



Patrick Henry Recreation Center Project Update

June 2015

Introduction

In conjunction with a joint feasibility study with the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) is evaluating alternatives for redevelopment of the existing Patrick Henry Recreation Center. The goal of this evaluation is to ensure the plan for a new facility responds programmatically to both the current community's needs, as well as the future needs related to a projected increase in enrollment at the school. The first phase of the feasibility study showed that the shared school and recreation site can accommodate a new recreation center that meets broad community needs for parks and recreation. RPCA is now seeking additional community input regarding a range of potential programming models to determine the appropriate facility needs.

The City is timing the replacement of the recreation center to coincide with the construction of the Patrick Henry School. The shared nature of the site offers ACPS, the City of Alexandria, and the community at-large a unique opportunity to design and build a project that meets the academic and recreational needs of the community.

Background

The existing Patrick Henry Elementary School building, located at 4643 Taney Avenue, was constructed in the early 1950s. The City constructed a recreation center, including a gymnasium addition in 1973. Additionally, there are athletic fields on-site that are heavily used by both the school and general community. In 2006, the City determined that the existing recreation center no longer met community needs, and in 2008 RPCA and the Department of General Services initiated a feasibility study to renovate and expand the center. Through that study, the public identified a need for a larger gymnasium, additional multipurpose space, an adult fitness room, space for seniors and teens, additional programming space, and a running track.

Following completion of the 2008 study, which recommended a significant increase in the size of the recreation center, ACPS determined that the school building and related capacity would also need to be studied, and as noted above, the City opted to ensure the two projects went forward jointly.

Three Options for Patrick Henry Recreation Center Programming

1. **School Centered Scenario:** Focuses on before and after school care and programs for the students and their families enrolled at Patrick Henry preK-8 school.
2. **Neighborhood Recreation Center Scenario:** This model has a market focus of the 1-mile radius surrounding the site, in addition to the Patrick Henry students and families.
3. **Community Recreation Facility Scenario:** This model includes programs that attract users from the entire City.

Note: The 2015 Patrick Henry Joint ACPS/RPCA Feasibility Study showed this scenario as a possibility to determine if a center this size could physically fit on the site with its maximum amount of programmatic space. If pursued as the most desirable scenario for the site the footprint would vary depending upon the exact programs to meet community need.



Community Input

Based on the information above and the attached table showing program options for each scenario, RPCA is seeking community input on the following questions:

1. Based on the potential offerings provided under each programming scenario, please rank the scenarios from 1 (most preferred) to 3 (least preferred).
2. For each option, indicate if you would use the recreation center if it provided the program types listed. If yes, how often.
3. Provide any additional comments you have related to your needs for a new Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

The survey questions can be answered online ([link](#)). If you prefer to complete the survey by hand, copies are available at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center or by request to the contact listed below.

Process

- 2008 Patrick Henry Recreation Center Feasibility Study ([link to community meetings and info](#))
- RPCA Patrick Henry Neighborhood Needs Assessment (July 2014, [link to findings](#))
- ACPS/RPCA Joint Feasibility Study ([link to community meetings and info](#))
- RPCA community meetings on June 4 and 6, and online survey through June 15
- Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing on June 18
- City Council meeting on June 23, 2015

For additional information, please contact Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator by email at laura.durham@alexandriava.gov or by phone at 703.746.5493.