Taney Avenue
Neighborhood Park
Improvements

Park and Recreation Commission
Presentation

May 19, 2016
Existing Conditions
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2015 Neighborhood Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Install widened trail connection between the two parts of Taney Ave
   The current sidewalk between the east and west end of Taney Ave is in disrepair. A new trail would be 10 ft wide, allowing both pedestrians and cyclists to safely pass through. The trail would also create a new east-west pedestrian-cyclist link that runs parallel to Duke Street.

2. Clear non-native brush between the trail and Park
   The area between the Taney trail connection and the park is full of overgrown non-native brush. This plan proposes removing some of the brush to make both sections of the park feel cohesive and give sightlines to the trail from the park, enhancing safety.

3. Create entry plaza to the Park
   The park does not currently have a formal entrance. The park rules and regulation sign is on the fence and a single pathway, without designation, leads users into the park. A plaza at the corner would include park furniture such as a bench, bike racks, and a sign. It’s shown on the corner of Taney to invite park users either into the park or onto the trail.

4. Install No Parking sign at the two spaces closest to the park
   Taney Avenue dead ends at the park and there is no space for a car to turn-around. By making the last two spaces “no parking,” cars and maintenance vehicles will have the space and ability to back up and perform a 3-point turn.

5. Install climbing play features
   The center of this lawn can serve as an area for natural play and climbing features while still retaining the passive character of the park. Natural play may include boulders, balancing equipment, and other child-friendly structures. Existing benches on either side of the lawn provide spaces for parents to sit and watch their children.

6. Provide accessible path to new picnic tables
   Park Operations recently replaced the park furniture in this Park, including an ADA picnic table. A pathway will be added for people with disabilities to access the table.

7. Repair split rail fence
   The existing fence is in disrepair and needs replacement.

8. Mark the southeast corner entrance with a park sign
   Currently the trail is unmarked. A sign will invite park users either into the park or onto the trail.

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*Endorsed by Park and Recreation, November 2015, Commission and City Council, March 2016*
2016 Proposed Park Improvement Plan

- Install play areas, climbing equipment, and natural play.
- Install widened trail connection between Taney Avenue.
- Clear non-native brush to improve sightlines.
- Add entry plaza with park sign, water fountain, and kiosk.
- Establish native tree grove.
- Add soft trails.
- Add swing bench.
- Improve accessibility to picnic areas.
- Add secondary park entrance at bottom of Taney Avenue.
2016 Proposed Park Improvement Plan

Wildflower Meadow / Low Mow Grasses
Underbrush and invasive plants will be cleared beneath this grouping of existing trees. Low mow grasses and wildflowers will be established. These low plantings will improve sightlines into the northeast corner of the park, which is currently hidden from view.

Soft Trail Loop Pathway
A semi-formal trail constructed from soft materials, such as wood chips and stone dust, would follow existing dirt paths, creating a small network of looping paths around the grass areas.

Seating
City standard park benches will be located along the existing sidewalk, and will include a swing bench such as the one shown below.

Play Areas
New play areas will include a pre-school area with stepping columns, platforms, and small pieces of spring and rocking equipment. The pre-school area will be defined by a stone boulder seat wall and low grass berm, and incorporate shade trees. The play areas will be surfaced with engineered wood fiber.

Low Berm

Spring riders

Stepping columns and platforms

Climbing equipment for school age children will be located within the tree grove.

The natural play areas will consist of informal boulders, salvaged logs and other natural materials.
Next Steps/Process

- Community Open House--at the Park, May 26.
- Online Survey: https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/TaneyAvenueNeighborhoodParkPlan
- Special Use Permit (SUP) required for children’s play area, on property zoned Public Open Space (POS).
- SUP docketed for June 9 Planning Commission and June 18 City Council meetings.
Phased Implementation

- RunningBrooke and Rebuilding Together Alexandria Partnership
- September 2016 Volunteer Build Events
- City Capital Funds FY2017