The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2014. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email Jennifer Atkins jennifer.atkins@cloudigylaw.com or Judith Coleman at judy coleman@aya.yale.edu.
City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Charles Houston Center
901 Wythe Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Agenda

I. Call to Order by Jennifer Akins, Judith Coleman, Co-Chairs.

Items for Action:

II. Approval of Summary Minutes: March 20, 2014, April 17, 2014

Items for Information and discussion:

A. Cameron Park DSUP Approval
B. Fee Increases for City Recreational Programs
C. Chinquapin Aquatics Feasibility Study, Task 1A Report
D. What’s Next for Open Space in Alexandria – May 31st Public Open House
E. 2014 CIVIC Awards - Identify Review Committee

III. Division Updates:

A. Recreation Programs and Service Update - William Chesley, Deputy Director
B. Park Operations Report – Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director
C. Marketing, Special Events, Waterfront Operations - Jack Browand, Division Chief
D. Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Reports – Ron Kagawa, Division Chief and Team.
E. FY15 Budget Update - James Spengler

IV. Reports from Commissioners (verbal updates):

A. Waterfront Commission - Gina Baum
B. Youth Sport Committee - Brian McPherson
C. Eisenhower West - Judy Coleman
D. Aquatics Update - Jennifer Atkins
E. Four Mile Run - Ripley Forbes
F. Ft. Ward - Ripley Forbes
G. Braddock Plan Park.
H. Patrick Henry School Update
I. Jefferson Houston School - William Cromley
J. Open Space - Jennifer Atkins
K. Freedmen’s Cemetery.
L. ACPS & Capital Improvements.
M. ACPS School Projects
V. At the close of the meeting, the Commission will take comments on any other topics from the public.

VI. Agenda items for June 19, 2014, meeting and location.
DATE: MAY 15, 2014
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: MAY 15, 2014 COMMISSION MEETING ITEM - III-A
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

Youth Activities

- **Miracle Baseball League of Alexandria Opening Day Ceremony**
  The Miracle League of Alexandria held their Annual Spring Miracle League Opening Day Ceremony at Kelley Cares Miracle Field on Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. On hand was Keith Reynolds, Vice President of CVS Caremark who presented a $25,000 check toward the construction of the new adaptive playground behind the Lee Center. Also Uncle Slam, mascot of the Potomac Nationals Minor League Baseball Team, was there to welcome and greet players and parents. The game followed the ceremony.

  **Youth Games:** Saturday, April 26 & Friday, May 2, 9, 16, 30, 6-7:30 p.m.
  **Adult Games:** Saturdays, April 26, May 3, May 10, May 17*, May 31, 1-2:30 p.m.
  *Saturday, May 17 game will be played at 5:30 p.m. so the adults can play and then attend their Adult Dance that night at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center.

- **Special Event for the Season**
  Saturday, June 7 at 6:35 p.m. at Pitzner Stadium, Woodbridge, Virginia. The youth and adult players who choose to go will be attending the Potomac Nationals Minor League Baseball Game.

- **City-Wide Hershey Track and Field Youth Games**
  The local meet for the Hershey's Track and Field Program will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 9 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School’s Parker Gray Stadium. The rain date
will be Sunday, May 18. Youth can compete in the 50, 100, 200, and 400 meter dash; 800 and 1600 meter run, 4 x 100 relay, softball throw and standing long jump. Boys and Girls ages 9-12 can participate in one field event and two running events and the relay; or two field events and one running event and the relay for a total of four events. First and second place winners in this age group will advance to the district track meet which will be held in June in Falls Church.

As a part of the program that day, it is also “Kids to Park Day” across the country and is sponsored by the National Park Trust. The goal of the program empowers kids and encourages families to get outdoors and visit America’s parks. Over 278 cities in 46 states and 16,000 families like Alexandria participate in the program. There will information available at the day of the track event about the program.

- **Youth Baseball & Fast Pitch Softball Leagues Underway**

Games have begun for the 2014 youth baseball and softball leagues. There are 13 softball teams in three leagues (ages 6 to 16 - Rookies, National & American) with participation totaling more than 180.

The Girls Softball Opening Night Ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Witter Recreational Park Softball Field. All teams and volunteer coaches were honored. Giant Food, Inc. and the Sports Authority will be sponsors for the league. On hand were members of the T.C. Williams Girls Softball Team.

In tee ball and coach pitch baseball (ages 5-8); we have 390 participants in the two leagues. We have 15 tee ball and 16 coach pitch teams in the two leagues. Games are played throughout the week and on Saturday afternoons at sites throughout the City including the Miracle Field.
• **Miracle League of Alexandria and Kelley Cares Foundation Playground Update**
  To date, they have raised $81,121 in cash and pledges of $90,000. They are feeling very confident about reaching their goal by the end of May.

• **The Hammond Power-Up Program** did their part to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up outside around the Hammond school grounds.

**Adult Activities**

• **The Commission on Aging in partnership with RPCA and At Home Alexandria (AHA)** are offering 3 Saturday workshops, May 3, 10 and 17, on Robust Aging. Commission member and retired Air Force surgeon, Dr. Daniel Kulund, is facilitating the workshops on a style of walking that includes using environmental objects as exercise props to incorporate calisthenics into the work-out. This exercise style provides the aerobic exercise needed as well as it increases the individual’s balance, flexibility and strength, all of which are important components to safety and health for older adults. The final workshop also teaches how to fall to prevent serious injury. Nineteen 55+ participants attended the first workshop which is being held on the Miracle Field. Two participants have signed on to be facilitators in their neighborhoods to form Robust Walking groups that will meet and go on walks on a regular basis.
• **RPCA in collaboration with Senior Services of Alexandria and the Successful Aging Committee** held a SSA Speaker Series and Senior Health Fair on April 23 at the Lee Center. There were over 100 seniors in attendance for Inova panel presentations on Aging and the 5 Senses followed by nutrition and exercise demonstrations, massage therapy and blood pressure and hearing screenings. A belly dancing workshop with all the trimmings is pictured below.

![Belly Dancing Workshop](image)

• **Spring Adult Leagues have begun** (Coed Softball, Coed Soccer, Coed Volleyball, and Men’s Softball). The season set to conclude by the end of June (weather permitting).

• **Summer registrations** for the Late Night Basketball League that will run on Thursdays at Cora Kelly and Charles Houston beginning May 29 and the summer Men’s Summer Soccer League that will be run on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Four Mile Soccer Field beginning June 7. Adult Sports and the Miracle League of Alexandria will be working with DC Social Sports to run a Wiffle Ball Tournament in June as a fundraiser for the new Adaptive Playground site behind the Lee Center.

**Recreation Centers**

• **Charles Houston Recreation Center** hosted a Mother’s Day Music Concert on May 10. The concert features the T.C. Williams Jazz Ensembles, the “Russkie Musikanti” Ensemble and the Washington Balalaika Society.

• **Mount Vernon Recreation Center** hosted a Mother and Daughter Tea on May 3. The event featured music and dance performances. More than 60 mothers, grandmothers and daughters participated in the event.

• **Cora Kelly Highlights**
  ○ During Spring Break we averaged around 30-35 kids each day. Our week consisted of various activities such as Easter arts & crafts projects, morning jazzercise, and outdoors field activities. On Friday we closed with a visit from Nolan the magician and a cook-out.
The Jump Bunch program on Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:30. This program promotes healthy fitness and nutritional habits within school age children. The program is going well, and all youth are being active, engaged, and educated in various sports.

