

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Mount Vernon Recreation Center
2701 Commonwealth Ave.**

**Thursday, July 16, 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
 - b. July 4th Pool Operations Update (Hashim Taylor)
4. Action Items
 - a. Approval June 18, 2026, Minutes
 - b. FY 2026 Annual Report
5. Items for Information
 - a. Overview of the Goat Grazing Pilot Project (Katrina Napora, Natural Resources Manager)
 - b. Colasanto Spray Park Update and Site Walk
6. Next Meeting: September 17, 2026 – NO AUGUST MEETING
 - a. Location TBD
7. 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.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 16, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: TAMIKA COLEMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ACTING)
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

OSTP Summer Update

Current Summer 2026 Enrollment: 1184

26-27 School Year Enrollment: 777

The Summer Power-On program (rising kindergarten through rising 6th graders) is being offered at 7 recreation centers and 2 ACPS locations. While the Summer Power-Up program (rising 6th through rising 8th graders) is being offered at 3 recreation centers. The Camp Adventure program is being offered exclusively at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center along with TR Camp Adventure; specialty program for youth and teens with special needs. Four locations support the LINK Club partnership with ACPS.

Partnerships & Collaborations:

We are proud to collaborate with ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., Y-Help, Chrysalis Group, KAT Camp (DCHS), Sports Enrichment, and the Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners contribute valuable enrichment, academic support, STEAM opportunities and specialized programming at all summer Power-On and Power-Up locations and the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

Program Wrap-ups:

- During the last week of June, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted **Stay Hydrated Week** in partnership with Goya Coconut Water. The initiative promoted the importance of staying hydrated during the summer heat, and Goya provided complimentary coconut water to participants throughout the week.



- From June 7–12, RPCA conducted **pre-registration for the 2026–27 OSTP Power-On Program** for students in kindergarten through 6th grade, receiving 308 applications, of which 291 were eligible. General online registration opened on June 24 at 9 a.m., with 809 participants successfully registered that morning.

- On June 10, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center held a **promotional graduation celebration for our rising middle schoolers**, recognizing their achievements and marking their transition into the next stage of their academic journey. Families and staff joined in celebrating each student, who received certificates and enjoyed a meaningful, memorable program highlighting their growth and accomplishments.



- On June 12, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted its **Hello Summer Party** to celebrate the last day of the school year. In partnership with Chrysalis Development, the event was moved indoors due to extreme heat and featured a variety of fun activities for youth and their families. The celebration was well attended by participants from the Patrick Henry Center and the surrounding community



- On June 19, Charles Houston Recreation Center and RPCA, in partnership with the City of Alexandria, celebrated **Juneteenth** with a day of community events, culminating in a **lively Juneteenth Block Party** featuring food vendors, a health fair, line dancing, and performances by EU featuring Sugar Bear and Mature Clientele. The celebration also included the 3rd Annual Pioneer Awards, where RPCA's own Anthony Suggs, Sr. was honored for his contributions to the Parker-Gray community. The event welcomed an impressive 4,574 attendees.



- On June 25, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted its first **Live on the Hill Concert Series**, featuring the Quimbao Latin Band. Nearly 150



community members enjoyed an evening of live music, family-friendly activities, refreshments, and giveaways, making the inaugural event a great success.

Program Updates:

- On June 29, Patrick Henry Recreation Center took participants in the Summer Power-On Program on a field trip to **Bubble Planet in Washington, D.C.**, an immersive attraction featuring interactive bubble-themed environments and virtual reality experiences. The youth had an unforgettable day filled with fun, exploration, and excitement.



- On July 9, the **Chinquapin Wahoos** held a pizza and T-shirt social to celebrate the season and thank our generous T-shirt sponsors for their support.



- On July 11, the **Chinquapin Wahoos** hosted their final home swim meet at the 51-year-old Old Town Pool. This marks the last home meet at this historic location, making it a memorable occasion for our swimmers, families, and community.



- The **Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility** has been one of the core sites to provide pool space for many of our internal groups this summer. Minnie has also doubled both our class offerings and enrolments in our adult swimming classes.

