

Timberland Park

History and Character

This small 0.53-acre park is open space dedicated to the City in 1953 and was part of the Hume estate in Warwick Village. The park is accessed by a walkway between 66 and 68 Kennedy Street, though the entrance is unmarked from the street.

The site is mostly open, except for several Black Cherry and Black Locust trees and a large Eastern Boxelder at the bottom of the slope. A large, old Pin Oak at the park entrance along



Kennedy Street likely dates to the old Hume estate. Arrow Bamboo, Multiflora Rose, Japanese Honeysuckle, English Ivy, and White Mulberry are prominent non-native invasive plants, though they are mainly confined to the park's edges.



The structure in the center of the park (middle image left) is the remaining boundary of a play feature that was in the park prior to 1995. The City removed the play equipment due to safety concerns. The wooden structure is now severely degraded.



The center of the structure is mainly used as a dog area for nearby residents. During the winter children, use the hill in the southeast section of the park for sledding.

Community Feedback

In Fall 2014, staff collected community feedback to understand how the Park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey, community workshop, and "graffiti board" in the park. Over 270 people responded to the survey in total, only two of which were specific to Timberland Park. Staff used the collected information to develop draft park plans.

In 10 years I would like this Park to...

(Top 3 rankings shown; based on a weighted score)

1. Help reduce environmental impacts
2. Be a place to create social connections
3. Provide opportunity to explore nature

What is currently NOT in the Park that you would like to see there?

Response

Community garden. Water spigot.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Park?

Response

Would be an ideal location for a community garden.

It is a great place for neighbors to meet and socialize especially if they have dogs. A community garden would provide an opportunity for other neighbors to enjoy the space and would provide a source of water for the plants and dogs.

How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	2	100%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0%
Drive	0	0%
Public Transit	0	0%
Carpool	0	0%

How far do you typically travel to visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Less than ½ mile	2	100%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	0	0%
Between 1-2 miles	0	0%
Over 2 miles	0	0%

How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	0	0%
Weekly	2	100%
Monthly	0	0%
Yearly	0	0%

What would you like done with the structure?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	0	0%
Enhance it	2	100%
Transform it	0	0%

Explain

The retaining wall needs to be reinforced. It is deteriorating and needs to be better supported

Existing Conditions



What would you like done with the hill?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	2	100%
Enhance it	0	0%
Transform it	0	0%

What would you like done with the open space area?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	0	0%
Enhance it	1	50%
Transform it	1	50%

Explain

Consider a community garden

it would be great to be able to use part of the space for a community garden. The field gets full sun and parts are relatively flat. it was add an additional amenity to the park.

Comments from Community Workshop held on

October 25, 2014

- Enhance structure by making it a safer climbing structure. Suggestions: tree fort or wooden play fort; boulders
- Install dog pick-up supplies; it could be provided by neighborhood association
- Open lawn needs shade
- Remove bamboo
- Provide signage at entrance

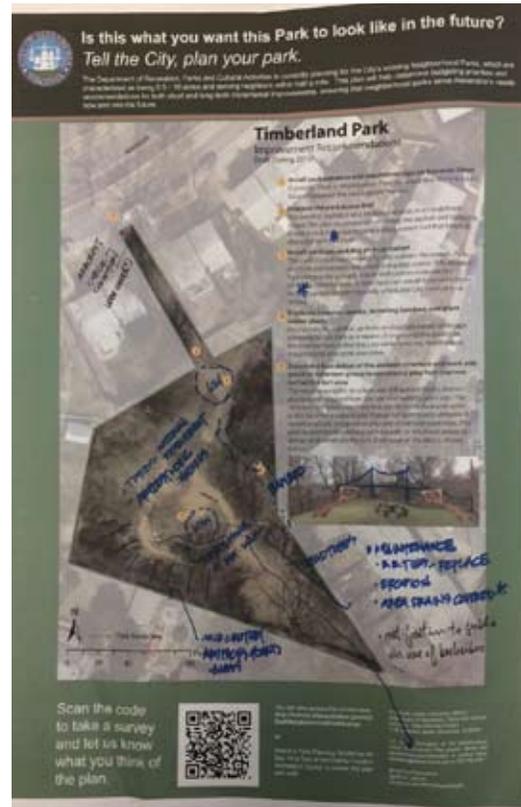
Graffiti Sign

A “graffiti sign” in the Park had a marker attached and asked park users to write down what they would like their park to look like in the future. The sign was on site from September to November 2014 (image from October 27).



