City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2017
7 p.m.

Charles Houston Community Center
901 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Agenda

I. Call to Order: Jennifer Atkins, Chair

II. Public Hearing
   a. FY 2018 Community Matching Fund Applications

III. Presentations:
   a. Old Town North Small Area Plan

IV. Public Comments – non-agenda items

V. Items for Action:
   a. Approval of Minutes: April 20, 2017

VI. Project Updates/Information
   a. Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park - Casa Chirilagua Community Use Guidelines
   b. Park Projects
      i. Interim Fitzgerald Square
      ii. Windmill Hill Park Shoreline
      iii. Warwick Pool
      iv. Patrick Henry K-8 School & Recreation Center

VII. Director’s Report:
   a. Approved FY2018-2027 CIP Budget

VIII. Division Updates: Recreation Services; Park Operations; Park Planning, CIP & Marina

IX. Commission Reports (verbal reports by District)

X. Adjournment

XI. Next Meeting: June 15, 2017
MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 18, 2017

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR WC
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT - ITEM VIII

Program Wrap-Ups

- On April 8, Cora Kelly Recreation Center partnered with National Community Church for its annual Eggstravaganza at the Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park. Throughout the day, over 3500 people enjoyed games, an egg hunt, face painting, sack races, cotton candy, popcorn and prizes. With the help of volunteers this was a very successful event for all that attended.

- During Spring Break, Out of School Time participants at William Ramsay Recreation Center had a full week of fun. Youth participated in arts & craft activities, a bowling field trip, and an egg hunt.

- On April 15, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center partnered with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. to host its Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Extravaganza. Close to 200 attendees enjoyed music, refreshments, group activities, crafts, games and egg hunts throughout the day. Everyone was on the hunt for the golden eggs.
• The **Rec Expo** took place on April 22, at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. This event highlighted many of the programs and services RPCA offers. Close to 200 participants had an opportunity to meet instructors and center staff, and engage in free class demos and sports clinics. Onsite registration was available.

• On April 21, in recognition of Autism Awareness Month, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted an **Autism Awareness** program. Mrs. Heather Rothenbuescher, ACPS Autism Behavior Specialist, was the guest speaker. She talked about Autism, how she helps individuals with Autism and how we can be helpful/supportive to someone with a disability. Mrs. Rothenbuescher also read a children's book about Autism to the group. Participants won prizes by answering true or false questions to test their knowledge.

• On April 27, the Sports Section hosted its annual **Girls Softball Opening Night Ceremony**. The ceremony is an opportunity to introduce the players and coaches, recognize sponsors of the program and kickoff the season with one game played under the lights. The T.C. Williams softball team helped cheer on the youth players.

• On April 28, **Family Splash Night** featuring Mt. Vernon Community School took place at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. Participants enjoyed swimming, basketball relays, a floating obstacle course, a racquetball clinic, pool safety tips and swimming assessments for youth. The Howard University swim team was in attendance, and engaged all participants in their swim activities. Attendance reached 160 people, generating $640 in revenue. Upcoming Family Splash Nights are scheduled for May 19 and June 2.

• On April 28, Cora Kelly Recreation Center hosted **Family Cosmic Skate Night**. Over 100 people attended the event and enjoyed family friendly music, games, prizes, karaoke and roller skating. The event generated $290.
• On April 29, the **Annual Spring Invitational Cheer Competition** took place at T.C. Williams High School. This competition included teams from Alexandria recreation centers and the metropolitan Washington area. Approximately 465 spectators cheered on the 10 competing teams, and 3 teams that gave special performances. Recreation centers represented were Charles Houston, William Ramsay and Cora Kelly. The event generated $3,766 in revenue.

• On April 30, Mount Vernon Recreation Center held its **Mother’s Day Tea**. Mothers and daughters enjoyed an afternoon of spa treatments, facials, massages, manicures and great food.

• On May 5-7, Cora Kelly Recreation Center Cheerleaders participated in the U.S. **Finals Cheerleading Competition** at Virginia Beach Convention Center. The girls competed against 3 teams in the Pee Wee Level 1 Traditional level, and 6 teams in the division, taking 1st place in both categories.

• On May 6, in recognition of Police and Community Reconciliation Month, Recreation Services Division hosted a **Community Basketball Games** event. Over 100 spectators enjoyed watching a friendly competition among basketball teams from Alexandria Police Department, Department of Homeland Security and Charles Houston’s Late Night All-Stars.
On May 8 and 10, Recreation Services Division partnered with the Alexandria Police and Sheriff Departments to host a We are a Community event, which promoted summer programs and class offerings. Over 400 attendees enjoyed hot dogs, face painting, giveaways and a dunk tank!

Program Updates

Out of School Time FY14 through FY17 Summer/School Year Participant and Revenue Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY-17 YTD School Year 16-17 04-30-17</th>
<th>FY-16 YTD School Year 15-16 03-31-16</th>
<th>FY-16 Actuals School Year 15-16</th>
<th>FY-15 Actuals School Year 14-15</th>
<th>FY-14 Actuals School Year 13-14</th>
<th>FY-18 Summer 2017 YTD 05-01-17</th>
<th>FY-17 Summer 2016 Actual</th>
<th>FY-16 Summer 2015 Actual</th>
<th>FY-15 Actuals Summer 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee</td>
<td>$429</td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>$415</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$315</td>
<td>$300/$315 (as of 7/1)</td>
<td>$125/$30 0 (as of 7/1)</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfaction % report</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration #</td>
<td>1,218</td>
<td>1,196</td>
<td>1,201</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>1,243</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>1,332</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSTP Revenue</td>
<td>$373,098*</td>
<td>$353,864</td>
<td>$356,179</td>
<td>$353,851</td>
<td>$268,536</td>
<td>$77,665</td>
<td>$214,642*</td>
<td>$130,750</td>
<td>$103,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee Assistance (Discounts)</td>
<td>$127,501</td>
<td>$124,478</td>
<td>$125,208</td>
<td>$125,146</td>
<td>$87,608</td>
<td>$10,262</td>
<td>$81,088</td>
<td>$41,060</td>
<td>$28,715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Fees</td>
<td>$520,947</td>
<td>$498,440*</td>
<td>$500,530*</td>
<td>$497,338*</td>
<td>$366,071</td>
<td>$90,405</td>
<td>$311,680</td>
<td>$174,060</td>
<td>$133,965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fees paid in installments.

- Preparations for the opening of the Outdoor Pools have been underway since early March. In May, both pools will be drained and cleaned. Electrical and plumbing repairs are occurring using Capital Improvement funds. Recruitment of new staff and training is scheduled to occur prior to the official opening on May 27.

- Power Swim continues to provide swim lessons for children enrolled in the William Ramsay and Patrick Henry Power-On Programs (OSTP). At Chinquapin Park Recreation and Aquatics Facility, lifeguards assessed the skill levels of all participants, followed by weekly lessons in fundamentals of swimming and water safety. An ACPS swimming program is being planned for June. Polk Elementary will bring up to 37 children during their Physical Education class to participate in swimming and water safety activities with
Aquatics Manager Ralph Baird, PE teachers from Polk, and volunteers. This pilot program will be a first for RPCA & ACPS and could continue in the Fall if successful.

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

- On May 19, Cora Kelly Recreation Center will host its **Senior Lunch Cruise**. Seniors will board the Spirit of Washington cruise ship and enjoy great food, music, and breathtaking views from the Potomac River.
- On May 30, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host its annual **Memorial Day Ceremony** at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial. The event will honor the 67 Alexandrians who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.
- On June 2, Mount Vernon Recreation Center will host its **Youth Prom**. Youth and parents will have a great time with family and friends at this annual semi-formal event. There will be a DJ, food and formal photos. This event is open to city of Alexandria residents.
- On June 2, the Sports sections will host **Alexandria Titans Youth Football Game Night**. The event will help establish relationships with players and recruit new players. Volunteer coaches and staff from the Sports section will facilitate the activities. Parents are offered a session on safety and program information.
- On June 17, Cora Kelly Recreation Center will host its annual **Community Fun Day**. This free event includes carnival games, live music, dance performances, food vendors, face painting and more!
- On June 24, the 8th annual **Youth Arts Festival** will take place at Mount Vernon Recreation Center. The event is sponsored by RPCA, ARHA and ACPS.
- On July 24, RPCA kicks off a new program offering, **STEM Using Lego Camp**. This one week camp gives kids ages 5 and 6, an opportunity to build projects such as motorcycles, castles, airplanes and monorails. This camp has already met its 24-participant maximum, and generated $4,235 in revenue.

**Special Features**

- Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility acquired **new pool equipment** using funds generated by the Chinquapin Advisory Council. Tip-n-roll bleachers, a storage bench, and lifejacket storage rack have been assembled and are in use.

**Staff Updates**

- Multiple Lifeguard and Pool Operator certification programs are being offered publicly. Recruitment for Water Safety Instructors, Lifeguards and Pool Operators are continuously open. Head Pool Operators and Pool Managers recruitments are currently in the hiring process for the summer outdoor swimming season.
- **Aaron Greene** recently started as a Recreation Leader. Aaron is a 2016 graduate of George Mason University and has already helped with major events such as the Spring Invitational Cheer Competition, and preparing for next month’s track meet.

