City of Alexandria, Virginia

Citywide Park Improvement Plans
Chinquapin Park

October 24, 2012

Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities
Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Division
Goal

Create plans that identify the priorities for future park enhancements and uses in Alexandria’s large, multi-use, municipally-owned parks, balancing the City’s recreational, cultural, environmental, and passive use needs.

What is a Citywide Park?
Over 20 acres
Multi-use
Municipally-owned
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Spring 2012</th>
<th>Summer 2012</th>
<th>Fall/Winter 2012</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
<th>Summer 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct Site Inventory</td>
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<td>Review Existing Plans &amp; Documents</td>
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<td>Collect Qualitative Data from City Staff</td>
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<td>Conduct Site Observations</td>
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<td>Review National Benchmarks &amp; Standards</td>
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<td>Obtain Feedback from Public</td>
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<td>Hold Public Workshops</td>
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<td>Develop Recommendations &amp; Report</td>
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Q15. Actions That Households Are Most Willing to Support with Their Tax Dollars

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices

- Improve existing walking, hiking and biking trails: 44%
- Purchase land to preserve natural areas, wildlife: 42%
- Develop walking & biking trails that connect parks: 36%
- Improve existing passive use neighborhood parks: 41%
- Purchase land to develop passive use parks: 22%
- Improve existing swimming pools: 19%
- Develop new swimming pools: 17%
- Improve existing athletic fields: 13%
- Improve existing indoor recreation facilities: 12%
- Improve existing marina facilities: 11%
- Develop new special event/performance venue: 10%
- Develop new indoor recreation facilities: 10%
- Provide lighted athletic fields: 9%
- Improve existing basketball and tennis courts: 8%
- Develop space for large gatherings: 8%
- Develop new basketball & tennis courts: 6%
- Purchase land to develop athletic fields: 5%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2011)
Q7. Parks, Recreation, or Cultural Amenities That Are Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices

- Playgrounds #1 priority in households with children under 10
- Walking and biking trails #1 priority in households with children 10-19, with soccer/lacrosse fields a close 2nd
- Walking and biking trails #1 priority in empty nester households

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2011)
Develop strategy or implementation for:
1. Natural and Historic resource protection
2. Universal ADA accessibility
3. Multi-use paths to reflect user patterns
4. Parking management strategies
5. Upgrade and maintain sports fields
6. Trash receptacle locations and recycling program
7. Standardized way-finding and park regulation signage
8. Locations for public art, in collaboration with the Office of the Arts
9. Infrastructure for event spaces (hard surfaces, electrical outlets, restroom access, water)
Chinquapin Park

History

The parcels of land for two World War II federal housing projects, Chinquapin Village and Cameron Valley, appear on this 1946 map. Children from Chinquapin Village walked through the woods (now Forest Park) to reach MacArthur School, noted on the map as owned by the U.S. government. The school was built for children from the two projects.

Alexandria Library, Special Collections.

The 150 duplexes in the Chinquapin Village Housing Project were arranged around courts connected to a central, circular road, the “Chinquapin Circle.” A triangular-shaped, common play area can be seen in the center of the village in this mid-1940s map.

Alexandria Library, Special Collections.
Chinquapin Park
Existing Conditions
Chinquapin Park
Existing Conditions
Chinquapin Park
Site Observations

- Used by summer camp groups
- Used for soccer practice
- Active tennis courts, people parking in circle to use tennis courts
- Active community garden
- Small groups and parents with kids using space for open play when camps are not present
- Dog-walkers allow dogs off-leash in unauthorized areas

Loop is used for vehicles, runners, cyclists, and pedestrians

Chinquapin Park
JUNE 19, 2012, 10:15AM-11:00AM
JULY 9, 2012, 5:30PM-6:30PM
JULY 11, 2012, 9:00AM-10:00AM
Chinquapin Park
Anticipated Projects

- Loop re-paving scheduled for FY16
- Chinquapin Recreation Center scheduled for renovation in FY19
- Playground renovation scheduled for FY14
- Potential site for TC Williams tennis courts
Chinquapin Park
Who have we heard from?

36 Surveys on Chinquapin completed as of 1:00pm on October 24
Chinquapin Park

What have we already heard?

What areas of the Park do you think need improvement?

- Playground: 33.3%
- Passive Use Areas: 13.3%
- Parking: 30%
- Soccer fields: 10%
- Park Furnishings: 16.7%
- Community Garden Area: 6.7%
- Dog Exercise Area: 6.7%
30 students took part in a Chinquapin Park workshop.

**Students Mode of Transport to the Park**

- **Walk**: 40%
- **Car**: 40%
- **Bus (DASH)**: 20%
- **Bike**: 0%

**Students Desired Park Activities**

- **Walk and Run**: 22%
- **Play Soccer**: 34%
- **Play Basketball**: 11%
- **Play Tennis**: 22%
- **Sit and Relax**: 11%

**Suggested improvements:**

- Provide a soccer field with goal posts
- Park furnishings
- Sidewalks
1. Complete individual surveys
   *(for those who have not filled out the online survey)*
   - http://alexva.us/aw4

2. As a group, Identify:
   a) The top five park assets
   b) Where pathways should be for optimal park circulation
   c) Existing conditions that need improvement
   d) Programs/facilities that are not in the park, but should be

3. Review both the list of improvements and program needs, prioritize the top five.
Next Steps

1. Tell your friends and neighbors to take the survey before the end of November:
   www.alexva.us/aw3

2. Workshops in four other Citywide Parks:
   - Hensley, October 29 @ Lee Center
   - Holmes Run, November 7 @ Samuel Tucker
   - Ben Brenman/Boothe, November 14 @ Samuel Tucker

3. Synthesis and Analysis

4. Spring Workshops