

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2015

TO: ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JENNIFER ATKINS AND JUDITH COLEMAN, CO-CHAIRS

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING,
 JANUARY 15, 2015**

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission will a Public Hearing to receive comments on updates to the City's Special Events Policy, followed by its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please email Co-Chairs, Jennifer Atkins at jennifer.atkins@cloudigylaw.com and Judith Coleman at judycolemanalexprc@gmail.com

Thank you

City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Charles Houston Center

901 Wythe Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Agenda

- I.** Call to Order by Jennifer Akins and Judith Coleman, Co-Chairs
- II.** Public Hearing on Special Events Policy Updates – Jack Browand, Division Chief, Public Information, Special Events, Waterfront Operations
- III.** Items for Information
 - A. Public Comments. The Commission will receive brief comments on non-agenda items. Commenters should arrive promptly at the start of the meeting and prepare to keep comments to three minutes or less.
 - B. City/ACPS Long Range Educational Facilities Plan Project - Katherine Carraway, Planning and Zoning
- IV.** Items for Action
 - A. Approval of Summary Minutes: November 20, 2014
 - B. Cameron Run Area Coordinated Parks and Open Space Plan
 - C. Waterfront Plan Phasing Priorities for Public Improvements – Tony Gammon, P.E., Department of Project Implementation
 - D. Receipt of Youth Sports Advisory Board Sports Fields Needs Update Winter 2014/15
- V.** RPCA Staff Updates
 - A. Director’s Report – James Spengler
 - B. Division Updates – William Chesley, Dinesh Tiwari, Jack Browand, Ron Kagawa
- VI.** Commission Business – Jennifer Atkins and Judith Coleman, Co-Chairs
 - A. Update from December 20, 2014 Retreat
 - B. Establish timetables and assignments for Open Space Planning Policy and Public-Private Partnerships Policy workgroups
 - C. Cultural Activities Review
 - D. Dog Park Master Plan
- VII.** Reports from Commissioners by District (verbal updates)
- VIII.** Next Meeting: Agenda items and location for February 19, 2015 meeting.

**City of Alexandria
 Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
 Proposed Special Events Policy Updates**

**Park & Recreation Commission Public Hearing
 January 15, 2015**

	Issue to Address	Policy Update
1.	Implement goal of Waterfront Small Area Plan to increase activity and vibrancy of the City's waterfront	Repeal the alternating weekend restriction for events exceeding 500 in Waterfront Park, Market Square and proposed Fitzgerald Square.
2.	Clearly define roles and responsibilities of the Applicant vs. the City	Establish a City Sponsored; City Co-Sponsored; and City Non-Sponsored Event Policy which clearly defines sponsorship category and identifies sponsorship benefits. (Attachment 1)
3.	Reduce Financial Risk to the City for the George Washington Birthday, St. Patrick's Day, and Scottish Christmas Walk Parade Support	Establish a designated general fund appropriation for George Washington Birthday, St. Patrick's Day, and Scottish Christmas Walk Parade Support to cover City Direct Cost (staff), and waive all City assessed permit fees. Parade organizers would be responsible for 100% reimbursement for direct City costs above designated general fund appropriation and direct payment for all non-City costs (rentals, contracted services, etc.)
4.	Update Special Event Cost-Sharing Policy Consistent with City Council Approved RPCA Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy	Establish an additional fee assessment above 100% recovery for direct City costs for Tier 4 (Event Manager receives Considerable Individual Benefit) and Tier 5 (Event Manager receives Mostly Individual Benefit).
5.	Specified approval process for proposed Race/Walks	Implement DRAFT Foot / Walk / Bike Race Policies and Management Guidelines (Attachment 2)

**City of Alexandria
Special Events Policies & Procedures
Policy for Event Sponsorship**

1. PURPOSE

To establish a consistent citywide general approach to special events and establish guidelines for the manner in which the City will coordinate efforts in processing and implementing special event sponsorships.

2. SPECIAL EVENT DEFINED

A Special Event shall be defined as a celebration, gathering, meeting, program, or similar occasion, open to the public, which involves the use of parks, park areas, facilities, public rights-of-ways or any part thereof, and which may include but not necessarily be limited to entertainment, dancing, music, dramatic productions, parades, exhibitions, sports competition, sale of merchandise or food, or any combination thereof, and may out of necessity require a level of City services for its execution or conduct that is above the level provided under ordinary circumstances. This definition shall not apply to events that are political rallies, religious observances, or building or facility rentals unless such singular activities or uses are proposed as an integral part of a larger special event as defined herein.

A. City Sponsored Event

City Sponsored event shall be defined as a public event, program, or activity which is directly related to a recognized function of the City of Alexandria which is initiated, and in major part financed and executed by the City. City Sponsored events shall not include those events, programs or activities in which the City is merely listed as a co-sponsor unless the City has at least a de facto responsibility for initiation, direct or indirect financial support and/or execution. This rule shall not preclude the solicitation of co-sponsorship assistance for programs initiated by the City.

B. City Co-Sponsored Event

City Co-Sponsored event shall be defined as any public event, program or activity in which the City of Alexandria allows the use of its name and/or logo by another sponsoring organization to conduct an event as well as advertising, promotion or general public awareness. In addition to the use of its name and/or logo, the City may assist by means of in-kind services or the reduction/waiver of required fees at the discretion of the City Manager or his/her designee. Support will be determined on a case-by-case basis, generally based on assessment of the value of the event to the community or City as a whole, as limited by the availability of resources for individual City Departments.

**City of Alexandria
Special Events Policies & Procedures
Policy for Event Sponsorship**

C. City Non-Sponsored Event

City Non-Sponsored event shall be defined as any public event, program or activity conducted in the City of Alexandria that City does not lend the use of its name and/or logo to, in any manner, except as may be denoted for location of directional purposes for the public. City assistance shall be limited to permit processing, site and/or facility reservation, and normal facility/property maintenance. The sponsoring organization shall pay all fees established by Special Event Permit for use of the parks, park areas, facilities, public rights-of-ways or any part thereof including permit fees, rental charges, concession fees, grounds deposits, and the costs of additional services (i.e. utilities hookups, trash collection, security, staffing, etc.) as determined through evaluation of the permit request. Non-Sponsored events are assessed normal fees, charges, and service levels per approved City policies, as based on City resources for Departments.

3. LIMITATION TO CO-SPONSORSHIP

The City of Alexandria shall not co-sponsor any public event, program or activity where such event is being conducted primarily for commercial promotion of gain using the parks, park areas, facilities, public rights-of-ways or any part thereof. Likewise, the City shall not co-sponsor any public event, program, activity, gathering, procession, or similar function for the primary purpose of which is a political demonstration, rally, or religious observance through the exercise of the rights of assembly and free speech as guaranteed by the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Such events, demonstrations or parts thereof as defined herein shall be processed and permitted as Non-Sponsored events unless deemed otherwise by motion and ordinance of City Council.

4. CO-SPONSORSHIP EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria shall be evaluated to determine the role and extent of any City of Alexandria co-sponsorship:

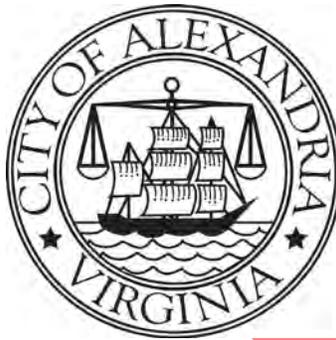
- A. If the City Manager's office by Administrative Order, or the City Council by Motion or Ordinance, have declared or established a role of Co-Sponsorship by the City;
- B. Whether the event, program, or activity is directly related to a recognized function of the City of Alexandria;
- C. The City costs of such Co-Sponsorship meet a greater public good by providing or expanding public service;
- D. The likelihood that the event will contribute positively to the recognition and image of the City of Alexandria;
- E. The ability of the co-sponsor(s) to meet the requirements necessary for issuance of a Special Event Permit; and
- F. The results of a reference check.

**City of Alexandria
Special Events Policies & Procedures
Policy for Event Sponsorship**

5. PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING CO-SPONSORSHIP

- A. Requesting organization shall submit a Special Event application and cover letter requesting co-sponsorship and provides details of the proposed event, including tax status with documentation, operating budget including both revenues and expenditures, letter of intent identifying the percent or dollar amount of a donation to a specified organization(s), and the merit of the request based on the criteria outlined in 4. above.
- B. The Chair of the Special Events Committee will review the request and consult with appropriate staff regarding feasibility of required level of City services for the proposed event, and the criteria for evaluation of such events. The City Manager or his/her designee shall approve levels of City service outside the scope of City Departments prior to approval of the proposed event.
- C. The Chair of the Special Events Committee may request additional information or a meeting with the requesting organization to ascertain further details regarding the proposed event.
- D. Subject to approval by the City Manager or his/her designee, the Chair of the Special Events Committee will respond in writing to the request within forty-five (45) business days from the receipt of the request for co-sponsorship. Should the Chair of the Special Events Committee deny the request for co-sponsorship, the requesting organization shall have the right to appeal to the City Manager ten (10) business days of the receipt of notification of denial. Upon denial, the proposed event shall then be considered a non-sponsored event as defined above.
- E. Upon approval, the Chair of the Special Events Committee shall initiate a co-sponsorship Memorandum of Agreement negotiated to meet the requirements of the parties in conduct of the event.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FOOT / WALK / BIKE RACE POLICIES & MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES



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City of Alexandria Virginia
Office of Special Events
Foot Race / Walk / Bike Permit Application

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each Foot Race / Walk / Bike Permit Application will be reviewed on a case by case basis. The following information provides procedures and management guidelines followed by the City of Alexandria.

1. Permit Applications are submitted to the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attn.: Office of Special Events, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria VA 22314.
2. Races with a past success record of 3 years or more in the City of Alexandria may submit an application 90 days in advance of the proposed event.
3. Races, including events with less than 3 years success record, must submit an application 180 days in advance of the proposed event.
4. Applicants or Sponsors who are not a certified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization must contribute a specified portion of the event proceeds to a named certified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that delivers services in the City of Alexandria.
5. Races which require road closures, parking removal, or disruption of public right-of-ways:
 - a. May not occur on consecutive weekends within a single City Race District; and
 - b. All road closures, parking removal, or disruption of public right-of-ways must not start later than 8 am and must reopen by 10 am, with the exception of George Washington Memorial Parkway events which must reopen in compliance with National Park Service policies and procedures.
6. Races proposed for the Old Town District must be approved by City Council (City of Alexandria Policies and Procedures Manual, Approval, 11.), with the exception of the George Washington Parkway Classic, George Washington Parade 1 Mile Win Sprint Woodrow Wilson Bridge Half Marathon and USATF Championship Series.
7. Road closures, parking removal, or disruption of public right-of-ways will not be permitted on Thanksgiving Day (with the exception of the Annual Del Ray Turkey Trot), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Years Eve and New Years Day and Independence Day (July 4).
8. Applicants will be required to submit a pedestrian detour plan, to be approved by the Alexandria Police Department, if pedestrians are not permitted to cross the race course.
9. Applicants will be required to clean up all water cups/sports gels/banana peels, etc. left on the race course, in City parks, on sidewalks, and all other public right-of-ways. Water stations must not block public access to residential and commercial properties, sidewalks and other public right-of-ways.
10. Total road closure will not be allowed on Cameron St., Commonwealth Avenue, Duke Street, Eisenhower Avenue, Gibbon Street, Route 1 North (Patrick Street), Route 1 South (Henry Street) and Washington Street. King Street west of Russell, Braddock west of Russell and Prince Street. Portions of these streets may be closed on a case by case basis.

11. Races which allow for participants other than runners (i.e. dogs, strollers, walkers, etc.) must include a detailed start plan in the **Route & Site Plan** (Application Requirements – 5.)
12. **City Council approved Special Event Application Fee and Trail Fee, if applicable, due at time of application submission. Race organizers are required to complete Special Event and Foot Race / Walk / Bike Permit Applications.**

PERMIT PROCESS

Each Foot Race / Walk / Bike Permit Application will be reviewed by the Office of Special Events, and if complete, the application will be forwarded to the Special Events Committee for initial review. Applicants do not need to contact each City Department prior to the application review. Incomplete applications, and/or applications not submitted with the \$50 Permit Fee will not be processed and returned to the applicant.

The City's Special Events Committee will make decisions on granting or denying this permit application based on the criteria specified in the City of Alexandria Policies and Procedures Manual adopted by City Council.

After the initial review by the Special Events Committee, the Office of Special Events will schedule a meeting between the Special Events Committee and the applicant to provide final review and make preliminary approval for the proposed event. The applicant will receive, in writing, notification of any additional permits required and the necessary contact information prior to this meeting. Additional permit requirements must be filed a minimum of **30 days** in advance of the event date. Race organizers may not promote their activity until preliminary approval has been received by the Special Events Committee.

The City of Alexandria, after final review by the Special Events Committee, reserves the right to amend event requirements and/or request additional information from the applicant to ensure the safety and quality of life for event participants and residents of the City.

If the Special Events Committee denies the permit application, the applicant may appeal the decision as specified in the City of Alexandria Policies and Procedures Manual.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Special Events at 703.746.5418 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/39824.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application must be filled out completely. The application may be approved and a permit issued only after all requirements and deadlines of the City of Alexandria are met. Failure to comply with any of the following requirements and deadlines may terminate the permit process; eliminate a segment of your event; or result in denial or revocation of the event permit.

If the permit is denied, the City of Alexandria assumes no liability for expenses incurred by the applicant.

If during the course of the event, on-site City staff determines there is a public safety hazard or if there is a violation of any permit condition, the event must be terminated immediately at the request of any City representative. The City of Alexandria is not responsible for any expenses incurred by the permit holder. Failure to meet the requirements of this permit may provide basis for denial of future permits for a given event, event manager, or sponsor.

The following information is required at the time the application is submitted to the Office of Special Events:

1. **Application**
Completed Special Event and Foot Race / Walk / Bike Permit Application
2. **Event Manager Resume**
Any type of race event (bicycle, foot, etc) requires the event manager to show successful past experience organizing and producing events or races of the same category. Include a resume detailing this experience.
3. **Multi Jurisdiction Approvals**
Provide evidence of approval from or applications filed with all affected jurisdictions and private property owners associated with your race course (i.e. National Park Service, Fairfax County, Arlington County, MNCPP, VDOT, National Harbor, etc.). Any consideration by the City's Special Events Committee is contingent on other jurisdiction's cooperation.
4. **Civic & Business Support**
The applicant must provide a letter of support from City of Alexandria Civic and Business Associations affected by the proposed race course on their official letterhead. After initial review of the application, the City of Alexandria may consider a public review period of not less than two weeks and not to exceed 30 days to receive public comment.
5. **Route & Site Plan**
Provide a plan/map showing:
 - a. Race Course
 - b. Start/Finish points
 - c. Event information, food and merchandise tents
 - d. Stage and sound equipment
 - e. Banner placement
 - f. Participant staging and dispersal sites
 - g. First Aid Stations
 - h. Parking Plan
6. **Marketing/Promotional Plan**
The applicant must provide a plan identifying promotional activities and target markets for the event.

7. Course Marshal/Volunteer Plan

Provide a plan indicating how course marshals/volunteers will be utilized, and on the map required in 5., show the location of course marshals/volunteers along the race course.

8. Parking Plan

Provide a plan indicating that is suitable for the environment in which the event is taking place including the use of car pools, public transit, securing private property use, etc.

9. Event Schedule

List all events with their corresponding start and finish times (Race start and finish, awards announcements, on-site radio or TV coverage, performances, etc.). For security purposes, provide a list of dignitaries expected to attend the race.

10. Barricade/Cone Plan

Provide a proposed barricade plan for Alexandria Police review. Automobiles, trucks or other large, heavy objects are not acceptable barricades. Barricades in place at night must have lights. Include barricade/cone setup and take down times. Once the original barricade/cone plan is submitted, only City initiated changes may be made. Detour Plans will be developed by the Alexandria Police Department. The Police Department will have the final decision on the placement of barricades/cones for any run / walk / bike event.

11. Transit Service Agreements

Affected transit services must agree to street closures if bus/light rail/trolley/ etc. travel on proposed closed streets. Applicants must provide a signed letter from transit operations stating their agreement to the closure with the permit application. If transit services do not agree, streets will not be closed.

12. Recycling Plan

Applicants are required to recycle during the event. A recycling plan is required at the submission of the application.

13. Insurance Certificate

Applicants must secure a general liability insurance policy with a combined single limit of not less than \$1 million (\$2 million preferred) per occurrence. If this information is not included, the certificate will not be accepted. The entity that holds the insurance rider must be the one filling out the application for risk management purposes. The following language must be included in the description area of the insurance rider:

“The City of Alexandria, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, is named as an additional insured on general liability for [name the event, the location, and date].”

14. Non-Profit Certification

Applicants or Sponsors indicating to be a certified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization must submit a letter providing proof of current verification of your current tax exempt non-profit status.

Applicants or Sponsors who are not a certified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization must contribute a specified portion of the event proceeds to a named certified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Applicants must provide, on organization letterhead, acceptance from the certified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization indicating the minimum contribution amount resulting from the proposed event, and a letter of proof certifying the recipient organization(s) current tax exempt non-profit status.

15. Proposed Budget

Include a proposed budget for your event.

16. Application Permit Fee

City Council approved Special Event Application/Permit Fee (nonrefundable), made payable to the *City of Alexandria*, is required at the time the application is submitted.

EVENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Earnest Deposit

A security deposit, as specified in the City of Alexandria Special Events Policies and Procedure Manual, is due 30 days in advance of the event date (City of Alexandria Policies and Procedures Manual, Special Event Fees, Earnest Deposit).

2. Public Notification

A flyer must be distributed to all affected residents and businesses showing the approved race course, street closure hours (including set up to take down) and areas designated for assembly and dispersal of participants a minimum of 30 days in advance of the event date. New races, or events with less than 3 years success record, must also provide notification two (2) weeks in advance of the event date.

3. Emergency Access

Accommodation for emergency response must be provided at all times on streets, alleys, and parks. In some cases event marshals must maintain internal radio contact to facilitate immediate access to event areas. Barricades and similar devices must be staffed at all times and must be movable to accommodate emergency access for police, fire, emergency medical services and any City personnel responding to an emergency situation. Race courses and event areas may be disrupted by emergency traffic at any time.

If your event or race has bandstands, reviewing stands, tents or other stationary fixtures which may impact access to or through public thoroughfares, a minimum 18 feet wide fire lane is required. Applicants are responsible for maintaining the fire lane in an unobstructed manner.

4. Tents

Fire Prevention Permits are required for all tents equal to 200 square feet or larger.

5. Traffic & Crowd Control Personnel

Marshals/Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older; wear high visibility vests; comply with all permit conditions. Marshals/Volunteers shall not act as flaggers or traffic controllers or otherwise direct traffic on public streets. Marshals/Volunteers must be provided an information sheet which informs them of their role and responsibilities. The event manager is responsible for the content of the information provided to marshals/volunteers, and any necessary training as determined by the Alexandria Police Department. Alexandria Police Department has the only authority to determine when and where police officers are to be used during the event. All direction and instructions to assigned Law Enforcement Personnel will only come from the Police Event Supervisor or Commander. Police officers are required at any location where traffic is being controlled other than by existing traffic signals. Representatives of the Police Department retain final authority and decision making. Civilian personnel, course marshals, volunteers, etc. are not authorized to control traffic.

6. Amplification

Amplified sound must comply with all City Noise Ordinances.

7. Alcohol Permits

Special Event ABC Permits to serve alcohol to the general public and/or sell alcohol direct and indirectly may be applied for, with permission from the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities if proper State and City applications and fees are filed at least 30 days before the event date. For assistance, contact the Office of Special Events at 703.746.5418.

8. Signs & Banners

Event signs and banners, and their placement, must be approved by the Department of Planning and Zoning. For assistance, contact the Office of Special Events at 703.746.5418.

9. Emergency Medical Assistance

Depending on the size and nature of the event, you may be required to provide on-site emergency medical assistance. The City's Emergency Services group will determine necessary requirements.

10. Payment of Taxes

Applicants are responsible to the State of Virginia for collecting and reporting Virginia Sales Tax.

11. Food Vendors

Food vendors for temporary events are required to obtain a Temporary Food Permit with the Virginia Department Health, and comply with all City codes and ordinances. Applicants will be held responsible for the clean-up of food areas, and are responsible for the reimbursement of costs associated with any damage to public property. Permits are required from the Office of Code Administration for open flame or propane cooking appliances.

12. Race Course Identification

Course markings must be removed following the event.

POST RACE REQUIREMENTS

1. Post Race Review

The Office of Special Events will schedule a meeting with the applicant and the Special Events Committee to provide a post evaluation of the event. Applicants may be required to participate in an on-site post race review if determined necessary by the City of Alexandria.

2. Status, Proceeds and Reporting

The Applicant must provide, within 30 days of receipt of invoice for City support services, an event report, including the following information, but not limited to:

- a. Expense & Revenue Report: actual gross revenue including entry fees, vendor fees, product sales, sponsorships, and donations.
- b. Number of Registrants
- c. Complete list of sponsors
- d. Distribution of net dollar amounts to host sponsor or beneficiary organization(s).

CITY RACE DISTRICTS

Races which require road closures, parking removal, or disruption of public right-of-ways may not occur on consecutive weekends within established City districts so to not overly burden any one neighborhood on a consistent basis. In addition, road closures, parking removal, or disruption of public right-of-ways must not start later than 8 am and must reopen by 10 am.

The City Race Districts are as follows (see attached maps):

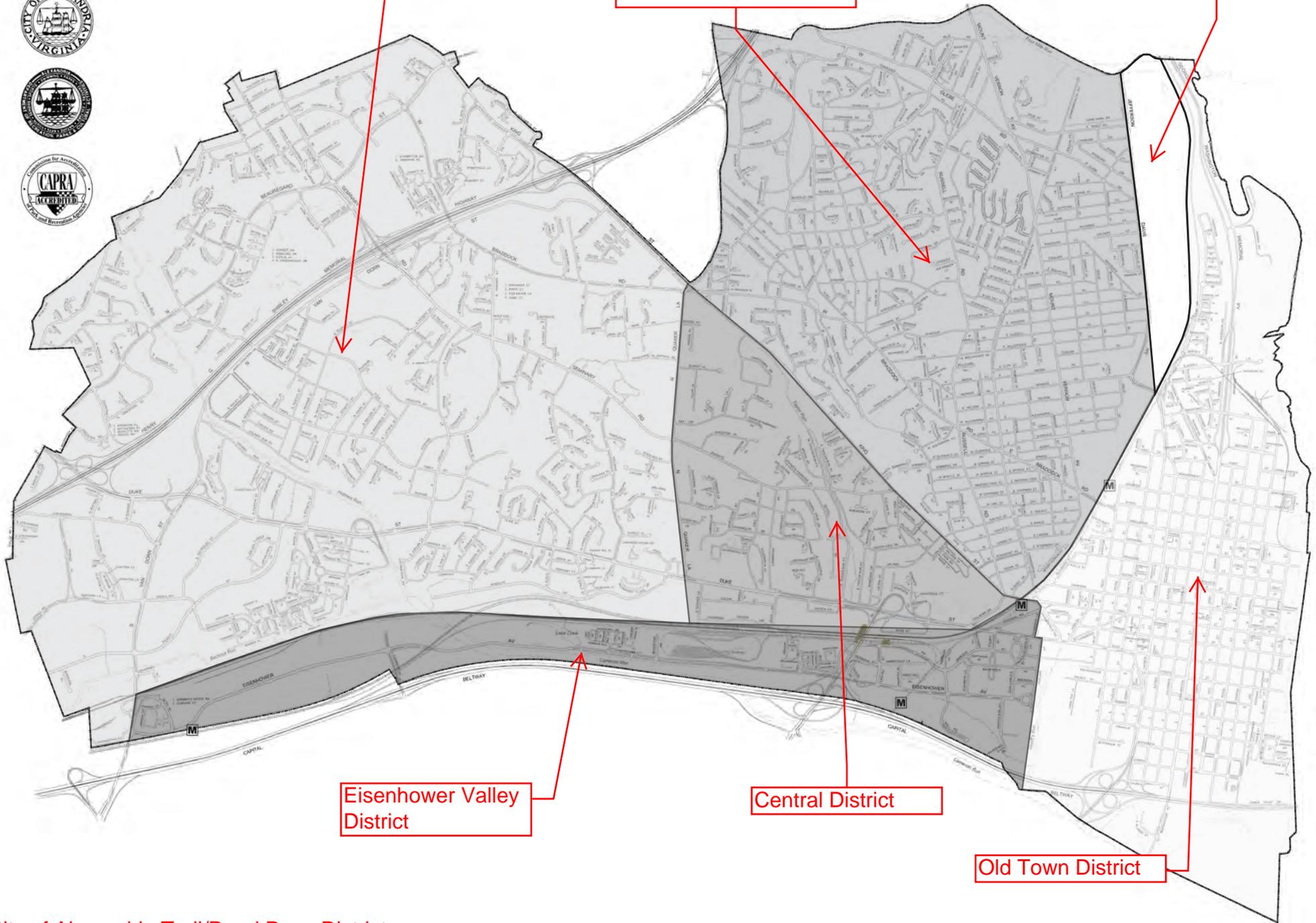
1. **Old Town District:** Upper King Street at the King Street Metro Station east to the Waterfront, North of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to south of Slaters Lane. **Note:** *Races proposed for the Old Town District must be approved by City Council.*
2. **Arlandria, Del Ray and Rosemont District:** East and North of King Street and West of Route 1.
3. **Central District:** North of Duke Street, East of Quaker Lane and West of King Street
4. **Eisenhower Valley District:** West of Holland Lane, South of Duke Street, and West of Van Dorn Street
5. **West End District:** West of Quaker Lane, North of Business Center Drive and East of Van Dorn Street
6. **Potomac Yard District:** East of Jefferson Davis Highway, North and West of Potomac Avenue, and South of Four Mile Run stream (Alexandria border).



West End District

Arlandria, Del Ray & Rosemont District

Potomac Yard District



Eisenhower Valley District

Central District

Old Town District



Foot Race / Walk / Bike Event Permit Application
City of Alexandria – Office of Special Events

INSTRUCTIONS: Please carefully read the “Event Permit Application and Event Requirements” before completing this application. Incomplete applications and/or applications without the required “Permit Fee” will not be processed.			
EVENT INFORMATION			
Date of Event		Event Name	
Event Description:			
Event Setup Time ____ am ____ pm	Event Start Time ____ am ____ pm	Event End Time ____ am ____ pm	Event Takedown Time ____ am ____ pm
Note: If your event includes multiple days and/or varying times, a detailed schedule must be attached.			
Event Location (provide site and route map)			
Participant Assembly Site		Participant Dispersal Site	
Number of Participants		Number of Spectators	
Will there be music at your event? ____ Yes ____ No		If Yes to music, will it be amplified? ____ Yes ____ No	
Will fees be collected? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, ____ Onsite ____ In Advance ____ Both		Will alcohol be served? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, include an additional \$25 nonrefundable fee for ABC approval from the City of Alexandria.	
Will food be served? ____ Yes ____ No. If yes, provide a description of type of food and how prepared:			
APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Name of Applicant (same as name listed at Signature)			
Street Address			Apt/Unit/Suite
City		State	Zip Code
Day Time Phone	Fax	Cell Phone	E-mail
Is the Applicant a Non Profit Organization? ____ Yes ____ No		If yes, attach current letter of verification of non profit status	



SPONSOR INFORMATION		
Are you, the Applicant, organizing this event on behalf of another organization? ___ Yes ___ No		
If yes, Name of Organization		
Street Address		Apt/Unit/Suite
City	State	Zip Code
Name of Sponsoring Organization Contact		Contact Phone
Additional Documentation Required: If you checked “Yes” above, submit an endorsement letter from the organization (on their official letterhead) on whose behalf you are organizing this event.		
Is the Sponsor a Non Profit Organization? ___ Yes ___ No	If yes, attach current letter of verification of non profit status	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Is your event a recurring walk, run or bike? ___ Yes ___ No	If yes, attach your previous year final participant roster identifying the number of participants (Do not include personal information).	

Application Checklist: All applicants requesting to stage all or any portion of a foot race / walk / bike event, must provide the following at the time of the application:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ completed application | ___ transit services acceptance letter |
| ___ City Council approved application fee(s) | ___ insurance certificate |
| ___ event manager resume | ___ recycling plan |
| ___ route & site plan | ___ endorsement letter from sponsor organization |
| ___ traffic marshal plan | ___ current certification letters of non profit tax Status |
| ___ event schedule | ___ civic & business association letters of Support |
| ___ detour & barricade plan | ___ proposed budget |
| ___ multi jurisdiction approval/application | |
| ___ parking plan | |
| ___ marketing/promotional plan | |

As an applicant for a Foot Race / Walk / Bike Event Permit, the undersigned certifies that he or she is familiar with the rules, regulations and responsibilities of the use of City facilities and equipment and that the same will be enforced and honored by the sponsoring organization. The undersigned further certifies that he or she is the legally authorized representative of the sponsoring organization, and has the legal authority to submit this application and to enter into binding contracts on behalf of the organization. The undersigned further certifies that the information furnished in this application is true and correct to the best of the undersigned knowledge and information.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Alexandria, and all City of Alexandria officers, employees, agents and representatives, from any claims (including costs of defending such claims) or damages that may arise from the occurrence of the special event or from related events. I also understand that a Foot Race / Walk / Bike Event Permit does not excuse failure to comply with orders of law enforcement personnel, firefighters or other emergency workers, and that it does not provide immunity from civil claims of third parties that are based upon damages occurring at, or in conjunction with this event.

Applicant Signature & Date

Sponsor Signature & Date

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

General Fund Budget History

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
RPCA General Fund	\$21,276,866	\$18,974,672	\$19,887,709	\$19,939,312	\$20,854,198	\$21,774,793	\$20,887,541
RPCA Revenue	\$1,703,587	\$1,983,434	\$2,193,395	\$2,485,995	\$2,851,343	\$2,893,162	\$3,157,054
Net Impact to City General Fund	\$19,573,279	\$16,991,268	\$17,794,314	\$17,453,317	\$18,002,855	\$18,881,631	\$17,730,487

New Maintenance Responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACPS School Grounds (2009) ▪ Carlyle Dog Park and Tennis Courts (2009) ▪ T.C. Williams High School Grounds (2010) ▪ South Carlyle Square (2011) ▪ 1 and 7 East Del Ray (2012) ▪ Four Mile Run Park Expansion (2012) ▪ Duron Building (2012) ▪ Potomac Yard Park Fields –Simpson Soccer (2012) ▪ Witter Recreational Fields (2012) ▪ John Adams Baseball Field (2012) ▪ Potomac Greens Park (2012) ▪ James Bland Park (2012) ▪ 3550 Commonwealth Avenue (2012) ▪ Polk Avenue Park Phase I (2013) ▪ Miracle Field (2013) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freedman’s Cemetery (2014) ▪ Curtis Avenue Linear Park (2014) ▪ Jefferson Houston School (2014) ▪ Route 1 BRT Medians (2014) ▪ Potomac Yard Park (2014) ▪ Landbay E (2014) ▪ AlexRenew Soccer Field (2015) ▪ Braddock Park interim open space (2015) ▪ Lee Center Playground expansion (2015) ▪ Potomac Yard Dog Park (2015) ▪ Four Mile Park Wetland restoration (2015) ▪ Swan Linear Park (2016) ▪ Howell Linear Park (2016)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2015

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: JANUARY 15 COMMISSION MEETING ITEM, V-B
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

Program Wrap-Ups

- **Hoop Life Winter Break Basketball Camp** is a 2-day camp held on December 22-23, offering youth ages 4-14 an opportunity to improve their skills and broaden their knowledge of the game of basketball. This camp was a huge success this year, with 40 registered participants, nearly doubling since the previous year. Total revenue for the 2-day camp is \$3,725.
- **Swim with Santa** took place at the Chinquapin Park, Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility on December 13. Participants were able to meet Santa and have their picture taken under water courtesy of Blue Octopus Scuba.
- **Swimming Classes** expanded in fall, from 66 to 100 class offerings. The 716 registrations generated \$69,352 in revenue, with 62 waitlisted. The added classes yielded nearly 30% of the registrations and 25% of the revenue.
- On December 19, William Ramsay Recreation Center conducted their **Holiday Celebration and Wintry Mix program**, featuring holiday carols, greeting card making and surprise visits from Santa and Jazz the dog. There were 220 participants with great parent support in attendance.



- On November 20, Cora Kelly and Charles Barrett Recreation Centers' Out of School Time participants faced off in the inaugural **OSTP Turkey Bowl**. The positive feedback from both players and spectators indicate that this will be an annual event. This game was designed for youth to display their skills in cheerleading and football. Congratulations to Cora Kelly OSTP on their win!



- Kid Rock's Holiday Party** took place on December 15 at Mount Vernon Recreation Center. Children ages 0-4 years took part in festive holiday activities, games and sing-along's. Kid Rock was first offered in the fall, and received such a positive response that an additional section was added for the winter schedule.

- On December 18, Patrick Henry Recreation Center sponsored its **Toys for Tots Program**. Children received gifts and expressed their talents through song and dance. Over 200 kids and parents participated in the program.

- Approximately 250 seniors throughout the City of Alexandria attended the **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Senior Brunch** at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Seniors enjoyed a catered lunch, entertainment and gifts in celebration of the holiday season.

- First Night Del Ray** returned after a 6 year hiatus and was hosted by Mount Vernon Recreation Center in partnership with First Night Alexandria and the Del Ray Business Association. The event's theme was an old-fashioned carnival with games for all ages, line dancing, a fortuneteller and many other activities. More than 400 people attended.



- The **Be Enchanted About Reading (B.E.A.R)** program got off to a great start in the fall! 28 participants ages 6 mo.-5 yrs. participated in fun and interactive story times. Due to its popularity, an additional section was added and is continuing into the in winter season.



- The Successful Aging Committee's Senior Holiday Celebration** took place on December 11 and was hosted by committee members RPCA, DCHS/Aging and Adult Services, ARHA, and Senior Services of Alexandria. Over 200 Alexandria seniors were entertained by the Harmonizers Quartet, a spirited 12 Days of Christmas sing-along, a visit from Santa and a delicious meal of baked chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, green beans and cupcakes.

- Many families enjoyed **Santa's Winter Wonderland** at Charles Houston Recreation Center. This annual weeklong program includes festivities designed to celebrate the holidays, including "Euille-Tide" stories read by Mayor Euille; gift distribution to St. Coletta's Special Needs population and RPCA Therapeutic Recreation participants;

ACPS and Community Performances; a catered reception for volunteers and partners; gifts from Santa; and pictures and breakfast with Santa.



