

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center
25 West Reed Ave.**

**Thursday, June 18, 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 May 21, 2026, Minutes
 - b. Commission Officer Elections
 - c. Commission Assignments and Interests
5. Youth Sports Advisory Board Update – Bill Campbell
6. Wahoo's Swim Team Update – Lindsey Baylor, Recreation Manager
7. Items for Information
 - a. Public Art Update
 - b. Summer Events
8. Other
9. Next Meeting: July 16, 2026
 - a. Location TBD
10. 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: JUNE 18, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

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

CLOSED OR PARTIALLY CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Colasanto Park (construction)
- 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:
 - 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)

Wilkes Street Park Renovation

Wilkes Street Park is a 0.7-acre City-owned linear park located adjacent to The Heritage and Old Town West Apartments and is divided into two parcels by South Alfred Street. The park

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 18, 2026

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

OSTP Summer Update

Current Summer 2026 Enrollment: 1164

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, 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:

- On May 14, employees of AvalonBay Communities volunteered to clean playgrounds and parks at Four Mile Run, Hume Springs, Lynhaven, Mt. Jefferson, Goat Hill, and Landover as part of their Spirit of Caring initiative. Following the event, AvalonBay expressed its appreciation to RPCA staff for their partnership and support.



- On May 21, many members of our senior community attended the Senior Health & Fitness Fair at the Lee Center. The interactive event featured presentations on hearing and speech health, Tai Chi, fitness classes, blood pressure and vision screenings, and a healthy cooking demonstration by Goodwin Living. Community partners, including AARP, INOVA GoHealth, NOVA Scripts, Division of Aging & Adult Services, and others, were on hand to provide valuable health and wellness resources.

- Anna Garvey and Adrian Callahan received the Recreation Department Athlete of the Year Award at the 69th Annual Alexandria Sportsman's Club Banquet. Anna, a sixth grader at George Washington Middle School, participates in basketball, track, and rugby, while Adrian, a fifth grader at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, is active in basketball, soccer, and flag football. As part of a longstanding tradition, each award recipient was surprised with a new bicycle.



- On May 25, RPCA, in partnership with the Friends of Rocky Versace, hosted a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The ceremony honored Captain Humbert Roque “Rocky” Versace, Alexandria’s Vietnam War fallen heroes, and all U.S. service members who made the ultimate sacrifice. The annual event featured patriotic tributes, a wreath-laying ceremony, and the sounding of “Taps,” bringing together veterans, families, and community members in remembrance and gratitude.

- On May 30, 120 summer camp recreation leaders participated in a professional development and training day themed “Level Up: Moving to the Next Level and Beyond.” Staff engaged in sessions on camper engagement, safety, behavior management, customer service, activity planning, and leadership development. The day also included a staff recognition ceremony celebrating team members for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence as they prepared for the summer camp season.



- On May 31, the Out of School Time Program, in partnership with the Women’s Initiative Network and Pathways for Progressive Scholars, hosted more than 200 students and family members at the Annual Alexandria Community Spelling Bee. In addition to the competition, attendees enjoyed story time with children’s authors and hands-on STEM activities featuring robotics, coding, and drones.

Program Updates:

- Throughout the spring, Therapeutic Recreation Fridays at Chinquapin Aquatics Pool provided participants with a supportive, sensory-friendly environment. On non-swim days, participants enjoyed activities in the soft playroom, moon bounce, and playground while building social, motor, and confidence-building skills.



- Throughout the spring, the Bus Stop Activity engaged participants in active play through hopscotch-style games, bubbles, and social interaction. The activity encouraged movement, turn-taking, peer connections, and positive engagement in a fun and welcoming environment.



- During Afterschool Professional Week, Nannie J. Lee staff gathered for their monthly staff meeting to celebrate team accomplishments, review program updates, discuss upcoming events, and recognize staff for their dedication to creating a safe, inclusive, and engaging environment for participants and families.



- On May 22, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted a community Bingo night with 22 participants. During the event, a community member shared appreciation for staff member Ronald Rust, noting that the program helped brighten their day.



- On May 30, youth participants in the Out-of-School Time Program at Patrick Henry Recreation Center showcased their talents during the center's annual Talent Show. Participants performed songs, dances, gymnastics routines, and poetry while family members and peers cheered them on in celebration of their creativity and self-expression.



