

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: MARGARET ORLANDO, DIVISION CHIEF & LAURA DURHAM,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE

2021-2022 OSTP Summer Camp Update:

- We are excited to transition back to our pre-covid operations and the future looks great.
- Summer Camp registration is in motion with 483 campers enrolled as of 3.11.22.
- Nine elementary school-aged sites and one middle school-aged site are available across the City.
- Pre-registration went smoothly as we served 118 families who qualified for financial assistance.
- We hope ACPS will provide bus transportation to our fantastic swimming pools, local amusement parks, and our annual “Marvelous Monday” end-of-the-summer extravaganza!

Program Wrap-ups:

- On February 25, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center held the **Black History Cookout**. The program featured black history facts, trivia, music, 2 dance performances from our youth participants and food. There were 46 participants that attended the program.



- On February 17, the OSTP held its **Black History event** for our youth. The program featured songs and dance performances from our youth participants and the guest speaker was Mr. Michael Johnson.



- On February 25, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held it's **Nerf the Turf** program. The program was offered to ages 7-12, and focused on teamwork development, problem-solving, and sportsmanship skills. 28 participants had a great time and worked as a team to come up with strategies to win battle.



- The William Ramsay Recreation Center co-sponsored a **family movie night** with the William Ramsay PTA. This free screening of “Encanto” for the community brought in over 200 participants to watch, sing, and dance their way through the popular film.



- The students at the William Ramsay Recreation Center’s Out-of-School time program wrapped up their piano lessons with **Learn Now Music**. Students had a great time learning about melody, beats, notes, and chords. They especially loved hammering away at their keyboards and bringing music to life. Next, students will be treated to Silver Knights, a program that will teach the students the fundamentals of chess.

- On March 2, participants of the William Ramsay Recreation Center’s Out-of-School Time program participated in a Dr. Seuss scavenger hunt in honor of **Read Across America Day**. Students had a great time finding different books and reading the exciting stories.
- The William Ramsay Recreation Center supported the City’s efforts to distribute **COVID testing kits** to targeted communities. Through multiple distributions, the center was able to provide 850 testing kits. The remaining 150 kits from the allotted 1,000 were given back to the city to support early childcare centers.

Program Updates:

- \$550,804.78 in revenue, and 21 camps already filled.
- Youth basketball league is coming to an end with the championship games scheduled for Saturday, March 19. This season 976 participants played on 106 teams.
- The Mt. Vernon Recreation Center had a great turn out for Read Across America on March 2. Special thanks to the following readers. Mr. James Parajon, Margert Orlando, William Chesley, Skyler Borman and Adric Shern.
- On February 3, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held its first Circle of Girls Teen Club meeting. This mentoring program allows teens to explore their distinct voices and pursue their dreams and passions, which helps build self-confidence. The program meets each Thursdays at 6:30pm, and currently has 22 participants.



- During the month of February, youth ages 6-12 participated in Lego Lab at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. Lego Builders Unite! This is the perfect challenge for the creative builder. The youth participants had the opportunity to build LEGO models to their hearts content or go off the grid and explore their creative side.



Upcoming Events:

- Durant Center - Join us as we celebrate the Oscars! **Oscar-winning movies** will be shown on Friday March 25th and Saturday March 26th, free for the community. Bring your snacks and enjoy the movies with us! On Saturday March 26th from 1pm-4pm, kids ages 5-12 can join us for our **“Drive-In” Movie event** where they will decorate large boxes to resemble cars and then watch a movie with popcorn. Fee is \$9/child, pre-registration required.
- **Spring & Summer Program registration** opens on March 23rd for City of Alexandria residents at 9am and on March 25th at 9am for non-residents. Classes are now visible online at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.
- **Spring Break Camps** - Spring Break Camp registration is open now for multiple locations and camps. These camps cover a variety of fun activities including aquatics, sports, arts, and science, and offerings are available for kids ages 3.5-14. Spring Break is April 11th-April 15th.
- Chinguapin - **Storyboard Walk at Holmes Run Park** has a new story “Standing in Her Shoulders” in celebration of Women’s History Month
- Chinguapin - **Underwater Easter Egg Hunt** on April 16.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS MONTHLY UPDATE

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance

- 2900 shop staff cleaned the brine units in preparation for summer storage.
- Stone dust was added to the Witter Field pitching box in preparation for opening season.

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- Inspections/repairs of scoreboards in anticipation of spring sports starting.
- Repaired and reinstalled information kiosk at Chinquapin Gardens.
- Installed plaques for adopt-a-bench program.
- Repaired and replaced play equipment at Windmill Hill playground.

