

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting

Patrick Henry Recreation Center
4653 Taney Avenue

Thursday, January 15, 2026
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 November 20, 2025 Minutes
5. Items of Information
 - a. Community Matching Fund Presentation
Judy Lo, Principal Planner, Park Services
 - b. Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy - Update and Timeline for Stakeholder Feedback
Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services
6. Next Meeting: February 19, 2026
 - 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: JANUARY 15, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE

Program Wrap-ups:

- On December 11, the **Girls Volleyball League** concluded a highly successful season. Penn State was crowned champion of the American League, while Duke claimed the National League championship title. Congratulations to all teams, coaches, and participants on an outstanding season.



- On December 20, the **Teen Winter Pool Jam** made a splash with music, friends, and nonstop fun in the pool. Staff from across Recreation Services collaborated to help make the event an unforgettable night for teens



- Chinquapin celebrated its **40th Anniversary** throughout the month of December with class demonstrations, party package and class raffles, free admissions, “I Love Chinquapin” postcards, and a walk down history lane in the lobby.



- ACHS Senior Alex Morris successfully completed his **Eagle Scout project** in service to RPCA. With tremendous support from Shawn Miller, Alex and his team of volunteers laid about 4 tons of mulch, picked up around 300 pounds of trash, and replaced the wooden edges of the Chinquapin Nature Trail. Director Taylor took the time to thank Alex personally at a recent visit to the restored trail.



- Buddie Ford Nature Center staff and volunteers participated in the **126th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count**, the world’s longest-running formal wildlife census. Data collected from this event serves as a valuable resource to government agencies and researchers.



Program Update:

- Space of Her Own mentees eagerly anticipated Match Night on December 9 and 10, when they learned which female mentor they were paired with. During the reveal, mentors and mentees opened matching picture envelopes to find their partners. One mentee shared her excitement, noting both nervousness and joy, confident she would be matched with someone kind. In addition to gaining individual mentors, SOHO mentees continue to be supported by a strong network of caring adults.



Updates from Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center

- During this month's **STEM activity**, participants engaged in hands-on experiments that promoted curiosity, problem-solving, and teamwork. They explored building and testing concepts while asking questions, making predictions, and celebrating their results together.



- **Winter Camp** provided a warm and engaging close to 2025 and a positive start to the new year. Campers reconnected with friends and staff while enjoying the Cozy Winter Camp theme through indoor creative activities, collaborative projects, and group celebrations, including a sensory Full Inclusion Time party.



- The **new year** began with a welcoming return from winter break, as participants reflected on their goals through vision boards, paintings, and writing activities that encouraged creativity and motivation.



- On January 8, **National Bubble Day** was celebrated with hands-on bubble experiments and activity stations, allowing participants to explore the science of bubbles through colorful creations, giant wands, and interactive play, creating a fun and memorable experience.



Upcoming Events:

- The **Alexandria Mentoring Partnership** (AMP) is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026. They will be recognized at the City Council meeting on January 13 where January will be proclaimed Alexandria Mentoring Month. In honor of Alexandria and National Mentoring Month, AMP is hosting three Mentoring 101 Information Sessions (January 15, 24, 28) and will have special display tables featured at four libraries throughout the City (Charles E. Beatley Central Library, Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, James M. Duncan Branch Library, and Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library) through the end of January.

Special Features:

- Work on **summer hiring** is already underway, with the first summer-ready lifeguarding class held in December. Five candidates learned life-saving skills to become job-ready at Alexandria pools.



