

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Public Hearing & Regular Meeting**

**Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School**  
**1701 N. Beauregard Street**

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**  
**7 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order: Dana Colarulli, Acting Chair
2. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Commissioner Reports & Announcements
  - a. **Staff Report Highlights** - Staff
4. Action Items
  - a. Approval May 16, 2024 Minutes
  - b. FY 2025 Officer Elections
    - i. Chair
    - ii. Vice Chair
    - iii. Secretary
  - c. Public Hearing – AlexWest Small Area Plan – Open Space
    - i. Open Public Hearing – Acting Chair
    - ii. Public Comment
    - iii. Close Public Hearing – Acting Chair
    - iv. Commission Discussion
    - v. Commission Action
5. Items of Information
  - a. 275<sup>th</sup> City & 248<sup>th</sup> USA’s Birthday Celebration – Saturday, July 13 from 6-10 p.m.  
[Alexandria & USA Birthday Celebration | City of Alexandria, VA \(alexandriava.gov\)](https://www.alexandriava.gov/alexandria-usa-birthday-celebration)
6. Next Meeting: (1) July 18 – TBD or (2) September 19
7. Adjournment

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jack Browand at [Jack.Browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto: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:** JUNE 20, 2024  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

**Program Wrap-ups:**

- The Nature Center hosted **2 high school senior experience interns** in late May, one from Alexandria City High School and one from the Field School in Washington, D.C. Throughout their internship, these students were able to gain hands-on experience with animal care, program facilitation, and understanding the general operations of a nature center. We look forward to hosting another set of interns in 2025!
- On May 17, Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted **Teen Skate Night**. The event was a fantastic gathering, drawing over 40 enthusiastic teens together for fun and community bonding. In addition to the skating, we were fortunate to have representatives from YHELP and Keep It 360 Advocate present. They set up informative tables to share their valuable resources and services with the teens.
- On May 27, Mount Vernon Recreation Center hosted its annual **Memorial Day program**. The outdoor ceremony honored posthumous Medal of Honor recipient, POW/MIA, RANGER Hall of Fame inductee, and Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment Captain Rocky Versace, the 67 other Alexandrians who died during the Vietnam War, and all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice.

- On May 29, the Minnie Howard Campus and Aquatics Facility had its **ribbon-cutting ceremony**. City Council and School Board elected officials, plus ACPS and City leaders, including the RPCA team that will manage the aquatics facility, were in attendance and conducted walkthroughs.



- During May, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center celebrated **Asian American Pacific Islander Month**. Throughout the month, OSTP participants enjoyed numerous games and activities derived from Asian American culture. The program ended the month-long celebration with a food spread of donated dishes from Alexandria's local restaurants. Attendees enjoyed meals that originated from Japan, China, Vietnam, India, and Lebanon. Kids and teens also participated in Suikawari (watermelon splitting), a traditional Japanese summertime activity.



### Program Updates:

- On May 17, the Alexandria Sportsman's Club held its annual **Awards Banquet**. The event honors outstanding high school athletes from the City's four high schools, and athletes representing RPCA. The Sports Section's full-time staff attended and were excited to honor **Delray Waters & River Washington**.

**Delray Waters** is a youth football and basketball player in the City of Alexandria. On the football field, he plays quarterback and was recognized as the MVP for his 11U Alexandria Titans football team in 2023 and led his 10U team to the championship game in 2022. He plays on a few basketball teams including the Alexandria Select team and an AAU team. Off the playing field, he plays saxophone and trumpet for his school's band and is an active member of the Dunbar Boys & Girls Club. He has received a leadership award at school and is a member of the Untouchables Mentoring Group, which has helped him build his leadership and public speaking skills. Earlier this year, he was also awarded a Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks Sports Alliance Good Sports Award.

