



# Neighborhood Parks Plan

## Chambliss 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 270 people responded to the survey in total, forty of which were specific to Chambliss 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 relax
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	15	47%
Enhance it	15	47%
Transform it	2	6%

##### Explain

Great exercise.  
 I do not like the fact that it is now locked and thus unavailable for general use.  
 Needs more frequent trash removal and maintenance.  
 No lights please!  
 The ballfield seems rarely used  
 Allow access  
 A lot more trashcans that actually get emptied and trash pickup on the grounds. Designated parking that doesn't interfere with the school pick up for after school programs

#### What would you like done with the natural area?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	15	46%
Enhance it	15	46%
Transform it	3	9%

##### Explain

Beautify with landscaping and nice seating area. Nothing has been added to replace trees that have fallen.  
 Add paths for better access  
 Add picnic tables and water fountains.  
 I love natural settings.  
 Natural areas enhance the entire area.  
 Too much poison ivy that should be sprayed.

#### What would you like done with the off-leash dog park?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	5	14%
Enhance it	21	57%
Transform it	11	30%

##### Explain

A fence would be great.  
 Add a fence  
 Dedicated fenced dog park is needed  
 Dog park is needed.  
 Enclose area  
 Enclose with fence.  
 Fenced area for off lead activities  
 Fence in. More frequent mowing.  
 Fence it - so that dogs can run and play off leash.  
 Fenced in area, and water for the dogs in summer  
 Gate the dog park so owners and dogs don't have to worry about traffic  
 Hardly ever used by dog owners. Add a fence to provide extra peace of mind.  
 Keep open but add a fence line to keep dogs away from chamiss.  
 Move the area to the correct side of the tennis courts. Add picnic tables and a water fountain.  
 Too many dogs loose outside boundaries .  
 Trim/prune trees and clear up broken branches.  
 Would be helpful to have water source for people and dogs.  
 add fence  
 dog area is unfenced, and does not seem like a dog focused area.  
 enclose it  
 Fence in the area. Street traffic passes close and fencing would help secure animals from traffic flow. Add water fountain.  
 It's hilly, full of old tree stumps, not mown, and there are lots of holes. I rarely see off-leash dogs here!

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

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	15	46%
Enhance it	15	46%
Transform it	3	9%

##### Explain

Add a fence for a dog park  
 Add benches and nicer landscaping  
 Better maintenance and lighting!  
 Block it so that morons and idiots can't drive on it  
 Child friendly play area with equipment.  
 Keep.  
 More and better maintained picnic tables.  
 Surround with fence.  
 The open lawn is beautiful just as it is!  
 add a park bench  
 add baby playground  
 There is no playground anywhere near by for children except John Adams which is not supposed to be outside of school hours. If your kids aren't school age they can't be there. All this space really should be useful for playing. You need to preserve the hill for sled riding though, the sidewalk through the open needs to be refreshed. The mud piles at the bottom year after year and neighbors have to shovel it. It needs to be shoveled when it snows to allow walking access to the school  
 Actually, the walkway from the tennis courts up the hill to the school need repair, and adding lighting would be welcome. Last fall, a neighbor was assaulted and robbed on the path at dusk; so lighting would be safety.

#### What would you like done with the parking lot?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	3	50.0%
Enhance it	3	50.0%
Transform it	0	0.0%

##### Explain

Maybe for 20.  
 Parking around John Adams is insufficient for the size of the school  
 Perhaps clean it up a bit. Tennis players use the parking lot and dog walkers as well.  
 Plenty of on-street parking already available.  
 Lights  
 No need to be bigger. the street parking is never ever used and there is a ton of it

#### What would you like done with the tennis courts?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	28	80.0%
Enhance it	6	17.1%
Transform it	1	2.9%

##### Explain

Add lights  
 Add water fountain.  
 Add water fountain.  
 Back boards for solo practice  
 I see people regularly using these courts.  
 No lights, please!  
 Picnic area or seating area  
 Tennis is good exercise.  
 Some big cracks have appeared this year but so far are not affecting play. Hopefully, the city will mo this

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

### Response

A gated dog park  
 A playground  
 A playground area for children.  
 A tot lot -- we are in need of a play area for young children in the neighborhood.  
 Add a fence, so that dogs can run & play off leash.  
 Add water fountain.  
 Back boards in the tennis courts, and a fenced area in the off-lead Dog Park Dog park.  
 Enclosed space for dogs to run. Water fountain. Benches.  
 Fence around dog play area. Water fountains.  
 Fenced dog area  
 Fenced dog park Lights, neighbor was mugged, beaten & robbed there several months ago  
 Fenced dog park, exercise area  
 Identification of types of trees and other plants. More trash cans  
 More seating  
 Picnic tables and a water fountain  
 Places to sit and enjoy the natural setting.  
 Seating or picnic tables  
 Well-marked and maintained pathways with lighting.  
 a park bench or picnic table  
 better maintained foot path to townhouses  
 better path up the hill to JA  
 more benches  
 playground with baby swings  
 water fountain for tennis players and other park visitors, including dogs  
 A source of water, benches, and a fence (the park fronts on a street with a fair amount of traffic).  
 A fence enclosure so dogs can run freely without concern for vehicle traffic. Water fountains for people & pets.

playground equipment of some kind. a fence for the dogs. a better sidewalk that gets cleared in the snow.

