

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

**Mt. Vernon Recreation Center**  
**2701 Commonwealth Ave.**

**Thursday, October 16, 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 September 18, 2025 Minutes
5. Items of Information
  - a. Introduction of Hanna Kemp, Urban Planner II, Park Planning Team  
Jose C. Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services
  - b. Potomac Yard Landbays G-B/E Update  
Jose C. Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services
  - c. FY 2027 Operating & CIP Budget Priorities
6. Next Meeting: November 20, 2025
  - a. Location to be Determined
7. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jack Browand at  
[Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto: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

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 16, 2025  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE

**OSTP School Year Update**

**Current 2025-26 School Year Enrollment:** 1336

Out-of-School Time programming is currently offered at 11 Afterschool Power-On sites, including two specialty programs: **Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG)** and **TR Achieving Greatness (TAG)**. Enrollment is expected to expand by September 2 with the launch of three new LINK Club locations—Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, and Francis C. Hammond Middle School—in partnership with ACPS.

**Partnerships & Collaborations:**

We are proud to partner with **ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and the Buddie Ford Nature Center**, each of whom provides valuable enrichment, academic support, and specialized programming at our Afterschool Power-On locations.

**Program Updates:**

- Throughout September, **Seniors Art Creation Day with Mrs. Terry** at Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center gave participants the chance to create fall-themed paintings, collages, and fabric art in a relaxing, inspiring setting that encouraged creativity and connection.



- On September 19, Leonard Chick Armstrong Recreation Center hosted a **Seniors Outing** that took participants to a local apple orchard for apple picking, hayrides, a pumpkin patch, corn mazes, and local vendors. Ten seniors and two staff enjoyed a day of social connection, recreation, and seasonal festivities in a scenic setting.



- On September 30, seniors from the Leonard Armstrong Senior Program joined the **Annual Senior Robust Walkathon**, sponsored by the SAC Committee. Participants showed great spirit and determination, highlighting their commitment to health, fitness, and community pride.



- On October 1, the **Mayor's Youth Forum** was held at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, led by Mayor Alyia Gaskins. The forum gives teens ages 14–18 a platform to share ideas and advice directly with the mayor. This session drew 79 participants, focusing on expanding opportunities to address community challenges.



- On October 2, Nannie J. Lee Center Recreation Center kicked off **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** with Fall Into Greatness through the Kids Day Out program. Students participated in yoga, creative art projects, and Magnificent Minds Monday, highlighting the many ways our minds work differently.



- On October 3, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted **Splash into Greatness** at the Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility. Families enjoyed warm-water swimming, lounging on the giant Lily Pad, rolling in the human hamster wheel, and live jazz. The event fostered a fun family atmosphere while promoting health, balance, and the vital life skill of swimming.



There's nothing like recreation without walls.

Extending beyond the Recreation Center, we visited two of our own Angels at Children's Hospital, bringing smiles and sensory kits. We



value each person's uniqueness and remain committed to promoting inclusion through community events, partnerships, and activities.

- On October 4, **Art on the Avenue** took place on the field of Mount Vernon Recreation Center, drawing thousands for the multicultural art festival. The event featured jewelers, glassmakers, sculptors, musicians, food vendors, and children's activities—showcasing creativity and culture for the entire community.

- On October 8, Minnie Howard launched the preschool **Tiny Titans** swim program. After last year's successful pilot, the learn-to-swim program has returned for the full school year. A family meet-and-greet was held to review the program and provide a Q&A with the Aquatics Manager and Head Lifeguard, who will also serve as the Water Safety Instructor.



- **Charles Houston Soulful Line Dance** – The nationwide craze has arrived at Charles Houston Recreation Center! Join us Monday nights for beginner classes at 6:30 p.m. and intermediate/advanced classes at 7:30 p.m.



- The Sports Section's first-ever **Breast Cancer Awareness 5K** was a great success, bringing together 44 participants, volunteers, and community supporters. The event raised awareness for breast cancer while promoting health, wellness, and community engagement. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and partners for making it possible—we look forward to building on this success in future events.



- On October 9, the Youth Activities Section supported the **Annual College and Career Fair** at ACHS. RPCA staff connected with teens to promote programs, services, and job opportunities, while sharing swag and collecting contact information to keep students engaged in future events.



