

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
VIRTUAL ONLY

Thursday, May 21, 2026
7 p.m.

AGENDA

Note: This meeting is being held virtually consistent with the Park & Recreation Commission [Electronic Participation Policy for Remote Participation and All-Virtual Public Meetings](#) as adopted on January 19, 2023

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://alexandriava.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eZ-OOdtIQ1qa8WGXL1SqWg

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323: 144.195.19.161 (US West) or 206.247.11.121 (US East)

Meeting ID: 972 7234 2232

Passcode: 334181

SIP: 97272342232@zoomcrc.com

Passcode: 334181

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Chair
2. Council Member Visit: Jacinta Greene
3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
4. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
 - a. Staff Report – Commissioner Comments
5. Action Items
 - a. Approval April 16, 2026, Minutes
6. Items for Information
 - a. Duke Street Land Use Plan – Update – Jeffrey Farner, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning
 - b. Waterfront Plan Implementation - Flood Mitigation Update – Matt Landes, Portfolio Manager, Project Implementation
 - c. Summary of Community Discussion and Feedback on Youth Sports
- Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services, RPCA
7. Park & Recreation Commission Officer Nomination Process Overview
8. Next Meeting: June 18, 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: MAY 21, 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 25-26 School Year Enrollment: 1330

Current Summer 2026 Enrollment: 1077

Out-of-school time programming is currently offered at 12 Afterschool Power-On sites, including two specialty programs — Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG) and TR Achieving Greatness (TAG) — as well as three LINK Club locations at 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 partner with ACPS, UpCycle, Momentum Collective Inc., 4-H Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Buddie Ford Nature Center. These collaborations provide valuable enrichment opportunities, academic support, and specialized programming across Power-On and LINK Club locations.

Program Wrap-ups:

- Throughout April, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center celebrated **Autism Awareness Month** with activities promoting inclusion, creativity, and acceptance. The celebration concluded with an Autism Awareness Spirit Week and a staff happy hour on April 28 focused on building understanding through games, activities, and fellowship.



- On April 18 and 22, **Miracle League of Alexandria** kicked off its 2026 Spring Season with exciting Opening Day celebrations for adult and youth participants. Players, volunteers, families, and community partners came together for a fun-filled game day experience, including ceremonial first pitches from representatives of the Washington Nationals Team Up Program and City Manager Jim Parajon. This year's celebration also marked 15 years of creating meaningful and memorable experiences for Alexandria athletes and families.



- On April 25, William Ramsay hosted its first ***Le Brunch en Bleu***, a community picnic that brought together families, friends, and neighbors for an afternoon of connection and fun. Approximately 40 attendees enjoyed live music from a DJ and offerings from a food truck, creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for the community to gather and engage.



- On April 25, the Sports Department hosted its **Spring Cheer Competition** at Alexandria City High School, featuring 13 cheer teams competing across four divisions. The event highlighted teamwork, talent, and school spirit, with a special guest performance by the Fairmont Heights High School Cheer Team.
- On April 29, William Ramsay Recreation Center partnered with William Ramsay Elementary School to host **STEM Night**. The event drew more than 250 attendees and provided an engaging opportunity for families and students to explore STEM activities together.

- On May 1, Inspire to Lead hosted **Family Night** at the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center and William Ramsay Recreation Center, bringing mentors, mentees, and families together for an evening of food, hands-on activities, sports, and connection. Participants explored animals and nature-based art, planted seeds to take home, and enjoyed basketball, volleyball, and billiards while strengthening relationships and community bonds.



- On May 3, the Sports Department successfully hosted its annual **Track & Field Meet** at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes High School, featuring 226 boys and girls competing in a variety of events while demonstrating outstanding effort, sportsmanship, and athletic talent throughout the day.



- On May 5, the **Robust Walkathon** was held at Brenman Park. Sponsored by the Successful Aging Committee, which includes RPCA, the event supports annual senior programs such as the Dance for All Ages, Health & Fitness Fair, and Winter Holiday Luncheon. The photo features participating seniors alongside Sheriff Casey and Deputy Sheriff Ignacio following the walk.



- On May 9, the Youth Activities Section hosted the **Games & Fun 2.0 Training** at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School for OSTP staff, focusing on recreation strategies, youth engagement, behavior management, and inclusive activities for afterschool and summer programs. Staff participated in hands-on activities designed to strengthen teamwork, leadership, and positive youth development skills.



- Minnie Howard’s first set of **spring swim lessons** will conclude May 14th with a lot of happy kiddos ready to show off their new skills! We are excited to announce that due to the high number of waitlisted kiddos we were able to create 3 new offerings this season to accommodate more families.



Program Updates:

- **Picnic season** is here, and thanks to future **Eagle Scout** Alex and his team of volunteers, Joseph Hensley Park is ready to welcome visitors! Together, they assembled eight new picnic tables, including two ADA-accessible tables, creating more comfortable and inclusive gathering spaces for the community. Special thanks to Judy Lo, Dayshawn Dillahunt, and Anthony Smith for their support in making this project a success.