**Admin**

- The Winter program season spanned 13 weeks and includes programs that took place January 1 through March 31, 2017. Recreation Services’ **Winter FY17 Scorecard** is on track with the previous Winter season, showing a slight increase in registration and combined revenue. Pass sales increased 16% as compared to Winter FY16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Services SCORECARD</th>
<th>Winter FY16</th>
<th>Winter FY17</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Revenue</td>
<td>$389,041</td>
<td>$394,749</td>
<td>Revenue slightly above Winter FY16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Registrations</td>
<td>5,019</td>
<td>4,424</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. Value per Registration</td>
<td>$78</td>
<td>$89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult League Revenue</td>
<td>$24,625</td>
<td>$19,370</td>
<td>Revenue 20% lower than Winter FY16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Teams</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg Value per Adult Team</td>
<td>$616</td>
<td>$421</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Active Households</td>
<td>15,411</td>
<td>20,272</td>
<td>Continual increase in active households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Programs Offered</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>20% increase in offerings over Winter FY16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Success Rate</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Satisfaction Rate</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>2% increase in Likelihood to Recommend over seasonal average</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation Response Rate</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likelihood to Recommend</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Passes Sold</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>16% increase in Pass Revenue over Winter FY16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pass Revenue</td>
<td>$44,715</td>
<td>$51,728</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. Value per Pass</td>
<td>$82</td>
<td>$97.42</td>
<td>5% increase vs. Winter FY16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Visit Revenue</td>
<td>$57,183</td>
<td>$59,837</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reservation Revenue</td>
<td>$136,154</td>
<td>$128,050</td>
<td>6% decrease vs. Winter FY16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Combined Revenue</td>
<td>$651,718</td>
<td>$653,734</td>
<td>Combined revenue on target with previous Winter</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Chart reflects information managed using RecTrac.
Age Policy for Unaccompanied Youth in City Recreation Centers

**Alexandria Current Policy:** Children 12 years and under must be accompanied by an adult to supervise them throughout the facility. Children 13 and older are required to show current photo ID. Photo ID’s may be acquired at community recreation centers and current school ID’s are accepted.

**Considerations for Age Requirement**

School year and summer weekdays are scheduled with Power-On OSTP and building is fully utilized for this enrolled activity - no "drop-in"

City Child Protective Services guidelines: children 9 years & under should not be left in self care

Requirement aligns with City pools

Weekends/Holidays:

Limited staffing (front desk/MOD) - cannot monitor all rooms continuously

Staffing focus on facility access for classes, rentals, and fitness room

Except for programmed classes or special activities, youth not directly supervised

Youth in areas of the building with teens & adults

Coming and going from center with no supervision

Young children have been left at centers all day

**Potential Space/Hours for Weekend/Holiday drop-in at** Houston, Cora Kelly, Ramsay, Mt. Vernon

Hours 9am-6pm

Gym, Game Room, Computer Lab (MV, CH)

Gym time would vary based on center programming (classes) and season (youth basketball Dec-Mar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>minimum age to use facility without chaperone</th>
<th>minimum age to use fitness facility without chaperone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Recreation Center</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Pools</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Libraries</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria YMCA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington Recreation Centers *</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale City Recreation Center</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax County Park Authority</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairfax County Community Services **</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland-National Capital Park &amp; Planning</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWCPA Chinn Center ***</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12 to 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ages 9-12 must be registered & can stay max of 2-3 hours; ages 12-18 require orientation to use fitness room

**Gum Springs recreation-child must be registered at the center

***use of cardio equipment requires an orientation at 12 and use of weights requires orientation at age 14

NOTE: City Attorney's office contacted to give opinion regarding any liability issues
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 18, 2017

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: DINESH TIWARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS MONTHLY UPDATE – ITEM VIII

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance
   - A cleanup of the African American Park and stream area was completed and a substantial amount of debris and trash was removed from the remediated homeless encampment located in the park.
   - On April 28 a group of 29 sixth-graders from the Alexandria Country Day School volunteered to help clean up the stream bed near Beatley Library. The group was very helpful with completing the project.

b. Park Facilities Maintenance
   - Staff is working with the gardeners at Chinquapin and Holmes Run Community Gardens to develop PARKnership agreements to share the maintenance and the operating costs of the gardens. Chinquapin Community Garden is 100% rented this season along with Holmes Run Gardens. Gardeners completed the first self-monitoring session for this season.
   - Staff worked with the Alexandria Beautification Commission on the planned work for the Market Square planter project, which promotes sustainable landscapes in the City.
   - Staff is conducting seasonal preparations for the irrigation systems, fountains and restrooms. Also, several repairs were made at the Old Town Pool, to have it ready for the Memorial Day holiday.
a. **Waterfront Parks**
   - Staff completed tree maintenance including edging and weeding tree rings, as well as, driftwood clean-up after rain storm events. Staff also assisted with turf work including, aeration and over seeding.
   - The 2017 Adopt-A-Park season began on April 1. A new group, Douglas Realty, joined the program, adopting Waterfront Park. In May, the Alexandria City Council is expected to approve the submission of a grant application to fund the upcoming Adopt-A-Park season.

2. **URBAN FORESTRY**

a. **Spring Planting** - 216 trees were planted throughout the City in April, bringing the current total number of trees planted during FY2017 up to 648. One hundred fifty (150) trees are expected to be planted in May. The tree planting program will conclude for the fiscal year on June 15, 2017.

b. **Street Tree Inventory** - The third phase of the street tree inventory will be completed by May 26. This will complete sixty percent of the inventory. To date, data has been collected for more than 18,000 trees.

c. **Special Projects** - Several special projects will be scheduled this spring. Currently underway is the removal of standing dead trees along Timber Branch Parkway. Many of the trees are what remain from the invasive species control project conducted last fall. Others include declining ash and the storm damaged trees. Other project areas to be addressed are Fort Ward Park and the Holmes Run Greenway.

3. **NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT**

a. **Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration**
   - Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), with the treatment of Lesser Celandine, Callery Pear, Bush Honeysuckle, and other non-native invasive plants at Dora Kelley Nature Park, Holmes Run Scenic Easement, Holmes Run Park, Tarleton Park, Timberbranch Parkway, Fort Williams Park, Four Mile Run Park, Telegraph and Duke Meadow Complex, and 2900-A&B Business Center Drive.
   - Staff removed thousands of Garlic Mustard and Oriental Bittersweet plants from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Chinquapin Park, and Rynex Natural Area.
   - Staff weeded and mulched the native pollinator garden at the Ford Nature Center.
Staff installed two (2) custom “Native Plant Conservation Zone” signs at the native pollinator gardens at Charles Hill Park; one “No Dumping/No Yard Waste” sign at Seminary Forest along Ivor Lane; and one “No Dumping/No Yard Waste” sign at the entrance to Rynex Natural Area.

b. **Cooperative Initiatives**

- Staff met with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust at tidal Great Hunting Creek to discuss Best Management Practices for their newest City of Alexandria land acquisition: a section of globally rare Tidal Freshwater Marsh. Also, worked with adjacent landowner along S. Alfred Street on restoration of tidal wetlands.
- On April 11, 2017, City Natural Resource Manager gave an instructional presentation on the importance of native vines and their association with trees to the 2017 Training Class of the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria.
- Staff spearheaded a first-ever City initiative this spring to provide locally appropriate native pollinator wildflowers and grasses in custom packets for distribution at Earth Day. This was a multi-partner and interdepartmental cooperative initiative with Natural Lands Management Section; Ford Nature Center; Park Facilities and Horticulture; T&ES, Office of Environmental Quality; Dept. of Project Implementation; and ACPS. Nearly 450 native seed packets were designed, produced, assembled, and distributed.
- Staff completed a project initiated last fall with the collection of pounds of Wild Rice seed from Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary to reintroduce Wild Rice to the newly created Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetlands at Four Mile Run Park. Staff, together with partners Arlington County Natural Resources Management staff; District Department of Energy and Environment staff; and Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation sowed 3.5 lbs. of Wild Rice seed into the wetlands. Staff also sowed 8 oz. of Wild Rice seed in Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetlands at Oronoco Bay Park. On May 3, staff assisted Arlington County and the National Park Service-GWMP staff in sowing 1.5 lbs. of Wild Rice seed in Tidal Freshwater Marsh wetlands at Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary.
- On May 10, 2017, City Natural Resource Manager presented “Forest Communities and Geology of Washington and Vicinity” at Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center. The event was co-sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, and the Friends of Mason Neck.
State Park. 65-70 were in attendance.

- Staff updated the City of Alexandria Flora and Natural Communities webpage at: http://alexandriava.gov/22560.

c. Environmental Review - Staff reviewed the invasive plant control management plan for the Holmes Run Park Bike Trail Bridge and Stream Restoration Project.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates
For the month of April, there were 111 interpretive programs attended by 3,418 people. The combined total number of visitors and program participants for April was 4,240 people. This was the largest number for one month for both participants alone and for total combined participants/visitors so far in FY2017.

School Programs:
For the month of April, the Naturalist conducted 13 school programs reaching 367 people.

- April 17 - The Naturalist went to Samuel Tucker Elementary School to conduct 4 programs for first graders. The fourth grade students learned about animal adaptations. Participants had the chance to see a baby snapping turtle, fire-bellied toads, an African Fat-tailed Gecko and Uromastyx up close.
- April 20 - Animal Adaptations was a popular program in April for the upcoming Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. Second grade students at George Mason Elementary School were introduced to the fascinating animals with unique adaptations.
- April 25 - The Naturalist went to Patrick Henry Elementary School to present five programs about animal life cycles. The kindergarten students enjoyed learning about and meeting animals which undergo complete metamorphosis – butterflies, frogs, toads, newts and salamanders.
- April 27 - The Naturalist was invited to participate in a pre-kindergarten program at Ramsay Elementary School. The students had raised painted lady butterflies and now were ready to be released. There was much applause when the butterflies finally took flight.

