City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 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. RPCA Photo Contest Winners
      Lindsay Burneson, Recreation Manager
   b. Rebuild Alexandria Grant Projects
      Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
         i. Dale Street Garden
         ii. 3550 Commonwealth Avenue Park

IV. Items for Action:
   a. Approval of Minutes: November 16, 2017

V. Project Updates
   a. Warwick Pool
   b. Waterfront Projects
   c. Cameron Run Regional Park Planning Process
   d. All Veterans Park
   e. West End Park & Programming Forum

VI. Director’s Report
   a. FY 2019 Budget

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

VIII. Commission Reports (verbal reports by District)

IX. February Meeting Items – Working Draft Attached

X. Next Meeting: February 15, 2018 – TBD

XI. Adjournment
DATE: JANUARY 18, 2018

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR WC
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT - ITEM VII

Program Wrap-Ups

- In the fall, RPCA held its 1st Annual Photo Contest. Photos were submitted by local amateur and professional photographers that represent scenes from City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities parks, centers, programs, or events. 51 photos were submitted and 256 public votes were cast. The following winners were announced on December 1. For more information, visit www.alexandria.gov

Best Overall: 'Baby's 1st Swim Lesson' by S. Johnston
Recreation Category Winner: 'Slow Down Sunday' by Delphine Lee
Parks Category Winner: 'Sitting On A Bench' by John H. Zimmerman

Cultural Activities Category Winner: 'Mask' by Ameena Al-Hujazi
• On November 17, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center (formerly Cora Kelly Recreation Center) held its Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. In addition to the delicious meal, over 175 community members enjoyed a fashion show by the OSTP youth and the center’s seniors, a ballet performance, and music from the “Chick” Armstrong youth choir.

• **Winter Holiday Programs**
  
  o **Swim with Santa** took place at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility on December 2. Close to 41 participants met Santa and Mrs. Claus and had their picture taken under water courtesy of Blue Octopus Scuba.

  o On December 8, the Alexandria Successful Aging Committee hosted its annual Senior Holiday Celebration at Lee Center. Over 200 seniors enjoyed music by the Old Dominion Duo, Alexandria Harmonizers and Lindsay & Linda Hemphill. Door prizes, dancing and sing-alongs were also part of the entertainment. Special guests included Mayor Silberberg, Councilwoman Pepper, Police Chief Brown and Deputy Sheriff, Gleason.

  o On December 19, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held its annual OSTP Holiday Program. Over 135 participants came dressed in their holiday best to participate in performances. There was a special vocal performance by the Patrick Henry "It’s a Girl Thing" Girls Club before Santa’s arrival. Santa and the staff provided each child with a toy, candy canes, prizes and refreshments. Over 25 parents attended the program.

  o On December 20, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted its 1st Annual Winter Wonderland Celebration. The program showcased holiday songs, skits and dances, performed by participants of the Youth Achieving Greatness and Therapeutic
Recreation after school programs. Some of the performances included the Nutcracker with a twist, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas and a Jackson 5 Holiday Melody. At the end of the program each child went home with a special gift.

- On December 30, Charles Houston Recreation Center hosted its **Pre-New Year’s Eve Teen Party**. Over 130 teens celebrated the coming of the New Year by socializing in their new teen center, playing basketball, dancing and enjoying refreshments.

- **Holiday Toy Distributions**
  - On December 15 and 16, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center held a **Community Toy Drive**. While parents of low-income families selected toys, their children enjoyed making crafts and having snacks with Santa. 300 families participated in this event sponsored by Department of Community & Human Services.
  
  - On December 20, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center held its **Holiday Celebration with Santa**. 120 Out of School Time program participants had the opportunity to meet, have a meal, and take a photo with Santa. Participants also enjoyed creating holiday crafts, a sing-along, toy giveaway, and a live DJ.

- On December 20, ARHA in collaboration with RPCA kicked off its **8th Annual Santa’s Winter Wonderland** at Charles Houston Recreation Center. This program includes festivities designed to celebrate the holidays, including gift distribution to community children, a book reading by Mayor Silberberg and other City officials, a reception for volunteers and partners, and a visit from Santa. Over 1400 participants enjoyed the success of this 3-day event.