- **Caring University** (CaringU) is a free learning institute designed to help caring adults build stronger connections with youth through practical tools and training. Open to parents, teachers, coaches, mentors, and community members, CaringU offers multilingual courses in-person, virtually, and on-demand on topics such as trust-building, cultural humility, and substance misuse prevention. New courses are added monthly, with youth-focused social-emotional learning courses planned for 2027. Visit alexandriava.gov/rpca/caringu to explore courses, sign up, and get started.



Upcoming Events:

- On May 15, the Power-On Program at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School will host its first **Literacy Night**, celebrating youth creativity and storytelling through participant-led read-alouds, interactive literacy activities, games, and crafts inspired by the WRiTE BRAiN Literacy Program. Families will also have opportunities to learn more about Summer Camp 2026 during upcoming OSTP open houses across the City.
 - Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
 - Power-On Literacy Night — Friday, May 15, 2026 | 5:00 PM – 8:30 PM
 - Summer Open Houses — June 3 & June 10, 2026 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 - Charles Barrett Elementary School
 - Summer Open Houses — May 28 & June 4, 2026 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 - John Adams Elementary School / Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School
 - Summer Open Houses — June 5 & June 8, 2026 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

- Lee Center
 - Power-Up Summer Open Houses (for Patrick Henry, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong, and William Ramsay Recreation Centers) — June 1 & June 2, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- On May 16, Minnie Howard will begin its second session of **spring swim lessons**, continuing to help participants build confidence and strengthen water safety skills ahead of the summer season.
- On May 21 at 10 a.m., RPCA will partner in hosting the **Senior Health & Fitness Fair** at the Lee Center. The interactive event will feature blood pressure and vision screenings, a healthy cooking demonstration by Goodwin Living, Tai Chi, fitness activities with RPCA’s Rodney, and presentations on hearing and speech by NOVA ScriptsCentral.
- On May 22, William Ramsay Recreation Center will host its second **pop up Bingo Night** from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.
- On May 26, Minnie Howard will host its popular **sound bath** experiences in the warm 90-degree training pool, offering participants a relaxing and restorative wellness experience.



Staff Updates:

- **Janiya Farmer** was promoted from seasonal pool operator to seasonal head lifeguard at Minnie Howard in recognition of her hard work, dedication, and commitment to safety and facility operations.
- **Richard Daley** concluded his time with the City of Alexandria at William Ramsay Recreation Center on May 8 and will begin a new opportunity with the City of West Palm Beach, Florida.
- **Torrey Johnson** was recognized by the Francis C. Hammond Power-Up Program as OSTP Impact Maker of the Month for his initiative, teamwork, and strong support of staff and participants.
- **Danielle Gray** was recognized by the John Adams Power-On Program as OSTP Impact Maker of the Month for creating a positive, welcoming, and supportive environment for youth and staff.

- **Angela Gibson** was recognized by the Douglas MacArthur Power-On Program as OSTP Impact Maker of the Month for her leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication to youth engagement and program support.
- **Emma Cordell** was recognized by the Charles Barrett Power-On Program as OSTP Impact Maker of the Month for her teamwork, leadership, and commitment to creating positive experiences for participants.
- **Donnell “DJ”** was recognized by the Ferdinand T. Day Power-On Program as Impact Maker of the Month for fostering a safe, engaging, and supportive environment through creativity, positivity, and youth mentorship.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 21, 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

- May 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)
 - Wilkes Street Park between Route 1 and Alfred Street (park construction)

Four Mile Run Kayak Launch

The grand opening of the ADA-compliant kayak launch at Four Mile Run Park on Saturday, May 9 was a great success, with strong community turnout and excitement for this new water access point. Developed in partnership with the Four Mile Run Conservancy, the launch is the first of its kind in the DC metro area and significantly expands safe, inclusive access to paddling on Four Mile Run. Special thanks to Mayor Gaskins and City Council members who joined in the celebration, as well as the RPCA Parks team, RPCA Special Events team, and Four Mile Run Conservancy for their collaboration and support in bringing this important project to life.

Jack Wood Award

Congratulations to Jesse Van Wick on receiving the 2026 Jack Wood Award!

On April 30, Jesse accepted the 2026 Jack Wood Award for the Ben Brenman Park Fitness Station project. Developed in partnership with the Virginia Walkability Action Institute, the initiative aims to improve community health and well-being by encouraging physical activity along trails and in outdoor spaces. Click [here](#) to learn more about the project.



Hillside Park Improvements

The Hillside Timber Removal Project is a multi-phased effort to remove deteriorated timbers and replace the 1980s-era design—characterized by numerous retaining walls, steps, and irregular asphalt areas—with a stabilized, grass-covered slope to address erosion. Initial phases focused on the northern section near the shopping center, where timbers and asphalt were removed and a stone dust path installed. By spring of 2026, the majority of removals on the main hillside area have been completed. The final phase will include removal of remaining asphalt at the front of the park, installation of an ADA-compliant stone dust path, a reconfiguration of park benches and tree plantings.

Before and After Photos:





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



May 21, 2026

	Project	Project Summary/Notes	Monthly Update	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	Project Status
1	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.	Staff is preparing the Scope of Work for the landscape renovation portion of the project.	District 1	10/15/27	Daniel Unkle	Design
2	Witter Fields ADA Parking	To provide more direct access to the field and restrooms, this project will relocate two ADA parking spaces from the far western side of the access road to the restroom area.	An interdepartmental work team will implement a solution that improves access without requiring significant infrastructure adjustments. The project will be completed in coordination with the upcoming Witter Field shutdown and improvements and be completed by September 7, 2026.	District 1	08/26/26	Jesse Van Wick	Design
3	Lee Center ADA Curb Ramps	This project will replace two ADA curbs ramps located in the front parking lot and replace the front entry walkway.	The new ADA curb ramps and replacement of the main entrance walkway were completed in April.	District 1	05/29/26	Judy Lo	Complete
4	Nannie J Lee Courtyard	Project will fill in the existing pool and convert the former pool area to a new public space.	Courtyard construction is ongoing with anticipated completion in September 2026. The Contractor has mobilized and is beginning construction on the courtyard. The building permit has been issued as of 5/13/2026.	District 1	09/01/26	Jesse Van Wick	Implementation
5	Old Town Pool Plaster Repairs	This project will replace furnishings due to normal wear and tear	Plaster repairs are complete and staff is closing out the project.	District 1		Lindsay Burneson	Complete
6	Lee Center Rear Parking Lot Repaving	This project will re-pave the rear parking lot to include milling, striping and curb and gutter repairs.	City staff has surveyed the property and has updated the existing grading on site as of April 2026. Staff will begin the procurement process in FY2027.	District 1	12/31/26	Jesse Van Wick	Planning
7	Oronoco Bay Park and Piers removal	This project will demolish the deteriorated structures and restore the areas	The project has been awarded to the contractor and demolition will take place in June.	District 1		Derek Claytor	Implementation
8	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 May 16. The plans will go to the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on May 20. Design completion is anticipated summer 2026 with construction to begin in winter 2027.	District 1		Jack Browand	Design
9	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 is anticipated to begin in late May/early June and be completed within a few weeks.	District 2	06/30/26	Wayne Lightfoot	Implementation
10	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 City held a community pre-construction meeting in April. Construction is anticipated to begin in June. The tennis courts and park area between Oak and Walnut Street will be closed for the duration of construction which is anticipated to take 5-6 months to complete. Following construction, the tennis courts and park walkways will be replaced. Additional project information: https://www.alexandriava.gov/public-works/bridge-inspections-and-maintenance	District 2	10/30/26	Judy Lo	Procurement
11	Four Mile Run Kayak Launch	New signage and accessories for Kayak Launch	Supplemental signage is in progress and solar safety lights are planned for the floating dock.	District 2		Judy Lo	Close-out
12	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 executed in phases, with the first phase focused on the northern section of the park (near the shopping center). 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.	The project is complete.	District 2	12/10/26	Daniel Unkle	Complete
13	Warwick Pool ADA Chair Lift Replacement	Per the lifecycle replacement schedule, this project replaces the mobile ADA compliant	Work has been completed. Staff will begin the project close out process.	District 2		Lindsay Burneson	Complete
14	Miracle Field Resurfacing	This project will replace the surface of the Miracle Field, repair and replace the fence where needed.	Staff will schedule a pre-con with contractor and stakeholders in the month of June.	District 2	09/07/26	Daniel Unkle	Implementation
15	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	Construction is in progress with all components set to be constructed in May. Utility coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing. 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
16	Simpson Park Renovation Construction	Construction of the Simpson Park Renovation Project	The contractor is installing the bleachers and press box infrastructure. 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-fields-renovation-plan	District 2	09/01/26	Bethany Znidersic	Implementation
17	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.	Staff is currently procuring approximately 50 trees for installation as phase one of the project.	District 3		Daniel Unkle	Procurement
18	Fort Ward Park Playground Construction	This project will construct the approved playground renovation design	The following work was completed in April: Playground equipment and surfacing installation, concrete work for the playground border, picnic table pads, ADA ramp and stairs, the restoration of the lower hill and former playground, and restoration plantings. The following work will start in May: playground fence installation, site furnishing installation, and asphalt paving. Work is expected to be punched out in May/June. 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	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo	Implementation
19	Holmes Run Dog Area Improvements (Duke St. Dog Park)	This project will renovate the dog park to add a fence and a new entrance configuration to separate large and small dogs.	A water fountain will be added this spring. The equipment has been ordered and procurement is in progress to install it, the water line, and the water meter.	District 3	12/02/24	Derek Claytor	Procurement
20	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. 50% of the culvert bridge was placed in April 2026. Through spring 2026, the southern portion of the culvert bridge will be connected to the streambank. 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	Jack Browand	Implementation