Nature Center Programs:
During the month of April, there were 6 birthday parties, 60 impromptu programs conducted by staff, 1 weekend program for children, a Spring Ephemeral hike for adults, 1 boy scout program, NOVA Environmental Science Class and the
monthly “Little Adventures” program. Also, the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) conducted a full day meeting at the center. Total participation for these programs was 627 people.

- April 8 - The City Natural Resource Manager conducted a Spring Ephemeral hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park. Despite the chilly weather, the 30 participants hiked for more than two hours discovering the small hidden wonders in the park.
- April 21 - This was the first program for the spring series of “Little Adventures” classes. The focus was on frogs and life cycles. The class met many of the amphibians from the Nature Center’s collection, learned to imitate frog calls and enjoyed a long hike around the marsh.

**Outreach Programs:**
For the month of April, the Naturalist staff conducted 11 programs reaching 2,183 people. April is always a busy month with many community events.

- April 5 - The Naturalist conducted 6 outreach programs at Trinity MOPS Preschool. More than 120 students and teachers learned about native animals in their neighborhood. The children enjoyed imitating the many frog calls.
- April 8 - “Eggstravaganza” was held in Arlandria at Four Mile Run Park. This was the 17th year for this annual festival featuring “EGGciting” Easter themed events. Despite the chilly weather, visitors enjoyed learning about the Nature Center and all it had to offer.
- April 21 - The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities hosted the RecExpo at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. The expo featured fun for the entire family - aquatics, exercise and fitness, sports, performing art, environmental education, out of school time and summer camps. The Nature Center had a very popular table with its snapping turtle and DeKay snake.
- April 29 - This year’s Alexandria Earth Day was held Lenny Harris Memorial Field. The theme was “Clean Water Starts With You!”. The Nature Center’s exhibit featured aquatic animals - turtles and frogs.

**Afterschool Buddies Program:**
This month was a shorter month with a week for Spring break. The Mobile Art Lab came to visit. The buddies had a great time creating pom-pom key chains. The buddies used some rainy days to attempt to develop packaging that would prevent an egg from cracking when dropped from a height over ten feet. Everyone worked very hard, and while not everyone was successful in the challenge- an Egg-cellent time was had by
all! In April, we held our first Nature Buddies Council Elections. The Council was an idea that several students presented, in an effort to ensure that the voices of all the children would be heard when discussing programming content, format, and scheduling. The whole campaign and election process was a great learning moment, and a lot of fun. The elected council held their first meeting and the student representatives presented well thought out ideas and suggestions, and were asked to debate the merits of their proposals.

b. Volunteers and Interns
A total of 22 volunteers provided 54 hours of service during the month of April.

Cool Aspies, a group of young adults with autism, volunteered to help with some invasive plant management in Dora Kelley Nature Park on Sunday, April 23. Led by a nature center staff member, this hardworking group removed six garbage bags of garlic mustard from the Sanger Avenue entrance of the park.

c. Noteworthy
The Nature Center’s Program Coordinator attended a week-long professional development program focusing on skill development for informal educators in Nature Center as they provide play-based nature education for children from birth to age 8 and their families. The training, held at the Brookfield Zoo, was designed to develop competencies in eight core areas needed for a child-centered understanding of learning, play, and nature. These competencies form the foundation for developing nature-based play and environmental learning.

Park Maintenance provided the materials and labor to realize a new exhibit for the Nature Center. The rot box is an interactive way to observe the decomposition of organic matter.

Staff also placed three new signs from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries by entrances to Dora Kelley Nature Park. The signs help promote the park for its birding and wildlife trails. These signs are highly visible to motorists on Beauregard Street.
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 18, 2017

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF
       PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL PROJECTS

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM VIII.

INTERIM FITZGERALD SQ. PARK
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
The Planning Commission, May 2, 2017, and City Council, May 13, 2017, unanimously approved the Development Site Plan (DSP) and Special Use Permits (SUP) for the proposed Interim Fitzgerald Sq. Park at the foot of King St. Staff will prepare for the final approval, Certificate of Appropriateness from the BAR this summer. Demolition of the former Old Dominion Boat Club and construction on the interim park will likely occur in December 2017 or January 2018 with substantial completion in June 2018. The schedule is dependent on the completion of the new Old Dominion Boat Club anticipated by mid-October 2017. For additional information, visit the Project Website.

FY 2018 COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND
Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner
RPCA staff received five (5) applications that qualify for consideration. Senior Management reviewed the applications and sent follow up questions to the applicants. Staff will present the proposed projects in a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 18, 2017 in the following order:

1. Compost Alex – Community Composting Sites (request for $12,000 City match)
2. TC Williams High School Softball Boosters – Witter Field Upgrades (request for $15,000 city match)
3. Del Ray Gateway – Nancy Dunning Garden (request for $25,000 city match)
4. Del Ray Gateway – Colasanto Pool (request for $25,000 city match)
5. Alexandria Little League – Brenman Field Upgrades ($25,000 city match)

The FY 2018 Community Matching Fund was approved for $100,000 in funding on May 4, 2017. Applicants and the public will have an opportunity to speak and answer questions from the Commission after each presentation. Senior staff will make final recommendations to the Park and Recreation Commission members and announce the awards at the June 15, 2017 regular meeting.
BEVERLEY PARK RENOVATION
Project Manager: Judy Lo, Urban Planner III
Construction of renovations to Beverley Park, 520 North Overlook Drive continues. Site work completed April through mid-May include site demolition, completion of the ADA accessible pathway, picnic shelter pavilion foundations, and retaining wall demolition. Due to differing field conditions in the existing stormwater system, installation of the new storm water system has been delayed several weeks as the issues are being resolved. The new retaining walls are anticipated to be complete by mid-June. The play equipment installation will also commence in June. Weather permitting, construction will conclude in late August.

CAMERON RUN REGIONAL PARK PLANNING PROCESS
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner
On April 25, 2017, City Council endorsed RPCA’s recommendation to adjust the public engagement schedule for the planning process. RPCA continues to receive public comment via a survey through May 30, 2017: https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/Cameron-Run-Park-Concept-Survey. Final concepts will be brought to the Park & Recreation Commission and City Council for Public Hearing and action. For additional information, visit the Project Website.

WARWICK POOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
Demolition of the existing pool and bathhouse is complete. Site work to include regrading and retaining wall construction continues. Construction completion continues for the summer 2017 pool season. For additional information, visit the Project Website.

WINDMILL HILL PARK SHORELINE PROJECT
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
Onsite construction activity began Thursday, May 11 with survey activities and the identification of the Limits of Disturbance. Continued mobilization to include the installation of silt and construction fencing will continue into the week of May 22. Physical construction activity is planned to begin before Memorial Day weather permitting. For additional information, visit the Project Website.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA WELCOMES BACK TALL SHIP “EL GALEÓN,” MAY 25-29
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief and James Hixon, Dock Master
The City of Alexandria Marina will once again be the scene of living history as “El Galeón,” an authentic replica of a 16th-century Spanish Galleon, returns from Thursday, May 25, through Monday, May 29, following an enormously popular visit in October 2016. Galleons, used by the Spanish Crown for maritime expeditions from the 16th to 18th centuries, were fabled merchant vessels and war ships that made up the early navies of Europe. The ship will be docked at the City Marina (0 Cameron St.) and will be available for tours from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children ages 5-12, and free for children under age 5.

- Community Announcement
FY17 COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND UPDATE  
Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner

Four Mile Futsal  
Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) completed fundraising and developed site plans. RPCA has approved the plans and sent them out to bid. We expect to issue a purchase order at the end of May and complete the project by June 30. ASA partnered with RunningBrooke for a volunteer planting day around the court, scheduled for June 10.

Kick the Habit  
Kick the Habit completed fundraising in April 2017 and RPCA staff completed its bid review. We expect to install the jug and water bottle fillers at Witter Field and Simpson Park in June 2017.

Charles Houston Teen Center  
Two local architects have volunteered their time to assist in designing the Teen Center. In April, the volunteer design team led three Visioning sessions with teen stakeholders, program managers from DPRCA and community organizations and operational staff to understand how each group saw the Teen Center. Each group was led through the same set of exercises about the programs they imagined occurring in the space, and what values and feelings they hoped the Teen Center would project. The final exercise was a mood board discussion with different aesthetic and functional examples so that a shared visual language could be generated between the different stakeholder groups. Early results indicate there are several points of alignment between the teen and adult stakeholders for the Center. Shared interests include educational programs and mentoring that can occur outside of the school environment; a flexible, adaptable space that can grow and change over the course of the day, as well as through the course of the school year; and some shared functional and stylistic desires. Based on the information gathered thus far, the design team is beginning charrettes this week to generate design directions for stakeholder input. To date, the Advisory Council is $3,000 short of its $25,000 fundraising goal and expects to complete its efforts in June. Upon completion of fundraising, the City will provide a $25,000 match. They have partnered with Rebuilding Together Alexandria who will provide volunteer construction services in September.

Parkour Pop-Up  
PK Move has raised $4,658 of its $5,000 goal, expects to complete fundraising in June, and will then receive a $5,000 match. The group held several fundraisers, including one that displayed sample “pop-up” equipment.

