



Neighborhood Parks Plan

Goat Hill 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, thirteen of which were specific to Goat Hill 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. Provide opportunity to explore nature

3. Be a place to relax

How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	13	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 1/2 mile	9	69%
Between 1/2 mile to 1 mile	4	31%
Between 1-2 miles	0	0%
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	1	25%
I have concerns about crime or persc	2	50%
There is not enough parking	0	0%
There is nothing in the Park that inter	1	25%

How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	1	8%
Weekly	7	54%
Monthly	5	39%
Yearly	0	0%

What would you like done with the natural area?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	3	30%
Enhance it	5	50%
Transform it	2	20%

Explain

The slope between the playground and the forest is degrading.

Make more of a playground

Poison ivy - unsafe to hike through

Make it more clear that there are trails in the natural area; perhaps label or sign marking a path or two to the grassy area. Most people have no idea that the natural area is part of the park (including me until I just saw the map!). Would be a great wilderness resource for parents with young kids (these are typically the folks I see at the park).

What would you like done with the open lawn?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	3	38%
Enhance it	3	38%
Transform it	2	25%

Explain

??? How to access???

More!

more playground space

What would you like done with the playground?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	0	0%
Enhance it	1	17%
Transform it	5	83%

Explain

The playground is unusable on hot afternoons. Provide additional shade

Add more baby swings, there is almost always a line.

Not best playground, but ok

the Hill is mostly avoided

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

Response

A water fountain
 Crosswalks, fencing around the entire park.
 Labels for the paths/trails in the nature area.
 Water fountain

safe trails - free of poison ivy

It could benefit from a 2nd baby swing, and perhaps a path so that people can explore the nature area? I like the nature area largely as is, but it is pretty un-useable. A small path could be nice for exploring.

other than the playground, the space seems not accessible. Make it more accessible and welcoming

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

Response

We love this park - it's well set up for kids.
 add more play structures

I really like that the park has a gate so my toddler can't run out, and I like that the playground's "bridge" has a safety rail.

I love this park - it is challenging for kids b/c of the hills and rock climbing - in a good way. And it is a nice location - good for Del Ray, Warwick Villiage, and all the new apartment buildings. I also like that it has a gate - for kids, that is essential. (the one on Del Ray and Commonwealth REALLY needs a gate to be safe for toddlers!)

The surrounding sidewalks are difficult to traverse with a stroller because the telephone poles are in the middle of them.

Comments from Community Workshop held on October 25, 2014

- Preserve playground
- Preserve wooded area
- Enhance crosswalk on Kennedy St to playground
- Improve visibility and accessibility from Hickory St.
- Improve trails. Could also make neighbors less nervous about why people are back there
- Improve access to wooded areas - maybe a sign or series of arrows
- Remove kudzu in wooded areas
- Tidy up the hill/keep natural area
- Mini dog park
- More park equipment like: monkey bars (x3), slides, swings (x4), merry-go-round, spider web
- Equipment for older kids
- Basketball court (x2)
- Equipment for jumping
- Four squares
- Climbing structures or trees (x3)
- Zip lines (x2)

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).