The large hill between the school and the tennis courts is eroding, and slants toward the woods. This area was the prime neighborhood sledding area, but erosion is making this a dangerous area to play around. This park, like the Dora Kelley Nature Park, is why most neighbors moved here in the first place. Please don't destroy it by "improving" it!

The path needs much improvement. Many children and adults use it. It needs light during winter months. Keep park open and spacious but add a perimeter fence to keep dogs away from chambliiss. Don't create a small fenced area for dogs, just keep them away from street. Add water fountain.  
 As I noted in a comment above, lighting along the path from the tennis courts up the hill to the school. Also maybe more seating for socializing in both the dog walk area and on the other side of the tennis court. A trash can inside the tennis court may be a nice addition. Too many people leave empty water bottles, tennis rackets, etc. on the court.

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

### Response

Could be maintained on a more regular basis and path from courts to school be redone  
 Gate the dog park  
 Greater little park with aforementioned improvements.  
 I hope the expanded parking at John Adams School doesn't take park land.  
 It is a perfect area for dogs.  
 It is fabulous!  
 It's a great green space!  
 It's a lovely space that could be much nicer.  
 Lovely space. Needs some sprucing. And sadly needs to keep the destructive folks out. Hard to do  
 Needs better landscaping to beautify it, a seating area to sit and read.  
 Night time lighting could be enhanced to provide extra sense of security.  
 Off leash dogs can sometimes be a problem along the path.  
 Please get rid of the poison ivy  
 TOO MUCH POISON IVY IN SURROUNDING AREA.  
 Thanks for asking.  
 add parking at top of hill behind ball field  
 Adding a fence area with kissing gates to securely keep dogs apart from pedestrian foot traffic and car traffic flow.  
 Install lights on the pathway to make it safer for commuters; fence in the dog part to make it a usable place to exercise your dog.  
 The paved trail connecting the park with John Adams school is in very bad condition. It should be repaved with porous material.  
 An Alexandria bike patrol officer presence would enhance our sense of security while using the park  
 The baseball field around the school seems out of place, and under used. This area used to be a communal field where games were played, dogs were walked and kids could play. Now it's fenced off from the community and only used on weekends by a handful of people during the spring and fall. This area could provide needed parking for the school, and open fields or a track for neighborhood use which would be much more useful.  
 It's a great spot for those who live in the area. I use it almost daily walking my dog and playing with my son. It just needs beautification and more frequent upkeep.  
 I love the space, sometimes stopping there in the colder months to read from my car; just a great place to be able to ponder nature, and enjoy the seasons.  
 I DO NOT want to see organized activities. The kids and people need open space they can use as they want. There should be a sign with usage details. There is a neighbor who spends his time telling people they are not allowed to walk on the grass there and threatening to call the police. The tennis courts should be usable by small children riding ride on toys. There is no where in the neighborhood for them to do that. Or you could transform the parking lot area into a tot lot for that and make people park on the street where there is a ton of unused parking. the sidewalk on the street is also never shoveled out when it snows making the park unusable for many days/weeks.  
 The dog park should be on the other side of the tennis courts where it was meant to be originally. Open up rear portion for more use. Currently most of the accessible area is right next to the road. It's currently a social gathering place for everyone; parents with toddlers, parents with infants, dog walkers bicyclists, nature lovers and walkers. It's a gem!  
 The makeshift paths from the apartments to this park need to be removed or made permanent. The stabbing incident here was scary!!

I have never seen tennis courts in use. This space could be something else. There are not really any signs explaining Dora Kelly nature preserve in this area. An exhibit (maybe just bulletin board) explaining wildlife, seasonal updates (including return of hunting season) would be nice to see. Play equipment would be great since there aren't any neighborhood playgrounds and school use is not allowed during school hours.

## How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	38	95%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	1	2.5%
Drive	1	2.5%
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	30	75%
Between 1/2 mile to 1 mile	8	20%
Between 1-2 miles	2	5%
Over 2 miles	0	0%

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

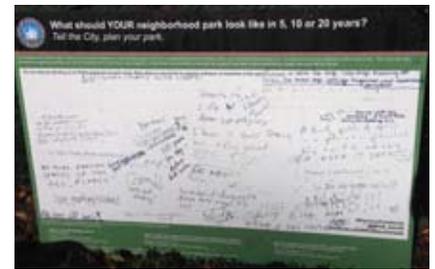
Value	Count	Percent
I am physically limited from walking	0	0%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from where I live	0	0%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	15	83%
There is not enough parking	1	6%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	4	22%

## How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	21	53%
Weekly	15	38%
Monthly	3	8%
Yearly	1	3%

## 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. Park users recorded the following comments between



September to November 2014 (image shown above from October 27).

- A lovely patch of green in a pleasant neighborhood. Keep it as is, and above all, keep it safe. The park is perfect and I like it. What sets this park apart from other parks is its feeling of open space (4x)
- Fenced in dog park (3x)
- No fenced-in dog park (2x) - same handwriting opposing previous comments
- Do not take away sledding hill
- Repave pathway to John Adams School
- Better entry/exit to Sibley St
- More baby/toddler play area would be nice
- Tennis courts with lights (3x)
- No tennis courts with lights (3x)- same handwriting opposing previous comments
- All this park needs are a couple of benches
- No more parking spaces up the hill
- No dogs off-leash
- Dogs should remain off-leash (same handwriting opposing previous comments)
- Love tennis courts (2x)
- Add benches (2x)
- playground