

City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016, 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 2017 Community Matching Fund Applications
- III. Presentations
 - a. Citywide Park Wayfinding Signage
 - b. Simpson Park Playground and Passive Lawn Renovation Final Concept
 - c. Patrick Henry K-8 School & Recreation Center
 - d. Jones Point Park Recreation Plan Update - Deferred
 - e. Citywide Childcare Center Inventory & Study
- IV. Items for Information
 - a. Public Comments – non-agenda items
 - b. Updates
 - i. AlexRenew Rectangular Field
 - ii. Warwick Pool Replacement Project
 - iii. Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Renovation
- V. Items for Action
 - a. Approval of Minutes: July 21, 2016
- VI. Director’s Report.
 - a. FY2018 Budget and CIP
- VII. Division Updates
 - a. Recreation Services, Park Operations, and Park Planning, Design & Capital Development
- VIII. Commission Business
 - a. Verbal Reports from Commissioners by District
- IX. Next Meeting: October 20, 2016
- X. Adjournment

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR^{WC}
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 15 COMMISSION MEETING -ITEM VII
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

Program Wrap-Ups

- **Wahoo Swim Team** finished fourth in the Colonial Swim League with competitions occurring over the summer with other large swim teams across northern Virginia. This season included 172 swimmers generating \$23,512, which is an increase from the 2015 season of 143 swimmers generating \$18,915.



- This summer, Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility introduced **Splashball Camp**, the first water polo program offered by RPCA. Participants ages 5-9 had a blast learning the sport of water polo in a fun, recreational environment. The program drew 5 participants, generating \$1,315 in revenue.



- This summer, Charles Houston Recreation Center hosted its **PowerSwim** program. 14 Out of School Time participants received discounted Learn to Swim classes at the

Memorial Pool, as part of the Make A Splash water safety initiative, to teach children to swim, and the importance of water safety.

- **Charles Houston LIVE!** is a live outdoor concert series that occurred every Friday during the months of July and August. These free events included fantastic food trucks, and arts & craft activities for all age groups. Over 300 attendees enjoyed the festivities.

- On July 13, William Ramsay Recreation Center collaborated with the Alexandria Library to host the **Summer Quest Mad Science program**. 150 Out of School Time participants participated in live science experiments and learned about the importance of science in their daily lives.



- On July 27, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities hosted a free, **“Remember the Titans” Outdoor Movie Night**, at George Washington Middle School fields. Attendees had an opportunity to meet and receive autographs from members of the 1971 original T.C. Williams Titans team. Coaches and players from the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program and the T.C. Williams High School football teams were also on hand. Over 225 attendees brought lawn chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy a night under the stars.



- **National Junior Tennis & Learning Program** wrapped up on July 28. The program focused on teaching the basics of tennis to participants of all levels. Participation continues to increase with 50 registrants (5 more than 2015), generating \$3,720 in revenue.

- On August 15, Alexandria took part in Play Ball Month with **Play Ball Alexandria**. Play Ball Month is an initiative in which the Commissioner of Major League Baseball called upon Mayors of each city to host a baseball or softball related activity in August. Mayor Allison Silberberg, along with former Mayor William Euille, recreation staff and over 300 children from Out of School Time programs participated in activities at George Washington Middle School.



- On August 16, the **Alexandria Titans Track Club** celebrated a successful season with an end of the season party at Lee Center. The kids were thrilled when local track stars Josephus and Noah Lyles visited track practice and shared some encouraging words. The club had its highest participation with 84 participants (8 more than in 2015), generating \$5,745 in revenue.



- On August 19, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted its **End of Summer PLAY!** event. Over 130 Out of School Time participants were led in an energetic group exercise, followed by a day of fun filled activities including an inflatable water slide relay, and a cookout including hotdogs, chips, cotton candy and snow cones.
- The **Alexandria Girls Soccer Clinic** was held on August 23-25, at Four Mile Run Park. The free, three-day clinic helped to engage girls in soccer who had previously shown interest in the sport at a prior anti-bullying initiative to engage youth in positive activities. The Alexandria Soccer Association led the group and facilitated the drills. Close to 40 young ladies participated in the program.

