

City of Alexandria, Virginia

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting**

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Charles Houston Community Center  
901 Wythe Street  
Alexandria, VA 22312

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order by Jennifer Akins and Judith Coleman, Co-Chairs.
- II. Items for Information
  - A. Update on Cameron Run Regional Park
  - B. Chinguapin Feasibility Study Update
  - C. 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.
- III. Presentations:
  - A. City/ACPS Long Range Educational Facilities Plan Project - Katherine Carraway, Planning and Zoning.
  - B. Potomac Yard Metro project, Ray Hayhurst, Urban Planner II, Transit Services
- IV. Items for Action
  - A. Approval of Summary Minutes: January 15, 2015
  - B. Follow-up on Update to Special Events Policy
- V. RPCA Staff Updates
  - A. Director's Report – James Spengler
    - Fort Ward Management Plan Update
  - 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 March 19, 2015 meeting.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2015

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, ACTING CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CHINQUAPIN AQUATICS CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

---

Through the FY2014 budget discussions, City Council approved \$500,000 in funding for a feasibility study to determine the viability of constructing a 50 meter competition pool and renovated recreation pool at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. The City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) and selected the firm of Hughes Group Architects (HGA) to complete this study. HGA began the work in February 2014.

In May, 2014, City Council received the HGA report for Task 1A of the study, which included a preliminary assessment of the existing site, constraints of the location, and an initial analysis of the market for aquatics in Alexandria. This preliminary work determined that a 50 meter pool addition is feasible based on the physical conditions/constraints, that Alexandria's market could sustain an expanded aquatics facility, and that the projected cost was consistent with the City's proposed capital improvement budget of \$20 million for the Chinquapin expansion (assumes private fund raising of \$2.5 million). Based on these findings, HGA began Task 1B and additional tasks were completed to further determine feasibility including, a detailed market analysis, constructability and estimated overall cost.

Building on their earlier work, HGA began Task 1B by directly engaging Alexandria residents and aquatics stakeholders in order to better understand the program needs and opportunities for expansion. Additional site concepts were presented and evaluated by the community. The report details additional potential schematics and an in depth market analysis. The preliminary findings highlighted in the report include:

- Survey results show sufficient demand for new aquatic programs and a 50 meter pool;
- Market profile supports a two pool system that meets operational cost recovery goals (i.e., excludes capital cost recovery);
- Demand for lap and recreational swimming in Alexandria is very strong;
- Only 4 of the 12 pre-concept site schemes meet the "go/no-go" criteria for further analysis; and
- Community input (through public meetings and online engagement) allowed HGA to shape a single preferred scheme for cost analysis and additional design development.

Both Task 1A and 1B Reports can be found at: <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default-78867.html>

Based on the findings and the ability to focus on one site alternative, staff recommended that the consultant refine and provide more detailed cost estimates, including both hard and soft expenses, for an expanded facility in order to ensure that the project was within the available capital budget.

In November 2014, HGA provided a cost estimate for the new 50 meter pool and renovated recreation pool, with a caveat that they were not at the design phase yet, so the estimate is of rough magnitude. It has been my experience that early estimates of capital costs for any type of project are optimistic and tend to migrate upward over time. This November 2014 cost estimate was significantly higher than the \$20 million previously projected in Task 1A, and staff noted a number of elements that were not included in the estimate, but would likely increase the cost when addressed. Staff requested additional information, and HGA provided an updated cost estimate, including items requested by staff. The updated estimated cost for the 50 meter pool (i.e., 25 yards x 50 meters) expansion now totals \$30.7 million. The estimated cost for both the 50 meter pool and renovations to the existing Chinquapin recreation pool totaled \$41.7 million. In addition to the estimated cost of a 50 meter pool expansion, subsequent to receiving the \$30.7 million estimate for a 50 meter pool staff then requested an alternative estimate for the addition of 25 yard x 25 meter pool (regulation size), which totaled \$20.5 million. The FY2015-2024 CIP provides for \$20 million, including \$2.5 million to be raised by the stakeholder group, Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics. Based on these estimates a 50 meter x 25 yard pool far exceeds the planned CIP investment, but a 25 meter x 25 yard pool exceeds, but not by a great amount the \$20 million planned in City CIP. A summary of the cost estimates is attached.

HGA noted that the budget estimate is intended to capture a line item budget cost for the project at a very early stage of the feasibility process and is based on assumptions informed by historical data to quantify the as yet to be designed elements of the building, the site, its surroundings and the condition of the existing building. In particular soil conditions in the Chinquapin area have often been problematic and at this stage in the planning no soil borings have been undertaken.

Based on the findings from Task 1B and the subsequent cost estimates, staff requested that HGA pause/stop work on the feasibility study to allow for a discussion with City Council and the public regarding how and if to proceed with the project. A public meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2015, at which time the consultant will present their findings to and answer questions from the public. Staff will continue discussions with Council as part of the FY2016 – FY2025 proposed CIP consideration process.

Attachment: Chinquapin Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Cost Estimates

cc: Emily Baker, Acting Deputy City Manager  
James B. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)  
Jeremy McPike, Director, Department of General Services  
Laura D. Durham, Open Space Coordinator, RPCA  
Chris Bever, Assistant Budget Director, OMB

**Chinquapin Aquatic Center Feasibility Study Cost Estimates**

	Soft Costs	Hard Costs	Total Cost
<b>50 Meter Pool Addition</b>	\$6,430,130	\$24,287,488	\$30,717,619
<b>Improved (Existing) Recreation Pool</b>	\$2,226,865	\$8,742,425	\$10,969,290
<b>50 Meter Pool Addition and Improved (Existing) Recreation Pool</b>	\$8,656,995	\$33,029,914	\$41,686,909
<b>25 Yard x 25 Meter Pool Addition</b>	\$4,373,153	\$16,118,463	\$20,491,615

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 19, 2015

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** <sup>WC</sup> WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** FEBRUARY 19 COMMISSION MEETING ITEM, V-B.  
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

---

**Program Wrap-Ups**

- On January 24, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted a **coat and clothing drive**. In a 4-hour span, over 250 brand new coats and 300 new clothing items were distributed. This community outreach event was a collaborative effort of the Fairfax County Fire Department; the Alexandria Fire, Police, Sheriff, and RPCA departments; and community volunteers.



- Kids Day Out** was held at Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center on January 30. Throughout the day, over forty children participated in activities such as fuse bead art, jewelry making, cyber café, moon bounce obstacle courses and cooking activities. The group also visited Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility where they enjoyed aquatic aerobics, relay races, open play and group games.



- The January theme of Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center’s Youth Achieving Greatness afterschool program was **Kid Cuisine**, promoting the Healthy Alexandria initiative. It taught the importance of balanced nutrition, healthy habits, cooking safety and proper hand washing techniques. Participants have created sweet treats from fruit smoothies and fruit salads to health-conscious snacks like veggie wraps and whole wheat lean protein sandwiches.
- On January 30, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center concluded their **Community Outreach** project designed to collect canned goods, toiletries, and winter clothing such as hats, scarves, socks, coats, blankets etc. In 2 months, the center collected over 85 lbs. of non-perishable food items, two boxes of winter clothing and apparel, and two boxes of toiletries. The Therapeutic Recreation teen participants inventoried the items, packaged them and delivered them to the Carpenter Shelter and Christ House.
- On January 14, Charles Houston Recreation Center celebrated the arrival of its new Soft Play equipment by hosting a **Lil’ Gymmies Party**. In addition to the new equipment, preschoolers enjoyed games, face painting, story time and an inflatable bounce house. Refreshments were served and children’s books and games were given as parting gifts.



- **Girls’ Field Hockey Clinics** were held on Sundays, January 18-25 to help develop field hockey skills and techniques by focusing on a different technical aspect of the sport each week. Registration has grown by 20% over the past year.



**Program Update**

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

	<b>FY-15 School YTD 01/31/15</b>	<b>FY-14 Actuals School YTD 01/31/14</b>	<b>FY-14 Actuals School Year 13-14</b>	<b>FY-13 Actuals School Year 12-13</b>	<b>FY-15 Actuals Summer 2014</b>	<b>FY-14 Actuals Summer 2013</b>	<b>FY-13 Actuals Summer 2012</b>
Program Fee	<b>\$415</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$300</b>	\$250	\$100	\$50	\$50
Satisfaction %	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>92%</b>	92%	96%	92%	95%
Registration #	1,165	1,230	<b>1,243</b>	1,296	1,332	1,373	1,422
OSTP Revenue	\$334,888	\$263,853	<b>\$268,536</b>	\$212,225	\$103,100	\$54,352	\$32,067
Fee Assistance (Discounts)	<b>\$119,770</b>	<b>\$86,758</b>	<b>\$87,608</b>	\$73,050	\$28,715	\$13,798	\$3,870
Fees Charged	<b>*484,557</b>	<b>*\$363,050</b>	<b>\$366,071</b>	\$308,031	\$133,965	\$68,622	\$36,205

\*Fees paid in installments.

