



FY 2019 Community Matching Fund

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Park & Recreation Commission Public Hearing
May 17, 2018

Background

- RPCA established the Community Matching Fund with the approval of the FY 2017-FY 2026 Capital Improvement Budget.
- The Fund is part of RPCA's PARKnership Program, a program that oversees partnerships for the development, design, construction and operation of recreational and park facilities and/or programs.
- 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.

Process

- In FY19, there are a total of \$100,000 City matching funds. RPCA will give 1:1 matching award in an amount up to \$25,000, which allows a minimum of four selected proposals. Awards may vary given in any amount between \$5,000 (for project totals of \$10,000) to \$25,000 (for project totals for \$50,000).
- Any community group that lives and/or works in the City of Alexandria can apply for the matching fund. Proposals must show that the project will:
 - Provide a public benefit, free and open to all members of the public;
 - Be located on City owned parks property or recreational facility;
 - Emphasize self-help, with project ideas initiated, planned and implemented by the neighbors and community members impacted by the project; and
 - Demonstrate the ability to raise the community match within one year.

Application Review

- Applications accepted March 1, 2018 through April 16, 2018.
- We received ten (10) applications.
- Senior Management and technical staff experts reviewed the applications and recommend six (6) awards. At the PRC meeting, staff will present the proposed projects in the following order:

1. Simpson Triangle - \$22,500
2. Kelley Cares - \$22,500
3. Powhatan - \$22,500
4. Ramsay House - \$22,500
5. Hopkins House - \$6,618
6. Monticello - \$5,000

Total: \$101,618

Public Hearing Process

- Applicants and the public will have an opportunity to speak and answer questions from the Commission after each presentation.
- RPCA will also take written comments by email at dana.wedeles@alexandriava.gov until June 1, 2018.
- Senior staff will make final recommendations to the Park and Recreation Commission members and announce the awards at the June 21, 2018 meeting.

Simpson Triangle

- **Applicant:** Del Ray Citizens Association
- **Project Description:**
 - This project will improve the vacant parcel at the corner of Bellefonte and Route One by adding trees, meadow plantings, wildflowers, paths, and group boulders for seating.
 - Objective is to experience nature and enjoy relaxing outdoor activities as passive addition to Simpson Park, provide a natural habitat for wildlife, and create a more pleasant walk for commuters from the Route One bus to Del Ray.
 - Consistent with the 2014 Simpson Park Improvement Plan.



Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Proposed City Contribution: \$22,500

Additional Staff Consideration: Develop maintenance plan for plantings as part of agreement.


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Lee Center Playground Improvements

- **Applicant:** Kelley Cares Foundation
- **Project Description:**
 - The playground has not been updated since it was built in 2004 and lacks many features that would make it truly accessible for people of all abilities to use, especially for those in wheelchairs.
 - This project proposes the addition of tactile walls, a refreshed play surface, widened walkways, wheelchair ramps, and new playground equipment that would help to modernize the space, making it more useful for participants of the Therapeutic Recreation Program and beyond.
 - The refreshed playground would also help tie in the Ruthanne Lodato Memorial Playground which was put into place in 2015, making it a larger and fuller playground experience.
- **Total Project Cost:**
\$50,000
- **Proposed City Contribution:**
\$22,500



Powhatan Park Improvements

- **Applicant:** NorthEast Citizens Association
- **Project Description:**
 - This project will replace the thorny shrubs with a low maintenance, hardy shrubs. The new shrubs will not only beautify the Park and remove the safety hazard, it will make the Park more likely to be used for social gatherings and safe play.
 - Per community feedback, removing the thorny shrubs is consistent with the Neighborhood Park Improvement Plan (2016),
 - NECA will have inmates remove the shrubs and volunteers in the community plant new shrubs. The City match will include purchase and installation of two picnic tables, a water meter and fountain, and two park benches.
- **Total Project Cost:**
\$50,000
- **Proposed City Contribution:**
\$22,500

