

# Hume Springs Park

## History and Character

This 0.53 acres park is located in the Arlandria neighborhood between Dale and Reed Streets.



There are two documented Civil War Union Camp sites within the current park. The 1st and 2nd Ohio Militia Camp was to the north and the 1st and 3rd New Jersey Militia was to the south. Archaeological evidence of the documented Union

encampments is likely present in the park. Artifacts that may be found include, but are not limited to: buttons, clasps, tins, bullets, leather scraps, metal objects, charcoal, and privies.

The site was part of the Hume Estate and dedicated to the City in 1951 for the purpose of public use. The park features a playground, pathway, and seating. The lit path that transverses the park is used as a cut-through between Dale and Reed.

For many years, particularly throughout the 1980's to 1990's, the park suffered from neglect and crime. The most characteristic feature of the park has been the thirteen foot chain link fence that surrounds it. While installed with the intent to allow neighbors to lock the park at night, it has made the park feel prison-like and uninviting.

Despite this history, today, police report a decrease in crime in the area and neighbors and the Hume Springs Neighborhood Association have adopted the park, becoming its eyes and



ensuring safe and appropriate use. It is located in a neighborhood densely populated with families and children. The park is across the street from Cora Kelly Elementary School, however, the school's playground can only be used by students during the school day. Therefore, the Hume Springs Playground is well used by day-cares and non-school aged children. The park also features planted, mature native shade trees, including a large Cherrybark Oak (*Quercus pagoda*).

While the hard surface in poor condition, it provides event space for neighborhood gatherings, including the annual National Night Out event, and frequent socialization.

## Community Feedback

In Fall 2014, staff collected community feedback to understand how the Park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey, community workshop, and "graffiti board" in the park. Over 270 people responded to the survey in total, ten of which were specific to Hume Springs Park. Staff used the collected information to develop draft park plans.

### In 10 years I would like this Park to...

(Top 3 rankings shown; based on a weighted score)

1. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors
2. Be a safe place for children to explore
3. Be a place to relax

### What would you like done with the hard surface area?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	2	29%
Enhance it	3	42%
Transform it	2	29%

#### Explain

Repave walkway (x2)  
Way too many types of hard surface, uneven

# Existing Conditions



### What would you like done with the hill?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	14%
Enhance it	1	14%
Transform it	5	72%

**Explain**

Remove  
 Can we make this into usable space? maybe a sandbox or more play area?  
 Ends in a concrete culvert!  
 The Hill is mostly avoided  
 There is often broken glass and litter here, and the drainage also means that it is not fit for many purposes.

### What would you like done with the Playground?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	14%
Enhance it	5	72%
Transform it	1	14%

**Explain**

It's 20 years out of date  
 The playground could be modernized, with a soft surface and a structure that would accommodate a larger range of ages.  
 I think the entire park could be enhanced to create a more open and friendlier environment. I think adding some more physical play items or even better, some exercise components to the park for the adults and the kids could make it more useful to the community and more linked to the community center - they could have Yoga in the park. etc.

### What would you like done with the fence?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	14%
Enhance it	1	14%
Transform it	5	71%

**Explain**

It would be more attractive to have a lower, wooden fence.  
 Replace with lower, more attractive fencing, especially along Dale and W Reed Place, please get new fencing. It's like a prison in there!  
 I'm not sure the fence currently achieves any goal. What is its purpose and does it help or hinder the community?

### What would you like done with the seating?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	0	0%
Enhance it	5	71%
Transform it	2	29%

**Explain**

More benches, please  
 Perhaps a picnic table for food. There's currently only one bench. (x2)  
 There's one bench! Fear of homeless sleeping there

### How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	8	100%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0%
Drive	0	0%
Public Transit	0	0%
Carpool	0	0%

### How far do you typically travel to visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Less than ½ mile	7	87%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	1	13%
Between 1-2 miles	0	0%
Over 2 miles	0	0%

### What is currently NOT in the Park that you would like to see there?

**Response**

A soft surface under the playground area.  
 Drinking fountain  
 Sandbox!  
 Updated play equipment.  
 More level areas for play and relaxation  
 Seating water fountain trash containers plantings soft surfaces for children equipment!!!  
 A greater connection to the community center and the community. This is often a nice, quiet place and I think you could have more opportunities for social things that bring the community together, like yoga. I would also like to see more apparatus, particularly that could be used by both adults and children.

### Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Park?

**Response**

It's a disaster - a poor reflection on Alex such a nice location - could be so good!  
 There is almost always broken glass in the grassy areas, and as a result, I have generally stopped taking my child there.  
 This is a nice shady park area that could be greatly enhanced to make better use of the space for children to play in the afternoons when other playgrounds are often too hot.  
 The sewage areas are not well constructed and children are often playing around and digging around them. Mosquitos and other bugs are attracted and that makes the park less conducive to visits. Also, I think the community police could swing by more often, particularly on Sunday mornings and in the evenings to make their presence felt. The open/closed times seem meaningless as the park gate is always open. The fence is probably important for the adjoining residential properties, but it is unclear what value it adds to the front and back (street) sides of the property.  
 My civic association holds events here and could use more seating, attractive landscaping, and level area.

### Have any of the following circumstances prevented you from visiting this Park? (check all that apply)

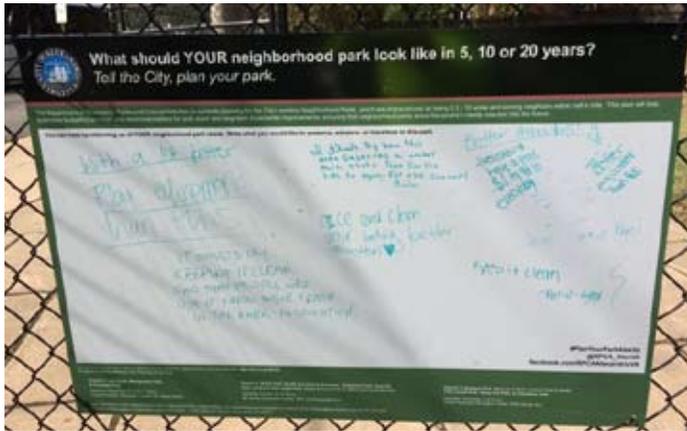
Value	Count	Percent
I am physically limited from walking	0	0%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from where I live	0	0%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	1	33%
There is not enough parking	0	0%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	3	100%

### How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	1	12%
Weekly	5	63%
Monthly	2	25%
Yearly	0	0%

## Graffiti Sign

A “graffiti sign” in the Park had a marker attached and asked park users to write down what they would like their park to look like in the future. The sign was on site from September to November 2014 (image from October 27).



## Comments from Community

### Workshop held on October 25, 2014

- Preserve see-saw
- Provide additional swings in playground
- Modular structure used as 'hang-out'
- Provide more benches throughout entire park
- Transform fence
- The use of hill/mound is not clear
- Storm drains are not safe
- Provide more gathering space for adults/neighborhood groups throughout the park
- Enhance landscaping
- Enhance or make asphalt area safer

## Partnership with RunningBrooke

On June 10, 2015, RunningBrooke presented the Alexandria City Council with a contribution of \$80,000 to revitalize Hume Springs Park. RunningBrooke funds innovative local charities and programs that help ensure young people in our community are healthy, active and ready to succeed in school and life. Their mission is for every child in Alexandria, no matter their background or circumstances, to come to school healthy and prepared to learn and thrive. Since 2009, RunningBrooke has raised \$620,000 for local programs and charities.

For the Hume Springs project, RunningBrooke raised funds through major events, such as Spring2ACTion, and a sponsorship from the Alexandria Marketing Fund for the Alexandria Running Festival. Generous donors, sponsors and volunteers, and partnerships made this park revitalization possible. Partners to date include the Rotary Club of Alexandria, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, Simpson Development and the Hume Springs Civic Association.