For additional information, visit the Community Matching Fund website.
Community Matching Fund Application

Tell us about your project!

1) Please tell us about yourself and your community group
Name of Primary Contact for Community Group:
   Joshua Etim
Name of Community Group: Compost Alex
Street Address: 1940 Duke Street
Apt/Suite/Office: 2nd Floor
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Postal Code: 22314
Country: USA
Email Address: joshetim@foodandcompost.com
Phone Number:
Fax Number:
Mobile Phone: 734-5782848
Website (if applicable): __________________________________________
Is anyone else involved with your project?
Bill Dwyer
Community members at large
Working to gain support from MOM’s Organic, Ace Hardware, local community associations, and others community groups and small businesses.

2) How do you prefer to be contacted?
   ( x ) Phone
   ( x ) Email
3) Name of Project
Alexandria’s Community Composting Process Sites

4) Location of Project
Four Mile Run Park
Joseph Hensley Park
Chinquapin Park

We would like the Park’s Department to help us to identify desirable locations within each of the suggested parks, and across Alexandria’s parks in general. Desirable locations need 1) less than 200 square feet for composting bins, worm bins, and a finished compost curing space, however if a concrete pad or wood mulch biofilter is also desired, then more space is required; 2) a water source (a hose or water hook-up system), and; 3) be easily accessible by foot.

5) Please add a map and outline of project location.

Four Mile Run Park

Joseph Hensley Park
Project Costs

6) What is your total project cost?
   - 5 year time span with a maintenance schedule.
   - Compost Knox
     - $1000 for material
     - $5000 for a concrete pad of 20 feet by 16 feet
     - or $700 for a mulch cover of 20 feet by 16 feet by 3 inches deep ($50 per truckload/6 cubic yards of mulch. A mulch cover of this size needs 80 cubic yards which is 14 truckloads of mulch).
     - $4000 for 4 person team of labor
     - Compost tools $500
     - Subtotal = 10,500
     - 10% overhead
     - = $11,500
   - Francis C. Hammond Middle School: Compost and Worms
     - $1000 Worm bed
     - Composting station (same costs as Compost Knox)
       - $1000 for material
       - $5000 for a concrete pad of 20 feet by 16 feet
       - or $700 for a mulch cover of 20 feet by 16 feet by 3 inches deep ($50 per truckload/6 cubic yards of mulch. A mulch cover of this size needs 80 cubic yards which is 14 truckloads of mulch).
       - $4000 for 4 person team of labor
       - Compost tools $500
       - Subtotal = 11,500
       - 10% overhead
       - $2000 Additional cost for compost wayfinding and informational signage
       - = $12,150
   - Two compost processing sites. Second site would be launched 6 - 8 months after the first site.
   - Total cost of $26,000

7) What will be your group's monetary contribution?
$2,500 (10% of compost site buildout)

8) How many volunteer hours do you expect your community group will contribute to this project?
   - 4 people @ 5 hours of construction = 20 hours
- 3 people, 15 hours each in planning and orchestrating = 75 hours
- Total: 95 hours for this Composting Site capital improvement project.

9) Do you expect any in-kind donations and, if so, please explain.
Yes. Farmer’s Market Tabling Requests - $150 vending fee
During the Compost Alex tabling, we expect $10 donation in person by 150 = $1,500.
Alexandria Crowdfunding = $10,000; based on Steel City Soils co-op crowdfunding.

10) What is the monetary funding match you are seeking from the City?
$12,000

Proposed Idea

11) Proposed Idea (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please provide information on your proposed idea in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. The proposal must include a detailed work plan, explain how the project will benefit the broader community, and why you want to do this project. If applicable to the project site location, projects should also show consistency with the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014) or the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016), as accepted by City Council.

1) Work plan: Merging the design models of the Hammond Middle School Compost and Worm site and the Compost Knox three bin compost system, we aim to construct 2 composting processing sites over a 12 month period. The sites will have thermophilic reactor bins (compost station bins) and a nearby worm bed or a compost curing station if the worm bed is not feasible. The thermophilic reactors will be elevated off the ground and be engineered with rodent barrier materials like cement pavers, hardware cloth, and other elements of the Fort Knox composting system. The worm beds will be a newer iteration of Hammond Middle School’s current worm bed.
2) Over 500 residents use the City provided Food Waste Drop-off programs at four Farmer’s Markets. This project will construct pilot processing sites that can process food waste material locally. These sites also act as a demonstration of the community’s ability to properly compost food waste. As the number of Food Waste Drop-off contributors continues to grow, they will be bettered informed and able to be involved in the community composting system that they directly influence.

3) We are doing this project to serve and provide Alexandria residents with the local methods to compost food waste on a community level. Additionally, we want to construct wayfinding signage regarding composting near heavily traveled pathways and receptacles. Some of the signage locations will indicate basic information of where to find a compost processing site, while other signage would have details on where community members can drop-off their food waste if they wanted to contribute to the local community composting activities.

Four Mile Run Park is the first park to considering being that the Four Mile Run Conservancy has provided informal support of this project. Secondly, the farmer’s market located in the Four Mile Run park would be a primary contributor to the composting sites of this project. On page 55 of the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (CPIP), 13% of survey respondents said they use the park in order to visit the farmers market. That then makes a connection between the visitors who use the park, the farmer's market, and the food waste material contributions to this project. Thirdly, recommendation 14 of CPIP for the Four Mile Run Park is, “Establish new community garden” and further says, “A new community garden will help address the City’s need for gardening opportunities… and will create a great space for bridging new relationships in the community. The garden will present an opportunity for children at the Cora Kelly School and Recreation Center to discover gardening and components of a healthy lifestyle.” The finished compost from this project can help foster this new community garden improvement and aid in the development of healthy garden soils. Finally, this project promotes the recycling community benefit behind Four Mile Run Park’s recommendation 17 of the CPIP, “Reserve area for possible future recycling center” in that food waste recycling is a natural recycling process. With food waste recycling and processing occurring through this project in the Four Mile Run Park, then community members may be more inclined to use a future recycling center for conventional recycling efforts.

Joseph Hensley Park is the second park to consider because of it is “it is remotely located, apart from residential neighborhoods” as stated in the CPIP. This unique quality aids in piloting a compost processing site on City Park property. It would mitigate potential neighborhood concern that may arise from a misunderstanding that local community composting can be well managed, clean, and not exhibit negative community concerns in regards to composting. In addition, this park is in close proximity to the City’s mulch and recycling center. Both of the mulching activity and the recycling activity align to this project’s compost processing activity. The association of this park, this project, and the nearby recycling center fit into representing a consistent plan to the local community.
Chinquapin Park is the third park to consider because many community members are familiar with the park’s usage by the public. A number of Compost Alex community members suggested that the park would be a good location to have a compost processing site. Secondly, the current community garden members and wait list may be open to having a compost processing site near their location to learn the composting process for their personal application, or use the finished compost product, if feasible, in their garden operations. On page 41 of the CPIP, 10% of survey respondents said they use the park in order to use the community garden. Having a compost processing site in this park would then connect the Alexandrian Food Waste Drop-off community with the processing site and with the community garden community.

Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building

12) Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building (will be evaluated for up to 30 Points)
Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

Specific involvement - We are currently seeking support from community associations, small businesses (e.g. MOM’s Organic Market, Ace Hardware). We will be seeking support from scout troops, community gardens, and environmental organizations affiliated with Alexandria. Each of these groups can be involved in the project monetarily, providing in-kind equipment, and labor. The exact nature of each group’s support is to be determined.

General involvement - With 500 Alexandria households currently using the City’s food waste drop-off program, each contributor represents homeowners, renters, youth, adults, and seniors. These contributing community members will be able to see food waste being composted locally and the opportunity to participate in the process through 1) Depositing their food waste, and 2) A yet to be determined method of assisting the composting process operation. The finished compost product can then be tested by growing specific plants and food in order to examine and understand what their composting efforts actually produce.

Project Resources

13) Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words.
Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

Income:

Cost Estimates
  Labor
  Equipment and Material
  Concrete Pad
  Wayfinding Signage

Outcomes

14) Outcomes (will be evaluated for up to 10 points)
Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

Tangible:
  ● Number of community visits over a given weekend, 6 times in a year - open house composting and game challenge.
  ● Number of pounds of finished product for the first four cycles
  ● Number of specific uses to compost local foods
  ● Number of directly related likes, reposts, and highlights on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
  ● Durability examination of the process stations over their lifespan
  ● Interest emails and messages received regarding duplication of the project.
  ● Number of businesses that take on a new degree of composting that they didn’t before, within a 1 mile radius.
○ There will be promotion and invitation of each site with it’s 1 mile radius.

Thank You!
Community Matching Fund - Compost Alex
Supplemental Questions and Answers:

1. Would you be open to having two sites instead of three (one west end and one east end). If so, how would your cost estimates change.
   Yes we would be open to having two sites and not three at this time. We are open to any appropriate location for the compost processing sites on either of Alexandria's west or east ends.

   Each site in itself is estimated to cost $10,700 as documented on page 13 inside the Cost Estimate's table. The primary components of that amount is:
   The cost of the concrete pad, estimated at $5,000;
   The cost of the compost station, estimated at $4,700 (not directly shown, however subtracting the concrete pad from the individual compost station cost, this cost figure is calculated)
   The cost of the worm bed, estimated at $1,000.

