

City of Alexandria, Virginia

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting**

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 7 p.m.

**Park Operations**

2900A Business Center Drive

Alexandria, VA 22304

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order: Jennifer Atkins, Chair
- II. Presentations
  - a. North Potomac Yard Open Space
- III. Items for Information
  - a. Public Comments – non-agenda items
  - b. Updates
    - i. AlexRenew (Limerick Field)
    - ii. Windmill Hill Park Restoration
    - iii. Warwick Pool Rebuild
    - iv. CASA Chirilagua / Conservatory Center
- IV. Items for Action
  - a. Approval of Minutes: September 15 and October 20, 2016.
  - b. Special Meeting: NOVA Parks Planning Process
- V. Director's Report.
  - a. FY18 Budget and CIP
- VI. Division Updates
  - a. Recreation Services, Park Operations, and Park Planning, Design & Capital Development
- VII. Commission Business
  - a. Verbal Reports from Commissioners by District
- VIII. Next Meeting: January 19, 2017
- IX. Adjournment

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 17, 2016

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *WC*  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT - ITEM – VI a.

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**Program Wrap-Ups**

- October 1-21, students at ACPS and City recreation centers participated in the “**Bully Free Starts With Me!**” **Poster Contest**. The contest received over 100 entries from Elementary, Middle and High School age participants, illustrating what they could do to prevent bullying. Prizes were given for the 9 winning entries. Winning posters were displayed in the Vola Lawson lobby at City Hall October 31 through November 11.
- On October 13, Cora Kelly Recreation Center hosted its **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**. In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, this event promoted diversity and cultural awareness, recognizing Latino youth for academic excellence and community leaders in Alexandria. Over 160 attendees enjoyed Colombian dance presentations and traditional Hispanic dishes for all to taste.
- The National **Lights On Afterschool** program took place October 19-21 at Power-On and Power-Up Out of School Time locations to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America’s children, families and communities. Reggie Morris, Extension Agent with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, helped develop and lead activities based on the theme “Bully Free Starts with Me!” In honor of National Bully Prevention Awareness Month, participants engaged in discussion about the serious consequences of bullying.
- On October 21, Mount Vernon Recreation Center celebrated **Hispanic Heritage Month**. Over 150 participants in the Out of School Time program engaged in a number of cultural games and activities, including sampling Hispanic dishes such as pupusas, Peruvian chicken, quesadillas and chips & salsa.



- In the spirit of Halloween, the following recreation centers hosted safe ways for communities to celebrate:

- Mount Vernon Recreation Center's **Annual Masquerade Ball** hosted over 100 parents and children dressed in Halloween costumes and masquerade ball attire. The night consisted of music, dancing, costume contest and pictures. Virginia Co-operative Extension contributed healthy snacks including smoothie and trail mix stations. In addition, participants of the **Kid Rock** program held their annual Halloween Party. 40 Toddlers dressed in full costumes and enjoyed holiday inspired snacks.



- Cora Kelly Recreation Center hosted **Fright Night**, a family-friendly event for all ages. Over 150 parents and children attended the event, and participated in Halloween games, face painting, costume and dance contests and a haunted house.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center hosted its **Halloween Celebration** with 131 youth participating in a costume contest and games.
- Approximately 125 participants enjoyed William Ramsay Recreation Center's **2016 October Fest** featuring spooky musical chairs, face painting, arts & crafts, scary movies, a Halloween dance and a Haunted House of Screams.
- **Trunk or Treat** was held at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Families enjoyed getting treats from decorated trunks of staff and community members. Youth and teens enjoyed contests, refreshments and spooky cookie decorating.

- Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center celebrated with their **Trunk or Treat Block Party**. This event was scare-free, family friendly and open to the public. Center staff and volunteers tricked out their trunks and created spooktacular trunk displays to set off the evening of festivities. 150 participants were able to trick or treat safely from trunk to trunk as well as engage in holiday crafts, group games and moon bounce fun.



- The **Alexandria Titans Youth Football League** has finished the 2016 season with three out of nine teams advancing to the league playoffs. The league consisted of 145 players, and coaches have volunteered over 3,100 hours. **Lil Titans Flag Football**, designed for ages 5 & 6, had 32 participants generating \$2,026. On December 3, the league will recognize each player and coach at the awards ceremony held at Lee Center.



- On October 29, Charles Houston Recreation Center hosted its **coat distribution** for children and families who are economically disadvantaged. Fire Fighters and Friends sponsored the event, giving away coats, books, and cups of candy in celebration of Halloween.
- On October 30, the T.C. Williams High School volleyball team hosted a **Halloween themed volleyball camp** for the players in the recreation youth volleyball league. Instead of attending their normal Sunday afternoon practices, players visited T.C. Williams to learn volleyball skills from high school coaches and players. The camp included a t-shirt and Halloween fun.
- Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility hosted **Family Splash Night** featuring Douglas MacArthur Elementary School on November 4. Activities included swimming for all ages, beach ball relays, basketball, floating obstacle course, pool safety tips, summer camp registration, swimming skill assessments for youth, NOVA Synchro Swim Team sign up, and a Nature Center exhibit. There were 85 participants generating \$340. The next Splash Night is December 9, featuring Jefferson Houston School.