- During the holiday season, RPCA Outreach staff partnered with various organizations to sponsor toy giveaways. On December 23, **Holiday Toy Distributions** were held at Samuel Tucker Elementary School and Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. A combined total of over 600 youth were served, and each enjoyed a visit with Santa.
The Annual Holiday Invitational Cheer Competition hosts teams from RPCA recreation centers and the metropolitan Washington area. On December 16, approximately 615 spectators cheered on the 11 teams that competed in three divisions (Pee Wee, Youth Level and Junior Level). Recreation Centers represented were Charles Houston, William Ramsay and Chick Armstrong. Additional participants included Black Diamondz Elite, Ft. Belvoir and Reston United from Northern VA, and a performance by the Hot Topic All Stars. EZ Street, a celebrity DJ from 93.9 WKYS Radio Station, was the master of ceremonies. Total revenue for the event was $6,145.

The Girls’ Volleyball League Championship concluded the fall season for girls ages 9-14, which ran from September to December. Congratulations to N.C. State for winning the American League Championship, and James Madison for bringing home the National League Championship trophy. The program generated $11,430 in revenue with 155 participants.

The Fee Classes and Camps section offered Hoop Life Winter Basketball Camp during the ACPS winter break. Participants worked on one-on-one drills, basic fundamentals, and scrimmage play. 36 participants generated $4,690 in revenue.

During the winter break, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted Kids Day Out. The 3-day program offered a variety of winter themed activities and trips. Participants engaged in crafts, Snowball Kickball, Winter Sweet Treat Workshop, Ugly Holiday Shirt Fashion Show, and a fieldtrip to ICE! at the Gaylord Hotel.
Program Updates
Out of School Time FY15 through FY18 Summer/School Year Participant and Revenue Comparison

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<td>OSTP Revenue</td>
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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 end of Fall enrollment includes 952 participants in 252 class offerings, generating $106,142 in revenue. Last year, the end of season totals included 856 participants, in 223 class offerings generating $89,502.

- To date, the **Fee Classes and Camps section** has 11 winter programs this winter that have reached or exceeded maximum enrollment. Classes include Pre-Ballet & Movement 1, Ballet 1, Jump Shots for Tots, Acrobatics I, Mom/Dad Tumbling, Mommy and Me Ballet, Tiny Dancers, Twoosy Doodlers, Little Stars and Zumba. A combined total of 138 participants have generated $26,758 in revenue.

**Upcoming Events**

- On January 19, the City will dedicate the renamed Cora Kelly Recreation Center to the Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center. Mr. Armstrong has been a lifetime coach and youth advocate in the community.

- On February 9, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center hosts Adult Social Night. Adults 30 and over will dance the night away to Latin music and Ol’ school 70s grooves.

- **Night of Stars Performing Arts Festival** will take place on Friday, January 26 at T.C. Williams High School. The festival’s theme will be “You and I Together Can Change the...
World”, and will include individual and group performances featuring drama, comedy, music and dance.

- On February 4, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center will host a **Super Bowl 52 Countdown Celebration**. Enjoy flag football and football trivia as we countdown to the big game. Refreshments will be served.

- On February 9, Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility hosts **Female Swim Night**. Women of all ages enjoy indoor swimming in a private, all-female environment.

**Staff Updates**

- On November 29, the Recreation Services OSTP Committee held its **annual fall Staff Development Training** for over 80 staff members from neighborhood and afterschool sites. Staff members engaged in sessions covering restorative practices, building relationships, and planning for the upcoming summer program. The workshop is part of the OSTP staff development training requirements for all full time and part time staff working in afterschool programs. Each staff member must complete at least 12 hours of training yearly.