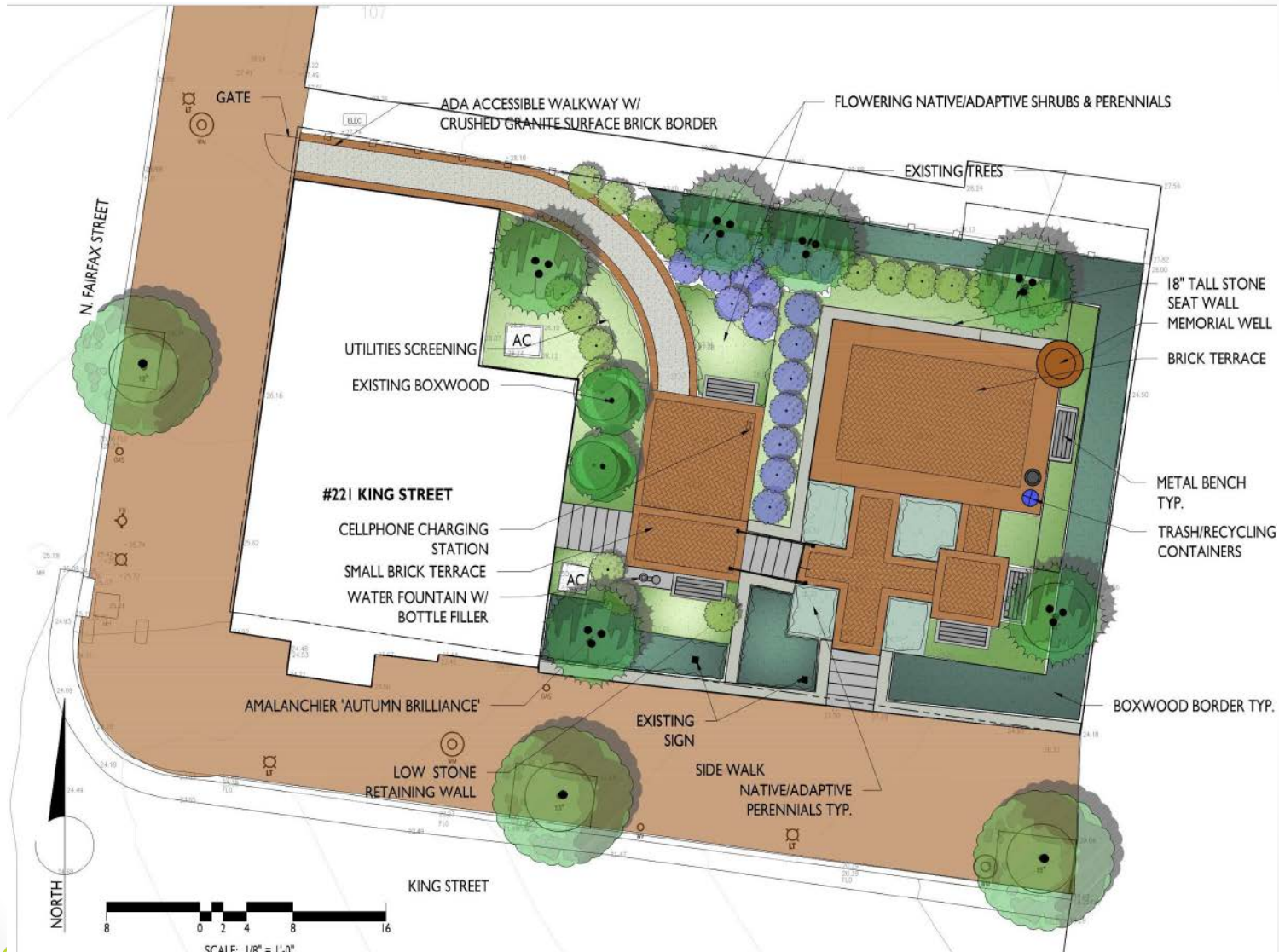


Ramsay House Visitors Center

- **Applicant:** The Garden Club of Alexandria
- **Project Description:**
 - The Ramsay House Visitor Center for the City of Alexandria welcomes many tourists and residents at the house and garden daily, and is the gathering place for tours in Old Town.
 - The 1956 garden design is in need of renovation and has fallen into disrepair. Ramsay House employees approached The Garden Club of Alexandria asking for assistance in renovating the garden.
 - The plan creates an accessible pathway from the North Fairfax Street entrance and brick terraces with additional seating, including five benches and a stone seat wall. These improvements, along with new plantings, a water fountain, cell phone charging station, and historical well marker, will better serve the functional needs of the thousands of people who use the Visitors Center each year, and will create an oasis for residents of Alexandria and an educational opportunity for Alexandria school students.
- **Total Project Cost:**
\$50,000
- **Proposed City Contribution:**
\$22,500