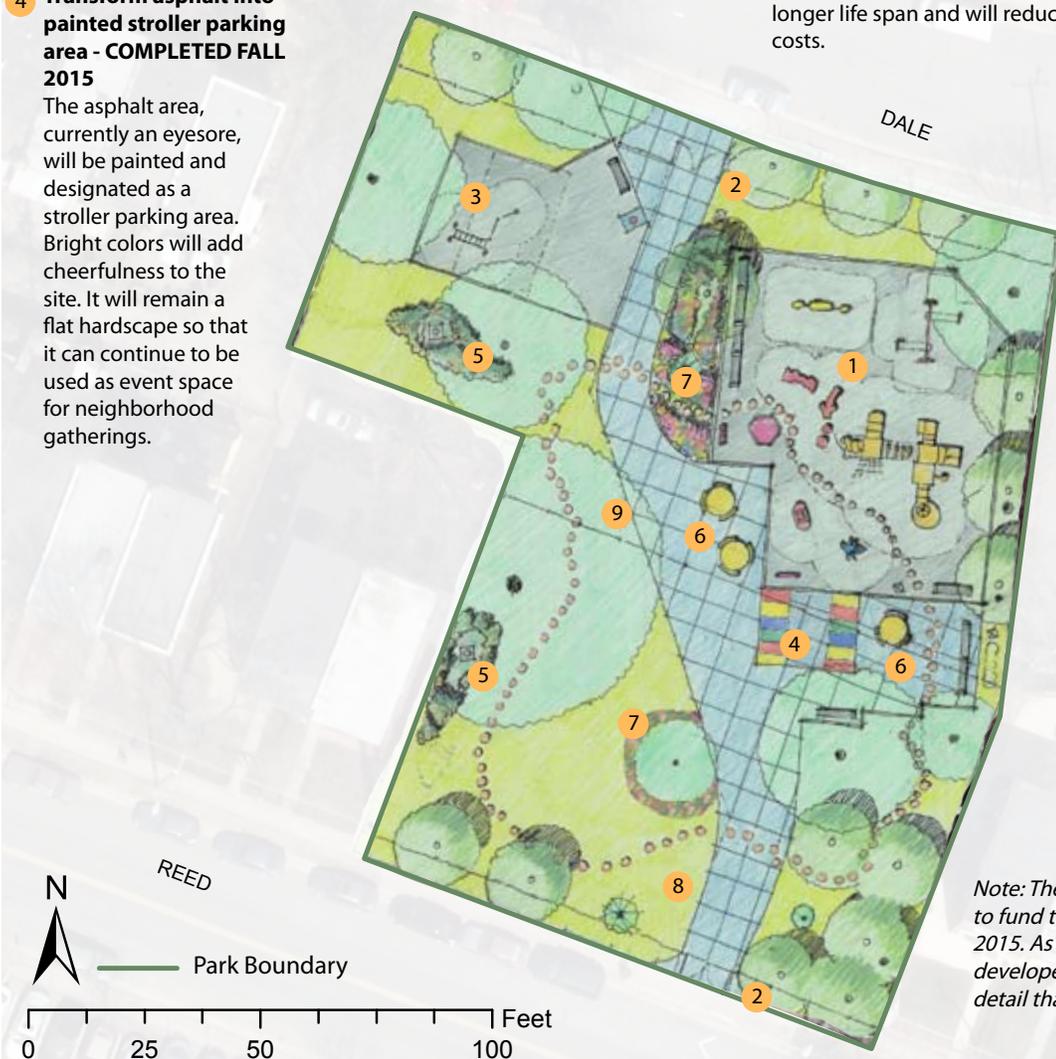
On September 11 and 19, 2015, RunningBrooke and Rebuilding Together Alexandria hosted volunteer events to facilitate the renovations. Volunteers removed outgrown shrubbery, planted trees and gardens, installed safety surfacing, and assembled benches, amongst other tasks (images below). The fence will also be replaced through this partnership. As shown on the following implementation page, RunningBrooke has helped staff achieve almost all of the plan recommendations for this park.



# Improvement Recommendations

- 1 Renovate playground - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
The existing playground is outdated and does not meet the community needs, particularly for non-school aged children that cannot use the Cora Kelly playground during the day. A renovated playground will include more natural features that promote imaginative play and exploration.
- 2 Replace the fence and enhance entrance - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
Currently, the park is surrounded by a 12 foot high chain link fence. While originally installed to address safety concerns in the past, the fence today serves as a physical, visual, and social barrier to the park. This plan recommends replacing the fence with a 4 foot black picket fence. The fence will prevent children from running into the street, but will not be a defining characteristic of the park, as the existing fence is today.
- 3 Install outdoor fitness equipment - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
There is a desire for outdoor fitness equipment throughout the city. Providing the fixtures in this park will create a destination for a diversity of park users, ranging in age, and promote fitness and health. While there are currently two pull up bars in the playground, the new features will be separated from the child-oriented area within the park.
- 4 Transform asphalt into painted stroller parking area - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
The asphalt area, currently an eyesore, will be painted and designated as a stroller parking area. Bright colors will add cheerfulness to the site. It will remain a flat hardscape so that it can continue to be used as event space for neighborhood gatherings.