**Charles Barrett Recreation Center**
- May 17th The Great Swap
- May 28th Charles Barrett Family Game Room Opening
- May 23rd Annual Senior Appreciation Celebration
- June 23rd Summer Camp Opening Ceremonies
- June 13th OSTP Dance

**The Conservatory at Four Mile Run**
- Opened for the season April 15th
- Farmer’s Market every Sunday
- May 17th Tree Steward’s Training
- May 31st Open Space “Open House” and NVCT will show the film *Green Fire*

**Enrollment in the 2013-2014 (school year) after school program as of April 30, 2014 is 1,244 children compared to 1,281 children at the same time last year. The chart below provides comparative program data over the past several years.**

**FY-12 through FY-14 SUMMER/SCHOOL YEAR MEASURES**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public satisfaction with OSTP</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of OSTP Registrations</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>1,373</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>1,307</td>
<td>1,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSTP Revenue</td>
<td>$34,650</td>
<td>$54,352</td>
<td>$269,312</td>
<td>$214,229</td>
<td>$32,067</td>
<td>$218,547</td>
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<td>Amount of Fee Assistance (Discounts)</td>
<td>$6,920</td>
<td>$13,798</td>
<td>$87,818</td>
<td>$72,933</td>
<td>$3,870</td>
<td>$73,673</td>
<td>$2,245</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of Fees Charged</td>
<td>$41,790</td>
<td>$68,622</td>
<td>$366,371</td>
<td>$304,531</td>
<td>$36,205</td>
<td>$310,256</td>
<td>$30,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5
Aquatics

- Family Fun Night: Friday, May 16, 2014, 7-10 p.m. $4/person. Passes not accepted. Activities include: Beach ball relays & basketball; Floating obstacle course; Summer Camp and Swim Team sign-ups; Swimming skill assessments for youth; Learn proper lifejacket sizing; Lifeguard skill demonstration. Promoted via eNews to subscribers and civic associations, in recreation centers and libraries, on social media, Recreation homepage and City event calendar.

- Outdoor Swimming Pools open Memorial Day weekend (May 24, 25, 26):

  **Old Town Pool 1609 Cameron St.**
  Opening Weekend: 12 - 7 p.m. May 24 – Aug. 31
  Opening Weekdays: 12 - 7 p.m. June 23 – Aug. 29*
  Open Holidays: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. May 26, July 4, & Sept. 1

  *Pool closes at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 2 and 9 to host Wahoo Summer Swim Team Competition

  **Warwick Pool, 3301 Landover Street**
  Open Weekends: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. May 24 – Aug. 31
  Open Weekdays: 12 - 7 p.m. June 23 – Aug. 15
  Open Holidays: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. May 26, July 4, & Sept. 1

  **Charles Houston Memorial Pool, 901 Wythe St.**
  Opening Weekend: 12 - 6 p.m. May 26 – Aug. 31
  Opening Weekdays: 12 - 6 p.m. June 24 – Aug. 29
  Open Holidays: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. May 26, July 4, & Sept. 1

  **Pool Fees:**
  - Youth (0-17) $2
  - Adult (18+) $3
  - Seniors (55+) $2
  - Non-residents $5

Marketing

- Recreation Services’ Program Interest Survey was open to the public for 8 weeks and yielded more than 900 responses online and in-person at Recreation Centers. The goal
was to collect data about the public’s preferences for program types, locations and time of day by age group. The survey was promoted via social media, electronic and print displays in Recreation Centers, via eNews, list servs, and on the Recreation homepage. A summary of top results is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>YOUTH</strong></th>
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<th><strong>ADULTS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 0-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 18 and up</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Responses</strong></td>
<td>53.4% (499)</td>
<td></td>
<td>85.1% (795)</td>
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<tr>
<td>As many as apply</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program Preferences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquatics = 37.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fitness Classes = 38.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Leagues = 30.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fitness Room Use = 25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Classes = 22.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aquatics = 22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>As many as apply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 6-11 = 62.0%</td>
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<td>Ages 35-54 = 53.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 0-5 = 35.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 18-34 = 25.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 12-18 = 31.1%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ages 55 and up = 38.2%</td>
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<td><strong>Time Preference</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekend Mornings = 27.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weekday Evenings = 41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday Evenings = 25.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weekday Mornings = 23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday Afternoons = 21.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weekend Mornings = 11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest in programs outside of school hours if transportation provided</strong></td>
<td>Yes = 62.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Before School = 68.5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After School = 94.0%</td>
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</table>

- 75.8% of respondents say location of program affects level of interest. (Select 3)
  Chinquapin = 55.0%
  Charles Houston = 36.0%
  Mount Vernon = 22%

- 88% Residents

**Other**

- Virginia Cooperative Extension celebrated their Centennial Anniversary on May 8 with an open house and exhibit at the Lee Center Alexandria Extension Office.
- New this April was the opening of a Plant Clinic at the Extension Office staffed by Master Gardeners on Thursdays through October. The Plant Clinic provides residents
with plant disease information, answers gardening questions, provides soil test kit and free seeds, and has many resources available to gardeners. The VCE Master Gardeners also staff plant clinics on Saturdays at the Old Town and Del Ray Farmer’s Markets.
1. **Park Maintenance and Park Facilities:**

- **Safety Training Field Day** – As part of the RPCA’s safety initiative, the Park Operations held its First Annual Spring Field Day & Equipment Rodeo at Witter Field on April 23, 2014. As the Department transitions from winter to spring operations, Department recognized staff for their successful completion of the winter operational season without work related injuries. In addition to recognizing staff, the Spring Field Day & Equipment Rodeo featured workplace safety training, equipment maintenance and operation demonstrations, and staff participated in obstacle course skill competitions.
• **New Fountain at Potomac Yard Park** - Planning the opening of the Integrated Water Fountain to occur on May 14th for testing and the official opening to tentatively occur the week of May 26th

• **New Parks** – Staff coordinating the bids for the contracted maintenance of 10 new parks including Contrabands & Freedman’s Cemetery, Potomac Yard (Phase II), Landbay E, Route 1 BRT, Braddock Road Interim Open Space (600 N. Henry St.), Custis Avenue Linear Park, Urban Deck, President Gerald Ford Park, and Miracle Field.

• **Simpson Dog Park** – staff completed the interim rehab work which included: Reestablishing vegetation on the slope, restoring the stone dust surface, installing City Standard benches, installing steps from Mt. Vernon to the basketball Court.

• **Four Mile Run Court** - resurfacing of the multi-use Court will include repairing cracks, painting and lining for soccer, and possibly basketball.

• **Seasonal Preparations** - Seasonal irrigation system settings have been completed; Staff continues inspecting all parks in preparation for growing season; Staff continues inspecting all playgrounds as part of the Safety Inspection Preparation (PSIP) for spring and summer. This inspection is expected to be finalized by the end of June; Annual Equipment Replacement Plan has been completed; continuing Quarterly Park Light Inspections.

• **Grounds Maintenance** – Mowing of medians, schools, parks and other public facilities began in April. First cycle of the Weed Abatement Program to control weeds in hard surfaces is scheduled to start this week.
2. **Natural Lands Management Program:**

- **T.C. Williams High School’s International Academy Community Stewardship Day** - Staff planned the scope of work and supervised 170 students, 12 chaperones, and 6 residents/volunteers in a project to address non-native invasive plant removal, native plantings, and litter clean-up at: a) INOVA Alexandria Hospital Scenic Easement, b) Forest Park, and c) Angel Park during the T.C. Williams High School International Academy Community Stewardship Day on April 25. See photos below.

  Lead teacher Leigh Arscott and students expressed appreciation to staff and volunteers for the successful outcome, including thank you letters.

![T.C. Williams HS students who cleared English Ivy projects at Angel Park Easement](image1)

![Part of the 105 students who worked on several projects at Angel Park Easement at the INOVA Alexandria Hospital Scenic](image2)

- **Alexandria’s Notable Tree Registry** – Staff continues to make additions to the City’s Notable Tree List, including the two giant specimens below which are remnants of the ancient floodplain plant community along Four Mile Run:

![City co-champion Green Ash at Parc East Condos.](image3)

![City champion Willow Oak -3500 Florence Dr.](image4)
• Invasive Plant Management Program – Staff utilized contracted services to implement large-scale invasive plant control projects at several locations during April, including Dora Kelley Nature Park and Timberbranch Parkway. These projects are part of our Annual Invasive Plant Management Plan, but are too large to be conducted by our in-house staff and volunteers.