- The **Annual Holiday Invitational Cheer Competition** hosts teams from RPCA recreation center and the metropolitan Washington area. Approximately 1,200 spectators cheered on the 13 teams that competed in three levels (Pee Wee, Youth Level and Junior Level). Recreation centers represented were Charles Houston, Patrick Henry/Ramsay, Mt. Vernon and Cora Kelly. Additional participants included Fairfax Police Athletic Club, Braddock Road Youth Club, Dulles South Youth Club, Reston Youth Club and Oxon Hill Youth Club. Hot Topic Travel Cheerleading team and James K. Polk School's Step Team performed as special guests. EZ Street, Celebrity DJ for 93.9 WKYS Radio Station, was the master of ceremonies for the 15th straight year. The spring 2015 invitational will be held on Saturday, April 18 at T.C. Williams High School. Total revenue for the event was \$7,664 almost doubling in comparison to last year.



- The **Girls Volleyball Championship** took place on December 19. The league ran from September to December, with 10 teams competing in the National Division (ages 9-11) and 7 teams competing in the American Division (ages 12-14). Congratulations to Oregon who beat North Carolina 2-0. Revenue \$8,875.



- The **Arlington/Alexandria Extension Leadership Council** hosted a legislative breakfast on December 5 to display all the programs offered to the area through Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and recognize Extension's 100th anniversary. State and local legislators, school board members, city and county department heads, staff, community leaders, and volunteers all came together to sample the educational opportunities provided through VCE. RPCA supports the Alexandria Extension Office, which is staffed with a 4-H Agent/Unit Coordinator and an administrative assistant and receives State and City funding. In 2014, the Alexandria and Arlington Extension offices reached 70,562 people through 1,200 public education programs and managed 815 volunteers who contributed 32,617 hours of service. VCE trains and manages the volunteers involved with Master Gardener, Master Food, Master Financial Education, Energy Master, Master Naturalist, and 4-H Youth Development.
- On December 12, **Wright to Read** visited the John Adams Power-On Out of School Time program and read the Dr. Seuss book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". In addition, youth were treated to a visit from the Grinch after the story. Wright to Read is a non-profit group that provides tutoring and promotes literacy for City of Alexandria elementary school children in need. Each of the 90 children who participated received a copy of the book to enjoy with their families.

Program Update

- **Out of School Time FY13 through FY15 Summer/School Year Participant and Revenue Comparison**

	FY-15 School YTD 12/31/14	FY-14 Actuals School YTD 12/31/13	FY-14 Actuals School Year 13- 14	FY-13 Actuals School Year 12-13	FY-15 Actuals Summer 2014	FY-14 Actuals Summer 2013	FY-13 Actuals Summer 2012
Program Fee	\$415	\$300	\$300	\$250	\$100	\$50	\$50
Satisfaction %	N/A	N/A	92%	92%	96%	92%	95%
Registration #	1,147	1,205	1,243	1,296	1,332	1,373	1,422
OSTP Revenue	287,675	243,292	\$268,536	\$212,225	\$103,100	\$54,352	\$32,067
Fee Assistance (Discounts)	\$112,548	\$83,856	\$87,608	\$73,050	\$28,715	\$13,798	\$3,870
Fees Charged	*434,245	*\$355,510	\$366,071	\$308,031	\$133,965	\$68,622	\$36,205

*Fees paid in installments.

- **Winter Swimming Classes** are in full swing! Enrollment as of January 2 includes 559 registered and 39 waitlisted. Revenue to date is \$54,306 in 99 classes.

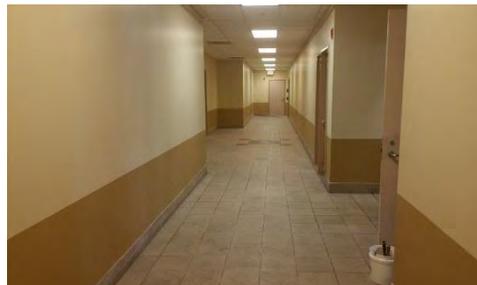
- The **Youth Achieving Greatness (YAG)** afterschool program is in its second season at Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. In the fall, kids enjoyed learning fine arts through dance taught by Ms. Elisa of Creative Movement & Ballet. YAG and Therapeutic Recreation participants enjoyed an inclusive 9-week session of basic ballet, modern dance and creative movement. The children are now looking forward to their cooking clubs in the winter section.

Upcoming Programs & Events

- **T.C. Williams Swim Meet** is the evening of January 13, at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatic Facility. Competitors include teams from T.C Williams, St. Stephens, St. Agnes, and Bishop Ireton high schools. The pool will be closed to the public beginning at 4 p.m. With nearly 400 participants and spectators, expect traffic and parking to be heavy.
- Youth ages 7-12 will compete in Charles Barrett Recreation Center's new **Video Game Tournament** for prizes and trophies on January 30. A bracket style tournament will include Madden Football on the Xbox and PlayStation 4 consoles and NFL Streets on the Game Cube console. Gamers will enjoy pizza, snacks and ice cream.
- On January 19, the Out of School Time Program presents **MLK Day with the AKA's** at Charles Houston Recreation Center. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will assist staff with throwback games and sports (Jump Rope, Double Dutch, Hula Hoop, etc.), activities, t-shirt art themed around Civil Rights and lunch for children registered in the Out of School Time program. The day will serve as a Community Project for the Sorority and a lesson in civics for the children.

Special Features

- The Lee Center recently completed renovations of its first floor restrooms and painting of the West Wing Corridor.



Staff Updates

- On December 14, 13 staff members at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility participated in In-Service Training for Pool Safety personnel.

- **Mia Parks** was promoted from Recreation Leader I to Recreation Leader II at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Mia grew up in the neighborhood and has participated in Charles Houston programs since the age of 5. She coordinates the Cheerleading Program as well as the Performing Arts Club and is involved in planning activities for the Out of School Time Program.
- Water Safety Instructor **John Wasserman** was named November's Employee of the Month.
- Water Safety Instructor Brittane Dodwell received praise via Click.Call.Connect. from a swim program parent who is also the principal at Charles Barrett Elementary School.
- Recreation Manager **Ralph Baird** was the presenter of the Best of the Industry annual awards at the Virginia Recreation and Park Society's Annual Conference held at the Homestead Resort, December 8.
- **Mac Slover**, Director of Sports, presented a session at the annual Virginia Recreation and Park Society's annual conference on December 8. The topic of the session was "Good Sports", promoting a consistent message that organizations and their players, coaches and spectators are accountable to a code of conduct that promotes sportsmanship.

Admin Update

- Fall 2014 represents the first complete season since the RecTrac registration and reservation management software was updated, resulting in more reliable data. Recreation Services will provide the following scorecard at the completion of each season:
 - Winter results will be reported each April
 - Spring results will be reported each July
 - Summer results will be reported each October
 - Fall results will be reported each January

*Reflects information managed using RecTrac.

Recreation Services SCORECARD	
	Fall FY15
Revenue from Registrations*	\$478,030
# of Registrations*	3,313
Avg. Value per Registration	\$144
# Free Drop-in Programs*	38
# of Active Households*	2,095
# of Programs Offered*	364
Success Rate	73%
Overall Satisfaction Rate	90%
Evaluation Response Rate	10%
Net Promoter Score	92%
Passes Sold	752
Pass Revenue	\$73,245
# Paid Reservations	4,589
Revenue from Reservations	\$196,310
Total Revenue	\$747,585
<i>Note: Target evaluation response rate is 20%.</i>	

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2015

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: DINESH TIWARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - PARK OPERATIONS
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS UPDATE – ITEM V-B

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE:

- Park Furniture Replacement Update
Staff continued with replacement of the park benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and other items in parks, including installation of concrete bases/footers, where needed. So far about 270 of the 350 items have been replaced using capital maintenance (CFMP) funds.
- Transition of Custodial Services
The oversight of all Custodial Services for recreation centers and other RPCA facilities was transferred from Recreation Division to Park Operations effective January 01, 2015. The transfer consolidates all maintenance functions in one division. Staff developed a transition plan to ensure uninterrupted delivery of services to support continued use of these buildings by public and staff.
- Snow Operations
Staff responded to support three (3) snow/ice events in this season so far. All staff completed the Snow and Ice Management Training (SIMA). Snow equipment training will continue into January in preparation for the 2014/2015 snow season.
- Park Maintenance
With the conclusion of the mowing season, staff efforts are focused on leaf removal, litter pickup, assembling and rehabilitating park furniture, training and performing routine park inspections and operational duties. Park light inspection and timer management is in

progress. Irrigation, restroom and water fountains' winterization is completed. General preventative maintenance for all turf equipment is in progress in preparation for the 2015 growing season.

Two staff members aquired the Playground Safety Inspection Certification, 7 completed and attained the OSHA 10 Hour certification, with 2 more scheduled to complete the program within the coming weeks. One staff member attained the Virginia Fertilizer Applicators Certification and the Virginia Pesticide Applicators Certification. Three staff successfully completed year one of the NRPA Supervisors Management School.

Planning for park improvement projects for spring 2015 includes refurbishment of the skate park, including re-decking the skate ramps, painting the frames, pressure washing all surfaces, installation of an additional access gate and a soft trail from Duke Street. Other projects include improving the Mulligan Park walkway from 28th, continued furniture replacements, and upgrades throughout the City.

Ewald Park Fence Restoration completed (before and after pictures).



- Rights-of-Way, school and public grounds maintenance
With the conclusion of the mowing season, contractor efforts are focused on leaf removal and seasonal mulching of the landscaped sites at schools, libraries, and other public grounds.

2 URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT:

- King Street Holiday Light Installation Completed
Installation of the annual King Street Seasonal Lighting over 200 trees, City's Holiday Tree and other Market Square decorations were completed and lights were energized prior to the City Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 28th. The lights will remain

energized through March 31, 2015. This year, Market Square was adorned with a White fir approximately 32 feet tall, which was grown in Swanton, Maryland. More than 7,000 LED lights were installed on the tree.

- Fall Tree Planting Program

Over 400 trees have been installed in this this season (as of December), which began in September. Planting will resume in spring, around March 15th.

3 NATURAL LAND MANAGEMENT:

- Outreach

- On November 18, 2014, staff gave a PowerPoint presentation to Alexandria's Night Blooming Garden Club on gardening with appropriate native plants, preserving native biodiversity in urban areas, etc.
- Staff provided environmental review and comments on the existing natural resources at Cameron Run Regional Park.



- Staff met with T&ES on site to discuss post-construction restoration plantings on the banks of Taylor Run at the recently completed headwall replacement project at the intersection of Janney's Lane and E. Taylor Run Pkwy.
- Training

One staff member completed the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist 2014 Fall Training and gave a presentation on the City of Alexandria's participation and contributions to the "Virginia Big Tree Program". Staff coordinated and attended the Regional Natural Resource Management Group field meeting and training – the second of the year.
- Invasive Plant Management

Staff completed a major removal and stump treatment of decades-old, highly invasive, non-native Bush Honeysuckle infestations atop the steep slope above Taylor Run along King Street at Chinquapin Park. Staff continued extensive work updating the City of Alexandria Non-Native Invasive Plant list, including new items for the regional and state lists; processed hundreds of herbarium voucher specimens, including new plant records mounted by the Friends of the City of Alexandria Herbarium; and continued work updating and revising the Alexandria Flora and natural communities.

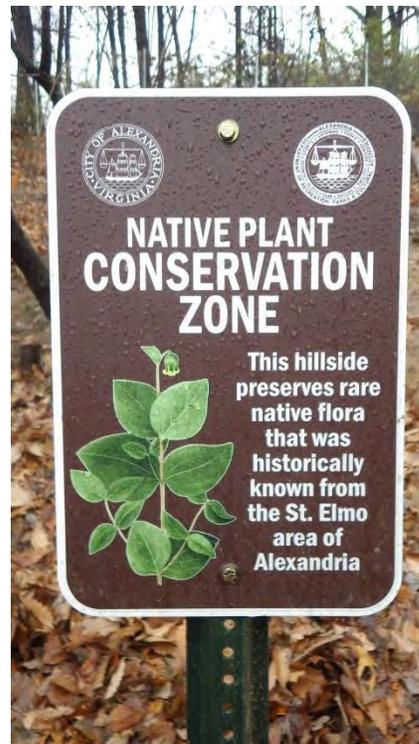
- Noteworthy

- Naturalist Rod Simmons contributed information to technical questions for Washington Post Gardening Columnist Adrian Higgins' [Quercus-pocus: Acorn magic](#) article.
- Staff assisted geologist Tony Fleming in updating and revising the *Geologic Atlas of the City of Alexandria* (expected to be completed by early summer of 2015) by sourcing and photographing old water wells throughout the City to add to the known hydrogeological data and illustrate expanded plate explanations in the report.



Bygone era: old water well at 2715 N. Rosser Street.

- Staff completed installation of “Native Plant Conservation Zone” and “No Dumping” signs at designated natural areas and parks in the City.



- Staff surveyed, assessed, and marked GPS waypoints of existing natural features meriting protection at Goat Hill Park as part of the environmental review process with Park Planning and T&ES for the Goat Hill Park Draft Improvement Recommendations.

4 JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER:

The Naturalist staff of the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center conducted 40 interpretive programs in November that were attended by 442 participants and 37 interpretive programs in December that were attended by 430 participants. Some program and operational highlights are described below:

Bird Programs at Burke Library:

In conjunction with the Nature Center’s travelling exhibit, “Birds in Alexandria”, a series of programs were conducted at the Burke Library. On the evening of November 6th, a “Pajama Time” Program was presented to 46 children (dressed in their pajamas) and their parents. The audience learned about what makes birds unique animals, what species of birds might be seen in Alexandria, examples of eggs, nests and bird calls. On the afternoon of November 11th, a similar program was conducted for adults focusing on basic bird watching and which Alexandria parks offer the best array of birds. Both groups enjoyed seeing the Nature Center’s Eastern Screech Owl.



Nature Center outreach programs are now advertised on the Alexandria Library website



Swiffer- the Eastern Screech Owl

Programs about Fall and the Changes of Seasons:

Throughout the month, many of the Nature Center’s programs focused on the topic of Fall. These include the Fall Foliage Hike conducted by Rod Simmons, a weekend program -“Nature Prepares for Winter”, two scout programs about seasonal changes and hibernation and a homeschool group focusing on leaf identification and animal migration. See photos below:



November in Dora Kelley Nature Park

Nature Center updates:

Weekend Terrarium Program at the Nature Center:

On Saturday, December 13, a program on the topic of terrariums was conducted for children ages 6 to 12 years old. The children learned about the history of this fascinating Victorian tradition. After, they made their own terrarium. All supplies were provided—glass container, soil, rocks, plants, moss and a tiny ceramic mushroom for decoration. After completion, many of the children couldn’t decide whether to give it as a holiday gift or keep it for themselves and watch it grow. This class reached in maximum number, twelve participants, within the first two days it was advertised in the RCPA Program Guide. The terrarium program was so popular that another session will be offered in March. See photos below.



A selection of plants to choose from



A terrarium ready to take home

Birthday Parties:

Once the winter season arrives, birthday parties at the Nature Center become very popular. Parties, conducted by a Naturalist, consist of a presentation with live animals from the nature center's collection, a hike (weather permitting) or indoor scavenger hunt, a nature-oriented craft and finally, cake or treats in our activity room. Our birthday parties are for children 4 to 12. The children as well as their parents enjoy and often learn something new at this special time at the nature center. See photos below:



A turtle theme party



Hiking in Dora Kelley Nature Park



Craft project



An owl birthday cake

Volunteers and Interns:

A total of 1 volunteer provided 17.5 hours of service during the month of November.
A total of 1 volunteer provided 7.5 hours of service during the month of December.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2015

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *Jack Browand*
PUBLIC RELATIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS & WATERFRONT OPERATIONS
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION: ITEM V-B.
PUBLIC RELATIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS & WATERFRONT OPERATIONS
UPDATE

Windmill Hill Park Bulkhead Replacement Project

Staff will schedule a community meeting to provide background information and gather input from attendees in late January. The meeting will include a brief presentation covering the project area, history and goals. There will be opportunities for attendees to ask questions and to provide feedback. This is the first of multiple meetings to complete phase 1 of the project.

Marina Dredging Project

Dredging of the A/B pier area is complete. Dredging is currently occurring in the G/H pier area with final activity in the central portion of the Marina.

City Marina Wharf Strengthening Project

Construction activities are underway.

Blackwall Hitch Restaurant (Food Court Pavilion) Redevelopment

Construction for the Blackwall Hitch Restaurant is underway and anticipated completion is mid-March 2015. Consistent with the SUP application, the City will renovate existing restrooms for community use.

Special Events Policy Update

For additional information on proposed policy updates, visit

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/SpecialEventsPolicyUpdate15Jan15.pdf>.

Waterfront Plan Implementation

For additional information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Waterfront.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2015

TO: ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

ITEM: MONTHLY UPDATE FOR PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION;
NOVEMBER, 2014-JANUARY, 2015 –ITEM V-B

ISSUE:

The following items are provided to the Park & Recreation Commission as information at its December 15, 2015 meeting:

- Capital Projects Update
- Capital Facilities Maintenance Projects Update
- Memo regarding Four Mile Run Sewer Bypass
- 2014-15 Fields Report

- Cameron Run Documents
 - Memo to Park & Recreation Commission; November 20, 2014
 - Memo to Park & Recreation Commission from Environmental Policy Commission; January 08, 2015
 - Remnant Natural Areas Technical Report 12-1; February, 2012

HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS IN BRIEF:

Witter Athletic Fields

Installation of staff-proposed nylon netting system along the north side of the diamond field at Witter Recreational Fields is complete. The purpose of this work is to provide additional safety enhancements for neighboring property and City Right of Way.