- The **Haircuts and Backpacks** event took place on August 28, at Charles Houston, William Ramsay and Patrick Henry Recreation Centers. Youth received over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies, distributed before the start of the new school year. Volunteers at Charles Houston Recreation Center also provided haircuts and salon treatments. Event sponsors include Fire Fighters and Friends, Act for Alexandria, Apple Federal Credit Union, Alexandria Police Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Department.



- The 5th annual **First Responders Cup and Homecoming Day** took place on September 11 at George Washington Middle School. A special 9/11 ceremony was held in remembrance of the September 11, 2001 victims and the tragedy our country faced. Representatives from the Alexandria Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Fire Department and EMS were in attendance. Following the ceremony, Fire, EMS, Sheriff and Police personnel participated in the first game coin toss on each field before Alexandria teams played Arlington County Youth Football Club. Regular season for the Alexandria Titans Football League begins September 17. There are currently 115 players registered.



Program Updates

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

	FY-17 YTD School Year 16-17 8-31-16	FY-16 YTD School Year 15-16 8-31-15	FY-16 Actuals School Year 15-16	FY-15 Actuals School Year 14-15	FY-14 Actuals School Year 13-14	FY-17 Summer 2016 YTD	FY-16 Summer 2015 Actual	FY-15 Actuals Summer 2014	FY-14 Actuals Summer 2013
Program Fee	\$429	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$300	\$300/\$315 (as of 7/1)	\$125/\$300 (as of 7/1)	\$100	\$50
Satisfaction % mid-year report	TBD	90%	90%	92%	92%	TBD	90%	96%	92%
Registration #	646	612	1,201	1,194	1,243	1,036	1,352	1,332	1,373
OSTP Revenue	\$199,557*	\$173,765*	\$356,179	\$353,851	\$268,536	\$214,642*	\$130,750	\$103,100	\$54,352
Fee Assistance (Discounts)	\$45,169	\$46,080	\$125,208	\$125,146	\$87,608	\$81,088	\$41,060	\$28,715	\$13,798
Full Fees	\$276,907	\$254,756	\$500,530*	\$497,338*	\$366,071	\$311,680	\$174,060	\$133,965	\$68,622

*Fees paid in installments.

- The **American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program** is essential to the water safety of the community. Summer enrollment served 645 participants and 18 waitlisted in 164 class offerings, generating \$68,575 in revenue. In 2015, we served 755 participants and 115 waitlisted in 130 class offerings, generating \$68,669 in revenue. Though

participation in group classes have reduced, revenue is sustained by the increase in individual swim lessons.

- **Outdoor Pools** have extended hours of operation through September 16, to compensate for the 2-week maintenance closure at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatic Facility. Admission revenues are up 10%. Seasonal pass sales have nearly tripled from 18 in 2015 to 60 this season.

Upcoming Programs & Events

- Starting September 8, William Ramsay Recreation Center will host a new **Teen & Adult Hip Hop Fitness program**. Participants ages 13 and older will use Hip Hop dance moves with a timed interval system to increase endurance and flexibility, burn calories and strengthen muscle.
- On September 16, the **Itty Bitty Doggie Dive** will give small dog breeds less than 50 lbs. an opportunity to go for a late summer swim at Memorial Pool at Charles Houston Recreation Center. All breeds and sizes will have an opportunity to participate in the **Big Dog Day Swim** on September 17, at Old Town Pool. A new component to this years Big Dog Day Swim is Fest-Dog-Val, a dog expo featuring veterinarians, groomers, obedience trainers and more.
- On September 17, the **5th Annual Alexandria Multicultural Festival** will take place at the Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park. This free fun-filled family event includes live musical performances, face painting and balloon animals.
- **Multicultural Health Fair** takes place on September 24, at Cora Kelly Recreation Center. This annual event offers a number of free health screenings, fitness and nutritional advice, and information on how to lead a healthier life style.
- **Robust Walk-a-thon** will take place on September 27 at Ben Brenman Park. Guest instructors lead groups through stations demonstrating how to weave low-intensity exercises into a walk; use environmental objects as exercise props; and gain balance, strength, agility, flexibility and endurance. Sponsors of the event include RPCA, Successful Aging Committee, DCHS Aging & Adult Services, ARHA and Senior Services of Alexandria.
- In recognition of **National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month**, Alexandria recreation centers will host programs, activities and events promoting positive behaviors among youth in our City, throughout the month of October. The Mayors' Campaign to End Bullying is themed "Bully Free Starts with Me", and has been a major focal point in summer camps and events.

Staff Updates

- **Grace Vinda Rodriguez, Leonard Booker Jr. and Kiara Dade** were recently promoted to Recreation Leader III/Manager on Duty at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility.
- Staff members **Lindsay Burneson** and **Brooke Dade** completed Project WILD and Project Learning Tree environmental education certifications, held at Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center.

Admin

- The Spring program season spanned 13 weeks and includes programs that took place April 1 through June 25, 2016. Recreation Services’ **Spring FY16 Scorecard** indicates a more than 40% increase in both participation and revenue from registrations as compared to the previous year, with 763 more registered participants. In addition, Spring FY16’s total revenue is nearly 30% higher than the previous year, largely due to a significant increase in reservation, registration, and daily visit revenue. In addition, the number of active households continues to steadily increase by an average of 15% each season, which shows that cross-promotion and new programming efforts are continuing to attract new customers.

The Summer 2016 Scorecard will be included in October’s report, once all final contractor payments have been received

Recreation Services SCORECARD

	Spring FY15 11 weeks	Spring FY16 13 weeks	Change
Registration Revenue	\$162,515	\$230,345	42% revenue and 40% participation increase over previous Spring
# of Registrations	1,908	2,671	
Avg. Value per Registration	\$85	\$86	
Adult League Revenue	\$66,350	\$59,925	10% decrease in adult league revenue over previous Spring
# Teams	105	134	
Avg Value per Adult Team	\$632	\$447	
# of Active Households	11,514	17,547	14% increase in one season 52% increase in one year
Increase	17%	14%	
# of Programs Offered	268	296	10% more programs offered vs. previous Spring
Program Success Rate	78%	69%	
Overall Satisfaction Rate	88%	88%	2% increase in likelihood to recommend over previous Spring
Evaluation Response Rate	19%	13%	
Likelihood to Recommend	91%	92%	
Passes Sold	501	530	6% increase in passes sold & revenue over previous Spring
Pass Revenue	\$43,866	\$46,443	
Avg. Value per Pass	\$88	\$88	24% above previous Spring
Daily Visit Revenue	\$50,518	\$62,442	
Reservation Revenue	\$108,031	\$154,061	43% above previous Spring
Combined Revenue	\$431,280	\$553,216	128% increase over previous Spring

*Reflects information managed using RecTrac

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

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 VII

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance

- Demolition of the “Bunker” at Simpson Stadium is underway and the community eagerly awaits the completion of the project for the fall Little League season.
- The drainage improvements at Charles Barrett Recreation Center have been completed, the improvements will help to redirect and remove standing water in the playground area and at the Recreation Center entrance.
- Saturday, July 16th, the City held its 2nd annual Tons of Trucks event at Chinguapin Park. This year we had clear sunny skies and many families, including children, came out to see all the vehicles and equipment the City had to offer.
- Ben Brenman pond’s foot bridge received some long overdue improvements in late July. The hand rails were reinforced with new support beams and lumber.
- Staff continued to perform maintenance on the city’s natural and synthetic turf fields. Fields have been prepared for the fall season. Limerick Field is the City’s seventh synthetic field and it is expected to come online in October.



“Bunker” at Simpson Stadium



Charles Barrett Recreation Center

- Reduced mowing zones have been designated in 22 parks , per FY2017 service reductions of RPCA.

