

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2022
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

2022-2023 OSTP School Year Update:

Program Wrap-ups:

- **Chinquapin Wahoos**, Alexandria’s only public swim team, finished their swim season undefeated and received a Mayoral Proclamation in recognition of their championship season during the October 11th, City Council meeting.



- Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center kicked off the first **Kid’s Day Out** with a BANG! Not only was it a Kid’s Day Out, but they also celebrated “National Pancake Day” by having a Pancake bar for the participants. They enjoyed Double Chocolate Chip, Fruity Pebbles, and the traditional pancakes with a many topping options.



Program Updates:

- Chinquapin restarted the **SPLASH program** with ACPS. Fourth graders attend swim lessons every day for a week and learn basic water safety and introduction to swimming. Douglas MacArthur and Samuel Tucker kicked off the program on September 27th and attended over two weeks. Nearly all elementary schools opted in for participation. Lessons will run weekly through April.



- **Youth cheerleading** started team practices in early September. The 2022 – 2023 season will be the return of the program post-COVID. There are 155 participants spread out on teams at Charles Houston, Mt. Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry, and William Ramsay Recreation Centers. The teams are preparing for the Alexandria Holiday Invitational on Sunday, December 11, at Alexandria City High School. To help participants prepare, RPCA Staff and volunteer cheer coaches conducted a cheer clinic on October 1, at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. Fifty-five participants attended and learned the fundamentals of cheer.
- The Durant Center hosted three events sponsored by the **Creative Neighborhood Grant Program**.
 - FACES- an interactive video art installation
 - Balloon Project- a Arts on the Horizon workshop for young children and families
 - Running Strong- Beading Class Event by Running Strong for American Indian Youth

Upcoming events can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation-programs/program/city-of-alexandria-arts-grant-opportunities#FundingTermsOfUse>

- Patrick Henry Recreation Center continues to provide **Open Pickleball** for the City and Non-City Residents. All participants must supply their own paddles and balls. All participants continue to have their option practice social distance and wear face masks throughout their visit at the center.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center held **Fencing Classes** on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm in the Black Box. The participants learned the principles of modern sport fencing including footwork, blade control, and technique. Foils, masks, and jackets provided (no rental fee). The fencing class was led by Instructor Olde Town Fencing. There were 8 participants enrolled in this session.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center celebrated **Hispanic Heritage Month** with several games and craft projects. OSTP participants learned traditions, language, and dance from Hispanic culture. They also made maracas, Mexican paletas, ponchos, and pinatas.



- The Patrick Henry Recreation Center Teen Group "**Circle of Girls**", returned from summer break to resume regular meetings. On their first day back, the girls participated in a sip and paint project.



- On September 23, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held their **QuinTango Concert**. The concert took place in the Black Box Theater dance room and was led by Ms. Singer and her staff. The program was well attended by the community.



- In recognition of **National Bullying Prevention Month**, Mt. Vernon Recreation center hosted a fantastic Bully Free presentation on October 11 to support Mayor's "Bully Free Starts with Me" Campaign.

- On September 10, the Youth Activities Section and Community Outreach hosted a **Teen Block Party event**. City Council members, Community partners, City Agencies, Alexandria Police Department and Non-Profit organizations joined in the fun to bridge the gap between community and teens. Attendees enjoyed inflatables, sweet treats, giveaways, and crafts. In addition to a game truck, field games, activities, and guest speakers, teens enjoyed an afternoon of socialization, info sessions, food, and fun. We received contact information for over 100 teens, which will help to boost our impact on teen outreach and provide more intentional programming.
- On September 24, Recreation Services partnered with the Kiwanis Club (local non-profit) to host its **Annual Kiwanis Kids Fishing Day at Lake Cook**. Participants enjoy a visit to Lake Cook for a day of fishing and nature exploration. During the event six sun fish and one catfish were caught and released. Volunteers from Alexandria City High Schools' Key Club assisted with baiting and casting for some of our inexperienced youth. 25 participants enjoyed this annual event.