3. **Urban Forestry Program:**
   - **Spring Tree Planting** – Our Spring Tree Planting season is underway. So far we have planted 111 trees, primarily along the City’s roadways.
   - **Earth Day** – Staff participated in the City’s Earth Day Celebration at Ben Brenman Park, including planting of the Arbor Day Tree, and receiving Alexandria’s 31st consecutive Tree City USA Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

4. **Horticulture Program:**
   - **Community Gardens:** Most of the 15 new garden plots at the Chinquapin Community Garden have been assigned to applicants who were on the Waiting List. Gardening is in full swing at both the Chinquapin and Holmes Run Gardens. Now that plots have been assigned, we are continuing the process of validating all applicants on the Waiting List, and requiring that they all submit a formal application form (with full contact information) in order to stay on the list. We have also met again with T&ES staff to discuss improvements to trash pick-up at the Gardens, including the issue of what types of containers could work best, while reducing theft and vandalism.

5. **Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center:** Staff conducted 59 interpretive programs in March that were attended by 1,944 participants. This is the largest number of monthly participants in Nature Center programs for FY 2014. Some program and operational highlights are described below:

   - **Spring Break Camp – “Prehistoric Alexandria”**: The Ford Nature Center’s Spring Break Camp was held from April 14 - 18. This year’s theme was “Prehistoric Alexandria.” Twelve campers, ranging in age from 7 to 10 years old, enjoyed a week of educational adventures exploring Alexandria’s geology, paleontology, and prehistoric archaeology. This program included an examination of local soil types, rock and mineral collection/identification, faux dinosaur excavation, visit from a local Nanticoke Indian tribe member who taught prehistoric survival skills, field trip to a Cretaceous fossil outcrop in nearby Prince Georges County, fascinating presentation on dinosaurs and their relatives (which included a live alligator) by “Reptiles Alive,” a field trip to the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History, gold panning, take-home crafts, nature journaling, and much more. Parent surveys rated the camp outstanding, with one parent commenting “*It was incredibly educational and fun. The leaders had the kids active and engaged and they learned a great deal.* “See photos below.
No gold…but a few pieces of shiny iron pyrite and stone

Daniel Firehawk showing campers how to make pendants using a prehistoric drill

- **“Your Experience Matters” Survey:** The Ford Nature Center received the highest number of completed Experience Surveys within the RCPA in the month of March. The Customer Care Committee presented the staff with a certificate of their accomplishment. The Afterschool Buddies Program received an impromptu celebration with cupcakes and balloons. See photos below.

- **Dora Kelly Nature Park Spring Clean-Up Day:** On April 5th, the Friends of Dora Kelley Nature Park conducted their annual spring clean-up. More than 50 local residents joined in to pick up trash and debris throughout the park. Cub Scout Troop 614 volunteered in the clean-up, gathering litter along the Beauregard Street entrance to the park. Fifteen volunteers, which included a group of students from Episcopal High School, also assisted with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust’s monthly invasive plant pull. See photos below.
Cub Scouts and their families help with clean-up at DKNP

- **Nature Center Exhibit at Del Ray Farmers Market:** The arrival of spring was heralded by the Ford Nature Center participating in the Del Ray Farmers Market. Many visitors came to the Nature Center’s table to see the animal ambassadors, which included a baby box turtle, corn snake, and several millipedes, and learn about what the Nature Center has to offer. Visitors could also sign up to receive a quarterly emailing of “Nature News”. Student volunteer, Haley Haukedahl, assisted Naturalist Jane at this event. See photos below.

- **Nature Center Staff at Alexandria Earth Day 2014:** April 26th was a blast as Jane Yeingst hosted the Ford Nature Center’s table of exhibits and handouts for Alexandria Earth Day at Ben Brenman Park! Several hundred people passed by the Nature Center’s table to see the live animals and talk with a Naturalist. At the end of the day, Naturalist Jane received an award for “The Most Memorable Exhibitor.” See photos below.
• **International Academy Community Stewardship Day:** On April 25, the Nature Center Director led 30 students and 2 chaperones from T.C. Williams High School in a project associated with the school’s first International Academy Community Stewardship Day, which lasted from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. This project, which was part of a larger citywide event, involved a major revitalization of Chinquapin Park’s nature trail. Assisted by Northern Virginia Conservation Trust Steward, Shannon O’Neill, the students resurfaced a 300 linear foot section of the nature trail with woodchips; cut and removed a medium-size tree that had fallen across the trail; unclogged a drainage pipe to redirect the water away from the trail; and repaired a section of a wooden bridge that had been damaged by vandals. The students did a fantastic job in making the Chinquapin Nature Trail safer and more accessible to local residents. See photos below.
Students cut a fallen tree to clear the nature trail and repair a vandalized bridge.

- **Alexandria Country Day School’s Earth Day Project in Dora Kelley Nature Park:** On April 22, 32 students from Alexandria Country Day School visited the Ford Nature Center with their teachers and chaperones to participate in a volunteer cleanup of Dora Kelley Nature Park as part of their Earth Day project. The Center Director conducted an indoor presentation on conservation and local wildlife for half of the group while the other half set off to clean up the park with bags and grabbers supplied by the Nature Center. The two groups switched places after 45 minutes to complete their service hours. See photos below.

- **William Ramsay Elementary Students Learn About Local Geology:** On April 3, the Naturalist staff of the Ford Nature Center conducted a series of five 40 minute programs on local geology for 120 fifth grade students from William Ramsay Elementary, which lasted from 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM. The Center Director conducted the indoor lecture part of the programs, while Naturalist Jane conducted the outdoor hike part in Dora Kelley Nature Park. These programs were presented at the request of the Elementary
School staff in preparation for their upcoming field trip to Great Falls Park. See photo below.

Ramsay students collecting rock specimens along the Holmes Run Stream.

- **William Ramsay Elementary School’s First Grade Art Program:** Over the next two months, all of the first graders at William Ramsay Elementary School will be visiting the Nature Center for their art class. Art teacher Nick Gust is conducting a drawing lesson during which the subject of this class is “live animals.” Naturalist Jane and Recreation leader Majd Jarrar show the students three reptiles from our collection. The children have the opportunity to see, touch, and ask questions about a box turtle, fat-tailed African gecko, and a Honduran milk snake. The class will display some of their art work at the Nature Center. See photos below.

Naturalist Madj Jarrar shows the students a snake.
Ramsay Art teacher and students observe a snake.
• **Additional programs hosted by the Naturalist staff during April:**
  
o  Naturalist Jane conducted the monthly “Little Adventures” program on the topic “Spring” on April 11th. During their hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park, children participating in this program had a wonderful opportunity to see native wildflowers in full bloom with their parents.

  o  The weekend program, “Frogs and Toads,” was conducted by Naturalist Jane on April 5.

  o  Fifteen impromptu tours were also conducted for Nature Center visitors by the Naturalist staff during April.

  o  The Center Director conducted a second program on ecology for students from the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community on April 8.

  o  Other April programs included a preschool program for the “Wednesday WOW Kids”; a nature hike for 15 Senior Girl Scouts; along with a basket-making workshop.

• **Volunteers and Interns** – A total of 113 volunteers and interns collectively provided 295 service hours during the month of April.
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 15, 2014

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF MARKETING, SPECIAL EVENTS & WATERFRONT OPERATIONS RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION: ITEM III-C MARKETING, SPECIAL EVENTS & WATERFRONT OPERATIONS UPDATE

Waterfront Operations Responds to Spring Flooding
Staff and contractors cleared approximately 35 cubic yards of driftwood and debris from the Waterfront, (three dump trucks full, a roll of dumpster, and several pickup trucks). Photos attached.

Marina Facility Condition Assessment Update
RPCA and General Services have prepared an RFP for solicitation in April 2014 to provide cross bracing to strengthen the Wharf. RFP solicitation to occur in mid to late May with anticipated completion in late June 2014.