2. What sort of permits would you need from the health department and how does the Hammond site deal with rodent abatement?
   No permits have been identified to be needed from the health department. Through investigation, the Alexandria and State Health Department indicated that they do not permit compost sites. If necessary, they are willing to provide a letter of exemption from their permitting. In addition, we have investigated if there is a need for a health department permit at other composting sites in other jurisdictions, i.e. Washington DC and New York City. In both instances, no permits from their respective health departments has been necessary.

   At Hammond, the site operators use a number of methods to abate rodents. They are:
   Starting and ending with a clean space for the compost processing site. At Hammond they hold a high standard for keeping the grounds clean from food scraps when the compost stations are not being filled. The person managing the site and their operations staff are aware of the importance of keeping the area clean.
   Making a nest of yard trimmings for the outer perimeter of each compost pile, and placing food scraps on the interior of this nest, acts as a rodent abatement barrier for the internal food material.
   Heating the compost stations up to 140 degrees through its natural thermophilic process and keeping the stations hot for days at a time. At that consistent heat, rodents are discouraged from approaching the food scraps located on the inside of the compost piles. After the thermophilic process, the composted material is moved from the compost stations and placed within the worm bed under 3 to 6 inches of finished compost product.
   Furthermore, over the past four years, Bill the Hammond teacher has regularly checked with other Hammond teachers and they have not had any rodent issues.

3. What sort of water access do you need? A hose bib?
   A house bib.
4. Who manages the site?

Bill Dywer is going to be the manager. He's going to bring his experience from the Hammond site and oversee the management of these sites. During the first year, he is also going to be the manager trainer that trains Compost Alex members and anyone interested in this project to learn how to operate the system.

5. Who can take soil?

We have not concluded on a definitive answer. We are considering three options for who can get the finished compost product. First, designated Compost Alex members could receive it. These are people who contribute to the process and aid in transforming the food scraps into the finished product. Second, the City of Alexandria through a yet to be determined agreement where the finished product is to be used on City parks, gardens, and landscapes. Third, taking the finished product and selling it at farmers markets and additional retail outlets. The price of the finished product is yet to be determined.

6. Is there a possibility of a suggested fee for soil and the fees would go towards maintenance funds?

Yes, fees associated to the finished product will go to maintenance costs and other project costs.

7. Would the site require vehicle access?

Yes. Vehicle access will allow for delivery of the food scraps, the transportation of tools needed at each site, and the removal of the finished product.
Community Matching Fund Application

1. Tell us about your project!

1. Please tell us about yourself and your community group

   Name of Primary Contact for Community Group
   Tom Camerlinck

   Name of Community Group
   TC Williams High School Softball Boosters

   Street Address
   1725 Price Street

   Apt/Suite/Office

   City
   Alexandria

   State
   VA

   Postal Code
   22301

   Country

   Email Address
   camerlinck@gmail.com

   Phone Number
   202-413-8523

   Fax Number

   Mobile Phone

   Website (if applicable)

   Is anyone else involved with your project?
   Gordon Shelley, Softball Boosters President
   Richard Stone, Softball Boosters Treasurer
   Other Booster Members and volunteers

2. How do you prefer to be contacted?

   Email

3. Name of Project

   Enhancements to the softball field at Witter Field Park.
4. Location of Project
Witter Recreational Fields - Witter Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

5. Please add a map and outline of project location.

2. Project Costs

6. What is your total project cost?
55000

7. What will be your group's monetary contribution?
40000

8. How many volunteer hours do you expect your community group will contribute to this project?
800

9. Do you expect any in-kind donations and, if so, please explain.
We expect that local business will provide materials for free or at a discounted cost. There are several local construction firms and hardware stores that have done this in the past. Those same firms also have connections to Alexandria sports and to the TC Williams Softball Boosters specifically.

10. What is the monetary funding match you are seeking from the City?
15000

3. Proposed Idea
11. Proposed Idea (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please provide information on your proposed idea in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. The proposal must include a detailed work plan, explain how the project will benefit the broader community, and why you want to do this project. If applicable to the project site location, projects should also show consistency with the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014) or the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016), as accepted by City Council.

++Demonstrate the project's effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. How the project will benefit the broader community?:
This project will create a diverse community committed to a strong recreational softball league, the TC Williams High School softball program and most importantly, the girls who play on these teams. The recreational league and HS program bring together students from different cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic populations throughout our city. Playing softball together fosters community by providing an opportunity for these girls to interact in a fun and meaningful way across these lines. We want Witter Field to be a place where families and fans can congregate comfortably and also provide the players with a modern and up-to-date facility where they can be successful. High school girls who play sports are less likely to be involved in an unintended pregnancy; more likely to get better grades in school and more likely to graduate than girls who do not play sports. (The Women's Sports Foundation) Improving Witter Field is a win win situation for both our youth and our city and a positive investment for both.

++Why you want to do this project?:
The Boosters wish to bring the Witter softball facility, which is the only true girls fastpitch softball facility in the City, up to the standards of similar High School and recreational softball fields in the region. Doing so will attract more players to the game and make the experience better for players, fans and families.

++ Show consistency with existing park plans:
There's no mention of Witter in neither of the Park Improvement Plans mentioned here, likely because the park is so new. It is important to note that it was mentioned in the Citywide Park Improvement Plan that Simpson Park, home of the TC Williams High School Baseball program, needs improved concession, storage and bleachers, whereas Witter field, home to TC Williams High School Softball program, currently has no areas for storage and concessions, and minimal bleachers.

++Detailed Work Plan:
*Bleacher canopies - There are no trees within the vicinity of the Witter softball field and shade for fans is important in the late Spring and early Summer to provide a cool, comfortable area for them to enjoy the facility. We will install custom or prefabricated bleacher canopies similar to the ones found at Barcroft park in Arlington.
*Dugout gutters - The current roof gutter design is flawed. When it rains the water runs off the end of the roof and drips into the back of the dugout directly behind the dugout benches, the primary place where players store equipment and school bags (usually HS players come directly to the field from school), consequently soaking and in some cases damaging players’ school academic work and expensive softball equipment.
*Dugout fencing - High School coaches have expressed a desire to extend the fencing to the height of the back dugout and add wind screening. This extension will allow for a more enclosed space for the players, which will increase safety and team cohesiveness during games. Such dugout conditions are common for softball and baseball fields where teams play at a high level. Big Simpson baseball field, where the TC Williams HS baseball team plays, is designed this way. It is standard protocol for high school softball fields to be designed in this way.
*Press box - As is common in most regional High School softball fields, a two-story press box with first story storage, minimal concessions area, and second story scoring room is being proposed here. This structure will also provide protection for sound equipment and scoreboard controller when it rains as well as provide a sound structure where players can shelter if severe weather moves in. Right now the closest secure structure is the bathrooms at the nearby soccer field.
*Permanent fencing for bullpens - Construct permanent fencing at the pitching warm-up areas, which are located outside the main playing field and are used during practice and before and during games. Currently, there is temporary netting in place. We propose to install permanent structures to replace the temporary nets that are subject to falling in high winds.

4. Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building
12. Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building (will be evaluated for up to 30 Points)
Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

The Witter softball field is used for practices and games by the TC Williams High School JV and Varsity softball programs as well as the Alexandria City recreation softball league. The youth in these two groups vary in age from eight to eighteen and are exclusively girls. These programs bring together students from different cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic populations in the city providing an opportunity for our youth to interact in a fun and meaningful way across these lines. Robert Putman, Harvard sociologist states, "To strengthen shared identities, we need more opportunities for meaningful interaction across ethnic lines where Americans work, learn, create and live. Community centers, athletic fields, and schools were among the most efficacious instruments . . . a century ago, and we need to reinvest in such places and activities once again, enabling us all to become comfortable with diversity." Naturally the fan base that comes to watch our youth play softball at Witter includes, but is not limited to, caregivers, parents, grandparents, alumni and peers. The common interest in the game and the players creates an ideal opportunity for developing relationships and community among these different groups.

In order for our community to effectively use and enjoy the Witter field it needs to be upgraded as outlined in this proposal. Not doing so suggests a lack of commitment to our youth, specifically girls, in the city of Alexandria. We want Witter to be used to its fullest potential, making it a vital space in our community, one which instills a sense of pride in the surrounding area. The Witter softball field is a good facility, but all public spaces must respond to the needs of the current population and the changes that take place within a community. The TC Williams softball program has steadily grown since 2012 when it moved to Witter. It only makes sense that the facility be upgraded so that these programs will continue to grow and flourish.

5. Project Resources

13. Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words. Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

++Cost Estimates: The cost estimates for the softball field improvements were obtained from contractors with experience doing similar work.
++Ability to obtain cash, labor, services and materials: The Boosters are a volunteer organization made up of parents of TC Williams softball players. The Boosters will organize various fundraisers and obtain cash donations from local business in return for placing signage at the Witter field. Similar fundraising drives in the past four years have raised between $7,000 and $12,000 annually. Volunteer labor is readily available from Booster members and other softball parents of the 35 players between Varsity and Junior Varsity.
++Can raise their matching funds: The Boosters organization has consistently raised $8,000 to $12,000 each of the last four years. With increased Booster involvement, newly obtained 501(c)(3) status and concrete goals, the Boosters are well-positioned to raise the needed funds.
Have project started within 12 months: The majority of the proposed sub-projects do not require significant city permitting so can start quickly. Construction over the fall and Winter would be ideal so that work can be completed before the Spring 2018 softball season.
++Project timeline:
Our goal would be to raise the matching funds by September 2017 in order for construction on the smaller aspects of the project (dugouts, bleachers, and fencing) and planning for the press box can be started in the Fall 2017. September 2017 - Begin phase 1 (bullpen fencing, dugouts, and bleachers)
November 2017 - Complete phase 1
September 2017 - Begin phase 2 (press box)
February 2018 - Complete phase 2
++Maintenance assistance plan:
The Boosters will budget funds and volunteer hours annually for maintenance of the press box (painting, cleaning, general maintenance) and work with the city to ensure facilities are properly maintained throughout the year.

