



Neighborhood Parks Plan

Angel 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.

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 275 people responded to the survey in total, 28 of which were specific to Angel Park.

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

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

1. Provide organized recreational opportunities
2. Be a safe place for children to explore
3. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors

What would you like done with the ballfield?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Preserve it as is | 4 | 19% |
| Enhance it | 14 | 67% |
| Transform it | 3 | 14% |

Explain

Improve turf conditions.
 It needs to be graded so it will drain after it rains.
 Not the right size diamond Poor dirt
 Better seating and use for games
 Very wet
 We use it for baseball practice and just want it to be maintained. It's a really great space for young kids to practice because it is quiet/uncrowded so they can focus.
 The city is lacking baseball fields that are in good shape. This field, if improved, could be used more often for practice. Too much money has been spent on soccer fields, and far too little on baseball fields.

What would you like done with the basketball court?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Preserve it as is | 10 | 56% |
| Enhance it | 7 | 39% |
| Transform it | 1 | 6% |

Explain

Make into multi-use space.
 resurface and out line court
 Install trash and recycling cans. many users leave plastic bottles as there is nothing to put them in.

What would you like done with the natural areas?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Preserve it as is | 10 | 50% |
| Enhance it | 6 | 30% |
| Transform it | 4 | 20% |

Explain

Install a barrier to keep out vehicles.
 There is SO much poison ivy around this area. Needs to be eliminated so that I don't have to worry about my daughter playing here.

What would you like done with the open lawn?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Preserve it as is | 7 | 37% |
| Enhance it | 9 | 47% |
| Transform it | 3 | 16% |

Explain

Holes need to be filled, glass and other hazards picked up and reseed grass.
 Improve turf conditions with artificial or durable well kept grass
 Bleachers could easily be added for parents
 Drainage
 Really beautiful area and nice to have so much open space surrounding by trees. Just keep it up a little better.

What would you like done with the picnic shelter?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Preserve it as is | 10 | 53% |
| Enhance it | 6 | 32% |
| Transform it | 3 | 16% |

Explain

This area gets a beating every summer. Look at the shelters at Chinquapin or in Arlington parks.

What would you like done with the playground?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Preserve it as is | 6 | 29% |
| Enhance it | 11 | 52% |
| Transform it | 4 | 19% |

Explain

Add swings and play area for toddlers. Existing equipment for older children.
 Improve maintenance. New addition is unsightly and already broken.
 It need more and a wider range of age appropriate playing structures.
 More toddler friendly
 My son has been stung by bees on this playground
 Swings needed.
 shade would be nice for caretakers
 swings
 Great playground which just needs to be maintained a little better (e.g. check for wear/tear/damage instead of waiting for complaints/mishaps).

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

Response

Playground equipment
 Bleachers, restroom, enhanced surroundings
 Exercise equipment for adults
 It is not Toddler friendly
 Soccer field.
 Swings and better steps to access the park
 Swings and play area more suited for children under 3.
 Swings for children. Spray ground.
 Swings; better baseball field.
 Equipment for school age children
 Goals for soccer field, another trash can
 Seating
 Trash and recycling cans that are emptied regularly, fencing to keep children out of the creek, a barrier to keep vehicles off the basketball court and grass, a more improved baseball field and backstop. we should have as nice or nicer facilities than our surrounding cities. Alexandria does not need anymore residential developments I wonder if outdoor Rec Dept. camps would be welcomed over the summers. So many kids live walking distance and safety is a concern due to isolation. Maybe organized Bleachers for the parents. There is no reason a Tball game should not have bleachers. Parents can sit together as needed

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

Response

Baseball Field needs improvement
 The basketball court is nice but the entire park could be vastly improved!!
 The playground is terrific, but suffering a bit from recent graffiti.
 It could be a great tee ball or coach pitch field if the field was graded correctly.
 Needs to be updated
 over the grass and basketball court, and strew trash all over. The fact that the pavilion is used on a first come, first serve, basis means nobody takes responsibility for what goes on. Neighborhood residents can often not enjoy the park on the weekend, have to listen to loud music and vulgar language and are then treated to a park strewn with trash, The open fields and baseball fields are not well kept. They are very uneven. Need a safer walking path to get to the bottom of the hill.
 parking could be a lot better - as could the traffic nearby - it backs up often for no good reason.
 Again, the poison ivy in and around the park really needs to be dealt with. It grows up so close on the bridge that I can't even visit it.
 I think if kids resort to bringing in shopping carts to the park it is not providing the play structures and environment they seek. a low rope fence along the creek so kids would play soccer on the field instead of the basketball court

How do you get to this Park?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Walk | 15 | 54% |
| Bike (personal) | 2 | 7% |
| Bike (Capital Bikeshare) | 0 | 0% |
| Drive | 11 | 39% |
| Public Transit | 0 | 0% |
| Carpool | 0 | 0% |

How far do you typically travel to visit this park?