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- October 3th begin the first Playground Safety Inspection of fiscal year 2017. Staff will be conducting a comprehensive inspection and needed repairs during August and September.
- Mowing program for rights-of-way, schools, and public facilities are on schedule. Mowing schedules have been posted to the city's website for public information <http://www.alexandriava.gov/18076>
- Contractors continue alleys cleanup and vegetation control as requested by TES and Code Administration. The scope of work includes maintaining alleys to make them accessible to TES refuse vehicles.
- Staff continues inspecting areas in need of herbicide application (spot treatment) over the cracks and crevices to control weeds.
- The contractor is completing the second hedge pruning cycle of the growing season. Staff continues monitoring the growth of the hedges and to notify the contractor when the work needs to be done.

c. Waterfront Parks

- Staff completed a variety of projects in the month of July. All picnic tables, benches, and trash cans along the waterfront were power washed and serviced. Weed abatement was also completed on all trails, sidewalks, and walkways. New safety bike signs were installed at Oronoco Bay park and privacy screens were installed in the Montgomery Park tennis courts.
- A comprehensive maintenance project was also completed at King Street Park. Masonry repairs were made to the brick walkways, all trees and shrubs were pruned, uneven turf areas were leveled out and reseeded, and flower beds were weeded and mulched.
- Aside from working with Park staff and learning about Park Operations and maintenance, the TeensWork students spent one day a week in life skills training sessions with Park Maintenance staff. During these training sessions, students participated in a variety of discussions including: selecting a career path, resume writing, and managing their personal finances.
- Adopt-A-Park welcomed a new group to the program this month: Service Source Disability Resource Center. Service Source adopted Stevenson Park on the west side of the city.



Tons of Trucks Event



Brenman Park Pond Bridge



King Street Park



TeensWork students with Certified Financial Planner, Kevin Parker

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

a. Urban Forestry

- Staff has confirmed that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is present in Alexandria, and that this insect pest is contributing to the decline of many ash trees throughout the City. The most visible sign of EAB infestation on ash trees is dead or dying canopy of the tree, with numerous dead branches extending upward from the main trunk. During the past year, RPCA removed approximately fifty (50) dead or diseased ash trees from public lands in Alexandria.
- During the first two months of FY 2017 (July and August), maintenance work (primarily pruning) was performed for 623 trees. During the same period, staff received 298 Service Requests through the Call.Click.Connect system, and initiated 384 Work Orders.
- The Fall Tree Planting Season will be getting underway September 15th and will continue through December 15th. In addition to the installation of new and replacement trees throughout the city, we will plant 24 trees at Ft. Ward Park as the first installment of tree planting in accordance with the Ft. Ward Park Management Plan.
- The FY 2017 Capital Improvement Budget includes an additional \$100,000 for city-wide tree planting and tree well improvements compared to FY 2016. There is also an additional \$72,000 in the budget for similar work focused on King Street and Old Town.
- Our Fall Tree Sale will begin September 23rd. This program promotes environmental awareness and expansion of the tree canopy. In FY 2016 the fall and spring tree sales resulted in the planting of 323 trees by residents.
- The 2016 public tree inventory is underway and will be completed by September 30th. Each year the Urban Forestry Section conducts an inventory on 20% of the city's rights-of-way and other public lands. The entire city will be inventoried every 5 years. Each year's inventory is used to identify tree maintenance /replacement work that needs to be done during the upcoming year's annual work plan.

b. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed thousands of Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelain-berry, English Ivy, and Japanese Stiltgrass seedlings and plants, as well as Garlic Mustard and Japanese Honeysuckle from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Rynex Natural Area, Fort Williams Park, Chinquapin Park,

Timberbranch Parkway, and Monticello Park.

- Staff and Trees Alexandria volunteer Bonnie Petry soil-drenched all old-age and remnant Green Ash trees (11) at Tarleton Park with imidacloprid as a preventative measure against Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

c. Cooperative Initiatives

- Staff gave a presentation on the Final Draft Natural Resource Management Plan to the Water Quality Work Group.
- City Natural Resource Manager hosted Beth Chambers and Erin Chapman with the Herbarium of the College of William and Mary (WILLI) at the City of Alexandria Herbarium (AVCH) and U.S. National Herbarium (US) at the Smithsonian Institution for herbarium research on non-native invasive plants in Virginia
- City of Alexandria Herbarium (AVCH) assisted Virginia DCR, Natural Heritage Division, and Virginia Botanical Associates in adding 5 new plant records for the City of Alexandria and Arlington and Fairfax counties to the Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora. (City of Alexandria – the old capital of Fairfax County – doubles as Fairfax County in the Atlas.)
- City of Alexandria Herbarium (AVCH) donated 11 mounted plant specimens collected along the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) in Alexandria to the GWMP-National Park Service herbarium.