**River M.L. Washington** is a 6th-grade student at Patrick Henry School. River has participated in the City's basketball league the past few seasons and is a member of the Alexandria Select team and the Patrick Henry intramural basketball team. She also plays soccer and participates in the City's youth track & field program. Off the court & track, her favorite subjects are history and PE, she is enrolled in all honors classes where she has received straight A's earning her the Principal's Award the entire school year. Her favorite sports teams are the Las Vegas Aces & Golden State Warriors.

- Warwick, Old Town, and Memorial **Pools have opened** for the summer season!



- During May, the William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted several special events for teenagers and OSTP participants. With the temperatures rising outside, the center offered **indoor soccer** for teens who usually play on the outdoor fields. Soccer matches were played in the gymnasium using the newly acquired soccer nets. Teens also participated in a brand-new event using Nerf guns to play variations of the game “**King of the Hill**”.



This game requires teamwork, strategizing, and fine motor skills to see who will be the last man standing! The turnout for both events has been great and the center looks forward to a growth in participation throughout the summer months.

- Meet the heart and humor of William Ramsay Recreation Center, **Ed Kehoe**. Edward "Ed" Kehoe has been a familiar face at the William Ramsay Recreation Center for over 30 years, bringing laughter and warmth to everyone he meets.

A military veteran who believes in the importance of fitness, Ed and his wife Marjorie have made Ramsay their second home. Ed's dedication to staying fit inspires many, both in and out of the gym. But it's his humor that truly sets him apart. Known for his quick wit and punchline jokes, Ed delights fellow gym-goers and staff with his comedic talent. Despite having heard his jokes for over four decades, Marjorie, Ed's wife, continues to laugh wholeheartedly.



Next time you're at William Ramsay Recreation Center, be sure to say hello to Ed and Marjorie. Their story is a testament to the joy found in staying active and engaged, both physically and socially, within the William Ramsay community.

- The Patrick Henry Recreation Center’s **Advance Body Part Aerobics** class was well attended during the spring session on Fridays, 4/12/2024 to 5/09/2024. Advance Body Part Aerobics is a highly-intensity fitness program targeting specific muscle groups. It improves cardiovascular endurance, strength, balance, and coordination.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center’s **Senior Cardio & Weight Training class** continues to increase in popularity and maintain retention with its members. The program thrived during the Spring session from April 10 – May 29. The program meets on Wednesdays from 12 pm-1 pm in the Fitness Room.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center’s **Senior Trailblazers** continue to stride throughout the City of Alexandria during the spring session. The program is free, and they meet on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30 am. The program is geared towards active seniors ages 55+. Come and enjoy the great outdoors as we embark on invigorating walks together. Stay fit, connect with fellow seniors, and discover the beauty of nature.



### Upcoming Events:

- On June 26, Patrick Henry Recreation Center will host the **Glow in the Dark Dance** from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- On July 6, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center will host its Senior 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout. The seniors will enjoy live musical entertainment, line dancing, games, giveaways, and barbequed foods with side dishes and other refreshments. This program is a partnership between the recreation center, the America Restaurant Group, and Jen Walker and Associates.

### Staff Updates:

- **Natalie Smart** has joined RPCA as the Regional Program Director for Chinquapin and the Outdoor Pools.
- **Tatiana Rivera-Perez** has joined RPCA as a full-time Head Lifeguard for Chinquapin and the Outdoor Pools.

- **Wilma Newby, Dena Ahmed, and Patrice Gribble-Fetter** completed Our Community Listens. This course about improving communication is offered as part of our Caring Workplace partnership with the Chapman Foundation for Caring Communities.
- **Jordan Burch** has joined the RPCA as a Recreation Leader at the William Ramsay Recreation Center.
- **Xavier Longerbeam** has been promoted with Fee Classes and Camps as Camp Coordinator. He will be assisting with overseeing all of the camps at Durant and across the city.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JUNE 20, 2024

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK SERVICES RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES 98

**ITEM 3.a.:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE  
PARK SERVICES

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### **PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief

#### **Capital Improvement Project Summary Update**

- June Park Planning & Capital Development Report, Park Services (*Attached*)

