

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

# NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2025

# Ewald Park Improvement Recommendations

## Park Improvement Goals:

- Goal 1:** Be a safe place for children to explore  
**Goal 2:** Be a place to create social connections  
**Goal 3:** Be a place full of community activities



**Conceptual Visualizations | April 21, 2025**

*Images are conceptual and do not represent the final park design.*



## Park Improvement Objectives:

- 1. Improve Lighting and Security:** Improve lighting and consider visibility and approaches to promote safety
- 2. Incorporate Shade:** Add shaded areas to enhance comfort and usability.
- 3. Preserve and Replace Vegetation:** Preserve existing vegetation wherever possible. For any vegetation removed, replace it at a 3:1 ratio.
- 4. Enhance Street Frontage and Safety:** Beautify and secure the Duke Street frontage with plantings, fencing, and well-defined arrival points.
- 5. Park Beautification:** Add plantings in strategic locations and collaborate with community groups to ensure long-term maintenance.
- 6. Support Multi-Generational Uses:** Provide activity areas that support programming and create opportunities for social interactions with diverse groups.
- 7. Ensure Accessibility:** Apply best practices for accessibility, and inclusion, and comply with ADA requirements.
- 8. Integrate Public Art:** Collaborate with the City's Office of the Arts to incorporate public art in the park.
- 9. Incorporate Parkour Fitness:** Include the Parkour fitness area funded by the community.
- 10. Promote Sustainability:** Implement sustainability measures to improve park conditions and leave it better for future generations.

## Learn more

[alexandriava.gov/parks/ewald-project](https://alexandriava.gov/parks/ewald-project)



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## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2025

# Ewald Park Improvement Recommendations

### SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. PARK SAFETY AND SECURITY

Prioritize safety and security by improving site lines and lighting.

**a. Relocate the children's play area.** The play area is relocated to the west side of the park, where it is visible from Duke Street but away from the busy road. See the recommendation for the play area below.

**b. Relocate Parking.** The parking lot is relocated to the east side of the park. The higher elevation on the east side provides clear site lines across the park and will improve maintenance access. The parking will have a turnaround for safe ingress and egress from Duke Street. The parking lot will be lit.

**c. Enhance Lighting.** Add lights for activity areas and luminate pathways. Standard hours for lighted parks are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. The lights can be programmed to shut off at 10 p.m. to indicate the park is closed.

#### 2. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Provide safer pedestrian access at the Duke Street and Jordan Street intersection through already planned projects in the City's Complete Streets Program.

#### 3. PARK UTILITIES

Restore and expand utilities such as water and sewer and increase electrical capacity. Consider solar power where possible. New water service can support bottle fillers and drinking fountains.

#### 4. REPURPOSE EXISTING PARKING

Re-purpose the existing parking lot with interim uses to help activate the park along Duke Street. Remove the hedge of evergreens that block site lines. Consider a flexible sports court like Cameron Run Regional Park and add lighting.

#### 5. MULTI-USE SPORT COURTS

Add multi-use sports courts that can accommodate a variety of hard surface court games. The courts can be modular and implemented in phases.

#### 6. PARKOUR FITNESS

Add the parkour fitness course as funded by the community and approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.

#### 7. OPEN LAWN

Preserve and expand the open lawn to the greatest extent possible. The lawn will be available to the community for pick-up games and other informal uses.

#### 8. WALKING PATHS

Provide a loop walking path that connects activity areas and improves access and visibility to all areas of the park.

#### 9. EXISTING BASKETBALL COURT

Preserve the existing basketball court. Consider adding additional goals for half-court/individual play, similar to Potomac Yard Park.

#### 10. PICNIC PAVILION/SHADE STRUCTURE

Provide a picnic pavilion, with tables and a grill, that is available for drop-in community use and does not require reservations.

#### 11. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

Replace play equipment to serve multiple age groups. The play area may have integrated shade sails, picnic tables, seating, and a soft surface for flexible play. The location will take advantage of topography changes by using climbers and other creative play components.



Concept Plan, Plan View | April 21, 2025

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# Ewald Park Improvement Recommendations

## LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

### FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

#### A. PARK BUILDING

Explore the feasibility of a small building. This building could be a hub for teenagers with year-round programs and activities. The location will need to be further studied with parking and fire safety taken into consideration. In addition, potential opportunities may also arise through the City's Small Area Plan (SAP) process and SAP redevelopment.

#### B. DUKE STREET REALIGNMENT

Explore widening the Duke Street sidewalk and creating larger buffers between the street and the park. Opportunities include realigning the road as part of the Duke Street Transitway project. In the interim, provide fencing, plantings, and defined entrances.

#### C. PARK ACCESS

Explore alternate access routes to get to the park, other than Duke Street. Identify potential opportunities through the SAP process and adjacent property redevelopment. Work with private property owners to consider publicly accessible conservation easements and other access easements.

#### D. INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN/SPRAYGROUND

Study the feasibility of a children's water feature in Ewald Park. The study would evaluate fiscal impacts, infrastructure needs, and access compared to other parks located in the West End of Alexandria.

#### E. RESTROOMS

Restroom facilities will be explored and may be integrated with future structures or buildings. Temporary restroom structures should be considered as an alternative to permanent structures. These structures may require additional utility connections.



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