Draft Plan Feedback

In Spring 2015, the community provided feedback on the draft park plan (below) through online surveys (see appendix for full results), park signs and public meetings. Staff updated the plans to best represent current and future community needs.



Implementation Strategy

The recommendations in the plan (right) can be implemented independent of other projects as funding is available, whether through city or non-city funds. The cost estimates below (in 2015 dollars) do not include operating costs. Prior to the implementation of any recommendation, operating costs, if any, must be considered. The priority for each recommendation is shown as “low,” “medium,” or “high.” RPCA determined these rankings based upon (1) park user safety, (2) community prioritization feedback and the results of the 2011 and 2013 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, (3) life span of the existing conditions, (4) potential for non-city funding sources, (5) level of user impact, (6) relationship to other projects.

Timberland Park				
#	Recommendation	Priority	Estimated Cost	Dept Lead
1	Install park entrance and regulations sign on Kennedy Street	Medium	5,000-7,500	RPCA
2	Improve the park access trail	Medium	5,000-7,500	RPCA
3	Install trash can and dog pick-up station	Medium	2,000-3,000	RPCA
4	Eradicate invasive species, including bamboo, and plant native plants	Low	1,000 - 1,500	RPCA
5	Remedy drainage issues	High	10,000-15,000	RPCA/TES
6	Secure the foundation of the wooden structure and include seating and rails along the edge	High	35,000-50,000	RPCA

Improvement Recommendations



- 1 Install park entrance and regulations sign on Kennedy Street**
Currently, there is no indication from the street that there is a park located between the two adjacent houses.
- 2 Improve the park access trail**
The existing asphalt trail is broken and ends in an undefined shape. This plan recommends removing the asphalt and replacing it with a mulch or a permeable surface nature trail that keeps in character with the Park.
- 3 Install trash can and dog pick-up station**
This park is used most heavily by dog walkers. Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will install a dog bag station if its adopted by a community group because staff cannot maintain the constant need for bags. A new trash can would be provided next to the bag station with regularly scheduled City trash pick-up service.
- 4 Eradicate invasive species, including bamboo, and plant native plants**
Incorporate thoughtful, up-front ecologically based landscape planning for the Park as a means of improving the quality of the environment within the City while reducing maintenance requirements and costs over-time.
- 5 Remedy drainage issues**
There are areas in the park that pond after rain events. Water also runs down the park's slope behind the wooden structure. Installation of a drain system will control the water run-off.
- 6 Secure the foundation of the wooden structure and include seating and rails along the edge**
The existing wooden structure was left behind from a former playground removed from the site over twenty years ago. The structure is in poor condition but can be reinforced and serve as the base for community gathering with seating incorporated into the structure. A railing system along the edge would provide safety. A concept of the idea is shown below.



2015 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan: Appendix



Neighborhood Parks Plan

Timberland Park

Community Feedback, Fall 2014



The Division of Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development is currently planning for the City's existing Neighborhood Parks, which we characterize as being 0.5 - 10 acres with a service area of up to 0.5 miles. The results of this plan will help determine budgeting priorities and recommendations for both short and long-term incremental improvements, ensuring that neighborhood parks serve Alexandria's needs now and into the future.

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Enhance it	2	100%
Transform it	0	0%

Explain

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KENNEDY

Timberland Park

Improvement Recommendations

Draft (Spring 2015)

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4 Eradicate invasive species, including bamboo, and plant native plants
Incorporate thoughtful, up-front ecologically based landscape planning for the Park as a means of improving the quality of the environment within the City while reducing maintenance requirements and costs over-time.

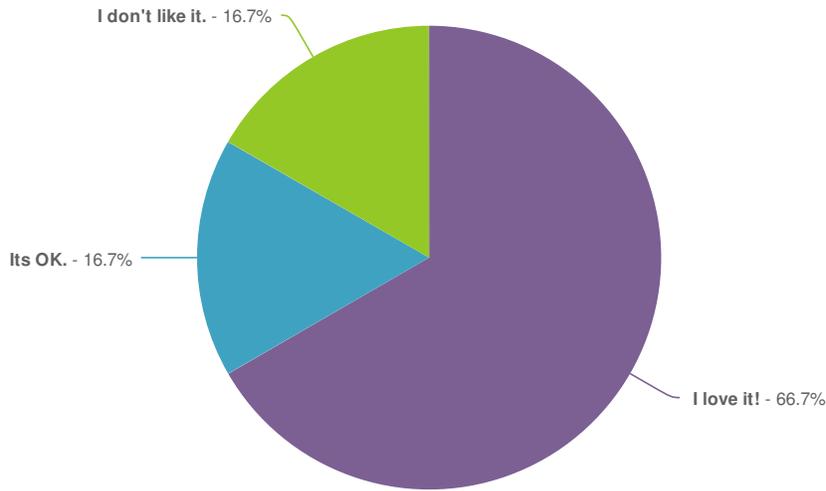
5 Secure the foundation of the wooden structure and work with youth or volunteer group to construct a play fort; improve turf within fort area
The existing wooden structure was left behind from a former playground removed from the site over twenty years ago. The structure is in poor condition but can be reinforced and serve as the base for a natural play feature for community children. It would promote imaginative play and childhood memories. This plan recommends working with a youth or volunteer group to design and construct the fort. A concept of the idea is shown below.





