

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting (In Person Only)
Patrick Henry Recreation Center
4653 Taney Ave.
Thursday, November 16, 2023
7 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Acting Chair
2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
 - a. Review Commissioner SAP & Development Assignments
4. Action Items
 - a. Approval of October 25, 2023 Minutes
5. Items of Information
 - a. **Staff Reports** – Commissioner Questions
 - b. **Recreation Services Budget History**
James Spengler, Director
Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services
 - c. **Capital Projects Updates**
Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, park Services
 - i. Simpson Park Renovation Update
 - ii. CIP Projects Summary Update
6. Next Meeting:
 - a. December 2023 – Commission does not meet
 - b. January 18, 2024 – Location to be determined
7. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jack Browand at Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5504, Virginia Relay 711. We request that you provide 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements can be made.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2023
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

Program/Event Wrap-ups:

- On October 14, Leonard Chick Armstrong Recreation Center held its annual **Halloween Festival**. The event featured several highlighted activities designed for the total family to enjoy that included: floor games, moon bounce, Chocolate Tasting by Historic Alexandria, face painting, pumpkin carving & painting, pie eating contest, gummies whip cream eating contest, much more. The event was a total success attracting over 150 participants.



- On October 21, the Recreation Services Division partnered with Chrysalis Development Group to host its **Annual Spooky Mad Science Expo**. Traditionally the event has been held at the West End Apartment complex, but this year the event expanded and was hosted at Armistead Boothe Park, where over 400 attendees participated in STEAM activities, demonstrations, and experiments. Attendees from the young and the young at heart wore costumes and Halloween attire. The event ended with a costume parade and freeze dance contest. Prizes were awarded to the winners as DJ Reg E Reg closed out the event with some Halloween tunes.



- On October 26, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center celebrated **Light's on After School**. The children in the OSTP had a taste of Hispanic Culture as a special treat. 4- H facilitated STEM projects with the kids and Michael Johnson talked to kids about safety and the Safe Place program.



- On October 27, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center hosted its annual **Family Masquerade Ball**. The center had over 150 people participate. They enjoyed games, dancing, and a costume contest.



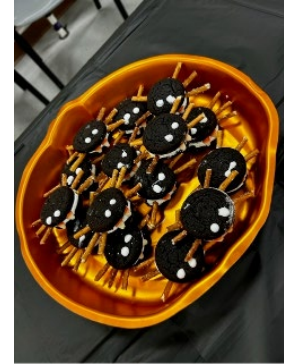
- On October 27, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted a **Trunk or Treat** their OSTP participants. Many parents donated candy and helped decorate to support the event. The youth dressed in their costumes and paraded around the parking lot to visit the decorated trunks and fill their candy bags. Many participants stayed for the annual **Family October Fest**. This indoor event featured carnival games, face painting, musical chairs, dancing, food, and a haunted house. The event was well attended by over 350 people.



- On October 27, Charles Houston Recreation Center in partnership Naomi Brooke Elementary School, held **Boo Fest**. Participants enjoyed treats, trunk-a-treat, arts & crafts, a moon bounce, and much more. Approximately 300 people attended the event.



- On October 30, Nannie J. Lee hosted a **Spooktacular themed Kid's Day Out**. Participants enjoyed making spooky edible art such as Mummy Dogs, Little Halo Pumpkin Oranges, Spider Oreos, and an Edible Graveyard.



- On October 31, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center invited St. Colletta's Therapeutic Adult Program participants to "**Halloween Extravaganza Pop Up**". Their participants and staff had a blast making Halloween crafts, spooky edibles and Creepy Crawly Sensory. They also had a Monster Jam session with the ghost busters theme song and Michael Jackson "Thriller" song.



- On November 4, teens ages 11 – 15 joined the Youth Activities Section for an evening of fun at **Sky Zone Trampoline Park**. They participated in dodgeball and basketball, and enjoyed pizza, chips, and drinks. Plans are already underway for the next Teen Takeover for December.

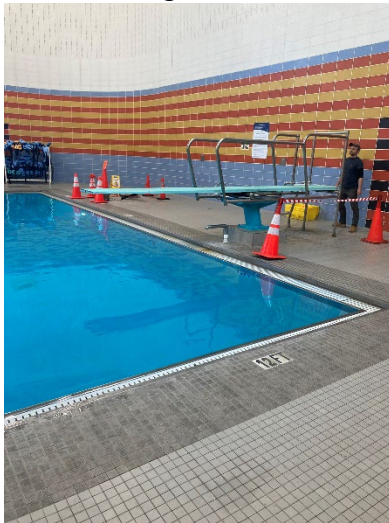


Upcoming Events:

- The holidays are approaching, and the kids have time off! To help parents with childcare during this time, sites are offering several **Winter Break** camps. The age range for these camps is 5-14 years.
- **Alexandria Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition** will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 2 p.m. at Alexandria City High School.
- On November 14, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center will host its **Senior Holiday Luncheon**.
- **Breakfast with Santa** will be held on Saturday December 9, at Mount Vernon Recreation Center.
- Charles Houston will host **Teen Ugly Sweater Party** on December 14.

Special Features:

A new diving board was installed at Chinquapin Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility.



Staff Updates:

- **Tim Catron** will join the Sports Section as the new Recreation Coordinator. Tim has been an employee with RPCA for over 20 years and most recently has worked at Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center.

City of Alexandria

Memorandum

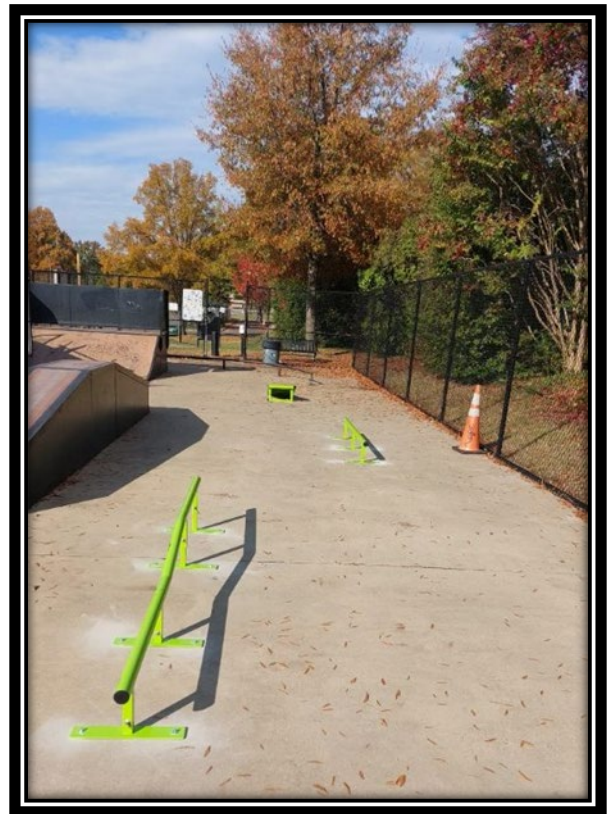
DATE: November 13, 2023
TO: Park and Recreation Commission Members
THROUGH: Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services
FROM: Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief, Park Services
SUBJECT: Park Services – Park Maintenance and Support Monthly Update

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance



Chinquapin Field Paint Sprayer training for staff



Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skateboard Park
New grind rail installation

City of Alexandria

Memorandum

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- No Report

2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a. Urban Forestry

- No Report

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry, Oriental Bittersweet, Privet, Rose of Sharon, and other non-native invasive plants from Beverly Park, Chinquapin Park, Dora Kelley Nature Park, Forest Park, Fort Ward Park, and Timberbranch Parkway.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in treating Porcelain-berry, Bush Honeysuckle, Callery Pear, Siberian Elm, English Ivy, and other non-native invasive plants at Ben Brenman Park and Potomac Greens Park.

b. Cooperative Initiatives

- On Saturday, November 4, 2023, City Natural Resource Manager led a planting of 48 site-appropriate, locally native trees at Lake Cook Park with the Eisenhower Valley Parks Collaborative, PARKnership, and Tree Stewards. App. 40 volunteers and two City staff participated in the planting.