Upcoming Events:

- On October 22, William Ramsay Recreation Center in partnership with NOVA Raft and Fresh Start Refugee, will host a **STEM workshop** for youth ages 10-14. Students will build and test different kits including a solar powered mini car.
- On October 15, William Ramsay Recreation Center will host the City's **Flu Vaccine Clinic** from 9:30am-1:30pm.
- On December 16, Mt Vernon Recreation Center, in partnership with Art Box Musical Theater is preparing for a dynamic **Holiday musical performance**. Led by Sheila Whiting, the children are working on singing, dancing, script writing, and crew and production. All the participants in the program have been able to select which area they would like to take part in.
- Recreation Services is hosting several community events for **Halloween Spirit Week**:
 - Bingo and Pumpkin Carving – Charles Houston, Oct. 14, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
 - Fall Harvest Festival – Chick Armstrong, Oct. 15, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
 - Monster Rally – Chinguapin, Oct. 22, 4 – 7:15 p.m.
 - Boo-Fest – Charles Houston, Oct. 28, 6 – 8 p.m.
 - Floating Pumpkin Patch – Chinguapin, Oct. 28, 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.
 - Family Masquerade Ball – Mount Vernon, Oct. 28, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
 - Family October Fest – Patrick Henry, Oct. 28, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
 - Hall-o-Teen Night – William Ramsay, Oct 28, 7:30 – 10:00p.m.

- On October 20, the Afterschool Alliance will conduct **Lights On Afterschool** to draw attention to the many ways afterschool programs support students and working parents by offering opportunities to learn something new. In observance, Power-On/Up will invite parents to visit the after-school program and offer an enrichment project at each site that exemplifies the types of programs and experiences youth in OSTP receive. This year, the 9-12 age group will participate in Rockets to the Rescue, a 4-H National Science Experiment emphasizing STEM learning through hands on activities. Younger participants will take part in a bullying prevention activity.
- On October 15, Recreation Services, in partnership with the Watergate Youth Committee will hold the **Spooky Mad Science Expo** for kids and teens residing at the Terrace Lounge, located at 211 Yoakum Parkway. The event will celebrate science and Halloween in a special way by offering interactive and engaging activities and demonstrations.

Special Features:

- Teen Program Planning group has partnered with the Digital Applications classes at the International Academy to develop and distribute a teen survey to IA and ACHS students to discover **teen program interests**.
- The Recreation Services Division has migrated to the newest version of **Rec Trac (3.1)**. By upgrading our registration software, RPCA will be able to be more efficient when handling customer registrations, handle more transactions (Vermont Systems will be the host server instead of ITS), and provide some additional services and features that we could not offer in the older system.
- The **Charles Houston Advisory Council** donated over \$3,000 of equipment to the Teen Center at Charles Houston Recreation Center to include a 55-inch tv, a ping pong table, and a PS5.
- **YHELP! Arts** has renewed their partnership at Charles Houston Recreation Center. This organization offers weekly lesson plans, workshops, and collaborative projects that focus on self-esteem building, coping skills, and goal setting.



Staff Updates:

- Two new Full- Time Lifeguards will start on Saturday, October 15th. **Alexis Stubblefield** and **Jacob McGrail** are current seasonal pool managers and each with over five years of progressive experience with the City.
- **Randy Little** and **Lindsay Burneson** started as Division Chiefs for Recreation Services.
- **Debbie Woodbury** successfully completed the fourth cohort of Leadership Montgomery's Racial Equity Action Leadership (REAL) Inclusion Program. The nine-month program examines best practices for operationalizing equity within organizations.
- **Trina Wood** and **Debbie Woodbury** presented educational sessions at the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Trina's session is entitled "More Than Words: Create Effective Vertical Communication to Bridge Gaps and Improve Success." Debbie explored "The Wonders of a Resilient Mind: From Resistance to Resilience."

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES
MAUREEN STURGILL, ACTING DIVISION CHIEF, PARK SERVICES

SUBJECT: PARK SERVICES - PARK MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT MONTHLY UPDATE

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance

- New recycling and litter cans added to Francis Hammond synthetic field to help mitigate litter.

