

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

**Charles Houston Recreation Center  
901 Wythe Street**

**Thursday, February 19, 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 January 15, 2026 Minutes
  - b. Public Hearing – Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy
    - i. Open Public Hearing – Chair
    - ii. Staff Presentation
      1. Public Comment
    - iii. Close Public Hearing – Chair
    - iv. Commission Discussion
    - v. Commission Action
  - c. Public Hearing – Community Matching Fund
    - i. Open Public Hearing – Chair
    - ii. Staff Presentation
      1. Public Comment
    - iii. Close Public Hearing – Chair
    - iv. Commission Discussion
    - v. Commission Action
5. Next Meeting: March 19, 2026
  - a. Location to be Determined
6. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Laura Durham at [Laura.Durham@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Laura.Durham@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:** FEBRUARY 19, 2026  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

**OSTP School Year Update:**

**Current 2025–2026 School Year Enrollment:** 1,330

Out-of-school time programming is offered at 12 Afterschool Power-On sites. This includes two specialty programs—Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG) and TR Achieving Greatness (TAG)—as well as three LINK Club locations (Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, and Francis C. Hammond Middle School), in partnership with ACPS.

OSTP pre-registration ended on Friday, February 6. A total of 505 pre-registrations were submitted for the Summer 2026 Power-On/Power-Up program. OSTP families are currently being contacted to confirm their registration before general registration opens on Wednesday, February 18, at 9:00 a.m. Summer registration will remain open until capacity is reached.

**Partnerships & Collaborations:**

We are proud to collaborate with ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and the Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners provide valuable enrichment opportunities, academic support, and specialized programming at Afterschool Power-On locations.

**Program Wrap-ups:**

- Alexandria’s **Learn to Swim program** made a splash at Chinquapin and Minnie Howard. During the first winter session, which ran from January through mid-February, 86 group swim classes were offered for participants of all ages, expanding access to water safety across the city.

- William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted a **community baby shower** on Friday, February 6, welcoming 122 attendees for refreshments, games, inspiring speakers, and giveaways. In partnership with Kid’s First Years, the event highlighted a shared commitment to supporting families and strengthening community connections.

The center also hosted a successful **Food Distribution** on Saturday, February 7, in partnership with A.L.I.V.E. Despite wind advisories and sub-20-degree temperatures, the event served more than 150 community members, providing essential resources to families in need.

- The Patrick Henry Center’s **Anime Society members** enjoyed a night out at Umiya Restaurant, experiencing Japanese cuisine and culture while strengthening friendships beyond the center.



### Program Updates:

- Track participants at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, under the direction of Coach Jason, have begun training and are working hard this season. While instilling discipline and a strong work ethic in our youth, Coach Jason is preparing participants to compete in the **City Track Meet** in May.

- The Space of Her Own (SOHO) mentoring program welcomed more than 100 guests to **Family Night** last week. Family engagement is crucial to the success of mentoring relationships and helps improve children’s social skills, behavior, and overall relationships. At SOHO, families not only connect with their child and her mentor through fun, educational activities (such as 3D pens), but also engaged with City resources, including RPCA summer camps, tax assistance, food resources, housing support, and more.



- On January 31, OSTP staff participated in a training led by Breyton Smith of **Be Better Consulting** focused on building stronger youth relationships through consistency, connection, and care. Staff also completed a forward-thinking SWOT activity centered on successes, improvement opportunities, innovation, and training needs to enhance OSTP programming. The day concluded with team competitions and staff recognition awards.

## Upcoming Events:

- On February 21, at 6:00 p.m., Charles Houston Recreation Center will host **the Black History Poetry Slam & Open Mic**, celebrating the legacy of influential poets and musicians by providing an opportunity for present and future artists to showcase their talent.



- On March 2, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host **Read Across America**. We will welcome special guest readers who will read to children and lead engaging activities. Read Across America is a nationwide reading celebration created by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1997 to promote literacy and encourage a love of reading among children.
- On March 13, the William Ramsay Recreation Center will host a **Teen Skate Night**. Skates and refreshments will be provided, and participants are welcome to bring their own skates. Join us for an evening of music, fun, and community as teens come together to skate, socialize, and enjoy a lively night out.

