City of Alexandria, Virginia

Citywide Park Improvement Plans
Eugene Simpson Stadium Park

October 17, 2012

Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities
Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Division
Goal

Create plans that identify the priorities for future park enhancements and uses in Alexandria’s large, multi-use, municipally-owned parks, balancing the City’s recreational, cultural, environmental, and passive use needs.

What is a Citywide Park?
Over 20 acres
Multi-use
Municipally-owned
# Citywide Park Planning Framework Timeline

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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Spring 2012</th>
<th>Summer 2012</th>
<th>Fall/Winter 2012</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
<th>Summer 2013</th>
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<td>Conduct Site Inventory</td>
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<td>Review Existing Plans &amp; Documents</td>
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<td>Collect Qualitative Data from City Staff</td>
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<td>Conduct Site Observations</td>
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<td>Review National Benchmarks &amp; Standards</td>
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<td>Obtain Feedback from Public</td>
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<td>Hold Public Workshops</td>
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<td>Develop Recommendations &amp; Report</td>
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Q15. Actions That Households Are Most Willing to Support with Their Tax Dollars

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices

- Improve existing walking, hiking and biking trails: 44%
- Purchase land to preserve natural areas, wildlife: 42%
- Develop walking & biking trails that connect parks: 41%
- Improve existing passive use neighborhood parks: 36%
- Purchase land to develop passive use parks: 22%
- Improve existing swimming pools: 19%
- Develop new swimming pools: 17%
- Improve existing athletic fields: 13%
- Improve existing indoor recreation facilities: 12%
- Improve existing marina facilities: 11%
- Develop new special event/performance venue: 10%
- Develop new indoor recreation facilities: 10%
- Provide lighted athletic fields: 9%
- Improve existing basketball and tennis courts: 8%
- Develop space for large gatherings: 8%
- Develop new basketball & tennis courts: 6%
- Purchase land to develop athletic fields: 5%

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2011)
Park Planning Needs Assessment

Q7. Parks, Recreation, or Cultural Amenities That Are Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices

- Walking trails: 57%
- Biking trails: 34%
- Natural areas and wildlife habitats: 30%
- Playgrounds: 23%
- Indoor swimming pool: 20%
- Running/walking track: 19%
- Marina/waterfront: 16%
- Indoor exercise and fitness facilities: 16%
- Outdoor swimming pools: 15%
- Picnic shelters/areas: 15%
- Fenced dog exercise areas: 14%
- Outdoor tennis courts: 12%
- Community gardens: 12%
- Unfenced dog exercise areas: 9%
- Soccer/lacrosse fields: 7%
- Spray parks: 7%
- Indoor performance/art facilities: 6%
- Outdoor performance space: 6%
- Outdoor basketball courts: 5%
- Outdoor fitness station: 5%
- Fishing areas: 5%
- Facilities for people with disabilities: 4%
- Outdoor volleyball courts: 4%
- Outdoor special event rental space: 4%
- Skateboard parks: 4%
- Ball fields with 90' foot bases: 4%
- Football fields: 4%
- Racquetball/squash courts: 4%
- Ball fields with 50' foot bases: 4%
- Field hockey/rugby fields: 4%
- None chosen: 8%

Playgrounds #1 priority in households with children under 10
Walking and biking trails #1 priority in households with children 10-19, with soccer/lacrosse fields a close 2nd
Walking and biking trails #1 priority in empty nester households

Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2011)
Consistent Findings in all Citywide Parks

Develop strategy or implementation for:

1. Natural and Historic resource protection
2. Universal ADA accessibility
3. Multi-use paths to reflect user patterns
4. Parking management strategies
5. Upgrade and maintain sports fields
6. Trash receptacle locations and recycling program
7. Standardized way-finding and park regulation signage
8. Locations for public art, in collaboration with the Office of the Arts
9. Infrastructure for event spaces (hard surfaces, electrical outlets, restroom access, water)
Simpson Stadium Park
Existing Conditions
Simpson Park
Site Observations

Playground very busy
Occasional off-leash dog
Cyclists use sidewalk and cut through the parking lot
Athletic field users enter across grass from parking lot
Park users walk across court to get to the dog park entrance if no game is being played; park users also enter from top of hill on Monroe Ave.
Simpson Park
Anticipated Projects

- Lighting replacement scheduled for FY13
- Backstop and fence replacement scheduled for FY14
- Restroom & supervisor Office building under construction
- Storage building scheduled for replacement FY14
- Court resurfacing scheduled for FY14
- New dog park as part of Potomac Yard Dev’t
- Potential for future school site
- Playground scheduled for renovation in FY16
Simpson Stadium Park
Density, Adults

Legend:
- Simpson 1/2 Mile Buffer: Density Children Ages 0-4 per Sq. Mile
  - 15 - 99
  - 1000 - 2400
  - 2500 - 5300
  - 5400 - 11000
  - 12000 - 26000

Source: 2010 U.S. Census
1. Complete individual surveys  
   *(for those who have not filled out the online survey)*

2. As a group, Identify:  
   a) The top five park assets  
   b) Where pathways should be for optimal park circulation  
   c) Existing conditions that need improvement  
   d) Programs/facilities that are not in the park, but should be

3. Review both the list of improvements and program needs, prioritize the top five.
Next Steps

1. Tell your friends and neighbors to take the survey before the end of November:
   www.alexva.us/aw3

2. Workshops in four other Citywide Parks:
   - Chinquapin, October 24 @ T.C. Williams
   - Hensley, October 29 @ Lee Center
   - Holmes Run, November 7 @ Samuel Tucker
   - Ben Brenman/Boothe, November 14 @ Samuel Tucker

3. Synthesis and Analysis

4. Spring Workshops