- November’s Employee of the Month is **Jamie Aylor**, Recreation Leader at Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. Jamie was recognized for her exceptional service, dedication, and strong work ethic.
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 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

BEN BRENNMAN DOG PARK
Project Manager: Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II
Ben Brenman Dog Park, located at 4800 Brenman Park Drive is currently under construction. An SUP was approved for the expansion of the dog park and the installation of lights. The first phase of construction expanded the dog park and altered the boundaries to move the dog park from the resource protection area (RPA) along Backlick Run. New fencing was installed, including a new double gate entry fence and maintenance gate. The second phase of construction will install a landscape buffer along the new fence. The third phase will install lighting around the main portion of the dog park. Phases II and III are anticipated to be complete in spring and summer 2018.

HOOFF’S RUN DOG EXERCISE AREA
Project Manager: Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II
Hooff’s Run Dog Exercise Area, located along Commonwealth Avenue between E. Chapman and E. Oak Streets will be renovated as recommended in the 2016 Neighborhood Park Plan for Hoof’s Run Park and Greenway. The existing asphalt parking area will be reduced to expand the dog exercise area. Other improvements will include replacing the bollards and kiosk.

HOLMES RUN/DUKE STREET DOG PARK
Project Manager: Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II
Holmes Run Dog Park, located east of Charles Beatley, Jr. Library, will be renovated as recommended in the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvement Plan. In December 2017, Park Planning Staff met with the Holmes Run Park Committee to gain comments and ideas for the dog park. Staff also posted signs asking for comments at the dog park. Park Staff is currently reviewing comments and will create a design based on the community feedback.

TARLETON PARK DOG EXERCISE AREA
Project Manager: Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II
Improvements to Tarleton Dog Exercise Area, located 4420 A Vermont Avenue were discussed with the community last fall. At the community meeting, a water fountain was identified as the
highest priority for the neighborhood. A new water fountain will be located near the intersection on Holmes Run Parkway and South Jenkins Street, and will feature an ADA arm and a dog bowl. The fountain is anticipated to be installed in the spring.

GREEN AREA RATIO
Project Manager: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner
In January, a City staff workgroup including RPCA met with DC Planning staff about their recent Green Area Ratio (GAR) zoning regulations. GAR zoning regulations promote environmental sustainable practices and set standards for landscape and site design. Variations of GAR have been adopted in other cities including Seattle, WA and Berlin, Germany. The staff workgroup will discuss the benefits of GAR and whether aspects can be implemented in the City.

AD HOC JOINT CITY-SCHOOLS FACILITY INVESTMENT TASK FORCE
Project Manager: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner
Last May City Council adopted a resolution establishing an Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force to oversee the development of a Joint City-Schools Facility Capital Improvement Plan and provide recommendations related to further capital project implementation. The Task Force presented their initial work to City Council in November and will present their final report at a joint City Council and School Board meeting on January 30 at Alexandria Renew. For additional information, visit: https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=97580

ALL VETERANS PARK SHADE STRUCTURE
Project Manager: Judy Lo, Urban Planner III
A new seasonal shade structure and picnic improvements are planned for All Veterans Park, 299 North Pickett Street. Located along North Pickett Street for visibility, these improvements are recommended in the 2014 Citywide Parks Plans. The improvements support a need for informal picnic and family gathering areas throughout the Holmes Run Park System. Other improvements include an additional ADA accessible picnic table, a grill, and an accessible pathway to the picnic area. Work is anticipated to begin Spring 2018.

WEST END FORUM
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief
The Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will host a forum on Wednesday, January 31 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Ave., to receive direct input from associations and civic groups on their ideas for park and program improvement. The forum is an opportunity for staff to provide associations and civic groups with information on recent improvement activities in west end parks (parks planning district III), recreation facilities and program enhancements, answer questions on the status of park and recreation plans, and receive comments on future park, recreation and program improvements.

The public is encouraged to complete the West End Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Survey by January 21, 2018. Survey results will be discussed and provided at the meeting, and will be posted on the web.
RPCA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE
Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
In Fall 2017, a staff led council began development of a Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities five-year strategic plan. The council has collected information on employee values, personal mission statements, and vision. They also reviewed financial outlooks, the needs assessment and held listening sessions with various stakeholders to understand what makes the Department unique and how we can improve. Using this information, the council developed the following draft mission, vision and values:

**Mission:** We enrich the City of Alexandria by creating meaningful experiences through public space, cultural activities, and programming.