Staff Updates:

- On December 22, the first annual RPCA Lifeguard Olympics took place, featuring a friendly competition between Chinquapin and Minnie Howard. Lifeguards put their rescue skills, swimming ability, and teamwork to the test, highlighting the athleticism and growing camaraderie across the aquatics team. Aquatics leadership was proud to showcase the strength and professionalism of both crews.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES *9B*

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SUMMARY UPDATE

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

CLOSED OR PARTIALLY CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Colasanto Park (active construction)
- Holmes Run Trail Site 1 (construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction restrooms only)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (active construction)
- Fort Ward Playground (construction)
- Upcoming Closures:
 - Hoooffs' Run Park between Oak and Walnut includes a tennis court - (anticipated Feb. Mar. 2026 – storm sewer culvert replacement)

DUKE STREET LAND USE PLAN

The Planning Commission held a work session on January 6, 2026, at the Redella S. "Del" Pepper Community Resource Center, where staff discussed the draft Duke Street Land Use Plan. This session represented a milestone in the development of the plan, providing the Planning Commission with an opportunity to review progress to date, discuss key policy considerations, and offer early feedback to help shape the draft before further refinement and public engagement.

RPCA staff are actively working with Planning and Zoning staff to evaluate the Duke Street Open Space Analysis and identify potential high-level planning principles to guide future park,

open space, and recreational recommendations within the corridor. These preliminary principles are being developed to align land-use decisions with open-space needs and community goals and may be presented at the work session to inform the Planning Commission's discussion. Staff will continue to coordinate across departments and will keep the Park and Recreation Commission informed as these concepts evolve and as the Duke Street Land Use Plan moves forward.

FOUR MILE RUN PARK KAYAK LAUNCH

The Four Mile Run Kayak Launch celebrated its soft opening on December 4, 2025, and is now open for public use. A grand opening celebration will follow in the spring, offering guided activities and an opportunity for the community to explore the new waterfront access.

This project is a partnership between the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation and the City of Alexandria. The new launch provides the first ADA-compliant public paddling access to the Potomac River, opening the waterway to residents of all ages and abilities. Visitors can now experience Four Mile Run and the Potomac up close—paddling, birdwatching, or simply enjoying the views from the floating dock.

A raised boardwalk connects the Four Mile Run Trail to a gangway and floating dock, designed with ADA-compliant slopes and level landings so that visitors using mobility devices can access the water safely and comfortably. The project was funded in part by a FY 2023 Community Matching Fund award and reflects strong community support and local stewardship of the stream corridor.



PRGS - WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS IN OLD TOWN NORTH

The National Park Service (NPS) is inviting residents, trail users, and community stakeholders to participate in an important planning effort that will shape future trail, safety, and waterfront improvements near the Old Town North neighborhood. This initiative focuses on enhancements along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, the Mount Vernon Trail, and the Potomac River waterfront in connection with the proposed redevelopment of the former coal-fired power plant site. Public input gathered through this process will help guide design priorities that emphasize safety, accessibility, and expanded recreational use for all users.

A virtual public meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2026, where community members can share their feedback live via Zoom or by phone. In addition to the meeting, the NPS is accepting

comments from January 12 through February 12, 2026, giving everyone an opportunity to weigh in on proposed features such as new trail connections, widened trail sections, improved river overlooks, redesigned intersections with enhanced bike lanes and crosswalks, and expanded public spaces that strengthen connections between the waterfront and surrounding neighborhoods.

Participation in this process will help ensure that the final plan reflects community needs and supports a safer, more enjoyable experience for people who live, work, and recreate in Alexandria. All feedback received during the meeting and comment period will be considered as the planning process advances. <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/news/share-your-thoughts-about-trail-safety-and-waterfront-improvements-in-old-town-north.htm>

RPCA RESPONDS TO SEASON'S FIRST SNOW EVENT

Between Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5, Park Services responded to the first snow event of the season by pre-treating high traffic areas throughout Alexandria prior to snowfall and conducting snow removal operations. RPCA prioritized schools, recreation centers, warming centers, overpasses and commuter trails. Using approximately 20 staff, RPCA successfully treated and cleared nearly 50 locations of snow and ice.