- The **Out of School Time Program Committee**, an internal staff work group that develops and monitors standards and programming for RPCA after school and summer Power-On and Power-Up Programs, has implemented a new self-monitoring process to review the program sites. The intent of the reviews is to ensure that program standards are being met at all locations. Committee members have participated in an interrater reliability training and began visiting sites in pairs with a standard checklist and on-site interview review form. Information gathered will be used to make program improvements. The review process is in the developmental phase and is anticipated that objective reviews will take place twice during the school year and once in the summer through unannounced visits.
- **Nerf the Turf** is a social interactive program, which has capitalized on the popular Nerf brand toys and gear for school age children. During the Fall season, 104 boys and girls ages 6-12 participated, with average attendance of 34 participants in each of the three sessions offered. Over the course of the Fall, Nerf the Turf has develop a following of 61 repeat participants and generated \$1,040 in revenue. Now entering into its second season at Charles Barrett Recreation Center, the Winter season of Nerf the Turf is already at 83% of its total enrollment during the previous season, with 46 participants attending the first session.
- **Jump Shots for Tots** is a comprehensive basketball class that focuses on socialization, fundamentals and teamwork. This class is for children ages 3-6, and is a tiered program that prepares the children for Jump Shots for Kids. Winter session has 33 participants,



an increase from 25 participants last year, and the current revenue for 2015 is \$4,555.

- **AbraKadoodle Twoosy Doodlers** is an “I can do it” art class that is fun and creative. Toddlers learn to work with their parents as well as working with other children to develop socialization skills. Maximum participation was met this session with 12 participants enrolled and \$1,525 in revenue.
- The Nannie J. Lee **Black History Celebration** is taking place throughout the month of February with daily quotes and black history facts posted in the center. Every Wednesday participants will complete a Black History activity and a cooking project every Thursday. We will end the month with a full inclusion Black History program on February 25, by our Youth Achieving Greatness and Mainstream participants to include performing arts, spoken word, and skits for the entire family.
- **SeaPerch Underwater Robotics** is a new program offered at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility. Participants ages 10-14 are working in teams to build their own remote-controlled under water robots. Revenue for this program is currently \$1,058.



- Cora Kelly Recreation Center **Adult Futsal Soccer League** will be conducting their playoffs, semifinals, and championship game on Saturdays, February 14-28. Eight teams out of ten will be selected to make the playoffs and trophies and medals will be awarded to the winners.

### Upcoming Programs & Events

- February 28, Charles Houston will collaborate with the National Council of Negro Women (Northern VA Chapter) on the **Dance, Dialog & Desserts: Respecting Our Heritage Program**. This cultural event in recognition of Black History Month features a performance by the Ebony Day Dance Company, an educational and fitness discussion, and a dessert tasting catered by Dhelice Harbin Catering Company.
- Cora Kelly Recreation Center’s **Annual Black History Program** is scheduled for February 27. Under the theme of "African American Heroes and Heroines of the Past", the youth will present and celebrate the accomplishments of African American heroes. In addition, the youth choir will perform inspirational song and dance.
- Culture Kingdom Kids’ will perform a **Black History Program** at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center on February 24. “I’m a tower of royal power!” is the heart of the message being reinforced to help students take ownership over their roles as cultural ambassadors of their communities. The students will be enriched with a strong sense of self and community empowerment.

## Special Features

- The interior of Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center is being repainted. This painting project started in January and is scheduled to wrap up in March.
- The Chinquapin Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility has enhanced their Soft Play Room to include new Soft Play equipment, balls, benches, coat hangers, a bulletin board and more.

## Staff Updates

- **Phillip Williams, Jr.** was recently hired at Charles Houston Recreation Center as a part-time Recreation Leader II.
- **Ms. Jacquay Plummer** was promoted to a Recreation Leader III, Manager on Duty at Chinquapin Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility. Jacquay previously worked with the Out of School Time program at Charles Houston Recreation Center as a Recreation Leader II.
- **Ms. Maderia Turner** was recognized for being an exceptional asset to the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. A letter of recognition was submitted by Mr. Mac Talbert, whose children attend the Youth Achieving Greatness program. She was also recognized by her co-workers for her teamwork, willingness to help whenever needed and her scheduling flexibility.
- **Denise Henson** was the employee of the month at Nannie J. Lee for the month of January. She was nominated by her co-workers and peers.
- **Angela Clinkscale** was selected as Recreation Leader II at Mount Vernon Recreation Center. She started with the department in 2013 as a seasonal Recreation Leader I.
- Recreation Services' Employee of the month for December was **Brittane' Dodwell**. Brittane' demonstrated exceptional skill and efforts to comfort and challenge young youth participants learning to swim with fear, anxiety, or other uncoordinated skills. Using her patience and infectious positive spirit, Brittane' connects with clients, builds their trust and maintains their attention. Brittane' repeatedly goes the extra mile carrying large class rosters, touching the lives of over 100 children and their families each weekend.
- Recreation Services' Employee of the month for January was **Claudia Alcivar**. Claudia was recognized for her exceptional service in the Registration and Reservation Office, especially during peak registration periods. She continues to go beyond the call of duty for the community and is the ultimate team player.

