

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MARCH 16, 2017

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

**SUBJECT:** RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT - ITEM VII

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### Program Wrap-Ups

- On February 2, Mount Vernon Recreation Center held a **Black History Magic Show**. The show used magic to entertain and highlight notable accomplishments by African Americans. Over 130 participants were taught the values of perseverance, planning, and strength of character.
- The **Alexandria Titans Indoor Track Team** is a new program that recently wrapped up on February 19. Twenty-one participants were introduced to track and field, and generated \$1,515 in revenue.
- On February 20, in honor of black history month, Mount Vernon Recreation Center invited Michael Roberson, an African American author of children's books, to participate in a **book reading**. Mr. Roberson also discussed growing up in Alexandria and how he transformed his passion for writing into being a published author. Over 140 youth and staff were in attendance.



- On February 22, Cora Kelly Recreation Center hosted its annual **Black History Program**. Over 200 attendees were entertained by the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic Orchestra of St. Stephens and St. Agnes School. In addition, Cora Kelly's youth choir and ballet dancers performed to celebrate African Americans' contributions to the world of music.



- On February 26, the Recreation Services Division hosted its **Black History Month Celebration** which recognized three former employees, Lawrence "Lucky" Elliott, Traverse Gray, and Jackie Mason for more than four decades of combined service to the Alexandria community. In addition, entertainment was provided by local R&B singing group Nu Era, along with singing, dancing, and poetry performances by Cora Kelly, Nannie J. Lee and Charles Houston Recreation Center youth. Over 450 people attended the program including former Mayor William Euille and Councilmen Willie Bailey and John Chapman. Each of the honorees received awards and citations from RPCA, Departmental Progressive Club, Alexandria Elks Lodge #48 and other notable individuals.



- On February 28, OSTP participants at Douglas MacArthur held their annual **Black History Month Program**. Youth and staff performed song and dance routines, and recited poems and stories about famous black historical figures. Over 130 youth and approximately 50 parents and supporters attended the program.



- On March 2, Mount Vernon Recreation Center participated in **Read Across America Day**. This nationwide reading celebration takes place annually, and thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing youth and books together. Participants were read books written by Dr. Seuss, and given books to take home. This year, readers included William Chesley, Deputy Director, and James Spengler, RPCA Director.





- RPCA's **Annual Basketball Championship** took place on March 11 at T.C. Williams High School. Winter season basketball included 1056 players, generating \$77,943 in revenue. This is consistent with last season's participation of 1,085 players, generating \$79,472 in revenue.



- On March 11, RPCA hosted three **unity building basketball games** featuring teams from Prince George's County Police Department, Alexandria Police Department, Returned Citizens, Homeland Security and DC Fire Fighters. The games were played as part of Truth and Reconciliation Month, an initiative to bridge the gap between communities and different police and fire agencies in Washington, Maryland and Virginia. Over 250 people were in attendance.



- In winter 2017, RPCA introduced a new class called **Jazz Hip Hop Fusion** at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility. This class has gotten off to a great start, meeting its maximum enrollment of 20 participants and generating \$1,440 in revenue.

- The **Lil' Slammers Basketball class** has met its maximum enrollment of 32 participants for a second consecutive year. This class is an introduction to basketball for ages 5 & 6, and focuses on teaching the fundamentals of the sport. Revenue is consistent at \$2,325.

### **Program Updates**

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

	<b>FY-17 YTD School Year 16-17 02-28-17</b>	<b>FY-16 YTD School Year 15-16 02-28-16</b>	<b>FY-16 Actuals School Year 15-16</b>	<b>FY-15 Actuals School Year 14-15</b>	<b>FY-14 Actuals School Year 13-14</b>	<b>FY-17 Summer 2016 YTD</b>	<b>FY-16 Summer 2015 Actual</b>	<b>FY-15 Actuals Summer 2014</b>	<b>FY-14 Actuals Summer 2013</b>
Program Fee	\$429	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$300	\$300/\$315 (as of 7/1)	\$125/\$300 (as of 7/1)	\$100	\$50
Satisfaction % mid-year report	TBD	90%	90%	92%	92%	TBD	90%	96%	92%
Registration #	1,205	1,190	1,201	1,194	1,243	1,036	1,352	1,332	1,373
OSTP Revenue	\$367,093*	\$349,806*	\$356,179	\$353,851	\$268,536	\$214,642*	\$130,750	\$103,100	\$54,352
Fee Assistance (Discounts)	\$124,491	\$123,274	\$125,208	\$125,146	\$87,608	\$81,088	\$41,060	\$28,715	\$13,798
Full Fees	\$515,371	\$495,950	\$500,530*	\$497,338*	\$366,071	\$311,680	\$174,060	\$133,965	\$68,622

