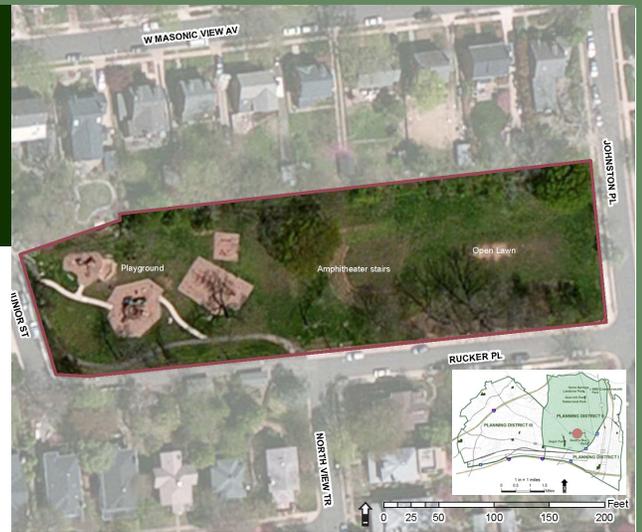




# Neighborhood Parks Plan

## Beach 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, forty-one of which were specific to Beach Park.

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

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

1. Be a safe place for children to explore
2. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors
3. Be a place to relax

### What would you like done with the amphitheater stairs?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	8	25%
Enhance it	10	31%
Transform it	14	44%

#### Explain

Clean it up  
 Fix (x2)  
 Get rid of them!!! They are awful and mess up sledding (x3)  
 I had wondered if that's what it was.  
 Needs some drainage. It gets swampy when it rains  
 Not used at all and is a safety hazard  
 Part of park history; fits in nicely with terrain; hope you can keep  
 Seems like something better could be done here.  
 The space seems to be under-used. Can it be more active? Rope climbing? Sledding?  
 Other ideas?  
 A nice historical piece but not sure if this could be used in a better way?  
 The amphitheater is a neat idea, but it is overgrown. It would be great to clean it up and have better seating for watching games.  
 These don't seem to have a purpose. It'd be cool if the city made use of the stairs, but it doesn't, and the wood is rotting and it takes up what could be usable green space.  
 If rehabbed, the amphitheater could provide a neighborhood venue for local music groups, plays, etc.  
 Some of the wood planks have large nails sticking out, which pose a danger to kids, especially when they are sledding in winter.  
 These are so deteriorated as to be dangerous now. The space has never been actually used as an amphitheater in the 10 years I've lived in Rosemont. This is one of the only contained spaces where kids in the neighborhood can go sledding in the winter, and the steps impede that and can cause injuries especially when just covered enough with snow as to be hidden.

### What would you like done with the open lawn?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	15	44%
Enhance it	14	41%
Transform it	5	15%

#### Explain

Alexandria needs more open space like this!  
 Can include some native wildflowers and meadow area.  
 Drainage and lack of grass are problem.  
 Drainage could be better (x3)  
 Great space kids to run on, Have played a lot of soccer there.  
 Mini turf field  
 This is a much-needed open space for kids to run, play soccer, etc.  
 Add more opportunities for soccer  
 Close the park to be able to sod until it's strong enough for soccer, etc.  
 Great for kids running around/playing sports/soccer etc.  
 Periodically needs upgrade; dog owners run and play with dogs all the time and I see poop not cleaned up

### What would you like done with the playground?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	16	46%
Enhance it	15	43%
Transform it	4	11%

#### Explain

Remove  
 Haven't used it much but kids seem to enjoy it.  
 More wood and natural elements would be great. More "movable parts"  
 We need new climbing facilities  
 It'd be great if there was more playground equipment. The offerings for really young kids (ages 6 mos-3 years) is pretty paltry.  
 Add elements that interest 3-5th graders. Add building materials like logs, increase the stream so they can play in the water.  
 The play space for little ones has old equipment and isn't as nice as the equipment for bigger kids  
 The small wooden climbing structure is slippery for kids, especially when covered in sand. Does not seem safe.

### What would you like done with the seating?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	8	25%
Enhance it	20	63%
Transform it	4	13%

#### Explain

A designated picnic area would be great, with some picnic tables.  
 Artistic benches could be a great addition.  
 There is not enough seating  
 There's not enough seating for adults near the playground, and no place for family picnics, etc.  
 There's seating?  
 add some benches  
 but get rid of the railroad ties!!!!!!!  
 more interested in opportunities for kids to be active than for parents to sit :-)  
 one more bench under the tree  
 very limited  
 An overhang/trellis with picnic benches would be lovely and the city can charge for renting this space for birthday parties, etc.!!! Look at new Rocky Run Park in Arlington for ideas

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

### Response

Dog owners use the park extensively. The lawn is usually smelly and unhygienic. Small children, who spend a lot of time on the ground, also use the lawn for organized soccer. Drainage issues plague that Park and the Maury school yard

Great park, but I do feel it has more bugs and is an issue getting bit during the summer. Green space needs improving. Bike run?