- 5 Provide rain gardens**  
There are two covered drains in the Park that often collect debris and have standing water surrounding them after rain events. This often creates mosquito breeding areas. Creating rain gardens around these drains will provide a better system to address water and be attractive planted areas.
- 6 Create shaded social seating areas - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
This plan recommends installing round tables to provide places to relax, picnic, and socialize. They can also be used as seating for neighborhood events.
- 7 Provide butterfly garden - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
A butterfly garden near the playground and Reed Street entrance will be visually pleasing and provide an area for natural habitat within a largely urban setting. A small path system through the garden will encourage children to interact with nature.
- 8 Install a water fountain - COMPLETED FALL 2015**  
A water fountain near the Reed Street entrance will be an asset to the community and park users.
- 9 Upgrade the light fixtures**  
The existing light fixtures will be upgraded with energy efficient light bulbs. In addition to using less energy, these bulbs have a longer life span and will reduce maintenance and replacement costs.



*Note: The City partnered with RunningBrooke to fund this Playground renovation in Fall 2015. As a result, the City and Organization developed the Park Conceptual Plan in greater detail than other Neighborhood Park Plans.*

## Implementation Strategy

This plan uses citizen input and considers other external considerations to determine how to address park improvements incrementally over time. Most of the recommendations in the plan can be implemented independent of other projects as funding is available, whether through city or non-city funds. The cost estimates (in 2015 dollars) do not include operating costs. Prior to the implementation of any recommendation, operating costs, if any, must be considered.

The priority for each recommendation is shown as “low,” “medium,” or “high.” RPCA determined these rankings based upon (1) park user safety, (2) community prioritization feedback and the results of the 2011 and 2013 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, (3) life span of the existing conditions, (4) potential for non-city funding sources, (5) level of user impact, (6) relationship to other projects.

Hume Springs Park					
#	Recommendation	Priority	Estimated Cost	Associated Recommendations	Dept Lead
1	Renovate Playground			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
2	Replace the fence and enhance entrance			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
3	Install outdoor fitness equipment			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
4	Transform asphalt into painted stroller parking area			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
5	Provide rain gardens	Medium	25,000 - 35,000		RPCA
6	Create shaded social seating areas			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
7	Provide butterfly garden			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
8	Install a water fountain			Completed Fall 2015	RPCA
9	Upgrade the light fixtures	Medium	50,000 - 80,000		RPCA/Dominion

# 2015 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan: Appendix



# Neighborhood Parks Plan

## Hume Springs Park

### Community Feedback, Fall 2014



The Division of Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development is currently planning for the City's existing Neighborhood Parks, which we characterize as being 0.5 - 10 acres with a service area of up to 0.5 miles. The results of this plan will help determine budgeting priorities and recommendations for both short and long-term incremental improvements, ensuring that neighborhood parks serve Alexandria's needs now and into the future.

In Fall 2014, Staff collected community feedback to understand how the Park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey, community workshop, and "graffiti board" in the park. Over 270 people responded to the survey in total, ten of which were specific to Hume Springs Park.

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## How often do you visit this park?