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- Relocated irrigation heads at Boothe softball field after field maintenance was complete.
- Secured several electrical boxes at Fort Ward Park that had exposed wires.

2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a. Urban Forestry

- Forestry staff worked diligently at decreasing and closing Alex311 and CityWorks tickets.

b. Horticulture

- 2023 renewal applications were sent out to all gardeners and returns are being received.

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration



Francis Hammond new recycling and litter cans.



Boothe Softball/Irrigation before.

- Staff pulled and bagged Japanese Stiltgrass at Forest Park. Staff also treated Poison Ivy along the paths at Polk Park.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in the treatment of Porcelain-berry, Sweet Autumn Clematis, Paper Mulberry, Callery Pear, Bush Honeysuckle, and other non-native invasive weeds at Windmill Hill Park.



Boothe Softball/Irrigation after

b. Cooperative Initiatives

- Staff assisted Park Planning with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposal for Four Mile Run Park.
- Staff assisted Nathan Imm, of Planning and Zoning in providing recommended native street trees for Old Town.
- Staff assisted the Alexandria Beautification Commission in providing Community Award nominees for ecological restoration projects.
- Staff assisted the Friends of Cameron Station Neighborhood Parks in hosting the September 25, 2022 Fall Meadowfest to celebrate the beauty and natural biodiversity of the Ben Brenman Park Meadow, including straightening the interpretive signs and leading a pre-event walkthrough of the site.



Electrical box/wires secured at Fort Ward Park before.

c. Environmental Review

- City Natural Resource Manager reviewed the proposed James Marx All Veterans Park native tree plantings for the Tree Stewards and Park Planning.
- City Natural Resource Manager reviewed the Fort Ward Park Management Plan, in collaboration with Office of Historic Alexandria, Park Planning, and other RPCA staff, and provided comments and best practices.



Electrical box/wires secured at Fort Ward Park after.

d. Park Encroachment and Code Enforcement

- No incidents to report this month.

4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs/Updates:

- The Nature Center had 405 visitors in September and provided 50 impromptu programs. Throughout the month we conducted 14 interpretive programs for 86 patrons.

School Programs:

- 161 3rd graders from William Ramsay and Mt Vernon Community School visited the nature center for animal



Old-age Black Gum along Fort Williams Parkway

adaptation programs. A total of 7 programs and 5 hikes were conducted in Dora Kelly nature park.

Outreach Programs:

- Staff attended the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria Pets and People Community Wellness event at Four Mile Run Park this month. Along with one of our ambassador animals, our display focused on responsible pet ownership.
- The 3rd Saturday Waterfront Dockets at the Torpedo Factory concluded in September. Nature Center staff presented a display on native wildlife.

Onsite Programs:

- There were no interpretive programs scheduled for the month of September.

b. Volunteers Hours:

- In September our garden and animal care volunteers contributed 136 hours. The master gardener group continues to create a program space in the garden.

c. Noteworthy:

- Nature Center volunteer, Reyna Gilbert has established a monthly workday for volunteers to pull invasive plants in Dora Kelley Nature Park. The first event was held on Sunday, September 4th. 10 volunteers came out and pulled oriental bittersweet around the shed and along the stairway to the park.



Black Gum fruit in Fall.



Our weekly meeting an animal impromptu featuring our Australian bearded dragon.



Volunteer workgroup for the monthly invasive pull at DKNP.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

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

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

Commission Presentations & Oral Reports

- FY 2023 Community Matching Fund
- Athletic Field Lighting Proposals
- Angel Park Natural Resource Area Clean-up

Attached Memorandums

- FY 2023 Community Matching Fund

Project Updates

Athletic Field Lighting Proposals

Project Manager: Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services

On September 8, Alexandria School Board unanimously passed a resolution consenting to the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities submitting SUP applications for the installing of athletic field lighting at four school locations. The Department will hold a final virtual community meeting on Wednesday, September 21 to address questions raised from the community engagement held in the spring of 2022 in advance of the scheduled public hearing with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, November 1 and public hearing with City Council on Saturday, November 12. The Department received funding to install up to two athletic field lighting on up to two fields pending SUP approval. For additional information, visit the [2022 Athletic Field Lighting Proposals](#) project website.

Capital Improvement Project Updates

- October 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)

Sites Currently Closed or Partially Closed to Public Use for Capital Projects

Closed

- Holmes Run Trail (four locations)
- Four Mile Run Park Bridge
- Ben Brenman Park Playground (safety surface repairs)

Partially Closed

- Charles Barrett Recreation Center Playground (equipment replacement)
- Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter (ADA Access Path)
- Hooffs Run Park Playground (safety surface repairs at swings)
- Landover Park Playground (equipment replacement)
- Mason Avenue Mini-Park Playground
- Mulligan Park Playground

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JUDY LO, ACTING PRINCIPAL PLANNER
LUCRESHA MURPHY, PARKNERSHIP MANAGER

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PARK SERVICES

ITEM: 4.B. - FY 2023 COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND APPLICATIONS

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission consideration of the FY 2023 Community Matching Fund applications received by the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission (1) receive the applications and staff recommendations for the FY 2023 Community Matching Fund and (2) hold the proposed FY 2023 Community Matching Fund Public Hearing on Thursday, October 20, 2022, and approve the staff recommendations.

BACKGROUND: Implemented in FY 2017, the Community Matching Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among Alexandria community organizations by providing matching 1:1 dollars for groups that propose fundraising for park improvement projects. The Fund is designed to foster public/private partnerships and cultivate innovative ways for residents to have a greater stake in improving the park and recreation facilities that they use.

Community groups interested in receiving matching funds will compete every other year for grant aid amounts up to \$100,000. Any community group that lives and/or works in the City of Alexandria can apply for the matching fund. The City evaluates each community group proposal based on how the project fulfills a public need as measured by the Department's needs assessment, park improvement plans, and community feedback. Community groups must show that they can raise their matching funds within one fiscal year. Since the fund's inception in 2017, 17 projects have been awarded.

DISCUSSION: In FY 2023, a total of \$100,000 in City matching funds will be available. RPCA will give a 1:1 matching award in an amount up to \$50,000. Awards may vary and are given in any amount between \$5,000 (for project totals of \$10,000) to \$50,000 (for project totals of \$100,000). Groups may count in-kind physical labor towards their matching amount.

In FY 2023, the Department received four applications. One application did not meet eligibility requirements. The three applications meeting the eligibility requirements are summarized below.

1. Project Name: Lake Cook Pocket Park

Location: Lake Cook (map attached to the application)

Total Project Cost: \$25,000

Proposed City Match: \$12,500

Volunteer Time: 20 Hours

Description: This project includes planting native trees, implementing invasive species management, and signage to help identify the park and create a sense of place upon which future improvements can be built.

Staff Discussion: Improvements are consistent with the [2020 Pocket Park Improvement Plan](#) recommendations. Staff recommends before execution of the project, the group will work with the Natural Resources Division regarding implementation of the invasive species management and tree planting.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval.

2. Project Name: Tucker Community Garden

Location: Armistead L. Boothe Park

Total Project Cost: \$21,238.38

Proposed City Match: \$10,619.19

Volunteer Time: 160 hours

Description: The Tucker Community Garden Project will develop and ‘green’ an underutilized open space adjacent the Samuel Tucker Elementary School and provide an outdoor learning classroom for students. This project will engage with all sectors of the West End population via the public school; provide an opportunity for environmental engagement for the community; enrich the communities youth with a learning opportunity that has lifelong impact; and provides an outlet for environmental engagement that is in short supply for many of effected residents for whom this project will serve.

Staff Discussion: The proposed improvements are consistent with the [2014 Citywide Park Improvement Plan](#) for Armistead L. Boothe Park, which identifies a location for student gardens. The plan recommends a location further north along Cameron Station Blvd., however, this location is preferable due to proximity to water access and trash/recycling receptables. Staff recommends updating the Improvement Plan to reflect the new location. Due to several existing underground utilities in this location, the placement of planters should be carefully thought out to minimize conflicts. The PTA and Tucker Community Garden Task Force will maintain the gardens, soliciting help from the community.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval.

