

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 17, 2014

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: DANA WEDELES, PARK PLANNER 
LAURA DURHAM, PRINCIPAL PLANNER

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PLANS

In 2012, the Division of Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development began planning for parks by typology. The Division is now set to begin planning for the City's Neighborhood Parks. These parks often have multiple uses within their park boundary and attract nearby residents. We characterize them as being 0.5 acres to 10 acres with a service area of up to .5 miles. Twenty-two parks fit this criterion, however, of those, five have (or will have) recently completed plans and will only be included for documentary purposes. Park planning will approach the outreach process by planning district. The parks include the following sites:

Planning District 1

1. Montgomery Park
2. Lee Center
3. Powhatan Park

Planning District 2

4. Beach Park
5. Hooff's Run
6. Timberland Park
7. Goat Hill Park
8. Landover Park
9. Angel Park
10. Beverley Park
11. Hume Springs Park
12. 3550 Commonwealth Ave

Planning District 3

13. Mulligan Park
14. Stevenson Park
15. Lockett/Skate Park
16. Ewald Park
17. Taney Avenue Park
18. Chambliss Park

The following parks fit the Neighborhood Park Criteria but we will not be included them in this process because they have a recent plan or are undergoing a separate planning process:

1. President Gerald Ford Park
2. 600 North Henry Street
3. Carlyle Dog Park
4. African American Heritage Park
5. Mt. Jefferson Park and Greenway

We propose the following timeline for this project:

Spring – Summer 2014

1. Establish internal stakeholder group to inform on park needs and uses.
Group to include representatives from:
 - Recreation Division
 - Special Events
 - Park Operations
 - Natural Resources
 - Planning and Zoning
 - T&ES Planning
 - T&ES Office of Environmental Quality
 - T&ES Operations
 - Health Department
 - OHA
 - We will meet with APD, Office of Human Rights, and ACPS to review parks needs and draft plans, as necessary.
2. Begin research and analysis. Research to include:
 - Needs Assessment
 - Historical Documentation
 - Zoning
 - Site Conditions
 - Existing Master Plans/Site Plans
 - Current Operations
 - Demographics
 - Service Area Analysis
 - Future development/external considerations analysis
3. Establish calendar for public outreach strategy and establish project website

Fall 2014

1. Conduct Public Outreach for information gathering
 - Kick-off with establishing project goal with PRC
 - Tour of park sites with PRC (open to public)

- Feedback from Park users (park signs, surveys, etc.)
 - Hold workshops in each planning district
2. Summarize findings, including determination on which parks require substantial design change

Winter 2014

1. Develop standards for Neighborhood Parks
2. Develop list of recommendations and priorities for each park site
3. Develop conceptual plans for Parks that require major design change

Spring 2015

1. Conduct public outreach for feedback on plans
2. Conduct cost analysis

Summer 2015

1. Complete and release final plan (similar to Citywide Parks Improvement Plan process)

Long-term Planning

Following completion of the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan, Park Planning will address the following typologies, as stated in our Division work plan:

Pocket Park	Small open space; mainly single use attracting nearby residents Example: Sunset Mini Park	Under 0.5 acres	.25-0.5 mile or less from users	2015
Natural Resource Areas	Includes open spaces that are primarily passive-use or preservation areas. Example: Dora Kelly Park	No Minimum or Maximum	Citywide	2015 – 2016

- RPCA and ACPS will study and plan for outdoor facilities at school sites through the Long-Term Educational Facilities Plan beginning in July 2014.
- T&ES will include corridors and trails in the upcoming Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, beginning spring 2014.
- Destination/historical parks, such as Ft. Ward, are planned on an individual basis.

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