

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

Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St.
Thursday, April 16, 2026
7 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Chair
2. Council Member Visit: Councilman John Chapman
3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
4. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
 - a. Staff Report – Commissioner Comments
5. Youth Sports Advisory Board, Bill Cambell or representative
 - a. Sports Affiliate and Allocation Process Timeline – Laura
6. Action Items
 - a. Approval March 19, 2026, Minutes
 - b. Public Hearing - Old Town Pool Replacement Project
 - i. Open Public Hearing – Chair
 - ii. Staff Presentation
 1. Public Comment
 - iii. Close Public Hearing – Chair
 - iv. Commission Discussion
 - v. Commission Action
7. Items for Information
 - a. Update on Torpedo Factory - Diane
 - b. Spring and Summer Special Events - Diane
8. Next Meeting: May 21, 2026
 - a. Location TBD
9. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Laura Durham at 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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 16, 2026
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 25-26 School Year Enrollment: 1330

Current Summer 2026 Enrollment: 999

Out-of-school time programming is offered at 12 Afterschool Power-On sites, which include two specialty programs — Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG) and TR Achieving Greatness (TAG) and three 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 collaborate with ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and the Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners contribute valuable enrichment, academic support, and specialized programming at afterschool Power-On and LINK Club locations.

Program Wrap-ups:

- On March 17th, the Alexandria City High School National Art Honor Society partnered with the OSTP Program to host a fun and engaging **St. Patrick's Day activity**. Students led youth in creating edible art projects, combining creativity with hands-on learning in a festive environment.
- On March 23, the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center hosted a successful **Egg Hunt and Art Pop-Up event**. Participants enjoyed searching for over 300 eggs, followed by a creative

arts and crafts activity designed for families. Children ages 1–4, along with their parents and siblings, came out to enjoy a morning filled with fun and excitement. Despite the wind, the event was a joyful success that brought the community together.

- On March 26, **Alex Swim lessons** wrapped up at Minnie Howard with another successful session. Due to the high waitlist numbers, we were able to create 4 additional class offerings to provide more opportunities for the community.
- On April 1, youth in the Out-of-School Time Program at Mt. Vernon and Charles Barrett Recreation Centers enjoyed a fun-filled day of **spring break activities**. Highlights included a visit from the Sweet Frog truck, exciting egg hunts, and a competitive kickball game that brought energy and teamwork to the day.
- On April 2, the **City Cup Basketball League** came to an end, and congratulations to the Fire Department in their win over City Hall. This was the first sport of our City Cup Series, with softball up next.
- **Spring Break Camp** (March 30–April 3) and **April Powerful Fun Day** (April 6) were successfully held at John Adams Elementary School and Charles Barrett Recreation Center. Participants enjoyed engaging activities including a mobile planetarium, a performance by Groovy Nate, hands-on cooking sessions, frozen yogurt from the Sweet Frog Truck, and an egg hunt—promoting creativity, learning, and social interaction throughout the week. Now Hiring for Summer! RPCA hosted a Hiring Event on Thursday, April 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We are recruiting passionate individuals who are excited about supporting the well-being of others and creating meaningful experiences.
- During ACPS Spring Break, the Power-On Out of School Time program at William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted Powerful Fun Days with **Earth Month programming led by the Nature Center**. Youth explored topics like climate action, resource recovery, and stormwater through interactive activities, including generating energy by pedaling a bike to power a light bulb. The program was engaging and enjoyable for both participants and staff.



- Chinquapin made a splash with its **Underwater Egg Hunt**, bringing together kids of all ages for a high-energy, underwater adventure. From diving for eggs to egg-themed pool games, the event was filled with excitement and big smiles all around.



Program Updates:

- On March 26, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted **Teen Appreciation Night** featuring karaoke, a gaming truck, Nature Center activities, and a wing bar by Sapp's Yummy Catering.



The event was a success, helping build connections with teens in the West End community.

- On March 26, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center recognized **National Epilepsy Awareness Day** by inviting participants and staff to rock purple and engage in activities that promoted understanding, inclusion, and support for individuals living with epilepsy.



This observance also created meaningful opportunities to encourage inclusiveness, and reinforce creating safe, informed, and welcoming environments for all participants.

- On March 28, the Patrick Henry Center hosted its **annual Women's History Wellness Walk & Arts & Crafts Celebration** indoors due to inclement weather. The free, all-ages event featured a fitness walk, demonstrations like chair yoga and Essentrics, hands-on arts and crafts, and access to wellness resources—creating a fun, inclusive experience that promoted health, creativity, and community connection.



- On April 3, Inspire to Lead—a new West End mentoring program—held its first celebratory outing. Middle school participants earned a day of painting, a screening of *Zootopia 2*, and animal encounters at the Buddie Ford Nature Center. The experience-built confidence and gave mentees time to reflect on goals with their mentors.