Windmill Hill Park Bulkhead Replacement
The RFP for the replacement of the park bulkhead closes on Thursday, May 15. More than five firms attended the voluntary pre-submittal conference. Preparations are on track for planned community outreach activities in late spring to early summer. Construction to begin FY 2016 as budgeted.

Waterfront Plan Implementation
The City of Alexandria hosted Community Meeting #5 to receive comment on “Alternative D” which includes modifications to the plan resulting from the City of Alexandria and Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) discussions. The modifications include the moving of the ODBC location to the Beachcomber property, 200 The Strand and a portion of 204 The Strand. The City would receive the current ODBC building and land, and the ODBC parking lot.

For up to date information and news on Waterfront Implementation Activities, visit http://www.alexandriava.gov/Waterfront.
**Special Events Calendar May through June**  
http://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/?show=RecreationCommunity

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</table>
| May 16, 2014 | Fri 5:30 AM | **Bike To Work Day 2014**  
Bike to Work Day is held annually throughout the region. Participants bicycle in, enjoy music, food, gifts and various informational vendors. |
| May 16, 2014 | Fri 12:15 PM | **School Lunch Bunch Concert**  
Performance by Immanuel Lutheran School Choir. |
| May 16, 2014 | Fri 7:00 PM | **Family Fun Night**  
Bring a pool float and the whole family for fun for all ages. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball and fun on the floating obstacle course. Celebrate National Water Safety Month with swimming skill assessments for youth, a lifeguard skill demonstration and learning proper lifejacket sizing. Sign-ups for summer camps and Wahoos Youth ... |
| May 17, 2014 | Sat 7:30 AM | **Cinema Del Ray**  
Community Family movie night held on Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Field with food and beverage sales |
| May 17, 2014 | Sat 9:00 AM | **Hershey's Track & Field Games**  
Hershey's Track & Field Games are designed to encourage physical fitness among youth and emphasize participation and sportsmanship. To participate, a parent/guardian must register online at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation or turn in a completed registration form to any recreation center or the Sports Office, located at 1108 Jefferson Street. The registration ... |
| May 17, 2014 | Sat 10:00 AM | **Soldier led tours of the Fort (morning)**  
Soldier-led tours of the Fort in honor of Armed Forces Day. Tours of the historic fort led by an interpreter in Union uniform highlight the history of Fort Ward and army life in the Defenses of Washington. Tours begin at the Museum at 10 am and 2 pm, and last about 90 minutes each. Free. Program is weather dependent. |
| May 17, 2014 | Sat 2:00 PM | **Soldier led tours of the Fort (afternoon)**  
Soldier-led tours of the Fort in honor of Armed Forces Day. Tours of the historic fort led by an interpreter in Union uniform highlight the history of Fort Ward and army life in the Defenses of Washington. Tours begin at the Museum at 10 am and 2 pm, and last about 90 minutes each. Free. Program is weather dependent. |
| May 17, 2014 | Sat 4:00 PM | **Relay For Life of Alexandria City**  
Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society |
| May 18, 2014 | Sun 10:30 AM | **St. Mary's Spring Fling**  
A fun event for kids with carnival rides, games, crafts, entertainment, food and beverages at St. Mary's School, 400 Green Street. |
| May 18, 2014 | Sun 12:00 PM | **Mattie Miracle Walk & Family Festival**  
Childhood cancer awareness event and fundraiser held at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. A walk designed as a family friendly event with kids activities, live music by local teen bands and food and beverage sales |
| May 18, 2014 | Sun 4:00 PM | **Relay for Life**  
The American Cancer Society Relay for life in Alexandria. Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society |
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 23, 2014</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>12:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>School Lunch Bunch Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Performance by Alexandria Country Day School Junior Jazz Band.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Choreographers Collaboration Project</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dance performance by the Choreographers Collaboration Project featuring modern dance with adult and children performers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25, 2014</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>6:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Alexandria Running Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;Half-marathon and 5k race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25, 2014</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Alexandria Family Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;A celebration to honor our military service members and their families</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25, 2014</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Take 25</strong>&lt;br&gt;Outdoor event with community vendors. Activities for families and children</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26, 2014</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>City of Alexandria Memorial Day Jazz Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;37th Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival commemorating Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Alexandria Soccer Festival</strong>&lt;br&gt;Soccer festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 4, 2014</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Ben Brenman Park Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Concert by the premier U.S.Navy Band Country Current featuring Country Music. Feel free to bring a folding chair or blanket and picnic supper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 7, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Youth Arts Festival/Father's Day Celebration</strong>&lt;br&gt;Youth arts festival with performing arts and displaying fine, and visual art work of young people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 7, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Scan Croquet Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fundraiser for SCAN's child abuse prevention activities at Joseph Hensley Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 7, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>70th D-Day Commemoration</strong>&lt;br&gt;Celebration of the heroism and sacrifices of our invasion forces in Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. We will have several re-enactors with WWII vintage vehicles and displays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 11, 2014</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Canal Plaza Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Concert by Sam'O &amp; JFC featuring reggae music. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a performance along the Potomac River. Offered in Partnership with Tishman Speyer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 12, 2014</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Music at Twilight Concert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Performance by Quintango, string tango quintet. Feel free to bring chairs or a blanket and a picnic supper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 14, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Del Ray Artisans Alexandria Art Market</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tented art spaces occupied by artists displaying &amp; selling their work at the Artisans Art Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 14, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Art League Raku Firing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Demonstration of the art of ceramic raku firing for Art League students &amp;public using three parking spaces in the parking lot next to the tennis courts or in the pavilion at Montgomery Park.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 18, 2014</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Ben Brenman Park Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 21, 2014</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Cinema Del Ray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 26, 2014</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Music at Twilight Concert</td>
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May 1, 2014 Flooding Activities
Ford’s Landing City Park

Ford’s Landing City Park
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 15, 2014

TO: ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN+CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM: MONTHLY UPDATE FOR PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION;
APRIL - MAY, 2014 – ITEM III-D

ISSUE:
The following items are provided to the Park & Recreation Commission as information at its
April 17, 2014 meeting:

- Capital Projects Update
- Capital Facilities Maintenance Projects Update
- What’s Next for Open Space in Alexandria/May 31 Public Open Space Memorandum with attachment citing Alexandria Open Space Festival
- Chinquapin Aquatics Center Feasibility Study, Task 1A Memorandum with attachment citing Task 1A
- Cameron Park Site Plan Information

ITEMS:
Armistead Boothe Park Renovation:

Armistead L. Boothe Park, located at 520 Cameron Station Blvd., is under construction. Several
areas of the park will be closed during this renovation, including the picnic shelter, playgrounds,
tennis courts, basketball court, and parking lot. The ballfield will remain open during
construction. The construction will include the relocation and renovation of the playgrounds,
rubberized safety surfacing, resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts, and other site
work. Anticipated completion of park improvements is early summer 2014. This project is
funded by contributions from Restaurant Deport, Alexandria City Public Schools, and various
Park CIP funds.
For additional information, see the Armistead Boothe Park Construction FAQ: http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=27060#armistead. The anticipated construction completion date is June 30, 2014.

**Hooff's Run Park Playground Renovation**

Park Planning recently completed the construction documents of the playground concept plan and play equipment design. The final design incorporates community feedback received throughout the engagement process, including the June 24, October 3, and October 30, 2013 community meetings. The project was recently solicited for bid by the Purchasing Department. Only a single contractor response was received, therefore the project will be re-advertised. Construction remains anticipated to start July/August, 2014.

**Montgomery Park Improvements:**

Buchanan Partners, developers for the Harris Teeter Development, began construction of park improvements at Montgomery Park, 901 N. Royal St. the week of March 17. The work is anticipated to be complete mid-May. The existing dog park will be closed. Park improvements include significant improvements to the dog park including a 2,500 SF expansion of the dog park, new access gates and fencing as well as new site furnishings including a dog water fountain and benches. The park improvements also include new tree and shrub plantings with associated irrigation system, new park access from Fairfax Street and updated park signage. The improvements are a requirement of the Harris Teeter Development Special Use Permit Condition #108, and were approved during the development review process and at the Planning Commission and City Council public hearings of June, 2011. This condition must be fulfilled prior to the release of the certificate of occupancy.

