

City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 21, 2022  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** MARGARET ORLANDO, DIVISION CHIEF & LAURA DURHAM,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

**Program Wrap-ups:**

- On July 9, RPCA partnered with APD, ACAP, Safe Place, and other City agencies to hold a **Teen Pool Party**. The event was moved from Old Town Pool to the Chinquapin Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility due to inclement weather. Participants enjoyed food, music, giveaways, games, and of course...swimming!

- One July 9, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted its annual **4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic for seniors**. 75 seniors came out for an afternoon of fun, food, games, prizes, and a live band.



- On June 25, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center presented its first **Teen Summer Show Out event**. The event featured: Open Mic, 3 vs. 3 Basketball, Relay Races, Dunk Tank, Water games, Music, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Food and more.



- On June 4, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held a **Pop-Up Rec** for youth and families in the surrounding community. The event featured games, arts and crafts, large bubble making and a scavenger hunt to find Pokémon square card pieces that were hidden throughout the grounds of the Patrick Henry Recreation Center.



- On June 29, the Alexandria Library visited Patrick Henry Recreation Center. This visit was part of the **Summer Quest 2022** activities. The library introduced several Animals and reptiles to our youth participants in the Summer Power-On Program.



- Senior Cardio and Weight Training** - On Wednesdays, during the month of June, Patrick Henry Recreation Center conducted a Senior Cardio & Weight Training class for City residents. This is a cardio and weight training exercise program that is designed by using our weight and cardio fitness machines in a timed interval system to increase endurance, burn calories, strengthen, and tone muscles and improve flexibility.



- **Teen Nerf the Turf** - On Mondays, during the month of June, teens participated in an exciting adventure of Nerf the Turf at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center. Participants utilized inflatable barriers as they competed against one another as a team or as an individual in this competitive, excitement adventure.



- **Senior Body Part Aerobics** - During the month of June, Patrick Henry Recreation Center continued the Body Part Aerobic Class for the City residents. This is a low-impact exercise using a chair aerobic workout with slow everyday movements to tone and sculpt the body. There were 23 participants that enrolled in the class.



### Program Updates:

- On June 28, **Alexandria Titans Track Club** started the summer season with practices at Alexandria City High School.
- On June 16, the **Late-Night Basketball League** at Charles Houston Recreation Center started the summer season. The summer season has seven teams participating and the championship game is scheduled for August 8, 9 p.m., at Charles Houston Recreation Center.
- Charles Houston Recreation Center is enjoying a **successful summer camp** thus far, with 85 registered participants. In addition, with the help of the Charles Houston advisor Counsel, 28 registered children have had their summer camp balance paid off, totaling \$5,137.50.
- The **Summer Power-On programs** offered at John Adams Elementary School, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, and Charles Barrett Recreation Center have been participating in a variety of summer camp fun and activities. Participants have enjoyed off-site field trips including waterparks, AMC Movie theater, bowling, and Zoofari Adventures just to name a few. These three Summer Power-On locations currently have a total of 260 youth enrolled.
- The **Summer Power-Up program** is located at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School this summer and teen participation is at a record high. There are currently 49 teens registered for the program with is twice as many registrants compared to Summer 2019. Participants enjoy competitive sports opportunities, off-site field trips, and swimming.

While on site the teens are engaged in career building workshops, crafts, physical fitness, and cooperative games.

- **Fee Classes and Camps** are having a great summer! Offering a wide variety of camps from specialty sports to cooking. There are 1,890 individual enrollments which is 172% increase from last summer. Alex Fun camp has had a wonderful summer welcoming weekly in-house field trips to Durant such as Nexplore and DC Princess Parties.



- **Summer Camp update:** \$1,008,028 in revenue, and 55 camps filled.
- **Alex Learn to Swim** has served over 735 participants this summer at Chinquapin and Outdoor Pools.
- This is the first summer that staff at the **Chinquapin Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility** have hosted and managed multiple summer camps. Thus far, over 385 participants have been served, totaling \$120,000 in revenue.
- Participants are enjoying **Camp Adventure at Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center**. There are an assortment of enrichment and traditional recreational activities, including arts & crafts, Tinker Cart creations, swimming, weekly Lego challenges, moon bounce fun, roller skating, performing arts and field trips to Pirates Cove, Bowl America, and Ocean Dunes Waterpark. The 9-12yo group had a Pop-Up STEM program with Melvin Stallings, and they are also doing weekly performance arts and theater sessions with Yahney Marie Sangare' from Alexandria City Public Schools Drama Club. We had Arianna's Rocking Reptile show on June 29. The kids absolutely enjoyed learning about the reptiles and touching them.



### Upcoming Events:

- On July 23, Old Town Pool hosts the **World's Largest Swim Lesson**
- On August 1, the Youth Activities Section will be hosting its **Annual Marvelous Monday program**. Marvelous Monday is an end of the summer event. The Power-On program from John Adams, Ferdinand T. Day, Charles Barrett Recreation Center and Summer Power-Up will gather at the Lee Center to enjoy a day of carnival themed activities food and fun.
- On August 13, Warwick Pool hosts its **Teen Pool Party**.
- On August 13, Charles Houston will partner with True Worshipers Cares for a **field day** from 12-3pm.
- On August 14, the Outreach Section is co-hosting its **Annual Backpack and School Supply Giveaway** at Charles Houston Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Vendors and resource tables will be set up during the event to provide information on services, programs, and support services for families.
- On August 16, the Outreach Section will co-host a **Teen Block Party** 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. at George Washington Middle School. The event will be held outdoors and is open to all City of Alexandria youth and teens ages 11 and up.

### Special Features:

- Durant Center- **Security cameras** were installed in the Durant Center this month allowing our front desk the ability to see in and around the center for upgraded safety measures.
- Toastmasters- The city sponsored **Toastmasters club** has found a new home at the Durant Center! They will continue to meet every Thursday from 12-1pm.
- Chinquapin will close during the month of August for **Skylight replacement** and other building projects.

### Staff Updates:

- Charles Houston has hired Leia Wedge, who serves as full-time Recreation Leader II.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 14, 2022

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - PARK SERVICES, RPCA

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK SERVICES MONTHLY UPDATE

### 1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

#### a. Park Maintenance

- Staff policing the grounds and emptying trash cans at Stevenson Park.

#### b. Park Maintenance Fleet

- Despite vehicle shortages, the new Nature Center van was obtained and readied just in time for the summer season.

#### c. Park Facility Maintenance

- Continued light monitoring and maintenance.
- Continued irrigation repairs.

### 2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

#### a. Urban Forestry

- Urban Forestry continues to respond to summer storms and keeping up with service request. Forestry collaborated with staff along the waterfront to prune trees in Oronoco Park for the City's birthday celebration.

#### b. Horticulture

- Community Gardens continues to be very popular with a growing waitlist. Staff has worked with the current gardeners and Garden Boards to obtain needed material for garden layout improvements and additional mulch. The road at Chinquapin Community Gardens underwent a needed upgrade.



*Stevenson Park.*



*Nature Center New Van.*



### 3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

#### a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff pulled Porcelain-berry, Garlic Mustard, and other non-native invasive weeds from Timberbranch Parkway, Windmill Hill Park, Dora Kelley Nature Park, and Fort Williams Park, as well as filled many bags of cut seed heads of dock at Ben Brenman Park. Staff also cut and stump-treated 5 large (12' x 12') Bush Honeysuckle, White Mulberry, and Privet at Gentry Park, as well as foliar-treated Poison Ivy along sidewalks and trails.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in the treatment of Porcelain-berry, English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Callery Pear, Bush Honeysuckle, and other non-native invasive weeds at Chambliss Park, Beverly Park, and Fort Ward Park.

#### b. Cooperative Initiatives

- On July 7, 2022, City Natural Resource Manager visited all City of Alexandria sites for the hybrid highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium x marianum*) with Devani Jolman - a PhD student at Old Dominion University researching natural plant hybridization and seeking to work with *Vaccinium x marianum* across Virginia.
- City Natural Resources Field Inspector constructed a high-quality deer exclosure at Dora Kelley Nature Park in collaboration with the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) and Facilities Maintenance. The exclosure will enable the long-term study of the damaging effects of deer in Alexandria's parks.

#### c. Environmental Review

- Staff reviewed RiverRenew: Preview of HRI GRD2021-00079 Minor Amendment LOD change - updated wetlands planting at African American Heritage Park and provided comments, as well as conducted a site visit with the consultant.
- Staff met with residents at Mount Jefferson Park to discuss post-construction restoration plans non-native invasive plant control best practices for the park.
- Staff reviewed the Holmes Run Flood Repair Project 30% Preliminary Plans for Dora Kelley Nature Park, Holmes Run Scenic Easement, and Brookvalley Park and provided comments.
- Staff reviewed the proposed N. Overlook Drive Drainage Alternatives and provided comments.

*Irrigation repairs at market Square.*



*Irrigation repairs continued.*



*Storm Damage.*



*New Jersey Tea.*



*Swamp Milkweed.*

d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement

- City Natural Resources Field Inspector spent numerous hours dealing with park encroachment issues such as dumping, outplantings, unauthorized clearing of vegetation, etc., at Angel Park, Stevenson Park, and Holmes Run Park.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates:

- The Nature Center had 771 visitors in June and provided 100 impromptu programs for 604 visitors. Throughout the month we conducted 38 interpretive programs for 659 patrons.

School Programs:

- The ACPS school year ended June 10. We wrapped up SOL programming with James K. Polk Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and Mt. Vernon Community School 1<sup>st</sup> graders.
- 6 classes from Polk visited the Nature Center for programs about animal life cycles and a hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park.
- 7 classes at Mt. Vernon learned about animal classifications and the characteristics of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

Outreach Programs:

- The June recreation center program was about fossils. The students learned how fossils are formed and what they can teach us about the past. Students also did an activity where they made their own fossil impression.
- Nature Center staff participated in Family Fun Day at William Ramsay Rec Center. Over 200 attendees visited the center’s table.

Onsite Programs:

- Participants learned about the forces that contribute to plate tectonics as well as the geographic location and different types of volcanoes. Through hands-on experiments they learned how pressure causes a volcano to erupt and were able to create their own eruptions.
- Summer camp sessions began with Tadpoles camp for our 3-4-year old’s. This year we offered a morning and afternoon session. Campers participated in daily hikes in Dora Kelley Nature Park and had lessons on birds, reptiles, and plants.



*Butterfly-weed.*



*Deer enclosure at DKNP.*



*Family fun day.*



*Participants created their own volcanic eruptions.*



*The retention wall in the garden will be a sitting/standing area for garden classes.*

b. Volunteers Hours:

- In June one animal care volunteer worked 25 hours assisting with animal care and conducting animal health checks.
- The NVMG group reported 103 hours in June. They have been constructing a retention wall to create a sanding/sitting area.
- Additionally, on June 22<sup>nd</sup> five volunteers from Amazon and Rebuilding Together DC contributed a total of 20 volunteer hours helping the NVMG group in the Nature Center's pollinator garden.

c. Noteworthy:

- This month, the Nature Center took delivery of a new Ford Transit Van. We have been without a dedicated vehicle for some time and the new van will allow greater flexibility for transporting staff, animals, and participants to offsite programs.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 21, 2022

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*  
PARK SERVICES

BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF *BZ*  
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

**ITEM XX:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE  
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

---

### **Commission Presentations & Oral Reports**

- Item 4. Athletic Field Lighting – Public Hearing
- Item 6.b. Proposed Text Amendment to the Public Open Space And Community Recreation Zone

### **Attached Memorandums**

- Proposed Text Amendment to the Public Open Space And Community Recreation Zone
- Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Plan Special Use Permit

### **Capital Improvement Project Updates**

- July 2022 Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (*Attached*)

### **Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination**

- Alexandria West
- Landmark Mall
- Eisenhower East
- North Potomac Yard
- Arlandria-Chirilagua
- Potomac River Generating Station
- High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2023)

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 22, 2022

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** ANA VICINANZO, PARK PLANNER III, PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT  
JUDY LO, ACTING PRINCIPAL PLANNER, PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

**THROUGH:** BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF   
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

**ITEM 6.b.:** PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY RECREATION ZONE

---

**ISSUE:** Proposed text amendment to the Public Open Space and Community Recreation (POS) zone; Section 6-100 of the Zoning Ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Park and Recreation Commission receive information about the proposed text amendment to the Public Open Space and Community Recreation (POS) zone, and the anticipated community engagement process.

**BACKGROUND:** The POS zone was established to protect, preserve, and enhance publicly owned open spaces, parks, recreational facilities, and other similar areas. Therefore, it has been conceived to be highly restrictive regarding uses permitted by right and those which require a Special Use Permit (SUP). It is the most restrictive zone in the Alexandria Zoning Ordinance allowing essentially only passive uses in our parks such as trails, gardens, landscaped areas, and seating without an SUP. Many of the typical recreational uses such as playgrounds, batting cages, and picnic shelters require an SUP. SUP's that have been approved recently include ballfield netting, batting cages, expansion of an existing playground, pathway lighting, and ballfield backstops. There are 62 City parks that are zoned POS.

**DISCUSSION:** The text amendment to the POS zone is one of the initiatives related to the Open Space Policy Plan process to address the City's Open Space needs. In collaboration with the Department of Planning and Zoning, staff have been reviewing the POS Zone for potential updates. Staff recognizes the intent of the zoning and is looking to provide reasonable and practical updates to the POS zone, particularly for typical recreational uses and uses needed for

park safety. Many of the SUPs that RPCA files are for uses that are consistent and commonly seen in our City parks. The goals of the proposed text amendment include:

- Permission of some congregate recreational facilities, such as playgrounds and sport courts
- Provide updates to heights of structures
- Permit standardized ancillary recreational components such as backstop fencing, safety netting, flagpoles, scoreboards, restrooms, outdoor storage, and other similar structures
- Permit pathway lighting and parking lot lighting for safety; allow flagpole lights
- Allowing outdoor storage areas, restroom structures, maintenance sheds, score boards, netting, semi-enclosed shelters and pavilions, shade structures, parking, and park guard facilities,

The majority of POS uses subject to SUP approval will largely remain unchanged, such as community recreation centers, congregate recreation facilities, commercial facilities, sports lighting, and many others.

The proposed changes are anticipated to reduce the number of SUP's filed for ancillary type items such as ballfield backstops, outdoor storage, flag poles, and other standardized and common recreation components. Streamlining of this process will facilitate implementation of such improvements. In addition, each park improvement is identified and goes through a community engagement process as part of park improvement planning process. The park improvement plan process will continue to occur even if SUPs are no longer required for certain park uses.

Staff will be conducting an extensive community engagement process beginning this fall. The text amendments will require approval by Planning Commission and City Council. Further information about the draft amendments will be available when the community engagement process begins.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**STAFF:**

Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner III, Park Planning  
Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 21, 2022

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF *BZ*  
PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*  
PARK SERVICES

**ITEM:** JOSEPH HENSLEY PARK RENOVATION PLAN SPECIAL USE PERMIT

---

**ISSUE:** Park and Recreation Commission update on the Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Design Plan Special Use Permit Application.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Park and Recreation Commission receive the update on the Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Plan Special Use Permit Application.

**BACKGROUND:** In the summer of 2012, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) began a multi-year process with the public to develop a Citywide Parks Improvement Plan. The goal of this initiative was to study and understand the existing conditions and future needs for Alexandria's parks that are over 10-acres, municipally owned, and have multiple uses. The Plan was endorsed by the Park and Recreation Commission on April 10, 2014, including recommendations for Joseph Hensley Park (Hensley Park). In 2021 the Park and Recreation Commission endorsed amendments to the 2014 Park Plan and approved the proposed renovation plan. The Development Site Plan was approved by Planning Commission in March 2021.

**DISCUSSION:** Hensley Park is zoned Public Open Space which has a height limit of 15 feet for structures. The 2021 Hensley Park renovation plans envisioned diamond field backstops that conformed to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Park Facilities Standards Manual. These backstops are 20 feet in height and exceed the current height limits in the Public Open Space zone, but are permitted if approved through the Special Use Permit process. Furthermore, the 2021 plans and details anticipated netting around the diamond and rectangular fields to protect park users, vehicles and adjacent property from fly balls.

The 2021 Development Site Plan application did not explicitly request approval of backstops and netting over 15 feet. To remedy the inconsistency between the current site plan approvals, existing City standards and industry best practices, RPCA has submitted a Special Use Permit

Request for additional height on the backstops and safety netting around the ball fields. The Special Use Permit request is docketed for Planning Commission and City Council public hearings in September 2022.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Joseph Hensley Park Renovation project is funded through the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Capital Improvement Program. Construction of the first phase is budgeted for \$3.4 million.

**STAFF:**

Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Mathew Landes, Division Chief, Department of Project Implementation

# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



July 21, 2022

| Project | Project Description   | Monthly Update   | Status  | Planning District | Target Completion Date | Assigned To |                   |
|---------|---|--|---|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1       | NOVA Cameron Run Regional Park Sport Court                        | Purchase of a portable sport court to support programming during pool off season, includes storage container (FY21 carryover)  | Park Services staff met with NOVA Parks to present the project and obtained approval to move forward. The procurement process is currently in progress for the sport court materials and installation.  | Procurement       | Citywide               | 09/30/22    | Daniel Unkle      |
| 2       | Witter Recreational Fields Netting                                | Netting along Witter Drive on the Rectangular Fields   | Project funding will be available in August. Staff is contracting site utility investigation work for late July/early August. Staff will solicit construction quotes in fall 2022.  | Planning          | District 1             | 12/30/22    | Daniel Unkle      |
| 3       | Simpson Dog Park Renovation                                       | This project will address erosion and drainage issues in the Simpson Park dog park per the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan.  | The construction contract is anticipated to be awarded in late July/early August. A community pre-construction meeting will be held.  | Procurement       | District 2             | 05/01/23    | Bethany Znidersic |
| 4       | Colasanto Interactive Fountain Design                             | This project will convert the existing closed Colasanto Pool to an interactive fountain per the 2012 Aquatics Plan. The renovated site will be an intergenerational, inclusive, multi-functional site that can be used year round. | The 100% plans have been submitted and are under final City review. Release of the plans is anticipated in July.  | Planning          | District 2             | 06/30/22    | Bethany Znidersic |
| 5       | NPY North Potomac Yard Park                                       | North Potomac Yard Park is the extension of Potomac Yard Park in Coordinated Development District #19 (CDD19). This is the main open space for the CDD. The Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) was approved in December 2020.   | City staff met with the design team to discuss park maintenance and management needs. Design details will be modified in the next plan submission package.  | Planning          | District 2             | 12/31/25    | Ana Vicinanzo     |
| 6       | Boothe Tennis and Basketball Surface Renovation                   | Renovate the court surface at Boothe Tennis and Basketball   | The project has been delayed to pandemic issues on labor and materials. The project is currently being scheduled with the contractor and is anticipated to be complete in the August 2022. The tennis courts will be lined for pickleball with the repairs. | Implementation    | District 3             | 04/30/21    | Daniel Unkle      |
| 7       | Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter Access Improvements                 | Provide barrier free accessible route that connects picnic shelter, picnic tables, and parking. The ADA accessible path will also connect to the sidewalk on Van Dorn Street   | The project is approximately 80% complete. The permeable paver surfacing was finished in June.  | Implementation    | District 3             | 09/15/22    | Judy Lo           |
| 8       | Hensley Park Renovation   | This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).   | A Special Use Permit Request is docketed for Planning Commission and City Council in September. The SUP request is currently in progress.   | Planning          | District 3             | 12/01/23    | Bethany Znidersic |
| 9       | Brenman/Boothe Improvements - Somerville Pedestrian Path Lighting | This project will install solar lights along the path between the Somerville Bridge and the Ben Brenman Dog Park.  | After significant material delays, installation of the 12 solar pole lights was completed in early July 2022. The project will be commissioned and final inspections are anticipated in late July.  | Implementation    | District 3             | 05/01/21    | Daniel Unkle      |