

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting**

**Chales Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street**

**Thursday, July 17, 2025
7 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Chair
2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
 - a. Staff Report – Commissioner Comments
4. Action Items
 - a. Approval June 26, 2025 Minutes
 - b. Public Hearing – Lockett Field and Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skateboard Park Neighborhood Park Plan Amendment
 - i. Open Public Hearing – Chair
 - ii. Staff Presentation
 1. Public Comment
 - iii. Close Public Hearing – Chair
 - iv. Commission Discussion
 - v. Commission Action
5. Items of Information
 - a. Office of the Arts Public Art Update
Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts
6. Next Meeting: September 18, 2025
 - a. Location to be Determined
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.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 17, 2025
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

OSTP Update:

Current Summer 2025 Enrollment: 1106

Out-of-school time programming is available this summer at 11 Summer Power-On sites, including two specialty camps—Camp Adventure and TR Camp Adventure—and three Summer Power-Up sites for middle school students. In total, 14 out-of-school time program options are being offered.

Partnerships & Collaborations:

We are proud to partner with ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and the Buddie Ford Nature Center, all of whom provide valuable enrichment, academic support, and specialized programming at both Summer Power-On and Power-Up sites.

Registration for the Out of School Time Program (OSTP) opened on Tuesday, June 25 at 9 a.m. By noon, 522 school-aged children in kindergarten through sixth grade had registered online for the 2025–26 school year. Additionally, 243 participants were confirmed as eligible through the pre-registration process.

In a recent community engagement effort, the Buddie Ford Nature Center teamed up with the Black Feather Foundation to host an event for Afghan refugee families. Activities included volleyball, flag football, free book giveaways, and opportunities to learn about native wildlife and meet the Nature Center’s animal ambassadors.

Program Wrap-ups:

- This summer, campers at William Ramsay Recreation Center participated in a five-session program called ***“Be a Health Scientist,”*** offered in partnership with Chrysalis Development Group. The program combined education and fun, aiming to teach children about the human body and healthy lifestyle habits.
- The Out of School Time Program partnered with Capital One Coders to offer **free coding enrichment** and lunch to teens in the Power-Up program. Using the CodeHS platform, participants built websites, digital magazines, and mock online businesses. Sixty teens took part in the sessions, held Tuesdays in July from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at all three Power-Up locations.



- On June 26, as part of Alexandria’s citywide effort to connect youth with out-of-school programs, RPCA supported Officer Zachary Anderson in hosting **Teen Day at the Acclaim Apartments** in the West End. Nearly 100 community members attended, enjoying games, painting, and conversations.

Most teens were not previously enrolled in programs but expressed interest and signed up to learn more about RPCA opportunities. Parents received free laundry detergent, and teens took home giveaways—including Great Waves Waterpark passes and info on local resources.



- On June 27, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted its annual **Senior 4th of July Cookout**, featuring music by DJ Jerome Copper, line dancing, games, giveaways, and a delicious spread of barbecue, sides, and refreshments. The event was held in partnership with the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, America Restaurant Group, Jen Walker & Associates, and McArthur Myers.



Program Updates:

- On June 27, The Alexandria Police Department hosted a **community cookout** at William Ramsay Recreation Center, featuring food, activities, vendors, and representatives from various City departments sharing resources and information. The event was a great success, drawing over 300 community members, families, and friends to the facility.



- On June 28, William Ramsay Recreation Center, in partnership with A.L.I.V.E., hosted a successful **food distribution and health fair**, serving over 350 community members.
- On June 28, Youth Sports took part in the **MARPSA track meet** at the Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, MD, competing in both track and field events. Alexandria athletes earned first place in 21 events.

Upcoming Events:

- On July 17, The Alexandria Library will host a special event at William Ramsay Recreation Center called ***Animal Encounters: Amazing Adaptations*** with Bar C Ranch. This engaging program features five or more animals from around the world, teaching young attendees about habitats, diets, and the unique adaptations that help these animals thrive in the wild. The event is free and open to the public!

Special Features:

- In June, Old Town Pool received **new filtration media** and other internal repairs to its two water filtration tanks, resulting in safe, sparkling water for swimmers.



- In July, the Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility team successfully completed its very first **annual drain and clean**. Annual closures for pools are a national best practice; draining and deep cleaning help preserve the pools' lifespans, protect equipment, and ensure water quality and safety for everyone. The Alexandria Fire Department jumped in to assist with refilling the pools.



- On July 8, **Accessibility Improvement construction** began at Chinguapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. The Facility is open during initial construction, will close from August 9 – September 21 for significant construction, and final construction is expected to be completed on January 31, 2026. Improvements Include:
 - A new accessibility lift in the main lobby
 - A more accessible front desk
 - Additional family changing rooms
 - A new lifeguard office

Staff Updates:

Mrs. Lucresha Murphy-Tate has been hired as the new Recreation Manager II at the William Ramsay Recreation Center. With over 20 years of exemplary leadership in recreation management, community partnerships, and public service, Lucresha, in her new role, will continue to lead with vision and dedication—expanding accessible recreation opportunities, streamlining operations, and fostering strong partnerships that make a meaningful difference.

Mrs. Monica Clark-Phillips has been hired as a Recreation Leader III at the William Ramsay Recreation Center. In this position, Monica will use her years of experience as a Recreation Professional to aid the facility in achieving its overall goals by serving as a Manager on Duty.

Natalie Smart has been elected as Vice President of Public Relations for Toastmaster International, City of Alexandria Distinguished Club Chapter.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 17, 2025

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM 3.a.: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE
PARK SERVICES

PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief

Capital Improvement Project Summary Update

- July Park Planning & Capital Development Report, Park Services (*Attachment 2*)

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

- Colasanto Park (active construction)
- Holmes Run Trail Site 1 – construction contract awarded. Notice to proceed August 1
- Holmes Run Trail Site 2 & 3 – construction. Anticipated opening mid-August
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction – partial/lower field reopened)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Lee Center Eastern Parking Lot (active construction for pool backfill)
- Witter Fields Rectangular Fields (site inventory and active construction)
- Four Mile Run Park Rectangle Field (July – turf renovation)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (July - center portion for active construction)
- Ewald Park Basketball Court (July – court repairs)
- Four Mile Run Park Futsal Court (late July – court repairs)
- Windmill Hill Basketball Court (July – court repairs)
- Hillside Park (partially closed in mid to late July for path improvements)
- Chinquapin Park Playground (partially closed due to vehicle related incident)
- Four Mile Run Park – Commonwealth Ave. - Kayak Launch construction (partially closed)

- Upcoming Closures:
 - Lee Center Miracle Field (tentative August – surface replacement)
 - Fort Ward Playground (starting Fall - renovation)
 - Four Mile Run Park –Edison St. (starting Fall - Flood Action Alexandria project)
 - Hume Springs Park (starting October – Flood Action Alexandria project)

Brenman Park Trail Improvements

Project Manager: Jesse Van Wick, Urban Planner III

RPCA has entered into a PARKnership agreement with a representative from the Virginia Walkability Action Institute (VWAI). The organization has procured a \$9,000 grant to be used towards the purchase of elements to enhance the trail near the dog park and volleyball courts in Ben Brenman. The community survey is complete and RPCA/VWAI are working towards the purchase of **plant material** and **fitness equipment** as a result. The grant funding must be spent by September 1, with the project installation to follow as aligned with other capital improvements in that area.

Washington Street Median Improvements Project

Project Manager: Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner III

This project involves the renovation of the three center medians along Washington Street to enhance their visual appeal. Key improvements include a complete irrigation system overhaul, ensuring all three medians have operational irrigation. The long-term planting plan features summer-blooming hydrangeas as the primary massing plant, complemented by Coneflowers and Liatris on the outer endcaps, and Allium on the inner endcaps. Seasonal Vinca annuals (white/pink mix) will be planted for 2025 to provide color and fullness during this growing season. These updates aim to create a cohesive, attractive landscape that improves both the aesthetics and sustainability of the medians.

cc: Derek Claytor, Division Chief, Park Maintenance
 Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief Natural Resources
 Tonja Walls, Division Chief, Park Support
 Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief Park Planning & Capital Development