2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a. Urban Forestry

- Continued tree planting operations.
- Continued cleanup and inspections from destructive January snow event.
- Celebrated Andrew Benjamin's second anniversary as our West District Urban Forester.

b. Horticulture

- Community Gardeners have all been contacted and their garden plot renewals completed. Staff has reached out to



the extensive garden waitlists for both Chinquapin Community Garden, Holmes Run Garden and filled the available slots in preparation for the 2022 season that begins March 1. Open Garden Plots have been prepared by staff and contractors for the potential new gardeners, as well as completing needed repairs for the shared garden areas.

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry, English Ivy, and other non-native invasive weeds from Fort Williams Park, Forest Park, and Timberbranch Parkway.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in the large-scale removal of Bush Honeysuckle, English Ivy, Callery Pear, Privet, Multiflora Rose, Burning Bush, Winter Creeper, and many others at the 62.67-acre Holmes Run Park, as well as Tarleton Park, INOVA Alexandria Hospital Scenic Easement, and Mount Jefferson Park.

b. Cooperative Initiatives

- City Natural Resources Field Inspector extensively collaborated with wildlife management folks throughout the region, including Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and National Park Service, as to deer management in natural areas, including deer enclosures.
- On February 25, 2022, City Natural Resource Manager discussed site-appropriate native plants for Simpson Garden with the Master Gardeners who are stewarding the site.
- On February 26, 2022, City Natural Resource Manager walked the woodlands at Park Fairfax Community with members of the Landscape Committee and provided best practices for natural lands management.
- [City of Alexandria Herbarium](#) (AVCH) activities: The Virginia herbaria digitization project continued with the imaging of 148 AVCH specimens at the George Mason University Herbarium (GMUF). About 3,200 AVCH specimens have been imaged, processed, and uploaded to the SERNEC portal thus far. To see the imaged specimens, go to www.serneportal.org, click on “Search Collections”, scroll down to AVCH (you’ll see the City logo), and go to “Family Distribution”. Then click on whatever family you want to peruse. AVCH is a reference collection, as well as the repository for the Alexandria Flora, and is an invaluable resource for conservation planning.



Frank Mann scoreboard.



Information kiosk at Chinquapin Gardens.



Plaque installed at the Marina.

c. Environmental Review

- Staff reviewed the Alexandria Renew Enterprises RiverRenew Tunnel System: Hooffs Run Interceptor Planting Plan and provided comments and best practices.
- On February 21, 2022, staff met onsite at Mount Jefferson Park with a large group of neighboring residents and discussed non-native invasive plant removal work at the park and plans for park improvements.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates:

- The Nature Center re-opened to the public Thursday-Saturday from 10am to 4pm. During the month, there were 7 interpretive programs attended by 75 participants. The combined total number of visitors and participants for February was 416 people.

School Programs:

- William Ramsay ES – Pre-k classes from William Ramsay Elementary School visited the center to learn about hibernation. They were able to meet several animals from our collection including the American toad, corn snake, and box turtle.

Outreach Programs:

- Scout Program – February 14 – Nature Center staff led a World Thinking Day program for the Girl Scout Daisy Troop from MacArthur Elementary. The girls learned about forest ecosystems and how we can do our part to care for trees.

Onsite Programs:

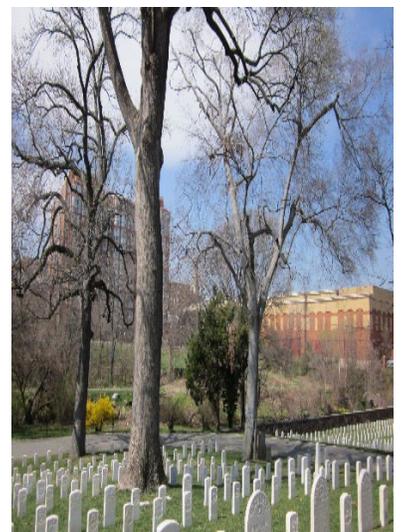
- Groundhog’s Day – February 2 – This virtual program was developed for families and taught participants all about groundhogs and how the tradition of the groundhog as a forecaster came to be.
- Valentine’s Workshop – February 5 – In this workshop participants created hand-made Valentine gifts for their friends and family. After a walk in Dora Kelley Nature Park to gather supplies the group created cards, bookmarks, and a nature mobile using sticks, leaves, and other materials found in the park.
- Tracks and Traces – February 12 – During this program participants learned to identify local wildlife by what they leave behind. The group explored Dora Kelley Nature Park and found signs of wildlife including tracks, scat, and feathers.



Windmill Hill playground.



Harbinger of Spring.



Grove of old-age trees at Alexandria National Cemetery.