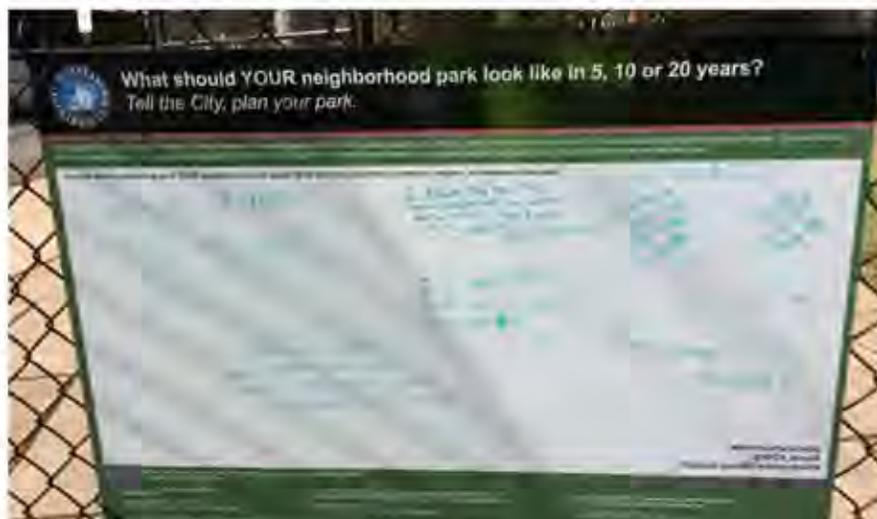
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## Comments from Community Workshop held on October 25, 2014

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## Graffiti Sign

A "graffiti sign" in the Park had a marker attached and asked park users to write down what they would like their park to look like in the future. The sign was on site from September to November 2014 (image from October 27).







## What do you want your neighborhood park to look like in 5, 10, or 20 years?

**Tell the City, help us plan!**

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently planning for the City's existing Neighborhood Parks, which are characterized as being 0.5 - 10 acres and serving neighbors within half a mile.

You can help by informing us of YOUR neighborhood park needs. This plan will help determine budgeting priorities and recommendations for both short and longterm incremental improvements, ensuring that neighborhood parks serve Alexandria's needs now and into the future.

### **Provide your input in two ways:**

Take a survey about the park you use here:

<http://alexandria.Neighborhood-Park-Survey.sgizmo.com/s3/>

Or attend one of the following Park Planning Workshops:

District 2 Workshop, includes: Beach Park, Hooffs Run Park & Greenway, Timberland Park, Goat Hill Park, Landover Park, Angel Park, Hume Springs Park, 3550 Commonwealth Ave  
Saturday, October 25, 9am-11am, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave

For more information on the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan Project, please contact Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5491.



**RunningBrooke is proud to be partnering with the City of Alexandria to fund improvements to the Hume Springs Playground. Please join us on October 25th to give your feedback on the exciting transformation of your neighborhood park!**



## ¿Cómo te gustaría que se viera el parque de TU barrio en los siguientes 5, 10 ó 20 años?

¡Cuéntanos y ayúdanos a planear!

El Departamento de Recreación, Parques y Actividades Culturales está actualmente trabajando con los parques de los barrios de la ciudad, los cuales se caracterizan por tener un área entre 0,5-10 acres y servir a las comunidades que viven a media milla de éstos. A continuación se muestra un mapa con los parques que están siendo evaluados.

Tú nos puedes ayudar informándonos acerca de las necesidades que afronta el parque de TU barrio. Este plan ayudará a determinar las prioridades presupuestales y recomendaciones a corto y largo plazo, garantizando que estos parques sirvan las necesidades de hoy y mañana.

Nos puedes proveer tus comentarios de las siguientes dos maneras:  
Tomando la encuesta

Ó yendo a unos de los talleres:

Distrito 2 (incluye los siguientes parques: Beach, Hooff's Run Park & Greenway, Timberland, Goat Hill, Landover, Angel, Hume Springs, 3550 Commonwealth Ave): Sábado, 25 de octubre de 9:00 - 11:00 AM, Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

Para más información acerca de este proyecto, por favor contáctanos Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov o 703-746-5491



**RunningBrooke se enorgullece de colaborar con la ciudad de Alexandria para financiar las mejoras en el Playground de Hume Springs. Por favor únase a nosotros el 25 Octubre para dar su opinión sobre la emocionante transformaciones de este Parque!**

# Hume Springs Park

## Improvement Recommendations

Draft (Spring 2015)

### 1 Renovate playground

The existing playground is outdated and does not meet the community needs, particularly for non-school aged children that cannot use the Cora Kelly playground during the day. A renovated playground will include more natural features that promote imaginative play and exploration.