- On November 12, RPCA partnered with Alexandria Elks Lodge #48 and Israel Temple #138 to prepare and serve **Thanksgiving dinner** to more than 300 senior citizens at the Lee Center. The event featured entertainment and inspirational messages and/or remarks by several local Pastors, former Mayor William Euille, Councilwoman Redella Pepper, Councilman John Taylor and local businessman Thomas Fannon. City Councilman Will Bailey also attended the event.



**Program Updates**

**Out of School Time FY14 through FY17 Summer/School Year Participant and Revenue Comparison**

|                                      | <b>FY-17<br/>YTD<br/>School<br/>Year<br/>16-17<br/>10-31-16</b> | <b>FY-16<br/>YTD<br/>School<br/>Year<br/>15-16<br/>10-31-15</b> | <b>FY-16<br/>Actuals<br/>School<br/>Year<br/>15-16</b> | <b>FY-15<br/>Actuals<br/>School<br/>Year<br/>14-15</b> | <b>FY-14<br/>Actuals<br/>School<br/>Year<br/>13-14</b> | <b>FY-17<br/>Summer<br/>2016<br/>YTD</b> | <b>FY-16<br/>Summer<br/>2015<br/>Actual</b> | <b>FY-15<br/>Actuals<br/>Summer<br/>2014</b> | <b>FY-14<br/>Actuals<br/>Summer<br/>2013</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Program Fee                          | \$429   | \$415   | \$415  | \$415  | \$300  | \$300/\$315<br>(as of 7/1)               | \$125/\$300<br>(as of 7/1)                  | \$100  | \$50   |
| Satisfaction %<br>mid-year<br>report | TBD   | 90%   | 90%  | 92%  | 92%  | TBD                                      | 90%   | 96%  | 92%  |
| Registration #                       | 1,128   | 1,134   | 1,201  | 1,194  | 1,243  | 1,036                                    | 1,352                                       | 1,332  | 1,373  |
| OSTP Revenue                         | \$297,900*  | \$281,218*  | \$356,179  | \$353,851  | \$268,536  | \$214,642*                               | \$130,750                                   | \$103,100                                    | \$54,352                                     |
| Fee Assistance<br>(Discounts)        | \$112,171   | \$102,166   | \$125,208  | \$125,146  | \$87,608   | \$81,088                                 | \$41,060                                    | \$28,715                                     | \$13,798                                     |
| Full Fees                            | \$482,534   | \$464,448   | \$500,530*   | \$497,338*   | \$366,071  | \$311,680                                | \$174,060                                   | \$133,965                                    | \$68,622                                     |

\*Fees paid in installments.

- The **American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program** is essential to the water safety of the community. Fall enrollment includes 774 participants and 76 waitlisted in 187 class offerings, generating \$81,302 in revenue. In 2015, 976 participants were served with 86 waitlisted in 208 class offerings, generating \$102,703 in revenue. Registration is ongoing for several December class offerings that are currently available.
- On November 7, **competitive school swim teams** began using Chinguapin’s Rixse Pool for training and conditioning. Teams from T.C. Williams and St. Stephens/St. Agnes each have an allocation of lanes during the weekdays. Lane usage has increased for US Swimming teams: Potomac Marlins, WE Aquatics & Capital Sea Devils, along with various neighborhood swim clubs. The diving well is now being provided to NOVA Synchro on Saturdays. Other rentals include lifeguard classes for swimming pool management businesses, Blue Octopus and Smithsonian Scientific Scuba Diving.

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

- On November 19, Charles Houston Recreation Center will host its annual **ASTEAM Family Carnival**. This fun filled day includes learning activities for youth and families, highlighting aviation, science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

- On November 20, Charles Houston Recreation Center will host a **Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway**. Over 200 Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed to low income families pre-selected by staff at each recreation center. The Keith Burns Foundation, Alexandria Fire, Police and Sheriff's Departments sponsor this community event.
- On November 22, Cora Kelly Recreation Center will host its annual **Community Thanksgiving Dinner**. The program will include a fashion show by the OSTP youth and other entertainment. The dinner is prepared by local restaurants and sponsored by Cora Kelly Advisory Council.
- The **Annual Alexandria Holiday Cheer Competition** will take place on December 17, at T.C. Williams High School. The competition features 3 age categories of youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. Each team will receive a team trophy at the awards presentation immediately following the competition.
- December 19-21, Charles Houston Recreation Center and ARHA will host the seventh annual **Santa's Winter Wonderland** event. Activities include storytelling with City Officials, toy distribution to children and adults with disabilities, caroling singing groups and musicians, and toy distribution to over 1,000 children who live in the City.