Blackjack Oak Fall Color



Old-age Black Cherry Grove at Penny Hill Cemetery

City of Alexandria

Memorandum



Sweetgum Fall Color



Basswood and ancient, ice-rafterd cobbles
along Timber Branch Cemetery

- c. Environmental Review
 - City Natural Resource Manager participated in the Eisenhower Avenue Widening Project - Substantial Completion Inspection and provided comments and best practices.
- d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement
 - No incidents to report this month.
- 4. PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
 - a. Capital Improvement Project Updates
 - November Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (*Attached*)
 - b. Active Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination
 - Alexandria West
 - Landmark Mall
 - Potomac River Generating Station
 - High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
 - Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
 - Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2024)
 - c. Sites Currently Closed or Partially Closed to Public Use for Capital Projects

City of Alexandria

Memorandum

- Holmes Run Trail (three locations)
 - Four Mile Run Park Bridge
 - Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Dog Park
 - Joseph Hensley Park
 - Mount Jefferson Park - (Dog Exercise Area closed)
 - Charles Barrett Recreation Center playground – (renovation)
 - Stevenson Park ballfield back stop area – (dugout installation)
 - Playground surfacing repair projects – November/December - up to two weeks at Boothe, Ruthanne Lodato
 - Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk and piers - (closed for inspections and structural concerns)
- d. Anticipated Closures Commencing Fall 2023
- Ben Brenman Rectangular Field (recarpeting) - December

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



November 16, 2023

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along all four sides of the two rectangular fields.	Construction has started and completion is anticipated in late November. Coordination with user groups is in progress to minimize impacts to programs.	Implementation	District 1	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
2	Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Jefferson Houston	Design and installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	Installation of the light poles and fixtures is complete per the City Council-approved Special Use Permit. Control box and electrical components are installed. Coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing to energize the system. We are anticipating project completion in November - December 2023.	Implementation	District 1	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
3	MacArthur School Recreation Programming Space Construction	New recreation office and program space at Douglas MacArthur School	Facility opened in August 2023. Synthetic turf field opened late September. Work continues on the playground. Anticipated completion of playground is November 2023.	Close-out	District 2	12/29/23	Jack Browand
4	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 contractor continues to finish outstanding items such as fencing and concrete work. Construction is anticipated to be complete late November/early December 2023 with the park opening at the end of 2023.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
5	Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	In early September a contract was awarded to the Bright Construction Group, Inc. based in Falls Church, VA. Notice to Proceed was issued to the Contractor on September 19 and a pre-construction meeting was held on September 28. Construction and building permits have been submitted. Work is anticipated to take 180 calendar days. The play equipment has been fabricated and was received in September. Mobilization began in November. Tree protection and erosion and sediment controls have been installed.	Implementation	District 2	01/31/24	Judy Lo
6	Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	The developer continues to work with staff on developing a revised site amendment to address dog park drainage issues. Landscape bond release is anticipated for spring 2024.	Close-out	District 2	06/30/22	Judy Lo
7	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The solicitation documents are in review and the Invitation To Bid date will be finalized with Procurement staff. The solicitation documents are anticipated to be posted in November or December.	Procurement	District 2	09/02/24	Bethany Znidersic
8	Four Mile Run Park Bridge Replacement Construction	This project will replace the existing bridge in Four Mile Run Park near the parking area for the two diamond fields at the end of Commonwealth Avenue.	Contract is awarded and landside bridge construction began in October. Landside construction is anticipated to be completed in February 2024. Bridge fabrication and delivery continued to be mid to late spring 2024. Anticipated completion is July 2024.	Implementation	District 2	07/30/24	Jack Browand
9	Stevenson Dugout Replacement	This project will install two dugout structures at the existing ball field. Irrigation has been relocated and contractor is currently obtaining permits. Anticipated construction is July-August of 2023.	Installation of the new dugouts and fencing started the first week of November. The project is anticipated to be complete in January 2024.	Implementation	District 3	12/01/23	Daniel Unkle
10	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 forest conservation area was surveyed and staked. Tree plantings to establish the forest conservation area will be scheduled.	Close-out	District 3	11/30/23	Judy Lo
11	Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	Construction is in progress and is anticipated to be complete in early 2025. Please see the project website for more information: alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation	Implementation	District 3	12/01/24	Bethany Znidersic
12	Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field.	The shop drawings for the turf renovation and replacement are in review. The work will be scheduled for December and coordinated with user groups to minimize impacts to field programs.	Procurement	District 3	12/29/23	Bethany Znidersic
13	Ewald Park Site Design	Design of Ewald Park per the 2015 Neighborhood Parks Plan	Staff is developing the scope of work for planning and design and anticipates hiring the consultant by early winter 2023. The project will kick off the first quarter of 2024 with community engagement activities.	Initiation	District 3	06/30/25	Judy Lo
14	Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Francis Hammond	Design and installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	Installation of the light poles and fixtures is complete per the City Council-approved Special Use Permit. Control box and electrical components are installed. Coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing to energize the system. Project completion is anticipated in November - December 2023.	Implementation	District 3	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle