Dale Street Garden
Park and Recreation Commission
January 18, 2018
Background

• The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities PARKnership program and Rebuilding Together Alexandria have partnered to improve the neighborhood parks in Hume Springs and Lynhaven.

• Rebuilding Together was awarded design and construction funding improvements for the Dale Street portion of Four Mile Run Park, as well as 3550 Commonwealth Ave Park.

• This section of Four Mile Run Park is located along Dale Street, behind Cora Kelly Elementary School and Recreation Center.

• The 2014 Citywide Parks Improvement Plan recommended transforming the currently vacant space into a community garden.

• The City conducted community outreach throughout Fall 2017, as summarized below. Staff developed a draft concept plan based on the input received.
Response Statistics

• 85 surveys complete
• Open from September 7, 2017 to November 1, 2017
• Advertised on city website, social meeting, at community meeting on October 12, community associations and through neighbors walking door to door with printed surveys
• Provided online in both English and Spanish
Where do you live in relation to the site?

- Within 1/4 mile: 71%
- Within 1/2 mile: 18%
- Within 1 mile: 1%
- Beyond 1 mile: 10%
What type of mix of uses would you like to see in this garden?

**Informal**
(open to anyone to use and are unmanaged)

**Formal**
.managed in the manner of a more traditional community garden with individual plots)
Click the images that best represent what you would like to see at this site.
(Top five out of 17 options shown)

1st Choice

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Click the images that best represent what you would like to see at this site.
(Top five out of 17 options shown)

2nd Choice
Click the images that best represent what you would like to see at this site.
(Top five out of 17 options shown)

3rd Choice
Click the images that best represent what you would like to see at this site.

(Top five out of 17 options shown)

4th Choice
Click the images that best represent what you would like to see at this site.
(Top five out of 17 options shown)

5th Choice
Management

• Community members from Hume Springs and Lynhaven have organized a group to manage the site in Partnership with the city.

• The partnership has not yet been formalized as we are waiting on community input.

• The city and Rebuilding Together Alexandria have stated that the group must determine a system that prioritizes low-income families in the neighborhood having access to gardening and food.
Draft Site Plan

DALE STREET GARDEN RENOVATION
Examples
Next Steps

• Distribute and present draft design in January 2018 and then make edits based on feedback.

• RPCA will develop construction documents January through April 2018.

• Rebuilding Together Alexandria will hold a volunteer build day in May 2018.

• Any additional work needed after the volunteer day will take place between May and November. Project must be complete, per grant requirements, by November 2018.

• If you have any questions, contact dana.wedeles@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5491.
Do you have specific garden management suggestions or know of organizations that may be interested in being involved?

- A government official should be assigned for oversight and to make sure the rules are strictly followed. I have NO interest in this garden. I live close to this site and do not want to be impacted by the disadvantages that can be realized by these type of gardens, especially if they are not properly maintained.
- Alexandria Master Gardeners Community group that manages the GW community garden Greenstreet gardens
- Arlington Master Gardeners, Plant NOVA Natives,
- By neighborhood volunteers in that neighborhood sign up to take care of their plot. Or each neighborhood hire and pay out of their community fund garden care.
- Certain parts of Green Spring Garden in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County are very well done.
- Engage the Cora Kelly Rec Center; create a plan for garden beds so that they can be increased as interest in the garden grows.
- Few Elected neighborhood residents
- Formal organized and well kept. Manage parking situation as parking on Dale Street is already extremely limited for residents
- Four Mile Run Conservatory
- Has the soil been tested? Do we know this plot is 100% safe for edible plants? The garden should also include a composting station, where local residents could add garden and kitchen/vegetable scraps. This would reduce trash, improve soil, and provide a learning opportunity.
- Having designated garden plots would alleviate some of the unmet need I. This part of town, given what I have heard are long wait lists at chinquapin and others. I was a founding member of the GW community garden which runs as a coop but that is a hard model to sustain without a dedicated core of members to share the work. The Va Master Gardeners, ACPS garden coordinator and perhaps CK science teachers would likely want to get involved in having a plot for students. I would love to see the common portion of the garden incorporate natives, pollinator support plants and edibles (a mini food forest).
Do you have specific garden management suggestions or know of organizations that may be interested in being involved?