### **Special Features**

- The Charles Houston Advisory Council applied to the City's Community Matching Fund program to help renovate the game room into a **new Teen Center**. The Council was awarded a \$25,000 matching fund grant. They are now in the process of raising matching funds.
- The **30 days for \$30** fitness pass promotion offered first-time pass-holders a 30-day fitness pass at the reduced rate of \$30. Chinguapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility sold 46 new passes and generated \$1,314 during this promotion.
- On October 13, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center and Therapeutic Program was honored at "**A Salute to Community Service and Partnership**" reception, hosted by the Top Ladies of Distinction INC., Alexandria Chapter. The reception was held to honor and recognize partnerships between the Top Ladies of Distinction and the community.

### **Staff Updates**

- Laura Durham, acting Regional Program Director at Chinguapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, was recently promoted to Division Chief for the Recreation Services Division. Laura started her career with the City as an Urban Planner in 2003 for the Department of Planning and Zoning. In 2005, she became the Open Space Coordinator for RPCA, and subsequently transitioned to positions as Urban Planner and Principal Planner. Laura has been a significant contributor on a variety of park and recreation facility planning projects.

## Admin

- RPCA's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Program Interest Survey was open to the public for 8 weeks, August 1-September 28 and yielded more than 1300 responses online and in-person. In an attempt to increase the reliability of the results, a pilot was conducted using iPads. Rather than incentivizing center staff to engage participants to increase the number of responses received, the survey was conducted by marketing staff using iPads at various locations and times to capture a response representative of each location by capturing at least 75% of the participants in each location in the given timeframe. The iPad results would then be compared to the total responses. The pilot showed that more samplings will be required to validate the results.

The Program Interest Survey is representative of highly engaged participants and yields valuable data about programming preferences by type, location and time of day by age group. The results are used to make future programming decisions to meet the needs of engaged participants. The survey was promoted via social media, electronic and print displays, eNews communications, list serves, personalized direct emails, and City and Recreation homepages. The results of the Program Interest Survey are meant to be a functional tool for programmers and are most useful when filtered by location, age group time of day and program type.

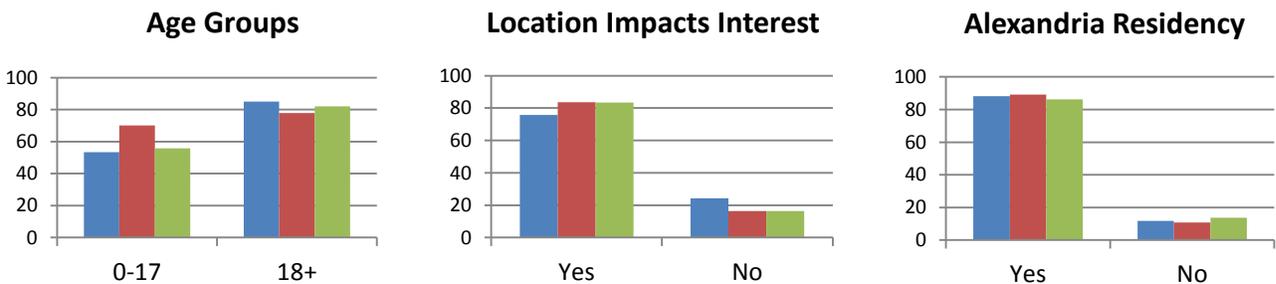
As a means of communicating result trends and validating this year's findings, a summary of the past 3 years' results is shown below. Although there are minor differences each year, the overall similarity of data increases its reliability for program decision-making.

## **PROGRAM INTEREST SURVEY 2014-2016 RESULTS COMPARISON**

All charts display Response Percentage and use the following legend:



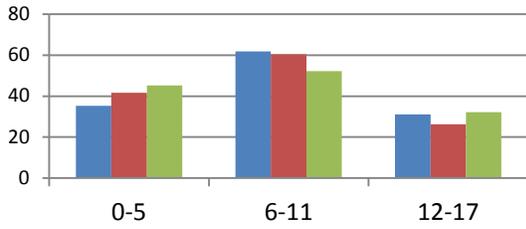
### **OVERALL RESPONSES:**



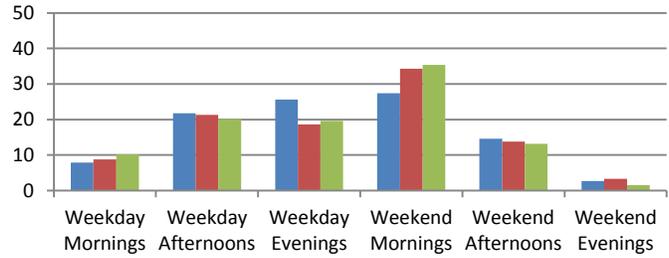
*Charts without data for 2014 reflect program categories that were added in 2015.*

## YOUTH RESPONSES:

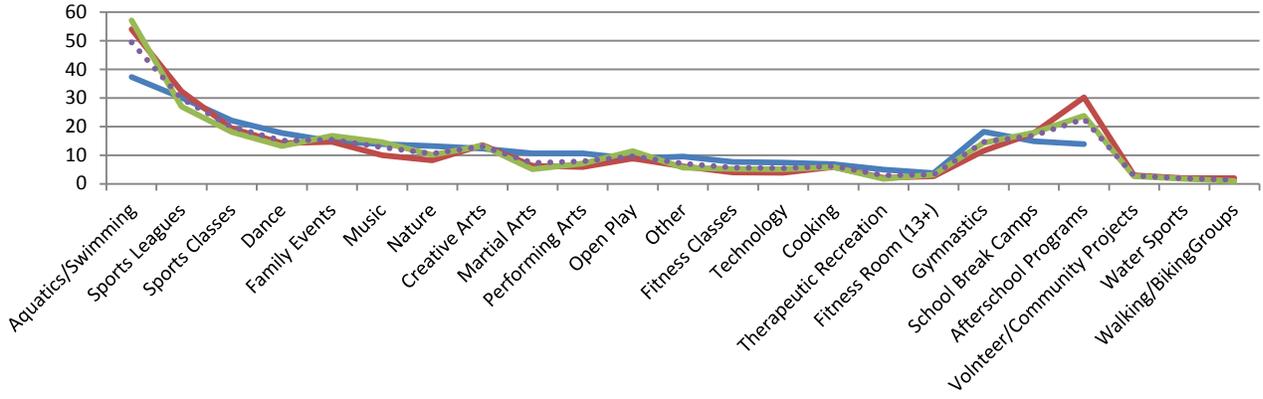
### Youth Ages



### Youth Time Preferences

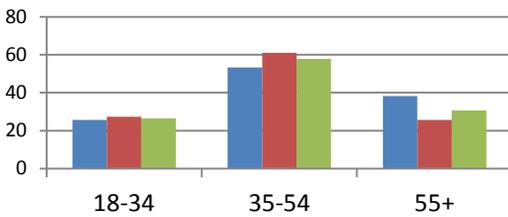


### Youth Program Preferences

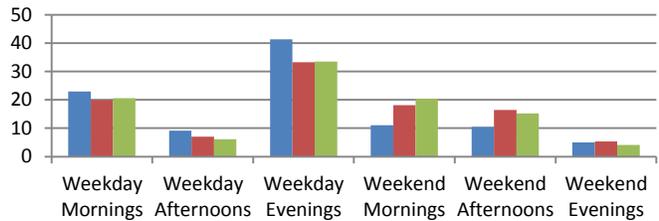


## ADULT RESPONSES:

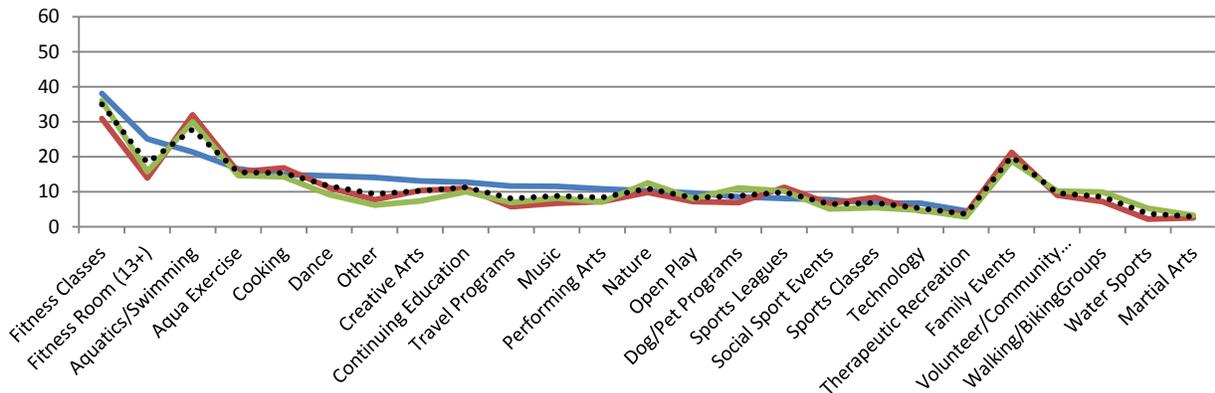
### Adult Ages



### Adult Time Preferences



### Adult Program Preferences



# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2016

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: DINESH TIWARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS MONTHLY UPDATE: ITEM V1 a.

### 1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

#### a. Park Maintenance

- The entrance to Landover Park at Warrick pool has been improved with ADA accessibility and easier access to children in strollers.
- The annual Fall Festival was held on Saturday October 15, 2016. Activities include the always popular hay ride, pony rides, and scarecrow building just to name a few.
- Athletic field crews have begun prepping natural turf fields for the winter. Staff continued over seeding of natural turf, concentrating on open space area and the remaining athletic fields not yet serviced.
- Two staff members completed training and are now certified fertilizer applicators.
- Maintenance Bond reviews were completed at new parks - Landbay E, Potomac Yards North, and Limerick Field. Dates for the transfer of the maintenance responsibilities for these locations from the contractor to the City have not been established.

#### b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- Staff continues planned maintenance activities, including park light inspection, timer management, irrigation system repairs, winterization, and preventive maintenance of turf equipment and vehicles.
- Mowing program for rights-of-way, schools, and public facilities is complete for 2016. City staff and contractors will continue working on the seasonal leaf collection and



Landover Park's New ADA access



Armistead Boothe Park



Turf Over Seeding

ornamental bed maintenance.

