- On October 28, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held its **Family October Fest** program. The event featured, Spooky Musical Chair, Arts & Crafts, Moon Bounce, and Carnival Games, line dancing, freeze dance competition, Scary movies and a haunted house called the House of Screams. There were over 210 participants that attended the event.



- On October 28, Charles Houston Recreation Center hosted its annual **Boo Bash event**. The event featured pumpkin carving, face painting, moon bounces, arts & craft and more. The event had over 100 registered participants, along with 50 walkups.



- Recreation Services hosted several community events for **Halloween Spirit Week**:
 - Bingo and Pumpkin Carving – Charles Houston
 - Fall Harvest Festival – Chick Armstrong
 - Monster Rally – Chinquapin with 15 participants
 - Boo-Fest – Charles Houston
 - Floating Pumpkin Patch – Chinquapin over 125 families registered
 - Family Masquerade Ball – Mount Vernon
 - Family October Fest – Patrick Henry
 - Hall-o-Teen Night – William Ramsay

- The Oswald Durant Center offered two **Teacher Work Day camps** on October 24th & 25th, welcoming 65 participants between the ages of 5 and 12. The camps offered, Tiny Chefs and Science Seed, kept the kids active and engaged with making Halloween themed treats and learning about nature through experiments.



- Fall Programs are in full swing! As the outdoor programs end this month, we have many programs moving inside or starting up indoors to accommodate the recreational needs of our community. **Fee Classes and Camps** is currently tracking at 125% of Fall 2021 program registration numbers.
- The **Teen Social Group** takes place every 2nd Thursday of the month at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. This group provides social skills intervention for motivated teens in middle school and high school who are interested in socializing about teen programs, ways to impact safety around the community, and implement teen events/activities through recreational facility.



Upcoming Events:

- **Alexandria Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition** is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m. at Alexandria City High School.

- **Youth basketball coaching clinic** in partnership with the Washington Wizards is scheduled for Saturday, December 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center.
- **Adult Sports** will wrap up fall seasons with championship games scheduled for the following: Coed Soccer League (November 14 at 8 p.m. at Limerick Field); Coed Volleyball League (November 15 at 9 p.m. at Jefferson Houston); Coed Softball League (November 16 at 8 p.m. at Hensley Field); and Late-Night Basketball League (November 17 at 7 p.m. at Charles Houston)
- The **Annual Friendsgiving event** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22 at Charles Houston Recreation Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The annual event provides a holiday meal for senior adults and vulnerable families within the community. Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Sheriff’s Department assist with serving meals and enjoy fellowship with the community, City agencies and local businesses and non-profits.
- The Community Outreach section along with Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Sheriff’s Department will deliver **toy donations** to designated locations between December 12 and December 20.
- The Community Outreach section in collaboration with Fire Fighter’s & Friends will host its **Annual Toy Giveaway** at Samuel Tucker Elementary School on Saturday, December 17 from 9am – 1pm.
- On November 18th, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will have **parent’s night out** from 6:30pm-9:00pm. Families are invited to sign youth up for an evening of fun games, movies, and crafts.
- Upcoming **Teacher Work Day Camp** at the Oswald Durant Center: Wednesday November 23rd, Ultimate Music Experience ages 6-12.

Staff Updates:

- **Debbie Woodbury** has been selected as the new Regional Program Director at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. She will transition from her current role of Regional Program Director at Charles Houston Recreation Center on November 14.
- **RPCA** won the annual Best New Program Award from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society for the Storywalk program, a PARKnership program with the Alexandria Libraries. This statewide award honors recreation departments throughout Virginia who

have demonstrated excellence in 2021. 69 applications were received and judged by a jury of peers, with Alexandria winning in the 100,001-200,000 population category.

- **Staff from the Out of School Time Afterschool and LINK Club program** in partnership with ACPS participated in a Professional Development opportunity on Tuesday, November 8 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The training provided information, resources and data driven content concerning Behavior Modification & Special Needs, and Developmental Assets.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES
MAUREEN STURGILL, ACTING DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES

SUBJECT: PARK SERVICES - PARK MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT MONTHLY UPDATE

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance

- Tarryn Lee, presented various animals and detailed their habitats at the Park Services, fall training event. Marvin Paz became very friendly with one of the Nature Center's residents.
- The Carlyle dog park is being resurfaced for the fall season.