The existing Witter facility was approved by the City under Development Special Use Permit #2007-0014. A Special Use Permit is required for construction of the safety netting and was approved by the Planning Commission on October 07, 2014 and City Council on October 18, 2014 as SUP #2014-0078. The Park & Recreation Commission and Land Rover-Alexandria provided letters in support of the application request.

Beverly Park Renovation

Renovation of Beverly Park playground is a part of the City's Capital Improvement Program for playgrounds. The work includes renovation of the playground, picnic shelter and remedy of the park's eroded slope areas. Staff is working with the North Ridge Civic Association, obtaining information via a community survey and open houses held on November 15 and 19. For additional information see <http://alexandriava.gov/27060#Beverley>.

Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Corridor - Planning Process Update

Detailed information about the planning process and the Advisory Group/public meetings can be found online at: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=76672>.

Braddock Neighborhood Interim Open Space (600 N. Henry St.)

The Park and Recreation Commission approved a concept plan for interim improvements to the Braddock Open Space in January 2014. Following demolition of the existing building and surrounding site this past August and September, implementation of the approved interim open space plan is underway, with completion expected late this fall. A group of neighbors from Braddock Lofts submitted an agreement to adopt the new open space once it's complete. The firm Andropogon, Inc. of Philadelphia, PA was selected to complete the concept design for the one-acre park. A meeting with the consultant will be held early Spring 2015.

Chinquapin Feasibility Study

The final Task 1B Report was completed by the consultant firm (Hughes Group). The Final Report includes the market analysis and development of three (3) site alternatives, as well as results from the September 4 public meeting, was completed on September 30. Task 2 of the study will begin in December, ending with a preferred alternative, refined cost estimates, and a recommended operating plan.

STAFF: Park Planning, Design + Capital Development Division

Active Park Planning Projects

Friday, January 09, 2015

5:08:37 PM

Lead	Project Name	Team	%Complete	Est. Completion
RPCA/ACPS				
	Patrick Henry Recreation Center Renovation	Ron and Beth	5%	01-Jun-16
	Notes: ACPS school replacement study community meetings on-going. Feasibility Study RFP approved by ACPS School Board 11.07. RFP awarded October, 2014. Feasibility study in progress.			
RPCA				
	Chinquapin Feasibility Study	RMK LD	in progress	30-Apr-15
	Notes: Task1B is complete (October) and we will have a public meeting Jan/Feb. 2015.			
	Fort Ward Park	LD		31-Jan-15
	Notes: Management Plan to City Council in January.			
	Four Mile Run Restoration	Dana/Ron	60% CD	31-Dec-15
	Notes: 100% design received. Construction manager selected and contract prepared for signature. Construction contractor RFP in purchasing. Start date to be March 2. JTF meeting scheduled for Feb 4.			
	Kelly Cares Playground Expansion	JL DW	50% cdocs	01-Oct-14
	Notes: Kelley Cares fundraising complete. Contribution of \$90,000 anticipated 6/25/2014. Initial concept plan reviewed and approved. Moving to CDs for project delivery Winter 2015.			
	Neighborhood Parks Plan	DW LD		01-Jan-16
	Notes: Community feedback summaries complete. Draft recommendations in development and will be provided to PRC in Spring 2015.			
	Potomac Yard Park	Beth and Ron	70% Construction	31-Dec-14
	Notes: Phase I (main body) opened December 14. Phase II (south trail) anticipated to be complete spring 2015. Phase III (North Pond) to be separated and complete spring 2015.			
	Simpson Dog Park Lights	DW		01-Mar-15
	Notes: Community meeting scheduled for January 15th. Ty Specht managing solicitation. Installation expected for February.			
	Simpson Playground & Passive area Renovation	JL		01-Apr-16
	Notes: LWCF grant approved for project. Set to begin in July 2015 with match from CIP.			
ACPS				
	John Adams Transportation Improvements	DW		01-Jun-15
	Notes: CC approved plan on 11/15. Parking lot expansion set to begin in spring.			
	Long Range Educational Facilities Plan	DW		01-Apr-15
	Notes: Mini Master Plans in draft. Draft plan will present to PRC in February.			



Active Rec CFMP Projects

Parks, Recreation + Cultural Activities /
Department of General Services

January 16, 2015

FY	Project Name	Project Code	Facility Name	Status	% Complete
FY 2014	Restrooms Upgrade	CB-14-01	Charles Barrett Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Kitchen-Multi Purpose Upgrade	CB-14-02	Charles Barrett Center	In procurement	-0-
FY 2014	HVAC Commissioning	CK-14-02	Cora Kelly Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2014	New HVAC Controls	CK-14-05	Cora Kelly Center	Pending Funds	-0-
FY 2014	Gym Doors Replacment	CK-14-04	Cora Kelly Center	Executing	85%
FY 2014	Bleachers Replacement	CK-14-03	Cora Kelly Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Lockers in Pool Office, Ph I	CN-14-01	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	Completed FY12	100%
FY 2014	Windows Repair-Glazing	CN-14-02	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	On Hold	-0-
FY 2014	Fabric Acoustic Panels	OD-14-03	Oswald Durant Arts Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Restroom Lighting Upgrade	LC-14-06	Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Fire Alarm Upgrade	LC-14-05	Lee Center	Executing	95%
FY 2014	HVAC Work - New Chillers	LC-14-03	Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Restroom Renovations	LC-14-04	Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Bleachers Replacement	MV-14-05	Mt. Vernon Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Repair Curtain Motor, Gym	MV-14-04	Mt. Vernon Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Resurface Gym Floor	MV-14-03	Mt. Vernon Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	HVAC Unit Replacement	MV-14-01	Mt. Vernon Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Restrooms Renovations	NL-14-05	Nannie J. Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	New Reception Counter	NL-14-04	Nannie J. Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Gym Bleacher Replacement	NL-14-01	Nannie J. Lee Center	Canceled	

FY	Project Name	Project Code	Facility Name	Status	% Complete
FY 2014	Gym Curtain	NL-14-03	Nannie J. Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Gym Floor Resurface	NL-14-02	Nannie J. Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Replace Damaged Dance Floor	WR-14-01	William Ramsay Center	Completed	100%
FY 2015	Window sealing	BF-15-01	Buddie Ford Center	In procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Replace fitness equipment with new	CB-14-01	Charles Barrett Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Window sealing	CB-15-02	Charles Barrett Center	In procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Lobby Floor Finish Replacement	CK-15-01	Cora Kelly Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Restroom lighting	CK-15-03	Cora Kelly Center	In procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Restroom upgrades	CK-15-02	Cora Kelly Center	In procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Hot water heater	CK-15-04	Cora Kelly Center	Pending funds	-0-
FY 2015	Natatorium Door Replacement	CN-15-03	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	In Proucurement	-0-
FY 2015	Windows Repair-Glazing	CN-15-01	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Lockers in Pool Office, Ph. 2	CN-15-02	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Natatorium Doors Replacement	CN-15-05	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	In Procuremnt	-0-
FY 2015	LED Lighting Upgrade	CN-15-04	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Floor system repairs	CO--15-01	Colasanto Arts Center	Executing	30%
FY 2015	Stage Lighting System	OD-14-02	Oswald Durant Arts Center	On Hold/Delayed	-0-
FY 2015	New Flooring and Wall base	OD-15-02	Oswald Durant Arts Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Decommission AC Units	OD-13-01	Oswald Durant Arts Center		-0-
FY 2015	New Flooring in Corridor	OD-15-01	Oswald Durant Arts Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Window replacement	LC-15-06	Lee Center	Pending Funds	-0-
FY 2015	Paint cooridor	LC-15-06	Lee Center		-0-

FY	Project Name	Project Code	Facility Name	Status	% Complete
FY 2015	Restrooms Wall covering Replacement	LC-15-03	Lee Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Cooling towere replaement	LC-15-07	Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2015	Fenestration System Replacement	LC-15-02	Lee Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Replace Cabinets in Kitchen	LC-14-02	Lee Center	On Hikd	-0-
FY 2015	RTU#2 replacement	LC-15-06	Lee Center	Executing	50%
FY 2015	Exterior lighting upgrades	LC-15-05	Lee Center	Pending Funds	-0-
FY 2015	Fire Panel	LC-15-04	Lee Center	Executing	75%
FY 2015	Millwork Replacement (Multiple Areas)	LC-14-01	Lee Center	On Hold	-0-
FY 2015	Replace Corridor Water Cooler	LC-15-01	Lee Center	Preliminary Phase	-0-
FY 2015	Exterior lighting upgrades	MV-15-03	Mt. Vernon Center	Planning	-0-
FY 2015	Roof replacememt	MV-15-02	Mt. Vernon Center	Pending funds	-0-
FY 2015	Reception desk upgrade	MV-15-01	Mt. Vernon Center	In Procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Activity Room Ceiling Replacement	MV-14-02	Mt. Vernon Center	Old Hold	-0-
FY 2015		NL-15-02	Nannie J. Lee Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	New Fitness Equipment	NL-15-01	Nannie J. Lee Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	New Fitness Equipment	WR-15-01	William Ramsay Center	On Hold/Delayed	-0-
FY 2015	Install Sound Baffles	WR-15-02	William Ramsay Center	On Hold/Delayed	-0-



MEMORANDUM

ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES
1500 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

TELEPHONE: 703-549-3381
www.alexrenew.com

TO: City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Janelle Okorie, Director, Engineering Programs
Alexandria Renew Enterprises

DATE: January 8, 2015

SUBJECT: Four Mile Run Pump Station Upgrade Project –
Manhole Reconstruction and Temporary Sewer Line Bypass
DSUP #2012-0027
3650 Commonwealth Avenue
Approved by City Council on May 18, 2013

In the summer of 2014, Alexandria Renew Enterprises (“AlexRenew”) began construction on the Four Mile Run Pump Station Upgrade project. The Four Mile Run Pump Station has been in service since 1954. The upgrade project involves a series of construction-related improvements to reduce rag accumulation, improve wet weather operations, and upgrade the pump station to meet current electrical and other code requirements.

Please be advised that as part of the Four Mile Run Pump Station Upgrade project, AlexRenew is reconstructing two manholes (Manhole 11 and Manhole 12 per Attachment A) to improve flow capacity. The manhole reconstruction requires the installation of a temporary, above ground bypass pipe and pump. This bypass equipment will be generally located as depicted on Attachment A. The bypass equipment will be installed in late February/early March and will remain in place for approximately 5 weeks to facilitate reconstruction of both manholes. During this period, the bypass system will be in operation from Monday – Friday, between the hours of 7:00 am and 6:00 pm. If weekend work is required, the work will take place on Saturday between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

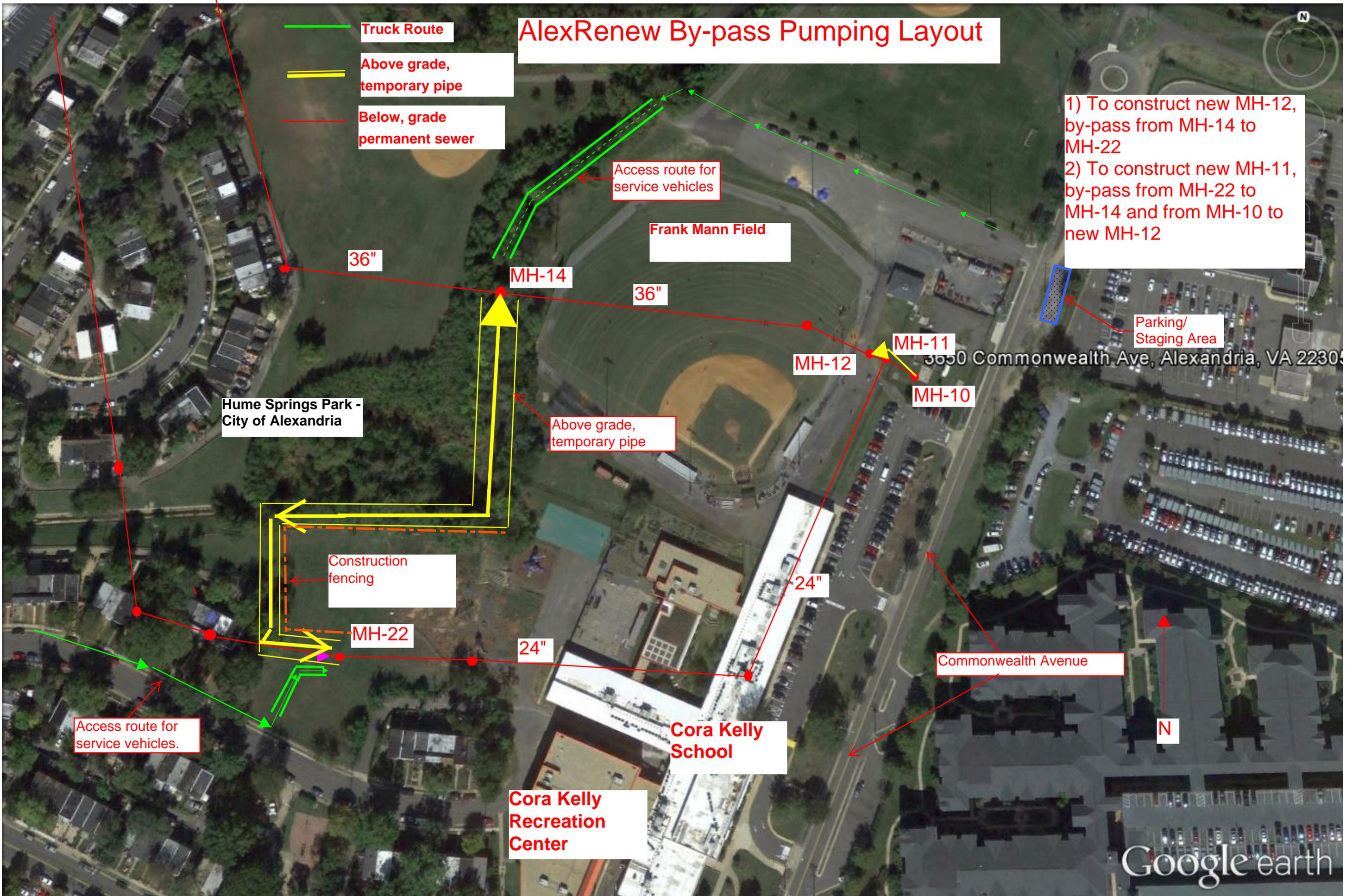
AlexRenew’s construction management plan will be enforced during the installation and operation of the bypass system. The bypass system will be continuously monitored by AlexRenew and its contractor, Clark Construction. Additionally, as safety and security measures, fencing will be placed around the bypass system and additional signage will be installed to make the public aware of this construction activity.

If you have any questions about this operation or the Four Mile Run Pump Station Upgrade project, please contact me via phone at (703) 549-3381 ext. 2225 or via email at Janelle.Okorie@alexrenew.com.

AlexRenew By-pass Pumping Layout

- Truck Route
- Above grade, temporary pipe
- Below, grade permanent sewer

- 1) To construct new MH-12, by-pass from MH-14 to MH-22
- 2) To construct new MH-11, by-pass from MH-22 to MH-14 and from MH-10 to new MH-12



3650 Commonwealth Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
SPORTS FIELDS NEEDS UPDATE

WINTER 2014/15



Youth Sports Advisory Board

Jim Gibson (Chair)

Bill Rivers (Secretary)

Terri Belcher

Dennis Burstein

Kelly Booz

Steve Cann

Gustav Chiarello

Steve Colantuoni

Laura Fries

Ed Goeas

Beth Hamed

Owen Malone

Brian McPherson

Melvin Miller

Jeff Murphy

Susan Nelson

Judy Noritake

Tommy Park

Dennis Randolph

Bill Simmons

Donnie Simpson

Richard Stone

John Timmons

Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities

Park Planning, Design + Capital Development

Recreation Services

Park Operations

INTRODUCTION

The City of Alexandria maintains 51 fields or open spaces used for athletic purposes, such as soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, baseball, and softball. Due to the density of population in the City, these fields are very heavily programmed. While some of the newer sites, particularly the synthetic turf fields, are able to accommodate this intense use, many of the fields are deteriorating and in need of investment.

Since 2009, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities staff have conducted several studies to assess the needs for field space and how to prioritize those needs. The following report summarizes the progress and provides updates on the findings in those studies. This report will assist in informing future maintenance, planning, and Capital Improvement Program decisions.



Rectangular Fields

Current Demand

The 2009 RPCA Athletic Fields Study found 9,546 youth and adults participated in RPCA sports programs on rectangular fields (approximately 7% of the 143,903 residents). The study, shown as an addendum to this report, found that the demand for field use was 24,085 hours of playing time. To meet this demand, RPCA needed four lighted synthetic fields or 21 natural turf fields to meet the user demand.

Since that time, the City and ACPS have built four synthetic rectangular fields to meet most of the 2009 demand (not current demand):

- Brenman, including lights (2010)
- 2 fields at Witter, including lights (2013)
- Upper Hammond, without lights (2013)
- The field at Jefferson-Houston will be complete in 2015

Future Demand

Census findings estimate that by calendar year 2020, the City of Alexandria population will increase to 153,205. If RPCA continues to have 7% enrollment in sports programs, the demand for playing hours will increase to 27,058 (2,973 additional hours). Therefore, to meet the expected growing population, the City will need two additional synthetic turf fields converted by 2020. This number only includes programmed RPCA use, not school use of the fields, and does not assume increased interest in RPCA programs.