## Special Features:

- Funded by an NRPA grant, the **Inspire to Lead (ITL) program** is a group mentoring initiative led by RPCA's Community Engagement Team. Meeting Wednesdays from 6:15–8:00 p.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center and Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center (March 4–August 26), the program aims to reduce truancy and risky behaviors by connecting youth with trained mentors, individualized goal setting, life-skills development, enrichment activities, resource navigation, and incentive-based opportunities that support their success.

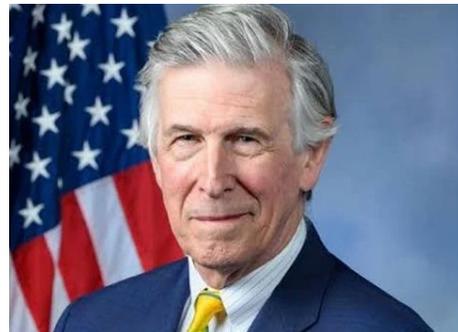
- On January 23, the Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility team led a collaborative **Water Safety training** for OSTP and TR staff in preparation for the summer season. The session focused on active supervision, drowning recognition, and life-saving skills, strengthening teamwork and enhancing camper safety at the pools.



- Construction on the new **lifeguard office** and two family changing rooms at the Chinquapin Aquatics Facility has been completed. These upgraded spaces are already being well utilized and greatly appreciated by patrons and staff, enhancing privacy, accessibility, and overall comfort while creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all.



- RPCA Director Taylor and the Parks team are partnering with **Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA)**, who represents Northern Virginia, including Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), to plan a memorial honoring the 67 individuals who lost their lives in the tragic January 29, 2025 collision involving American Airlines Flight 5342 and a U.S. Army PAT 25 helicopter at DCA. The memorial will be located in the northeastern section of Rivergate City Park in Alexandria, along the banks of the Potomac River.



## Staff Updates:

- Please join us in welcoming **Nancy Bailey** as the new Recreation Coordinator at Chinquapin. Nancy brings more than 15 years of aquatics experience, having served in teaching, coaching, and program administration roles. She is passionate about expanding access to swim instruction for beginners and believes that strong professional development for coaches and instructors is key to that success. Nancy is committed to delivering an exceptional experience for both our community and our staff.



# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 19, 2026

**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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### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE**

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

### **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:
  - Hooffs' Run Park between Oak and Walnut includes a tennis court - (start is anticipated February/March 2026 – storm sewer culvert replacement)

### **RPCA RESPONDS TO HISTORIC SNOW EVENT**

Beginning Saturday, January 24, Park Services responded to a historic snow event that impacted the region. Staff began pre-treating high traffic areas throughout Alexandria prior to snowfall and conducted snow removal operations at schools, recreation centers, warming centers, overpasses, commuter trails, and metro stations 24 hours a day for two weeks. Using approximately 20 staff, RPCA worked with Transportation and Environmental Services and contractors to clear 'snowcrete' from over 50 locations. Staff mobilized significant contractor support for the initial

response and continue to utilize contract services to clear snow and ice from park facilities, trails, parking lots, and other priority locations. The combined contractor deployment enabled RPCA to maintain continuity of operations during sustained winter conditions, accelerate snow clearing timelines, address refreeze mitigation needs, and augment internal workforce capacity during extended activation periods.

### **POTOMAC YARD TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS**

The Potomac Yard Trail is a heavily used component of the City’s trail network. Portions of the trail, including the area between South Main Line Boulevard and Howell Avenue, are close to activity areas and Potomac Avenue. In January, new striping was installed where pedestrians exit the courts and access the trail. The improvements support ongoing efforts to enhance safety and visibility along our multi-use trails for all users.



### **Duke Street Land Use Plan**

Duke Street is one of Alexandria’s most familiar corridors, but behind the scenes, it’s entering a once-in-a-generation moment. The **Duke Street Land Use Plan** is underway, updating a framework that hasn’t been revisited since the early 1990s. Rather than focusing on individual projects, the plan takes a big-picture look at how Duke Street should evolve, supporting mobility, housing, economic vitality, public spaces, and the daily experience of the people who use it.

The City is conducting ongoing community engagement, meeting people where they are through pop-ups, workshops, surveys, and online tools, making participation easier and more inclusive. All engagement materials, timelines, and opportunities are centralized on the City’s Duke Street Corridor Plan webpage, giving everyone a clear window into how ideas are shaping the plan. Duke Street is more than a roadway; it’s a corridor that connects parks, recreation centers, and neighborhoods.

**Learn more at:** [alexandriava.gov/DukeStreetPlan](http://alexandriava.gov/DukeStreetPlan)

- 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

Attachment: Capital Improvement Projects Report

# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



February 19, 2026

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Lee Center Rear Parking Lot Repaving	This project will re-pave the rear parking lot to include milling, striping and curb and gutter repairs.	An interdepartmental staff team met on site in January to confirm the scope of the project and assess the pavement condition. Full depth pavement replacement will be required and repairs to the concrete curbs will be included. Staff will coordinate a site survey in-house to develop the improvement plans.	Planning	District 1	06/29/26	Jesse Van Wick
2	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. 60% design was submitted to Planning & Zoning on February 9. City Council approval is anticipated in spring 2026 with design completion in summer 2026. Construction start is anticipated in winter 2027 with pool completion in late spring 2028.	Design	District 1	08/31/26	Jack Broward
3	Chinquapin Rec Center Elevator Upgrade	Replacement of the existing elevator with an interior lift and exterior elevator.	Interior renovations at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility are complete. A new front desk, new lifeguard office, and two new family changing rooms were added to the facility. In addition, a new ADA-compliant interior lift will replace the aging elevator and will be operational starting in February.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/25	Jenine Kotob
4	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Construction is in progress with installation of the fountain jets in January. Work on the fountain plumbing and plaza surface are the major activities in February. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy and Virginia American Water is ongoing. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/del-ray-gateway</a>	Implementation	District 2	05/29/26	Bethany Znidersic
5	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 May to celebrate completion of this community partnership project.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/25	Judy Lo
6	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 APCS 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
7	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: <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	AL Boothe Synthetic Turf Field Conversion	This project will convert the natural turf field in Armistead L. Boothe Park to synthetic turf.	The project team is working on final design and the 100% plans were submitted for approval in January. The procurement invitation to bid documents are in progress.	Design	District 3	04/01/27	Bethany Znidersic
9	Ben Brenman Picnic Area ADA Path	Provide improvements to create accessible pathway, grills, and picnic facilities, based on the plans developed in FY2017.	RPCA coordinated project needs with the interdepartmental team in February 2026. Final design approvals are anticipated in March and construction is planned for spring/summer 2026.	Design	District 3	04/01/26	Jesse Van Wick
10	Ewald Park Improvements	This project will implement the 2025 Park Improvement Plan recommendations	The Call for Artists to design the gateway artwork was released. Site survey was completed and the consultant began work on the schematic design. Staff continued to work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on the Land and Water Conservation Fund submission.	Design	District 3	02/16/27	Judy Lo
11	Fort Ward Park Playground Construction	This project will construct the approved playground renovation design	Playground underdrain systems were installed and major grading within the playground area are now complete. Due to weather related impacts from the snow, excavation and concrete work are delayed until conditions improve. Consistent with the park's ground-disturbance protocols, all disturbed areas will be monitored by Alexandria Archaeology staff. 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	03/13/26	Judy Lo
12	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: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation">alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation</a>	Implementation	District 3	02/23/26	Bethany Znidersic
13	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.	Work on the streambed continues and southside streambank restoration will begin the winter and spring of 2026. Bridge abutments are under construction and the concrete culvert bridge installation and demolition of the former fair-weather crossing will occur spring and summer 2026. Anticipated completion is October 2026.  Sites 2, 3 and 4 are open to the public with continuous access from Eisenhower Ave. through N. Bearegard St.	Implementation	District 3	10/30/26	Jack Broward