GIRL SCOUTS GIVE GREEN SPACE A GLOW UP

Girl Scout Troop 60258 proudly volunteered through RPCA's Adopt-A-Park program to help maintain the green space surrounding the Oswald Durant Center and Jefferson Houston Elementary School. From April through November 2025, 15 young scouts along with friends and family dedicated a combined 18 hours to picking up trash and ensuring the area remained clean, welcoming, and enjoyable for the community. "Our scouts believe in giving back," shared the troop leader. "One of the Girl Scout Laws is to use resources wisely and make the world a better place. "We take pride in cleaning up after ourselves and leaving every space better than we found it", she asserted. Troop 60258 will use awarded funds to support enriching experiences for scouts, including STEM activities, camping trips, arts and crafts, and more continuing their mission of learning, leadership, and community impact.



EUGENE SIMPSON STADIUM PARK RENOVATION

Construction began this fall at Simpson Park to implement the recommendations outlined in the 2014 Improvement Plan, as amended in 2021 and formally approved in 2023. Demolition of the existing ball fields and the required tree removals has been completed. Utility relocation work along East Monroe Avenue is underway and will continue through the winter. Please note that temporary traffic pattern adjustments will be necessary to support this work. Installation of the retaining walls along the dog park, as well as the new below-grade dugouts and grandstand bleachers, has begun. As winter progresses with cold weather impacts, new construction activities will be conducted with extra safety measures to protect contractors and work in place until conditions allow work to resume. Significant excavation operations are underway to support installation of the synthetic turf field at Big Simpson. Construction at Little Simpson is also scheduled to begin shortly to ensure the field can be planted in time for the Spring 2026 growing season.



WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY AT WINDMILL HILL PARK

Between December 30 to January 5, Park Services completed several maintenance and improvement activities at Windmill Hill Park. This included a major driftwood and debris cleanup conducted throughout the park, shoreline, and both kayak ports. Six large steppingstones were installed to improve shoreline access for ongoing debris and driftwood removal. Leaves and gumballs were cleared from the park and playground areas, and debris pickup was successfully coordinated with T&ES.