\*Fees paid in installments.

- **American Red Cross Learn to Swim program** is essential to the water safety of the community. Winter enrollment currently includes 682 participants, in 188 class offerings generating \$85,585 in revenue. Registration is ongoing for 4 class offerings that are currently available. In 2016, 278 classes occurred in the Winter session with \$125,527 from 1177 participants.
- In preparation for the **outdoor pool summer season**, both pools have undergone contracted maintenance, Volunteer Alexandria Community Service clean-up, and Capital Improvements at Old Town Pool. Expanded operational hours, free admission events, and extended seasonal hours are currently listed in a Summer Outdoor Pool ad in the Spring/Summer Program Guide.

### **Upcoming Programs & Events**

- On March 17, Cora Kelly Recreation Center will host its free **Kids Book Swap**. Participants will receive one book for every book they turn in. Family activities include arts & crafts and a storyteller. This is a great way to celebrate literacy and encourage good reading habits at home.
- On March 27, Cora Kelly Recreation Center will host its free **Teen and Tween Spring Social**. Youth ages 12-15 can participate in video games, pool, ping-pong, sports and dancing, and enjoy refreshments. This annual event is designed to encourage participation in the Cora Kelly Teen program.

- On April 15, Cora Kelly Recreation Center is partnering with National Community Church for **Eggstravaganza** at Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run. Holiday themed activities include an egg hunt, face painting, sack races, and other competitive games. Cotton candy, popcorn and game prizes will be provided. This event is free for all participants.
- The annual **Alexandria Spring Invitational Cheer Competition** will take place on Saturday, April 29, at 2 p.m., 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.

### **Special Features**

- In response to participant feedback, **Learn to Swim** week-day Summer programs previously at Charles Houston's Memorial Pool are being scheduled at Old Town Pool this year. Memorial Pool's increasing popularity for open swim makes the pool a less than desirable location for lessons. Weekend Learn to Swim classes that take place prior to the pool's opening will remain at Memorial Pool.

### **Staff Updates**

- On February 8, **Tamika Coleman** was promoted to Regional Program Director of Sports Programs in the Recreation Services Division. Tamika began her career with RPCA in 2002 as a Recreation Supervisor at Mount Vernon Recreation Center. Shortly thereafter, she moved to the Sports Section where she served as a Recreation Manager responsible for Youth Sports. Prior to her tenure with RPCA, Tamika was a Recreation Supervisor with the City of Annapolis, Maryland Parks and Recreation Department.
- On March 5, the Executive Board of the **Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame** hosted their 27th Annual Awards Banquet. The awards ceremony honored local area youth and high school players, coaches, officials, and cheerleaders along with other guests and new Hall of Fame inductees. In front of an audience of over 600, **Mac Slover**, Regional Program Director for the Youth Activities Section was inducted into the Northern Virginia Hall of Fame. Mac was honored for over 15 years of service and work with the Fairfax County Youth Football League and the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program.





# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 14, 2017

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 VII

### 1. SNOW OPERATIONS

In response to forecast for hazard weather outlook and winter storm warning effective on 03/13/2017, staff mobilized our snow operations protocol. Additional support from private contractors for snow removal and tree related calls were secured. This operation continues round-the-clock with 12-hour work shifts.

### 2. WORKPLACE ORGANIZATION

On March 7, 2017, staff completed the implementation of the Lean Six Sigma: 5S Principles to organize the Warehouse, and the Park and Playground Facilities Maintenance Shops. The application of these principles is intended to improve the productivity, safety and predictability of the logistic processes. The next step in this process is to enhance and sustain the Lean Six Sigma goals.

#### Lean Six Sigma: 5S

5S is a workplace organization technique composed for five primary phases: Sort, Set In Order, Shine, Standardize, and Systematize.



Snow Ops



Snow Ops – shift staff briefing



5S in Maintenance Shop

### 3. RPCA ANNUAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

The RPCA Annual Safety Conference was held on February 16th. The theme of the program focused on personal health and how it contributes to personal safety. The program highlights included presentations from the Department Director, James Spengler, Jack Browand, Division Chief Park Planning and Capital Projects, and Marvin Elliot, Recreation Manager/Adult Sports. Program included recognition of staff for safety promotions.

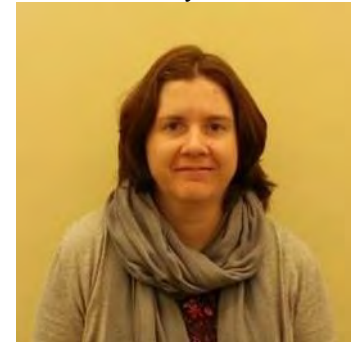


2017 Safety Awards

### 4. COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT RENTAL PROGRAM

Staff reached out to all current gardeners to advise them about the proposed increase in garden plot rental fees as part of the City Manager's proposed FY2018 Operating Budget (see attached). In response to interest from some gardeners at the Holmes Run Garden, staff is working on a proposal for a shared-responsibilities agreement for this garden to reduce cost and the rental fees.

Staff also attended Chinquapin Organic Garden's monthly advisory meeting to advise them about the proposed increase in rental fees for FY2018 and introduce the new City Horticulturist. Holmes Run Community Garden is full for the 2017 gardening season while Chinquapin is at 97% capacity. Suzanne Bouchard joins the Park Operations staff as the new City Horticulturist. She has a BS in Plant and Soil Science from the University of Kentucky and ten years of experience in ornamental horticulture and soils that she brings to the RPCA.



City Horticulturist Suzanne Bouchard

### 5. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- With the arrival of the early warm weather, athletic crews have been able to get an early start on field preparations for the spring season.
- Park staff have been working to spruce up the parks in preparation for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Opening Day.
- Playground and special projects crews have spent the winter and early spring season cleaning and preparing the playgrounds for the season
- Staff upgraded all towel and soap dispensers in the Torpedo Factory.
- Staff members replaced and repaired the steps at Pendleton Park.
- The Bicentennial Tree stairs were also replaced.
- Chinquapin racquetball court markings were brought up to international regulations.
- Hazardous materials were collected in the Warehouse and disposed using the established procedures of the City.
- Scrap metal, wood, plastic and other materials were collected and disposed of if they could not be reused.



Practice Pitching Mounds at Frank Mann Field



Staff prepping athletic fields



Holmes Run/ Ripley playground



- Seasonal equipment have been prepared and located in appropriate places for spring uses.

## 6. URBAN FORESTRY

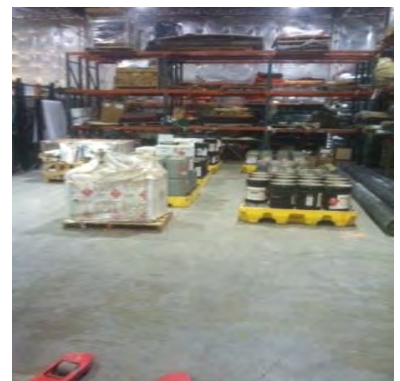
- The spring planting season will begin on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to plant 500 trees this spring season. Special planting projects that will be focused on this spring will include:
  - King Street, Quaker Lane and Braddock Road near the Bradlee Shopping Center.
  - Tree-well improvements and planting along North and South Washington Street.
  - Continued cooperation with the National Park Service to replant the medians of the George Washington Memorial Parkway at Slaters Lane.
- The results from the second year of the ongoing five year street tree inventory program continue to be reviewed by Urban Forestry staff. Results of the analysis help to identify and prioritize tree removals and pruning tasks which will be assigned to the City's tree maintenance contractor for completion. The results of this phase of the inventory are expected to generate work orders to remove approximately 100 trees and prune 2000 trees. The third phase of the five year program is scheduled to be completed in June 2017.
- Beginning on April 1st, the lights in the trees along the King Street corridor from the river to the Metro will be turned off and removed from the trees. The work, which will be done by Sav-A-Tree, Inc., will take approximately three weeks to complete.

## 7. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

- Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration
  - Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), with the winter-time foliar treatment of English Ivy and other evergreen invasive plants at Forest Park; Chinquapin Park; upper Fort Williams Park; Four Mile Run Park, and INOVA Alexandria Hospital Scenic Easement.
  - Staff removed non-native invasive plants from interior sections of Dora Kelley Nature Park, Chinquapin Park, and Timberbranch Parkway. Staff also removed all litter and debris from the nearly 5-acre native managed Telegraph and Duke Meadow Complex.
- Environmental Review  
Staff reviewed the Holmes Run Park Bike Trail Bridge and Stream Restoration Project and provided Best Management Practices regarding the removal of non-native invasive plants



Bicentennial Tree Stair Replacement



Hazardous Waste Disposal



"Nurse Log" in mature forest



Old-age slope forest on monzogranite in the Holmes Run Gorge



and tree preservation.

## 8. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

### a. Programs/Updates

For the month of February, there were 67 interpretive programs attended by 813 people. The combined total number of visitors and program participants for February was 1,664 people.

#### *School Programs:*

For the month of February, the Naturalist conducted 2 school programs reaching 32 people.

- February 21- Two classes of Ramsay Elementary School Pre-K students came to the Nature Center to learn more about hibernation. Since the weather was so warm, we also discussed animals waking from their long winter sleep. The children and their teachers had fun listening to and repeating the calls of local frogs.

#### *Nature Center Programs:*

During the month of February, there were 5 birthday parties, 35 impromptu programs conducted by staff, 2 weekend programs, 1 paid pre-school program and the monthly “Little Adventures” program. Total participation for these programs was 396 people.

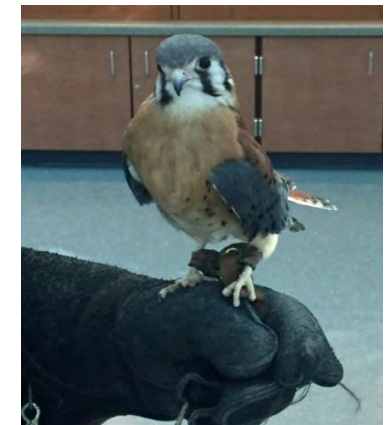
- February 4- The “Hawks and Owls” program is always popular at the Nature Center. Raptor expert, Gabby Hrycyshyn brought live raptors from the Virginia Raptor Conservancy to this program. Participants had the chance to see an Eastern screech owl, a barn owl and a Peregrine falcon up close.
- February 10- With the chilly weather, it was a great day to stay into for this month’s “Little Adventures” class. The group read “*The Mitten*” by Jan Brett. After reading the story, the children reenacted this animal adventure and then made their own mitten with animals, so they can retell the story at home.
- February 23- Students and teachers from Higher Horizon Preschool came to the Nature Center to learn about native animals. It was an unusually warm winter day, so the children went on an hour long hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park. Along the way, chipmunks, squirrels and a variety of woodpeckers were foraging for food.
- February 25- Participants in the “Frog Calls” program discovered the fascinating lives of local frogs. They also learned to identify their unique calls. In between the thunderstorms and heavy downpours, the class ventured to the marsh where they could see wood frogs and Spring



Puttyroot Orchid leaf at Dora Kelley Nature Park



Pre-K students try on some antlers



A visitor from the Virginia Raptor Conservancy



The many woodland animals from “*The Mitten*”

peepers and their egg masses in the water.

### *Outreach Programs*

For the month of February, the Naturalists conducted 3 programs reaching 120 people.