Staff has planned the following fields to meet this future need:

1. Hensley field is planned for conversion through the City's CIP in FY18
2. Alexandria Renew Enterprises (formerly Alexandria Sanitation Authority) at Eisenhower (expected to be built in 2016, but may be re-purposed by ARE in 2025)
3. Ramsey Recreation Center field conversion is included as part of the Beauregard Development plan



Brenman Park



Witter Fields

Maintenance

Synthetic Fields typically have a 10-year life span and then must be re-carpeted to remain in good condition. The following fields are scheduled for re-carpeting in the City's CIP:

1. Minnie Howard
 - Estimated cost: \$1.6m (includes field expansion and new lights)
 - Scheduled for FY17 in City's CIP
2. Ft. Ward
 - Estimated cost: \$500,000
 - Scheduled for FY18 in City's CIP
3. Upper Hammond
 - Estimated cost: \$500,000
 - Scheduled for FY19 in ACPS CIP
4. Ben Brenman
 - Estimated cost: \$500,000
 - Scheduled for FY20 in City's CIP
5. Witter
 - Estimated cost: \$1m (two fields)
 - Scheduled for FY22 in City's CIP

RECTANGULAR FIELDS

In addition to synthetic turf fields, Four Mile Run Park, Chinquapin Park and Simpson Park (built as part of the Potomac Yard Development) have regulation size natural turf fields requiring maintenance. Chinquapin Park, in particular is in poor condition. The Citywide Parks Improvement Plan recommends a full renovation of the Chinquapin fields to serve both sports and open space needs. The plans show the fields as engineered natural turf at a cost ranging from \$756,262 to \$960,282. The FY15-24 budget does not fund this recommendation.

In May 2012 and in July 2013, the City of Alexandria Youth Sports Advisory Board (YSAB) participated in a feedback exercises to identify all maintenance and site issues at the City fields. YSAB is an approved body of the Parks and Recreation Commission and includes a representative from each of the sports leagues, ensuring that all programmed uses are equal at the table. For the exercise, the Staff posted aerial images of all the fields on a wall and participants used post-it notes to record their experiences and opinions of the sites. The list on the following page tracks the feedback and subsequent maintenance responses.



FEEDBACK & ACTION ITEMS

Youth Sports Advisory Board Field Exercise - 2013 Update

RPCA MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Short/Long Term	Site	Issue	Notes/Action Item	Next Step	Spring 2013 Update
	Braddock	Cut off the Shortcut to metro	Staff will review options, including fencing and/or signage, to determine the most effective means to deter shortcuts.	Place deterrent this fall and monitor for effectiveness	Permanent fence installed in Winter 2013
		Softball fields not well maintained	Field is maintained to current standard for practice fields – dragging of infield 3 times/week and bi-weekly grass mowing during the play season.	Staff will review the field enhancement options and costs with schools for possible implementation this fall, subject to the availability of the funding.	Removal of contaminated top layer of exposed soil, clean top soil imported and placed, aerated and over seeded.
	Fort Ward Field	field lining colors an issue	Lines have been repainted	None	N/A
	Simpson Stadium Baseball Field	Nail drag needs to be used on more consistent basis	Nail drag can only be used when the infield mix is water saturated. However, due to the baseball game schedules, this can only take place periodically.	Staff will nail drag prior to games as often as schedule will allow.	Condition of infields improved dramatically when crew received new a ball field machine. Nail drag used as often as schedule allows.
		High graded cushion needed against the backstop	Staff will coordinate with Mac and TC Williams for the purchase, cost sharing, and the installation of a new backstop cushion this fall.	Contact Mac and T C Williams' baseball coach to coordinate.	New padding arrived but did not come with proper hardware to install. Staff to install ASAP with help from TC.
		Water to the field needs to be turned on earlier in the spring to accommodate TC schedule;	System is winterized. As such, the water cannot be turned on for late February practices.	Staff will review weather and temperatures to determine if request for early turn on of water can be accommodated in the spring, 2013.	Water turned on first week in March. Colder than normal spring caused a delay.
	Little Simpson	the infield grass is "worn out" and needs to be re-seeded or otherwise repaired	This field was over seeded on 9/01/12	Staff will monitor for growth and coverage, and over seed again, if necessary.	Over seeding to occur in Fall after season. Field condition has improved.
		water pools along 1B line in infield so regarding needs to occur there	This area has been re-graded. A reduction in pooling was observed as of 9/7/12.	Staff will monitor this area while mowing and add infield mix and re-grade as required to reduce pooling.	Premium infield mix imported and placed to address this issue.
		The batting cage netting is wearing out and should be replaced.	One net is in disrepair.	This net will be replaced in the fall, 2012.	Netting purchased and ready for installation by Little League.
	Big Simpson	New home plate and pitching rubber needed (currently misaligned)	They were replaced in spring 2012 for both fields, and appear in good shape.	Monitor for wear.	Complete
		Bunker at big Simpson has to be re-graded to stop flooding	Staff has installed an aggregate French Drain along the entrance to address the flooding (Work completed on 9/6/12).	Monitor for flooding	Bunker scheduled for removal as part of CIP project
	Hensley Rectangular	Grass is worn at Rectangular Field	Staff is contracting with Premier Sports to repair the worn areas of the field.	Staff is contracting with Premier Sports to repair the worn areas of the field.	Repairs completed. Implemented a nutrient management plan
	Brenman Baseball	Skin the infield (#1 priority for ALL)	Purchase Order submitted	schedule work	
	Mt. Vernon Field	Field is heavily used and grass surface is in need of repair	Staff will aerate and apply a mixed perennial rye grass seed to repair the field. This work will be scheduled in September, 2012	Top dress the field in future, as needed.	2012 Over seeding was completed and the field will undergo another top dressing summer 2013
	Luckett	The field has poor drainage and the infield is "sandy" in its consistency.	Staff is contracting with Premier Sports to repair the worn areas of the field.	Staff will work with Park Planning Division to explore capital Maintenance funding for this project.	Included in the Proposed FY14-23 budget for a CFMP project in FY15

DIAMOND FIELDS

Diamond Fields

In 2014, 4,257 people participated in sports programs on diamond fields. This includes sponsored programs, affiliates, rentals and camps. It accounts for roughly 3% of the population in the City of Alexandria. The census estimates the population will increase to 153,205 in 2020. If we continue at the current rate of enrollment there will be an additional 390 players (4,657 total) by this time.

On October 14, 2014, the City of Alexandria Youth Sports Advisory Board participated in a feedback exercise to identify all current maintenance and site issues at the City's diamond fields. Staff posted aerial images of all fields on a wall and participants used post-it notes to record their experiences and opinions of the sites. The following table provides a list of the comments on each site and a coordinated RPCA response, where necessary:

Ownership	Site	YSAB Post-it Note Comment from exercise on October 14, 2014	RPCA Response/Action Item
SHORT-TERM ACTION ONCE PROGRAM DECISIONS MADE			
RPCA	Stevenson Baseball Field	No comments	Potential to upgrade field, allowing alleviation from other fields
RPCA	Four Mile Field #3	Under utilized	Potential to upgrade field, allowing alleviation from other fields
RPCA	Angel Park Field	No comments	Potential to upgrade field, allowing alleviation from other fields
RPCA	Kelley Cares Miracle Field and Lee Center	Better maintenance (grass, plants, weeding)	Potential to upgrade field #1 with improved irrigation, allowing alleviation from other fields
RPCA	Kelley Cares Miracle Field and Lee Center	Great facility. We need more Miracles!	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #1	Multi-use turf (baseball/rugby/football/soccer/LAX)	Will begin discussions with ACPS on undertaking a comprehensive plan for recreational needs once new Potomac Yard path complete.
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #1	Big. Not very nice	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #1	Good for multi-use	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #2	Poor upkeep	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #2	Big. Not very nice	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #2	Good for multi-use	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #3	Make this a complex	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #3	Much nicer since fences went up in all fields	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #3	Good space but rugby needs it	
ACPS	Braddock Softball Field #3	Big. Not very nice	
RPCA	Luckett Field	Drainage issues around the outfield area	Will look into grading needs through neighborhood parks plan to improve drainage
MID-TERM ACTION			
RPCA	Hensley Field#1	Good field. AA should fit easily	Full site renovation scheduled for FY16-18; includes 3 fields and rectangular, per the park plan
RPCA	Hensley Field#2	Prefer multi-turf field sport	
RPCA	Hensley Field#2	Drainage issues	
RPCA	Hensley Field#2	More parking	
RPCA	Hensley Field#3	Upkeep could be better	
RPCA	Hensley Field#3	Wet outfields	
LONG-TERM ACTION/DISCUSSION			
RPCA	Little Simpson Softball Field	Better drainage is needed	Improved drainage requires full re-grading; est. to cost \$100,000. Will need to look at priorities in CIP and alternative funding sources.
ACPS	Mount Vernon Field	Improve quality/durability of grass surface	Can discuss with ACPS
ACPS	Mount Vernon Field	Put futsal/multi-use court	
ACPS	Patrick Henry Lower Field	Maintenance could be better	Hold until school renovation
ACPS	Patrick Henry Lower Field	Should be turfed as multi-use	
ACPS	William Ramsay Field	Improve futsal	Hold until Beauregard turf field
ACPS	William Ramsay Field	Improve grass surface	
	Other	Use St.Stephens/St.Agnes and Episcopal fields for shared use	For ALL to negotiate use

F E E D B A C K & A C T I O N I T E M S

OTHER/MORE INFORMATION NEEDED			
RPCA	Chambliss Park	Needs better drainage	Need more information
ACPS	Charles Barrett Baseball Field	Improve quality of grass	Drainage improvements underway
RPCA	Frank Mann Field	Parked cars are often hit by baseballs	No recent issues we are aware of; Witter netting will set precedent, if needed at FMR.
RPCA	Brenman Softball	Parking needed	RPCA will review parking during peak program time.
NO ACTION ITEMS			
RPCA	Witter Field	No comments	
ACPS	George Mason ES Ball Fields	No comments	
RPCA	Four Mile Softball Field#2	Possibility for overlay?	
RPCA	Four Mile Softball Field#2	Big, nice field	
RPCA	Frank Mann Field	Very good	
RPCA	Frank Mann Field	Nice	
RPCA	Frank Mann Field	Grass base paths	
RPCA	Frank Mann Field	Turf infield	
RPCA	Simpson Stadium Baseball Field	Some drainage issues	
RPCA	Simpson Stadium Baseball Field	Grass base paths	
RPCA	Simpson Stadium Baseball Field	Nice; one of the best fields in NoVA for a long time	
RPCA	Simpson Stadium Baseball Field	turf infield	
RPCA	Lyles Crouch	No comments	
ACPS	James K. Polk Upper Field	No comments	

Based on the comments from the Diamond Field exercise, RPCA recommends the following next steps:

1. Recreation Services will complete its migration to real-time based scheduling instead of block scheduling. Currently, users are permitted for large blocks of time and given the flexibility to use the field any time within the permit. The permit system does not reflect when users are actually on the field. A migration to real-time scheduling will show actual field use times and accurately reflect the use needs and demands.
2. If real-time based scheduling proves a demand for additional diamond fields, Park Operations will upgrade one of the following locations, shown in priority order. these fields can also be upgraded to anticipate the 2020 program demand.
 - a. Stevenson Park, upgrades may include:
 - i. Installation of irrigation in conjunction with the upcoming DEQ air quality monitoring station
 - ii. Overlay a soccer field for non-programmed use (based on the community feedback in the Neighborhood Park Plan)
 - iii. Install a portable, seasonal fence for baseball
 - b. Four Mile Run Field #3, upgrades may include:
 - i. Irrigation
 - ii. Improved infield
 - iii. New backstop and furniture
 - c. Lee Center Field #1, upgrades may include:
 - i. Extend irrigation from Miracle Field to field #1
 - d. Angel Field, this field is shown last in priority because there is no dedicated parking
3. Engage in discussions with ACPS on future of Braddock fields. These three ball fields with an overlay are the largest in the City without a clear short and long-term plan. This iste has potential to provide a multi-sport facility opportunity.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2015

TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS OF THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: COORDINATED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE CAMERON
RUN AREA - ITEM IV-B

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission endorsement of a proposed coordinated plan for the park and open space in the Cameron Run area, including Joseph “Hensley” Park, Great Waves Water Park and Lake Cook (Cameron Run Regional Park), Clermont Natural Area, and the connecting trail system to nearby open space at Tarleton Park and Ben Brenman Park.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission:

1. Consider the comments and information received at and subsequent to the November 20, 2014 public hearing on the draft plan;
2. Recommend any final changes to be included in the plan; and
3. Endorse a Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area (including recommended changes) to guide ongoing planning efforts in the area and to include with any future lease documents with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

BACKGROUND: The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) received a staff memorandum containing details about the planning process and the draft Cameron Run Area Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan (Attachment 1), and held a public hearing on the draft plan on November 20, 2014. Along with a discussion with the Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), Paul Gilbert, four residents spoke at the public hearing and another two provided comments through email in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Gilbert did not support any components of the draft plan that could impact or limit NVRPA’s use or options for future use of the property they currently lease from the City (the Cameron Run Regional Park site). NVRPA supports the stormwater improvements to Lake Cook and future nature trail connections in the Clermont Natural Area and adjacent property known as

Clermont Cove. The other speakers at the public hearing supported protection of the existing native woodland and other existing natural resources on the Cameron Regional Park site, Clermont Natural Area and the site known as Clermont Cove. The public speakers described the existing natural features, including rare native plant and tree species and recommended protection and improved management of those resources.

DISCUSSION: After closing the public hearing, the PRC asked for some additional information and agreed to discuss the topic and make a recommendation regarding the plan at their regular January meeting. The PRC asked for staff to:

- Show the Resource Protection Area (RPA) on the plan;
- Provide available additional details regarding natural resources inventory and natural history of the site; and
- Request and consolidate written follow up comments from public speakers.

One of the speaker's, Susan Gitlin, is a member of the Environmental Policy Commission, but the commission had not yet taken a formal vote or position. The PRC asked for a letter from the EPC stating that commission's position on the draft plan.

Through the preparation and receipt of the above items, and with the noted exception of the NVRPA's position, there is clear support for the draft plan's proposed protected natural areas, designated active and passive recreation areas, and improved connectivity throughout the planning area:

1. The RPA delineation (Attachment 2) shows that a significant amount of the wooded/natural area on the Cameron Run Regional Park site, and all of the area surrounding Lake Cook, is currently under associated regulatory RPA protection that restricts any future expansion/development of impervious areas within.
2. The natural resource documentation (Attachment 3), details significant and sometimes uncommon flora located within the Coordinated Plan area and describes the Cameron Run Regional Park site as "...the only remaining station in the lower Holmes Run valley for this regionally uncommon to rare community type, including a number of species that do not occur elsewhere in Alexandria, such as Smooth Beardtongue (*Penstemon laevigatus*), Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*), and others."
3. Written comments from the public speakers (Attachment 4) support protection of existing wooded, natural areas and request that additional areas of the plan be labeled as "protected natural areas", including those within the RPA.
4. The letter from the EPC (Attachment 5) provided support for the draft plan, with a focus on the importance of protecting the wooded natural areas throughout as an important step in the implementation of the City's Environmental Action Plan and Urban Forestry Master Plan.

The Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area provides a framework for the area connecting the Eisenhower East Plan Area (complete) and the Eisenhower West Plan

Area (planning currently underway). The Coordinated Plan provides a link and continuity between the mix of greenways and more urban parks in Eisenhower East to the community's vision of the same in Eisenhower West. Parks and open space are a central focus in the approved Eisenhower East Plan and a framing element for the Eisenhower West Planning currently underway. The Coordinated Park Plan supports the themes of those plans, including:

- Open space, and a system of varied parkland uses, as a valued asset;
- Ample pedestrian access to community amenities; and
- Preserved and enhanced Resource Protection Areas, envisioned as a continuous natural park system straddling the stream valley and encompassing the area's waterways and watershed (Hooff's Run, Backlick Run and Cameron Run).

The plan includes active and passive recreation opportunities, options for future unpaved (soft) trail connections, and enhanced protection of significant natural areas.

Based on the public hearing and subsequent documentation and written comments provided, staff recommends that the PRC endorse a Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2014

TO: CHAIRS & MEMBERS OF THE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

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

SUBJECT: RECEIPT AND ENDORSEMENT OF A COORDINATED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE CAMERON RUN AREA - ITEM II

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission receipt of a proposed coordinated plan for the park and open space in the Cameron Run area, including Joseph “Hensley” Park, Great Waves Water Park and Lake Cook (Cameron Run Regional Park), Clermont Natural Area, and the connecting trail system to nearby open space at Tarleton Park and Ben Brenman Park.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission:

1. Receive and hold a public hearing on the draft plan; and
2. Endorse the plan to guide ongoing planning efforts in the area and to include with any future lease documents with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

BACKGROUND:

In 1981, the City of Alexandria signed a forty year lease with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) to enhance recreational opportunities for Alexandria citizens by allowing the use of City land in exchange for the construction and operation of major recreational facilities. The original lease involved 53 acres of land, including the current Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, the Hensley Park site and the triangular piece of land opposite Hensley, currently used as the City’s mulch site. Attached to the lease was a “synthesis plan” for improvements to the property. The lease was modified over time and the current lease is for 31 acres of the Cameron Run Regional Park property that includes the Great Waves Water Park, batting cages, miniature golf, picnic shelters, an outdoor play feature, and 4.3 acres of native woodland. The site also includes Lake Cook.