# Admin

Over the past year, the Marketing section has engaged multiple stakeholder groups to better understand why they choose RPCA programs and services over other options. The consensus is that customers choose RPCA because it is accessible, conveniently-located and they have a desire to engage with their community. This information was used to create the “in your neighborhood” positioning strategy and is being implemented using consistent branding elements across a set of core promotions. The core promotions include: the existing seasonal Program Guide; seasonal consolidated Youth and Adult Sports Registration forms; a PowerPlus brochure with seasonal features for ages 55 & up; “theNEWS” by location featuring new and free programs by season; and an evergreen rack card by location. The intent is to make it easy for patrons to recognize RPCA publications and quickly find the information they are seeking no matter which community center they visit, while ensuring that the desired message of high quality, accessible programs is communicated across all mediums. The suite of core promotions, pictured below, will be available in community centers and online at alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

**CHARLES HOUSTON RECREATION CENTER**  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Hours of Operation:  
Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Activities:  
Aerobics, Fitness, Pool, Tennis, etc.

Registration Begins: Wednesday, December 10

**Alexandria**  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

WINTER 2015 PROGRAM GUIDE

Registration Begins: Wednesday, December 10

**theNEWS in your neighborhood**

Winter 2015 NEW FITNESS PROGRAMS

Charles Houston Recreation Center

BE FIT (FIT BEGINNERS!)  
Tuesday & Thursday, 6-7 p.m.  
January 6 & February 5  
February 12 & March 19  
April 26 & up: \$125 per session

RICK FIT KICKBOXING  
Tuesday & Thursday  
6:30-7:30 a.m.  
January 13 & February 12  
February 19 & March 19  
April 26 & up: \$125 per session

BE.E.S.T. FIT  
Tuesday & Thursday  
7:45-8:45 p.m.  
January 22  
February 20

ZUMBA  
Monday, 7-8 p.m.  
January 12 & March 9, 16  
Saturday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
January 17 & April 4, 11

BOOST YOUR WORKOUT WITH A PASS TO THE FITNESS ROOM.

**ADULT SPORTS**  
SPRING 2015

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 13

Event	Cost	Registration	Start Date	End Date	Location
Conc. Volleyball	\$100	10 games	March 10	March 17	Charles Houston
Conc. Softball	\$100	10 games	March 10	March 17	Charles Houston
Conc. Flag Football	\$100	10 games	March 10	March 17	Charles Houston
Men's Softball	\$100	10 games	March 10	March 17	Charles Houston
Late Night Basketball	\$100	10 games	March 10	March 17	Charles Houston

**RECREATION FOR AGES 55 & UP**  
**POWER PLUS**

It's all inside...  
Fitness Passes, Classes, Clubs, Sports and Services

NEW FOR WINTER 2015

AARP TAX PREPARATION  
Wednesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
February 4 & April 15  
Lee Center, 1188 Jefferson St.

PICKLEBALL  
Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
July & 8th Sundays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.  
Monday & Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Haines J. Lee Recreation Center, 1538 Jefferson St.

HEALTHY FIT 55  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9-10 a.m.  
January 12 & February 13  
February 20 & March 13  
Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.

**YOUTH SPORTS**  
SPRING 2015

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2015

Event	Registration	Start Date	End Date	Location
Girls' Fastpitch Softball	10 girls, ages 10-14	April 10-15, 2015	April 10-15, 2015	Charles Houston
The Ball & Coach Pitch Youth Baseball	10 boys, ages 8-12	April 10-15, 2015	April 10-15, 2015	Charles Houston
West End Flag Football	10 boys, ages 10-14	April 10-15, 2015	April 10-15, 2015	Charles Houston

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 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 MONTHLY UPDATE- ITEM V-B

---

### 1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE:

- Snow/Ice Operations

Staff responded to high winds and snow/ice events that started on 2/14/15. RPCA staff is responsible for snow/ice removal at metro stations, commuter trails, overpasses, walks on bridges, all schools, recreation centers, and libraries. Staff also supports street snow removal operations during heavy snow. Staff is also the lead responder for any tree related calls during the storm.



Winter Storm 2/17/15

- New Parks and Open Spaces Update

RPCA will assume responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of five (5) new parks and natural areas in FY2016: Potomac Yard Dog Park (0.91 acre), Alexandria Renew Synthetic Field and Restrooms (2.45 acres), Four Mile Run Restoration/Wetland Improvements (2.0 acres), Swann Linear/Finger Park (0.4 acre), and Howell Linier/Finger Park (0.4 acre). RPCA is planning to use a combination of contracted services, in-house staff and volunteer support (“Friends Groups”) to help manage City’s dog parks and enhance this service.