- February 14- The Naturalist came to the Burke Library to conduct morning pre-school program. More than 75 youngsters and their parents met an assortment of Nature Center creatures- hermit crab, uromastyx lizard, mouse with her babies, and a corn snake.
- February 15- The Naturalists went to the Duncan Library to conduct the monthly afterschool program. This month's topic was "Reptiles." The 26 elementary school aged children enjoyed meeting many animals- snapping and box turtles, corn snake and two lizards.
- February 27- The Naturalist conducted a preschool program for the Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC). The youngsters met turtles from the Nature Center's collection and had the chance to feed them. This was first Nature Center program for this group and we hope to continue monthly nature programs in the future.

### *Afterschool Buddies Program:*

This month, the older buddies paired up with the younger buddies to participate in a Dora Kelley Nature Park scavenger hunt. Though the elusive albino squirrel was not spotted, the buddies were able to identify different plants, rocks, amphibians, worms, insects, arachnids, birds, mammals and fish. The buddies continued to work towards using art to connect with nature. This month, the buddies had a Bob Ross painting party where they learned how to paint "happy" mountain landscapes. The buddies also continued to study the effects of erosion in the park as they work towards creating their mural. A special version of "The Price is Right" was played by the buddies to introduce the concept of endangered species. The game helped to reinforce the need for conservation while creating a general awareness of how many members of the individual species remain in the wild.

### b. Volunteers and Interns

A total of 5 volunteers provided 30 hours of service during the month of February.



Higher Horizon Preschoolers explore Dora Kelley Nature Park



Scavenger hunt in Dora Kelley Nature Park



Bob Ross painting lesson

**From:** Suzanne Bouchard  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 09, 2017 3:56 PM  
**Subject:** City of Alexandria Community Garden Program  
**Importance:** High

Dear Community Gardeners,

Thank you for your comments and questions regarding the proposed Community Garden Plot Rental Fee increase. The increase is proposed as part of the City Managers' proposed Operating Budget for the City for the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. City Council will hold public hearings to receive public comments on the proposed budget before making a decision. Information about the City Council's budget public hearings can be found [here](#).

In response to your inquiries, I have put together the following information and explanations:

**1. Why the City is proposing to increase the Community Garden Plot Rental Fees?**

The garden rental fees, along with all other fees of the RPCA, are governed by the *Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy* adopted by the City Council in September 2013. The intent was to use this policy to determine future fees for RPCA programs during the annual budget process of the City. Accordingly, each year the City Manager recommends adjustments of all RPCA fees to align them with the specific cost recovery targets of this policy. The proposed increase in the garden plot rental fees is part of implementing this Council-adopted policy.

**2. Why such a large increase in garden rental fees?**

The *Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy* mentioned above established cost-recovery targets for all RPCA programs. Each program type is assigned to one of five cost recovery target tiers based on the types of benefits offered by each program. Community Garden rental fees are assigned to Tier 5, along with other rental and exclusive use programs. All programs in this tier are considered to have high individual benefits and exclusive uses, and therefore, should not receive City subsidy. For this reason, the Tier 5 programs have the highest cost recovery target of 175% of direct cost. Currently the City recovers only 50% of the direct cost of the Community Garden Rental Program. Proposed FY2018 garden rental fees will move this cost recovery rate to 100% of the City's direct cost - closer to the City-Council adopted target of 175%.

More information about the *Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy* can be found [here](#).

**3. What are the proposed Community Garden Plot Rental Fees for FY2018?**

If approved by the City Council, the Community Garden Plot Rental Fees for the 2018 gardening season (March 01 – November 30, 2018) will increase to:

Resident:       \$180 full plot  
                  \$120 half plot (Chinquapin only)  
Non-resident: \$360 full plot  
                  \$240 half plot (Chinquapin only)

There will be no change in the Community Garden Plot Rental fees for the current gardening season (March 01 – November 30, 2017).



**4. How these proposed garden rental fees were calculated?**

For FY2018, the proposed garden rental fee amounts were calculated to recover 100% of the City's total average annual *direct cost* of this program (see details below). Proposed fees are consistent with the intent of the *Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy* described above, and well within the 175% cost-recovery target for the garden rental program. The rental fees are equally applied to all garden plots regardless of their location.

**5. What is the breakdown of the City's annual cost of the Community Garden Rental Program?**

Below is a breakdown of the annual *direct cost* of the Community Garden Rental Program. Note that these are average annual costs because costs do vary somewhat from year-to-year. Also, *indirect costs*, such as overheads, are not included:

<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Cost Estimate</u>	<u>Examples of Cost Items</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Cost</u>
Program Administration: Park Operations	\$10,500	Record-keeping, communications, financial management, regulatory oversight	30%
Maintenance: Infrastructure	\$5,000	Irrigation repairs, sidewalk and pathway issues, and retaining wall repair work	14%
Maintenance: Landscape	\$3,000	Mowing, landscape contractor clean-ups	9%
Maintenance: Supplies/Materials	\$12,000	Materials for construction projects, marking stakes, trash cans, plastic sheeting, mobilization fees, etc.	34%
Water	\$2,000	Water service	6%
Trash Service	\$2,500	Trash removal service	7%
Total Annual Direct Cost of the Program	\$35,000		100%

**6. Is there a Senior Citizen Discount or Financial Assistance available for renting the garden plots?**

RPCA does have senior citizen discount and financial assistance available for participating in athletic, recreation and cultural programs. However, the discount and the financial assistance do not apply to rental programs.

**7. How many garden plots does the city have between Chinquapin and Holmes Run?**

There are 196 total plots between both gardens. The majority of plots are full plots with less than 5% as half plots: Chinquapin – 172 plots (9 half plots & 163 full plots); Holmes Run – 24 plots (all full plots).

**8. How Alexandria's garden rental program fees do compare to similar programs in the region?**

It is very difficult to fairly compare fees because each locality administers its community garden program differently. Also, the size, numbers, services and responsibilities for garden plots vary significantly. For example, Fairfax County recovers 100% of their program costs with fees. They provide water service and mulch but no trash pickup. Arlington recovers up to 50% of the program cost but requires a volunteer association for each garden that is responsible for assisting with the administration of the program and payment of costs for water and maintenance services. The District's community garden program provides land and water. It does not charge a rental fee but gardens are self-sustaining cooperatives. Each garden collects its own fees and requires volunteer work from gardeners.

**9. Are there options for reducing Alexandria's garden rental fees?**

Yes. As noted above, the shared responsibility model used by some neighboring jurisdictions to manage community garden rental programs does help reduce the cost and thus lower the rental fees. Alexandria's garden rental fees can be reduced if gardeners at each garden can assume more of the City's current program administration and maintenance responsibilities, such as, maintaining common areas, administering plot assignments and renewals, and/or collecting fees for project materials, water, and trash service. RPCA staff remains committed to working with gardeners at Chinquapin and Holmes Run Gardens to find a positive outcome. If either group is interested in creating a formal partnership or association, please contact me. My contact information is provided in the signature block below.

**10. How can I express my comments to the City Council on the proposed Community Garden Plot Rental fees for FY2018?**

The Alexandria City Council will hold a special public hearing meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall to hear comments on the FY 2018 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program. City Council's docket for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Public can also leave comments on the proposed FY2018 by going to FY 2018 comment page [here](#).

I trust this information is helpful to you. Please let us know if you have any more questions or would like further information. The City very much appreciates your interest and participation in the Community Garden Rental Program. We look forward to continue to serve you through this program and work with you for continuous improvements.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bouchard

City Horticulturist | Park Operations/Park Facilities

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, 2900-A Business Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22314

Office: 703.746.5428; [Suzanne.bouchard@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Suzanne.bouchard@alexandriava.gov); [City of Alexandria Community Gardens](#)

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 16, 2017

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 DIVISION UPDATE ITEM VII.

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

**Project Manager: Jack Browand, Division Chief & Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner**

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) and community planners at Michael Baker International's Urban Design Studio (Baker) held its first community meeting for the Cameron Run Park Planning Process on Thursday, March 2. Baker solicited feedback on the current site uses, potential future uses and answered questions on the lease agreement. Baker has also met with specific stakeholder groups, including the Eisenhower Partnership and Townes at Cameron Park. The meeting minutes from the meetings are on the project website [here](#).



An online survey is open to the public [here](#) until March 24.

### **COMMUNITY MATCHING FUND**

**Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner, Lucretia Murphy, PARKnership Manager**

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) established the Community Matching Fund (Fund) in 2016. The Fund promotes collaborative partnerships among City of Alexandria community organizations by providing matching 1:1 dollars for groups that propose fundraising for park and recreation improvement projects. The Fund fosters public/private partnerships and cultivates innovative ways for residents to have a greater stake in improving the park and recreation facilities that they use. These partnerships will also provide opportunities for



developing positive relationships between the City and the community. The fund application is open March 1 through April 15, [here](#). Staff will present the proposals to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) in a Public Hearing at their May meeting.

## **NORTH POTOMAC YARD SMALL AREA PLAN UPDATE**

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

The current shopping center in North Potomac Yard was designed to serve the community for approximately 20 years. In 2010, a Small Area Plan (SAP) was completed for the 70 acre site. The current property owners are requesting some changes to the 2010 plan, which has triggered a public process to update the SAP. The update focuses on the movie theater site east of Potomac Avenue. Changes to the Open Space network were discussed in October and February during the North Potomac Yard Advisory Board meetings, and revisions to the SAP and its recommendations will be discussed in March and April. The plan revisions will be presented to the Park and Recreation Commission in April. The SAP will be docketed for review and approval by the Planning Commission and City Council in June.

## **SOUTH PARK/LAND BAY F**

**Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner**

Arlington County is undertaking a Park Master Plan for the open space on the north side of Four Mile Run, between Route One and Potomac Avenue. Their project is funded through the Arlington County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with additional funding coming from a Federal Grant to improve trail connectivity.

The City of Alexandria owns a portion of the site, as shown in the map. The ownership reflects the City/County boundary as it was prior to the stream channelization in the 1970's. The area owned by Alexandria will be improved as part of the development in North Potomac Yard, CDD #19. Condition #20 of CDD #19 identifies the improvement triggers and condition #71 identifies the required improvements. There is no timeline available for the future design process and construction as it is dependent on this development. If Arlington proposes improvements to the Alexandria property that require grading they must go through a City of Alexandria site plan process.



Arlington expects that the first phase of construction will be a trail connection that links Route 1 to the Four Mile Run trail; construction is anticipated to begin in early 2018. The second construction phase will build the remaining park elements; construction is anticipated in 2022.

Arlington hosted a public meeting on the project on February 22. All meeting minutes are on the project [website](#). The next public meeting will be held on March 29. Alexandria staff will attend to discuss the City's planning process if they determine they want to pursue improvements to the City's property.

## **BEVERLEY PARK RENOVATION**

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

Beverley Park, located at 520 North Overlook Drive, will be under construction and renovation activities beginning the week of March 13. Weather permitting, construction will conclude in approximately five months. The renovation includes replacement of the entire existing playground areas, new timber retaining wall, new site furnishings, new drinking fountain, replacement picnic pavilion with new power, new plantings, updated stormwater management system, site irrigation, and accessible pathways.

## **BRENNAN DOG PARK LIGHTS**

**Project Manager: Robert Narvaez, Urban Planner II**

Scope of work has been sent to contractors for bids. Bids are due back March 24. Work consists of the installation of lights and expansion of the existing fenced dog park. Construction activities are anticipated to be completed in June.

## **WINDMILL HILL PARK SHORELINE PROJECT**

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

The City of Alexandria awarded a contract to [Environmental Quality Resources, LLC](#) (EQR) to begin construction of the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Rehabilitation project this spring. The project consists of replacing the failed bulkhead and eroding shoreline along the river with a "living shoreline," as approved by City Council in June of 2015. Improvements will also be made to Union St. adjacent to the park, consistent with the [Union Street Corridor Study](#).



## **WARWICK POOL REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

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

A Community Pre-Construction Meeting was held on March 8 to discuss the planned Warwick Pool and Pool House Replacement Project. In January 2016, City Council approved the reconstruction of the pool and the replacement of the two-story community building with a one-story pool house that would be open for three months a year. Construction completion continues for the summer 2017 pool season.