- Staff continues inspecting playgrounds as part of our Playground Safety Program. The third annual Playground Safety Inspection started in October and is anticipated to be completed by the end of November.
- Contractors continue alley cleanup as requested by TES and Code Administration. The scope of work is to maintain alleys accessible for TES refuse vehicles.
- Staff completed the wood deck replacement at Buddie Ford/Ramsay Rec. Center.
- Staff completed the replacement of the water fountain at Fort Ward Park.

c. Waterfront Parks

- In October improvements were made to Thompson’s Alley and the volleyball courts. All old wooden telephone pole bollards were removed and replaced with City standard metal bollards. Also, forty-five tons of volleyball grade sand was installed in the volleyball courts at Rivergate, Windmill Hill, and Founders Parks to maintain the safety playing surface.
- Landscaping improvements included aeration and over seeding of all turf in Waterfront Parks. Fall annuals were also planted at Founders, Montgomery, Oronoco, and Washington Way Parks.
- In October the Adopt-a-Park program was awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$20,884.00. The grant award ensures that the program will continue into the next fiscal year. The FY17 program is due to end November 30, 2016. Volunteer awards will be given at that time and efforts will begin to recruit teams for the coming year.

2. URBAN FORESTRY

- a. The fall tree planting program is ongoing; however, progress toward our goal of planting 350 trees this season is slow due to the lack of availability of some species, and unseasonably warm weather which has slowed the progress of the trees going dormant in the nurseries and becoming available for digging. Planting of trees will continue through December, as long as the weather permits and soil temperatures stay above 40 degrees.
- b. One hundred trees were sold during the annual native tree sale conducted by the RPCA staff. Thirty-three Dogwoods, sixteen Sassafras, eighteen Elderberries, five White Oak, four Black Oak, eight Post Oak and sixteen Black Gum were sold. The trees were distributed on October 29th at the Jerome “Buddie”



Deck Resurfacing at Buddie Ford



Water Fountain replacement at Fort Ward



City Standard Bollards- Thompson’s Alley



Fall Annuals at Montgomery Park

Ford Nature Center by the staff.

- c. The installation of the holiday lights along the King Street corridor is nearing completion. Approximately 200,000 lights will illuminate King Street when they are plugged in on November 19th. The installation of the holiday tree, a 30 foot tall Concolor fir, is scheduled for Wednesday November 16th. Contracted tree crews and City staff will install lights and decorations in this tree for the official tree lighting on November 25th.
- d. Thirteen volunteers from Trees Alexandria led by Bonnie Petry donated and planted thirteen native trees at Fort Ward Park on October 22nd. Planting sites were reviewed and approved by the Office of Historic Alexandria. These sites were selected to provide tree canopy cover in areas of the park where trees have been removed, and in public areas where park users will appreciate the shade that the trees will provide as they mature.
- e. 2016 Annual Tree Inventory Survey was completed in October. Survey included 7,147 existing trees and empty tree wells. This data will be added to the tree layer in the City's GIS system, and then analyzed to identify trees in need of maintenance, those that qualify for removal, and new planting sites. This information will then be used to develop a winter work plan and spring tree planting schedule.

### 3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

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

- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), with non-native invasive plant removal work at Fort Ward Park and Dora Kelley Nature Park.
- Staff removed and bagged many thousands of square feet of Japanese Stiltgrass, Long-bristled Smartweed, and Oriental Bittersweet from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Timberbranch Parkway, and Chinquapin Park.
- On October 29, 2016, staff and 40 volunteers with Restoration City Church applied woodchips to the main trail at Chinquapin Park.

#### b. Cooperative Initiatives

- Staff advised Beth El Hebrew Congregation as to site-appropriate native trees for canopy replacement on their grounds.
- On October 27, City Natural Resource Manager gave a presentation on natural resource management in Alexandria for the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation at Charles Houston Rec Center.
- On October 30, City Natural Resource Manager gave a tree



Alexandria Notable Black Gum tree and brilliant fall foliage.



Newly-discovered in Alexandria non-native invasive Asian Pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia*).



Natural Lands Management staff removing non-native invasive plants from the interior of Dora Kelley Nature Park.



Fall color at Dora Kelley Nature

walk at Ivy Hill Cemetery for the TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria and the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society with at least 35 in attendance.

- City Natural Resource Manager attended the annual members meeting of the Virginia Botanical Associates (VBA) in Charlottesville on November 5, 2016.

#### 4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

##### a. Programs/Updates

The Naturalist staff of the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center conducted 50 interpretive programs in October that were attended by 1,554 participants. The combined total number of visitors and program participants for October was 2,098 people.

##### *School Programs:*

The Naturalist worked with William Ramsay Elementary School on October 18 to provide 2 programs for the pre-kindergarten children on the topic of “Introduction to Native Animals.” On October 18 and 21, Ramsay kindergarten students came to the Nature Center to learn about the SOL topic of “Senses.” The Naturalist conducted 3 outreach programs at Cora Kelly Elementary School on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade SOL topic of “Oceans.” In total, these 7 programs reached 137 children and 16 adults.