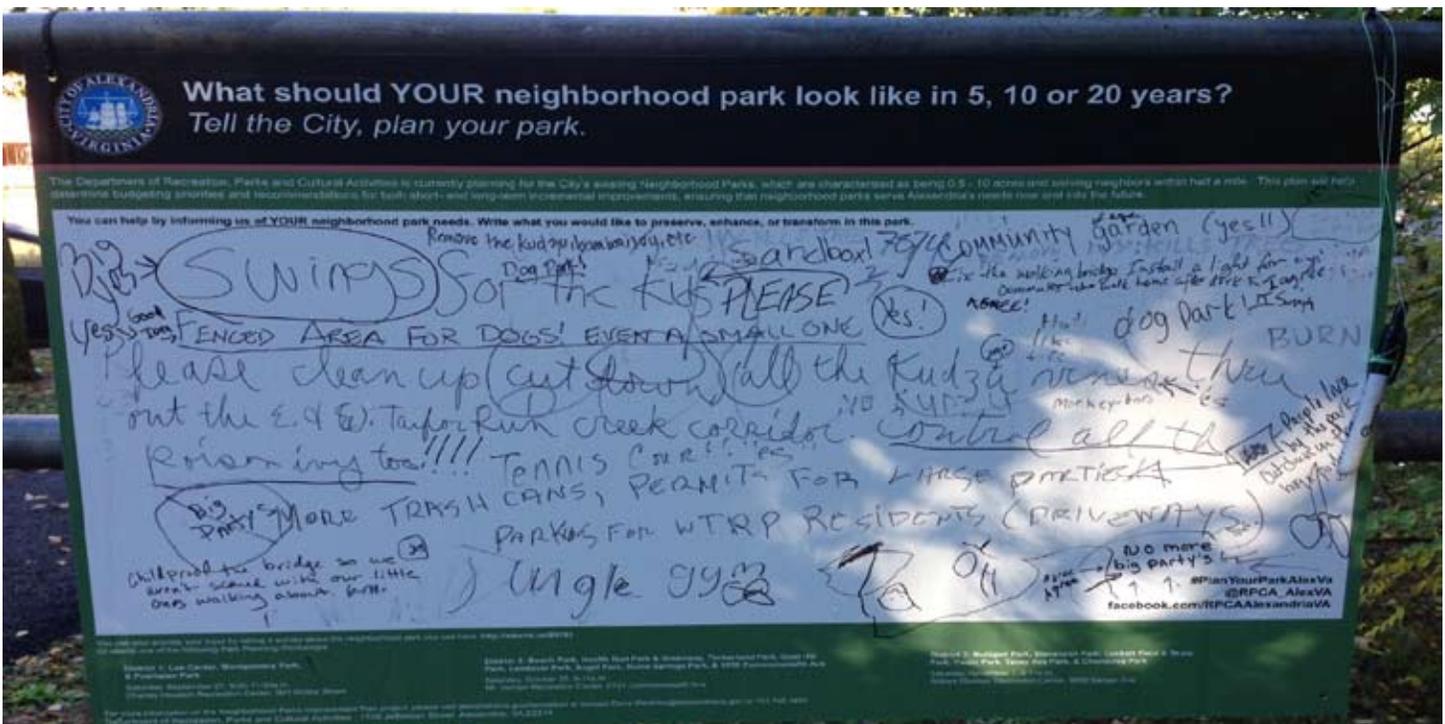
| Value | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|
| Less than 1/2 mile | 9 | 32% |
| Between 1/2 mile to 1 mile | 9 | 32% |
| Between 1-2 miles | 8 | 29% |
| Over 2 miles | 2 | 7% |

Have any of the following circumstances prevented you from visiting this Park? (check all that apply)

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---|-------|---------|
| I am physically limited from walking | 3 | 16% |
| There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from where I live | 2 | 11% |
| I have concerns about crime or personal safety | 7 | 37% |
| There is not enough parking | 11 | 58% |
| There is nothing in the Park that interests me | 6 | 32% |

How often do you visit this park?

| Value | Count | Percent |
|---------|-------|---------|
| Daily | 0 | 0% |
| Weekly | 13 | 48% |
| Monthly | 10 | 37% |
| Yearly | 4 | 15% |



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 were on site from September to November 2014 (images from October 27).