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

Attachment: Active Projects Report

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



January 15, 2026

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Community Matching Fund	The Community Matching Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among Alexandria community organizations by providing matching dollars for groups that propose fundraising for park improvement projects. The Fund is designed to foster public/private partnerships and cultivate innovative ways for residents to have a greater stake in improving the park and recreation facilities that they use. Community groups interested in receiving matching funds will compete for grant aid amounts up to \$50,000	Staff completed the technical reviews for each of the projects. The projects will be presented to the Park and Recreation Commission on January 15, and a public hearing is scheduled for February 19. The following projects will be considered: 1. Scoreboard at Brenman Softball Field 2. Skate and Upgrade - Duke Upgrade 3. Pergola and seating area expansion in the Dale Street Community Garden Two projects were withdrawn at the request of the applicant: Holmes Run Park Enhancements and Witter Softball Field Press Box	Initiation	Citywide	02/19/26	Judy Lo
2 Duke Street Corridor Open Space Study	The study will gather open space data, including amenity information, and update the park and recreation data for the City of Alexandria ParkLink application. The data will be analyzed to identify the needs of the Duke Street Corridor open space system.	The RPCA team met with Planning and Zoning's Neighborhood Planning and Development Review teams to review submitted comments and clarify outstanding questions regarding the analysis needed to develop recommendations for the Duke Street Land Use Plan, which is anticipated to go to final approval in early 2027. At this time, the RPCA team is coordinating comments with the consultant. The team anticipates completing the final analysis in mid-February 2026.	Implementation	Citywide	02/13/26	Jose Ayala
3 Lee Center Rear Parking Lot Repaving	This project will re-pave the rear parking lot to include milling, striping and curb and gutter repairs.	The scope of work has been developed for the contract and stakeholder input will be collected to minimize construction impacts. Work is anticipated to occur this spring. TES and the contractor have been notified.	Planning	District 1	06/01/25	Jesse Van Wick
4 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 spring of 2026.	Warranty	District 1	06/02/25	Daniel Unkle
5 Old Town Pool Replacement Design	This project will include planning and design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.	Design work for the pool replacement project is ongoing. The project was presented at the Board of Architectural Review on January 7, 2026. Design completion is anticipated summer 2026.	Design	District 1	08/31/26	Jack Browand
6 Powhatan Park Improvements (Phase 1)	Implementation of the Neighborhood Park Plan recommendations #3, #6, #7, #8 and #9. https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/neighborhood-plan=powhatan.pdf	The Design Services task order has been awarded and the purchase order has been issued. The design consultant is working on the project design and stormwater management approach. Check for project updates on the project webpage: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/powhatan-park-improvements-project	Design	District 1	06/14/28	Daniel Unkle
7 Robinson Landing Promenade Railings	Fabricate and install new safety railings along the Waterfront promenade between Duke and Wolfe St. (FY21 carryover)	Installation of railings is complete.	Complete	District 1	02/28/25	Jack Browand
8 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Construction is in progress with completion of the fountain vaults in December. Work on the fountain plumbing and plaza surface are the major activities in January. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy and Virginia American Water is ongoing. Please see the project website for more information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway	Implementation	District 2	12/19/25	Bethany Znidersic
9 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.	The Kayak Launch held a soft opening on December 4, 2025 and is now open for public use. The Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the spring to celebrate completion of this community partnership project.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/25	Judy Lo
10 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. Please see the ACPS website for more information: https://gm.acps.k12.va.us/about/facility-modernization-maintenance	Design	District 2	08/03/26	Bethany Znidersic
11 Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	Invasive plant control activity, which includes tree removal and brush removal, is planned for this winter, weather permitting. Work will target english ivy, tree of heaven and mulberry. Additional treatments will be planned throughout 2026. Replacement plantings are on-going throughout the 2026 planting seasons.	Close-out	District 2	12/17/25	Judy Lo
12 Simpson Park Renovation Construction	Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project	The contractor is installing the park retaining walls, dugout foundations, bleacher foundations, and light pole bases. Approvals have been received for utility work and those components will begin in the coming weeks. Please see the project website for more information regarding portions of the park that will be closed and project updates: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-field-renovation-plan	Implementation	District 2	09/30/26	Bethany Znidersic
13 Ewald Park Improvements	This project will implement the 2025 Park Improvement Plan recommendations	The Call for Artists to design the gateway artwork will be released this winter. The purchase order and Notice to Proceed were issued to the consultant team, and the design phase kickoff meeting was conducted in early December. A site visit was also held with the DCR Land and Water Conservation grant administrator to review the City's grant application submission. The site data collection process will include on-site topographic surveying scheduled for the week of January 20, followed by tree inventory.	Design	District 3	02/16/27	Judy Lo
14 Fort Ward Park Playground Construction	This project will construct the approved playground renovation design	Demolition activities, including removal of the existing playground, and installation of erosion and sediment controls are now complete. Over the next month, major construction activities will include restoration of the former play area with reforestation plantings, installation of stormwater management systems, and preliminary grading. Consistent with the park's ground-disturbance protocols, all disturbed areas will be monitored by Alexandria Archaeology staff. Construction updates will be available here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects	Implementation	District 3	03/13/26	Judy Lo
15 Hensley Park and Holmes Run Park Invasive Species Removal	Invasive species removal program to address areas along Hensley Park that are outside of the renovation project limits.	The initial work was complete in the fall. Additional work will be scheduled as needed to address regrowth.	Close-out	District 3	01/02/26	Bethany Znidersic
16 Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	Construction has transitioned to the final punch list stage. The lower field, parking lot, upper field, playground and batting cages are open for community use. The park restrooms are substantially complete and final items are being addressed by the contractor. Please see the project website for more information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation	Implementation	District 3	12/31/25	Bethany Znidersic

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
17 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.	<p>Site 1, Dora Kelley Park, is under construction. Southside streambank restoration is complete and streambed restoration activities are underway. Work on the streambed continue and southside streambank restoration will begin the winter and spring of 2026. Culvert bridge installation and demolition of the former fair-weather crossing will occur spring and summer 2026. Anticipated completion is October 2026.</p> <p>Sites 2 , 3 and 4 are open to the public with continuous access from Eisenhower Ave. through N. Beauregard St.</p>	Implementation	District 3	10/30/26	Jack Browand