#### **Park Planning Project Updates**

- Alexandria West Small Area Plan Public Hearing (*Item Information Attached*)

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

- Holmes Run Trail (Site 1 – design & Site 2&3 – construction procurement)
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Dog Park (active construction)
- Joseph Hensley Park (active construction)
- Mount Jefferson Park Dog Park - (drainage redesign complete – in approval process)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk and piers - (closed for inspections and structural repairs)
- Ben Brenman Rectangular Field (active construction)
- Lee Center Multi-Use Courts (active construction)

#### **Waterfront Parks LED Lighting Retrofits**

##### **Project Managers: Matt Melkerson, T&ES**

The City will be upgrading the existing park light fixtures in Rivergate Park, Oronoco Bay Park, Founders Park, Waterfront Park, and Roberdeau Park to LED technology in the fall 2024. These parks are the next phase of LED light conversions following the recently completed phase for parks around Cameron Station. There are numerous benefits to upgrading the existing light fixtures, including significantly higher energy efficiency in furtherance of the City's EcoCity goals, and higher reliability resulting in lower maintenance costs. All park trails and paths will



remain open during the upgrade of the fixtures. If there are any questions about the upcoming work, contact Matt Melkerson at [matt.melkerson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:matt.melkerson@alexandriava.gov).

### **Potomac Yard Park**

#### **Project Managers: Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner III**

The City is working with JBG Smith to complete construction of the approximately five-acre addition to Potomac Yard Park. The park is the last component of the uninterrupted ‘green spine’ of parkland and offroad multi-use trails envisioned in the 1999 plan for Potomac Yard. The park is anticipated to be completed this summer. The new park includes a multi-use trail, play space, fitness area, viewing mound, lawn areas, and pavilion/seating areas.



### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief

#### **Urban Forestry**

##### **Project Manager: Phil Jubert, Urban Forest Manager**

- Urban Forestry dedicated a white oak tree at the Judy Guse-Noritake Park to celebrate the life of former Alexandrian and long-time volunteer of the Park Commission.
- We completed our seasonal spring planting season by installing over 325 trees throughout the city. We are currently on pace to plant over 1,000 trees this calendar year.
- Urban Forestry Manager, Phil Jubert, was an invited guest speaker at the Lynhaven Civic Association. His message was how the public can participate in protecting and growing our Urban Canopy through volunteer hours and Alex311 requests.
- The Urban Forestry team increased our tree watering capabilities by deploying 2 in-house watering units to partner with our contract watering services.

#### **Project Title: Celandine Season at Several Natural Areas**

##### **Project Managers: Natural Resources Staff**

The Natural Resources Division continues its efforts to control invasive species, focusing on the eradication of Celandine, Bamboo, Japanese Honeysuckle, Poison Ivy, and other broadleaf targets for July and August. These efforts are crucial for preserving native plant diversity, maintaining ecosystem balance, and protecting water quality. By addressing these invasives, we

prevent them from outcompeting native species for essential resources, thereby supporting the overall health of local ecosystems. Our ongoing work enhances the resilience and sustainability of the environment.

**PARK SUPPORT**

Tonja Walls, Division Chief

**Irrigation Maintenance**

**Project Manager: Brad Alger, Facility Maintenance Supervisor**

Park Support Facility Maintenance team is staying busy keeping the irrigation on throughout the City parks and fields. Irrigation repair at Ben Brenman Park (see photos below).



**Robinson Landing Staff Booth**

**Project Manager: Park Maintenance & Park Support Staff**

A new staff booth at the Robinson Landing Pier was installed to manage transient boating activities. The transient piers were built for the City through private development.



