

Lee Center

Improvement Recommendations

Draft (Spring 2015)

1 Provide standard wayfinding signage

The existing sign at the corner of Jefferson and Fayette Streets is outdated and does not provide directional information to guide visitors to different uses on the site. A new sign would meet the City's wayfinding standards and help avoid confusion. New directional signs from Route One and throughout the neighborhood will also provide guidance to the Lee Center.

2 Develop landscape plan and replace trees in front of the building

The existing foundation planting of shrubs and trees along the north side of the building is overgrown and impacts building repairs including windows and utilities. Remove overgrown shrubs to allow site surveillance and replace with low native species perennial grasses and/or shrubs. Remove approximately 5 trees and reestablish in locations closer to the parking area/away from building foundation.

3 Install pathway to connect the outdoor facilities in the front and back of the building

Access is the biggest challenge to the Lee Center site. To access the playgrounds and courts, park users must either walk through the site parking lot or through the building (when its open). A four foot path on the east side of the site will provide a safe way to reach all park features. For the path to run along the south side of the building, the tennis court fence will need to be cut at a 45 degree angle (known as a "California Corner"). The pool fence will also need to be moved inward.

4 Hold design competition to determine interim use for the closed pool

The Lee Center Pool has been closed since 2009. The 2012 Aquatics Facility Feasibility Study recommends the Lee Center pool be re-purposed as a therapeutic pool. Given the high cost of this recommendation, the pool is not likely to be re-purposed for many years. This plan suggests holding a design competition to determine an innovative and inexpensive interim use. Some ideas include a greenhouse, play surface, or skateboard park. Any interim use must be American with Disabilities Act compliant.

5 Install new path to connect the Lee Center back entrance to the Courts and Playgrounds

A new path will provide a clear way for visitors to access the recreational features in the back of the center.

6 Plant a meadow between the building and new pathway

A meadow will help beautify the site, which currently lacks any plantings.

7 Construct new accessible playground

The Miracle League of Alexandria is currently working with staff to install a new playground with accessible play features. The site will be open to the public but the primary users will be the therapeutic recreation programs, based in the Nannie J. Lee Center. The playground will have a music theme and be named for Ruthanne Lodato. The playground plan also calls for trees to be planted along the playground.

8 Install fitness equipment

There is an increased need for outdoor adult fitness equipment throughout the city. This is an ideal location because the Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) uses the area for fitness training, often bringing their own portable equipment to the site. Permanent equipment would allow a shared use between the public and AFD.

9 Plant new trees in the parking lot

The parking lot does not meet the City of Alexandria Landscape Guidelines which requires planted tree islands for every ten spaces. New trees will provide shade and help green the asphalt area.

10 Add picnic tables and grill

A picnic area could be rented for outdoor gatherings or be used by the Nannie J. Lee Center after-school and summer camp programs.

11 Irrigate field using condensation from the building's HVAC system

Using condensation from the Lee Center's HVAC system for irrigation can be an energy-efficient water management strategy. It can also serve as a demonstration on LEED design for the entire City.