d. Environmental Review

- Staff reviewed the Cameron Run Sediment Removal Plans and provided recommendations.
- Staff consulted with DPI and contractors regarding the Four Mile Run Park Freshwater Tidal Marsh restoration planting and warranty replacements.
- Staff reviewed the Lake Cook Retrofit 100% Planting Plan and provided comments.
- Staff reviewed the Fort Ward Park Drainage Master Plan Implementation Phase 1 – Stormwater Runoff Diversion Project and provided recommendations as to site-appropriate, locally native restoration plantings.

5. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates:

The Naturalist staff of the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center conducted 61 interpretive programs in August that were attended by 546 participants. The combined total number of visitors and program participants for August was 1,098 people.



Cardinal Flower in bloom in Tidal Swamp Forest remnant at Four Mile Run Park.



Square-stemmed Monkeyflower in bloom in Tidal Swamp Forest remnant at Four Mile Run Park.



A young visitor studies a uromastix at “National Night Out”



Child Advocacy Center hikers and their dogs

Outreach Programs:

The Nature Center conducted the following two outreach programs with live animals in the month of August, reaching a total of 170 people:

- August 2- A program highlighting pet responsibility and exotic animals for Saint Stephen's and St. Agnes' Vet Camp reaching 14 children and 2 adults.
- August 2- For the fifth consecutive year, the Nature Center exhibited at "National Night Out" held at West End's Moody Court. This year, the focus was exotic animals at the Nature Center. This two hour event reached more than 80 neighborhood visitors.
- August 9th – staff led six employees from Alexandria's Child Advocacy Center on a morning hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park. Five well behaved dogs came with these hikers to get some exercise and fresh air.

Full Day Nature Camps:

Two Full Day Nature Camps were held this month – August 1-5 for rising 3rd and 4th graders and August 15-19 for rising 1st and 2nd graders. The topics of these camps were "Native Animals in Your Neighborhood." The campers learned about animals that inhabit your backyard, the forests, marshes, rivers and streams in Northern Virginia. There were daily hikes, crafts, fishing in Holmes Run Stream and two field trips (The National Zoo and Huntley Meadows Park). While at the zoo, the campers viewed the "Washed Ashore Exhibit" featuring sculpture created from marine debris. On the final day, each camper gave a short presentation about the native animal of their choosing. A total of sixty hours of nature education was provided to the twenty six participating children.

b. Volunteers and Interns:

A total of 4 volunteers provided 82 hours of service during the month of August.

Volunteers:

Will Yeingst taught two morning sessions for the Full Day Summer Camps. He is an avid fisherman (both fresh and saltwater) and enjoys sharing his knowledge and extensive collection of fishing lures. The campers learned about the many types of lures and later created their own lures--only for show or display. Will has often volunteered with the Saturday morning fishing classes as well as fishing with the camp programs.

c. Noteworthy:

New Employees for Buddies:



Hikers in Dora Kelley Nature Park



Campers examine a recycled art sculpture of a shark at The National Zoo



Volunteer, Will Yeingst explains to campers how fly fishing lures are made



Happy camper catches a sunfish in Holmes Run Stream

Please join the Nature Center in welcoming several new staff members who will be working with the Nature Buddies afterschool program during the 2016-2017 school years. Dave Heerema, Chris Rappold, Kali Rauhe, Coline Hay and Alice Quatrochi are pictured. Each brings a valuable and unique skill set to the table ranging from arts in the classroom to outdoor adventures.

Workshops for Staff:

The Nature Center held a week-long workshop that consisted of a series of all-day trainings for its staff members. Recreation Services employees were invited to the trainings and a number of them did attend. Trainings included: Project Growing Up WILD, Aquatic WILD, Project Learning Tree, and interpretive program delivery. These trainings were geared towards individuals who work with youth.