6. Outcomes
14. **Outcomes (will be evaluated for up to 10 points)**

Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

Expected outcomes from this project include:

* An increase in fan visits and involvement for TC Williams HS softball and Alexandria Recreation softball.
* Increase in TC Williams HS booster involvement, in the form of volunteering, organizing camps, and fundraising.
* Increase in profile and success of the TC Williams HS softball JV and Varsity teams.
* Increase in recreation softball participation and volunteers from the recreation community.
* Attraction of a travel softball team that will use the upgraded Witter facility, further elevating the level of softball in Alexandria and promoting girls to stick with softball longer, perhaps into high school and beyond.
Community Matching Fund – TC Softball
Supplemental Questions and Answers:

1. Of the items listed in your work plan, please provide 1) a prioritization and 2) a breakdown of what would be available for use by non-high school use.
   a. The priority and explanation of priority is listed below:
      i. **Dugout gutters** - This is the highest priority because of (1) the high impact to players during and after rain showers, and (2) relative low cost and effort in its execution.
      ii. **Press box** - This is the most expensive of the subprojects, but will be the most impactful. This building will have multiple uses, including shelter and vantage point for score-keepers and press, permanent location for scoring equipment and a sound system, storage, concessions, and as shelter for players and fans during inclement weather.
      iii. **Permanent fencing for bullpens** - While this will make a big difference, the temporary fencing does work so is less important than the above items.
      iv. **Bleacher canopies** - The canopies are important for spectators, but not as important as the above items that impact players directly.
      v. **Dugout fencing** - This is lowest priority of the list since it impacts high school teams the most.
   b. Breakdown of what would be available for use by non-high school use.
      i. All the items in the list would be available for non-high school use. Through maintenance agreements, posted signs, and access agreements, the Boosters, TC Williams Softball teams, Alexandria Recreation Department, and any other organization that might use Witter softball field (e.g. travel fast pitch softball teams) will share these facilities. The press box will be the most challenging to maintain, but there are successful precedents in all regional high school fields.

2. You are requesting $15,000 from the City with a $40,000 contribution for a total of $55,000. Please let us know how you would allocate these funds among your work plan list.
   a. **Dugout gutters** - $2500
   b. **Press box** - $37,000
   c. **Permanent fencing for bullpens** - $3500
   d. **Bleacher canopies** - $8000
   e. **Dugout fencing** - $4000
Communty Matching Fund Application

Tell us about your project!

1) Please tell us about yourself and your community group
Name of Primary Contact for Community Group: Patty Moran/Kate Moran (see attachment #4)
Name of Community Group: Del Ray Gateway Project
Street Address: 209 Gentry Avenue
Apt/Suite/Office:
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Postal Code: 22305
Country: USA
Email Address: patricia.moran@acps.k12.va.us
Phone Number: 703-824-6810
Fax Number: 703-824-6826
Mobile Phone: 703-489-4186
Website (if applicable): Coming: www.delraygateway.org

Is anyone else involved with your project?
Chris Dunning
Nancy Lee-Reeves
Cathy Puskar
Donnie Simpson
Del Ray Citizens Association & Del Ray Business Association: Gayle Reuter/Pat Miller
Del Ray Artisans
Warwick Village Citizens Association

2) How do you prefer to be contacted?
3) Name of Project
Del Ray Gateway Project: Nancy Dunning Garden ("the Garden")

4) Location of Project
Intersection of Commonwealth & Mt Vernon Avenues, Del Ray, Alexandria, VA

5) Please add a map and outline of project location.
See attachment #1.

Project Costs

6) What is your total project cost?
$418,452

7) What will be your group's monetary contribution?
Our group will raise funds through grants (i.e., VDOT for sidewalk work; City of Alexandria Community Matching Fund; Federal grants.org), in-kind donations (i.e., community lighting and landscaping businesses), and donations through the soon-to-be-liveWeb site and with direction of fundraising committee.

8) How many volunteer hours do you expect your community group will contribute to this project?
Since our initial meeting in August 2016, we have spent approximately 65 hours working on the conceptual design. We project more than 5,000 hours to be dedicated to bringing the Gateway: Garden/Splash Park project to fruition.

9) Do you expect any in-kind donations and, if so, please explain.
We have met with Cathy Puskar and Donnie Simpson, two well-connected and experienced community members, to help us compile a list of businesses to solicit for in-kind donations to the Garden. They have supplied us with a number of contacts for in-kind donations, among them several landscaping companies, a local lighting vendor, and a source for lumber. We have had many offers of volunteer labor.
10) What is the monetary funding match you are seeking from the City?
$25,000

Proposed Idea

11) Proposed Idea (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please provide information on your proposed idea in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. The proposal must include a detailed work plan, explain how the project will benefit the broader community, and why you want to do this project. If applicable to the project site location, projects should also show consistency with the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014) or the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016), as accepted by City Council.

Alexandrians have a strong sense of civic pride and desire to connect with their neighbors, according to the Citywide Improvement Plan. And it is this civic pride that has led to the creation of the Del Ray Gateway Project, consisting of the Nancy Dunning Garden and the Spray Park, under the umbrella of the Del Ray Community Partnership. The intersection of Commonwealth and Mt Vernon Avenues has always been the gateway to Del Ray. Yet, this small park has appeared dormant and unappealing for many years. It is the purpose of this committee to beautify this parcel (see attachment #1) through its development and dedication as the Nancy Dunning Garden (see attachment #2), a place for peace and reflection amidst the bustle and prosperity of the neighborhood.

The funds from the Community Matching Fund would be used to purchase the following:

9 park benches ($2,700 ea) $24,300
1 Little Library (approx $700) $ 700

Total $25,000

Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building

12) Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building (will be evaluated for up to 30 Points)
Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants
must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

While the Del Ray community has moved forward, there are friends and neighbors who remember and often speak about the important role that Nancy Dunning played in Del Ray’s transformation. And those friends feel it is important that the community not forget Nancy and that those newcomers to the now-popular neighborhood learn about who helped make it possible. This park dedicated to Nancy will do that. And, one of the most precious gifts that she left behind after her murder in 2003 were countless volunteers to carry on the work in Del Ray. Among the groups who are supporting us in volunteer hours and finances (the DRCA donated the proceeds of their annual chili cookoff to us in February 2017; see attachment #5) are the Del Ray Citizens Association, the Del Ray Business Association, and Warwick Village Citizens Association. We have representatives of the Del Ray Artisans at our planning meetings. We will be meeting with key community members in the end of April to create a fundraising committee to get the Gateway fundraising off the ground. We have had commitments of significant monitory donations (a Del Ray Gateway bank account has been opened).

Project Resources

13) Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words. Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

We are working with Cole & Denny Architects, an Alexandria firm, who is very vested in the City and who has helped us create the current conceptual design as well as providing cost estimates for the entire project (see attachment #3; they, with Amie Evans, were recipients of a 2017 CIVIC Award by the City in recognition of their helping to design a conceptual rendering for the proposed spray park and the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden). The City has approved the naming of this piece so we are ready for the next steps:

We are working with the City to formulate a Community Group Agreement. The City is also working with a vendor to provide a feasibility study (which should be completed by the end of May 2017) for the entire Gateway Project (both Garden and Spray Park). Our fundraising committee will meet in two weeks to start our financial outreach. We have several grant writers ready to write.
Outcomes

14) Outcomes (will be evaluated for up to 10 points)
Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

We know that this project is a large one. But, the City showed its confidence in us by approving this park to be named after Nancy Dunning (see attachment #6). And Nancy worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for Del Ray to become what it is today. She did not live to complete her vision. Help us develop this park and beautify the currently faceless Gateway to Del Ray and help complete her vision. Thank you.

Thank You!
Name Request in Memory of Nancy Dunning

Nancy Dunning was the Queen of Del Ray. At the time of her death, she was working on a wonderful idea to display luminarias all up and down Mt. Vernon Avenue for the holidays. Those luminarias on the first Saturday in December have come to symbolize how Nancy lit up Del Ray.

Dunning, a well known Del Ray real estate agent and wife of then Sheriff Jim Dunning, was tragically murdered on December 5, 2003.

Since that time, the community has looked to try to find the most appropriate way to remember Nancy and keep her memory alive. Even after more than 10 years since her death, friends and family still hear new stories of acts of kindness that Nancy performed before her death. She had a heart of gold and always went out of her way to help someone in need.

More than 25 years ago when “The Avenue” was boarded up buildings with very few shops, residents had little reason to walk around. Nancy saw a different Avenue and dedicated her life to see it blossom and thrive. She worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for Del Ray to become what it is today.
One of the most precious gifts that she left behind, were countless volunteers to carry on the work she started. One of Nancy’s most powerful traits was empowering others to step up and have the courage to take on a task.

While the community has moved forward, there are friends and neighbors who remember and often speak about the important role that Nancy played in Del Ray’s transformation. And those friends feel it is important that the community not forget Nancy and that those newcomers to the now popular neighborhood, learn about who helped make it possible.