**Four Mile Run Restoration Project:**

The Four Mile Run Restoration Project’s Joint Task Force held a joint meeting with the Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group on April 23rd. The meeting included a review of the 90% design documents, discussion on the Mt. Vernon Village project and impacts on Four Mile Run Park, and Alexandria ReNew updates.
Braddock Neighborhood Interim Open Space (600 N. Henry St.)

The Park and Recreation Commission approved a concept plan for interim improvements to the Braddock Open Space in January 2014. The building at 600 North Henry Street is scheduled for demolition beginning late May to early June. Following demolition, implementation of the approved plan will begin, with completion expected over the summer. A group of neighbors from Braddock Lofts submitted an agreement to adopt the new open space once it’s complete. An RFP for design the future, full one acre park on that block is currently out for proposals.

Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan and Drainage Master Plan Status

The Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group held a public meeting on May 7 to review the Drainage Master Plan and a meeting on May 14 to determine any final recommended changes to the Draft Management Plan. The consultants for each plan will be revising the documents accordingly. A joint meeting with the involved commissions will be scheduled for the summer to review the revised plans.

Potomac Yard Park – Fountain

The fountain at Potomac Yard is now anticipated to be operational in June, 2014. Staff is working with the Contractor and Potomac Yard Development to address operating issues identified during Spring start-up in early May.

Freedmen’s Cemetery

The project is progressing towards final completion. The General Contractor is currently remediating work that has been determined non-compliant with the project construction contract documents/specifications. Final completion is anticipated for mid-June, 2014.

STAFF: Park Planning, Design+Capital Development Division
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<th>Active Park Planning Projects</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lead</strong></td>
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<td><strong>VDOT</strong></td>
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<td>Notes: Anticipated completion in June, 2014 Undergoing punchlist corrections/replacements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA/ACPS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: ACPS school replacement study community meetings on-going. Feasibility Study RFP approved by ACPS School Board 11.07. RFP anticipated to be awarded May 2014.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<td>Notes: MOU with Del Ray Civic Association signed summer 2013. Funds allocated in September. Award anticipated March. April-May construction.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: Minor Site Plan Amendment approval January 2014; ITB issued 10/17/13; Award 1/31/14. Construction to commence April 2014. June delivery anticipated.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<td>Notes: Contract Task One-A underway.</td>
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<td>Notes: Will go to City Council as information on June 11.</td>
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<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<td>Notes: Lardner/Klein began work May 2013 on management plan. URS began work June 2013 on stormwater master plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: 90% design submission. RFP for construction management to be released in June. Construction to begin in Sept/Oct 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: Community meetings held on June 24, October 3 &amp; 30. Final Concept Design Plan complete. Construction documents in progress, to be complete Winter 2014. Project delivery anticipated Summer 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: Citizen request Project approved by PRC in June 2013. Kelley Cares fundraising Spring 2014. No city funds. Initial concept plan reviewed and approved. Moving to CDs for project delivery Fall 2014.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RPCA</strong></td>
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<td>Notes: Phase I (main body) opened December 14. Phase II (south trail) anticipated to be complete Fall 2014. Phase III (North Pond) to be separated and complete early 2015.</td>
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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 15, 2014

TO: ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR

ITEM: WHAT'S NEXT FOR OPEN SPACE IN ALEXANDRIA

MAY 31st PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

ISSUE:
In June 2013, the Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and Environmental Policy Commission received a ten year status report on the Open Space Master Plan, along with a series of draft recommendations for future action (attached). Over the past year, an interdepartmental team met and discussed each of the recommendations in detail. The interdepartmental staff team has completed the review of the draft recommendations for continued implementation of the Open Space Master Plan. These recommendations, along with the ten year update will be presented to the public at an upcoming Public Open House on Saturday, May 31st at the Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park.

The Open House will provide the public with an opportunity to view significant accomplishments of the Open Space Master Plan achieved to date, as well as to provide feedback and ideas for moving forward. In addition, activities and event celebrating our open space and parks are planned, including a Four Mile Run Clean-up, an afternoon of open field play at the soccer field, and a screening of the film “Greenfire” by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust.

# # #

Attachment
DATE: MAY 20, 2013
TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS OF THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION
FROM: LAURA D. DURHAM, OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR
SUBJECT: OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2003-2013 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

ISSUE:

In May 2003 the City Council adopted the Open Space Plan chapter of the City’s Master Plan. At the time, the Open Space Plan provided a framework for moving ahead both to preserve and enhance the City’s existing open space and to obtain the additional land area Alexandria needed to sustain quality of life for future generations. The City has had significant success implementing this plan over the past ten years, increasing public open space by nearly 100 acres and making “open space” one of the City’s top priorities in Alexandria’s 2004-2015 Strategic Plan. In order to continue this success, and in response to evolving demands on existing open spaces in the City, new approaches and updated goals should be considered an essential component of Alexandria’s ongoing quality of life.

BACKGROUND:

The Open Space Plan established a framework for addressing Alexandria’s short and long term open space needs. It defined an approach that maximized the City’s limited open space opportunities by creating a system to build upon the City’s dense, urban condition. The Plan identified a critical need to add another 100 acres of public open space in ten years (by 2013) in order to maintain a ratio of open space (7.3 acres/1,000 residents) at the time of its approval. In addition, the Plan framed the initiative for Alexandria with a list of 15 simple and direct goal statements:

   Goal 1. Protect and enrich existing parks
   Goal 2. Develop innovative opportunities for creating additional open space
   Goal 3. Complete implementation of the Potomac River Waterfront Plan
   Goal 4. Protect and expand the stream valleys and other environmentally sensitive areas
Goal 5. Create an open space network in new development areas
Goal 6. Protect and preserve institutional open space
Goal 7. Maximize use of public school open space areas
Goal 8. Preserve and protect cemeteries
Goal 9. Create public open space from vacant land
Goal 10. Link and expand pedestrian, bicycle and trail system
Goal 11. Enhance streetscapes and gateways
Goal 12. Expand citywide street tree program and protect existing trees and woodland areas
Goal 13. Encourage the creation of Civic Parks at and adjacent to Metro stations
Goal 14. Beautify interchanges and highways corridors
Goal 15. Protect privately owned open space

Finally, the Plan listed Priority Actions, and discussed funding and implementation measures for each of the 15 goals, many of which have been completed between the time of the Plan’s approval in 2003 and this update in 2013.

Current Status of Implementation of the Open Space Master Plan:

Since the inception of the Open Space Master Plan in 2003, the City has set forth and achieved many of the goals outlined in the plan (Attachment 2). Staff has worked with property owners to protect a number of the significant open space sites identified in the Plan as well as additional open space sites throughout the city. Important sites that have been protected include:

- The acquisition of three of the Waterfront/Strand parcels;
- The acquisition of and improvements to four parcels along Mount Vernon Avenue and adjacent to Four Mile Run;
- Acquisition and development of new park at 2600 Business Center Drive (Witter Fields);
- Acquisition of the parcels at Freedmen’s Cemetery;
- Acquisition of Ivor Lane (Serninary Forest) property;
- Acquisition of and improvements to two pocket parks, 48 South Early Street and 1&7 East Del Ray Avenue;
- Acquisition of land to expand Holmes Run Park;
- Acquisition of an abandoned power substation and conversion to neighborhood park;
- Acquisition of key parcel for Braddock area community park;
- Acquisition of woodland area for a park on Polk Avenue;
- Conservation easements on five properties through partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust;
- Historic Preservation Open Space Easements through Alexandria’s Historic Preservation Easement Program;
- Significant open space acreage created and/or protected with public access easements through the City’s development process; and
- A number of properties dedicated to the City by private property owners for use as parks/open space.
As of January 2013, the City has achieved the addition of 103 acres of open space – just over the 100 acre goal (Attachment 1). With this achievement of the 100 acre goal set forth in the plan, the City has maintained the ratio of 7.3 acres per 1,000 residents. The graphic below depicts the total additional open space acreage the City has attained since 2003 through acquisition and dedication; public open space easements through private development (and redevelopment) and conservation easements; and public open space approved in yet to be built development plans.