I love the trees and the big open spaces. It is generally very well kept.

Keep the trees! Maybe add more benches, space to hang out and socialize. Love the big tree at the top of the amphitheater.

Needs some stormwater controls

This is a pretty passive park (there's a small playground and lots of just open space) and that's ok, if we could just have some upgrades/better use of the land.

This is one of the few good-size and contained (i.e., safe, not right next to a busy road) open spaces where children in the Rosemont/Del Ray/Old Town area can run and explore freely. To me it is most important to preserve that, not by adding more equipment but by focusing on making it safe for free play and to shore up its infrastructure so that it protects the Maury playground below, which is a very important play space not just for the school but the entire community.

There is a need for more space for soccer practice. Also help alleviate the stormwater issues so that the great work for the Maury schoolyard can move ahead. Thanks!

I don't want to see anything changed with this park. I can't believe this park is on the list when you have Maury slated to be renovated based on all the fund raising. There needs to be a park that services older kids not just preschool age. Something similar to rocky run park in Arlington should be created. The Mvcs playgrounds should be looked at based on the amount if non school use and foot traffic it brings to the del ray businesses. I also think the empty pool space at the corner of mt Vernon and del ray is a complete waste and should be addressed prior to beach park.

We have so many kids that play soccer but no futsal courts. It would be great to have one of these.

There is way too much wasted space at Beach Park. The amphitheater steps need to go. They are not used and a safety hazard. Poor rainwater management makes the Maury fields a mess

I have lived nearby for 15 years and am always surprised how little care it receives. The playground is now in good shape, but it seems to be ignored by Parks & Rec for maintenance.

It is a safe, enjoyable space. We like the trees that provide greenery and privacy for the homes along its border. It's great for sledding so if there was a way to build up the hill that would be great!

We live nearby and love to hear the sounds of the little kids playing Tball and soccer on Sat morning, and the families paying touch football on the weekends and holidays.

I love being able to walk there with my kids (and dog, who loves the pomegranate tree). Maybe actually labeling what the tree species are could add some educational elements.

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

### Response

A turf field for recreational usage.

Activities. Nature walks. Playground for older kids (9 and 10 years). Baseball field. Activities/play for older kids (10+); adult exercise equipment (bars for pull-ups, etc.)

Additional trash cans for trash and pet waste.

Better drainage from run off

Grass!

I love it! Please repair it but don't tear it all open and build.

More for older children

Needs more shade!

Picnic Tables

Play equipment for older kids, accessible equipment, rainwater management

Running water in the stream bed, climbing trees

Seating/picnic space

Shade on the main playground areas

The lousy rotten railroad ties and the amphitheater. Get rid of them, please!

drinking fountain on lower end

more seating including so you can have a small group talking with each other

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Would be great to have breech park combined with Maury park so that it would be a bigger green space

Activities for older children and adults, more trees and wildflowers, maybe a native garden. Large boulders, logs and natural elements to explore. Climbable trees. Movable Please no dog parks. When I see owners running their dogs in the area kids play soccer I cringe. this is typically at dusk and mid-day when there is no enforcement (is There is plenty there. Just a different climbing structure for smaller children that is less slippery.

better drainage. kids take the rocks and play with them and that doesn't help the little drainage help there is there. Also would like to see "no using the bushes as a bathroom sign". Would love to see a dog play area too

## How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	35	85%
Bike (personal)	3	7%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0%
Drive	3	7%
Public Transit	0	0%
Carpool	0	0%

## How far do you typically travel to visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Less than ½ mile	25	61%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	12	29%
Between 1-2 miles	3	7%
Over 2 miles	1	2%

## 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	1	20%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from where I live	1	20%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	0	0%
There is not enough parking	1	20%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	3	60%

## How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	8	20%
Weekly	18	44%
Monthly	13	32%
Yearly	2	5%

## Comments from Community Workshop held on October 25, 2014

Playground	Preserve	Keep mulch surface and sand box
Playground	Preserve	Keep grass and natural feel
Playground	Preserve	Maintain ADA Routes
Amphitheater	Enhance	Investigate school use of amphitheater
		-Causes flooding in neighborhood basements.
		- Needs engineering study.
		- Discuss system solution with Dr. Singh (18 W. Masonic)
		- Park must be planned after drainage has been fixed.
Various	Transform	

