

City of Alexandria

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ADOPT A PARK PROGRAM

The Adopt-a-Park program brings together Virginia, the City of Alexandria, and local residents to care for small urban parks and open spaces, keeping them clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone.



WHO

Open to established community or public organizations, businesses, government agencies & individuals located within the City of Alexandria. Groups must have a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) & be able to accept payment. Those unable to do so are not eligible to participate.



WHAT

Groups collect litter (e.g. paper, plastic, glass, aluminum & other debris) in their assigned park at least once a week. Gloves, trash pickers & trash bags can be provided upon request. Please report hazards, overflowing trash cans, or illegal dumping to the program manager or Alex311. Securely tied trash bags can be left by the nearest receptacle.



WHERE

Any RPCA-managed park or green space is eligible for adoption. Areas can range from 0.1 to 20 acres, depending on your group's level of commitment. Parks are offered on a first-come, first-served basis & can only be adopted by one group at a time.

Find parks managed by RPCA!



WHEN

The program runs annually from April 1–November 30. Groups commit to weekly cleanups & report their efforts using an online log form. A City official conducts monthly inspections & evaluates litter conditions. Monetary awards are distributed at the beginning of the following year.



WHY

Each year, RPCA receives funding through the VA DEQ Litter Prevention & Recycling Grant to support the Adopt-A-Park program. These funds help groups care for parks, fund activities, or make improvements like benches, playgrounds, landscaping & scholarships—keeping parks clean, safe & welcoming for all.



HOW

City officials conduct monthly inspections from April–November, scoring each park up to 12 points. Scores are divided into four categories: paper, plastic, glass & aluminum — each worth up to three points. Up to three pieces of litter per category reduce the score by one, with the first two pieces allowed as grace. Heavily littered areas score zero. Missed weeks incur a 0.25-point deduction & failure to submit logs counts as zero for the month. Monetary awards are based on available grant funds, the size of the adopted area, & total seasonal points.



Apply Today! →



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