##### *Outreach Programs:*

The Nature Center conducted the following two outreach programs with live animals in the month of October, reaching a total of 1,024 people:

- October 15- Nature Center table at the annual Family Fall Festival at Armistead Boothe Park. The beautiful weather brought many visitors to this event.
- October 19- Desert program at the Duncan Library. The 18 children and 6 adults saw some of the desert dwelling animals from the nature center’s collection including a rose-haired tarantula from Mexico, an uromastix lizard from Mali and a fat-tailed African gecko.

##### *Nature Center Programs:*

During the month of October, the Nature Center staff conducted 9 birthday parties, 1 weekend program (Let’s Go Nuts), 1 pre-arranged program and hike for Grace Episcopal School 1<sup>st</sup> graders, 25 impromptu programs and the following programs:

- October 14- Fifteen children and their parents came to

Park at the eastern end of the Holmes Run Gorge.



City of Alexandria champion Willdenow’s Oak at the St. Mary’s Catholic Church cemetery in Old Town.



Ramsay kindergarten student tries on a deer antler for size



Oceans program at Cora Kelly Elementary School



Examining a scorpion at the Duncan Library

“Nature’s Story Time” where they read “Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf” by Lois Ehlert. After, the children colored wooden leaves and made them into magnets to take home.

- October 21- The monthly “Little Adventures” program for preschoolers explored “Fall”. The 25 children and adults learned about how sassafras leaves come in three different shapes; no matter how large or small a pumpkin is, all pumpkins can float in water, and Dora Kelley Park has many types of acorns.
- October 29 and 30- The center had its first “Overnight at the Nature Center”. The 9 children enjoyed an evening a special events- a visit from bat expert and rehabilitator Deborah Hammer; a night hike which included a “Big Foot” sighting; a spider piñata, s’mores and scary stories; and a sunrise hike. There might not have been a lot of sleep at night, but everyone have fun!

*Afterschool Buddies Program:*

The buddies are continuing to enjoy their daily hikes in Dora Kelly Nature Park while observing the fall colors, gathering acorns for projects and discovering the many smaller creatures of the park. The children encountered many millipedes, red backed salamanders, a large spotted salamander and an assortment of caterpillars. Due to the floor replacement at the Nature Center, the buddies spent the week at Chinquapin Recreation Center where they went swimming every day and explored Chinquapin Park. The following week, a volunteer conducted a program about pet responsibility. He brought in his 13 foot Burmese python to explain how animals such exotic snakes are harmful to the environment if they are released or escape into the wild. Finally, the month ended with their annual Halloween party.

b. Volunteers and Interns

A total of 4 volunteers provided 32 hours of service during the month of October.

c. Noteworthy

*Raptor Workshop:*

On the week of October 10, Mary Farrah attended an intensive workshop, Captive Raptor and Care Management offered by The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota in St Paul. True to its title, the workshop focused on all aspects of housing captive raptors, from utilizing the Operant Conditioning training method to housing, diet, handling, anatomy, basic care and first aid. The Nature Center wants to add a permanent raptor exhibit to the live animal collection. The birds would be non-releasable rescues that are trained for outreach and education. The workshop proved to be an invaluable resource as it not only provided a glut of



Wreath making with acorns in Little Adventures program



Deborah Hammer showing how to track bats flying over the Nature Center’s parking lot



Afterschool buddies having fun at Chinquapin pool



Mary Farrah handling a bald eagle at the raptor workshop

information, materials and hands-on experience, but also the ability to tap into a nationwide network of experts and resources. Mary has also been taking an eight week “Birds of Prey” course co-sponsored with Graduate School USA and the Audubon Naturalist Society.

*New Floors at the Nature Center:*

The Nature Center recently upgraded their flooring from the carpet to a light, bright and easy to clean and care for Anora flooring product. It has completely changed the appearance of the center, making it appear larger and more open. Most importantly, the flooring no longer harbors odor causing molds or mildews, which is better for the health and wellness of both staff and patrons. The next step is to install some sound buffering panels to minimize the cries of glee that come from our happy visitors.

*VDGIF Permit:*

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Permit to exhibit wildlife was updated and renewed in October. A new section in this permit is the verification that the Nature Center has a working relationship with veterinarian. Our center works closely with Stahl Exotic Animal Veterinary Services (SEAVS) in Fairfax, Virginia.



Work in progress



The new floor in the Nature Center’s gallery

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2016

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *Jack Browand*  
PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL PROJECTS  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION: ITEM VI. DIVISION UPDATE

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### **NEW POTOMAC YARD DOG PARK**

#### **Project Manager: Judy Lo, Urban Planner III**

The Pulte Group will resume construction of the Potomac Yard Dog Park located at 561 East Monroe Avenue. Construction was delayed the past six months as Pulte resolved grading and drainage design issues. Weather permitting construction is anticipated to begin late November and end spring 2017. The land is currently owned by Potomac Yard Development and will be deeded to the City upon completion and City acceptance of the dog park.