**Vision:** Every person in our community can improve their well-being by connecting to each other and the environment around them.

**Values:**
- **Safety.** Our parks and facilities are safe, clean and accessible.
- **Customer Service.** We provide Responsive, Professional, Courteous and Accountable service.
- **Continuous Learning.** We believe in lifelong learning for ourselves and our community.
- **Integrity.** We are honest, fair and respectful in all interactions.
- **Civic Responsibility.** As public servants, we strive to better the world around us.
- **Equity.** We are committed to equitable access to programs and facilities.

The next step for the strategic plan will be to develop a document that demonstrates the story of “who we are and what we do.”

CAMERON RUN PARK PLANNING PROCESS
Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
City Council endorsed the seven priorities identified by residents and stakeholders as the future vision for Cameron Run Park. Based on the community input provided in the Cameron Run Park Planning and Conceptual Design Final Report, future negotiations and planning based on all options stated would address the seven priorities.

In addition, City Council:

(A) Directed the City Manager to further explore partnership opportunities with NOVA Park and possible other entities in cooperation with the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission and would include, but not be limited to:
   1. Redefine the property leased to 14.6 acres to exclude Lake Cook, the largely undeveloped land east of Lake Cook and the Wards Woods Natural Area;
   2. Provide the City with the use of designated areas of the NOVA Park leased are for City purposes in the off-season;
   3. Establish a shared Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and financial plan to cooperatively fund certain park improvement initiatives; and
   4. Draft new proposed key replacement lease terms (length of lease to be determined) consistent with the to-be-developed partnership plan and capital investments.

(B) Declared that if partnership negotiations based upon the above proposed terms are unsuccessful by September 30, 2018, then the existing lease would expire on July 1, 2021.
and the Cameron Run parkland would revert to City control and custody for use for public park and recreation purposed with the goal that it become a recreational complex providing year-round active and passive uses.

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](#).

- **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](#).

- **KING STREET WATERFRONT PARK**  
  Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief  
  For additional information, visit the [Project Website](#).
## RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
### As of January 1, 2018

### Agenda Items – Park & Recreation Commission: January 2017 – December 2017

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Issue(s) for Discussion</th>
<th>Commission Action</th>
<th>Planning Commission</th>
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<td>Summer 2017 Program Update (Recreation Services)</td>
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<td>*(1) Dale Street Garden &amp; (2) 3550 Commonwealth Ave. Park</td>
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## Agenda Items – Park & Recreation Commission: January 2017 – December 2017

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### NOTE(S):

**PARK PLANNING:**
- Open Space 10-Year Implementation Strategy - **COMPLETED**
- Cameron Run Park Planning - **COMPLETED**
- 2017 Needs Assessment - **COMPLETED**
- Athletic Fields Master Plan Update
- RPCA Strategic Master Plan Update
- Landscape Guidelines Update
- Pocket Parks Planning

**PARK OPERATIONS:**
- Natural Resources Management Plan

**RECREATION SERVICES:**
- Youth Sports Scholarship Policy - **COMPLETED**
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 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
      • 2017 – 2018 snow/ice management operations plan were completed in coordination with T&ES, ACPS and other agencies, including the staff training, readiness of all equipment, supplies and contracted services. These operations provide round-the-clock support for inspecting, treating and clearing snow/ice at schools, recreation centers, libraries, bridges, overpasses, Metro Stations, commuter routes and all sidewalks adjoining the public properties. Staff teams have been mobilized several times for snow/ice storms this season.
      • All athletic turf grass fields have been closed and winterized for the winter season. Seasonal maintenance on the fields will continue throughout the winter season.
      • Repairs to the retaining wall at Timberland Park have been completed. Residents and visitors can continue playing on and around the retaining wall affectionately named “The Fort”.
      • A staff group completed grounds keeping training this month. Participants learned techniques on how to maintain Major League quality ball fields.
      • Waterfront staff have completed leaf collection throughout the district. Supplemental leaf collection activities are expected to continue as needed during the winter season.
      • The 2017 Adopt-a-Park season concluded November 30th. This year a total of twenty community groups volunteered with the City. Awards will be given in January 2018.
b) Park Facilities Maintenance

