



# City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

## **City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission Schedules Public Hearing on Recommendation to Convert Rectangular Field at Ben Brenman Park to Synthetic Turf**

September 30, 2009

### **News Highlights:**

- Staff recommends the rectangular field at Ben Brenman Park, as the City's next synthetic turf conversion with full cut-off athletic field lighting.
- Prior to the October 15 public hearing, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) staff will host a tour of the Fort Ward Park synthetic athletic field on Thursday, October 8.

### **More Information:**

- Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation)

The City of Alexandria's Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing for staff to present a recommendation on the City's next synthetic turf conversion and to receive public comment. The public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 15 at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Avenue.

The presentation will include results from an athletic field study that classifies and prioritizes synthetic turf candidates based on their ability to meet the City's needs in 2010. Based on this study, staff recommends the rectangular field at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive, as the next synthetic turf conversion with the installation of full cut-off lighting. The new lighting system is energy efficient, and requires less electricity while providing more light on the field surface. The lights utilize cutting edge technology and are shielded to focus the light on the field, minimizing light spill onto adjacent properties.

In fall 2007, RPCA staff studied fields which were candidates for conversion to synthetic turf which yielded a five-year conversion strategy. Since that time, conditions and priorities have evolved. The purpose of the 2009 study was to update the 2007 study by refining the criteria on which the fields were judged.

After discussion on the athletic field study has concluded, the Commission will hear comments from City residents on any other park and recreation related issue not previously discussed in a public hearing by the Commission. A regular meeting of the Commission follows the public hearing.

In anticipation of the installation of the City's next synthetic field construction project, RPCA staff will host a tour of the synthetic turf athletic field located at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, October 8. The tour will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about synthetic turf athletic fields and full cut-off athletic field lighting. Transportation will be provided for a limited number of participants from Ben Brenman Park at 7 p.m. Please RSVP by 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 7 by calling at 703.746.5495.

Residents unable to attend the guided tour on October 8 may visit the Fort Ward Park athletic field Monday through Friday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. to observe the field in use. For information on the field's usage schedule, call the Sports Office at 703.746.5402.

Individuals who are unable to attend the public hearing can view the athletic field study at [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) and send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: William Chesley, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or e-mail [william.chesley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:william.chesley@alexandriava.gov). **The deadline to submit comments is 5 p.m., Thursday, October 15, 2009.**

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call William Chesley, Deputy Director, at 703.746.5426 (TTY 703.838.4902), or e-mail [william.chesley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:william.chesley@alexandriava.gov).