Along with the additional open space depicted above, a number of other objectives within the Plan have been met, including:

- The creation of public open space networks through the City’s Small Area Plans (Eisenhower East, Arlandria, Landmark/Van Dorn, Braddock, Waterfront and Beauregard);
- The adoption of the Urban Forestry and Eco-City Plans, as well as the Four Mile Run Remediation Master Plan, all of which call for preservation and enhancement of City open space;
- An ongoing partnership with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to provide educational opportunities for landowners, provide outreach to institutional landholders, and to protect open space with conservation easements; and
- The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities has developed a staff of landscape architects, architect and planners within the Division of Park Planning and Capital Development with a goal of creating and improving the quality of the City’s public parks and open spaces.
Moving Forward, 2013-2023:

As discussed above, the City has made significant progress towards the goals set forth in the Open Space Master Plan. In particular, the ten-year goal of maintaining a 7.3 acre per 1,000 residents has been achieved. The Open Space Master Plan was not, however, a ten-year plan, and the City of Alexandria must continue to strive to meet some of the unfulfilled goals outlined in the plan. We also must look at future projected population growth and the open space needs of those new Alexandrians. For instance, if we are to maintain the ratio above, the City will need to add another 183 acres of open space by the year 2023 (based on recent census estimates for population growth).

Of these 183 acres, the City has made headway with planned public open space within recently approved Small Area Plans that has not been accounted for in current open space figures (Landmark/Van Dorn, Waterfront, Braddock and Beauregard Small Area Plans). With implementation of these plans, an additional 58 acres of public open space will be provided. In order to attain the remaining 125 acres (183 needed minus the 58 provided through future implementation of Small Area Plans), the City will need to continue its current efforts as well as explore more innovative approaches to increasing public open space.

RECOMMENDATION:

As discussed above, over the past ten years, the City has achieved significant success toward meeting the goals set forth in the 2003 Open Space Master Plan. Hitting the ten year mark, however, is an important opportunity to review and revise the implementation measures also set forth in the Plan. Attached to this memo is a document depicting achievements to date for each goal of the Open Space Plan, as well as recommendations for future implementation strategies for the Plan (Attachment 2). Some of those recommendations are readily achievable and already underway, while others require thoughtful consideration, analysis and collaboration between City departments, the public, and the development community.

Upon receipt of this memorandum, this additional work should be initiated, with refined recommendations brought forward to involved City boards and commissions, as well as City Council in the fall of 2013. In particular, the following items should be initiated over the next three months:

- Establish an interdepartmental working group to discuss and analyze the feasibility of specific changes (Attachment 2) to the City’s Zoning Ordinance, including participants from Planning and Zoning; Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Transportation and Environmental Services and the City Attorney’s Office.
Utilizing GIS, determine and map underserved areas of the City, currently not served with public open space within a ¼ mile radius.

Utilizing GIS, determine and map vulnerable natural resource areas as candidates for additional protection.

Finalize and implement a work plan for the completion of a Natural Resource Management Plan for Alexandria.

Working with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, the RPCA Division of Natural Resources, the Alexandria City Public Schools and the Office of Environmental Quality, develop a collaborative outreach and education program, strongly emphasizing the protection of open space in the City.

Utilizing the RPCA Division of Park Planning’s internship program, research and document best practices in the creation of public open space in urban areas across the region and the country and produce a feasibility analysis of each for Alexandria.

Finalize and implement a policy (or set of policies) to guide successful fulfillment of new stormwater requirements, while protecting and preserving public open space.

With the above tasks completed or underway, including collaboration between involved boards and commissions, staff can provide City Council with an actionable plan for the creation and protection of open space in the next ten years.

# # #
• Utilizing GIS, determine and map underserved areas of the City, currently not served with public open space within a ¼ mile radius.
• Utilizing GIS, determine and map vulnerable natural resource areas as candidates for additional protection.
• Finalize and implement a work plan for the completion of a Natural Resource Management Plan for Alexandria.
• Working with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, the RPCA Division of Natural Resources, the Alexandria City Public Schools and the Office of Environmental Quality, develop a collaborative outreach and education program, strongly emphasizing the protection of open space in the City.
• Utilizing the RPCA Division of Park Planning’s internship program, research and document best practices in the creation of public open space in urban areas across the region and the country and produce a feasibility analysis of each for Alexandria.
• Finalize and implement a policy (or set of policies) to guide successful fulfillment of new stormwater requirements, while protecting and preserving public open space.

With the above tasks completed or underway, including collaboration between involved boards and commissions, staff can provide City Council with an actionable plan for the creation and protection of open space in the next ten years.

# # #
2-5 p.m. Learn about Alexandria’s Open Space Master Plan with public comment period

3-7 p.m. Open play at the Four Mile Run soccer field

3:30-5:30 p.m. Four Mile Run Cleanup—win a prize for the most interesting piece of litter!

6:00 p.m. Green Fire film with Spanish subtitles, free pizza and refreshments

Free refreshments, Free film, 6 p.m.
DATE: MAY 15, 2014

TO: ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: LAURA DURHAM, OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR

ITEM: CHINQUAPIN AQUATICS CENTER
FEASIBILITY STUDY, TASK 1A

ISSUE: On May 13, 2014 City Council received the consultant’s Chinquapin Aquatics Center Feasibility Study, Task 1A Report (attached), discussing the initial feasibility assessment for the addition of a 50 meter aquatic facility and a renovated recreation pool at the existing Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. In our docket memorandum, staff recommended that City Council:

1. Receive and discuss the Task 1A Report provided by Hughes Group Architects; and
2. Direct staff to proceed with additional tasks within the feasibility study scope of work.

BACKGROUND: Through the FY2014 budget discussions, City Council approved $500,000 in funding for a feasibility study to determine the viability of constructing a 50 meter competition pool and renovated recreation pool at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. The City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) and selected the firm of Hughes Group Architects (HGA) to complete this study. HGA began the work in March 2014 and recently completed the first item required in their scope of work.

Task 1A of the study included a preliminary assessment of the existing site, constraints of the site, and an initial analysis of the market for aquatics in Alexandria. This preliminary work is intended to inform City Council and staff regarding whether or not the existing Chinquapin Park facility site can accommodate the addition of a 50 meter pool. If the finding from Task 1A determines that an addition is feasible based on the site’s physical conditions/constraints, then additional tasks can be completed to further determine feasibility, market analysis, constructability and overall cost.
**DISCUSSION**: Based on the findings from the Task 1A Report, the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility site has a number of constraints; however, there are possible configurations of the site that can accommodate the addition of a 50 meter pool. The report details six potential schematics, explaining the challenges and opportunities for each, as well as explaining an identified potential need for additional aquatics facilities in the City of Alexandria. The significant constraints to consider, highlighted in the report, include:

- A Resource Protection Area (RPA);
- A storm sewer system lateral;
- Existing tree canopy; and
- Steep grade differential across the site

In addition, the consultant is and will continue to consider the ability of any new facility to comply with the City’s established Cost Recovery and Resource Allocation Policy.

Based on the findings, staff recommended to City Council that the consultant move forward with additional components of the feasibility study, including robust work with the public to further define a viable site and programmatic layout and conduct an in depth analysis of the market for such a facility in Alexandria. More detailed cost estimates for an expanded facility can be provided as the layout and program is defined through this process.