- **The Summer Power-On and Power-Up Programs are underway**, providing engaging summer camp experiences for youth ages 5–14. Campers are enjoying field trips, hands-on enrichment activities, and partnerships that offer STEAM, sports, conservation education, social-emotional learning, performing arts, and more. Despite the summer heat, the programs continue to provide a safe, fun, and enriching environment where youth can learn, play, and thrive.
- The Nannie J. Lee Summer Camp launched into a fun-filled **Space Camp** adventure featuring creative, hands-on, and inclusive activities for all campers, including those in the therapeutic recreation program. Campers built rockets, explored the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, visited Bubble Planet, and enjoyed a jungle-themed week at the zoo. Throughout the summer, campers have built confidence, friendships, and lasting memories through engaging and inclusive experiences.



- On July 2, Nannie J. Lee celebrated **America's 250th anniversary** with patriotic crafts, themed activities, and educational experiences that highlighted the significance of this historic milestone. Therapeutic Recreation participants were fully included with individualized support, ensuring the celebration was engaging, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone.



Upcoming Events:

- July 27 – William Ramsay Recreation Center will host the second **Live on the Hill Concert Series** performance, featuring Brencore from 1:00–2:00 p.m. This free, family-friendly event will include live music, activities, and food. The concert will be held outdoors on the deck, weather permitting, and moved indoors if necessary.
- August 10–14 – RPCA will offer **Power-On Gap Camp** at select recreation centers for currently enrolled OSTP Summer Power-On participants. The program provides safe,

supervised activities for rising kindergarten through 6th grade students and is available for the full week or by individual day.

- August 29 – Join us for **Old Town's Last Hurrah**, a farewell tribute swim celebrating **51 years** of memories at Old Town Pool. Adult swimmers of all abilities are invited to take part in the 51 × 100s Challenge and help send this beloved community landmark off with one final splash before a new pool welcomes future generations.



- August 29, September 12, and September 13 – Treat your four-legged friend to an end-of-summer swim at Alexandria's **Dog Swims!** Events will be held at Memorial Pool (Aug. 29), Warwick Pool (Sept. 12), and Old Town Pool (Sept. 13). Tickets sell out quickly, so be sure to reserve your dog's spot in advance through WebTrac.



- On September 26, the Power-On Program, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club, will host its **annual Kiwanis Kids Fishing Day at Lake Cook**. Youth ages 7–12 will enjoy a fun, supervised fishing experience alongside RPCA staff, Kiwanis volunteers, and local Key Club members.

Special Features:

- The final lifeguard certification class has concluded, with RPCA successfully training **47 new lifeguards** for the summer pool season. A special thank you to Vivian Hernandez and Matilda Rogel for their dedication and leadership in instructing these classes.



- Chinguapin swim party and Soft Play party packages are now available to reserve online through **WebTrac**. This new feature allows customers to view available dates and book rentals online, making the reservation process more convenient while reducing staff processing time. It's an enhancement requested by customers, and we're excited to offer it.

- Coming Soon: Just in time for National Parks and Recreation Month, RPCA will launch the **Alexandria Parks Challenge!** Running from mid-July through Labor Day, this citywide initiative encourages residents to explore Alexandria's 130+ parks through self-guided visits, curated running routes, and milestone rewards. Participants can track their progress and see who can visit every park before summer's end. Stay tuned—we'll be sure to share more details with all of RPCA when the challenge launches!



- Congratulations to future Eagle Scout Oliver on completing an outstanding **trail formalization project** at Four Mile Run Park! Oliver identified an unofficial trail through the meadow that had poor visibility and raised safety concerns. With guidance from Ana Vicinanza, Lauren Nery, Judy Lo, and Shawn Miller, he developed a project to improve sightlines, extend the trail, and remove invasive plants to help protect the meadow. Together with more than 30 volunteers, Oliver contributed over 100 hours of service to complete this impressive project. Kudos to Oliver and the dedicated RPCA staff who helped make it a success!