- On April 3, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted a lively **Adult Bingo Night** led by Ron Rust. The well-attended event featured multiple rounds, with every participant winning a prize—highlighted by the popular free fitness pass.



- On April 23, the Youth Activities management team and MacArthur Power-On staff are collaborating with Douglas MacArthur Elementary School to host a **Transfer Fair**. The fair will provide DMES families with ACPS program updates and information about summer and school year Power-On opportunities. Staff will be present to answer questions about programming, registration, and available recreation and enrichment activities for youth.

- On March 31, we hosted “**Rolling Back to Rec**” as part of our Funtastic Spring Break Camp, where participants brought scooters, bikes, and other rolling items for an active afternoon. Campers enjoyed structured riding activities and peer interaction in a safe, supervised environment, building confidence while staying active and enjoying the spring weather.



Upcoming Events:

- **April 17:** Night of Stars at 6 p.m. at the Lee Center, celebrating OSTP participants through performances in spoken word, poetry, music, and dance.
- **April 18:** Ballet Dance Recital at 12 p.m. at the Lee Center, showcasing student performances.
- **April 18:** Miracle League Opening Day at 12:45 p.m. at the Miracle Field, kicking off the season with inclusive baseball programming.
- **April 25:** Le Brunch en Bleu from 12–4 p.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center, offering a community brunch experience.
- **April 25:** Alexandria Spring Invitational Cheer Competition at 2 p.m. at ACHS, featuring competitive cheer teams.
- **May 3:** Alexandria Youth Track & Field Meet at 2 p.m. at SSSAS, highlighting youth athletic talent.
- **May 9:** Football Field Day from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at GW, focused on skills, drills, and fun activities.
- **May 9:** Games and Fun 2.0 Training for OSTP staff, centered on engaging recreation strategies and group management.
- **May 15:** Power-On Literacy Night at Douglas MacArthur, featuring student read-aloud, literacy activities, and crafts.
- **May 30:** OSTP Summer Staff Training, preparing staff on program expectations, safety, and youth engagement.
- **May 31:** OSTP Spelling Bee, providing participants an opportunity to showcase spelling skills and build confidence.

Special Features:

- **Caring University**, a free learning institute for youth and the adults who support them, will launch on April 28, offering virtual and in-person sessions designed to equip caring adults with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to better support young people.

Staff Updates:

- We are pleased to announce the promotion of **Tarryn Lee** to Regional Program Director. In this role, Tarryn will provide direction and management of RPCA's Fee Classes, Camp Section, and the Oswald Durant Center. Tarryn has served as a Recreation Coordinator for the past three years and has also contributed her talents at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center. She brings a strong passion for programming and a commitment to serving the community.
- Minnie Howard is excited to announce the promotion of **Sierra McClintick** from pool operator to seasonal head lifeguard. She has been fully immersed in learning the MOD and

front desk operations as well as taking on more of a supervisory role over our guards, pool ops, and WSI's.

- On March 28, the Youth Activities Section held staff training where staff participated in **Conflict Resolution and Communication training** to strengthen teamwork, professionalism, staff-to-staff communication and to promote continuous learning.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 16, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

ITEM 4.a.: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE
PARK SERVICES

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

- April 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)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (active construction)
- Fort Ward Playground (construction)
- Lee Center Parking Lot South of the Miracle Field (construction)
- Upcoming Closures:
 - Hooffs' Run Park between Oak and Walnut includes a tennis court - (start is anticipated May/June 2026 – storm sewer culvert replacement)

Lee Center and Miracle Field Facility Improvements

Facility upgrades at the Lee Center have kicked off in April. The upgrades include a refreshed main entrance with updated landscape plantings, and the beginning of construction to transform the former mini pool area into flexible, accessible community spaces. In addition, renovations to the Miracle Field are planned this year, which also marks the facility's 15th Anniversary this fall. Recently, the "Angel's Alley" walking loop was upgraded with new accessible, slip resistance concrete. Additional improvements are scheduled for this summer including new surfacing and

other maintenance to help keep this special facility in top condition.

Four Mile Run Park Kayak Launch Grand Opening

The City of Alexandria and the Four Mile Run Conservancy will celebrate the grand opening of the new Four Mile Run Kayak Launch on Saturday, May 9, from Noon – 3:00 p.m. Remarks will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the event will include a ribbon cutting with City Council members, music, an art project with the Mobile Art Lab, and other activities. There is also a limited number of spaces for people to bring their own kayaks and use the new launch by registering through [Event Brite](#).

The Four Mile Run Conservancy which sponsored the project, at a cost of \$628,652, also received a Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award for their work to establish the public kayak and canoe launch. The launch features an accessible 187- foot length raised boardwalk and an accessible kayak launch, one of the first of its kind in the DC Metro area. The project also received partial funding through the City’s Community Matching Fund Program, managed by RPCA.



Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Project

In 2014, the Park and Recreation Commission endorsed a plan to renovate and rejuvenate Joseph Hensley Park. In April, the certificate of occupancy was released for the final project element and the new park is fully open for community use! We are excited to welcome everyone back this important park in our network.



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

April 16, 2026

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1	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.	Final review and edits are currently being coordinated of the report, which will be used to develop recommendations for the Duke Street Land Use Plan, which is anticipated to go to final approval in early 2027.	Implementation	Citywide	02/13/26	Jose Ayala
2	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 complete and the project is now in the establishment phase. The field is open for use and will be programmed for extra days of rest through the spring for enhanced establishment.	Complete	District 1	09/30/25	Derek Claylor
3	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 Park and Recreation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 16. DSUP application will be is docketed for public hearing by the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) in May 2026. Design will be completed in the summer of 2026 and construction start is anticipated in winter 2027 with pool completion in late spring 2028.	Design	District 1	08/31/26	Jack Broward
4	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Construction is in progress. Work on the fountain deck occurred in March and April. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy and Virginia American Water is ongoing. Please see the project website for more information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/pca/project/inter-interactive-fountain/	Implementation	District 2	05/29/26	Bethany Zandersic
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 City and the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation will host a grand opening celebration on May 9 to celebrate the completion of this community partnership project. Further details about the events will posted here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/pca/launch/kayak-launch/ The kayak launch has been open since December 4 and available for community use.	Close-out	District 2	12/01/25	Judy Lo
6	George Mason Recreational Space This project will fund a full sized gym, dedicated RP/CA 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 ACP-5 website for more information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/pca/elementary-modernization/	Design	District 2	08/03/26	Bethany Zandersic
7	Hillside Park Erosion Control and Timber Removal This project aims to replace deteriorated timbers and implement erosion control measures on the hill. It will be implemented in two phases. The first phase, the northern section of the park (near the shopping center), is currently in progress. In this initial phase, selected timbers and asphalt will be removed, the area will be fine graded, and a stone dust path will be installed. The disturbed area will then be seeded with a native grass and perennial mix, creating a woodland meadow.	This project will involve removing all aging timbers along the hillside and converting the area to a natural slope stabilized with grass. The project is anticipated to begin in late spring/early summer. The project is anticipated to be completed by late summer. The immediate work area will be closed during construction and while the grass is being established. The path will remain fully open throughout the duration of the project.	Implementation	District 2	12/10/26	Daniel Unkle
8	Mount Jefferson Park Improvements This project includes the City's responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	Invasive Plant Management Update. The marked tree of heaven and mulberry trees were removed. Selective brush removal will commence in April. Areas of brush removal were recommended by the City's Natural Resource Managers to help preserve and minimize impacts to wildlife and habitat. Further treatments will be planned this spring/summer.	Close-out	District 2	12/17/25	Judy Lo
9	Simpson Park Renovation Construction Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project	The contractor is installing the park drainage systems and structural foundations. Work on site parking, please see the project website for more information regarding portions of the park renovation: https://www.alexandriava.gov/pca/simpson-park-renovation/ and https://www.alexandriava.gov/pca/simpson-athletic-diamond-facility-renovation/	Implementation	District 2	09/30/26	Bethany Zandersic
10	Dora Kelley Fair Weather Crossing Construction Initial Scope: This project is the grant funding for the construction of the fair weather crossing to a bridge as part of the Holmes Run Trail Repairs.	Holmes Run Trail Dora Kelley New Bridge – Site work continues on the final section of the bridge. The contractor is currently installing the bridge structure. The final 50% complete. The new southern bridge foundation was completed in March and the installation of the first 2-3 cells of the new culvert bridge is scheduled for the week of April 20. Northern side streambank and streambed stabilization will occur through the summer. Substantial completion is anticipated for October 2026.	Implementation	District 3		Jack Broward
11	Fort Ward Park Playground Construction This project will construct the approved playground renovation design	The following work was completed in March: concrete curbing around the perimeter of the playground, installation of hose bibb and valves for the drinking fountain, and stakeout for the site furnishings, stamwell and ADA ramp. Consistent with the Park's ground-water management plan, the contractor will install a stormwater management system for the site. Construction updates will be available here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects	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 (caplan) (2014).	Construction is complete and the site is fully open for community use. The next several weeks will include site cleanup to further enhance the site such as additional vegetation control, replacement plantings, and small improvements on portions of the park outside of the construction area.	Close-out	District 3	02/23/26	Bethany Zandersic
13	Lockett Field Access Access improvements per the 2016 Neighborhood Park Plan	New concrete walkways and bleacher pads around the first and third baselines were poured in early April.	Implementation	District 3	06/17/26	Jesse Van Wick