Timberland Park Draft Improvement Plan Survey Results, July 2015

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Eradicate invasive species, including bamboo, and plant native plants

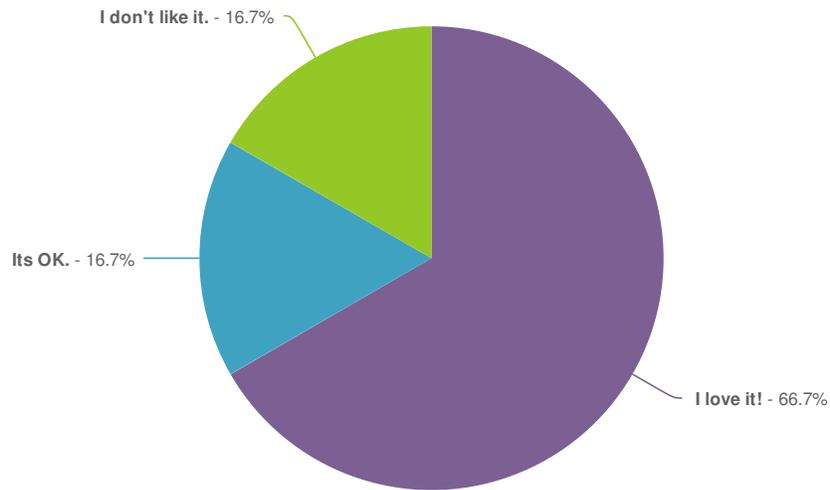


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	66.7%	4
Its OK.	16.7%	1
I don't like it.	16.7%	1
Total		6

Explain-Eradicate invasive species, including bamboo, and plant native plants

Count	Response
1	Bamboo and plants hide houses that back up to the park
1	Make sure to keep plenty of open space.
1	Not the highest priority, but would be great.
1	If the city has plenty of money to spend, great. Would rather see the dead trees that could fall over and hurt someone removed instead.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Improve the park access trail

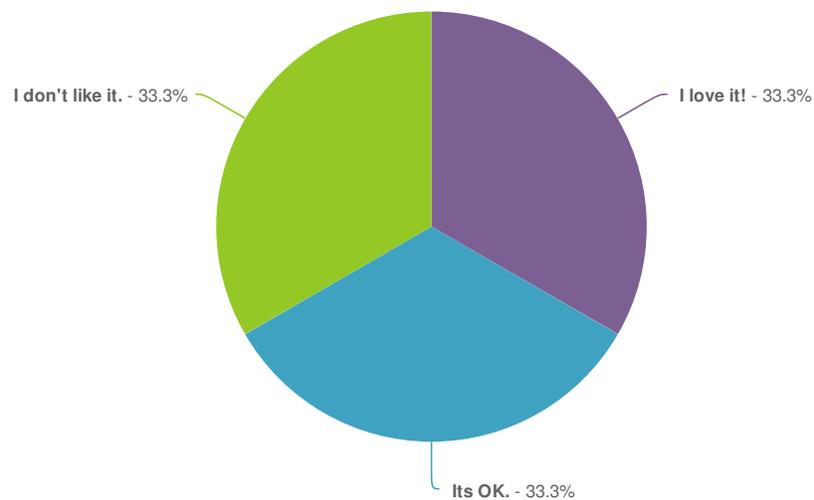


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	66.7%	4
Its OK.	16.7%	1
I don't like it.	16.7%	1
Total		6

Explain-Improve the park access trail

Count	Response
1	Great!