**FY 2015/FY 2016 Anticipated New Parks (as of 01/08/2015)**

Project Name	Acceptance Date	Reason for Adjustment
Freedmens Cemetery (FY 2014)	April 2014	New Park from WWB Settlement
Custis Liner/Finger Park	April 2015	New Park from Development
Route 1 BRT Medians	October 2014	New ROW/Medians from Development
Lee Center Playground Expansion	April 2015	Expansion of the playground and added shade structures
600 N. Henry Street	January 2015	Additional landscape, trees and lawn mowing
Landbay E - Vacant Land	March 2015	New 4.4 acre vacant land parcel (including bridge)
Potomac Yard Park (Phase 2)	March 2015	Linear Trail from Monroe Ave. to Braddock Road
Jefferson Houston Field/Buchanan Playground	March 2015	Field and playground will come back online
Potomac Yard Park (Phase 3)	March 2015	North Pond (north of E. Glebe Road)
Potomac Greens Park	June 2015	New Park from Development
Potomac Greens Street Trees	June 2015	New ROW from Development

Potomac Yard Dog Park	July 2015	New 0.91 Acre Dog Park on Monroe Ave.
Alexandria Renew Field and Restrooms	October 2015	New synthetic field and restrooms from Developer
Four Mile Run Restoration/Wetlands Imps.	December 2015	Wetlands Restoration work completed through STAG Grant
Swann Linear/Finger Park	January 2016	New Park from Development
Howell Linear/Finger Park	January 2016	New Park from Development
Beverley Park Renovation (FY 2017)	September 2016	Complete renovation of Beverley Park

- Park Maintenance

Ben Brenman Park - Work began on pressure washing and painting trash. Staff will clean and paint 24 trashcans, and the nearly 150 light poles throughout the park. Also, staff began pressure washing and deep cleaning the park’s restroom facilities. See before/after pictures below.



Four Mile Run Park - Staff completed improvement of the multi-purpose court: installed a new bench, 2 new trash cans and 2 soccer goals.



General park maintenance – Staff continued leaf removal, elevation of tree limbs, graffiti removal, drain cleaning, fence repairs and damage from wind/snow events.



Modified Work Release Program – Staff developed formal standard operating procedures for the Modified Work Release program through the Alexandria City Sheriff’s Office.

Adopt-a-Park Program – Grant awards have been established for 2014 program participants. Staff is preparing the orientation process and program materials in preparation for another year of volunteering which is due to begin April 1, 2015.

Playground Safety Inspection Program – Staff prepared and presented the details of this program for the RPCA’s Annual Safety Conference, including national safety statistics, safety guidelines, and tools used to conduct safety inspections. This presentation will serve as a training tool for current and future park maintenance staff.

Ben Brenman Bridge Repair Project completion – See pictures below



- Rights-of-Way, school and public grounds maintenance  
Leaf removal operations on Libraries, Schools, and Public Facilities have been completed.

## 2 URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT:

- Recent Wind Storm - Damage to City street trees, trees in parks and on public property was reported to be minor during recent high wind warnings and severe weather events. Two trees reported blocking city streets fell from private property and were quickly cleared by contract crews.
- Proactive tree pruning and removal – This work along West Braddock Road, and North Beauregard Street is now underway. The work is focused on right of way edges and medians that are overgrown, and have many trees that lean over and into the travel lanes.

- Tree Planting Program - Service Requests and Work Orders for the Street Tree Planting Program continue to be submitted for the spring. Tree planting will resume in the middle of March.

### 3 NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

- Staff provided the technical report *Naturalized, Non-Native Virginia Flora (2011-2014)*, comprising 150 voucher specimens of non-native invasive plants collected in Alexandria and Northern Virginia from 2011 through 2014 for the City of Alexandria Herbarium and other herbaria, to the Virginia Botanical Associates and Virginia DCR, Natural Heritage Division. Per request, staff also provided information on Alexandria and Northern Virginia voucher specimens of the invasive Sawtooth Oak as an aid to planning (<http://www.vaplantatlas.org/index.php?do=plant&plant=4359&search=Search>), as well as information on the invasiveness of Orange Day-lily to NPS and VDOT.



Pitch Pine.



Rustic split-rail fence at the Beatley Library Meadow.



L.F. Ward and Miss Moorehead in his office at the Smithsonian

Institution in 1886. Photo courtesy Chicago Botanic Garden.