For all the reasons mentioned above, at the suggestion of Nancy’s family, the Del Ray Business Association is proud to recommend that one of the entrances to the heart of the Del Ray business district be named after Nancy. We would like to request that the City of Alexandria name the very end of the parcel of land at the corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue be named the Nancy Dunning Gardens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Miller, President (pmiller1806@comcast.net, 703-258-4516)

Del Ray Business Association
Park Parcel - 2802 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Communuty Matching Fund Application

Tell us about your project!

1) Please tell us about yourself and your community group
Name of Primary Contact for Community Group: Patty Moran/Kate Moran (see attachment #4)
Name of Community Group: Del Ray Gateway Project
Street Address: 209 Gentry Avenue
Apt/Suite/Office:
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Postal Code: 22305
Country: USA
Email Address: patricia.moran@acps.k12.va.us
Phone Number: 703-824-6810
Fax Number: 703-824-6826
Mobile Phone: 703-489-4186
Website (if applicable): Coming: www.delraygateway.org

Is anyone else involved with your project?
Chris Dunning
Nancy Lee-Reeves
Cathy Puskar
Donnie Simpson
Del Ray Citizens Association & Del Ray Business Association: Gayle Reuter/Pat Miller
Del Ray Artisans
Warwick Village Citizens Association

2) How do you prefer to be contacted?
3) Name of Project
Del Ray Gateway Project: Nancy Dunning Garden ("the Garden")

4) Location of Project
Intersection of Commonwealth & Mt Vernon Avenues, Del Ray, Alexandria, VA

5) Please add a map and outline of project location.
See attachment #1.

Project Costs

6) What is your total project cost?
$418,452

7) What will be your group's monetary contribution?
Our group will raise funds through grants (i.e., VDOT for sidewalk work; City of Alexandria Community Matching Fund; Federal grants.org), in-kind donations (i.e., community lighting and landscaping businesses), and donations through the soon-to-be-liveWeb site and with direction of fundraising committee.

8) How many volunteer hours do you expect your community group will contribute to this project?
Since our initial meeting in August 2016, we have spent approximately 65 hours working on the conceptual design. We project more than 5,000 hours to be dedicated to bringing the Gateway: Garden/Splash Park project to fruition.

9) Do you expect any in-kind donations and, if so, please explain.
We have met with Cathy Puskar and Donnie Simpson, two well-connected and experienced community members, to help us compile a list of businesses to solicit for in-kind donations to the Garden. They have supplied us with a number of contacts for in-kind donations, among them several landscaping companies, a local lighting vendor, and a source for lumber. We have had many offers of volunteer labor.
10) What is the monetary funding match you are seeking from the City?
$25,000

Proposed Idea

11) Proposed Idea (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please provide information on your proposed idea in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. The proposal must include a detailed work plan, explain how the project will benefit the broader community, and why you want to do this project. If applicable to the project site location, projects should also show consistency with the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014) or the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016), as accepted by City Council.

Alexandrians have a strong sense of civic pride and desire to connect with their neighbors, according to the Citywide Improvement Plan. And it is this civic pride that has led to the creation of the Del Ray Gateway Project, consisting of the Nancy Dunning Garden and the Spray Park, under the umbrella of the Del Ray Community Partnership. The intersection of Commonwealth and Mt Vernon Avenues has always been the gateway to Del Ray. Yet, this small park has appeared dormant and unappealing for many years. It is the purpose of this committee to beautify this parcel (see attachment #1) through its development and dedication as the Nancy Dunning Garden (see attachment #2), a place for peace and reflection amidst the bustle and prosperity of the neighborhood.

The funds from the Community Matching Fund would be used to purchase the following:

9 park benches ($2,700 ea) $24,300
1 Little Library (approx $700) $ 700
Total $25,000

Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building

12) Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building (will be evaluated for up to 30 Points)
Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants
must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

While the Del Ray community has moved forward, there are friends and neighbors who remember and often speak about the important role that Nancy Dunning played in Del Ray’s transformation. And those friends feel it is important that the community not forget Nancy and that those newcomers to the now-popular neighborhood learn about who helped make it possible. This park dedicated to Nancy will do that. And, one of the most precious gifts that she left behind after her murder in 2003 were countless volunteers to carry on the work in Del Ray. Among the groups who are supporting us in volunteer hours and finances (the DRCA donated the proceeds of their annual chili cookoff to us in February 2017; see attachment #5) are the Del Ray Citizens Association, the Del Ray Business Association, and Warwick Village Citizens Association. We have representatives of the Del Ray Artisans at our planning meetings. We will be meeting with key community members in the end of April to create a fundraising committee to get the Gateway fundraising off the ground. We have had commitments of significant monitory donations (a Del Ray Gateway bank account has been opened).

Project Resources

13) Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words. Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

We are working with Cole & Denny Architects, an Alexandria firm, who is very vested in the City and who has helped us create the current conceptual design as well as providing cost estimates for the entire project (see attachment #3; they, with Amie Evans, were recipients of a 2017 CIVIC Award by the City in recognition of their helping to design a conceptual rendering for the proposed spray park and the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden). The City has approved the naming of this piece so we are ready for the next steps:

We are working with the City to formulate a Community Group Agreement. The City is also working with a vendor to provide a feasibility study (which should be completed by the end of May 2017) for the entire Gateway Project (both Garden and Spray Park). Our fundraising committee will meet in two weeks to start our financial outreach. We have several grant writers ready to write.
Outcomes

14) Outcomes (will be evaluated for up to 10 points)
Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

We know that this project is a large one. But, the City showed its confidence in us by approving this park to be named after Nancy Dunning (see attachment #6). And Nancy worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for Del Ray to become what it is today. She did not live to complete her vision. Help us develop this park and beautify the currently faceless Gateway to Del Ray and help complete her vision. Thank you.

Thank You!
Communty Matching Fund Application

Tell us about your project!

1) Please tell us about yourself and your community group

Name of Primary Contact for Community Group: Nancy Lee-Reeve

Name of Community Group: Del Ray Gateway Project

Street Address: 6 West Uhler Avenue

Apt/Suite/Office:

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Postal Code: 22301

Country:

Email Address: nancyleenews@yahoo.com

Phone Number: 443-253-4295

Fax Number:

Mobile Phone:

Website (if applicable):

Is anyone else involved with your project?

Del Ray Community Partnership, Del Ray Citizens Association, Del Ray Business Association, Del Ray Artisans, Cole & Denny Architects, LPDA, Nancy Dunning Family

2) How do you prefer to be contacted?

(X) Phone
(X) Email

3) Name of Project

_______Del Ray Gateway Project___________________________________________

4) Location of Project

_______Old Colasanto Pool in Del Ray_______________________________________

5) Please add a map and outline of project location.

See attached

_____________________________________________________

Project Costs

6) What is your total project cost?

______________$900,000________________________________

7) What will be your group's monetary contribution?

______________$25,000________________________________

8) How many volunteer hours do you expect your community group will contribute to this project?

___________100+ hours ____________________________________________
9) Do you expect any in-kind donations and, if so, please explain.

___ Cole & Denny Architects & LPDA have already donated their services to create a conceptual rendering. We are forming a fundraising committee to identify additional in-kind donation possibilities within the community.________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

10) What is the monetary funding match you are seeking from the City?

________________________$25,000_________________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

Proposed Idea

11) Proposed Idea (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please provide information on your proposed idea in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. The proposal must include a detailed work plan, explain how the project will benefit the broader community, and why you want to do this project. If applicable to the project site location, projects should also show consistency with the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014) or the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016), as accepted by City Council.

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________
Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building

12) Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building (will be evaluated for up to 30 Points)
Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

Project Resources

13) Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words. Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
Outcomes

14) Outcomes (will be evaluated for up to 10 points)
Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

Thank You!
**Proposed Idea (200 words)**  

Please provide information on your proposed idea in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness in creating a stronger, more connected, and vibrant neighborhood and community. The proposal must include a detailed work plan, explain how the project will benefit the broader community, and why you want to do this project. If applicable to the project site location, projects should also show consistency with the Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014) or the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016), as accepted by City Council.

The old Colansanto pool has been closed since 2010. Since then, the old pool has remained a visual eyesore and dead space at the intersection that welcomes people into Del Ray. So far, the city has allocated funding of $450k to demolish the pool in FY 2022 with the intention of turning it into a spray park. However, the community would greatly benefit by having that timeline moved up sooner. Del Ray is a family neighborhood with no water resources for children in the hot summer months. Families have to drive their children to Old Town, Potomac Yard, Franconia, Arlington County and the soon to be reopened Warwick pool to cool off. The Colansanto pool provides an ideal location within walking distance for children in the summer. The spray park will appeal to kids of all ages and will not require kids to know how to swim. Plus, the flat spray ground design is low maintenance for the city and does not require a lifeguard. In the non-summer months, the spray park could also function as a multi-purpose community space. For instance, the Del Ray Artisans could use the space for art exhibits. The community could use the space for concerts or other outdoor events. With the assistance of Cole & Denny Architects, we have completed the conceptual design for the spray park. Now we must begin to engage the community, build awareness and start fundraising.

We would like to use the community match fund to pay for the following items which are part of the conceptual design and outreach:

- $9,000 for bike racks
- $4,000 trash can
- $1,000 for gates
- $1,000 for banners/signs for the spray park
- $9,250 for fence
- $750 for tree
- **Total $25,000**

These item estimates have been given to us by Cole & Denny Architects based on the conceptual rendering.