- Staff completed full winterization on all irrigation systems, drinking fountains, and several public restrooms. Below normal temperatures required staff to conduct regular onsite inspection of irrigation systems, fountains and restrooms to check and adjust heating systems to avoid pipe freezing.
- Staff repaired the scoreboard in the gymnasium at Mount Vernon. Staff ran a new wire from the scoreboard to the wall jack where the controller plugs in. Staff also reinstalled fixtures at Cora Kelly after the interior renovation was finished – Televisions, fans, clocks, kiosk boards, and other visual display signage.
- New safety railings have been installed at the Angel Park stairs which provide access from the adjacent sidewalk into the park.
- The Maxicom irrigation management system is now operational and will be tracking irrigation needs and alerting staff to any issues in spring 2018 and beyond. The automatic system is uses weather stations to monitor watering needs to reduce overwatering at 28 park sites throughout the city.

2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a) Urban Forestry

The Proactive Tree Maintenance project funded with $106,000 in FY2018 Capital Budget is set to begin in January 2018. Locations for tree work have been identified to receive this service, and initial discussions have been made with the contractor. This work will continue over several months.

b) Horticulture

- The 2017 community garden season closed in November 2017 and the annual community garden renewal period for 2018 garden season has ended. Over 70% of current gardeners renewed for 2018. End of season reports have been generated and sent to the respective advisory boards as called for in both Community Garden PARKership agreements.
- Chinquapin Organic Gardens acquired a new shed to store maintenance equipment. This acquisition is part of a new PARKnership Agreement with the gardeners.
- As part of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Program preliminary assessment, staff removed tall ornamental hedges at Chinquapin Park area to improve safety and visibility. Replacement dwarf shrubs will be installed in spring.
3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a) Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration
   - Staff removed infestations of Oriental Bittersweet and Porcelain-berry from Dora Kelley Nature Park and Chinquapin Park, as well as picked up litter and debris from the 5-acre Telegraph and Duke Meadow Complex.
   - Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), with the treatment of Periwinkle, Greater Periwinkle, Callery Pear, English Ivy, and other non-native invasive plants at Fort Williams Park and Dora Kelley Nature Park.
   - Completed 80% of the Dora Kelley Nature Park Wetlands Restoration CIP Project to remove Rice Cutgrass and other vegetation and silt from the impoundment wetland to restore deeper water levels for breeding amphibians and other aquatic wildlife.

b) Cooperative Initiatives
   - On December 17, 2017, City Natural Resource Manager led a field trip of over 75 participants through the Mattawoman Wildlands at Chapman Forest in Charles County, Maryland for the annual MNPS, VNPS, Mattawoman Watershed Society, and Botanical Society of Washington co-sponsored Winter Solstice Field Trip.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a) Programs/Updates
   For the month of December, there were 61 interpretive programs attended by 1,547 people. The combined total number of visitors and participants for December was 2,084 people.
   
   School Programs:
   For the month of December, the Naturalists conducted 10 school programs reaching 217 students and teachers.
   - December 6 - The Naturalist went to Cora Kelly Elementary School Patrick Henry Elementary School to conduct 4 third grade programs about “Life Cycles”. The 94 children learned about what animals need to survive and different types of life cycles. A variety of animals
came to the school—including a newt, DeKay snake, millipedes and a fat tailed African gecko.

- December 6- The pre-kindergarten students came to the Nature Center to learn about trees and the creatures who inhabit them. The children discussed native and non-native animals that live in trees.

- December 13- The Naturalist went to Cora Kelly Elementary School to conduct 4 programs about “What Animals Need to Survive”. The 89 kindergarten students enjoyed touching animal pelts, observing bird eggs and meeting a number of reptiles.

**Nature Center Programs:**
During the month of December, there were 3 birthday parties, 29 impromptu programs, 2 weekday programs for preschool age children and 2 weekend program. The total participation for these programs was 252 people.