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- The maintenance team replaced the light fixtures at Four Mile restrooms with new LED fixtures.
- The maintenance team has started winterizing the irrigation systems throughout the City.

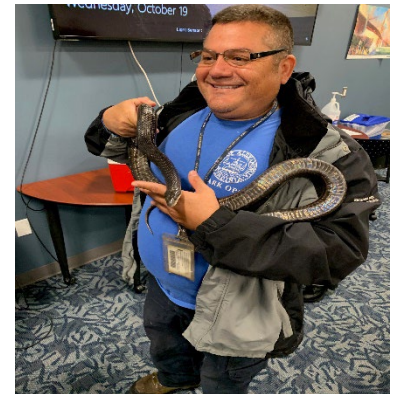
2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a. Urban Forestry

- Working diligently to reduce the number of 311 tickets.

b. Horticulture

- The garden season continues through November 30. Initial renewal notices for the 2023 gardening season have been sent to all gardeners. There will be 2 more email notices sent to those who have not responded to the first notice, so existing gardeners will have the opportunity to reapply. Received applications are being reviewed and Invoices will be sent to those who have completed their volunteer hours and qualify for renewal the beginning of



Park Services Fall Training Event.



Carlyle Dog Park Project.

November. Existing gardeners can submit their application for the 2023 season through December 15.

- Contracted landscape and mowing services – These services end for the season at the end of October, with the exception of the Waterfront parks area. The scheduled mowing’s will conclude in November. Staff inspections of scheduled and noted services are conducted throughout the month.

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

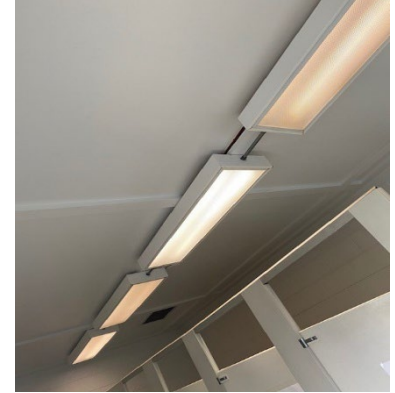
a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry and other non-native invasive plants from Fort Williams Park, Forest Park, Timberbranch Parkway, Dora Kelley Nature Park, and Fort Ward Park.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in the treatment of Porcelain-berry, Japanese Knotweed, Callery Pear, Japanese Honeysuckle, and other non-native invasive weeds at Lower Hammond School Field slope, Hammond School Meadow, 113 W. Alexandria Avenue alleyway.

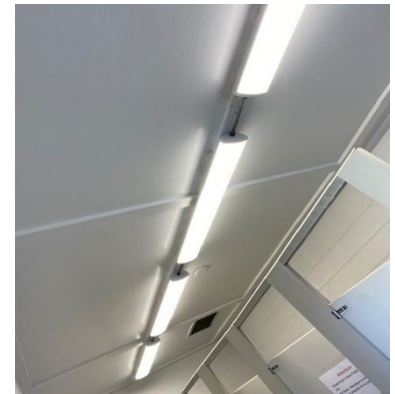
b. Cooperative Initiatives

- On October 18, 2022, City Natural Resource Manager gave “Woodland Edges, Hedgerows, and Native Pollinator Habitats” Zoom presentation to the Mount Jefferson Park Neighbors and Del Ray Citizens Association. App. 40 persons in attendance.
- On October 22, 2022, Natural Resource Technician Jim Clark led 15 volunteers in removing Porcelain-berry, Oriental Bittersweet, and other non-native invasive plants from Chambliss Crossing at Dora Kelley Nature Park.
- On October 28, 2022, Natural Resource Technician Eileen Grant assisted the Extension Master Gardener trainees with learning a variety of non-native invasive plants that are problems in our parks and natural areas.
- On October 29, 2022, City Natural Resource Manager and Keiona Carter supervised and assisted Robert Alridge’s Eagle Scout Project along the Alexandria Heritage Trail at Chinquapin Park along Taylor Run. Thirty feet of split-rail fence was installed to replace a section of inadequate fencing; 30 feet of bank run gravel was added to a muddy section of the trail; and several hundred feet of the trail was mulched with wood chips.