- Little Adventures – February 18 – During the February meeting of our Little Adventures series the group investigated animal tracks and signs. We learned to identify common tracks and ventured into Dora Kelley Nature Park to look for signs of wildlife.
- Winter Tree ID Hike – February 19 – Led by Arborist, Andrew Benjamin, participants spent the morning in Dora Kelley Nature Park learning how to identify Alexandria’s native trees during the winter.

b. Volunteers Hours:

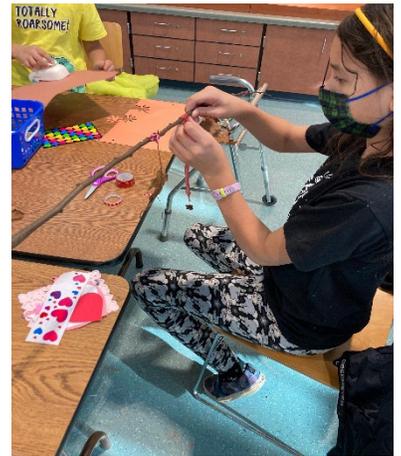
- One volunteer reported 18 hours for the month of February.

c. Noteworthy:

- Nothing to report for the month.



Tracks and Traces – During their search for signs of wildlife the group found a few feathers.



Valentine's Workshop.



Frog Calls – Participants search for frogs and other amphibians in DKNP

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR 
PARK SERVICES

BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, ACTING DIVISION CHIEF 
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 4: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Commission Presentations & Oral Reports

- Vulcan Development Site Open Space – (Item 5.b.)

Attached Memorandums

- Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application – John Ewald Park
- Athletic Field Lighting Proposal

Capital Improvement Project Updates

- March 2022 Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (*Attached*)

Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination

- 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 2023)

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JUDY LO, ACTING PRINCIPAL PLANNER, PARK PLANNING
MAYA CONTRERAS, PRINCIPAL PLANNER, PLANNING & ZONING
JARED ALVES, AICP, URBAN PLANNER III, PLANNING & ZONING

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, ACTING DIVISION CHIEF
PARK SERVICES – PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

ITEM 5b.: BACKLICK GREENWAY DESIGN (VULCAN SITE)

ISSUE: Presentation of the proposed Backlick Greenway along Backlick Run within the Vulcan Materials site at 701 S Van Dorn Street.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission review the proposed design for a future City park.

BACKGROUND: Lennar and Potomac Land Group II, LLC are designing a future 271,865 sq. ft. (6.24 acre) park, as part of a pending development case. If the overall project is approved, they will dedicate the park to the city as part of the redevelopment of the Vulcan Materials industrial site. In addition to the park, the proposal includes a neighborhood of townhomes, stacked townhomes, multifamily condominium buildings, and a hotel with retail (see Attachment 1).

The future public park, part of Backlick Greenway, is partially within the 100-year floodplain and is almost entirely within the Resource Protection Area (RPA) associated with Backlick Run. Accordingly, the applicant team has a proposed a design that restores and respects the RPA including a context sensitive planting mix and features such as an exercise path, picnic tables and benches, natural play areas, and interpretive signs. One major feature will be an overlook with steps down to the water.

In addition to Backlick Greenway, the applicant will maintain three publicly accessible, private open spaces: a pair of north-south pedestrian green streets that connect the multifamily condominium buildings through the townhouse community to the park and a playground located outside of the RPA in the southwest corner of the site adjacent to the park. Visitors could access the greenway and other open spaces walking from bus stops on N Van Dorn Street, including the future West End Transitway, and via adjacent on-street parking.

DISCUSSION: The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan (SAP) chapter of the Alexandria Master Plan envisioned restoring the banks of Backlick Run to create Backlick Run Greenway (see Figure 1). Constructing this park would advance the greenway and the design responds to the recommendations of the SAP, including:

- Restoring and stabilizing the stream, removing invasive species, and removing impervious surfaces,
- Providing a multiuse trail and passive open space, including benches and picnic areas,
- Making the stream edge accessible, and
- Interpreting the environmental role of the stream and park design with signage.

Figure 1 – Backlick Run Greenway in the Eisenhower West SAP



Staff supports the general design of the park with one significant addition. We recommend including a bridge spanning Backlick Run for pedestrians, cyclists, and emergency responders. This bridge would connect both sides of Backlick Run and provide a more hospitable route for pedestrians, cyclists, and bus riders to access the park. In addition, the bridge would further a principle of the SAP to link and expand the pedestrian, bicycle, and trail system in Eisenhower West. With this change, we believe that the park design would satisfy the SAP and provide an important open space for residents of the immediate neighborhood and wider Eisenhower West community. Staff recommends close coordination with the design team during the Final Site Plan process and construction to ensure that all elements are designed and implemented to ensure the long-term success of the park and restoration of the RPA.

The applicant has submitted their Concept Plan and anticipate receiving project approvals at the Planning Commission and City Council public hearings next fall. The applicant will be working with RP&CA on additional community engagement this spring. Engagement efforts will be tailored to the West End Van Dorn/Landmark area, and will include HOA's, civic associations, and the Ad Hoc Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group. A Park and Recreation Public Hearing will also be scheduled prior to the fall.

FISCAL IMPACT: The applicant team will fund, design, and construct the park improvements. RP&CA will be responsible for maintaining the park. Annual maintenance costs will be identified through the planning process described above.

STAFF: Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, RPCA
Jared Alves, AICP, Urban Planner III, P&Z
Maya Contreras, Principal Planner, P&Z

Attachment 1 – Park Plan Concept 1.18.22



LEGEND	
	APPROX. LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE
	100 YR. FLOOD PLAIN
	EX. EDGE OF PAVEMENT



NATURAL AREA BENCH



PICNIC TABLE



PLAY AREA



INTERPRETATIVE SIGN



PARK SIGN



MILE MARKER

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: BETHANY ZIDERSIC, ACTING DIVISION CHIEF
PARK SERVICES, PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: 2022 LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR FUNDING PARK
IMPROVEMENTS AT JOHN EWALD PARK

ISSUE: On Tuesday, March 8, 2022, City Council authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents for the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (RPCA) to submit the necessary documents for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) matching grant.

BACKGROUND: The National Parks Service (NPS) administers a grant-in-aid program for the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Local jurisdictions may apply for 50% matching fund assistance from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These funds are provided from a federal apportionment from the NPS through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Sites that received LWCF funding must be open, operated, and maintained in perpetuity as public outdoor recreation areas and the entire site may not be converted to other uses without prior approval by the NPS. The program is a matching, reimbursement program, meaning that the City must provide a match and be capable of financing the project in its entirety while requesting periodic reimbursement.

DISCUSSION: In 2016, RPCA completed a multi-year process to develop a series of Neighborhood Park Improvement Plans, including John Ewald Park. Six of the recommendations in the John Ewald Park Plan are recommended for the LWCF:

1. Recommendation 3: Install a second basketball court;
2. Recommendation 4: Renovate the natural turf field and add a walking path;
3. Recommendation 5: Replace the old pool site with multi-use courts;
4. Recommendation 6: Restore the existing playground to forest area;
5. Recommendation 8: Relocate the playground; and
6. Recommendation 9: Install shade structure and picnic area.

The plan recommends replacing the former pool area with sport courts to meet the increasing demand in the city. One of the courts will be a multi-use court and include a movable net for tennis and pickleball. The other court would be used for futsal.

The current playground is hidden from the street and difficult to access. Moving the playground to the former tennis court area will increase its visibility from Duke Street and encourage greater use. It

will also include new and modern equipment, shade structure and picnic facilities, and incorporate a multi-generational Parkour Course.

The existing basketball court is one of the most popular courts in Alexandria. Adding a second court will improve community access and community health.

The plan calls for the well-used turf area to be renovated with improved natural turf conditions, irrigation, and a walking path encircling the field.

If awarded, the LWCF would require a 50% match towards the project. The approved FY 2022 capital budget already includes \$240,000 for the design for the John Ewald Park Renovation. The proposed FY 2023 to FY 2032 capital budget includes construction funding for the playground renovation within the Playground Renovations CFMP for \$833,000 in FY 2023 which would meet the required match. The City would use the LWCF grant towards the implementation of Recommendations 3, 4, and 5 to add two multi-purpose courts, one basketball court, and improve the natural turf field in the park.

Submission is coordinated through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Notification to grant awardees is anticipated in Fall 2022.

Staff recommends submitting the John Ewald Park project for this grant because it is part of the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan recommendations (Attached), which included extensive public engagement, and a 50% match is already planned in the City's budget. Staff considered other sites but did not find that they were suitably "shovel ready" or budgeted yet. The project is considered a priority project in the plan and addresses community needs in a west end park.

Per the grant requirements, an award to the City would require the 3.88-acre parcel of land to be protected in perpetuity for the purpose of outdoor recreation. Protecting this land is vital to ensuring future recreational opportunities in the West End. Other nearby parkland protected through federal programs include Ben Brenman Park and Armistead L. Boothe Parks, which were transferred to the City in 1997 through the Federal Lands to Parks program. In addition, Chinquapin Park, Angel Park and Forest Park were acquired through LWCF funding in the 1970s.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$1,073,000 City funding. LWCF requires a 50% minimum match. The total estimated construction cost for the John Ewald Park Renovation Project is \$2,000,000, of which \$1,073,000 will be a match from the Playground Renovations CFMP and the Park Renovations CFMP.

ATTACHMENT: Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan Recommendations (2016)

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager

James B. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Jack Browand, Deputy Director of Park Services, RPCA

Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, RPCA

Improvement Recommendations

- 1 Create a turnaround and landscaped median in the parking lot**
The current parking lot is, unstriped and does not allow for turnaround space or landscaped medians. This plan proposes installing a landscaped median and trees to provide a turnaround. It would also include parking spaces for disabled park users. The lot would be designed to not impact healthy existing trees.
- 2 Create pedestrian entrance near Duke St./Jordan intersection**
A new formalized entrance to the park would create a small space for a park sign, benches, and bike racks. It would also provide park access close to the Duke Street and S. Jordan intersection, encouraging safer pedestrian access.
- 3 Install a second basketball court and maintenance path**
The existing basketball court is one of the most popular in the City. The addition of lights will require a special use permit and may be added at a later stage of implementation due to cost.
- 4 Renovate the turf and install a walking path**
The park holds one of the largest and most popular unfenced turf areas in the City. This plan proposes adding irrigation and re-turfing the field to better sustain the active use. Steps from the multi-use courts to the open turf area may also serve as spectator seating. A path around the field will create a location for running and walking. Walking the path seven times would equal a mile. As requested by the Park and Recreation Commission on October 17, 2015, staff will investigate the use of synthetic turf and lights prior to implementation.
- 5 Replace the pool and poolhouse with two multi-use courts**
The pool has been closed since 2011. When it was open there was low use as the site is not conducive to a high capacity aquatics facility. The current poolhouse blocks visibility from Duke Street creating an unsafe setting behind it. This plan recommends replacing the pool and poolhouse with sport courts to meet the increasing demand in the city. One of the courts will be a multi-use court and include a movable net for tennis and pickleball. The other court would be used for futsal (court soccer).

- 6 Restore the existing playground to forest area**
This area is hidden from the street and difficult to access. Planting new trees in this site will help increase the tree canopy in the City, per the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- 7 Work with Alexandria Police Department (APD) to improve park safety, particularly in areas not visible from Duke St.**
This plan recommends on-going community group involvement and cooperation to keep "eyes on the park." This can occur through regularly scheduled events in the park, communication with APD and increased park use. Over time, these strategies and crime reports will be measured to ensure safety and determine if other Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design tactics should be pursued while not impacting healthy existing trees.
- 8 Move the playground to the former tennis court area**
Moving the playground to the former tennis court area will increase its visibility from Duke St and encourage greater use. It will also include new and modern equipment and may integrate water features.
- 9 Install shade structure and picnic area**
A shaded area with seating will provide a community gathering space. The shade structures will be integrated within the existing trees to provide year round shade.
- 10 Reserve space for community building**
A community building can provide space for civic meetings, restrooms, and recreation offices. The location of the building allows for sightlines throughout the park to increase surveillance. It is also located next to the picnic area to allow for joint uses.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTING PROPOSAL

JB

ISSUE: Implementation planning to mitigate program displacement resulting from the closure of the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard lighted synthetic turf rectangular field and increase program capacity to meet athletic field demand use.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) will seek Special Use Permit (SUP) approval for the installation of athletic field lighting at four (4) athletic fields: Francis Hammond Middle School; Jefferson Houston K-8 School; Patrick Henry K-8 School & Recreation Center; and George Washington Middle School. Athletic field lighting combined with synthetic provides for up to approximately 1,100 additional hours of use per field annually.

BACKGROUND: Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) will begin construction on a replacement Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard campus school building. Construction will begin in April 2022 on the existing athletic facilities resulting in the displacement of approximately 1,383 hours of athletic programming, with a little more than half of the programming in direct support of ACPS athletic programs. The new school building will open in August 2024 for the start of the 2024-2025 academic year. Following the opening of the new school building, ACPS plans to demolish the old school building and rebuild the synthetic turf rectangular field and other sport amenities on the west side of the property. The new facilities are anticipated to open by fall 2025. In addition to the closure of the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard campus, the chart on page 3 identifies more than 10 athletic complexes that will be offline from two months for up to three years for life cycle maintenance, ACPS modernization projects, and RPCA park renovation projects.

DISCUSSION: In response to the displacement of athletic programming, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) staff have been in discussions with ACPS to determine options to mitigate the loss of the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard lighted synthetic turf rectangular field. Short-term mitigation strategies currently being implemented include the distribution of displaced Minnie Howard campus activities to (1) existing rectangular and diamond fields; (2) direct community programming at the ACPS Parker-

Gray Stadium (without lighting); and (3) direct community programming at the ACPS practice field (Chinquapin Park) following planned turf enhancements.

Long-term mitigation and increased capacity recommendations include the installation of athletic field lighting at Francis Hammond Middle School; Jefferson Houston K-8 School; Patrick Henry K-8 School & Recreation Center; and George Washington Middle School. In addition, RPCA and ACPS are coordinating the installation of necessary infrastructure to support the installation of athletic field lighting at the Patrick Henry K-8 School & Recreation Center synthetic turf rectangular field (completion summer 2024) and George Washington Middle School synthetic turf rectangular field renovation (completion fall 2022).

RPCA in coordination with ACPS, proposes the following Community Engagement Plan for the approval of athletic field lighting:

- March 17 – Briefing Memo to Park & Recreation Commission
- March 24 – Briefing presentation to Alexandria School Board Members
- April 11 – Presentation to Park & Recreation Commission Youth Sports Advisory Board
- Week of April 18 – Community Meeting #1 (Virtual)
- Week of April 25 – Community site visit at ACHS Parker-Gray Stadium
- Week of May 2 – Community Meeting #2 (Virtual)
- Week of May 9 – Community Site Visits at proposed locations
- May 19 – Park & Recreation Commission Public Hearing
- June 23 – Planning Commission Public Hearing (four (4) proposed athletic fields)
- July 7 – City Council Public Hearing (four (4) proposed athletic fields)

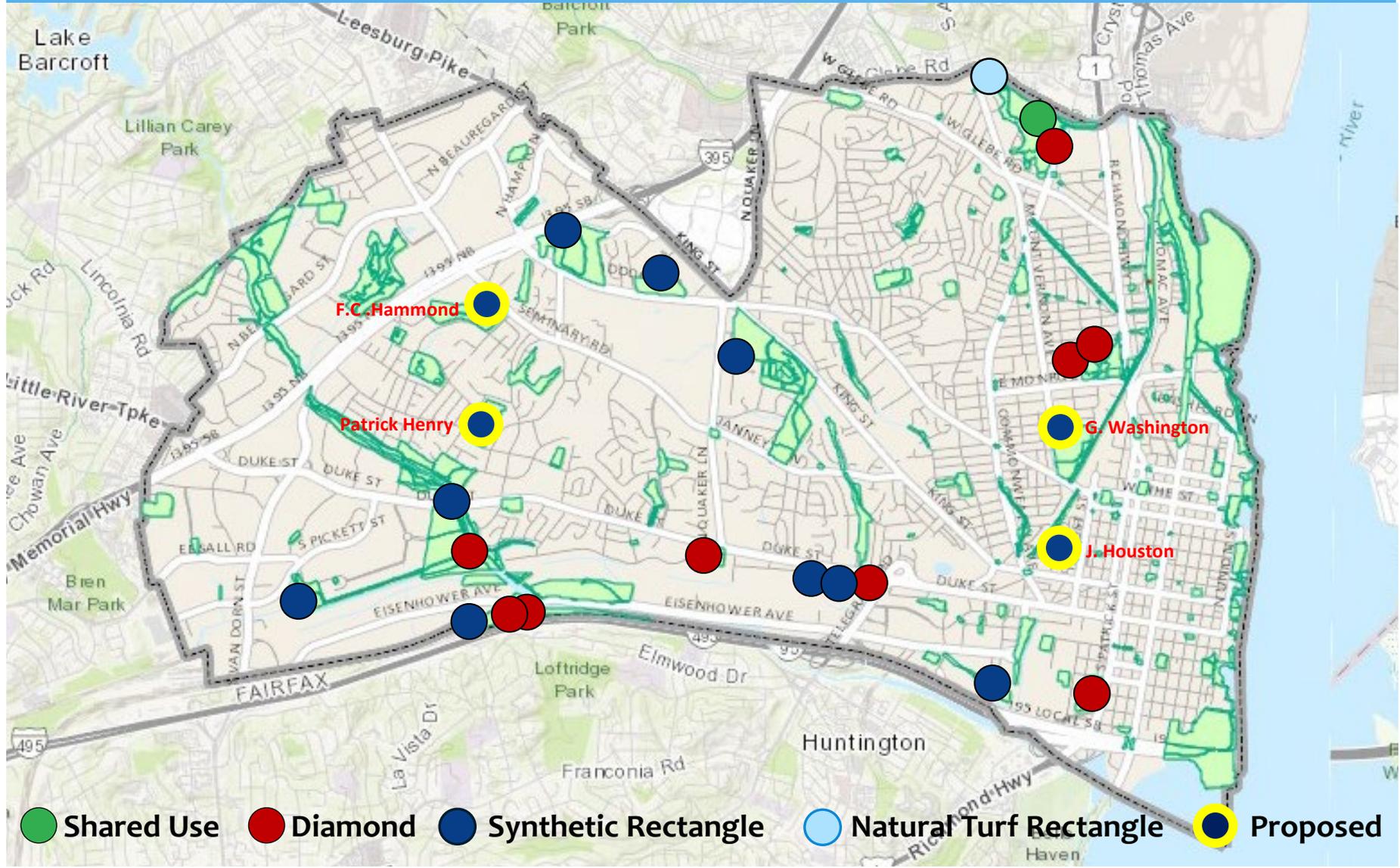
FISCAL IMPACT: \$804,000. Lighting of two synthetic turf rectangular fields in FY 2023 pending FY 2023 budget and SUP approvals.

Attachment: Current Lighted and Proposed Lighted Athletic Field Map

cc: Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Bethany Znidersic, Acting Division Chief, Park Services, RPCA
Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Acting Chief of Facilities and Operations, ACPS
Azjargal E. Bartlett, Senior Capital Programs Manager, ACPS

Planned Athletic Field Impacts FY 2021 – FY 2025					
Fiscal Year Offline	Fiscal Year Reopens	Field Offline	Work Activity	Mitigation for Loss of Use	Add Capacity
FY 2018	FY 2024	Patrick Henry Rectangular Field	Conversion to synthetic turf with diamond overlay	Reassign use to other locations	Yes
FY 2021	FY 2024	MacArthur Synthetic Turf Panel	Conversion to U12 synthetic turf field rectangular (3 years) (no lights)	Reassign use to other locations	Yes
FY 2023	FY 2023	Brenman Rectangular	Recarpeting (60 days)	Reassign use to other locations	No
FY 2023	FY 2023	AL Boothe Softball with Rectangular Overlay	Full Synthetic Turf Conversion (9-12 months)	Reassign use to other locations	Yes
FY 2022	FY2025	Minnie Howard HS	Relocation of existing field with rebuild of the HS (3 years)	Reassign use to other City locations and increase use of the Parker Gray Stadium and HS practice field	No
FY 2023	FY 2023	GW Middle School Rectangular Fields (2)	One GW field converted to synthetic turf. Proposed to add sport lighting to synthetic turf field (4-6 months)	Coordinate activities to have one field out of use and relocate to other facilities	Yes
FY 2023	FY 2024	Hensley Park Phase I Diamond Fields (2)	Renovation of two softball fields; 1 synthetic and 1 natural turf (18 months)	Reassign use to other City locations	Yes
FY 2024	FY 2025	Simpson Diamond Fields (2)	Natural turf renovation with drainage improvements (18 months)	Reassign use to other City locations	No
FY 2025	FY 2025	Witter Rectangular Fields (2)	Recarpeting (60 days)	Reassign use to other locations	No
FY 2025	FY 2025	FC Hammond Middle School Rectangular	Recarpeting (60 days)	Reassign use to other locations	No
FY 2025	FY 2025	Four Mile Run Park Rectangular	Natural Turf Renovation (6 months)	Reassign use to other locations	No
FY 2025	FY 2025	Jefferson Houston Rectangular	Recarpeting (60 days)	Reassign use to other locations	No

City Athletic Field Lighting Distribution Map



Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



March 17, 2022

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Open Space Policy Plan	This project will develop a framework for explaining Open Space and identifying policy change needs. City Council reinstated the Open Space Steering Committee with charge of work to be completed by FY 2023.	At the February Open Space Steering Committee, a presentation was provided on open space metrics. The Committee discussed the existing metric and need for updating or adding new metrics based on geographic areas. The Open Space Steering Committee is also reviewing the open space acquisition criteria discussed in January. Staff continues to work on open space national standards and best practices.	Implementation	Citywide	06/30/23	Ana Vicinanza
2	Witter Recreational Fields Netting	Netting along Witter Drive on the rectangular fields	The project scoping investigation is complete, and unexpected issues have been identified. A Special Use Permit request to add the netting is docketed for the April 7 Planning Commission Public Hearing.	Planning	District 1	12/30/22	Daniel Unkle
3	Wilkes Street Park	Develop plan for Wilkes Street Park in anticipation of building redevelopments	The applicant submitted the first grading plan of the park redesign for City review. The park improvements will be funded and built by the developer.	Planning	District 1	02/18/21	Ana Vicinanza
4	Roberdeau Park Improvements	Realign path, install secondary bench, add additional landscaping.	The preconstruction meeting was held in March. The work has started and will conclude in April.	Implementation	District 1	12/03/21	Daniel Unkle
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 construction Invitation To Bid was posted in January and the bid opening will be held in the middle of March. The project is	Procurement	District 2	12/30/22	Bethany Znidersic
6	Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	Construction to renovate existing playground	The construction ITB is being prepared for advertisement this spring.	Procurement	District 2	12/30/21	Judy Lo
7	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Design	This project will convert the existing closed Colasanto Pool to an interactive fountain per the 2012 Aquatics Plan. The renovated site will be an intergenerational, inclusive, multi-functional site that can be used year round.	The 90% design drawings were submitted for regulatory review in late January, which included a review by the Health Department. The final plan submission is anticipated to be complete in March 2022. A community update through the Del Ray Citizens Association is planned for next month. The public art infrastructure and supports will be incorporated with the next plan submission and included in the construction package.	Planning	District 2	12/30/21	Bethany Znidersic
8	Naming Proposal at Chinquapin Park	RPCA supports the City Council Naming Committee regarding naming requests as they are received.	RPCA has received a proposal to name the memorial tree grove located at Chinquapin Park. The tree grove was planted by Virginia Tech in 2017 as a tribute to the mass shooting victims. The proposed name will recognize gun violence prevention. Per the Naming Policy, a public comment period is required and will be planned for this spring.	Administrative	District 2	06/30/22	Judy Lo
9	MacArthur School Recreation Programming Space Construction	New recreation office and program space at Douglas MacArthur School	Anticipated completion of the project continues to be July 2023. Construction activities to complete the Patrick Henry School and Recreation Center field, parking lot and other site work anticipated to begin July and August 2023 with substantial completion in summer 2024.	Planning	District 3	12/30/22	Jack Browand
10	Patrick Henry Outdoor Improvements	Project reduced to completion of Lathan St. amenities due to MacArthur Swing Space determination.	RPCA and ACPs are coordinating a design modification to include athletic field lighting infrastructure when the synthetic turf field installation occurs. Anticipated construction is summer 2023 with substantial completion summer 2024.	Implementation	District 3	08/31/24	Jack Browand
11	Hensley Park Renovation	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	Revised 100% drawings are anticipated in March. The revised plans will be submitted for regulatory review and comment by City	Planning	District 3	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
12	Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field.	The synthetic turf surface at the Ben Brenman Park rectangular field has reached the end of its useful life and is scheduled for replacement. The project is in scope development and is anticipated to be under construction this summer. Construction will be coordinated with other field use to minimize disruption and programming impacts.	Planning	District 3	06/30/22	Bethany Znidersic
13	Brenman/Boothe Improvements - Somerville Pesestrian Path Lighting	This project will install solar lights along the path between the Somerville Bridge and the Ben Brenman Dog Park.	The lights are in production and are scheduled to be delivered in mid-March. The contractor is securing all necessary permits.	Implementation	District 3	05/01/21	Daniel Unkle
14	High School Project	This project is a complete rebuild of the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard school and athletic complex. The project includes the addition of an aquatics center for high school sanctioned aquatics sports and separate training pool. Outdoor athletic amenities include lighted rectangular field, tennis courts and basketball court; walking loop; and stadium seating.	Construction activities are scheduled to begin April 4. Utility disconnect at the site is scheduled for March 28. The existing rectangular field and tennis courts will remain available for use through April 3 without lighting beginning March 28.	Planning	District 3	09/01/24	Jack Browand
15	Beatley Bridge Surface Repairs	This project will provide a resurfacing to the bridge and improve drainage.	Work will be scheduled in late March or early April 2022. Work will take 10 days to complete and the bridge will be closed during resurfacing.	Initiation	District 3	10/29/21	Jack Browand
16	Ewald Park Site Design	Design of Ewald Park per the 2015 Neighborhood Parks Plan	City Council approved the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application at the March 8 meeting. Staff will proceed with submitting the application materials. The design scope of work will be developed this spring.	Initiation	District 3	06/30/23	Judy Lo

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
17 Landmark Block P - Terrace Park	This development project is part of the Landmark Mall Redevelopment Coordinated Development District.	<p>Open space for Landmark Mall will be coming in as one Development Special Use Permit (DSUP). The applicant is anticipating submitting this DSUP in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Staff is reviewing the utilities within the open spaces of Landmark Mall as part of their Completeness submission of the infrastructure plan.</p>	Planning	District 3	01/21/22	Ana Vicinanzo