Staff Updates:

- **Alex Burnsed** was promoted from a Recreation Leader III (Head Lifeguard) to Recreation Leader IV (Pool Manager) at Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility. We are very excited for him to step into this role and elevate our lessons programs.
- **Rachael Vandergrift** was promoted from a Pool Operator to a Seasonal Head Lifeguard at Minnie Howard Aquatics Facility, we are grateful for all of her hard work at Minnie.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 16, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

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

CLOSED OR PARTIALLY CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Angel Park basketball court (surface repairs)
- Colasanto Park (construction)
- Hooffs' Run Park between E. Oak and E. Walnut includes a tennis court - (storm sewer culvert replacement)
- Holmes Run Trail Site 1 (construction)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park (construction)
- Fort Ward Playground (construction)
- Lee Center Parking Lot South of the Miracle Field (construction)
- Witter Rectangular Fields (construction)
- Upcoming Closures:
 - Miracle Field (beginning July 20 - surfacing replacement)
 - Wilkes Street Park between Route 1 and Alfred Street (beginning in July - park construction)
 - Mount Vernon Multi-Use Court (late July - surface repairs)

Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility Improvements

The playground at Fort Ward is nearly complete! Over the past few weeks, all fencing and

plantings have been installed, the playground has been audited for safety, and the contractor has provided their last items for substantial completion. The project has been inspected by Park Planning, TES Stormwater, Urban Forestry, and Park Maintenance, and staff is working with the contractor to close out the remaining punch list items for a grand opening next month. The completed upgrades relocated the playground uphill from its former location, creating a more accessible and welcoming experience for children and visitors of all abilities. There are new accessible parking spaces and a new accessible playground entrance. The upgraded playground features inclusive play equipment designed for children ages 2-12, providing more opportunities for fun, exploration, and imaginative play. A ribbon cutting ceremony with City Council will be planned for this fall.



Special Event Support

Despite record temperatures in early July, the Park Maintenance Team supported special events held throughout the park system in celebration of the country's 250th birthday and Alexandria's 277th birthday. In coordination with teams across RPCA, Park Maintenance worked to ensure the community was able to enjoy Alexandria's outdoor places and continue to come together and celebrate safely.

Improving Park Safety and Emergency Services Coordination

To improve public safety and emergency response, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities has formally divided Holmes Run Park into four distinct parks, Tarleton Park, Brookvalley Park, All Veterans Park, and Holmes Run Scenic Easement, and established official

park names and addresses for each.

Previously, Holmes Run Park did not have a formally recognized park address within the emergency response systems, making it more difficult for first responders to pinpoint locations. In addition to creating four separate parks, playgrounds and fitness areas have been given unique, standardized names that are now in the emergency services system making it easier to identify people's locations within the park. These updates provide clearer location information for park users, improve coordination with first responders, and help emergency personnel locate park visitors more quickly during emergencies.

New signage is being created to reflect these changes and will be installed in the coming weeks.

Tree Canopy Assessment

The Department is currently conducting an updated Tree Canopy Assessment with the University of Vermont. The last assessment was completed in 2022 and is posted on the City's website. The 2026 assessment will provide data about the City's current urban forest and will be used to analyze canopy change and distribution across the City. This information will be integral in future efforts to improve and expand our urban forest. The draft assessment report has been received, and staff anticipates completing the internal review this summer.

cc: 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



July 16, 2026

Project	Project Summary/Notes	Monthly Update	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	Project Status
1 Park Facility Standards Manual	The City's Park Facility Standards Manual is a document that provides guidance to City staff, consultants, developers, and design professionals involved in planning, design, construction, and development review efforts for public open spaces and parks. Last updated in 2021, the document is scheduled for its regular five-year review and update.	The Park Facilities Standards Manual 2026 update is now underway. The first step is improving the overall usability of the document and aligning the manual with the City's visualization and document standards.	Citywide	08/31/27	Jesse Van Wick	Design
2 Washington Street Urban Deck Planting Renovation	This project will develop and implement a landscape renewal project to restore plantings to the original Urban Deck planting plan. Work includes removal of invasive plants and new plantings. Approvals will be coordinated through VDOT and NPS.	The project is currently in the procurement process for design. Staff will review bids in late July and select a contractor for design of the renewal project. Following contract award, staff will coordinate project scheduling.	District 1	10/15/27	Daniel Unkle	Design
3 Old Town Pool Replacement Design	This project will include planning and design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.	Design for the pool replacement project is anticipated to be completed by August 2026. The SUP was approved by the Planning Commission on May 5, City Council on May 16, and the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on May 20. Design completion is anticipated summer 2026 with construction to begin in winter 2027.	District 1	05/26/28	Laura Durham	Design
4 Colasanto Exterior Upgrades	This project will address exterior upgrades to the Colasanto Center building, as recommended in the building conditions assessment	The roof and siding replacement project was completed in early July.	District 2	06/30/26	Jenine Kotob	Close-out
5 Angel Park Basketball Court Surface Repairs	This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and relining of the basketball court	This project will repair the court surface to address existing cracks and re-color-coat. Work is scheduled for the week of July 13.	District 2	10/30/26	Daniel Unkle	Implementation
6 Mt Vernon Colasanto Tennis Court Surfacing Repairs	This project will include crack repairs, color coat surface, and relining of the tennis court	This project will repair the court surface to address existing cracks and re-color-coat. Work is scheduled to begin the week of July 20th, weather dependant.	District 2	10/30/26	Daniel Unkle	Implementation
7 Hooffs Run Tennis Court Rehabilitation	This project will rebuild the existing tennis court which will be impacted by the Hooff Run Storm Culvert Replacement project	The Contractor has mobilized and erected the perimeter fencing, erosion and sediment controls, and completed the tree protection and tree removals. Demolition activities to commence this summer. Additional project information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/public-works/bridge-inspections-and-maintenance	District 2	10/30/26	Judy Lo	Procurement
8 Miracle Field Resurfacing	This project will replace the surface of the Miracle Field, repair and replace the fence where needed.	Construction is anticipated to begin the week of July 20, at which time the field will be temporarily closed to the public. The field is anticipated to reopen in August following completion of the resurfacing work.	District 2	09/07/26	Daniel Unkle	Implementation
9 Witter Fields Synthetic Turf Recarpeting	Initial Scope: This project will replace the carpet and infill on both fields and the middle turf space. The project will include diagnostic testing of the drainage system and review of the impact board and nailer board.	Construction is progressing as expected with our Contractor and the schedule. The old turf has been completely removed, the existing drainage lines have been checked and adjusted for positive drainage, three additional drain lines have been installed to improve drainage during heavy weather events, and the worn subbase materials have been removed in preparation for the new turf.	District 2	08/31/26	Jesse Van Wick	Implementation
10 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Construction is in progress with the major components complete. City staff are conducting inspections and coordinating final completion. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing. Final fountain commissioning and Health Department Inspections will occur once power is in place. Please see the project website for more information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpa/project/del-ray-gateway	District 2	07/31/26	Bethany Znidersic	Implementation
11 Simpson Park Renovation Construction	Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project	Construction of the Big Simpson dugouts, press box, bleachers, storage building, and concession stand continued over the last month, with foundations and structural framing substantially complete. At Little Simpson, construction of the dugouts, press box, and bleachers continued, with significant progress made on exterior finishes and hardscape improvements. Installation of the irrigation system is underway, and natural turf sod is scheduled for installation in late July. 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-fields-renovation-plan	District 2	09/01/26	Bethany Znidersic	Implementation
12 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	District 2	08/03/26	Judy Lo	Design
13 Cameron Station Linear Park Tree Planting	This project will develop and implement a phased tree replacement program over three years. The work will include removal of dead trees.	Tree planting will be completed the week of July 13th. A total of 53 new trees will be planted throughout the project area.	District 3	12/31/26	Daniel Unkle	Implementation
14 Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	The following work was completed in June: playground fencing, third party safety inspections and site inspections for substantial completion. The work will continued to be punched out in July, with an opening expected this summer. Construction updates will be available here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo	Implementation
15 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 received the final approvals for the project and the 100% plans are complete. The procurement solicitation reviews will be coordinated through the summer and is anticipated to be released in early September.	District 3	05/31/27	Bethany Znidersic	Procurement
16 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.	Holmes Run Trail Dora Kelley New Bridge – Site work continues on the final section of repairs to the Holmes Run Trail. Northern side streambank, streambed and culvert bridge sections will occur late spring through the summer 2026. Substantial completion is anticipated for October 2026. Sites 2, 3 and 4 are open to the public with continuous access from Eisenhower Ave. through N. Beauregard St.	District 3	10/30/26	Bethany Znidersic	Implementation