- On June 6, NoVa RAFT recognized its graduating high school seniors during a commencement celebration attended by more than 150 family members, friends, and supporters.



- On May 2, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted REC FEST, RPCA's annual citywide recreation showcase. Community members of all ages enjoyed a day of family-friendly activities featuring fitness, sports, arts, nature, out-of-school time, and summer camp programs. Attendees also enjoyed demonstrations and performances, met RPCA staff and instructors, and registered for programs and camps.



Upcoming Events:

- On June 27, William Ramsay Recreation Center will host its Live on the Hill Concert Series featuring the Quimbao Latin Band, food trucks, local vendors, and family-friendly entertainment.
- On July 11, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host its Annual Senior Fourth of July Indoor Picnic. Seniors are invited to enjoy picnic-style food, games, live entertainment, door prizes, and fellowship in a fun and festive indoor setting.

Special Features:

- In May, RPCA installed Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices at Hensley Park, Witter Field, Ben Brenman Park, Jefferson-Houston, and Limerick to enhance public safety and emergency preparedness.
- From May 1–25, RPCA sold 182 outdoor pool passes during its early bird sale, generating \$14,126 in admission revenue.
- On May 23, the outdoor pool season began with Memorial, Warwick, and Old Town Pools opening to the public.

Staff Updates:

- In June, the Community Engagement Team welcomed Andi Hamre as the new Alexandria Mentoring Partnership Communications & Outreach AmeriCorps VISTA. During her year of service, Andi will support mentoring initiatives across the City and assist with the continued development of CaringU.



- In June, William Ramsay Recreation Center welcomed several new team members, including Tracy Hall and Ricky Ray (Managers on Duty), Scott McMillon (Gym Monitor), and Mohammad Ishaq Kashify, Ka'Deja Smith, and Levy Dang (Front Desk Attendants).

redesign was shaped through a community engagement process led by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities from August 2020 through February 2021. The Park and Recreation Commission endorsed the final design in February 2021, and City Council approved the associated development proposals and conditions of approval later that month.

Construction of the western portion of the park is scheduled from June through the end of August and will be completed by the developer of The Heritage as part of the approved redevelopment project. Planned improvements include play equipment, seating areas, enhanced landscaping, and a multi-use trail. The park will continue to serve the surrounding residential community while maintaining its role as an important pedestrian and bicycle connection.

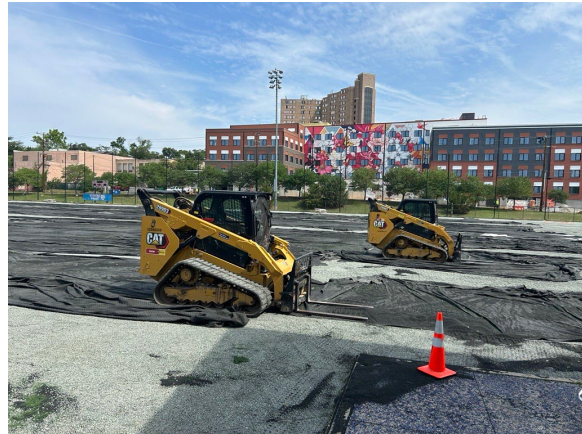
Public art is also planned as part of the park improvements and will be integrated into the overall park design.



Witter Recreational Fields Renovation

Renovation work on the two rectangular fields at Witter is now underway! Construction started June 1 and will include installation of a new subsurface drainage system, repairs to portions of

the field perimeter and replacement of the artificial turf itself. An organic infill will be installed on both fields at Witter. Construction is scheduled from June 1st through September 7th.



Ben Brenman Improvements

Exciting improvements are underway at Ben Brenman Park. Construction has begun along the southern trail near the dog park, where new adult fitness equipment is being installed to provide additional opportunities for outdoor exercise and recreation. The work is expected to be complete in July. These enhancements are the result of a partnership between the City, Virginia Walkability Action Institute, and George Mason University, with community feedback helping to guide the project through a public survey and outreach effort. The new fitness area is designed to encourage healthy, active lifestyles while expanding recreational opportunities for park visitors of all ages.



Looking ahead, additional accessibility improvements are planned for later this fall. These upgrades will enhance the pathway leading to the volleyball courts and pavilion, making it easier for all visitors to access and enjoy these popular park amenities.

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