Ramsay House Visitors Center



Ramsay House Visitors Center



PERSPECTIVE FROM STREET



PERSPECTIVE FROM GATHERING COURTYARD



PERSPECTIVE FROM GARDEN



PERSPECTIVE FROM HOUSE

Hunter Miller Park Playground

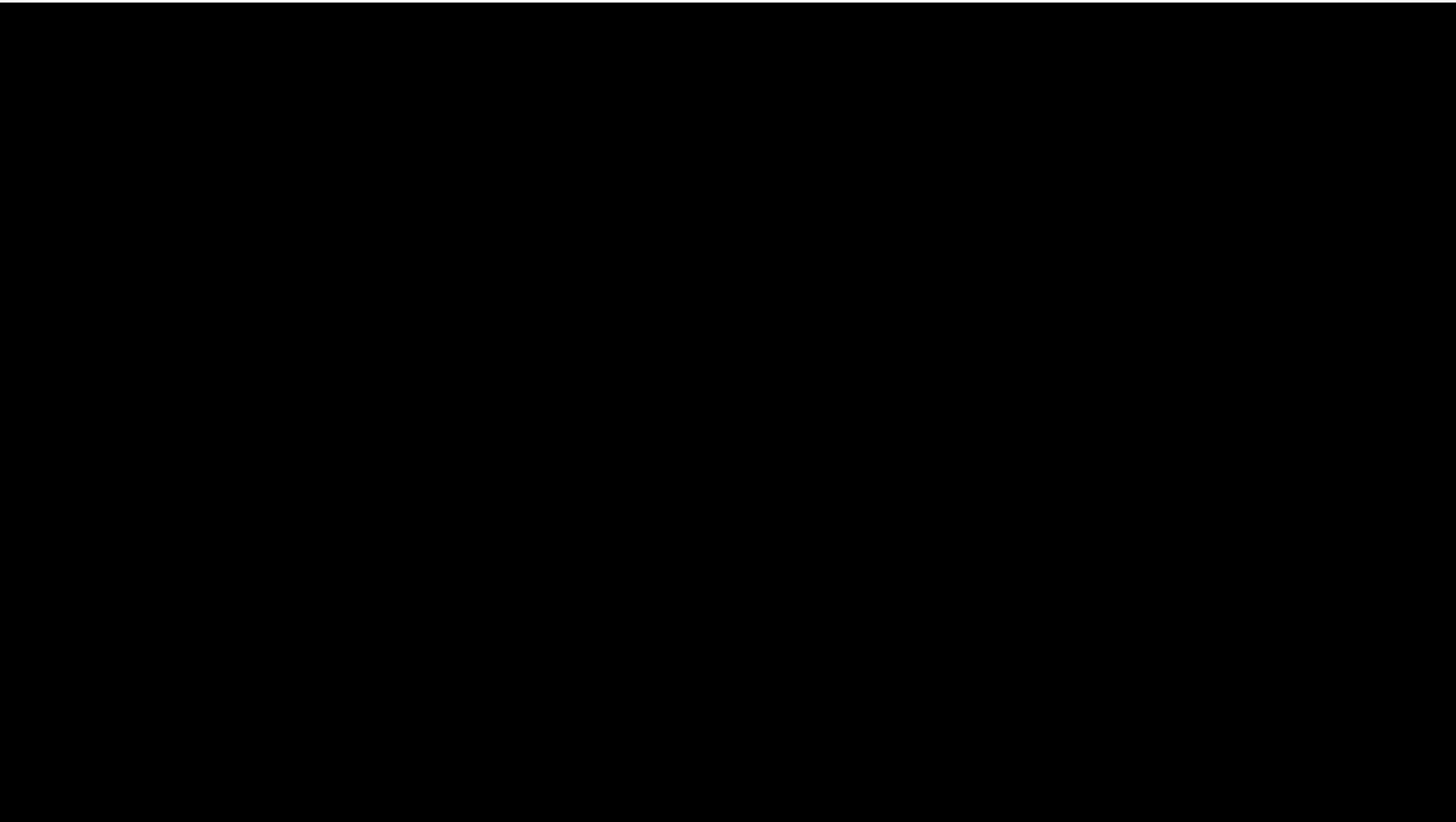
- **Applicant:** Hopkins House
- **Project Description:**
 - This project would retrofit the playground to include play equipment for children ages 2-5. This would allow the Hopkins House Helen Day Preschool Academy students as well as young kids in the neighborhood to safely use the park.
- **Total Project Cost:**
\$13,237
- **Proposed City Contribution:**
\$6,618



Monticello Park Improvements

- **Applicant:** Alexandria Country Day School
- **Project Description:**
 - Alexandria Country Day School (ACDS) proposes to work with the City of Alexandria to inventory the tree and plant species, add educational signage regarding trees and birds, clean the stream bed, and make improvements to the picnic area, such as additional seating, at Monticello Park by involving current ACDS students, alumni, local birders, and the neighboring community.
 - ACDS' science department would direct the research portions of the project as part of its middle school science curriculum.
 - Second grade students study habitats and biomes, and they spend a unit focusing on birds and can expand their focus to the birds in Monticello Park.
 - Working with guidelines from the City, the lower school and middle school students will design signage identifying the trees and describing their role in the ecosystem.
- **Total Project Cost:** \$10,000
- **Proposed City Contribution:** \$5,000

Monticello Park Improvements



Not Recommended for Award

- **Simpson Garden**

Staff recommends waiting to address drainage concerns after the adjacent playground project has been complete. Park Operations will replace the existing bench to be compliant with park standards.

- **Kayak Launch**

Staff recommends working with the Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation to further develop the scope of work and seek a broader funding strategy, including grants and CIP funds.

- **Lyles-Crouch**

This project is not eligible as it is on school property. The application has been sent to ACPS for consideration.

- **Chinquapin Garden**

Staff is working with the Chinquapin Garden Advisory council to conduct broader community outreach on the fencing interest.



Discussion & Questions