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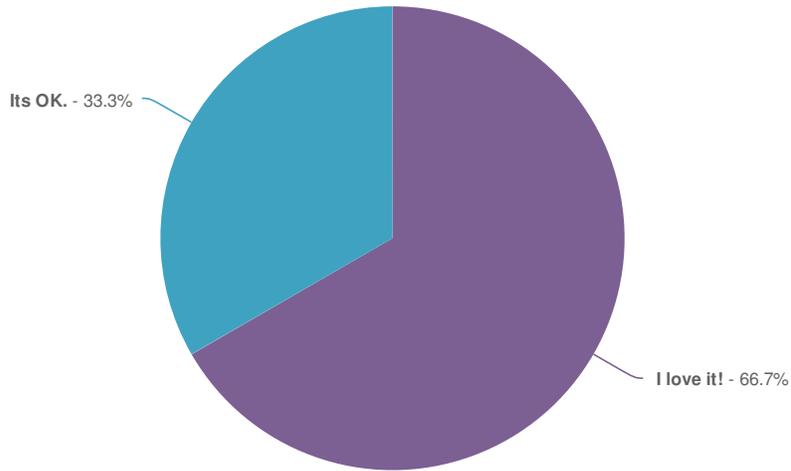


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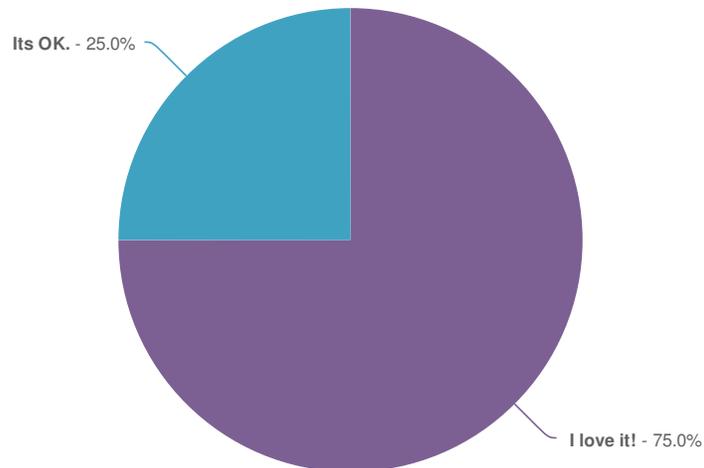
## Hume Springs Park Draft Improvement Plan Survey Results, July 2015

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Create shaded social seating areas



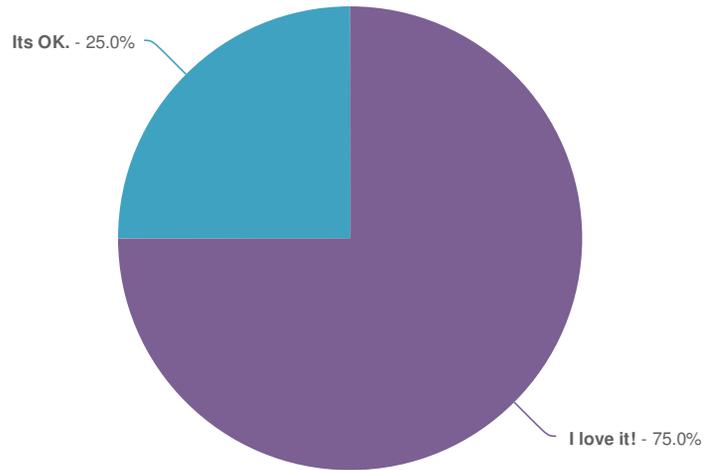
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	66.7%	2
Its OK.	33.3%	1
Total		3

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install outdoor fitness equipment



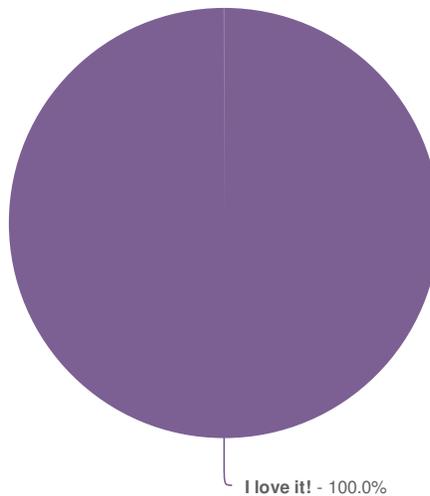
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	75.0%	3
Its OK.	25.0%	1
Total		4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Provide butterfly garden



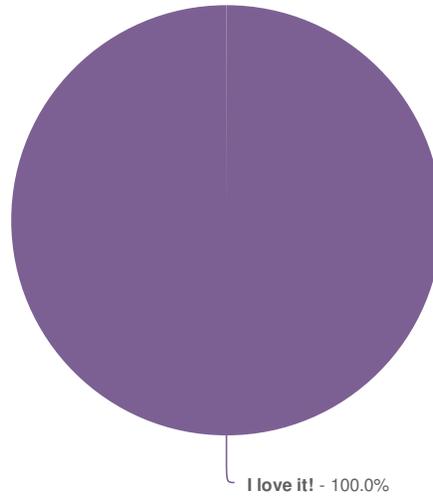
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	75.0%	3
Its OK.	25.0%	1
Total		4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Provide rain gardens



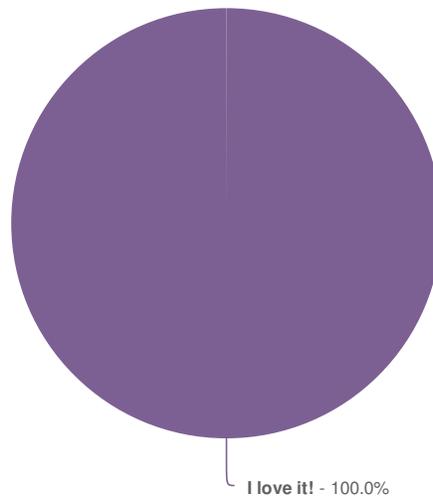
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	100.0%	4
Total		4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Renovate playground



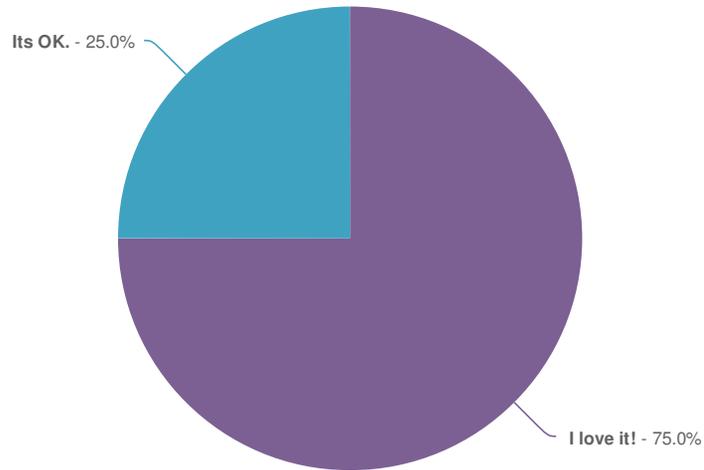
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	100.0%	4
Total		4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Replace the fence and enhance entrance



Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	100.0%	4
Total		4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Transform asphalt into painted stroller parking area

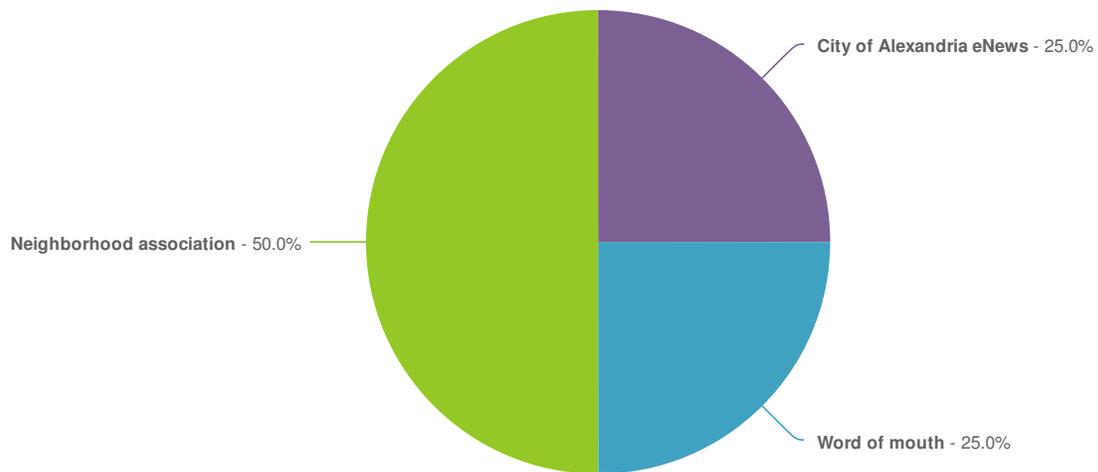


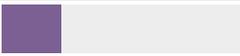
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	75.0%	3
Its OK.	25.0%	1
Total		4

Do you feel all of the comments were heard and addressed in the draft Hume Springs Park plan? If not, what is missing and how can we make the plan better?

Count	Response
1	All my comments were heard and addressed. It's a great plan!

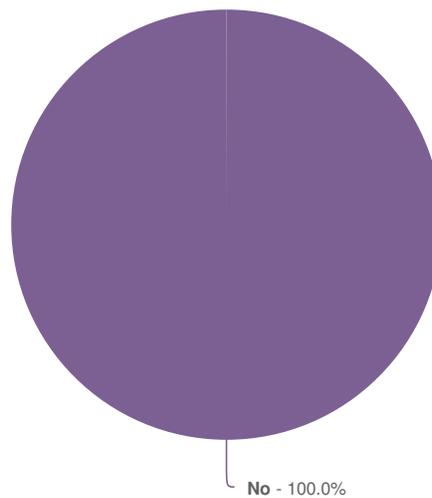
How did you learn about the Neighborhood Park Plan survey?

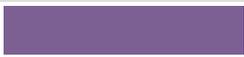


Value	Percent		Count
City of Alexandria eNews	25.0%		1
Word of mouth	25.0%		1
Neighborhood association	50.0%		2
Total			4

Responses "Other"	Count
Left Blank	4

Will you be attending the workshop on May 27 from 7pm-8:30pm at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center to discuss the draft plan?



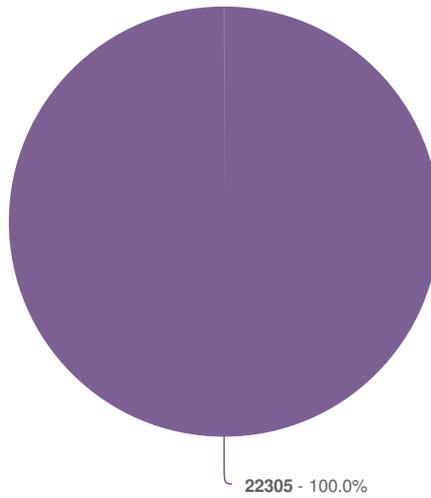
Value	Percent		Count
No	100.0%		4
Total			4

How many members of your household are in the following age groups?

	# in household	Responses
Under 5	2 100.0%	2
6-12	2 100.0%	2
13-18	1 100.0%	1
19-29	1 100.0%	1
30-49	3 100.0%	3

	# in household	Responses
50-69	1 100.0%	1
70 or above	2 100.0%	2

What is your zip code?

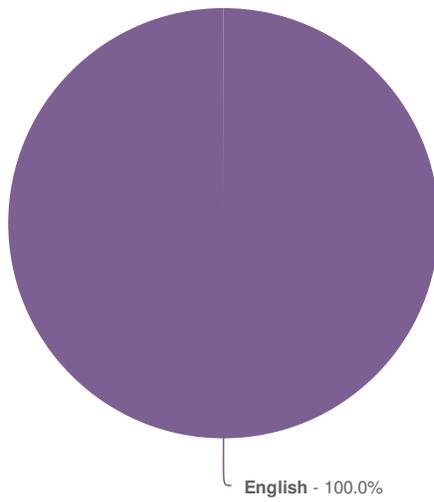


Value	Percent	Count	Statistics
22305	100.0%	4	Sum 89,220.0
Total		4	Average 22,305.0
			Max 22,305.0

**Responses "I live outside of Alexandria"**

	Count
Left Blank	4

What is the primary language spoken in your home?



Value	Percent	Count
English	100.0%	4
Total		4

Responses "other"	Count
Left Blank	4