A beautiful day at Huntley Meadows



Nature Buddies Staff

Park Operations - City Works Report

FY 2017 - as of Sept 12, 2016

Service Requests

	Currently Open/Reviewed	Currently Past Due	YTD Closed	Notes:
Natural Resources (trees, nature programs and natural lands)	303	0	264	Service Requests have a 6-8 week back-log. The "current" and "closed" service requests have been opened and closed after July 1st, 2016. Currently we are still working on some service requests from FY15.
Park Maintenance	7	0	51	
Park Facility Maintenance	16	0	18	
All Park Ops	326	0	333	

Work Orders

	*Currently Open/Recurring	Currently Past Due	YTD Closed	Notes:
Trees (UrbanForestry)	529	0	448	
Nature Center	0	0	0	
Natural Lands	0	0	0	
Park Maintenance	41	0	225	
Park Facility Maintenance	1	0	175	
ROW	0	0	0	
Schools	12	0	12	
Horticulture/Landscaping	0	0	0	
All Park Ops	583	0	860	

*Current open/recurring work orders include items related to service requests and planned annual maintenance tasks.

** System maxed out

<u>RPCA – REC CENTER MAINTENANCE</u> <u>PROJECT UPDATE – 9/10/2017</u>			
Facility Name	Work Items	Cost	Status
CHINQUAPIN REC	Replace two existing article storage box covers in handball courts with new.	\$725	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	Multiple rooms renovations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Room 3: Strip clean walls, repaint wall surfaces. • Club Room 1 & 2: Install new cove base, repaint wall surfaces. • Men’s Lockers: • Install new 4” cover base at AC closet. 	\$1,600	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	Remove and replace opaque skylight over central corridor on second floor.	\$2650	IN PROGRESS
CHINQUAPIN REC	Remove and replace door at Club Room #3. Includes new kick plate. Utilize existing hardware.	\$475	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	Multiple Plumbing Work at Ladies Locker Room: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove and replace shower heads, snake and flush shower drains. • Replace four cartridges, face plates, and handles on shower valves. 	\$1,835	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	Installation of reflective tinting at Club Room 1 & 2	\$823	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	Remove swing doors at reception desk and install new queue retractable belt. Replace damaged plastic laminate with new.	\$700	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	Remove turnstile and patch floor tiles with new to match.	\$2,700	COMPLETE
CHINQUAPIN REC	New water cooler to replace existing	\$4,147	COMPLETE
CORA KELLY REC	Repair two drinking water fountains. Check drains, replace fittings, and repair handle on high fountain. Replace supply line and compression on low fountain.	\$370	COMPLETE
CORA KELLY REC	Install two new benches at entrance plaza	No Charge	COMPLETE
DURANT ARTS	Remove temporary wood rail and install new metal swing gate to match other side rail.	\$850	COMPLETE

DURANT ARTS	Saw-cut 3 trenches at sidewalk in front of 30downspouts, install 3” PVC to carry water to parking lot, pour new concrete. Extend one downspout along top and side wall to discharge at grass area.	\$4,200	COMPLETE
CHARLES HOUSTON REC	Replace damaged laminate in and around main desk	\$500	Work in progress
CHARLES HOUSTON REC	Fix broken drawer at main desk	\$250	COMPLETE
CHARLES HOUSTON REC	Repair concrete steps at building entrance on Wythe Street	\$1,500	COMPLETE
CHARLES HOUSTON REC	Adjust/repair door in Gym	\$350	COMPLETE
NANNIE J. LEE REC	Install new NORA flooring in entrance vestibule.	\$4,806	In Progress
LEE CENTER	New carpet in Administrative Offices	\$3,816	COMPLETE
BUDDIE FORD NATURE	Install new retractable fabric awning at exterior deck	\$12,00	Moved to FY17
RAMSAY	Repair bleachers for code compliancy	\$2,780	COMPLETE
MT. VERNON REC	Install/replace existing ballet bars with new double rail - in dance studio.	\$680	COMPLETE
BARRETT CHINQUAPIN MT. VERNON LEE CENTER CORA KELLY DURANT	Repair/Replacement Accordion and Sliding Partitions	\$ 30K - 50K	Transferred over to DGS for FY17 Implementation

Reduced Mowing Zones Designated in City Parks

For Immediate Release: September 13, 2016

Consistent with the City Council adoption of the FY 2017 operating budget, the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities (RPCA) implemented reduced mowing cycles, increasing mowing intervals from 12 days to 14 days in all City parks, and portions of 22 parks have increased mowing intervals to a 28-day or biannual basis. Reductions in mowing cycles do not affect active use areas, including athletic fields, in parks.

In addition to cost savings and energy use reductions, the mowing interval reductions will increase habitat for animals, encourage native plant growth, and promote sustainable landscapes by reducing the use of mowers and equipment. Parks with portions on a 28-day mowing intervals or on a biannual basis include:

- Portions with 28-day mowing cycles:
 - Timberland Park
 - Simpson Park
 - Mt. Jefferson Park
 - 3700 Mt Vernon Ave.
 - Hillside Park
 - Beach Park
 - George Mason Park
 - Charles Barrett Recreation Center
 - Goat Hill Park
 - Hoof's Run Park
 - 3550 Commonwealth Park
 - Warrick Pool/Landover
- Portions with biannual mowing cycles:
 - Angel Park
 - Tarleton Park
 - Hensley Park
 - Ewald Park
 - Ben Brenman Park
 - Chambliss Park
 - Holmes Run Park
 - Chinquapin Park
 - Fort Ward Park
 - Four Mile Run Park

Staff installed signs near 28-day and biannual mowing zones, and posted maps in kiosks to alert the public. Visit the [RPCA FY 2017 Service Expectations](#) website for list of service adjustments.

For additional information or questions, contact James Nichols, Division Chief, at james.nichols@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4658.

Insect Pest Damages Ash Trees in Alexandria

For Immediate Release: September 14, 2016

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) of the City of Alexandria has confirmed that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is present in Alexandria, and that this insect pest is contributing to the decline of many ash trees throughout the City. The most visible sign of EAB infestation on ash trees is dead or dying canopy of the tree, with numerous dead branches extending upward from the main trunk. Once the EAB invades the tree, it may take 2-5 years for the tree to die. Over the past several years, more and more ash trees have been showing the effects of gradually warming regional temperatures and the increasing presence of insect pests, including the EAB. During the past year, RPCA removed approximately fifty (50) dead or diseased ash trees from public lands in Alexandria.

The EAB has ravaged many stands of ash in urban areas of 20 states, including Virginia and Maryland. In summer of 2016, RPCA confirmed the presence of EAB in Alexandria by deploying insect traps for the species in wooded areas and capturing multiple insects – confirming the EAB. While it is not practical to treat all the ash trees throughout the City, RPCA has initiated a pro-active pilot program to treat several dozen healthy mature ash trees on public lands with an insecticide to protect them from the EAB. The City wants to maintain a population of healthy ash trees which can serve to propagate new trees when and if the current threats subside. The City also encourages residents to monitor ash trees on their own properties. Residents can engage a qualified arborist to recommend appropriate treatments for ash trees that are still healthy on their property.

Additionally, in an effort to control the spread of the EAB, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has implemented Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) safeguards prohibiting the transport of ash trees, ash wood, and ash wood products within and outside of infested areas. Campers should not transport firewood to campgrounds in order to avoid introducing the insect and other pests into areas that are not infested.

For additional information or questions about the Emerald Ash Borer, go to the [Virginia Cooperative Extension website](#), or the [Emerald Ash Borer website](#), or contact the City Arborist Office at 703-746-5499 or 703-746-5496.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *Jack Browand*
PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL PROJECTS
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION: ITEM VII. DIVISION UPDATE

CITYWIDE PARKS WAYFINDING PLAN

Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Urban Planner III

RPCA hired [Applied Wayfinding](#) to design a comprehensive wayfinding plan and phased implementation for the City's largest parks. Parks for this phase include Ben Brenman/Boothe Parks, Holmes Run Park and Greenway, Chinquapin Park, Four Mile Run Park, Eugene Simpson Stadium Park, and Joseph Hensley Park, per a recommendation in the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan, and Windmill Hill Park. Applied developed a draft design plan for the sign program and delivered it to staff on September 16, 2016. Their next step will be to develop detail specifications for the signs, sign location maps, and cost estimates. Upon receipt, staff can begin implementation, as funding allows.

SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND AND PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION

Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Urban Planner III

In 2014, the City completed a [Citywide Parks Improvement Plan](#), including a plan for Simpson Park. The plan called for renovation of the Simpson Playground and its adjacent open space, as shown in the area marked in the red dashed line below. After receiving a Land and Water Conservation Grant, the City is able to implement this recommendation.

The City hired the Alexandria-based landscape architecture firm [Lardner/Klein](#) to lead the design process and [May + Watkins](#) to incorporate public art within the site. The project implements recommendations from the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvement Plan, which called to (1) improve the open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and activities in Simpson and (2) renovate Simpson playground, including a new configuration, shade, surfacing, and equipment suitable for ages 2-12. The design also aims to connect passive use areas, making it family friendly for multiple age groups.

Lardner/Klein provided three design alternatives in spring 2016. Based on the feedback received from previously submitted designs, they have developed a final plan (see attachment) and have asked for feedback both through an online survey [here](#) and at a workshop held on September 8, 2016. Construction is set to begin spring 2017.

CITYWIDE CHILDCARE CENTER INVENTORY & STUDY

Project Manager: Judy Lo, Urban Planner III

Park Planning has initiated a preliminary study of existing licensed childcare facilities in Alexandria, to ascertain the extent to which these businesses and organizations may be using and affecting public parks, playgrounds, and open spaces. Staff have observed an increase of childcares using parks and facilities often-precluding residents from using smaller facilities, and an increase in normal wear and tear in playground areas. The study will help inform decisions should a future process or policy be considered. The study includes an inventory of existing licensed child facilities.

TANEY AVE PARK VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Project Manager: Judy Lo, Urban Planner III

On September 13 and 17 Rebuilding Together Alexandria and Running Brooke will host volunteer events at Taney Avenue Park, 4149 Taney Avenue. Volunteers will complete the new park trails, finish brush clean up and install playground surfacing around the new climbing structure. Work will also include native tree plantings, birdhouses, and other landscaping. Both organizations have joined a PARKnership to provide over \$100K in funds and resources to improve the neighborhood park. In mid-October, the second phase of improvements, the pre-school play area, will begin. A ribbon cutting is anticipated for late fall. For more information about the planned improvements, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/91392>

ALEXRENEW/LIMERICK FIELD

Project Manager: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner

Alexandria Renew anticipates completing the drainage repairs beneath the field during the week of September 12. City staff will review the field repairs and the public restrooms during the week of September 19. Upon resolution of the final construction issues and repairs, the field will open to the public.

City staff is pursuing two options to provide parking near Limerick Field. Staff is collaborating with Perseus Realty to provide 36 parking spaces during evenings and weekends in the parking lots behind the development on Hooffs Run Drive. Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is also working with staff in Transportation to request parallel parking spaces on Hooffs Run Drive. The request will go to the Parking and Traffic Board at their September meeting.

SIMPSON BASEBALL FIELD RENOVATIONS

Project Manager: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner

The backstop and press box project at Little Simpson Baseball Field in Simpson Park is underway. The old block building was demolished and the site has been prepared for the new improvements. The backstop was replaced in a new alignment to meet standard safety guidelines. Work on the field is substantially complete at this time. The field will be usable for practices starting the week of September 12. Additional work to install a concrete pad and new press box will occur in September and early October.

WINDMILL HILL PARK SHORELINE PROJECT

Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief

The City of Alexandria expects to award a contract to begin construction of the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Rehabilitation project in late September 2016. A groundbreaking ceremony will be planned for early October with City Council. The park portion east of Union St., including the dog park, is expected to be closed during construction. Construction is anticipated to be substantially complete in October 2017.

- [Project Website](#)

PATRICK HENRY PREK-8 SCHOOL AND RECREATION CENTER

Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Margaret Orlando, Division Chief

See presentation for additional information

- [Project Website](#)

WARWICK POOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief

Staff continues to refine the design to meet budget appropriation. It is anticipated that the project will precede to project solicitation for a construction contract in October. RPCA has submitted for a 100% parking reduction. The Planning Commission will hear the parking reduction request in November.