

PARKnerships

Annual Report | FY2024



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

PARKNERSHIPS AT A GLANCE



Connect the Community

The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) PARKnerships Program, continues to connect the community through collaboration with volunteers, community organizations, and sponsors. This year, PARKnerships partnered with over 30 community groups and organizations for facility improvements and innovative youth programming, in addition to sustaining many partnerships already in full swing from prior fiscal years.

Partnering with the community allows residents and local businesses to participate in planning and decision-making processes so RPCA can attain its mission of enriching the City of Alexandria by creating meaningful experiences through public space, cultural activities, and programming.



Thank You, Volunteers!

We extend our deepest gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who generously gave their time, energy, and passion to support our programs and initiatives this year. Your commitment has made a meaningful impact on our community, helping us provide valuable services, enrich lives, and create lasting positive changes.

Whether you assisted with special events, mentored youth, supported environmental initiatives, or contributed behind the scenes, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. The success of our programs would not be possible without you.

On behalf of our team and the entire community, thank you for your hard work, compassion, and unwavering support. We look forward to continuing this journey together in the year ahead!

Lucresha Murphy-Tate, MBA
PARKnerships Manager

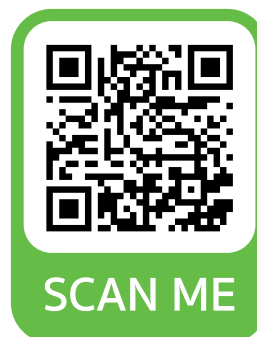
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Partnerships



Partners

**Henry Meade
(Eagle Scout Project)**

With a commitment to community service, Boy Scout Henry Meade has made significant beautification and improvement efforts to the outdoor area of 4-H at Lee Center. His project enhances the space, creating a more inviting and functional environment for visitors to enjoy.

Northeast Citizens Association

The Northeast Citizens Association, in collaboration with the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA), is ensuring the cleanliness of the community by maintaining a Pet Waste Station at 1301 Powhatan Street. As part of this effort, the association regularly refills the waste bags, which are generously provided at no cost by Transportation and Environmental Services. This partnership helps promote a cleaner, healthier environment for residents and their pets.

Capital Region Underwater Hockey

The Capital Region Underwater Hockey team is bringing the excitement of underwater hockey to the community by offering free practice sessions at Minnie Howard Pool. These sessions provide participants with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the sport in a fun and supportive environment. This initiative aims to introduce more people to the unique and engaging sport of underwater hockey while promoting fitness and teamwork.



Partners

Project

The Miracle League of Alexandria

The Miracle League of Alexandria has partnered with the Jessell and Seligman families to install a new combination scoreboard to Miracle Field at Nannie J. Lee Center, enhancing the game-day experience for players and spectators alike. This state-of-the-art scoreboard features a digital message display that showcases pictures of players as they come to bat, along with real-time scorekeeping to keep fans engaged throughout the game. This contribution reflects the Miracle League's ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive and memorable baseball experience for athletes of all abilities.

Young and Mannered (Y.A.M.)

Young and Mannered is a dedicated mentorship program designed to empower teen girls at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Through guidance, support, and skill-building activities, the program fosters confidence, leadership, and personal growth in a positive and nurturing environment.

Dream Work TDS LLC.

The Dream Work TDS, LLC proudly hosted the Men of Courage Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony at the Durant Center, honoring distinguished City of Alexandria leaders for their dedication and impact on the community. The event celebrated the achievements of these influential individuals, recognizing their commitment to leadership, service, and positive change.

James Moore IV (Eagle Scout Project)

With the support of City staff and dedicated volunteers, James Moore IV of Boy Scout Troop #1107 has successfully added outdoor seating for seniors at the Charles Houston Senior Center. Through the Adopt-a-Bench program, James installed two standard metal benches, providing a comfortable and inviting outdoor space for senior participants. Each bench features a commemorative plaque.



Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA)

The Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) has generously contributed two water bottle fillers through a grant from the American Water Charitable Foundation and Virginia American Water, enhancing sustainability and convenience for athletes and visitors.

