City of Alexandria, Virginia

Citywide Park Improvement Plans
Four Mile Run Park

October 10, 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.

Criteria for Citywide Parks

- Over 20 acres
- Multi-use
- Municipally-owned
# Citywide Park Planning Framework Timeline

<table>
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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: 41%
- Improve existing passive use neighborhood parks: 36%
- 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

- Walking trails: 57%
- Biking trails: 34%
- Natural areas and wildlife habitats: 30%
- Playgrounds: 23%
- Indoor swimming pool: 20%
- Running/walking track: 19%
- Marina/waterfront: 19%
- Indoor exercise and fitness facilities: 18%
- Outdoor swimming pools: 16%
- Picnic shelters/areas: 16%
- Fenced dog exercise areas: 15%
- Outdoor tennis courts: 15%
- Community gardens: 15%
- Unfenced dog exercise areas: 14%
- Soccer/lacrosse fields: 8%
- Spray parks: 7%
- Indoor performance/art facilities: 6%
- Outdoor performance space: 5%
- Outdoor basketball courts: 5%
- Outdoor fitness station: 4%
- Fishing areas: 4%
- Facilities for people with disabilities: 4%
- Outdoor volleyball courts: 3%
- Outdoor special event rental space: 3%
- Skateboard parks: 3%
- Ball fields with 50 foot bases: 2%
- Football fields: 2%
- Racquetball/aquash courts: 1%
- Ball fields with 90 foot bases: 1%
- Field hockey/rugby fields: 1%
- None chosen: 8%

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)
Four Mile Run Park
Existing Conditions

51.73 acres
Four Mile Run Park Extension
Four Mile Run Park
Density, Adults
Four Mile Run Park
Density, Seniors
Four Mile Run Park
Existing Plans

- Open Space Plan (2002)
- Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan (2006)
  - Create a “dynamically stable stream channel” using natural stream channel design techniques.
  - Improve corridor habitat and ecology to support native terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species.
Four Mile Run Restoration
Proposed Near-Stream Amenities
Four Mile Run Park
Anticipated Projects

- Phase II of park expansion improvements (currently unfunded)
- In-Stream Restoration
- Bridge Removal
- Playground renovations scheduled for FY15
- Possible site for future stormwater management
- Pedestrian Bridge in design (construction unfunded)
- Field re-grade scheduled for FY15
- Courts to be relocated within park per condition of Mt. Vernon Village Development
- Cora Kelly School redevelopment scheduled for FY16
Four Mile Run Park
Site Observations, Weekdays

- People sitting on utility structures and bridge
- Playground is heavily used, despite lack of seating for parents
- Group gambling on the ground
- Courts lightly used by children with scooters or other non-intended uses
- Cyclists are the most numerous park users
Four Mile Run Park
Site Observations, Weekday Night

Soccer games with permitted field, full parking lot & vehicles parked on grass

Playground and gravel area filled with kids playing and riding bikes

Soccer game in open area and on futsal courts with many spectators
1. Complete individual surveys
   (for those who have not filled out the online survey)

2. As a group, Identify:
   a) The top five park assets
   b) Where pathways should be for optimal park circulation, including connections to the neighborhoods and Cora Kelly Recreation Center and School
   c) Where the multi-purpose courts could be re-located
   d) Existing conditions that need improvement
   e) 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/aww

2. Workshops in for other Citywide Parks:
   - Simpson, October 17 @ Mt. Vernon Rec
   - Chinquapin, October 24 @ T.C. Williams
   - 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