NVRPA recently submitted a proposal to the City for additional capital improvements to the site, including a new significant water feature and reconfigured parking, both requiring a

Development Special Use Permit. Prior to making a significant capital investment in the property, NVRPA also requested a forty year extension of the existing lease. Forty years is the longest period the City can authorize a lease of public property, and any lease must be approved by the Alexandria City Council.

The City of Alexandria is committed to the long term protection and provision of public open space for residents and visitors. There will be a higher demand in the future on existing park areas. The quality, extent, and variety of recreation uses sought by the public are changing with the demographics of the City. Due to the long-term nature of the requested lease of public open space, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) initiated a public process to develop a coordinated park and open space plan that best meet public recreation and open space needs in the Cameron Run area, including the currently leased property (June 2014 memorandum, Attachment 1).

The planning effort considers a number of items related to the future of the Cameron Run area, including:

- Stormwater Requirements in the Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Act and related design improvements to Lake Cook;
- Additional improvements considered for the nearby Clermont Natural Area and Clermont Cove properties to compliment improvements to Lake Cook;
- The boundary of the Eisenhower West Small Area Planning process now underway includes Hensley Park and the Clermont properties, but not Cameron Run Regional Park. Community feedback and surveys from that planning process show significant support for natural areas, parks, trails and recreation opportunities;
- The recently endorsed Citywide Parks Plan for Hensley;
- The Synthesis Plan currently referenced in the lease with NVRPA is out of date and does not reflect current conditions or needs; and
- Growing population places increasing demands on existing public open space and recreational facilities. The 31 acres of open space included in the current lease, along with the nearby open space, parks and trails must be planned to best meet the needs of a growing Alexandria.

The planning process included a review and inventory of current and future plans for the study area, meetings with NVRPA and the public, and a citywide statistically representative survey on residents' regional park needs (Leisure Vision 2014 Regional Parks Survey, Attachment 2). Based on this process staff developed a draft Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area (Attachment 3).

DISCUSSION: The draft Cameron Run Area Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan addresses findings from the public process and supports other approved City Plans such as the *Eco-City Action Plan*, the *Urban Forestry Master Plan* and the *Open Space Master Plan*. The Regional

Parks Survey showed that approximately 55% of Alexandrians visit Cameron Run Regional Park at least once a year. In addition, the survey identified the following regional park facilities that would be most used by Alexandrians:

- Walking and biking trails (85%)
- Natural areas and wildlife habitat (56%)
- Picnic shelters and meeting space (43%)
- Miniature golf course (35%)
- Outdoor swimming pool (35%)
- Leisure pool/water park (34%).

These findings support the current uses at Cameron Run Regional Park, as well as improved access to and protection of Lake Cook and the surrounding natural areas and additional trail connections throughout the study area. The findings are also closely associated with the City's 2013 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment.

The draft Coordinated Park Plan shows the existing Cameron Run Regional Park site as well as NVRPA's currently proposed improvements to the park. In addition, the plan includes:

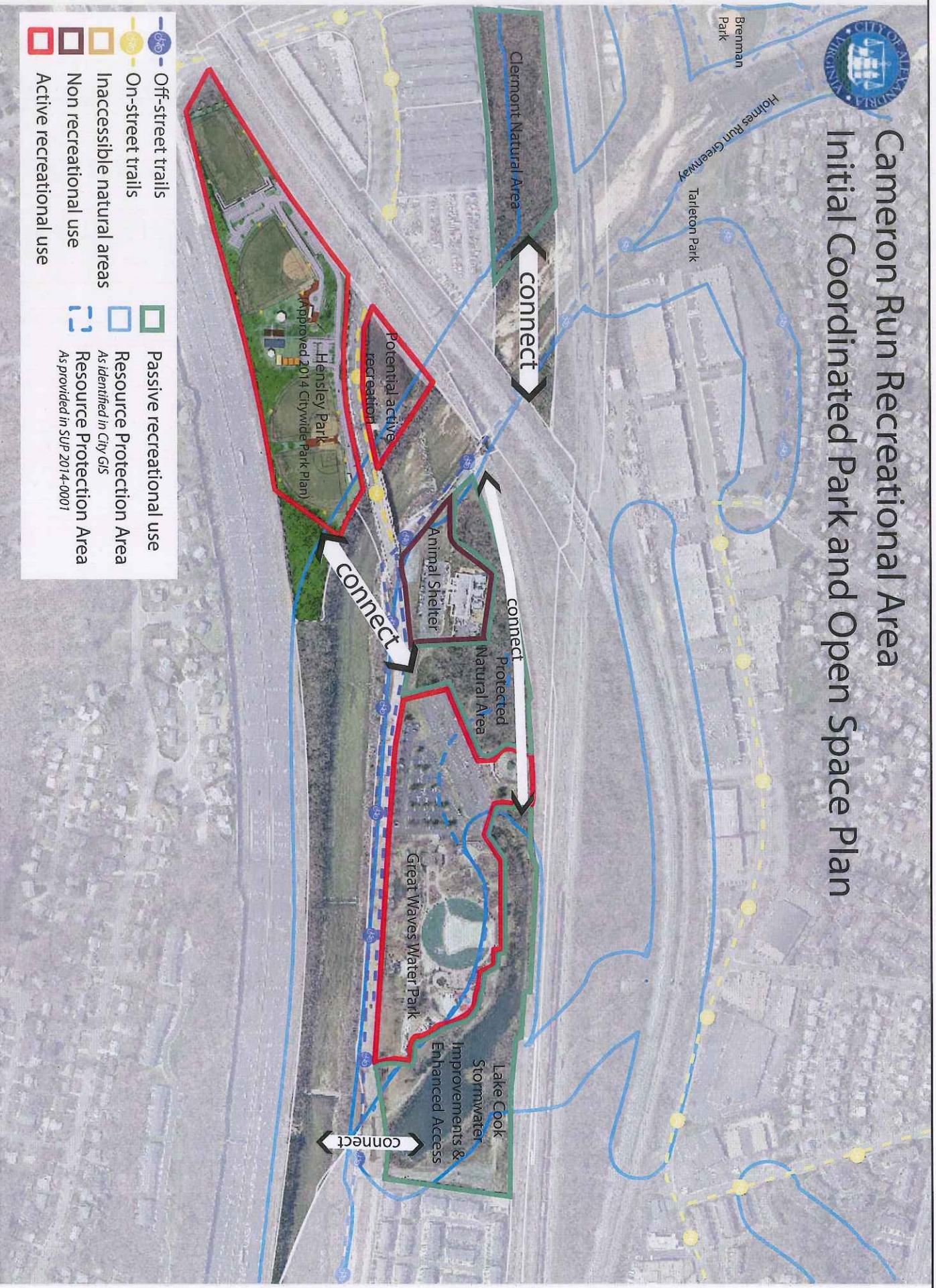
- The Office of Environmental Quality's draft plan for stormwater improvements to, enhanced public amenities and trail access at Lake Cook;
- Protection of and potential nature trail connection in 4.3 acre wooded area on the Cameron Run Regional Park site;
- Improved connectivity throughout the park and open space system,
- Improved accessibility at the Clermont Natural Area and reserved future connection to the Clermont Cove site; and
- Future reservation of the City Mulch site for expanded active recreation, compatible with Hensley and Cameron Run Regional Park, if an alternative site is found for the mulch and recycling activities.

Following the public hearing held on the draft plan, staff requests comments from the Park and Recreation Commission and endorsement of a final plan that will better inform the related decision making and planning process occurring concurrently (Eisenhower West, Chesapeake Bay/stormwater improvements, and the NVRPA improvement and lease extension request). As with the recently endorsed Citywide Parks plan, implementation of the improvements would be phased over time and funded through the City Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Eisenhower West redevelopment, and other funding partnerships.



Cameron Run Recreational Area Initial Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan

- Off-street trails
- On-street trails
- Inaccessible natural areas
- Non recreational use
- Active recreational use
- Passive recreational use
- Resource Protection Area
As Identified in City GIS
- Resource Protection Area
As provided in SUP 2014-0001



Attachment 2

Remnant Natural Areas in Parks, Waterways, and
Undeveloped Sites in the City of Alexandria, Virginia:
Eisenhower Valley below Duke Street



Prepared by:
Rod Simmons
Horticulture and Natural Resources Section
Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
City of Alexandria, Virginia
2900 Business Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314

Natural Resources Technical Report 12-1
February 2012

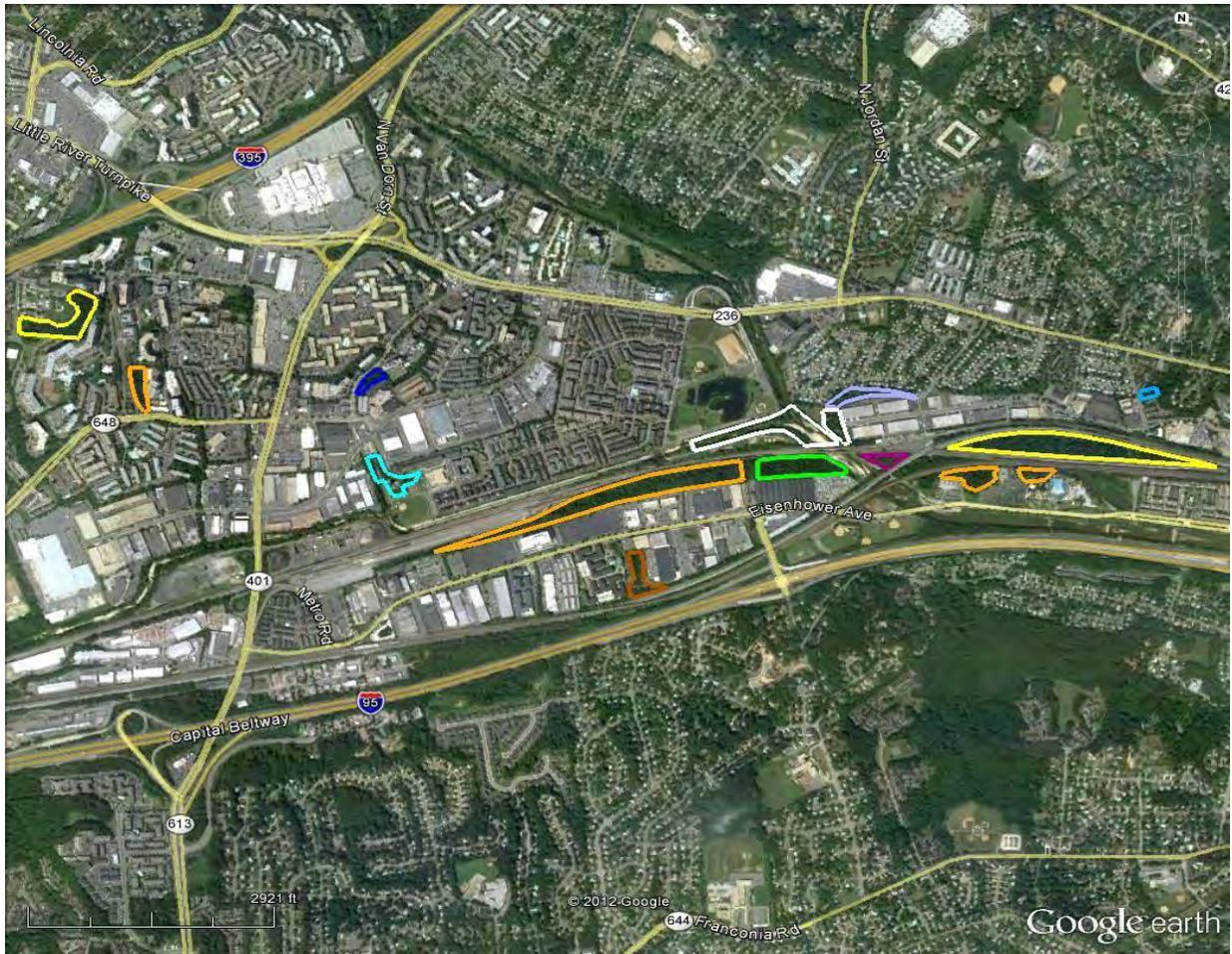


Fig. 1. Remaining natural areas (outlined in color) of Eisenhower Valley in the City of Alexandria, Virginia that are regularly stewarded by City natural resource management staff.

The Eisenhower Valley in the City of Alexandria comprises the broad floodplain of lower Holmes Run and a mosaic of associated tributaries, backswamps, and bottomlands, as well as steep, upland gravelly slopes, ravines, and terraces at the western edge of the City near Lincolnia. This area is bordered more or less by Shirley Highway (395) and Fairfax County on the west; Duke St. (Rt. 236) on the north; Hooff's Run on the east; and the Capital Beltway (495) and railroad tracks (Southern Railway System) on the south. (Fig. 1 shows expanse of the valley eastward to Quaker Lane.)

Holmes Run flows under Duke St. at Ben Brenman Park (formerly Cameron Station) to its confluence with Backlick Run at the south side of the park opposite Tarleton Park. At this point, it becomes Cameron Run and flows southeastward to the confluence of Hooff's Run where it becomes Hunting Creek (Great Hunting Creek) and continues to the mouth of the Potomac River. The tidal reaches of the Potomac River extend up Cameron Run past Telegraph Rd. to where the Beltway crosses the stream, as well as up Hooff's Run to the Alexandria National Cemetery.

In the late 19th century through the 1950s – and more recently in some places - much of this area was rural and undeveloped with little or no roadways. Areas that were not cleared for pasture or industrial use were vegetated with extensive bottomland forests and a remarkably diverse flora. Today, much of the valley is

heavily urbanized with few remaining natural areas. Significant remnants that are actively stewarded by City natural resource management staff are listed below.

For further information on the flora, natural communities, and geology of this area, as well as natural resource management in the City, see <http://alexandriava.gov/48838> and <http://alexandriava.gov/22560>.

Stevenson Park:

A 9.04 acre City park (property class 731) at the extreme western edge of the City near the Fairfax County border in an area of extensive sand and gravel mining in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Approximately 5 acres are high-quality forest with numerous old-age upland oaks: Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcata*), Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*), and Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*), as well as several natural oak hybrids, including the City co-champion Bush's Oak (*Q. marilandica* x *Q. velutina*) and the only known location in the City for Hawkins' Oak (*Q. rubra* x *Q. velutina*). Also, this park is the only known location in Alexandria for Downy Wild Rye (*Elymus villosus* var. *villosus*) and one of 2 locations in the City for the regionally-rare Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*).

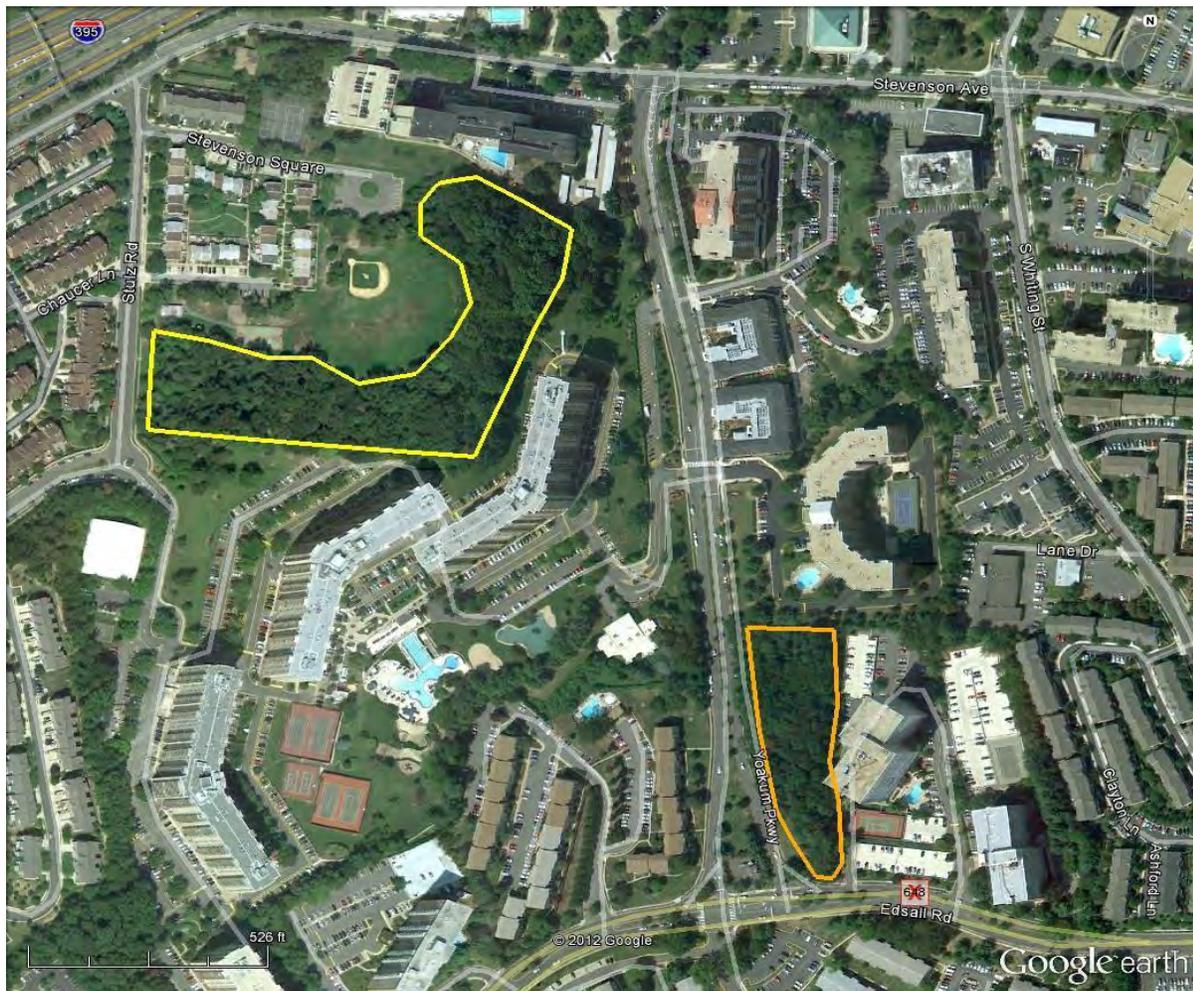


Fig. 2. Natural section of Stevenson Park (yellow) and nearby Yoakum Parkway Woods (orange).

The vegetation of the flat gravel terrace is Low-Elevation Mixed Oak / Heath Forest: *Quercus alba* - *Quercus (coccinea, velutina, montana)* / *Gaylussacia baccata* Forest (USNVC: C EGL008521), though most of the park's terrace is occupied by a natural turf athletic field and playground areas. Much of the remaining woodland at Stevenson Park occupies southwest-facing slopes and ravines and is best classified as Acidic Oak – Hickory Forest. The stand of old-age (at least 120-150 yr old) Southern Red Oak along the south-facing slope is perhaps the finest remaining in a City park.

The main threats to the park are potential plans for athletic field expansion or conversion to artificial turf, which would greatly impact groundwater infiltration and future sustainability of the forested areas. (In 2008, RPCA drew extensive speculative plans for expanding the athletic field at the park that included the removal of acres of woodland and filling/leveling several ravines. This was strongly discouraged by natural resource management staff and may be moot.)

Natural resource management at this site consists of routine control of invasive exotic plants, trash removal from wooded areas, and floristic inventories.



Fig. 3. Wooded ravines at the western edge of Stevenson Park. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

S. Reynolds Street Woods:

A 1.01 acre (44,184 sq. ft.) City-owned wooded scenic easement (property class 731) on the east side of lower S. Reynolds St. (Fig. 4) with mature canopy trees and several uncommon to rare species in the City, including Yellow Passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*) and Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*). Unfortunately, much of the ground and shrub layers of the woodland are overrun with invasive exotic plants.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories, although in 2011 there was a request to set up a volunteer invasive exotic plant removal program at the site.

Armistead Boothe Park:

An approximately 12.55 acre City park (property class 731) at 530 Cameron Station Boulevard that consists mainly of stands of old trees, playgrounds, mowed turf, and an athletic field. (RPCA park information website lists the park as 10.81 acres.) Natural features of the site occupy app. 3 acres and include a very small remnant of upland forest that grows on coarse sandy-gravelly soil of the toe-slope at the edge of the floodplain (Old Town terrace; Fleming 2008) and old-age bottomland trees that are characteristic of the ancient, silt-loam soils in many sections of the lower Holmes Run valley.



Fig. 5. Old stand of Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) at Armistead Boothe Park. This stand is regionally significant and is the largest remaining in the City. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

Old-age, remnant bottomland species at Armistead Boothe Park are Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*). The stand of Shortleaf Pine is regionally significant for its size and floodplain association and is the largest in Alexandria (Fig. 5).

The main threats to the natural features of this park are potential plans for playground, athletic field, or hardscape expansion that would damage or destroy existing native trees.

Natural resource management at this site consists of routine control of invasive exotic plants, mainly English Ivy (*Hedera* sp.) near the park entrance, and efforts by City natural resource management staff to restore and expand the existing canopy by planting species of native trees that naturally occur on the site.

Ben Brenman Park:

A large area of 46.29 acres (RPCA lists the park as 59.3 acres) that was re-developed as a City park (property class 731) with the closing of Cameron Station in the late 1990s, the U.S. Army base that formerly occupied the site. The park is notable as the location of the confluence of Holmes Run and Backlick Run, with sections of the park spanning both sides of the streams.

Most of the park is highly developed and consists of broad expanses of maintained turf with walking/biking trails, a large pond, athletic fields, picnic areas, a dog park, and other amenities. The narrow walking/biking trail and mowed turf that comprises the adjoining 7.56 acre Cameron Station Linear Park at 5131 Brawner Place connects Ben Brenman Park and Armistead Boothe Park and is also a greatly altered landscape, including the concrete flume of channelized Backlick Run that borders the park.

Few natural features remain at either park. However, the app. 5 acre section of relatively undisturbed Backlick Run at the eastern end of Cameron Station Linear Park and east of the bridge contain excellent exposures (ledges) of naturally cemented sandstone (Cameron Valley sand; Fleming 2008) and are important geologic features.

Also along the shallow waters at the confluence of Holmes Run and Backlick Run are good examples of sand and gravel depositional bar communities. This natural community type is classified as Piedmont / Central Appalachian Sand Bar / River Shore (Low Herbs Type): *Eragrostis hypnoides* - *Lindernia dubia* - *Ludwigia palustris* - *Cyperus squarrosus* Herbaceous Vegetation (USNVC: CEGLO06483), with few remaining sites in the City.

Also important are the app. 2 acres of remnant bottomland forest that form a grove on the east side of Holmes Run adjacent to Tarleton Park. Many of these trees are surviving relics of a once-continuous mosaic of bottomland forest and backswamps that extended throughout the lower Holmes Run valley. Old-age, remnant bottomland species of the east side of Ben Brenman Park are Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*). A few scattered natural groves of younger trees also occur in the main section of Ben Brenman Park.

Natural resource management at this site mainly consists of efforts by City natural resource management staff to restore and expand the existing canopy by planting species of native trees that naturally occur on

site. Recent discussions also took place with City Horticulturist John Walsh regarding the feasibility of re-introducing to the City by way of the Ben Brenman Park pond several highly state rare Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) that are extirpated in Alexandria.

Clermont Swamp Forest:

A 14.5 acre forested backswamp remnant along the south side of Backlick Run below Ben Brenman Park at 201 Clermont Ave. (Fig. 4). This site is owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway Co. (property class: vacant land-industrial 940) and would be an important property to acquire through Open Space funding as a designated conservation easement.

Despite an abundance of litter and debris from storm water runoff and past dumping, the hydrology of the site performs an invaluable function, by way of numerous braids, hummocks, and depressions, in mitigating storm water flow and maintaining water quality in the watershed. Also, the perennial spring waters from the sand ridge at Bush Hill flow northward to Backlick Run and converge with the braided swamp at this site.



Fig. 6. Piedmont / Central Appalachian Floodplain Swamp Forest along Accotink Creek at Eakin Park in Fairfax County, Virginia. Backswamps along Accotink Creek are floristically similar to those of the lower Holmes Run valley in the City of Alexandria. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

The vegetation of this forested wetlands is classified as Piedmont / Central Appalachian Floodplain Swamp (Pin Oak - Swamp White Oak Type): *Quercus palustris* - *Quercus bicolor* / *Carex tribuloides* - *Carex radiata* - (*Carex squarrosa*) Forest (USNVC: CEG006497) – though is somewhat transitional between the piedmont and coastal plain bottomland swamp forest types - and is globally and state uncommon to rare (Fig. 6). Dominant canopy species are Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*), Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and American Elm (*Ulmus americana*). The stands of Swamp White Oak at this site are the largest remaining in the City. This is also the only known station in Alexandria for Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*).

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.



Fig. 7. Photo of Bush Hill prior to 1977 by Bush Hill School and Edith Moore Sprouse (courtesy of Virginia Room, Fairfax County Library, Fairfax, Virginia; Alexandria Archaeology Museum).

Clermont Natural Park:

A 5.15 acre, forested City natural easement (property class 731) adjoining Clermont Swamp Forest on the east at 200 Clermont Ave. (Fig. 4). (RPCA lists the site as 5.95 acres.) This forested wetlands was an unofficial City dump decades ago and is smaller, less floristically diverse, and more degraded than

Clermont Swamp Forest, with less intact hydrology. Nonetheless, it serves as an important natural area connector, wildlife habitat, and preserve of relic bottomland forest vegetation.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.

Bush Hill:

A nearly 9 acre site along the southern boundary of the City owned by Caleast Nat City Station, LLC (property class: office/commercial warehouse 486) at 4720 Eisenhower Ave. (Fig. 4). This area is just east and adjoining the home site of the historic Bush Hill estate (Fig. 7) – the grounds of Alexandria’s last remaining plantation home and location of prehistoric Indian sites until the late 1990s when they were completely cleared for development (Gardner and Hurst 1999; Alexandria Archaeology Museum).

App. 3 acres of wooded thickets, with some mature and large trees, and the perennial springs that flow to Backlick Run are all that remain of this site. This area, including a small, sandy section along the railroad tracks, contains several species that are not known to occur elsewhere in the City, such as Small-leaved Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium marilandicum*), Warty Panicgrass (*Panicum verrucosum*), and others.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.

Tarleton Park:

A 25,508 sq. ft. City park (property class 731) at 4420A Vermont Ave. (Fig. 4) that adjoins a nearly acre-sized parcel (40,500 sq. ft.) owned by David G. Watkins (property class: vacant land-residential 910) along the north side of an old mill race that was once part of the Strawberry Hill farm. (RPCA lists the park as 6.14 acres.)

Despite its small size, both parcels of this park from the S. Gordon St. entrance to Ben Brenman Park are relics of an ancient bottomland backswamp and contain numerous old-age trees (Fig. 8), including Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*). This site is also significant for the nearly continuous colonies of Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) that carpet the woodland floor in early spring.

Natural resource management at this site consists of extensive invasive exotic plant removal work; efforts by City natural resource management staff to restore and expand the existing canopy by planting species of native trees that naturally occur on site; and the re-introduction into appropriate habitats of native species historically known from the lower Holmes Run valley.

Cameron Run Regional Park easement:

A small wooded area of several acres (Fig. 4) that is part of Cameron Run Regional Park (property class 731), which apparently is owned by the City of Alexandria but managed and operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. This site consists of somewhat disturbed, mesic woodland, with some large and mature trees scattered throughout.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.



Fig. 8. Old-age relics of an ancient bottomland backswamp at Tarleton Park. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

Hensley Park:

A 16.87 acre City park (property class 731) at 4200 Eisenhower Ave. (Fig. 9), including the 2.12 acre paved compound at 4251 Eisenhower Ave. that is used as the City leaf-shredding facility. (RPCA lists the park as 21.66 acres.)

Much of the park on the south side of Eisenhower Ave. consists of athletic fields, with a small section of several acres of young, mesic woodland.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.

Cameron Run Regional Park natural area remnants:

An app. 6 acre remnant of rich, alluvial levee forest that extends from behind the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter to the batting cage, as well as app. 2 acres of scattered stands of old-age bottomland trees surrounding the park facilities (Fig. 9). Both areas are within the 36.3 acre Cameron Run Regional Park at 4001 Eisenhower Ave. (property class 731) that is owned by the City of Alexandria and maintained and operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Most of the natural features of this site were lost when the park and animal shelter were built, with these two areas remaining.

The vegetation of the alluvial levee forest is exceptionally lush and diverse and is very similar to the small sections of alluvial levee forest along Holmes Run at Dora Kelley Nature Park and Holmes Run Scenic Easement well upstream of this site. Soils of the old Cameron Run alluvial levee forest (probably a long abandoned oxbow along the old channel of Cameron Run) are ancient, rich, friable loams produced by millennia of stream bank deposition and flooding.

The vegetation is somewhat a combination of several natural community types - the Coastal Plain / Outer Piedmont Basic Mesic Forest: *Fagus grandifolia* - *Liriodendron tulipifera* - *Carya cordiformis* / *Lindera benzoin* / *Podophyllum peltatum* Forest (USNVC: CEG006055) and elements of Alluvial Floodplain Forest communities.

Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) is the dominant canopy species, with some reaching large size (front cover photo). Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is prominent in the understory, along with Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) in moister areas, Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), and Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*). The herbaceous layer is lush and diverse throughout the growing season, including extensive carpets of Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Potato Dandelion (*Krigia dandelion*), Violet Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis violacea*), and numerous other spring wildflowers.

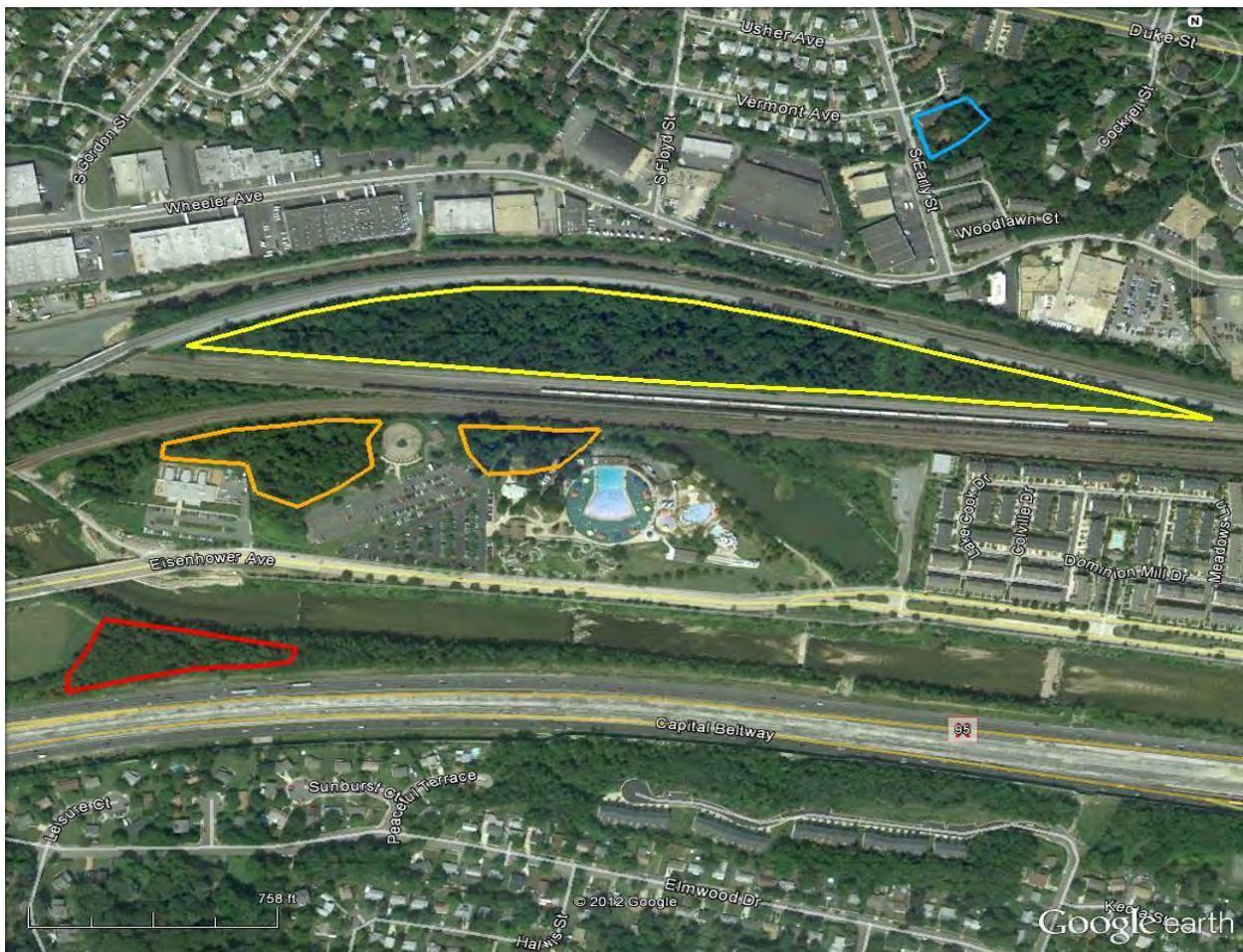


Fig. 9. Hensley Park (red); Cameron Run Regional Park natural area remnants (orange); old Cameron Run channel floodplain forest (yellow); 48 South Early (blue).

This site represents the only remaining station in the lower Holmes Run valley for this regionally uncommon to rare community type, including a number of species that do not occur elsewhere in Alexandria, such as Smooth Beardtongue (*Penstemon laevigatus*), Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*), and others.

At the eastern edge of the alluvial levee forest, the vegetation grades to a remnant bottomland floodplain forest community similar to those at Armistead Boothe Park and the eastern section of Ben Brenman Park. Although this section of the park is highly developed, groves of mature, bottomland trees are scattered throughout, including Swamp Chestnut Oak, White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and others. This is also the only known location in Alexandria for Beadle's Oak (*Quercus x beadlei*), the natural hybrid between White Oak and Swamp Chestnut Oak.

Natural resource management at these sites consists of floristic inventories and invasive exotic plant control efforts. Additional vegetation plot sampling also needs to be done at this site to more accurately classify the natural community types.



Fig. 10. Bottomland forest with Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*) along the floodplain of the Patuxent River near the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in Prince George's County, Maryland. This alluvial coastal plain community is probably similar to how the bottomland forest at Cameron Run Regional Park in the City of Alexandria once appeared. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

Old Cameron Run channel floodplain forest:

An isolated forested tract consisting of two contiguous parcels (combined together in Fig. 9): the 12 acre site at 4050 Wheeler Ave. owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway Co. (property class: vacant land-industrial 940) and a similar-sized parcel to the east that is owned by the Alexandria Water Company (John Walsh, pers. comm.; parcel information not available with Alexandria GIS viewer).

Both sites comprise an alluvial bottomland forest community, with seasonally-flooded backswamp depressions and braided waterways, including the undeveloped lower reaches of Strawberry Run (Fig. 11). The flora is highly diverse, though not as rich as the alluvial levee forest at Cameron Run Regional Park, and includes a number of species that are unknown elsewhere in Alexandria, such as Squarrose Sedge (*Carex squarrosa*) and Large-seeded Forget-me-not (*Myosotis macrosperma*).

The relatively large size of these two parcels, abundance of forested wetlands, floristic diversity, and wildlife habitat value make them very important considerations for acquisition through Open Space funding, with designated conservation easements.

Natural resource management at these sites consists of floristic inventories.



Fig. 11. The gravelly lower reaches of Strawberry Run near its confluence with the old channel of Cameron Run. This section of the stream remains in mostly natural condition because of the large mosaic of forested wetlands it conjoins. Photo by R.H. Simmons.

48 South Early:

A 0.14 acre neighborhood City Adopt-a-Garden park at 48 S. Early St. (property class 731) that adjoins a concrete channelized section of Strawberry Run and app. 2 acres of disturbed Acidic Oak-Hickory Forest on the east side of the stream.

Except for several large canopy trees, few natural features remain at this park.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.

Old Cameron Run Channel Park:

A 2.71 acre City natural easement (property class 731) along the old channel of Cameron Run at the eastern end of the valley at 2251 Mill Rd. (RPCA lists the site as 2.83 acres.)

In the past, this was the main stream channel through a large freshwater tidal marsh that occupied the tidal reaches of lower Cameron Run, Hoeff's Run, Hunting Creek, and the mouth of the Potomac River. Today, unfortunately much of what remains of this formerly pristine area is highly disturbed, weedy vegetation along the stream banks of the old channel.

Natural resource management at this site consists of infrequent floristic inventories.

Ewald Park: No natural features remain.

Luckett Stadium and Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park: No natural features remain.

Cameron Run sand and gravel bars:

The best remaining examples in Alexandria of sand and gravel depositional bar communities occur along the shallow waters of Cameron Run in the section between Ben Brenman Park and the Beltway (495) crossing. These sites are classified as Piedmont / Central Appalachian Sand Bar / River Shore (Low Herbs Type): *Eragrostis hypnoides* - *Lindernia dubia* - *Ludwigia palustris* - *Cyperus squarrosus* Herbaceous Vegetation (USNVC: C EGL006483) and include many species that do not occur elsewhere in the City, such as Salt Marsh Aster (*Symphotrichum subulatum*), Valley Redstem (*Ammannia coccinea*), Toothcup (*Rotala ramosior*), Purple Gerardia (*Agalinis purpurea*), and others.

Natural resource management of these sites consists of floristic inventories, infrequent invasive exotic plant removal work, and collaboration with Dept. T&ES, Office of Environmental Quality to protect habitats during routine dredging of Cameron Run and leveling of the sand and gravel bars.

Railroad Tracks:

The extensive, open lands bordering the railroad tracks that span the valley are valuable open space and wildlife habitat connectors and provide unique habitats for many plants that do not occur elsewhere in the City, including Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*), Northern Croton (*Croton glandulosus* var. *septentrionalis*), Toothed Spurge (*Euphorbia dentata*), and numerous others.

Natural resource management of these areas consists of infrequent floristic inventories. However, at some point concerns need to be raised with Southern Railway System for protecting populations of

uncommon and rare flora that are dwindling as a result of excessive herbicide use and vegetation clearing along the tracks.

References

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Attachment 4: Public Written Comments

Monday, November 24

From: "Petry, Bonnie" <bonnie.petry@boeing.com>
To: "Laura Durham" <Laura.Durham@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: "smcg611@gmail.com" <smcg611@gmail.com>, "suzdingwell@gmail.com" <suzdingwell@gmail.com>, "suzdingwell@icloud.com" <suzdingwell@icloud.com>, "Wright, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Wright@fema.dhs.gov>, "Rod Simmons" <Rod.Simmons@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: FW: Cameron Run Presentation - a concern

Thanks for sending this, Laura.

I have one more concern about the plan as presented on slide 20. This very well may be a glitch in depiction of the city's intentions –

[[cid:image002.png@01D00810.69C520D0](#)]

only Ward's Woods is shown as a protected area and the picnic area adjoining Ward's Woods, which has one of the significant trees (the Bartram's Oak), is not shown as protected.

In addition, the stream feeding into Lake Cook on the Western side is not shown as protected, nor is the area abutting the water park fence where the Beadle's Oak is, and Lake Cook and its vicinity.

My initial impression, before reviewing these slides, was that all the areas outlined in Green on slide 18 were to be protected.

I would really need all the areas outlined as "passive recreational use" on slide 18 be protected. I don't know that I could support a plan otherwise.

While I realize the significant nature of Ward's Woods, we need protection for the "in-between spaces" too. In addition, although Lake Cook is somewhat degraded now, it is still important for wildlife and there are some native trees and vegetation, more so on the West end of it. Also, after the renovation project is completed, I anticipate a naturalistic looking lake with improved function and native vegetation that brings aesthetic value as well as storm water management value. I also anticipate an opportunity to employ public-private partnerships to make sure that invasives are kept out and Lake Cook grows into an attractive as well as functional natural appearing space.

Thanks for listening,

Bonnie Petry

TO: Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission Co-Chairs: Judy Coleman and Jennifer Atkins
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission Member: Susan Gitlin
December 10, 2014



VIRGINIA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY

The local chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Potowmack Chapter, representing 450 members, strongly urges the Commissioners to protect for the future all the remaining green and undeveloped areas of the city's property surrounding the current fenced boundary leased by Cameron Regional Waterpark. This area is critically important to the city's health and well being in several ways.

First of all, results of recent surveys show without any doubt that the priorities of Alexandria's citizens for their green and open space are:

- number one - more walking and biking trails
- number two - open space to be preserved and used to support wildlife habitat

These preferences were duplicated in two surveys that were presented at the recent Parks planning meeting and they heavily outscored all other options.

The land under discussion would be very suitable for those passive recreational uses.

In addition, within the parcel considered lies a tract of approximately 5 acres that carries both historical and botanical significance. This site has become known as Ward's Woods. Lester Frank Ward, working for the U.S. Geological Survey beginning in 1882, surveyed the lower Cameron Run valley and collected numerous plants, some of which still occur in protected places like the old Cameron Run channel forest remnant at Cameron Run Regional Park. His specimens, largely the earliest collected in the Washington, D.C. region, form the foundation of the DC Herbarium at the Smithsonian Institution.

The botanical importance of this tract cannot be overemphasized, both in the flora currently existing and in the "soil memory" there. This is the last remaining undisturbed remnant of its type, not only in Alexandria, but in the entire Eisenhower Valley. Because its original composition has never been altered by mankind's use, it is a valuable repository of natural heritage. As we watch the numbers balloon worldwide for species loss, we must take responsible actions for preserving whatever it is in our power to save. This is not saving something for a museum exhibit, it is saving a seed bank that could provide solutions and species protection for our future. Growing there now is a suite of plants, including some that range from uncommon to rare. A plant list is attached.

Earlier this month the city of Chicago initiated an expansive and expensive program to re-green a connected corridor in the heart of its most blighted tenement projects. Why would Alexandria do anything less than protect what little we have left of our own uniquely special green space? Look outward fifty years. What legacy will we choose to leave?

We are recommending the protection of **ALL** the areas within the green outline on slide 18: the passive use areas. This would include Lake Cook, the stream flowing into Lake Cook on its Western side, the mature trees outside the Northern fence line of the park including the Beadle's Oak, and the area between the parking lot and Ward's Woods. The continuity of this space will be an important factor in protecting both its continued integrity as an ecosystem and its potential inclusion in an integrated trail system.

**Alan Ford, President
Potowmack Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society**

Laura Durham

From: Samantha Gallagher <pollinatorplates@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2014 2:01 PM
To: Laura Durham
Subject: Holmes Run Parks Trail System

Laura,

I'm sorry I wasn't able to attend the meeting last night regarding some of the parks and trail areas in west Alexandria. I just wanted to say that I love the trail systems and wooded areas, and I use the Holmes Run trails almost every day. I'm happy to hear that the city is planning to keep the forested areas intact and hope they will stay that way for a long time. My neighbors and I live right up against the trail system (off Richmarr Pl.) and we enjoy the wildlife who share the park and our back yards with us..

Kind regards,
Samantha Gallagher

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Samantha Gallagher
<http://www.pollinatorplates.com/>

Attachment 5

January 8, 2015

To: Jennifer Atkins and Judy Coleman, Co-Chairs, and Members of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission

From: Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission

Re: Draft Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area

We are writing to you to convey the support of the Environmental Policy Commission for the draft Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area presented by City staff at the November 20, 2014, meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission.

The draft plan addresses a variety of City goals pertaining to stormwater management, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, recreation, and natural area protection -- goals that stem from or are identified in Alexandria's legal obligations, preferences of local residents as expressed in recent surveys, and Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan.

In particular, we want to express our support of the draft plan's proposed protection of the 4.3-acre natural area that is currently enclosed within the area leased to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). This wooded area, sometimes referred to as "Ward's Woods," contains centuries-old trees, at least two dozen species of spring ephemeral wildflowers and other native plants that are now rare to the region, and healthy, undisturbed soils of a type created along natural waterways but rarely extant in developed areas. The soil and plants in this area are unique -- different even from those found along Strawberry Run just across the railroad tracks. The preservation of these soils is essential to maintaining the old and rare plant community found here.

We find it essential that this wooded area be protected because:

- It is home to irreplaceable trees, other flora, and the wildlife that depend on these plants.
- It offers Alexandria residents an educational opportunity and glimpse into our natural heritage not found elsewhere in our city.
- The extensive environmental benefits of a naturally occurring woods cannot be replicated through mitigation measures such as tree plantings. Moreover, attempts to replace a portion of the benefits provided by these woods, such as stormwater management benefits, would be extremely costly to the City.
- Alexandria's Urban Forestry Master Plan calls for the City to achieve a 40% canopy level. The City is already struggling to determine how to maintain its current level of approximately 34%, and is overly dependent on our parks and natural areas to do so. Any loss of natural areas would be a great step backwards.
- Citizen surveys regarding recreation, parks, and cultural activities indicate a strong preference for preserving and maintaining access to natural areas.

Alexandria residents enjoy the waterpark and other recreational amenities at Cameron Run Regional Park. Moreover, the City of Alexandria values its participation in NVRPA and the varied recreational opportunities that it offers us around the region. We recognize that the

protection of the 4.3-acre wooded area may be inconsistent with NVRPA's proposed use of the area. However, the expansion and maintenance needs of Cameron Run Regional Park must be balanced with the need to protect our irreplaceable and disappearing natural resources. We therefore encourage you to continue the dialogue with NVRPA to find a solution that will accommodate the needs of the park while precluding any impact to this unique wooded area.

As the plan is implemented, we also encourage the Park and Recreation Commission to support demarcation lines between Cameron Run Regional Park and the wooded area. Clear demarcation, perhaps by officially designating the area as a City park and/or installing educational signage, could alert and educate visitors as to the value of the woods. It might also serve to deter the dumping that occurs along the woods' edge.

For the reasons stated above, we urge your endorsement of the draft Coordinated Park and Open Space Plan for the Cameron Run Area.

Should you have any questions or be in need of our assistance, please do not hesitate to contact either of us at the email addresses below.

Sincerely,



Jim Kapsis

Chair
Environmental Policy Commission
kapsisjc@gmail.com



Susan Gitlin

Vice Chair
Environmental Policy Commission
smcg611@gmail.com



Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 | 703-352-5900 | Fax: 703-273-0905 | www.nvrpa.org

DATE: January 8, 2015
TO: Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
FROM: Paul Gilbert, Executive Director of NOVA Parks
SUBJECT: Cameron Run Regional Park

At your last meeting, on November 20, 2014, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (DRPCA) urged the Commission to adopt a plan they had developed related to the Cameron Run Regional Park. At the same meeting I asked you not to adopt this plan, and I greatly appreciated your decision to not take action on it that night.

Our Goal:

Over the past 30+ years, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) has invested substantial resources in developing Cameron Run/Great Waves Water Park, and this facility has become an incredibly popular attraction in the City. According to City polling, 55% of Alexandria residents use it on a regular basis, and it also attracts visitors from around the region, which in turn supports the economy in Alexandria. To keep this water park as a premier facility, we need to continue investing in it regularly. We are now proposing to invest over \$2 million into a new waterpark feature and some minor improvements to our parking lot.

With 6 years left on our present 40-year lease, we are requesting renewal of our lease for 40 more years, along with this latest investment in the property.

Since 2006, we have already invested over \$2.2 million in this park, which is one of the reasons it is so popular today. In fact, over the last eight years, for every \$1 the City has contributed as a member jurisdiction in NOVA Parks, we have invested \$2.7 in our Alexandria operations (both Cameron Run and Carlyle House). Just at Cameron Run we create about 150 summer jobs each year, which furnish opportunities for responsible, constructive employment for many young people in Alexandria. So, our goal is simply to be able to continue to invest in Alexandria as we have been for decades.

Our Challenge:

Over the last year, we have worked very productively with the City Department of Planning and Zoning on the Development Special Use Permit needed to implement our planned improvements. That permit is now moving to the Planning Commission for approval in early February. We have also worked well with the City's storm water management group on its plans to upgrade Lake Cook to serve better the City's storm water needs.

City of Alexandria
David M. Pritzker
Scott Price

Arlington County
Paul Ferguson
Michael A. Nardolilli

Fairfax County
Stella Koch
Jean R. Packard

City of Fairfax
Brian D. Knapp
Arthur F. Little

City of Falls Church
Barry D. Buschow
Jeffrey Tarbert

Loudoun County
Joan G. Rokus
Daniel Kaseman

Where we have been challenged is with the City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (DRPCA) under the leadership of James Spengler. For reasons that are not at all clear, DRPCA was given a role related to our lease, which probably should have been given to the City Attorney's Office. DRPCA appears to have worked to either stall the project, or exert control over the Cameron Run Regional Park over the last year.

- On January 16, 2014, City staff notified NOVA Parks that both our permit and lease would not even be reviewed for over two years while the City engaged in a number of other planning processes unrelated to Cameron Run.
- Mr. Spengler worked unsuccessfully to get Cameron Run Regional Park included in the Eisenhower West Small Area Planning Process.
- In the spring of 2014, NOVA Parks Board members met with a number of City Council members and Mayor Euille to discuss why we were put on long-term hold. By June 2014, City staff was again processing our permit and lease.
- In late summer of 2014, DRPCA paid for a public opinion poll focused entirely on NOVA Parks. Overwhelmingly, City residents said they use and like the Regional Parks in and out of the City.
- On November 6, 2014, DRPCA held a public hearing at 8:00 A.M. on a Thursday to review a plan for Cameron Run and Hensley Park area that they created without NOVA Parks input. No public was in attendance, but we objected to this plan, which had only one purpose: to constrict future development of the Cameron Run Regional Park.
- On November 16, 2014, Rod Simmons from DRPCA met with several local activists to encourage opposition to our lease based on fears of environmental impacts of the small wooded area between the batting cage and the animal shelter. This is an area we have no plans to develop.

This brings us to the last Park & Recreation Commission meeting (11/20/14). DRPCA was urging you to approve the plan they had created over our objections and without a real public hearing; a plan that focused on restricting the Cameron Run Regional Park for future development.

The public speakers who focused on the natural resources of the Cameron Run Regional Park were all recruited and orchestrated by DRPCA staff. It is extraordinary for one public agency to recruit citizens to lobby against the plans and proposals of another agency.

Addressing the Environmental Issues:

While the natural area next to the batting cage was open field in the early 20th century, and not "old growth" as claimed, NOVA Parks has no plans to develop this area. Since our dealings with the Department of Planning and Zoning have been positive and professional, we have volunteered a permit condition that would treat this area as if it were 'Resource Protection Area' (RPA) under the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance. Additionally, I met with Elizabeth Wright, as did our park manager, and we have removed the invasive grass she was concerned with. These voluntary steps resolve the environmental

concerns raised, without the need for the DRPCA proposed plan, or anything else that might delay approval of the lease renewal.

Cameron Run Area Plan (A.K.A. Syntheses Plan):

With the adoption of the voluntary RPA as a condition of the permit, there is no longer any arguable need for the plan DRPCA developed. I strongly recommend that the Park and Recreation Commission not adopt any plan for this area. If you feel the need to adopt something, attached is a modified version of the DRPCA plan that designates all of Cameron Run as an "Active Recreation" area, just like Hensley Park. This version would be OK to adopt if you feel a need to do so.

Recommendation to move forward with the Cameron Run Regional Park Improvements:

It is strongly recommended that City Management remove DRPCA from any further dealing with Cameron Run Regional Park. The minor updates to the lease language have been in City hands for the last year. The City Attorney's Office could review and approve the draft lease in time for this document to join the DSUP Permit for City Council approval in February.

I regret that your Commission was drawn into this issue, but I appreciate your insightful judgment in not accepting the plan that was urged upon you at the November meeting.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters if that would be helpful to you.

Copy: Mayor William Euille

Acting City Manager Mark Jinks

David Pritzker, NOVA Parks Board Member from Alexandria

Scott Price, NOVA Parks Board Member from Alexandria

TAX MAP #: 070.01-01-03
1,581,228 SF OR 36.30 ACRES

VOLUNTARY RPA

APPLICATION BOUNDARY

APPROX. LIMITS OF RPA

Urban, Ltd. - J:\JOBS\Cameron Run Waterpark\DSUP.DSP - 1st Final\28-Signing and Marking Plan.dwg [Signage] December 01, 2014 - 11:34am mchen