The new fillers have been installed at the following athletic field locations:

- Ben Brenman Soccer Field
- Fort Ward Turf Soccer Field

This project reflects ASA's ongoing commitment to supporting local recreation and promoting environmental sustainability.

Braddock Metro Citizens Coalition (BMCC)

BMCC proudly coordinates a variety of programming and events at Judy Guse-Noritake Park, creating a vibrant community hub for all to enjoy. The organization hosts monthly events and annual celebrations, offering something for everyone, from family-friendly activities to seasonal festivities.

BMCC's dedication to programming ensures the park remains an inviting and active space for residents to connect, celebrate, and engage with one another.

Hoop Life

Hoop Life offered free basketball and E-Sports programming to students at Charles Houston Recreation Center, providing valuable opportunities for local youth to engage in sports and technology.

These programs aim to promote physical activity, teamwork, and digital skills, creating an inclusive and enriching environment for the students.



Partners

Project

Eli Fathilbab

As part of his community service project at Bishop Ireton, Eli designed and built a donation box for skateboard supplies at Schuler Hamilton Jones Skate Park. The box was created with the intent of allowing skaters to share their unused supplies with the public, while also allowing others to take what they need. Eli's project encourages community collaboration and ensures that all skaters have access to the equipment they need to enjoy the sport.

Old Town North Farmer's Market

The Old Town North Farmers Market has renewed its agreement to continue providing a delightful selection of vendors, featuring fresh produce, baked goods, gift items, easy take-home meals, and more.

Located at Montgomery Park, the market also hosts community events throughout the summer, creating a lively and welcoming space for residents and their pets to shop, enjoy local products, and connect.

Chrysalis Development Group

Chrysalis Development Group offers more students and families in Alexandria's West End access to interactive and engaging activities, exciting exhibits, and demonstrations.

The Chrysalis Development Group is dedicated to inspiring the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and leaders in the fields of science and technology, providing opportunities that foster creativity, learning, and growth.

West End Farmer's Market

The West End Farmer's Market has renewed its agreement to continue hosting vibrant markets every Sunday at Ben Brenman Park. The market features an array of farmers, bakers, cooks, crafters, and artisans, who set up tents and tables to offer delicious food, superb crafts, and beautiful art to the community. This weekly event provides a lively space for residents to enjoy local products and connect with their neighbors.



Partners

Project

Alexandria Chorale Society

The Alexandria Chorale Society has renewed its agreement to continue offering free pop-up programming at the Patrick Henry and William Ramsay Recreation Centers. These engaging and accessible programs provide the community with the opportunity to enjoy music and performance in a welcoming, local setting.

Local Motion Project

The Local Motion Project offers dance classes at William Ramsay Recreation Center, bringing people together through the power of movement. With a focus on personal growth and social change, Local Motion creates dynamic, collective experiences that inspire connection, creativity, and community engagement.

Fresh Start/RAFT

In collaboration with the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, these two organizations, Fresh Start and RAFT, are dedicated to providing high-quality programming for Afghan refugees and the broader community. Together, they host community events, ESL programs, youth leadership initiatives, social services, grocery distribution, and more at William Ramsay Recreation Center, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

Ethiopian Community Support and Advocacy Center, Inc. (ECSAC)

The Ethiopian Community Support and Advocacy Center, Inc. (ECSAC) is dedicated to empowering the Ethiopian community through education and advocacy, helping individuals overcome socioeconomic obstacles and build a stronger future. ECSAC partners with the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) to enhance community engagement by bridging connections between the City of Alexandria, RPCA, and William Ramsay Recreation Center. Through dedicated office hours at William Ramsay Recreation Center, ECSAC develops and delivers programming tailored to the Ethiopian community, fostering greater access to resources and opportunities.



Partners

Project

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic partnered with RPCA to offer a free family concert series for children and families in the community. As part of this collaboration, the Philharmonic presented two concerts at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, providing an enriching and accessible musical experience for all to enjoy.

UNCUT Youth

UNCUT Youth, a dedicated youth empowerment and mentoring organization has partnered with the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities to support the community through various initiatives. The organization has hosted impactful events at Durant Center and Waterfront Park, including:

- Toys for Tots Christmas Giveaway
- Prom Donations
- Back-to-School Event

Through these efforts, UNCUT Youth continues to uplift and empower young people while making a meaningful difference in the community.

Transportation Federal Credit Union

As a new neighbor to the Durant Center, the Transportation Federal Credit Union partnered with RPCA to host a Mobile Shred Day in the Old Town Pool parking lot. This event provided a secure and convenient way for community members and businesses to safely dispose of important records and documents, promoting privacy protection and environmental responsibility.

Campagna Center

The Campagna Center has partnered with RPCA to provide mentorship and programming for middle school students and community members at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. The mentorship program focuses on enhancing literacy skills, including research, writing, and public speaking, while also guiding students in goal setting, career exploration, and building meaningful connections with dedicated adult mentors.



ALIVE!

ALIVE!, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to fighting poverty and hunger, has partnered with RPCA to provide indoor food distribution at Chick Armstrong and William Ramsay Recreation Centers.

Through this collaboration, ALIVE! ensures that community members in need have access to essential food resources in a safe and welcoming environment.

Momentum Collective Inc. (MC Inc.)

Based in Alexandria, Momentum Collective Inc. believes in the power of art to educate, enrich, and empower young people. Through a partnership with RPCA's Out of School Time Program (OSTP), MC Inc. provides theatre production experiences at the following recreation centers:

- Charles Barrett
- Charles Houston
- Douglas MacArthur OSTP
- Leonard "Chick" Armstrong
- Mount Vernon
- Patrick Henry

This collaboration allows youth to explore creativity, build confidence, and develop valuable skills through the performing arts.

Pet Waste Station (Polk Avenue Park)

Brookville Seminary Valley Civic Association in collaboration with the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA), is ensuring the cleanliness of the community by maintaining Pet Waste Stations at Polk Avenue Park. As part of this effort, the association regularly refills the waste bags, which are generously provided at no cost by Transportation and Environmental Services. This partnership helps promote a cleaner, healthier environment for residents and their pets.



Flyminds

Flyminds, a valued repeat partner, continues to expose middle school students in the City of Alexandria to enriching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities. This year, Flyminds collaborated with RPCA to host a Teen Cybersecurity Camp at William Ramsay Recreation Center and a Summer STEM Fair featuring a robotics event at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. These programs inspire teens to explore the world of STEM and develop essential skills for the future.

Spelling Bee

For the second consecutive year, Price Point Solutions LLC has partnered with RPCA to host a Spelling Bee for the City of Alexandria Community. This exciting event brings together participants of all ages to celebrate learning and community spirit while competing in a fun and educational challenge.

Advantage Tennis

As a pilot affiliate group, Advantage Tennis partnered with the City of Alexandria to offer a specialized pilot tennis program, designed to meet the needs and interests of students eager to learn and practice competitive tennis. The program was offered at the following locations:

- Armistead Boothe Park
- Fort Ward Park
- Chambliss Park

This initiative provides students with the opportunity to develop their skills, enhance their technique, and compete in a supportive environment.



Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation (FMRCF)

The Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation hosts several volunteer clean-up events at Four Mile Run Park, fostering community involvement and environmental stewardship. In addition, the foundation partners with RPCA to coordinate citizen science activities, encouraging residents to actively participate in conservation efforts and contribute to the health of the natural environment. These initiatives provide opportunities for the community to engage in hands-on projects that promote sustainability and environmental awareness.

Alexandria Soccer Association

For the second year, the Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) has partnered with RPCA to install a temporary futsal court at Ben Brenman Park. This partnership aims to expand the capacity of the futsal program as part of a pilot initiative, providing more opportunities for young people to engage in this fast-paced, dynamic sport. The courts will also be available to the community when not reserved for ASA programming, offering a space for all to enjoy.

Mentoring Education Together with Children (M.E.T.W.C.)

Mentoring Education Together with Children (M.E.T.W.C.) held a successful back-to-school event at William Ramsay Recreation Center, providing essential supplies and resources for local students. The event featured a variety of activities, including the distribution of back-to-school supplies, a 5v5 basketball tournament, a health and information fair, as well as games and food, all offered for free. Both indoor and outdoor spaces were utilized to create an engaging, fun-filled experience for the entire community.



ADOPT-A-BENCH



In Honor of
Mary Lou Hagerty
who taught me what is, is.

In Memory of
Anne Herrmann
She loved her river walks

Beatrice Howard & Paul Butler
Best friends forever.

Dedicated in loving memory
of our parents
Helen Fitzgerald & Richard Olson

Adopt-a-Bench had another successful year, resulting in 22 adopted benches. The donations have helped us to beautify and enhance Alexandria's parks and open spaces. Many residents have chosen to commemorate a loved one by placing a plaque on an existing bench within an Alexandria park. For most donors, this opportunity brings a sense of healing and peace after the loss of a loved one. While the waterfront parks are a popular location, residents also enjoy the beautiful parks on the West End. The memories of walking, playing, and jogging in a park are a perfect reflection of their loved ones. Additionally, many animal lovers have seen this as an opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of their pets.



ADOPT-A-PARK



The Adopt-a-Park program is a cooperative venture between the State of Virginia, the City of Alexandria, and community groups to improve the appearance and condition of Alexandria's small urban parks and open spaces.

Parks Adopted in 2024

Alexandria Celebrates Women
Beach Park

**Alexandria City High School
National Honor Society**
Oronoco Bay Park

BSA-Pack
Robert Leider Park

BSA Troop – 129
Monticello Park

**Cameron Station
Community Association**
Cameron Station Linear Park

Del Ray Artisans
Colasanto Park

Del Ray Citizens Association
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park
- W&OD Trail
- Kettle Park
- Judy Lowe Park
- Mason Avenue Mini-Park
- St. Asaph Park

- Commonwealth Avenue
Medians

Del Ray Gateway
*Nancy Dunning Garden/
Del Ray Gateway*

**Founders Park Community
Association**
Founder's Park

Hume Springs Civic Association
- Four Mile Run (Flagpole Park on
Edison St, Betty King Entrance
& Chirilagua Playground)
- Hume Springs Park Playground
- Shirley Tyler Unity Park

Lynhaven Citizens Association
- Lynhaven Gateway Park
- Lynhaven Park

**North Ridge Citizen's
Association**
Beverley Park

**NorthEast Citizens'
Association (NECA)**
- Powhatan Park
- Chetworth Park
- 1301 Powhatan Park

**Society Hill Homeowners
Association**
South Early St. Park

Taylor Run Citizens' Association
- Angel Park
- Chinquapin Park
- Upland Park
- Forest Park

**Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc,
Alexandria City Chapter**
Nannie J. Lee

**Warwick Village
Citizens Association**
- Landover Park
- Goat Hill Park
- Hillside Park



VOLUNTEERS



At RPCA, our vision is to enhance the well-being of every individual in our community by fostering meaningful connections—both with one another and the environment. This year, volunteerism played a vital role in achieving this vision, bringing together over 4,800 people through social and environmental engagement across the City of Alexandria. This incredible effort included community groups, local businesses, and several students from local high schools.

The latest figure from Independent Sector, with the Do Good Institute, announced on April 23, 2024, that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$33.49 in 2023, a 5.3% increase from 2022. For the state of Virginia \$33.38. For more information visit independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time.



BY THE NUMBERS

FY2024

	FY23	FY24
Volunteer Hours	1,547	3,689
Volunteers	2,367	4,822
Work Value	\$50,416	\$123,163
New Partnerships	25	32
Contributions	\$32,343	\$136,411
Adopt-A-Bench	18	22

In our Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, the total volunteer hours for the PARKnership program were inaccurately reported as 42,459 hours. The hours were mistakenly recorded in minutes, not hours. The correct total should have been 1,547 hours. We sincerely apologize for this oversight and have taken immediate steps to enhance the accuracy of our reporting process moving forward.



Connect With Us!

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