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install park entrance and regulations sign on Kennedy Street

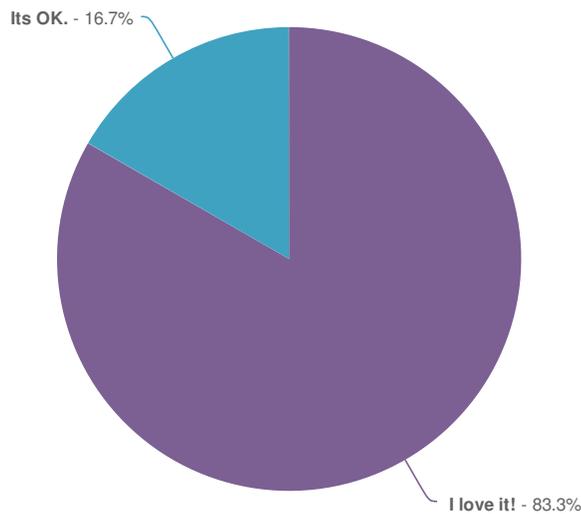


Value	Percent		Count
I love it!	33.3%		2
Its OK.	33.3%		2
I don't like it.	33.3%		2
Total			6

Explain-Install park entrance and regulations sign on Kennedy Street

Count	Response
1	The current intimate setting is an important and intriguing aspect of the park.
1	Prefer that this does not become an official dog park. This is in a easement between houses where there is limited parking and houses back up to the park.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install trash can and dog pick up station

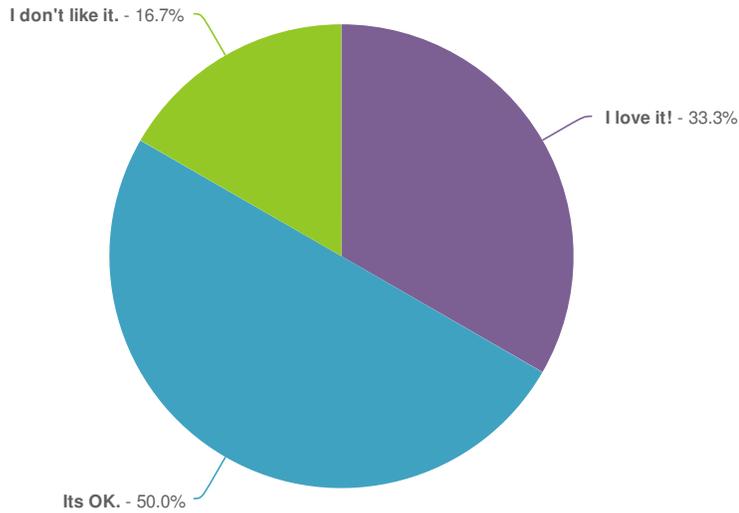


Value	Percent		Count
I love it!	83.3%		5
Its OK.	16.7%		1
Total			6

Explain-Install trash can and dog pick up station

Count	Response
1	Top priority.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Secure the foundation of the wooden structure and work with youth or volunteer group to construct a play fort; improve turf within play fort



Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	33.3%	2
Its OK.	50.0%	3
I don't like it.	16.7%	1
Total		6

Explain-Secure the foundation of the wooden structure and work with youth or volunteer group to construct a play fort; improve turf within play fort

Count Response

1	I think I prefer the natural "forts" the kids play in now to something more structured.
1	Definitely need to secure the wooden structure. This is currently a dog park though and I don't want a play for for children installed. It wouldn't be safe for both dogs and children to play here
1	I disagree with the addition of a fort but securing the foundation of the railroad ties is critical. A fort would adjust the current use of the park dramatically and may slowly cause the current primary users to become disenfranchised.
1	The railroad ties need to be replaced, but why install a wooden "fort"? This is a place where people exercise there dogs. Not a playground.

Do you feel all of the comments were heard and addressed in the draft Timberland Park plan? If not, what is missing and how can we make the plan better?