**Neighborhood Involvement (200 words)**  

(Will be evaluated for up to 30 points) Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the
neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

The spray park initiative has brought together a broad coalition of community members in Del Ray. The spray park initiative is working under the umbrella of the Del Ray Community Partnership which was created to support grass roots community efforts like this. The spray park has wide community support and involvement including representatives from the Nancy Dunning Family, the Del Ray Business Association, Del Ray Artisans, the Del Ray Citizens Association and Warwick Village. Community representatives have been regularly meeting on a monthly basis to form an action plan and design for the spray park project. With the proximity of the Del Ray Artisans building to the proposed spray park site, we have made a concerted effort to include their feedback. The Artisans attended our monthly meetings and provided ideas for the conceptual design—a design that includes a plaza that visually connects the Artisan’s building to the proposed space and allows for year round use. In addition to representation from those community groups at our monthly meetings, Del Ray neighbors have actively responded to our online community surveys and online petition. For the community survey that was done in the summer of 2016 on proposed spray park designs, several hundred people actively participated.

13. Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)

Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words. Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

The 2012 City Aquatics Study estimated that the proposed spray park would cost about $850,000 to build. Cole & Denny Architects and LPDA provided pro bono work and together, we created the conceptual design of the spray park. That design included a cost estimate which totaled $900,000. The pro bono work to create the conceptual design was billed at $23,000 from Cole & Denny and LPDA. In addition to that, Cole & Denny is also now working on a 3D image of the park which we will be able to use for fundraising on our future website. The Del Ray Citizens Association also donated its proceeds from the 2017 February Chili Cook Off to the project which totaled over $2,000.

We have started presenting the proposed design to the community (i.e. Del Ray Citizens Association, Warwick Village) to get feedback, support and to start planning fundraising for the park. We will be holding a meeting of potential fundraisers/donors in April to build a volunteer fundraising committee, find in-kind donations, identify grant sources and set fundraising goals.

The city has already agreed to fund the feasibility study to be completed by mid-May 2017. Then the projected timeline for starting the project is in 2019.

The design of the spray park would require no lifeguard or pool maintenance on the city’s part. Also any landscaping would be done with indigenous plants species with low maintenance requirements.
Outcomes Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

We would measure outcomes by tracking by how many people we are able to direct to our website and facebook page for community engagement. We will also track success by our meeting our fundraising goals for the spray park.
Community Matching Fund – Colasanto
Supplemental Questions and Answers:

Questions:

1. How will the funds you are requesting and the match (total of $50,000) be used to activate the site in the interim until something can be done with the spray ground?

   We would like to use the funds for structures that would become a permanent part of the spray park that would allow people to use the space such as benches, bike racks, trash cans. Part of the money would also be used for banners/signs to our website. It would not activate the space by making it a kid's play space, but it would allow the green area to be used for a sitting space/rest area which is does not have right now. We did not want to use funds to purchase things for the space that would not be used in the future or not be permanent because people might feel it was a waste of money when things purchased would not used for the future spray park. Also given that the pool still remains on the site, it would be difficult to activate the space without removing the pool itself since it takes up most of the existing space that would be allotted for the spray park.

2. How will the $50,000 investment be impact, if at all, if the spray ground plan changes in any way?

   If changes happened to the spray park plans, these items we raised money for could still be used in the space because they can be moved around or used in the garden area as well. They are not fixed structures so they could be used in multiple areas even with a design change.
Communty Matching Fund Application

1. Tell us about your project!

1. Please tell us about yourself and your community group
   Name of Primary Contact for Community Group
   Darrell L. Wilson

   Name of Community Group
   Alexandria Little League

   Street Address
   P.O. Box 3475

   Apt/Suite/Office

   City
   Alexandria

   State
   VA

   Postal Code
   22303

   Country

   Email Address
   dwilson729@gmail.com

   Phone Number
   703-820-5752

   Fax Number

   Mobile Phone

   Website (if applicable)
   http://alexandriabaseball.com/

   Is anyone else involved with your project?
   No

2. How do you prefer to be contacted?
   Email

3. Name of Project
   Ben Brenman Baseball Park Enhancement Project

4. Location of Project
   Ben Brenman Park
5. Please add a map and outline of project location.

2. Project Costs

6. What is your total project cost?

50000.00

7. What will be your group’s monetary contribution?

25000.00

8. How many volunteer hours do you expect your community group will contribute to this project?

200

9. Do you expect any in-kind donations and, if so, please explain.

Yes, ALL is the host league for around 500 players ages from 7-16 years old. Previous projects involving construction and design have benefited from gifted in kind professional volunteers for engineering, design and project implementation. It is highly likely this would take place on the proposed projects in this application.

10. What is the monetary funding match you are seeking from the City?

25000.00

3. Proposed Idea

11. Proposed Idea (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)

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The project includes the construction of a new scoreboard and the addition of a linear split batting cage on the first base side of the diamond outside of the fields fence line. Currently Alexandria Little league has access to only one City owned field with a scoreboard and working batting cages. In 2016, ALL purchased a new scoreboard for the Little Simpson Baseball Park and had it installed at its own expense. Adding a Scoreboard and new batting cage will greatly enhance the nearly 500 players who are registered city residents and who utilize these fields to play games. This project will help the league to fund raise for further field improvements enhance recreational opportunities for our youth and provide facilities that can be utilized even when the field is closed due to weather. Batting cages are routinely able to be used even after rain.

4. Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building

12. Neighborhood Involvement/Community Building (will be evaluated for up to 30 Points)

Please provide information on how the neighborhood/community will be involved in the project and its result in approximately 200 words. Applicants must demonstrate the project’s effectiveness by including as many diverse groups and individuals as possible and should reflect the demographics of the neighborhood/community, including youth, seniors, renters, homeowners, and business organizations.

Alexandria Little league is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to using your baseball a vehicle to instilling firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, respect and teamwork. The league has grown steadily over the past 8 years, by approximately 5% a year. This growth reflects diversity across the city of Alexandria where all children boys or girls can register to play in one of 7 baseball leagues it offers in the Spring and Fall Seasons. ALL is 100% volunteer run league. Which means of the nearly 45 teams that are organized each season a dedicated group of over 150 volunteers in Alexandria are required to make sure the league can function. These volunteers cover nearly every neighborhood in the city. The league encompasses registered children from every elementary school in the city. As the league grows it is critical to have facilities that can provide the best athletic opportunity for all of Alexandria’s youth.
5. Project Resources

13. Project Resources & Readiness (will be evaluated for up to 30 points)
Please explain the project resources and readiness in approximately 200 words. Applicants must explain their cost estimates for the project and demonstrate the ability to obtain widespread and diverse match contributions of cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, and donated materials as indicators of community support. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds and have the project started within 12 months. You must also show a project timeline. Proposals that demonstrate a maintenance assistance plan will receive higher consideration.

Alexandria Little league has raised the $25,000.00 match required for this project from several annual fundraisers the league participates in including Alexandria Spring 2 Action. The league routinely asks volunteers for donations so that projects such as this can be undertaken. Adding additional batting cages and scoreboards are routinely the number one items included on league surveys that could enhance the leagues enjoyment of games and instruction. The scoreboard enhancement project and batting cages at Brenman Baseball Park will likely require a Special Use Permit. But ALL believes that we can work with the Parks and Recreation Division in the City to progress the SUP and purchase material, etc to start the project in the Spring of 2018. Alexandria Little league was able to accomplish the scoreboard replacement at Little Simpson in 5 months. ALL will also enter into a maintenance assistance plan with respect to these improvements with the City.

ALL has derived the cost estimate for the scoreboard from information retained from companies who routinely install scoreboards.

The cost estimate for the Score Board, support beams and installation at 15-17,000.00

ALL has an estimated cost estimate for the approximately 70-80 ft (L) X 14 ft (w) X 12 ft (H) batting cage at between 27,000-35,000.00

ALL has also derived the cost estimate for the split batting cage in a similar effort after reviewing similar projects undertaken. Alexandria Little league can fund additional project costs if these projects exceed the estimates provided here.

The split batting cage design will be a fully built rectangular chain link design with dual entrances from both ends and a fine gravel surface for good drainage. ALL will supply all interior lining nets, pitching screens etc and maintain the cage surface.

6. Outcomes

14. Outcomes (will be evaluated for up to 10 points)
Applicants must identify how they will measure project success with specific outcomes, both tangible and/or intangible results.

ALL will commit to show annual usage of the new cage and scoreboard, by including the item on our year end annual survey. ALL will also be able to show actual booked games and hitting practices to track the usage of the batting cage. Especially during inclement weather. This will show that the cages can facilitate practices for throwing and hitting even when the field is unusable do to weather. Our website can track field usage. With nearly 30 each spring and fall (360 players total) teams vying for usage of this field enhancing the field with a batting cage will greatly increase the fields use.
Community Matching Fund – Alexandria Little League
Supplemental Questions and Answers:

Questions:

1. What are the electrical costs?
   I believe that the electrical costs for the scoreboard our estimated at about $5000. That assumes that it will be installed in the location relatively convenient to an electrical power source already located at the Little League field.

2. Who will be responsible for maintenance?
   As for the question on maintenance, I would assume that the relationship we’ve had with the city relative to the other cages and scoreboard would remain the same, where Little League pretty much maintains the batting cages unless something major needs to be done.

   For what it's worth, we have worked with TC Williams baseball on sharing costs for updating nets and other equipment in the cages. I have no reason to doubt the similar arrangements will continue into the future.