- Staff produced the “Last Surviving Flora of the Lower Holmes Run Stream Valley: In the Footsteps of Lester Frank Ward” article that includes natural areas at Cameron Run Regional Park for the Plant Press Vol. 18 No. 1 (pp. 13-14).
- Staff supervised the installation of 625 linear feet of rustic, split rail fence around the native, managed Beatley Library Meadow - a “Native Plant Conservation Zone”.
- Staff cut and stump-treated decades-old Bush Honeysuckle from the edge of Fort Williams Park.
- Staff coordinated with our non-native invasive plant removal contractor the removal of a combined quarter-acre of invasive bamboo at Dora Kelley Nature Park and Fort Williams Park, as well as the removal of innumerable invasive shrubs and trees from several acres of the Holmes Run floodplain at Dora Kelley Nature Park and the Holmes Run Scenic Easement.
- The City’s Initiative on Removing Invasive Plants in 2014 was included among the List of Alexandria Top-Ten Environmental Achievements for 2014.



Staff with a truckload of cut invasives.



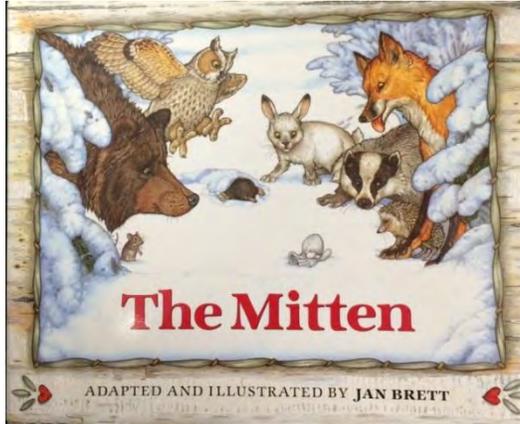
Stand of giant Common Bamboo at Fort Williams Park.

#### 4. JEROMEN “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

- The Naturalist staff of the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center conducted 54 interpretive programs in January that were attended by 528 participants. This included two birthday parties. Some program and operational highlights are described below:

*The Mitten:* On Saturday, January 10, a program centered on the book *The Mitten* by Jan Brett was conducted for children ages 3 to 6 years old. This is a wonderful story about woodland creatures that one by one discover a mitten in the snow and what happen when they all try to crawl inside. It was perfect for a winter’s day. After learning the story, the class acted out this tale wearing animal masks. Next, they

searched for *The Mitten* animals in the Nature Center. Finally, the participants made a mitten craft to take home. This book was also read in our new program “Nature Story Time”- a monthly series for children ages 2 to 4 years old. See photos below:



Children with *The Mitten* animal masks

- *The Magic of Coral Reefs*: Everyone was ready for a little sun on a winter day. The Magic of Coral Reefs weekend program introduced children to the fascinating world of undersea life. They learned about which creatures inhabit the reefs, where reefs are located in the world and the life of undersea explorer and scuba inventor, Jacques Cousteau. Crafts included creating an undersea mural, hand printing and gyotako, Japanese fish printing. See photos below:



Trying on scuba fins



The first step in Japanese fish printing



A gyo-taku masterpiece



Bringing home artwork

- *Volunteers and Interns:* A total of 3 volunteers provided 42 hours of service during the month of January. We have two students from the International Academy at TC Williams High School interning at the Nature Center. The students alternate days coming to the center and will be interning until April. Projects include assisting with the Afterschool Buddies Program, learning about and caring for the center's animals and researching topics for upcoming programs and events.
- *Changes at the Nature Center:* With the popularity of bicycling and the fact that the bike trail runs through Dora Kelley Nature Park, there has been a need for bike racks at the Nature Center. Earlier this month, racks were installed at the front entrance. With Spring around the corner and great days for bike riding ahead, now the public can safely secure their bicycles while visiting the center.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 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.  
DIVISION UPDATE

---

### **Windmill Hill Park Bulkhead Replacement Project**

Staff and the design team lead by Kimley-Horn held a community meeting on Thursday, February 12. The meeting included a brief presentation covering the project area, history and goals, and the public asked questions and provide feedback on design preferences. This is the first of multiple meetings to complete phase 1 of the project. For additional information, visit the [Windmill Hill Park](#) website.

### **City Council Adopts Waterfront Plan Implementation Option A**

On January 27, 2015, City Council adopted Option A - Flood Mitigation and Promenade Priority for implementation of the Waterfront Plan. This priority would begin with construction of the Flood Mitigation Elements and Promenade between Duke Street and Queen Street, followed by the construction of the improvements to the unit block of King Street and the creation of Fitzgerald Square, and completed with expansion and enhancements to Point Lumley Park and improvements to Waterfront Park. The advantages of this option include early protection from nuisance flooding, a highly desirable riverfront walkway, and protection of future public investments from flooding. Some disadvantages include other public enhancements such as public parks are deferred, and there would be delayed synergy with private investments in public amenities. Option A was the preferred option of the Park & Recreation and Waterfront Commissions. For additional information, view the [Full Legislative Text](#).

### **Lafayette's Hermoine to visit City of Alexandria Marina June 10-12**

The Hermione was a 12-pounder Concorde class frigate of the French Navy. She became famous when she ferried General Lafayette to the United States in 1780 to allow him to rejoin the American side in the American Revolutionary War. While docked in the City, the Hermoine will be open to public for free tours, private parties and educational exhibits. For additional information about this historic vessel, visit <http://www.hermione2015.com/index.html>.

**GW Birthday Celebration Activities Cancelled**

Due to extreme low temperatures and dangerous wind chills, the GW Birthday Celebration 10K Race, Revolutionary Reenactment and Parade were cancelled over the holiday weekend. The GW Birthday Committee is working with City staff to reschedule the GW Birthday 10K Race, continuously running since 1973, for this March or April.

**Marina Dredging Project**

Marina Dredging was completed within the permit requirements and under budget. Appropriate depths are present to ensure commercial and recreational boating activity, and to accommodate visiting tall ships and other ships of character.

**City Marina Wharf Strengthening Project**

Construction activities continue. Due to unforeseen conditions, a portion of the project is being redesigned resulting in construction delays. Work is anticipated to be completed by the first week in March.

**Blackwall Hitch Restaurant (Food Court Pavilion) Redevelopment**

Construction for the Blackwall Hitch Restaurant continues with planned completion in late March 2015. Consistent with the SUP application, the City will renovate existing restrooms for community use.

**Waterfront Plan Implementation**

For additional information, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Waterfront](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Waterfront).

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 19, 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;  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2015 –ITEM V-B

---

**ISSUE:**

The following items are provided to the Park & Recreation Commission as information at its February 19, 2015 meeting:

- Capital Projects Update
- Capital Facilities Maintenance Projects Update

## **HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS IN BRIEF:**

### **Witter Athletic Fields**

The City recently received an **Honor Award for Engineering Excellence in Design** from the **American Council of Engineering Companies of Metropolitan Washington** for this project. The project was cited as meritorious for changing a former brownfield to a public park, innovations in field and facilities design – including high performance materials, and environmental sustainability.

### **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. For additional information see <http://alexandriava.gov/27060#Beverley>.

### **Hume Springs Park Improvements**

RunningBrooke of Alexandria ([www.runningbrooke.org](http://www.runningbrooke.org)) is partnering with the City to fund improvements to Hume Springs Park. During the fall 2014 Neighborhood Park Plan public outreach, staff received comments about enhancing the park playground and landscape, transforming the fence, and providing more gathering space for adults. RunningBrooke's contribution will help to enable implementation of the Park Plan. The improvements are anticipated to be implemented in Fall 2015. For additional information about the Neighborhood Park Plan visit: <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=65170#neighborhood>

### **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, and will end with a preferred alternative, refined cost estimates, and a recommended operating plan.

STAFF: Park Planning, Design + Capital Development Division

# Active Park Planning Projects

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

10:18:05 AM

Lead	Project Name	Team	%Complete	Est. Completion
------	--------------	------	-----------	-----------------

## RPCA/ACPS

	<b>Patrick Henry Recreation Center Renovat</b>	Ron and Beth	5%	01-Jun-16
Notes: ACPS school replacement study community meetings on-going. Feasibility study in progress.				

## RPCA

	<b>Chinquapin Feasibility Study</b>	RMK LD	in progress	30-Apr-15
Notes: Task1B is complete (October) and we will have a public meeting Jan/Feb. 2015.				

	<b>Fort Ward Park</b>	LD		31-Jan-15
Notes: Management Plan accepted by City Council in January, 2015				

	<b>Four Mile Run Restoration</b>	Dana/Ron	60% CD	31-Dec-15
Notes: 100% design received. Construction manager selected and contract prepared for signature. Construction contractor in procurement. Start date to be March 2. JTF meeting Feb 4.				

	<b>Kelly Cares Playground Expansion</b>	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 Spring 2015.				

	<b>Neighborhood Parks Plan</b>	DW LD		01-Jan-16
Notes: Community feedback summaries complete. Draft recommendations in development and will be provided to PRC in Spring 2015.				

	<b>Potomac Yard Park</b>	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.				

	<b>Simpson Dog Park Lights</b>	DW		01-Mar-15
Notes: Community meeting scheduled for January 15th. Ty Specht managing solicitation. Installation expected for Spring, 2015.				

	<b>Simpson Playground &amp; Passive area Reno</b>	JL		01-Apr-16
Notes: LWCF grant approved for project. Set to begin in July 2015 with match from CIP.				

## ACPS

	<b>John Adams Transportation Improvement</b>	DW		01-Jun-15
Notes: CC approved plan on 11/15. Parking lot expansion set to begin in spring.				