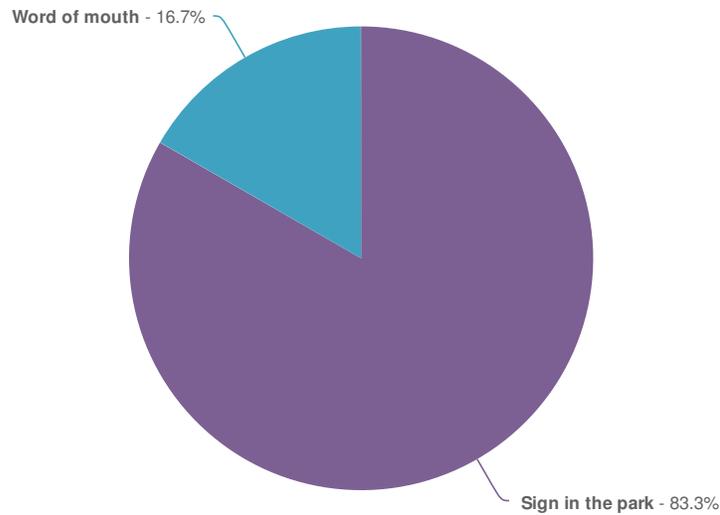
Count Response

1	No. There should not be any kids playground equipment at the park.
1	Yes
1	Making sure that securing the "foundations" of the current structure means securing the railroad ties in a safe manner.
1	The plan sounds fantastic to me. The only addition I can think of would be to add a water fountain - for dogs and people!

Count Response

1 Please fix all the safety issues and keep mowing it on a regular basis. That is all that is needed. I keep hearing the city has budget shortfalls. Why spend more than is necessary?

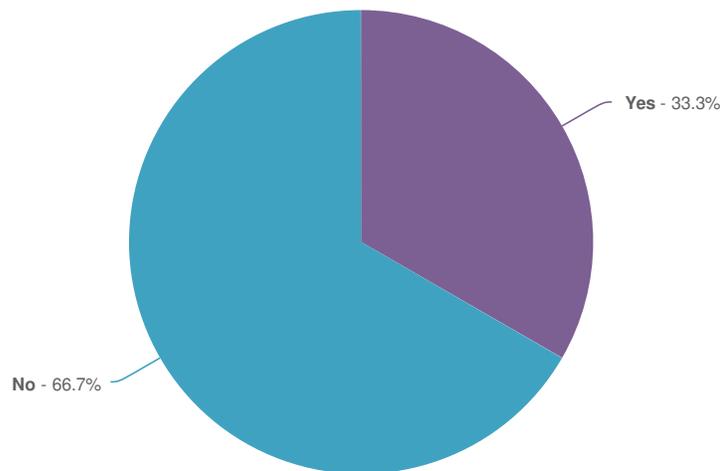
How did you learn about the Neighborhood Park Plan survey?



Value	Percent	Count
Sign in the park	83.3%	5
Word of mouth	16.7%	1
Total		6

Responses "Other"	Count
Left Blank	6

Will you be attending the workshop on May 27 from 7pm-8:30pm at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center to discuss the draft plan?

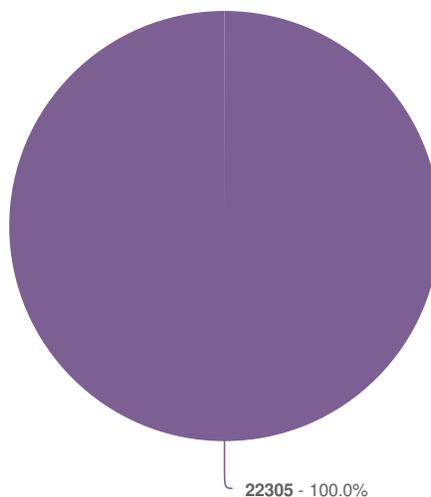


Value	Percent	Count
Yes	33.3%	2
No	66.7%	4
Total		6

How many members of your household are in the following age groups?

	# in household	Responses
6-12	2 100.0%	2
19-29	2 100.0%	2
30-49	5 100.0%	5

What is your zip code?

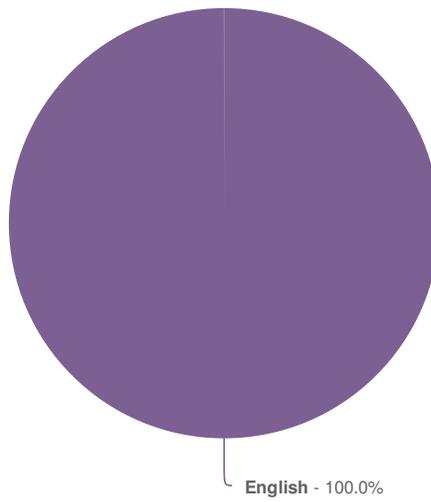


Value	Percent	Count
22305	100.0%	6
Total		6

Statistics	
Sum	133,830.0
Average	22,305.0
Max	22,305.0

Responses "I live outside of Alexandria"	Count
Left Blank	6

What is the primary language spoken in your home?



Value	Percent	Count
English	100.0%	6
Total		6

Responses "other"	Count
Left Blank	6