The new fenced dog park will feature a small and large dog area, two double-gated entry-exits, seating, a trough-style dog fountain, multiple waste stations, a landscaped perimeter, and decomposed granite surfacing. Plantings and streetscape improvements around the Dominion Substation and along Monroe Avenue will also be completed.

The dog park is an approval condition of the larger Potomac Yard Development and was approved by City Council in 2010.

### **SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND AND PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION**

#### **Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Urban Planner III**

Final refinements have been made to the concept plan incorporating feedback received from the September 8 and October 17 community meetings, and surveys. Plan updates include the addition of a slide apparatus and a basket swing, additional playground seating and buffer plantings along Duncan Avenue, and a reconfiguration of the lawn seating walls and site furnishings. Refer to the attached final concept plan. For additional information, visit the [Project Webpage](#).

## **TANEY AVE PARK VOLUNTEER PROJECT**

**Project Manager: Judy Lo, Urban Planner III**

Implementation of the [park improvements](#) continue to progress. The picnic table/grill area and 2-5 age play equipment have been installed with additional site work including plantings to continue through the fall. RunningBrooke will host a [Park Ribbon Cutting](#) on Saturday, December 10 at 2 p.m.

## **ALEXRENEW/LIMERICK FIELD**

**Project Manager: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner**

Alexandria Renew and RPCA staff met twice in October to review punch list items and start close out procedures. Alexandria Renew is working to address the remaining issues on the field and in the restrooms prior to turning them over to the City. A check-in meeting is planned for the first week in December. In September, the Parking and Traffic Board approved a request to permit on street parking along both sides of Hoofs Run Drive between Limerick Street and Eisenhower Avenue. The street signs were installed in November.

## **WINDMILL HILL PARK SHORELINE PROJECT**

**Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief**

This past summer, the City informed the community a contract would be awarded in early fall allowing for construction to begin on the Windmill Hill Park shoreline rehabilitation project. On September 12, 2016, the City issued a notice of contract award to Sagres Construction Corporation. During review of Sagres' bid, City staff determined that the costs of a few non-essential items were excessive. The contract allowed the City to award the work in part or in whole and the City exercised this option by removing items that were non-essential and excessively priced. As a result, the contractor disputed the City's right to award the contract in part and filed a lawsuit against the City.

In an effort to avoid litigation, thereby saving legal costs and a potential construction delay of up to two years due to the likely court litigation, the City and the contractor entered into an agreement in which the contractor dismissed the court action and agreed that the City could issue a new solicitation for the project. Earlier this week, the parties signed and filed a dismissal order with the court. After the lawsuit is dismissed, the City will advertise the solicitation with the aim of making an award in early 2017 with construction anticipated to begin in early spring 2017.

## **PATRICK HENRY PREK-8 SCHOOL AND RECREATION CENTER**

**Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Margaret Orlando, Division Chief**

The DSUP application is scheduled for Public Hearing at Planning Commission on December 6 and City Council on December 12. Construction is planned to begin in spring 2017 with completion of the school and recreation center for the summer of 2018. Final site work to begin late fall of 2018 following demolition of the existing school with substantial completion in spring/summer 2019. Visit the [Project Website](#) for additional information.

## **WARWICK POOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief**

City Council approved the parking reduction on November 12. The project is on schedule to project to solicitation for a construction contract in late November. Pending construction estimates, construction will begin in winter/spring 2017 with a planned completion for the summer 2017 pool season.