**At the time of finalizing this memorandum to the Park and Recreation Commission, staff does not have details of the discussion with City Council. We will provide a verbal update at the May 15, 2014 meeting.**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
The cost of continuing the study is covered by the $500,000 provided in the FY2014 CIP.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
Hughes Group Architects’ Chinquapin Aquatics Center Feasibility Study, Task 1A Report

# # #
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TASK 1A NARRATIVE

Introduction

The City of Alexandria - RP&CA has tasked a multidisciplinary team to conduct a systematic evaluation of the feasibility of supplementing the existing Chinquapin Recreation Center with the addition of a competition swim center to service year-round citywide aquatic needs. The additional amenities being evaluated include a 50 Meter Competition Pool, spectator seating, locker rooms, mechanical space and conversion of the existing pool to one focused on family recreation. The study also involves a community engagement process, in accordance with the City’s Civic Engagement Framework, to enhance the level of collaboration between City Staff, City Officials and Community members throughout the entire development process of the project.

Study Methodology

As directed by the City the Feasibility Study is being developed in three parts:

Task 1A Assessment of Preliminary Viability: The task includes assessment of preliminary viability by identifying an anticipated architectural program, site constraints and opportunities and study of pre-concept options.

Task 1B Continued Assessment: The task includes continued evaluation of a range of physical design alternatives to further refine the anticipated architectural program in response to economic evaluation, demand based needs assessment and community feedback. The task includes further development of the concept options.

Task 2 Detailed Feasibility Study: Identification of a Preferred Concept Alternative based on community feedback and analysis of data collected as part of Tasks 1A and 1B. The Task includes a detailed Feasibility Study of the Preferred Alternative, further refinement of the architectural program and site/architectural design to determine the feasibility of a new competition swim center and a transformation of the existing center to a recreation-based aquatic venue. The study will also include an assessment of economic impacts of constructing and operating the proposed facility.

Physical Constraints and Opportunities

Preserving open space and the character of Chinquapin Park and minimizing impact to operations of the existing recreation center during construction are primary objectives for all proposed modifications. In addition, new aquatic components must integrate with the existing facility such that the existing and new facilities function as a unified recreation center. With the prospect of a substantial addition to the facility there is the opportunity to create a new building entry and redefine the user entry sequence to greatly improve facility control and address accessibility issues.

Program options need to be developed to satisfy unmet indoor aquatic needs for Alexandria’s citizens. For this portion of the evaluation these unmet needs have been broadly identified as enhanced aquatic amenities for family recreation and facilities supporting competitive swimming for the purpose of generating pre-concept options and assessing preliminary viability. The project’s $19,500,000 capital improvement budget and the goal for city facilities to recover at least 80% of annual operating cost by 2018 will be significant factors in determining the projects final program and proposed extent of modifications.

Several significant physical constraints exist on site including a Resource Protection Area (RPA) surrounding Taylor Run, an underground stormwater and sanitary pipe to the north as well as a city wide storm water management facility proposed in the north lawn. Additionally, a steep grade differential across the site may contribute to increased site development costs in optimizing the adjacency of program elements.

The existing tennis court area may need to be used as an area for expansion space and to provide the ability to consolidate parking at an elevation aligned with the building entry.

Building Code classification of the existing structure will likely require fire rated separation between existing space and building additions. As a result, configurations which minimize the amount of interface with the existing facility will likely provide more cost effective solutions.

Market Constraints and Opportunities

Based upon the application of national participation rates against the demographic make-up of Alexandria, there appears to be a significant number of aquatic users who swim more than 50 times per year residing in the city. Based upon the number of annual passes, or annual pass equivalents, sold at Chinquapin in 2012, it appears that the facility is only capturing about 20% of these core users.

There are no other publicly-operated indoor pools and there are only two private indoor aquatic facilities, the YMCA and X-Sports Fitness, located within the City of Alexandria. Furthermore, these two private facilities only have 4-lane, 25-yard pools with a maximum depth of 4 feet which severely limits their breadth of aquatic program offerings. Based upon the limited supply of indoor pool facilities and the fact that core users swim more than 50 times a year, it is likely that the needs of the core aquatic users in Alexandria are currently underserved.

Because Chinquapin is capturing a low percentage of core aquatic participants and the only other indoor aquatic facilities in Alexandria are limited in programming, it is possible that the presumed 80% of underserved core swimmers are utilizing aquatic facilities in other jurisdictions with better lane space, quality of features, and expansive fitness components.
TASK 1A NARRATIVE

Summary of Analysis and Recommendations

The following pages identify the site analysis used to develop the constraints/opportunities and the six (6) concepts generated and assessed based on the identified constraints and opportunities. Based on our initial program assumptions and evaluation of site constraints an addition and renovation to enhance indoor aquatic facilities in the area of family recreation and competitive swimming is viable within the physical constraints of the project. A more detailed analysis of program needs and construction cost will be conducted in later phases of this project to validate the preliminary assumptions and financial assessment.

Using similar facilities located in surrounding jurisdictions as the base line for level of quality and types of finishes, the preliminary budget estimate of the projected construction cost for the concepts we have generated is consistent with the city’s established budget.

The initial analysis of the market data and assumptions required to achieve RPCA’s financial goals appears to indicate that there is sufficient unmet demand in the city of Alexandria to support an expanded aquatic offering at Chinquapin while achieving RPCA’s financial goals. However, the preliminary financial analysis is contingent upon a significant increase in revenues from passes, daily admissions, programs, and rentals in addition to a reduction in the relative cost of operations. Verification of the underlying assumptions and quantifying demand for specific programs is a critical next step in order to validate the economic viability of any expansion.

Key Findings/Constraints:

1. CIP budget limits and Cost Recovery goals as currently proposed will be significant influencing factors.
2. In order to maximize facility expansion, site reconfiguration should be minimized as much as possible.
3. Existing and proposed storm water facilities north of the building provide substantial cost barriers to building expansion to the north.
4. The RPA around Taylor Run limits available locations for expansion to the east.
5. Expansion to the west is limited by available space.
6. Achieving fiscal goals for operations is plausible based upon a preliminary analysis of market conditions and assumed improvements in operating structure.
**SPACE FLOW DIAGRAM**

- **ENTRY**
  - CONSOLIDATED PARKING
  - NEW SPECTATOR SEATING
  - NEW 50-M POOL
  - NEW LOCKERS
  - OUTDOOR WATER FEATURE
  - EMERGENCY ACCESS
  - EXISTING POOL SUPPORT
  - PROGRAM SPACES
  - NEW LOBBY
  - NEW CONTROL
  - EXIST LOCKERS
  - RENOVATED RECREATION POOL
  - ADMIN
  - NEW LOBBY / Control
  - Administration
  - 50 Meter Pool
  - Spectator Seating
  - Program Space
  - Pool Support / Equipment
  - Locker

**ASSUMED PROGRAM**

- New Lobby / Control: 2,000 SF
- Administration: 1,000 SF
- 50 Meter Pool: 24,000 SF
- Spectator Seating: 3,200 SF
- Program Space: 4,300 SF
- Pool Support / Equipment: 2,500 SF
- Locker: 3,000 SF

Total: +/- 40,000 SF

CHINQUAPIN SWIM CENTER

ASSUMED PROGRAM
SCHEME 1

ANALYSIS

PROS

- Central entry location from parking
- 50-m pool addition gives good presence along King Street
- Curved west infill provides new façade at the entry
- Good amenity engagement to the aquatic zones
- Good user flow at pool deck level

CONS

- Encroaches into the site constraint areas (high environmental impact)
- Cost premium on the curved west infill additions

LEGEND

- Resource Protection Area (RPA)
- Storm Water (Culvert & Creek)
- Existing Tree Canopy
- Building Setback

1. NEW ENTRY
2. NEW LOBBY
3. SPECTATOR SEATING
4. PROGRAM SPACE
5. 50-M POOL
6. EXISTING BUILDING WITH MODIFIED RECREATION POOL
7. SUN DECK
8. STAFF/SERVICE PARKING
9. PUBLIC PARKING

NOTE: NEW LOCKERS & POOL SUPPORT BELOW 2,3 & 4
### SCHEME 2

#### ANALYSIS

**PROS**
- Central entry location from parking
- New building image along King Street & Chinquapin Drive
- Good user flow at pool deck level