- Hume Springs Citizens Association
- Hume Springs Civic Association
- I don’t have experience with community gardens but I thought most have certain rules of gardening etiquette, management, and standards.
- I highly recommend a learning garden plot to use as an example to other fellow gardeners by designated "garden curators." If the purpose of this space is to be educational and bring community together, I recommend those who rent garden plots get a discount if they are also stewards for the communal garden area, which should be less structured, more of a narrative with the feeling of outdoor rooms, similar to the tone of the park across the street. I am part of a formal community garden at Chinquapin and also an informal communal garden at GW Middle School. There are pros and cons for both. Communal gardens are great for novices who think they have a black thumb or those who want to meet new people and experience more of a community-oriented feeling. It is a great opportunity to bring in Master Gardeners who need to do some volunteer hours to keep up certification, too. That said, there is a bit of incentive required to bring folks out during the hot months and no matter what you
- I suggest adding only a limited number of plots and increasing the number as demand and proven management capability increases.
- I think a combination of residents from Hume Springs and Lynhaven who volunteer to be on a board. An Organization Committee of sorts.
- I think individual garden plots make the most sense. Without individual plots, no one is truly responsible and they won't be maintained well.
- I worry that mixed use would be effectively informal. It would be great to see Cora Kelly children involved. Tenants and Workers would have connections with apartment complexes
- I would like to see a flower garden.
- I’m concerned that unmanaged plots will become overgrown and unsightly.
- It should be more formal in operation. Friends who live in Arlington County have to be on a wait list for some of those garden communities. Hopefully by making it more formal it will benefit our community.
Do you have specific garden management suggestions or know of organizations that may be interested in being involved?

- Less is more. Please have a community compost so that those of us who work on the weekends have a place to compost during the week or at off times.
- Local Hume Spring residents should get priority when deciding the private lots.
- Lynhaven Community Association has a lot of gardeners; we could maintain a section
- Mas juegos para ninos para g los ninos fenga mas diveriones.
- Master Gardeners of Alexandria might be a good resource, also there are active community gardening groups at George Washington Middle School and other city schools.
- Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
- Master gardeners of northern va
- No but willing to learn
- None
- Suggest to have highly managed plots that are sold annually. Allow first serve to Hume Springs Community residents. Allow some free plots for low income residents on lottery system. Hume Springs Community Association could manage garden if provided a small budget. Create a set of bylaws for owning a plot. Integrate areas for education and fellowship into garden (i.e. covered picnic tables). Ensure proper budget for bi-lingual educational sign boards, etc. Ensure the space is enclosed to keep out deer and individuals past working hours dawn to dusk.
Do you have specific garden management suggestions or know of organizations that may be interested in being involved?

- There should be some "ground rules" in order to keep peace and structure and also addressing for instance: What type of pesticides and fertilizers can be used Plot owners to participate in weeding duty of common areas - several hours a week for instance Which type of mulch can and cannot be used Individual plots to be framed/raised beds - so that dogs don't get at it - high enough so dogs cannot pee on plots. Hume Springs is a dog heavy neighborhood For residents on Dale Street to have first dips on gardening plots. No smoking and drinking on/in garden area
- Virginia Tech Extension Services, Master Gardeners
- We may want to consult with City of Arlington for best practices. I've worked in their gardens extensively, and have the by laws from several of their community gardens, which I can provide if requested. Also, I feel its important to try and include all members of the community. If we can set aside some plots for low-income families, vs. relying strictly on a waitlist, it would go a long way. It goes without saying, given the location to the fragile 4-mile run, which Alexandria is spending a great deal of money to restore, that an organic/chemical free garden which will not contaminate the waterway would be preferred.
- While I think informal would be wonderful for a community that doesn't have large yards, I worry it will become unruly. If you look at a lot of the yards in the area, upkeep and maintenance is a major concern.
- elected board to run and manage the garden and individual plots for nominal rent. Priority should go to the immediately surrounding community
- Sugarencias no pero me parece genial que aya- una huerta cerca di mi casa
- 1. Master Gardener's should do a demo garden 2. A kids garden could be a lot of fun - different plants to touch, smell, and see that engage kids. 3. VA Native Plant Society could do a pollinator garden and try to plant species that are missing for insects and animals to help with migration and attract species that are under represented in our local ecology (like Monarch butterflies). 4. Local shelters or food banks could get fresh food that would otherwise go wasted from plots and demo garden. 5. Partner with local garden center to do a small backyard garden - like currently at Green Spring Gardens. Really nice to see options for yards that are small. 6. I'm in favor of a stricter mgmt. style with a focus on seasonable vegetable gardening. 7. Some plots should be free of rent for those meeting certain eligibility requirements. 8. All plots should have minimum requirements for continued use, similar to what Arlington County has in place. 9. Since the school is right there