## **CAMERON RUN REGIONAL PARK PLANNING PROCESS**

**Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief**

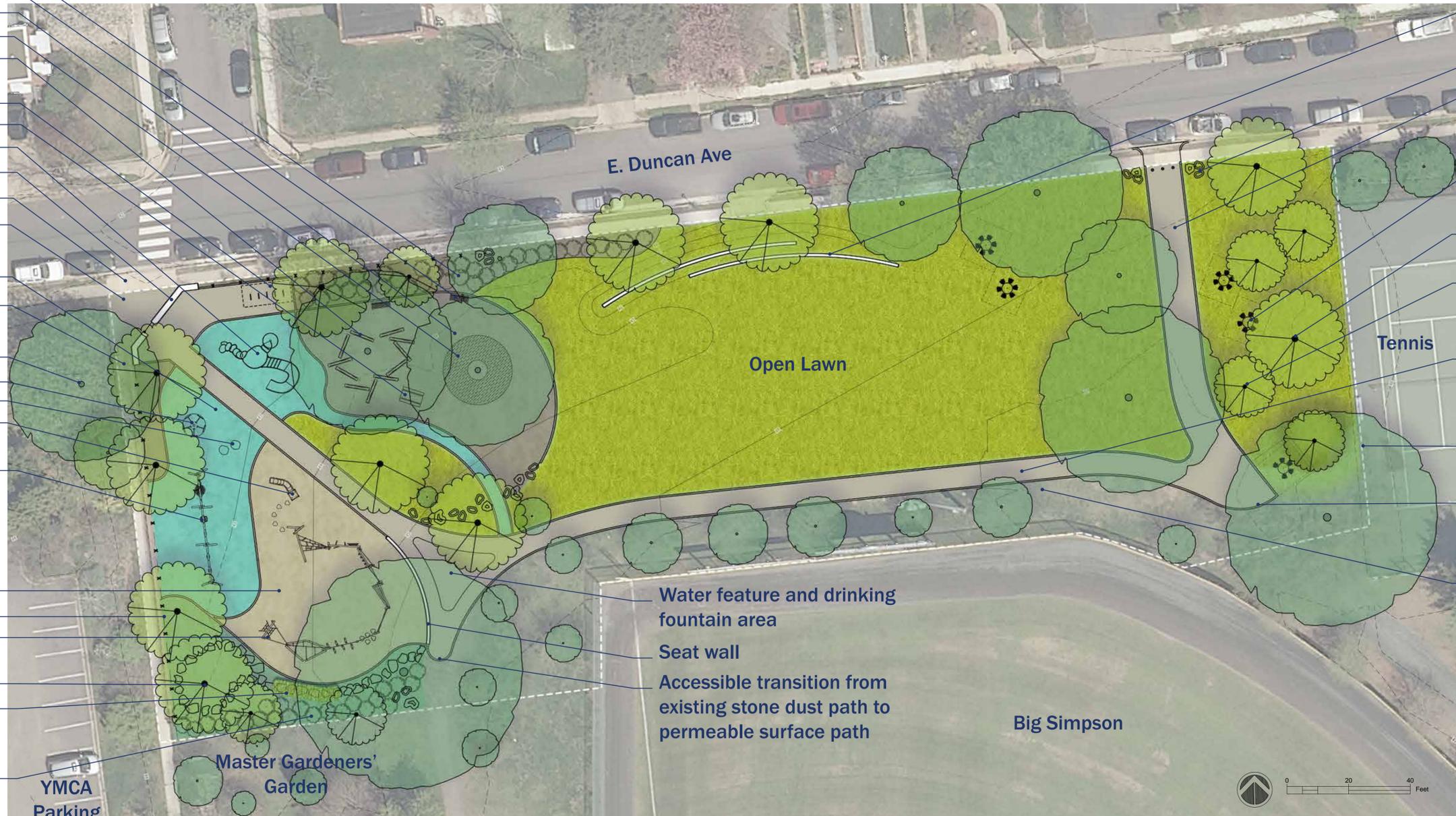
The City Review team has recommended a consultant to facilitate a planning process. A contract award is anticipated by late November with approval of Task 1 (see July 21, 2016 Planning Process) at the December 13, 2016 City Council meeting.

## **OAKVILLE TRIANGLE/MT. JEFFERSON PARK UPDATE**

**Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Urban Planner III & Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II**

- Oakville Block A is a mixed-use building with office above retail and an at-grade plaza is currently under preliminary plan review.
- Oakville Block B is a mixed-use building with a hotel and residential above retail and is currently in concept review.
- Oakville Block C has not come in for review.
- Oakville Block D is a mixed-use building with residential over retail and is currently in concept review.
- Before any of the above plans can be approved, a storm water master plan must be approved. The storm water master plan is currently under review.
- Improvements to Mount Jefferson Park will begin within 18 months of issuance of a demolition permit to any structures adjacent to the park and completed before the issuance of the first Certificate of Occupancy Permit for any building or 24 months of issuance of a demolition permit.

- Shrub border
- Bench
- Mulch
- Tree stage/platform
- Log scramble and balancing beams (2 yrs +)
- Bike and stroller parking
- Picnic table
- Climb on sculpture
- Seat walls with entry gate
- Existing sidewalk
- Entrance plaza with pervious surface
- Rubber surface
- Ex. 4' conc. path; widen to 6' with stone dust swath
- Existing tree (typical)
- Merry-go-round (5-12 yrs)
- Mosaic seed pods public art
- Slide (5-12 yrs) - (location subject to change)
- Swings
  - 1 basket swing
  - 1 belt swing
  - 2 tot swings
  - 1 molded bucket seat
- Engineered Wood Fiber
- Ornamental fence (typical)
- Parkour climbing course (5-12 yrs)
- Proposed shade tree (typical)
- Children's garden/grass maze with stepping stones and willow tunnel
- Shrub border



- Seat walls set in grassy berm
- Landscape boulder (typical)
- Maintenance access road with removable bollards (permeable surface)
- Picnic table with umbrella
- Proposed shade tree (typical)
- Proposed ornamental tree (typical)
- 8'-wide permeable surface path with concrete header border
- Project limits boundary (white dashed line)
- Accessible transition from existing stone dust path to permeable surface path
- Shallow swale to collect runoff from Big Simpson (connecting to underdrain system beneath playground)



Parkour Climbing Course



Swing and Spin



Climb on Seed Pod by May+Watkins Design



Nature Play



Table Seating with Umbrellas



Water Feature + Drinking Fountain



# SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION : FINAL CONCEPT

DRAFT: November 7, 2016