- **Momentum Collective Inc.** has begun providing enrichment programming at Charles Barrett and Douglas MacArthur sites. They are currently teaching a modern/hip-hop fusion dance class for youth participants.
- Over the summer, **Youth Activities** partnered with **Capital One**, which hosted a coding program for teens in the Power-Up program. Capital One has since donated 23 Chromebooks used during the summer program to support ongoing Youth Activities initiatives.
- Our **Space of Her Own (SOHO)** mentoring program begins its **23rd season** next week with 26 new mentors and two interns. After four weeks of training on communication, healthy boundaries, cultural humility, and more, they are ready to begin supporting young girls in Alexandria.

Here's why a few mentors chose to serve:

- *"I want to be a positive, steady presence in a young girl's life and remind her she's capable of great things." — Amy*
- *"The women who mentored me shaped who I am today. Now I feel called to pay that forward." — Deja*
- *"Fifth grade is such a pivotal age. I'm excited to build a relationship and support a young girl during this time." — Katie*



- The Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center recently hosted **Back to Rec Night**. The event brought together 80–90 participants and families for an evening of games, arts and crafts, volleyball, and relay races. It fostered teamwork, laughter, and community spirit, with Leonard Armstrong staff leading activities and engaging participants throughout the night.



## Upcoming Events:

- **October 17 – National Bullying Prevention Month**  
Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted Bully-Free activities for OSTP youth in support of the Mayor's *Bully Free Starts with Me* campaign.
- **October 23 – Lights On Afterschool**  
All OSTP sites celebrated with specialty classes, STEAM, crafts, music, fitness, games, and guest speakers highlighting the importance of afterschool programs.
- **October (Ongoing) – MWEE Field Days**  
Buddie Ford Nature Center partnered with TES, the Climate Action Office, and ACPS for six field days at Ben Brenman Park, teaching 1,000+ seventh graders about watersheds, invasive species, and land use.
- **October 24 - Mount Vernon Family Masquerade Ball**  
Families enjoyed an evening of dancing, food, and haunted games.
- **October 24 – Charles Houston BooFest**  
Bounce houses, crafts, and *Trunk or Treat* filled the evening from 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- **October 25 – Chinquapin Floating Pumpkin Patch**  
The 10th annual event invited families to scoop pumpkins from the pool, 2–5:45 p.m.

## Special Features:

- We are excited to share a new partnership with Write Brain Books, founded by actress, author, and philanthropist Meredith Scott Lynn. This innovative literacy program offers wordless, illustrated books that encourage children and students of all ages to create and publish their own stories. Participants can write directly in the books, which may be printed as personalized hardcover or softcover editions—promoting creativity, confidence, and strong literacy skills.

## Staff Updates:

- Dena previously served as an Environmental Educator at the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center and as interim program manager for the *Space of Her Own* mentoring program. In her new role as Youth Services Coordinator, she will lead mentoring programs and community engagement initiatives to strengthen youth connections with caring adults and their community.



- The Community Engagement Team is excited to welcome **Dena Ahmed** as our new Youth Services Coordinator, along with two new PARKnership interns, **Hannah Lilly** and **Olivia “Lulu” Julian**. Both interns will be supporting our team 10 hours per week while completing their studies at George Mason University.
- For volunteer or partnership ideas, please contact **olivia.julian@alexandriava.gov**
- For sponsorship or fundraising opportunities, please contact **hannah.lilly@alexandriava.gov**



*Hannah (left) is majoring in Business with a minor in Accounting; Lulu (right) is majoring in Environmental Science.*

- The Youth Activities Section recognizes **Ms. LaTesha Lewis** of the John Adams Elementary Power-On program. She is praised by ACPS staff and OSTP colleagues for her dedication and positive impact on youth. We thank her for her hard work and commitment to the Out of School Time Program.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 16, 2025

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

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

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**PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT  
BETHANYZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF**

**Capital Improvement Project Summary Update**

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

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

- Colasanto Park (active construction)
- Holmes Run Trail Site 1 - Dora Kelley Park (construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction restrooms only)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Four Mile Run Park Rectangle Field (turf renovation)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (active construction)
- Four Mile Run Park – Commonwealth Ave. - Kayak Launch construction (partially closed)
- Upcoming Closures:
  - Fort Ward Playground (starting October/November for renovation)
  - Four Mile Run Park – Edison St. (starting Fall - Flood Action Alexandria project)
  - Hooffs' Run Park between Oak and Walnut includes a tennis court - (starting Fall – storm sewer culvert replacement)

**Duke Street Open Space Analysis**

To inform the Duke Street Corridor Plan Update regarding Open Space needs, staff and Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C. are conducting an open space analysis. This study assesses existing parks and open spaces, inventories recreational amenities, and identifies

opportunities to enhance access, equity, and connectivity along the corridor. The analysis provides updated data for the City's [ParkLink](#) application and benchmarks current and projected park needs for both 2025 and 2045 populations within the corridor.

The study area extends from the Landmark/West End development to Alexandria Union Station, encompassing approximately 268 acres of parks and open spaces across multiple typologies, including neighborhood and citywide parks, natural areas, and shared-use school sites. The open space analysis findings confirm that the Duke Street Corridor is well served by a range of amenities, including playgrounds, trails, athletic fields, and gathering areas. However, the analysis highlights the need for improved equitable access, particularly where certain playgrounds and facilities are restricted during school hours and identifies the limited availability of dedicated courts for pickleball and tennis.

Benchmarking against established City standards reveals only minor shortfalls relative to population-based amenity ratios. While most needs are currently met, future growth will place modest demand on certain facility types such as outdoor courts and multipurpose fields. The report emphasizes that connectivity, rather than quantity alone, will drive the most significant improvements in the overall recreation experience—particularly through enhanced pedestrian linkages, additional shade and seating, and mid-block crossings along Duke Street.

Recommendations focus on strengthening connections between existing parks, enhancing pedestrian comfort and safety, and addressing small-area park shortfalls identified near the corridor's boundaries. Coordination with ongoing transportation and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) improvements offers an opportunity to reimagine Duke Street as a linear, green corridor that promotes recreation, mobility, and community identity. The findings of this analysis will help guide RPCA's planning, investment, and capital improvement priorities for the Duke Street Corridor over the next two decades. (*Memo Attached*)

### **Powhatan Park Improvements**

The Powhatan Park Renovation, currently in the design phase, has involved close collaboration between City staff, the design consultant Gordon, and the City's Stormwater Division to develop and finalize a stormwater management plan that fully complies with all applicable regulatory requirements. In addition, ongoing coordination with Gordon has focused on refining key design elements, particularly the canopy structure, to ensure alignment with the overall vision and aesthetic of the park. Community engagement this fall includes a presentation to the Northeast Citizens Association on October 15 and an Open House event on Saturday, November 1. (*Site Plan Attached*)

## Forest Park Wayfinding Signage Installation

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance Forest Park, the City has installed over a dozen new wayfinding signs along the trail from Chinquapin Park to Douglas MacArthur Elementary.

Signs are now in place at:

- Main entrances off Chinquapin Drive and Janney's Lane
- Secondary entrances from neighboring cul-de-sacs
- Key intersections along the trail

These improvements make it easier for visitors to explore Forest Park with confidence. The new signs highlight park guidelines while offering clear directions, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the trails safely and with ease.



## PARK MAINTENANCE DEREK CLAYTOR, DIVISION CHIEF

### Limerick Field Netting Replacement

From September 29-30, RPCA District 1 staff coordinated a comprehensive replacement of the perimeter netting at Limerick Field. Long Fence was contracted to replace the nets, due to the previous netting being in disrepair. The new netting ensures proper containment of field activities and prevents fly balls from escaping the field.



### Monroe Dog Park Gets a Facelift

Park Services resurfaced and restored Monroe Dog Park, next to Swings Coffee. This came after RPCA received concerns and requests from residents related to the deterioration of gravel, excess leaves, and entrance gate malfunctioning. In response, six District 2 staff members worked to replenish, spread, and smooth out the park supply of gravel, fixed the gates, cleared the leaves, and improved the general state of the dog park. The park was closed for half a day and has since re-opened to the public.



**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF**

**Putting Freshwater Mussels to Work**

Earlier this year, RPCA and Transportation & Environmental Services (TES) released freshwater mussels at Windmill Hill Park. This week, TES, with support from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service, added 9,600 more at Jones Point Park. Grown at a USFWS hatchery, the mussels were transported in coolers, placed in baskets, and released into the water. As natural filter feeders, freshwater mussels improve water quality by removing algae and reducing turbidity—one mussel can filter 8–15 gallons a day and live up to 60 years.



Attached:

1. CIP Project List
2. Duke Street Corridor Plan Memo
3. Four Mile Run Park Habitat Restoration Areas Memo
4. Powhatan Park Restoration Site Plan

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

# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



October 16, 2025

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Lee Center Basketball Court Surface Repairs	This project will repair the court surface to address existing cracks.	The project is substantially complete. The Contractor will complete the punch list items in mid October.	Warranty	District 1	06/02/25	Daniel Unkle
2 Old Town Pool Replacement Design	This project will include planning and design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.	Design ongoing. A community meeting was held on September 16. Preliminary site plan submitted in September 2025 and is under agency review. Design to continue through summer 2026.	Design	District 1	08/31/26	Jack Browand
3 Four Mile Run West Field Turf Renovation	This project will remove the remaining sod, amend the soil, fine grade the site, and re-sod the field.	The natural grass restoration work is substantially complete and the project is now in the establishment phase. The irrigation system repairs are complete and the field will grow in through the fall.	Implementation	District 1	09/30/25	Derek Claytor
4 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Construction completion has been adjusted to December due to weather delays. Construction is in progress with focus on the fountain vaults at this stage. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy and Virginia American Water continues and power is anticipated to be provided in October. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway-projects">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway-projects</a>	Implementation	District 2	12/19/25	Bethany Znidersic
5 Fort Ward Park Playground Construction	This project will construct the approved playground renovation design	Purchasing completed due diligence for the Invitation to Bid and awarded the construction contract to Stevens Construction Corporation based out of Annandale, Virginia. Construction will begin this fall, with completion anticipated by Summer 2026. A community pre-construction meeting (virtual) was held on September 29. The playground will be closed during construction. Construction updates will be available here: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects</a>	Implementation	District 2	03/13/26	Judy Lo
6 Four Mile Run Water Access	This Community Matching Fund project, with the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, will provide a new accessible water access (kayak launch) at the end of Commonwealth Ave.	Major construction is now complete, and structural inspections are ongoing. An initial walkthrough has been completed, and a punch list has been created. The contractor is addressing these items, with the facility anticipated to open later this fall. The Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of this community partnership project. New signage will also be installed outlining the rules and regulations for use of the kayak launch, which is designed for small, non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/25	Judy Lo
7 Simpson Park Renovation Construction	Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project	The demolition work is mostly complete and work to prepare for full construction activities is in progress. The second phase of utility relocation work is in the permit stage. Please see the project website for more information regarding portions of the park that will be closed and project updates: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan</a>	Implementation	District 2	09/30/26	Bethany Znidersic
8 George Mason Recreational Space	This project will fund a full sized gym, dedicated RPCA storage and office space, as well as outdoor accessible restrooms for the new George Mason facility.	Alexandria City Public Schools is currently in the construction phase for the George Mason Elementary School Modernization Project. The project Development Special Use Permit was approved at the City Council public hearing on May 17. Please see the ACPS website for more information: <a href="https://gm.acps.k12.va.us/about/facility-modernization-maintenance">https://gm.acps.k12.va.us/about/facility-modernization-maintenance</a>	Design	District 2	08/03/26	Bethany Znidersic
9 Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	Construction is in progress. The lower field, parking lot, upper field, playground and batting cages are open for community use. The park restrooms will be complete in late 2026 and will be fenced for safety until complete. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation</a>	Implementation	District 3	10/01/25	Bethany Znidersic
10 Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	Purchasing completed due diligence for the Invitation to Bid and awarded the construction contract to Stevens Construction Corporation based out of Annandale, Virginia. Construction will begin this fall, with completion anticipated by Summer 2026. A community pre-construction meeting (virtual) was held on September 29. The playground will be closed during construction. Construction updates will be available here: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects</a>	Implementation	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo
11 Ewald Park Improvements	This project will implement the 2025 Park Improvement Plan recommendations	Procurement is near complete for the design services and the consultant will be hired this fall. The Office of the Arts initiated the public art project and formed the Public Art Task Force, which held its first meeting in September. The Public Art Task Force will meet again in October to finalize the public art workplan.	Design	District 3	02/16/27	Judy Lo
12 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.	Site 1, Dora Kelley Park, is under construction. The site access ramp was installed, trees removed and culvert repair completed. Shoreline preparation to begin. Anticipated completion is October 2026.  Site 2 (west I-395 bridge) and Site 3 (Ripley crossing) were opened to the public September 22.	Implementation	District 3	10/30/26	Jack Browand

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 16, 2025

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** JOSE CARLOS AYALA, PRINCIPAL PLANNER  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

**THROUGH** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

**SUBJECT:** DUKE STREET CORRIDOR PLAN UPDATE – COMMUNITY FEEDBACK  
OPPORTUNITY

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### **Overview**

The Duke Street Land Use Plan is currently in the Consult phase where the City is gathering feedback, developing plan principles, and updating boards and commissions. The plan includes draft principles for Land Use + Design, Mobility + Safety, Parks + Open Space, Housing, Sustainability, and Health. A community meeting was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, to gather resident feedback on the draft principles, including parks, open spaces, and neighborhood amenities within the Duke Street corridor.

### **Community Feedback Summary**

Residents expressed a strong desire for the creation of new neighborhood-serving parks and accessible green areas that provide recreational, social, and cultural opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities. These future spaces are envisioned to complement the existing park network while strengthening connections between neighborhoods and public open spaces.

Community input also highlighted the importance of incorporating a diverse range of amenities to support both active and passive recreation, social gatherings, and community events. Integrating open space planning with broader goals—such as walkability, safety, and community health—was identified to ensure that parks and open spaces serve as vital hubs of daily life along the corridor.

### **Ongoing Engagement**

The community is encouraged to provide feedback on the plan's draft principles. An online community feedback opportunity remains available through Thursday, October 23, 2025, on the Engagement Hub, accessible via the Duke Street Land Use Plan webpage or directly at: [alexandriava.mysocialpinpoint.com/september25](http://alexandriava.mysocialpinpoint.com/september25).

The next interactive engagement opportunity, Community Meeting #3, will take place on Thursday, October 23, 2025, focusing on Mobility and Housing. The meeting will be held in person at the Patrick

Henry Recreation Center (4653 Taney Ave.) from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., with an online option via Zoom (registration available on the project webpage). Updates will be shared through eNews, WhatsApp, and community group communications.

### **Next Steps**

The engagement process underscores the community's commitment to inclusive planning. As the Duke Street Land Use Plan advances, community feedback will be critical to ensuring resident priorities shape the proposed plan and enhance the overall livability of the corridor.

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2025

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: RAYCHEL FRYE, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGER, PARK SERVICES  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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

TONJA WALLS, DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: FOUR MILE RUN PARK HABITAT RESTORATION AREAS

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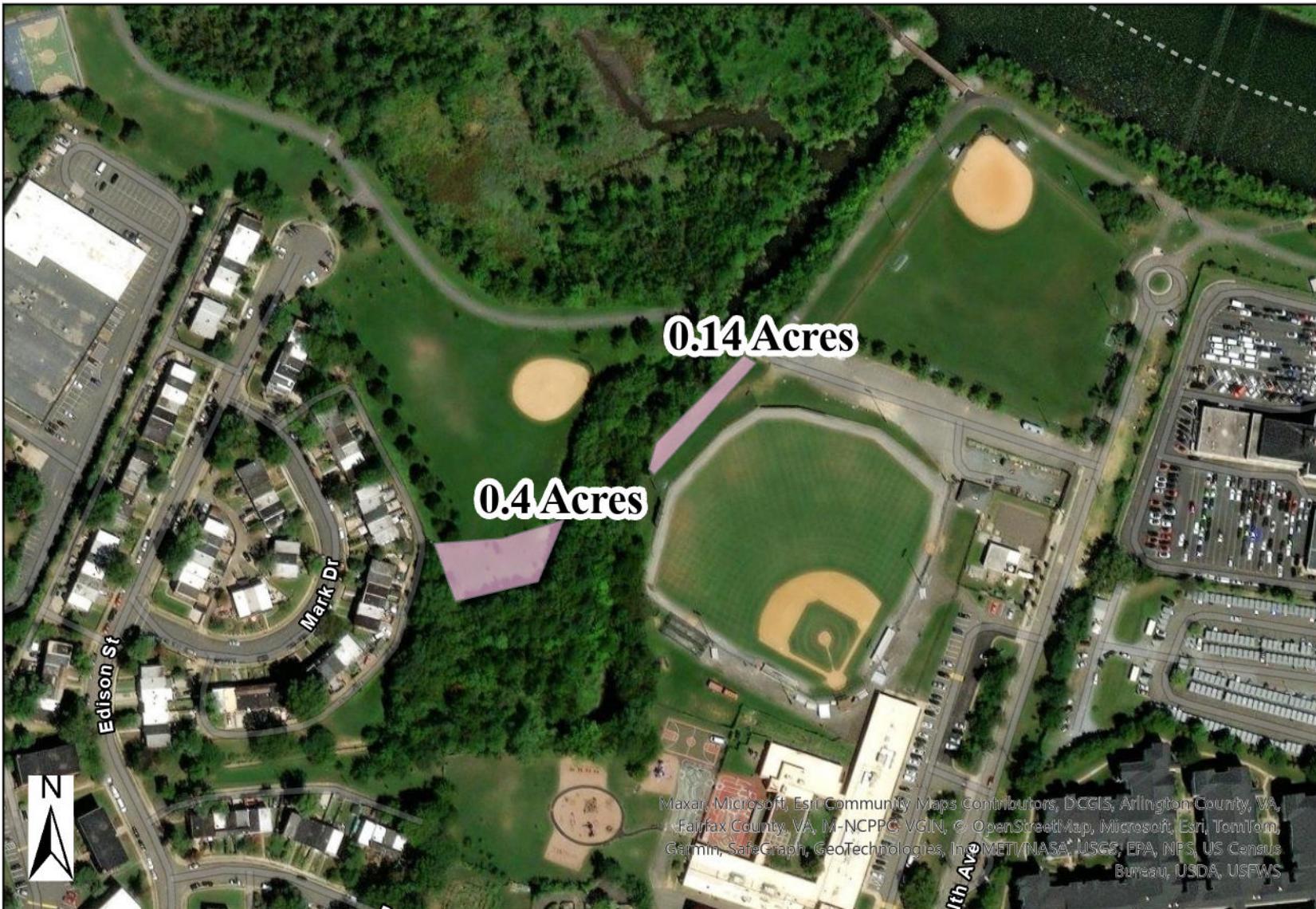
The City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) Natural Resource Division has coordinated with the Alexandria Beautification Commission (ABC) and the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation (FMRCF) to implement a pilot program with focus on ecological restoration in Four Mile Run Park (FMRP). Two sections along the forest buffer have been chosen for expansion of the natural area and will be known as habitat restoration areas (HRA), see attached map. Methods used include natural regeneration and assisted restoration, with annual assessments to measure the success of each management strategy. This pilot program is aimed at advancing the ecological restoration goals outlined in the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan that was approved by the City Council.

Threats such as nonpoint- source pollution, soil compaction, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species near Four Mile Run pose increasing risks to this sensitive riparian corridor.

Scientific research has shown that such pressures contribute to the degradation of biodiversity and ecological function in urban streams and wetlands. FMRP is a critical component of the Potomac River watershed. It contains remnant tidal wetlands and forested buffers that provide stormwater filtration, wildlife corridors, and critical habitat for native plants and migratory birds. The HRA project would protect and enhance these functions while building public support and engagement.

The RPCA Natural Resource Division will work with city contractors and maintenance staff for mapping, scheduling, markings and signage to ensure the two sections are clearly delineated and cared for. ABC, FMRCF, and Arlington Regional Master Naturalist (ARMN) volunteers will monitor the plots, collect seeds, plant natives, invasive management, and develop outreach material with guidance from the RPCA's Natural Resource Division. Temporary fencing and signage will be posted along each plot with plans to remove the fencing once the HRA's are established and install permanent interpretive signage. A soft trail will be maintained between the larger plot and forested buffer, with interpretive signs explaining the process of successional forests. As the HRA's develop and establish themselves, management strategies may adjust with the best interest of the park, native biodiversity and community. Any major changes or updates that may occur will be shared with your community. For additional information, please contact the RPCA Natural Resource Manager, Raychel Frye, at 703.746.4651 or [raychel.frye@alexandriava.gov](mailto:raychel.frye@alexandriava.gov).

CC: Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief, Park Services



## Habitat Restoration Areas in Four Mile Run Park



POWHATAN PARK CONCEPT

SCALE: 1" = 20'  
0 5 10 20 40 60 80 100

 **Gordon**