**CONS**
- Encroaches into the site constraint areas
- No immediate engagement of the aquatic zones at the entry
- Cost premium due to reconfiguration of existing building and additions on three sides of the existing facility

#### LEGEND
- Resource Protection Area (RPA)
- Storm Water (Culvert & Creek)
- Existing Tree Canopy
- Building Setback

1. NEW ENTRY
2. NEW LOBBY
3. SPECTATOR SEATING
4. PROGRAM SPACE
5. 50-M POOL
6. EXISTING BUILDING WITH MODIFIED RECREATION POOL
7. SUN DECK
8. STAFF /SERVICE PARKING
9. PUBLIC PARKING

**NOTE:** NEW LOCKERS & POOL SUPPORT BELOW 2, 3 & 4
**ANALYSIS**

**PROS**

- Central entry location from parking
- 50-m pool addition gives good presence along King Street
- Utilizes SMW as a feature element
- Good amenity engagement to the aquatic zones
- Good user flow at pool deck level
- Minimal cost premium

**CONS**

- Encroaches into the site constraint areas (high environmental impact)

**LEGEND**

- Resource Protection Area (RPA)
- Storm Water (Culvert & Creek)
- Existing Tree Canopy
- Building Setback

**NOTE:** NEW LOCKERS & POOL SUPPORT BELOW 2, 3 & 4
SCHEME 4

ANALYSIS

PROS
• Entry has good proximity to TC Williams
• Good amenity engagement to the aquatic zones

CONS
• Encroaches into some of the site constraint areas
• Pool Addition too close to site entry and encroaches into building setback criteria
• Internal space relationships are inefficient
• Service access at King Street

LEGEND

- Resource Protection Area (RPA)
- Storm Water (Culvert & Creek)
- Existing Tree Canopy
- Building Setback

1 NEW ENTRY
2 NEW LOBBY
3 SPECTATOR SEATING
4 PROGRAM SPACE
5 50-M POOL
6 EXISTING BUILDING WITH MODIFIED RECREATION POOL
7 SUN DECK
8 SERVICE PARKING
9 PUBLIC PARKING

NOTE: NEW LOCKERS & POOL SUPPORT BELOW 2,3 & 4
SCHEME 5

ANALYSIS

**PROS**
- Good entry location
- Good amenity engagement to the aquatic zones
- Good user flow at pool deck level
- Pool addition has good park presence

**CONS**
- Encroaches into some of the site constraint areas

**LEGEND**
- Resource Protection Area (RPA)
- Storm Water (Culvert & Creek)
- Existing Tree Canopy
- Building Setback

1. NEW ENTRY
2. NEW LOBBY
3. SPECTATOR SEATING
4. PROGRAM SPACE
5. 50-M POOL
6. EXISTING BUILDING WITH MODIFIED RECREATION POOL
7. SUN DECK
8. SERVICE PARKING
9. PUBLIC PARKING

**NOTE:** NEW LOCKERS & POOL SUPPORT BELOW 2,3 & 4
SCHEME 6

ANALYSIS

PROS
• Good entry location
• Pool addition has good park presence
• Good amenity engagement to the aquatic zones
• Good user flow at pool deck level
• Avoid all site constraint areas

CONS
• Increased excavation cost

LEGEND

Resource Protection Area (RPA)
Storm Water (Culvert & Creek)
Existing Tree Canopy
Building Setback

1 NEW ENTRY
2 NEW LOBBY
3 SPECTATOR SEATING
4 PROGRAM SPACE
5 50-M POOL
6 EXISTING BUILDING WITH MODIFIED RECREATION POOL
7 SUN DECK
8 STAFF/SERVICE PARKING
9 PUBLIC PARKING

NOTE: NEW LOCKERS & POOL SUPPORT BELOW 2,3 & 4
**NEXT STEP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

**Commitment to Working Together**

Collaboration between community members and city government leads to better results than either working in a vacuum. One without the other misses out on a whole range of good ideas. More importantly, public decisions that are developed collaboratively produce better results and better stand the test of time. RP&CA is committed to using the City of Alexandria’s newly adopted Civic Engagement Framework, and Concordia will guide an inclusive process for the Chinquapin Swim Center that will engage the community at-large beginning in Task 1B. The end goal is to bring all interested groups to the table and create a unified decision-making process to help select a preferred design concept to move into the implementation phase.

**Community Driven Design**

Concordia will lead the community-focused design effort for the Chinquapin Swim Center based on the Civic Engagement Framework. This Framework is a result of the What’s Next Alexandria project facilitated by Concordia for the City of Alexandria. Concordia is nationally recognized as a leader in public interest design, and our work is driven by an inclusive posture with regard to citizen involvement, public support and community advocacy.

Concordia will facilitate three community meetings during the course of the Feasibility Study. The overall purpose of these meetings will be to educate user groups, constituents and representatives of the community at-large about the project parameters, hear opinions and concerns, gather data and develop a list of community issues, goals and aesthetic preferences that can be integrated into the viability analysis, building program analysis, and the development of physical design alternatives. Every effort will be made to honor the process and intent of the Civic Engagement Framework within the project budget and time constraints.

Over the past thirty years, Concordia has developed and refined an integrated approach to planning and design called the Nexus Model. The core principle of this model is systemic alignment through collaboration and engagement. Just as the human body is a system of organs that carry out individual functions while relying on each other to sustain the whole, the Nexus Model will provide a method for identifying vital components of the City of Alexandria’s physical, cultural, social, educational, organizational and economic domains that can influence the programming framework for the Chinquapin Swim Center. This approach allows the community to help identify the project’s assets and needs, help weigh the impacts of potential solutions, and help identify opportunities for improving accessibility and sharing resources. This method ensures that the users and impacted communities are at the table, resulting in more effective ownership of the outcome and a more well rounded project.

Community members participating in the What’s Next Alexandria process

Graphic depiction of the six domains included in Concordia’s Nexus Model
## Principles of Civic Engagement

Alexandria’s Principles of Civic Engagement were developed by those who participated from the community during the What’s Next Alexandria process to guide the City and its residents in how Alexandrians can best participate in public dialogue for decisions that shape the city for years to come. These include respect, inclusiveness and equity, early involvement, easy participation, meaningful engagement, mutual accountability, transparency, sustained collaboration, and evaluation. Each phase of work will be evaluated to assess whether the goals are being met and Principles have been observed, and will allow for adjustments along the way.

### Civic Engagement Framework

Now that the City of Alexandria has adopted its Civic Engagement Policy, the Chinquapin Swim Center will become one of the first projects to be implemented using the principles and practices of Civic Engagement. Concordia will work in concert with the City’s Civic Engagement Coordinator to monitor each phase of work to ensure we deliver a consistent approach and track our performance.

The framework on the right represents an outline of each phase of work. The current scope of work continues through Phase 3 (Recommendations). Phase 4 will be contingent upon RPCA’s final determination of feasibility. The framework will be refined based on community input as the project gets underway.

### Civic Engagement Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Information (Gathering, Organizing, Understanding)</th>
<th>Options (Determine and Evaluate Options)</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Implementation and Maintenance (Tasks 3 &amp; 4 - under separate contract)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Key Principles:</td>
<td>Meaningful Engagement</td>
<td>Sustained Collaboration</td>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td>Civic Engagement Framework</td>
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<td>Easy Participation</td>
<td>Meaningful Engagement</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
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<td>Products:</td>
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<td>Introduce and Develop Survey</td>
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<td>Functional Relationship Diagrams</td>
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### Overall project timeline:

- Feasibility Study completed: Fall 2014
- Current scope of work continues through Phase 3 (Recommendations).
- Phase 4 will be contingent upon RPCA’s final determination of feasibility.
- The framework will be refined based on community input as the project gets underway.
Figure 2: Surrounding Context of Neighborhood (project site shown in yellow)

Figure 3: Proposed Cameron Park Site Plan and Surrounding Context