- cc Bethany, Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Planning & capital Development
- Oscar, Mendoza, Division Chief, Natural Resources
- Tonja Walls, Division Chief, Park Support
- Derek Claytor, Division Chief, Park Maintenance

# Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



June 20, 2024

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Park Sign Replacements	Replacement of Park Signage at various Locations	Various sign replacements are planned throughout the park system this spring and summer. Locations include the Durant Center, Howell and Custis Avenue Parks, Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park, Wythe Street Park and several West End parks. Signage replacement include new regulation signage and/or Wayfinding ID signs.	Implementation	Citywide	06/28/24	Judy Lo
2	Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along two sides of the two rectangular fields.	Fencing and nets are complete on the south side of the field. The north side of the field fencing shall be complete the week of 6/10/2024 and the netting shall be installed in late June.	Implementation	District 1	06/11/24	Daniel Unkle
3	Oronoco Bay Park Piers and Boardwalk	Pier repairs to wood decking (FY21 carryover)	The pier and boardwalk were closed to ensure the safety of the community following inspections that determined the structures are not suitable for use. Further engineering investigations are being pursued to assess the structural conditions and recommendations for next steps.	Implementation	District 1	06/30/23	Derek Claytor
4	Lee Center Tennis Court Renovation	Renovation of the two multi-use courts including full surface replacement.	The Construction contract was awarded and the work is in progress. Construction is scheduled to be complete in July. The construction has been coordinated with user groups and information regarding the project is posted onsite and on the City website. The courts will be closed during the work.	Implementation	District 1	10/04/24	Daniel Unkle
5	Lee Center Basketball Court Surface Repairs	Repair of the court surface to address cracks.	The Construction contract was awarded and the work is scheduled for June and July. The construction has been coordinated with user groups and information regarding the project is posted onsite and on the City website. The courts will be closed during the work.	Implementation	District 1	10/04/24	Daniel Unkle
6	Old Town Pool Replacement Design	Design for the replacement of Old Town Pool.	The owner advisor team contract was awarded in May. Site visits and kick-off meetings were held in June. Procurement for the design team is anticipated to be issued this fall.	Planning	District 1	04/30/25	Jack Broward
7	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.	Contracting issues have delayed the completion of the project. The City has terminated the contractor and is working to complete the final project components. Work is in progress to complete the fence and gates. The dog park is anticipated opened to the community shortly after all safety issues have been addressed and additional updates will be posted to the project website as they are available.	Implementation	District 2	07/19/24	Bethany Znidersic
8	Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	The improvements are substantially complete. New trees and landscape plantings will be installed in June and replacement fencing will be installed in July and August.	Close-out	District 2	08/16/24	Judy Lo
9	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The Invitation To Bid (ITB #1084) for the project closed in mid-April. The City is reviewing the bids and information received from the bidders.	Procurement	District 2	05/12/25	Bethany Znidersic
10	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.	The bridge is open to the public. Land side safety railings under fabrication. Substantial completion is anticipated in early July.	Close-out	District 2	07/30/24	Jack Broward
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. The athletic field base material installation is in progress and work continues on the retaining wall installations. Please see the project website for more information: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation">alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation</a>	Implementation	District 3	01/01/25	Bethany Znidersic
12	Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field with a new impact board, carpet, and organic infill.	The project is underway and will be complete in late July. Major demolition will be complete in the week of June 10. The field will be closed for the duration of the project. The adjacent parking lot will be closed at the beginning of the project and reopened in phases.	Implementation	District 3	07/19/24	Bethany Znidersic
13	Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	The consultant team continued work on the playground design concept. A virtual community meeting is scheduled for June 26. Staff will provide updates on the progression of the playground design. <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan</a>	Design	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo
14	Ewald Park Site Design	Design of Ewald Park per the 2015 Neighborhood Parks Plan	Staff continues to work on the scope of work for planning and design activities. Community engagement is anticipated to kick off this summer with a survey.	Initiation	District 3	02/16/27	Judy Lo
15	Hensley Park and Holmes Run Park Invasive Species Removal	Invasive species removal program to address areas along Hensley Park that are outside of the renovation project limits.	The initial site visit was conducted in June and the procurement process for the removals will begin at the end of June.	Initiation	District 3	01/02/26	Bethany Znidersic