- December 8- The final program in our fall series of “Little Adventures” had 25 children, their parents and siblings. The topic was “Animal Adaptations”. The children met many of the center’s animals with unique adaptations including a gecko that appears to have a tail that looks like a second head, frogs that can camouflage into their rain forest surroundings and a non-venomous Tangerine milk snake that imitates a deadly coral snake. The children created their own wooden snakes based on the adaptations of camouflage, mimicry or warning colors. Taking advantage of the beautiful weather, the group went on a long hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park.

- December 15- The third in our fall series of “Fledglings” was conducted about “Owls”. The Naturalist read the book “Good Luck Baby Owl” by Giles and Alexandra Milton. This was followed by a fun owl craft.

**Outreach Programs:**
- December 7- The Naturalist was invited to participate at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School’s Science Night. This is the third year that the Nature Center participated in this annual event. More than 850 students, parents and siblings visited the display and interactive tables which focused on “Animal Adaptations”. Everyone enjoyed meeting the live reptiles- a fat-tailed African gecko, a uromastyx lizard from Mali and the baby snapping turtle.

**Afterschool Buddies Program**
The Buddies brought in the holiday cheer for the entire month of December. All month long, the Buddies worked at decorating the nature center to share the winter spirit with all of our visitors— from tying bows around the reception area to hanging beautifully crafted snowflakes in the Activity Room. In addition to preparing for the holidays, we talked about a wide range of subjects about our natural world. In our activity about corals, the Buddies used forest objects to mimic a sea coral reef in order to learn about the different types of coral structures. We also explored our universe by talking about the Milky Way and building our own galaxy. We put gravity to the test by conducting our own egg drop competition. The month wrapped up with more holiday cheer at our Nature Buddies Holiday party with festive snacks and Disney Karaoke!

b) Volunteers and Interns
A total of 3 volunteers provided 27 hours of service during the month of December.

c) Noteworthy
Student Volunteer: Genevieve Ropple, a junior at The Howard Gardner School in Alexandria, will be interning at the Nature Center until June 2018. She will volunteer every Friday for four or more hours. Genevieve will be assisting with animal care and preschool programs. At home, she has eight pets—3 cats, 2 dogs, 2 fish and a hermit crab. Outside of school, she enjoys music and even plays several instruments. She is passionate about animals and is a pleasure to have her working along with the Nature Center staff.
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 12/31/17</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease (FY15/FY17)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number Percent</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>URBAN FORESTRY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Service Requests Initiated (CCC)</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,109</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>12  1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Work Orders Initiated</td>
<td>1,541</td>
<td>1,945</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>289 18.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Individual Trees Pruned *</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>1,914</td>
<td>1,744</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>(176) -9.2%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<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>847</td>
<td>(438) -21.8%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Trees Removed *</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>440 150.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Trees Planted *</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>401 106.1%</td>
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<tr>
<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>2,379</td>
<td>227 4.9%</td>
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<tr>
<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>
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<td><strong>NATURE CENTER</strong></td>
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<td>Total Number of Environmental Education Programs</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>293 45.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Persons Participating in Programs</td>
<td>12,415</td>
<td>14,321</td>
<td>15,112</td>
<td>5,890</td>
<td>2,697 21.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Persons - General Visitation</td>
<td>7,228</td>
<td>10,093</td>
<td>8,533</td>
<td>3,670</td>
<td>1,305 18.1%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<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>9,377</td>
<td>4,094 20.8%</td>
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<td>Revenue Generated by Nature Center</td>
<td>$69,734</td>
<td>$89,001</td>
<td>$99,320</td>
<td>$17,822</td>
<td>$29,587 42.4%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteers</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28 22.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>120 20.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NATURAL LANDS MGT.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of documented projects for active management of natural lands</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>15 15.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Invasive Plant Management projects</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>19 28.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of acres of all project sites</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>26 9.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of acres of invasive plant cover managed</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>8 13.7%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of projects with contractor-provided plant control services</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14 58.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>