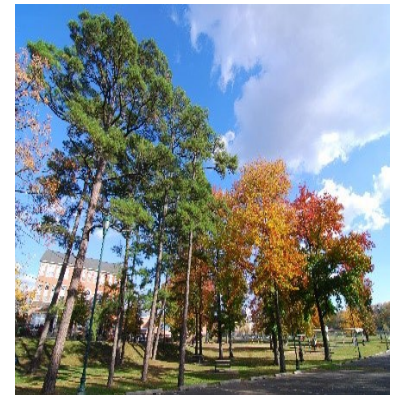
c. Environmental Review



Old light fixtures @ Four Mile.



New LED fixtures @ Four Mile.



Old-age grove of Shortleaf Pine and fall color ant Armistead Boothe Park.



- Staff reviewed the Fort Ward Park Meadow Management Plan, in collaboration with Office of Historic Alexandria, Park Planning, and other RPCA staff, and provided comments and best practices.
- Staff met onsite at the N. Pickett Street/Polk Avenue easement to discuss conversion to open space.

d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement

- No incidents to report this month.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates:

- The Nature Center had 364 general visitors in October and staff provided 36 impromptu programs. Throughout the month staff led 37 dedicated interpretive and outreach programs for 415 patrons. Nature Center staff also participated in two community events engaging with 299 attendees.

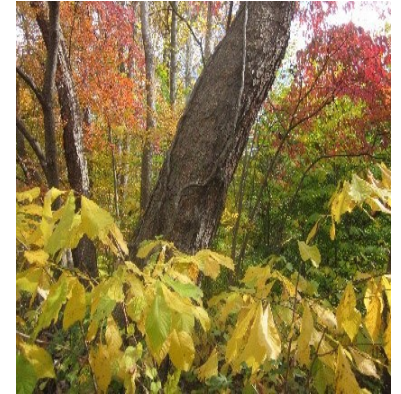
School Programs:

- There were many on-site school programs during the month of October. 5 kindergarten classes from Charles Barrett Elementary School visited the nature center to learn about how animals use their senses to survive. 4 first grade classes from Ferdinand T. Day Elementary visited to learn about habitats all around the world. A total of 22 programs and hikes were conducted in Dora Kelly nature park.
- During the first week of October the nature center hosted kindergarten and first grade students from St. Stephens and St. Agnes School and Grace Episcopal for their fall visits. Students learned about animal classifications and seasons and hiked through Dora Kelley Park to explore the trails in fall.

Outreach Programs:

- The Nature Center continues to partner with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria outreach throughout the city. This month we attended the Pets and People Community Wellness event at Joan Adams Elementary and the Paws in the Park Event at Oronoco Bay Park.
- The October recreation center outreach program was about animals camouflaging in fall. Participants learned about the change in seasons, animal camouflage, and met live animals that camouflage in fall leaves. The program reached 69 students.

Robert Alridge Eagle Scout Project at Chinquapin Park.



Fall color of Paw Paw at Dora Kelley Nature Park.



Chambliss Crossing invasive exotic plant removal project.



Animal camouflage outreach program in action.



An impromptu animal encounter with visitors.

- Nature Center Staff participated in the ‘Tons of Trucks’ event at Chinquapin Park. Community turnout was high with 150 people stopping by the outreach table to learn about the Nature Center, it’s education programs and local parks and wildlife.

Onsite Programs:

- In the program ‘Nature Mystery: Spooky Night!’ participants solved the mystery of who is haunting the Nature Center by meeting live animal witnesses and searching for clues. The seven participants mapped out the evidence and found the culprit.
- In the October session of Little Adventurers, nine children and eight parents learned about Fall seasonal changes and nocturnal animals, specifically bats! We also explored the Dora Kelley Nature Park and met our box turtle and American toad.

b. Volunteers Hours:

- In October our garden and animal care volunteers contributed 115 volunteer hours.

c. Noteworthy:

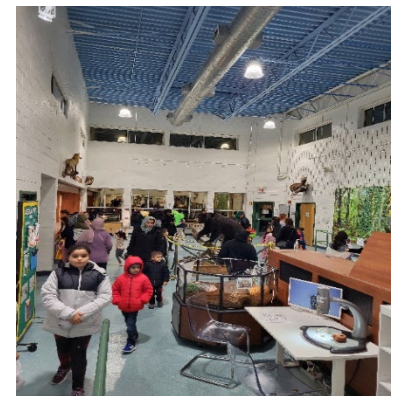
- Birthday Parties are back at the Nature Center. During October, staff hosted three weekend birthday parties featuring nature-based themes and live animal interactions.
- The Nature Center again took part in William Ramsey’s annual ‘Trunk or Treat’ Halloween event. During the popular community event staff handed out candy and guided 647 visitors through the Nature Center.



Animal Welfare League event information.



Welcoming guests at Trunk or Treat event.



The Nature Center busy with visitors.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*
PARK SERVICES

FROM: BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF *BZ*
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

ITEM: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Project Updates

- None this month

Capital Improvement Project Updates

- November Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (*Attached*)

Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination

- Alexandria West
- Landmark Mall
- Eisenhower East
- North Potomac Yard
- Arlandria-Chirilagua
- Potomac River Generating Station
- High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2024)

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

Closed

- Holmes Run Trail (four locations)
- Four Mile Run Park Bridge

Partially Closed

- Charles Barrett Recreation Center Playground (equipment replacement)
- Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter (ADA Access Path)
- Hooffs Run Park Playground (safety surface repairs at swings)
- Landover Park Playground (equipment replacement)
- Mason Avenue Mini-Park Playground
- Mulligan Park Playground

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



November 17, 2022

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Proactive Maintenance of the Urban Forest	Systematic inspection and proactive tree maintenance to improve the health of the Citywide urban forest.	The purchase order for the FY2023 work is in place. The contractor has started implementation.	Implementation	Citywide	04/30/21	Jack Broward
2	Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field (2)	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.	Five lighting SUP received unanimous approval on November 1 from Planning Commission and from City Council on November 12. Athletic field lighting will be installed at the FC Hammond and Jefferson Houston Fields by spring 2023.	Planning	Citywide	01/31/23	Jack Broward
3	Community Matching Fund	The Community Matching Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among Alexandria community organizations by providing matching dollars for groups that propose fundraising for park improvement projects. The Fund is designed to foster public/private partnerships and cultivate innovative ways for residents to have a greater stake in improving the park and recreation facilities that they use. Community groups interested in receiving matching funds will compete for grant aid amounts up to \$50,000	At the October 20 Park and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission approved the staff recommendations for the FY2023 Community Matching Fund. The projects include the Lake Cook Pocket Park, Tucker Community Garden, and Paddling Access at Four Mile Run for a total of \$73,119.19 in City funds. Fundraising agreements are being established with each group. The groups must fundraise their contribution within one year of their fundraising agreement.	Initiation	Citywide		Judy Lo
4	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.	RPCA has obtained a quote from Musco Lighting and is currently under review. This project will replace both tennis and basketball court lights.	Planning	District 1	05/26/23	Daniel Unkle
5	Lee Center Basketball Court Lighting Replacement	This project will replace the existing basketball court lights with a new LED lighting system with remote lighting controls.	RPCA has obtained a quote from Musco Lighting and is currently under review. This project will replace both tennis and basketball court lights.	Planning	District 1	05/26/23	Daniel Unkle
6	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.	A community pre-construction meeting was held on October 19. The contractor has started mobilization activities including	Implementation	District 2	05/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
7	Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	Staff are working on the solicitation for construction and anticipate advertising the Invitation to Bid this winter	Procurement	District 2	12/30/21	Judy Lo
8	Four Mile Run Park Trail Bridge	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.	30% design is complete. 90% design documents are anticipated in February 2023.	Planning	District 2	12/30/22	Jack Broward
9	Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	Outstanding items include the dog exercise area fencing, signage, and Raymond Avenue improvements. Trail paving and plantings were completed. Substantial completion is anticipated this winter.	Implementation	District 2	06/30/22	Judy Lo
10	MacArthur School Recreation Programming Space Construction	New recreation office and program space at Douglas MacArthur School	Project continues to be on target for substantial completion in July 2023.	Implementation	District 3	12/30/22	Jack Broward
11	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 ADA parking spaces were recently paved. Contractor is preparing for substantial completion which is anticipated in November/December.	Implementation	District 3	09/15/22	Judy Lo
12	Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	Staff will hold a community meeting on December 15 to review two potential locations that received favorable feedback from the community. The sites include Site B--moving the playground to the top of the hill from the current location, and Site D--moving the playground south of the amphitheater behind the restrooms on the west side of the park.	Design	District 3		Judy Lo
13	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.	Design is at 60% for sites 1-3. For site 4, 4600 Duke, the construction contract notice to proceed was provided in November 2022. Construction is anticipated in winter/spring 2023.	Planning	District 3	12/29/23	Jack Broward