3. Project Name: Paddling Access at Four Mile Run

Location: Four Mile Run Park near end of Commonwealth Avenue

Total Project Cost: \$436, 885

Proposed City Match: \$50,000

Description: The project is a public water access point, including a raised boardwalk from the Four Mile Run Trail to a gangway extending to a floating dock, maintaining ADA-compliant slopes and level landings at appropriate spacing. The dock would include a transfer platform for wheelchair entry to a kayak, and the launch point would

have a roller-entry/exit, which increases safety for launching and landing, particularly for unassisted paddlers.

Staff Discussion: The proposed improvements are consistent with the Alexandria Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities Strategic Plan (2018), the Alexandria Citywide Park Improvement Plan (2014), and the multi-jurisdiction [Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan](#) (2006) to improve public access to Alexandria's waterways. Design of the dock and boardwalk are complete and additional permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and other permits will be required. The group intends to fundraise the majority of the total project cost through the Recreational Trails Program grant, which the group received in September. If approved, staff suggest City funds go toward project materials, such as the floating dock, rather than general construction or professional services. Since the requested City match is less than the total project cost, the group must also show substantial progress towards meeting the total project cost.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval.

Following the Park and Recreation Commission approval of any project, the City and the community group will enter into a formal agreement that outlines both the City and the group's responsibilities. The community group must raise their funds within one year of the award. Awardees must provide quarterly financial updates throughout the year. Upon reaching the goal, the City and organization will work collaboratively to implement the project.

FISCAL IMPACT: If approved, \$73,119.19 in City funding will be awarded to three applicants in FY 2023. Total funding for this initiative including City match and applicant match is \$146,238.38.

The balance of City funds not awarded may, as determined by staff, 1.) Roll over biannually, 2.) Function as contingency/emergency funds, not to exceed 10% of the individual project cost, and/or 3.) Support Community Matching Fund management activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FY 2023 Community Matching Fund Applications

STAFF:

Bethany Znidarsic, Division Chief, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Lucresha Murphy, PARKnership Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



October 20, 2022

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Open Space Policy Plan	This project will develop a framework for explaining Open Space and identifying policy change needs. City Council reinstated the Open Space Steering Committee with charge of work to be completed by FY 2023.	Task 2: Acquisition and measuring open space in the City was adopted by the Open Space Steering Committee. Example design assessment was adopted by the Committee.	Implementation	Citywide	06/30/23	Ana Vicinanza
2	Pickleball Court Expansion Project	This project will convert single use courts to multi-use by adding pickleball lines and movable nets at five locations distributed across Alexandria.	Pickleball court lines and movable nets were installed at Chambliss Park, Chinquapin Park and Eugene Simpson Stadium Park. Improvements at Armistead Boothe Park and the Lee Center will occur in 2023 to coincide with the court surface repairs.	Implementation	Citywide	06/30/23	Bethany Znidersic
3	Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field 1	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.	Funding for up to two fields was improved in the FY 2023 budget. ACPS School Board passed a resolution on 9/8/22 to support applications. Public hearings deferred for Planning Commission 11/1/22 and City Council 11/12/22	Planning	Citywide	01/31/23	Jack Browand
4	Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along all four sides of the two rectangular fields.	The City is reviewing the bid received from contractor.	Planning	District 1	11/30/22	Daniel Unkle
5	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 was awarded and a community pre-construction meeting will be held onsite on October 19.	Procurement	District 2	05/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
6	Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	Planting installation is ongoing throughout October. Work has started on the East Raymond Avenue storm structures and street crossing improvements.	Implementation	District 2	06/30/22	Judy Lo
7	Stevenson Dugout Replacement	Install two baseball dugout structures and associated grading. SUP is in review.	Updated construction documents were received from the manufacture for City review. RPCA will be submitting for final DSP approval pending internal signature of plans.	Planning	District 3	03/31/23	Daniel Unkle
8	Hensley Park Renovation	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	The Special Use Permit (SUP) for netting and backstop height was approved on September 17. The plans were submitted for	Planning	District 3	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic