City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 2018
7 p.m.

Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

AGENDA

I. Call to Order: Jennifer Atkins, Chair

II. Public Comments – non-agenda items

III. Presentations/Information:
   a. Office of the Arts Update
      Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts

IV. Items for Action:
   a. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2018

V. Project Updates – Jack Browand, Division Chief, Park Planning
   a. Project Updates
   b. Cameron Run Regional Park Planning Process
   c. Dominion Energy 230kv Line Update

VI. Director’s Report
   a. Proposed FY 2019 Operating & CIP Budget

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

VIII. Commission Reports (verbal reports by District)

IX. Next Month Meeting Items – Working Draft Attached

X. Next Meeting: April 19, 2018 – TBD

XI. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings/Activities

- **Saturday, March 17** - King St. Park at the Waterfront Groundbreaking
  8 a.m. – King St. Park, 1 & 2 King St.

- **Sunday, March 18** – St. Patrick’s Day Parade
  1:30 p.m. - King from St. Asaph to Pitt Streets

- **Wednesday, March 21** – Budget Work Session #6: Livable Focus Area
  7 p.m. – City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St.

- **Wednesday, April 11** – Budget Work Session #8: Healthy Focus Area
  7 p.m. – City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 15, 2018

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT - ITEM VII

Program Wrap-Ups

- The first annual Super Bowl Game Countdown took place at Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center on February 4. Over 30 football fans attended the event in their favorite jerseys and team colors. Participants enjoyed a flag football game, football trivia, refreshments, and watching Super Bowl 52.

- During the month of February, the Positive Youth in Motion program at William Ramsay Recreation Center focused on future goals and career paths of their participants. Youth discussed their short and long term goals over the next 5 years, and careers of interest. This year-round program meets once a week and currently has 10 participants.

- On February 15, OSTP participants at Charles Houston Recreation Center took part in a Bully Free Poster Contest. Leaders of the Untouchables youth program and DCHS peer advisors discussed the importance of being bully free, and advised participants of what to do if you or someone you know is being bullied.

- On February 15, William Ramsay Recreation Center held its Teen Remix event. Over 60 teens enjoyed dodgeball, a three point shootout, and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. There was a live DJ, guest speakers, pizza and prizes.
• On February 16, the Sports section concluded Lil Sprinters Track. This new offering promotes physical fitness, and helps develop skills like running, jumping, and throwing, while introducing children ages 3-5 to the sport of track. The program reached a maximum enrollment of 12 participants.

• On February 16, OSTP participants at Charles Houston Recreation Center enjoyed a Mardi Gras/Valentine’s Day Carnival. Children were taught the tradition of Mardi Gras, and enjoyed Creole cuisine and making arts and crafts.

• On February 20, Youth Achieving Greatness and TR participants engaged in a karate demo presented by Rod Batiste. Mr. Batiste taught martial art fundamentals along with terminology for basic positions. Batiste is a Karate World Champion, and has dedicated his life to helping children grow up to be happy, successful, and productive members of society. Participants truly enjoyed the karate demo and were happy to learn new skills.

• On February 21, in honor of Black History Month, the Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center held a musical concert featuring the St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra and the Chick Armstrong youth choir and ballet dancers. Each group performed and celebrated African-American composers and arrangers and their contributions to the world of music. 170 people were in attendance.
On February 21, OSTP participants at Patrick Henry Recreation Center held their annual Black History Month program for parents, friends and staff. The program featured live music, singing, dancing, reading poems and famous quotes. Participants created a "Wall of Respect" that featured notable figures in American Black History.

On February 28, youth at William Ramsay Recreation Center participated in an interactive and educational Black History Game show. Contestants buzzed in to share their knowledge of historical African American inventors and sports figures.

On March 1, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center held its Annual Multicultural Fair. The event was attended by over 100 guests. The fair highlighted ethnic cuisine, guest speakers, a fashion show, craft activities and demonstrations. Afterschool participants and their families facilitated many of the demonstrations and presentations.
On March 5, OSTP participants at Nannie J. Lee and Patrick Henry Recreation Centers celebrated Read Across America Day. Staff dressed in Dr. Seuss hats and costumes, and participated in story time. Children also enjoyed Dr. Seuss themed snacks, games and activities.

Program Updates
Out of School Time FY15 through FY18 Summer/School Year Participant and Revenue Comparison

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<th>FY-18 YTD School Year 17-18 02-28-18</th>
<th>FY-17 YTD School Year 16-17 02-28-17</th>
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*Fees paid in installments.
**Lowest scoring measures related to the in-person and online registration processes at 78% and 76% bringing overall score down from previous years.

American Red Cross Learn to Swim programs are essential to the water safety of the community. The current winter enrollment includes 563 participants in 157 class offerings.
• **Summer Camp enrollment** for two new camps has gotten off to a great start. Since enrollment opened on February 14, Cupcake Wars and Chopped Cooking Camp have both met a combined maximum enrollment of 40 participants. A new section of Cupcake Wars was added and currently has 5 registrations.

**Upcoming Events**

• On March 23, Chick Armstrong Recreation Center hosts its **Kids Community Book Swap**. This event is an opportunity for participants to recycle their gently used books in exchange for others. It’s also a great way to celebrate literacy and encourage good reading habits at home with families.

• On March 24, Chick Armstrong Recreation Center is partnering with National Community Church for the **Annual Eggstravaganza** at the Conservatory Center on the Plaza. The event includes games and activities with an egg hunt, face painting, sack races, and games.

• On March 30, Chick Armstrong Recreation Center hosts **Teen & Tween Social**. This annual event is designed to encourage participation in the center’s Teen Program. Middle school teens will enjoy video games, pool, Ping-Pong, sports, and dancing in a fun and safe environment.

• On March 31, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosts its **Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Spring Extravaganza**. Participants will be engaged in crafts, games, and egg hunts. Egg hunts will be held at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm for ages 12 and under. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free, and sponsored by the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Top Ladies of Distinction, and the Kelley Cares Foundation.

• The annual **Alexandria Spring Invitational Cheer Competition** will take place on Saturday, April 21, at 2 p.m., at T.C. Williams High School. The competition features 3 age categories of youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. Each team will receive a team trophy at the awards presentation immediately following the competition.

**Staff Updates**

• Staff member **Ralph Baird**, recently attended the Association for Aquatics Professionals Conference in St. Pete Beach, FL. Baird is a Recreation Manager at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility, and currently works at Leonard “Chick” Armstrong as the Interim Recreation Manager.

• **Ashley Hines** was recognized as January’s Employee of the Month. Hines is a Recreation Leader at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, and was acknowledged for her strong work ethic, creativity, and being a great leader.
MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 15, 2018

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM VII

COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND
Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
The City of Alexandria’s Community Matching Fund grant program is accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 through April 16, 2018. Established in FY 2017, the Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among Alexandria’s community organizations by providing matching funds to groups for park and recreation improvement projects. The Fund fosters public-private partnerships and cultivates innovative ways for residents to help improve park and recreation facilities. These partnerships provide opportunities for developing positive relationships between the City and the community. A total of $100,000 in City matching funds is expected to be available. At least four applications will be selected to receive dollar-for-dollar matching awards from $5,000 to $25,000. To apply for the Fund, register for the online information session, or get more information, visit the Community Matching Fund website.

DOMINION ENERGY 230KV LINE PROJECT
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
The Work Group meet on February 21 to receive comment on information provided to Dominion Energy and further project updates. As a result of the meeting, the task force provided clear instructions to Dominion Energy to preserve trees in the median, adjust the ROW request to eliminate and significantly reduce disturbances to community spaces and to stage construction activity to reduce traffic impacts. The task force will meet one final time in March to finalize a recommendation to City Council for action this spring. For additional information, visit https://www.alexandriava.gov/dvp/default.aspx.

KING STREET PARK AT THE WATERFRONT
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
City of Alexandria will host the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Interim King Street Park at the Waterfront on Saturday, March 17 at 8 a.m. The project will replace the former Old Dominion Boat Club building and parking lot, and the current King Street Park, with an interim park that will include a river terrace, flexible plaza, lawn and waterfront promenade. This new space, scheduled
to open in fall 2018, will provide the community with a flexible gathering space for daily use and seasonal special activities. For more information about the groundbreaking ceremony and the interim park, visit the King Street Park at the Waterfront project website.

- King Street Park at the Waterfront Invitation (attached)

**POTOMAC YARD DOG PARK**
*Project Manager: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner*
The Pulte Group has reached substantial completion on the new Potomac Yard Dog Park located at 561 East Monroe Avenue. City staff reviewed the dog park the week of March 5 and are currently working with Pulte to have the outstanding construction items remedied. The park is still closed to the public as Pulte completes the construction work. The new fenced dog park will feature a small and large dog area, two double-gated entry-exits, seating, a trough-style dog fountain, multiple waste stations, a landscaped perimeter, and decomposed granite surfacing. Plantings and streetscape improvements around the Dominion Energy Substation and along Monroe Avenue are also included. The dog park is an approval condition of the larger Potomac Yard Development and was approved by City Council in 2010.

**BEN BRENNMAN DOG PARK**
*Project Manager: Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II*
Upgrades to Ben Brenman Dog Park continue. Stone dust was added to the gate area while mulch was added inside the dog. Landscaping along the fencing outside the dog park will go in this week.

In May, staff will seek approval from the Planning Commission for an amendment to the SUP for the solar lights. It has been determined that current technology does not allow for the lighting operation to meet the SUP conditions. In addition, the SUP will be expanded to allow for future solar lighting along the path along Backlick Run leading to the dog park, volleyball courts and picnic shelter consistent with community requests.

**WATERFRONT FY PROPOSED FY 2019 OPERATING & CIP BUDGET SUMMARY**
*Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief*
On February 27, 2018, Jack Browand, Division Chief, RPCA and Anthony Gammon, Deputy Director, Department of Project Implementation, provided a summary of the proposed FY 2019 Operating & CIP Budget specific to the Waterfront Program. In addition, the Waterfront Commission approved a letter to the City Council (attached) providing its continued support of the implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan without delay and encouraged City Council to identify funding sources to implement and maintain community improvement activities. The following is a summary of the proposed budget highlights specific to the Waterfront Program:

- **City Marina**
  - Operating Budget: No Service Reductions Proposed
  - CIP: $525,000 (FY 2019 through FY 2028)
    - Funding in FY 2020 through FY 2028 is reduced based on anticipated construction of flood mitigation projects as part of the Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation.

- **Waterfront Parks Maintenance**
  - Operating Budget: $14,900 service adjustment
    - Increase funding for King Street Park
- **CIP: $510,000 (FY 2019 through FY 2028)**
  - Funding in FY 2027 through FY 2028 is increased based on anticipated maintenance resulting from waterfront activation initiatives.

- **Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation**
  - **CIP: $55,940,000 (FY 2019 through FY 2028)**
    - $550,000 additional funding in FY 2019
    - $200,000 King Street Park at the Waterfront enhancements
    - $350,000 Waterfront Park enhancements for hosting the tall ship Providence

- **Economic Development Initiative**
  - Provides $175,000 in City funding to launch a $350,000 public-private partnership campaign with 1:1 matching funding from the private sector
    - Multi-Departmental Collaboration
    - Activation, Beautification, Destination Events at the opening of the expanded King Street Park at the Waterfront
    - This program will focus on promoting a new Old Town experience utilizing pop-up activities, enhanced events, and targeted regional marketing.
    - This program, if successful, would be an ongoing program for FY 2020 and beyond with the 1:1 match continuing

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**CITY MARINA COMMERCIAL BOATING LICENSE AGREEMENT**

**Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief**

On March 17, 2018 City Council will hold a public hearing and staff is recommending after the public hearing is concluded authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement between the City of Alexandria and Spirit Cruises, LLC. In March 2017, the City issued a Request for Proposal for the sole purpose and intent to obtain competitive proposals from licensed commercial passenger boat operators for use of the commercial dock space at the City Marina. The City’s commercial boat operation utilizes the commercial dock space, which is located at the foot of Cameron Street, and is adjacent to the Chart House Restaurant at the City’s Marina (C/D Pier). Based on successful negotiations, the City has recommended that Spirit Cruises, LLC be awarded the sole contract and license to operate a commercial service from the City Marina. The license agreement includes the following City benefits:

- Initial period of 5 years and with the intention that there shall be one mutually agreeable license extension for a period of 5 years
  - Any renewal of this Agreement shall be with the approval of City Council;
- Spirit Cruises, LLC will participate with VisitAlexandria, AEDP and City staff to establish a cooperative events and marketing agreement with one or more regional waterfront destinations;
- The City will receive a guaranteed annual payment of $175,000 in year one and the guaranteed payment increases by 3% annually.
  - The guaranteed annual fee in the new license agreement represents approximately a 40% increase from the final year of the previous license agreement;
- The City will receive an additional payment equal to 5% of Net Revenue in excess of $5,000,000.
• Net revenues are all net revenues from charter, dinner cruise, water taxi, sightseeing or other operations for passengers departing from the City of Alexandria Marina;
• The City may use the Cherry Blossom up to four times per year at no cost (excluding food & beverage); and
• Maintains No Commuter Service

ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

• HOLMES RUN PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
  Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
  For additional information, visit the Project Website.

• WARWICK POOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT
  Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
  For additional information, visit the Project Website.

• WINDMILL HILL PARK SHORELINE PROJECT
  Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
  For additional information, visit the Project Website.

• KING STREET PARK AT THE WATERFRONT
  Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
  For additional information, visit the Project Website.

• PATRICK HENRY K-8 SCHOOL & NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER
  Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Margaret Orlando, Division Chief
  For additional information, visit the Project Website.
Please join Alexandria City Council to kickoff construction of the new park at 1 & 2 King Street on the Alexandria Waterfront.

Saturday, March 17, 2018  8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

A major new waterfront destination is opening in the fall of 2018 at the intersection of the Potomac River and Alexandria’s most historic retail corridor, King Street.

No RSVP is necessary. The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended. To request a reasonable accommodation, or for more information about this event, email jack.browand@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.5504, Virginia Relay 711.
February 27, 2018

Mayor Allison Silberberg
Vice Mayor Justin M. Wilson
Councilman Willie F. Bailey Sr.
Councilman John Taylor Chapman
Councilman Timothy B. Lovain
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg

Re: Waterfront Commission FY 2019 Budget Report to City Council Regarding Implementation of Waterfront Plan

Background

With the FY 2019 Budget cycle in process, the members of the Waterfront Commission wish to alert the Mayor and City Council that we are concerned that implementation of the public portions of the Waterfront Plan does not seem to be a priority. The Commission has consistently supported implementation of not only the plan’s capital improvements, including flood mitigation, but also long-term funding of consistent maintenance and activation of the new and improved waterfront.

In 2015, City Council asked the Commission to explore alternative means of paying for governance and maintenance of the waterfront. In response, a Governance subcommittee of the Commission explored the issue at length, consulting a wide array of groups that provide these functions in other cities or counties. In 2016, the Commission recommended that City Council further explore the creation of a Business Improvement District (BID). City Council set up a group that further studied the issue, but when that process resulted in considerable protest and conflict, the City dropped the idea of creating a BID for the time being.

Currently available timelines indicate that the plan will not reach full implementation until 2027 or later. Given that the City’s current budget proposals suggest that competing priorities will likely result in budget reductions leading to reduced maintenance funding and the inability to commit funding for increased maintenance as the plan is implemented, and that implementation appears to be lagging about a year behind anticipated schedules, the Waterfront Commission hereby recommends the following:
Recommendations

1. Continue the implementation of the public portions of the approved Waterfront Plan without delay. We recognize the City faces many other financial pressures. However, we do not wish to see the best parts of the Waterfront Plan become another one of the grand plans the City makes and then shelves for lack of funding and will. We support completing the project sooner rather than later.

2. We ask that City Council find alternative means to finance the improved waterfront envisioned in the adopted 2015 Waterfront Plan, including the Olin designs for the public portions. Along with implementation of the flood mitigation plan, completion of continuous waterfront access and improvements to the public parks along the core waterfront were among the priorities expressed by the public for plan implementation.

3. Explore alternative means to reinvigorate funding plans, such as public/private partnerships, bonding, BID, or finding ways to use revenue from the waterfront’s new private developments directly to sustain those public improvements.

4. Money is not the only consideration in timely completion of big projects such as the Waterfront. Because the Robinson Terminal North site is on hold for now, we recognize that completion of continuous waterfront access along that site is not likely for some time. With staffing below optimum levels in many city departments, including Transportation and Environmental Services and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities, the speed of design, contracting, purchasing, and implementation are affected.

5. The Commission believes that the driving force in the timeline is a mix of funding with construction planning and logistics. Both are relevant. More money and more personnel would enable greater speed, and perhaps some savings, as dollars, materials, and labor are presumably cheaper now than they will be in the future, and doing larger chunks of the work at the same time may enable savings of substantial millions of dollars. Measured against this is the inconvenience to the citizenry of having larger areas of the waterfront under construction at the same time, along with conflicts for resources with other projects. We need to balance disruption against our desire for speedy completion in considering how we phase the project. We ask you to consider the possibility of pushing to complete implementation by 2024.

6. We ask City Council to reaffirm that the City has a commitment to maintain funding for capital expenditures and maintenance to ensure the future and continued success of the implementation of the Waterfront Plan. Private development partners have a role in providing some of that funding, which is dependent on the speed of that private development. Ultimately, given that funding is the dominant factor in how fast the project is completed, City Council should bring to this issue the political will to complete it and
make good on the parts of the plan that most benefit the public. In order to be supportive of the City’s master plan and development strategies, the public needs to see the benefits that accrue from implementation.

Within about 18 months, much of the core waterfront will have a continuous waterfront walk complete from Jones Point to Oronoco Bay, excepting the RTN site. This will go a long way toward reassuring the public of the City’s good intentions. So would completing a plan for the interpretation of maritime history that is due for that core section and starting to implement it. Implementing big planning projects in chunks may make sense from a planning viewpoint, but it makes it hard for the public to see progress.

We believe that what we are suggesting makes sense not only from the point of view of an improved and more economically viable waterfront, but also for better public acceptance and support of future development planning.

Sincerely,

Stephen Thayer, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Waterfront Commission members
    Mark Jinks, City Manager
    Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
    Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
    James Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
    Jack Browand, Division Chief, Staff Liaison to the Waterfront Commission
    Mitchell Bernstein, Director, Department of Project Implementation
    Anthony Gammon, Deputy Director, Department of Project Implementation
DATE:         MARCH 15, 2018
TO:          PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM:        DINESH TIWARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA
SUBJECT:    PARK OPERATIONS’ MONTHLY UPDATE – ITEM VII

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

  a. Park Maintenance
     • The spring athletic season is underway with the start of high school sports programs. Staff has begun maintenance and repair on natural and synthetic turf fields, including the school fields under RPCA maintenance program.
     • Maintenance was completed at Ben Brenman dog park, including the wood chips that were installed in the park, giving park users new ground cover.
     • Damage and high tides from a historic wintertime wind event on March 2, 2018 were addressed by staff and an outside contractor. Although damage to the parks were minimal, cleanup of debris and trash took several days to complete.
     • Staff from Park and Facilities Maintenance teams attended the Certified Irrigation Technician training in Norfolk, Virginia. Staff received valuable training to manage RPCA’s centralized irrigation system to improve the City’s athletic fields and other irrigated facilities.
     • Adopt-A-Park program for 2018 will kick-off with a meeting with all participating organizations on March 20, 2018 at Park Operations headquarters at 2900-A Business Center Drive.
b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- Seasonal maintenance inspections continued as scheduled on all winterized irrigation, fountains, and restrooms.
- Staff is finalizing the solicitation document for the selection of a qualified design consultant to develop construction documents for improvements to Minnie Howard Field. The project will add new restroom facilities, new athletic courts and associated site work including a bio-retention swale. Project completion is anticipated late summer or early Fall 2018.
- Lee Center’s relocated and upgraded trash collection area is near completion with the new fence enclosure scheduled to be completed this week. This project will serve as a prototype for potential improvements at recreation centers and facilities providing a more aesthetic enclosure and accommodating the new recycling bin.
- ACPS and City’s Shared Use and Maintenance MOU has been updated to include new facilities and other minor revisions. The updated MOU is expected to be executed by both parties by April 2018.
- Staff is working with the Purchasing Office for the removal of the 2 storage sheds in the former Ben Brenman Dog Park.

Drift wood clean up from storm surge caused by wind storm.
maintenance yard of the Fort Ward Park per approved plan.

- Staff is working with an Inter-Agency Team for the implementation of the City’s new 311 System, and helping develop the RPCA related service request response protocol.
- Staff helped coordinate the RPCA 2018 Annual Safety Conference on February 15, 2018. This year’s focus was to promote emergency preparedness, park facility safety and health promotion.
- Staff is coordinating the installation of a new water fountain at the athletic court in Four Mile Run Park. The water fountain will have a dog bowl feature that will be donated by the community.

c. Horticulture

- Registration for the 2018 community garden season is ending. Holmes Run Community Garden is 100% rented and Chinquapin Organic Gardens is 99% full. The existing resident and nonresident wait lists are exhausted, so availability is now being advertised on the RPCA webpage.
- Phase 2 of the Chinquapin Organic Gardens PARKnership project is moving forward with a sign proof received and a sign permit application under review by Planning and Zoning. This phase will result in a new wayfinding sign identifying the Chinquapin Organic Gardens at Chinquapin Park.
- City Horticulturist attended trainings focused on tree morphology and erosion control which will benefit future project planning.

2. URBAN FORESTRY

- Spring tree planting starts next week. There are two planned tree planting events in April, both which will be covered with PARKnership agreements.
- The wind storm that hit the Alexandria area on March 2, 2018, had 72 locations reported with tree-related damage. Most of the debris has been removed from the streets, with some minor areas of debris left to be cleaned up shortly.
- The Proactive Tree Maintenance funded in CIP will stretch into the fourth quarter. It was delayed due to the wind storm. About 1/3 done of the project has been completed.
3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration
   • Staff removed English Ivy seedlings and other non-native invasive plants from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Rynex Natural Area, Tarleton Park, and picked up litter and debris from these parks, as well as the 5-acre Telegraph and Duke Meadow Complex and Beatley Library Meadow.
   • Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), with the treatment of English Ivy, Lesser Celandine, Periwinkle, Greater Periwinkle, Bush Honeysuckle, and many other non-native invasive plants at Four Mile Run Park, INOVA Alexandria Hospital Scenic Easement, African American Heritage Park, Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex, Monticello Park, and Patrick Henry Park.

b. Cooperative Initiatives
   • On February 23, 2018, City Natural Resource Manager attended the stakeholder meeting of the newly formed NoVA PRISM (Cooperative Weed Management Area).
   • On February 27, 2018, City Natural Resource Manager participated in the development of the Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC).

c. Environmental Review
   • Staff reviewed the Virginia Tech Tree Planting PARKnership.
   • Staff reviewed the proposed Tarleton Park Water Fountain project.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates
   For the month of February, there were 76 interpretive programs attended by 953 people. The combined total number of visitors and participants for February was 1,540 people.
School Programs:
For the month of February, the Naturalists conducted 4 school programs reaching 366 students and teachers.

- February 1 and 23- Kindergarten students for William Ramsay Elementary School came to the Nature Center. The first class learned about shadows. Originally a hike was planned, but due to the inclement weather the students created shadows indoors with flashlights. They also learned about groundhogs and what it means when a groundhog sees its shadow. The second group of students learned about the seasons and weather. The students created a flip book showing the seasons.

- February 21- The Pre-Kindergarten students from Ramsay Elementary School came to the center for their monthly program. The topic of this class was animals’ homes. Using the center’s four panel mural, the group discussed different types of animal homes and the materials animals use to build homes. After, the students walked around the outside of the center to search for signs of animals and their homes.

- February 23 – Mount Vernon Community School and Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology held a joint “Science Night”. The Naturalist set up an information table with displays and literature about “Amphibians in Crisis”. Frogs, toads, a spotted salamander and an axolotl were on view for the 300 visitors to this event. Students could take with them bilingual coloring book about Panamanian Golden Frogs- a frog that is extinct in the wild but now being reintroduced into Panama. They also learned about the nationwide citizen science survey FrogWatch.

Nature Center Programs:
During the month of February, there were 5 birthday parties, 43 impromptu programs, 1 weekday programs for preschool age children and 1 weekend program. The total participation for these programs was 346 people.

- February 2- When ACPS schools are closed, the Nature center offers a full-day program entitled “School’s Out, Nature’s In”. Twelve children participated in nature-themed games and crafts, a nature hike and hands-on animal care. The students enjoyed creating their own puppet show.

- February 23- The last in our winter series of “Fledglings” was conducted about. The Naturalist read the book “In the Small, Small Pond” by Denise Fleming. The group discussed which animals live in and around ponds. After the children created “ponds” on construction and included turtles, frogs, fish and a duck.
Afterschool Buddies Program:
February was an exciting month for the Afterschool Buddies. The month began with a two-day field trip to the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. The Buddies had a wonderful time swimming in the pool and getting a little taste of summer! There were various art projects this month as well as learning some unusual crafting skills. Some Buddies built balloon powered rockets while others enjoyed the therapeutic process of finger knitting. We took full advantage of the sporadic warm days this month and spent as much time as possible outside in the Dora Kelley Nature Park.

b. Volunteers and Interns
A total of 51 volunteers provided 98 hours of service during the month of February.

On February 25, 22 people from the Northern Virginia Geocaching Organization (NoVAGO) came to clean-up Dora Kelley Nature Park. Despite the rain, the group worked for two hours. On the organization's webpage: https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC7J0W2_novago-winter-cito-at-jerome-ford-nature-center, the group posted about their experience in the park and included photos.

c. Noteworthy
Naturalist, Tarryn Lee received her Certified Interpretative Guide (CIG) certification from the National Association for Interpretation. Her week-long training was held at Green Springs Garden Gardens in Alexandria. Now, all fulltime Nature Center have their CIG certifications.
### Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

#### Performance Indicators for Natural Resources Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018 as of 2/28/18</th>
<th>Increase/ Decrease (FY15/FY17)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>URBAN FORESTRY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Service Requests Initiated (CCC)</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,109</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>12 1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Work Orders Initiated</td>
<td>1,541</td>
<td>1,945</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>1,220</td>
<td>289 18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Individual Trees Pruned *</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>1,914</td>
<td>1,744</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>(176) -9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Trees in Wooded Areas in ROW's, Parks, and Natural Areas *</td>
<td>2,007</td>
<td>2,663</td>
<td>1,569</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>(438) -21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Trees Removed *</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>440 150.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Trees Planted *</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>401 106.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number of Trees Maintained (sum of 4 items with * above)</td>
<td>4,597</td>
<td>5,717</td>
<td>4,824</td>
<td>3,237</td>
<td>227 4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Trees Inventoried (FY 2016 Inventory Delayed Until July 2016)</td>
<td>6,149</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13,752</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,603 n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATURE CENTER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number of Environmental Education Programs</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>293 45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Persons Participating in Programs</td>
<td>12,415</td>
<td>14,321</td>
<td>15,112</td>
<td>8,013</td>
<td>2,697 21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Persons - General Visitation</td>
<td>7,228</td>
<td>10,093</td>
<td>8,533</td>
<td>4,926</td>
<td>1,305 18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number of Persons Attending Programs or Visiting the Nature Center</td>
<td>19,643</td>
<td>24,414</td>
<td>23,737</td>
<td>12,939</td>
<td>4,094 20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Revenue Generated by Nature Center</td>
<td>$69,734</td>
<td>$89,001</td>
<td>$99,320</td>
<td>$40,722</td>
<td>$29,587 42.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Volunteers</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>28 22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>120 20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATURAL LANDS MGT.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of Parks and other properties receiving one or more projects for active management</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12 36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of documented projects for active management of natural lands</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>15 15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of Invasive Plant Management projects</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>19 28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of acres of all project sites</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>26 9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of acres of invasive plant cover managed</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>8 13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of projects with contractor-provided plant control services</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14 58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of Volunteers utilized by Natural Lands Management Section</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>30 7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of Volunteer hours dedicated to Natural Lands Management projects</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,884.5</td>
<td>1,920.0</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>271 16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total number of Volunteer hours dedicated to Invasive Plant Management projects</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>1,010.0</td>
<td>1,030.0</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>(360) -25.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>