	<b>Long Range Educational Facilities Plan</b>	DW		01-Apr-15
Notes: Mini Master Plans in draft. Draft Plan in review.				



# Active Rec CFMP Projects

Parks, Recreation + Cultural Activities /  
Department of General Services

February 18, 2015

FY	Project Name	Project Code	Facility Name	Status	% Complete
FY 2014	Restrooms Upgrade	CB-14-01	Charles Barrett Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Replace fitness equipment with new	CB-14-01	Charles Barrett Center	Canceled	-0-
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	Bleachers Replacement	CK-14-03	Cora Kelly Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Gym Doors Replacment	CK-14-04	Cora Kelly Center	Executing	85%
FY 2014	Windows Repair-Glazing	CN-14-02	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	On Hold	-0-
FY 2014	Lockers in Pool Office, Ph I	CN-14-01	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	Completed FY12	100%
FY 2014	Fabric Acoustic Panels	OD-14-03	Oswald Durant Arts Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	HVAC Work - New Chillers	LC-14-03	Lee 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	Restroom Renovations	LC-14-04	Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Bleachers Replacement	MV-14-05	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	Repair Curtain Motor, Gym	MV-14-04	Mt. Vernon Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Gym Bleacher Replacement	NL-14-01	Nannie J. Lee Center	Canceled	
FY 2014	Gym Floor Resurface	NL-14-02	Nannie J. Lee Center	Completed	100%
FY 2014	Gym Curtain	NL-14-03	Nannie J. Lee Center	Completed	100%

FY	Project Name	Project Code	Facility Name	Status	% Complete
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	Replace Damaged Dance Floor	WR-14-01	William Ramsay Center	Completed	100%
FY 2015	Window sealing	BF-15-01	Buddie Ford Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Window sealing	CB-15-02	Charles Barrett Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Multipurpose Rm Upgrade	CB-15-03	Charles Barrett Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Lobby Floor Finish Replacement	CK-15-01	Cora Kelly Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	New HVAC Controls	CK-14-05	Cora Kelly Center	Pending Funds	-0-
FY 2015	Hot water heater	CK-15-04	Cora Kelly Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Restroom lighting	CK-15-03	Cora Kelly Center	In procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Restroom upgrades	CK-15-02	Cora Kelly Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Natatorium Door Replacement	CN-15-03	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	In Proucurement	-0-
FY 2015	LED Lighting Upgrade	CN-15-04	Chinquapin Park Rec Center	Executing	-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	Floor System Repairs	CO-15-05	Colasanto Arts Center	Executing	20%
FY 2015	Floor system repairs	CO-15-01	Colasanto Arts Center	Executing	30%
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	Sump Pump Installation	OD-15-01	Oswald Durant Arts Center	On Hold	-0-
FY 2015	Stage Lighting System	OD-14-02	Oswald Durant Arts Center	On Hold/Delayed	-0-
FY 2015	New Flooring in Corridor	OD-15-01	Oswald Durant Arts Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-

FY	Project Name	Project Code	Facility Name	Status	% Complete
FY 2015	Cooling tower replaement	LC-15-07	Lee Center	executing	-0-
FY 2015	Millwork Replacement (Multiple Areas)	LC-14-01	Lee Center	On Hold	-0-
FY 2015	Replace Cabinets in Kitchen	LC-14-02	Lee Center	On Hikd	-0-
FY 2015	Replace Corridor Water Cooler	LC-15-01	Lee Center	Preliminary Phase	-0-
FY 2015	Fire Panel	LC-13-04	Lee Center	Executing	75%
FY 2015	Exterior lighting upgrades	LC-15-05	Lee Center	In Procurement	-0-
FY 2015	RTU#2 replacement	LC-15-06	Lee Center	Executing	50%
FY 2015	Window replacement	LC-15-06	Lee Center	Procurement	-0-
FY 2015	Paint corridor	LC-15-06	Lee Center	Executing	75%
FY 2015	Fenestration System Replacement	LC-15-02	Lee Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Restrooms Wall covering Replacement	LC-15-03	Lee Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Roof replacememt	MV-15-02	Mt. Vernon Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Reception desk upgrade	MV-15-01	Mt. Vernon Center	Executing	50%
FY 2015	Exterior lighting upgrades	MV-15-03	Mt. Vernon Center	Executing	-0-
FY 2015	Activity Room Ceiling Replacement	MV-14-02	Mt. Vernon Center	Old Hold	-0-
FY 2015	New Fitness Equipment	NL-15-01	Nannie J. Lee Center	In Queue (Outlying FY)	-0-
FY 2015	Painting - Interiors	NL-15-02	Nannie J. Lee Center	Executing	-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-
FY 2015	Restroom Renovations	WR-15-01	William Ramsay Center	Executing	-0-