

Lockett Ballfield & Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park

History and Character

This site 4.3 acre was sold to the City in 1956. No known or documented historical sites are within the park. The park property was likely filled and graded when the railroad was built to the south of the park. It is possible archaeological evidence may be preserved under the fill soil.

The property was originally part of a larger area owned by the City of Alexandria that included the Stonewall Jackson Elementary School and Gym. The adjacent buildings are still owned by Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), though they are no longer elementary schools.

Lockett Field is a lit diamond baseball field used by Alexandria



Little League, adult softball leagues, city cup softball leagues, Bishop Ireton girls softball and travel baseball programs. The field dimensions can be adjusted from 60 to 70 ft, depending on who is using the field. The field is in relatively good

condition, though there has been an ongoing drainage issue, particularly along the third base line (a scheduled FY16 capital improvement project will resolve this issue). The field is currently inaccessible to people with disabilities and there are no ramps or continuous pathways to the field from the parking lot (shown below).



The skate park was added to the site in 2005, following a special use permit process (SUP #2002-0070) that involved extensive public participation and community support. The skate park is named in memory of Schuyler Hamilton Jones, a 16-year-old T.C. Williams High School student who died in 2003. He had been actively involved in the Friends of Skatepark and the ramp design.

It was the first and remains the only skate park in the City. The



park is 12,000 square ft and includes modular equipment such as jumps, pipes, rails, wedges, and boxes. RPCA staff recently (Spring 2015) replaced some of the worn equipment. Most of the modular pieces have reached or are reaching the end of their life span.



Alexandria City Public Schools shares the adjacent parking lot, which has 127 full size spaces. As stated in the skate park SUP, 65 of the spaces are required for ACPS, 30 are estimated for ballpark use and 20 for skateboard park use. The majority of skateboarders do not drive and either skate to the park or rely on the bus or parents dropping them off. In Spring 2015, RPCA installed a new eastern entrance and pathway that connects to the

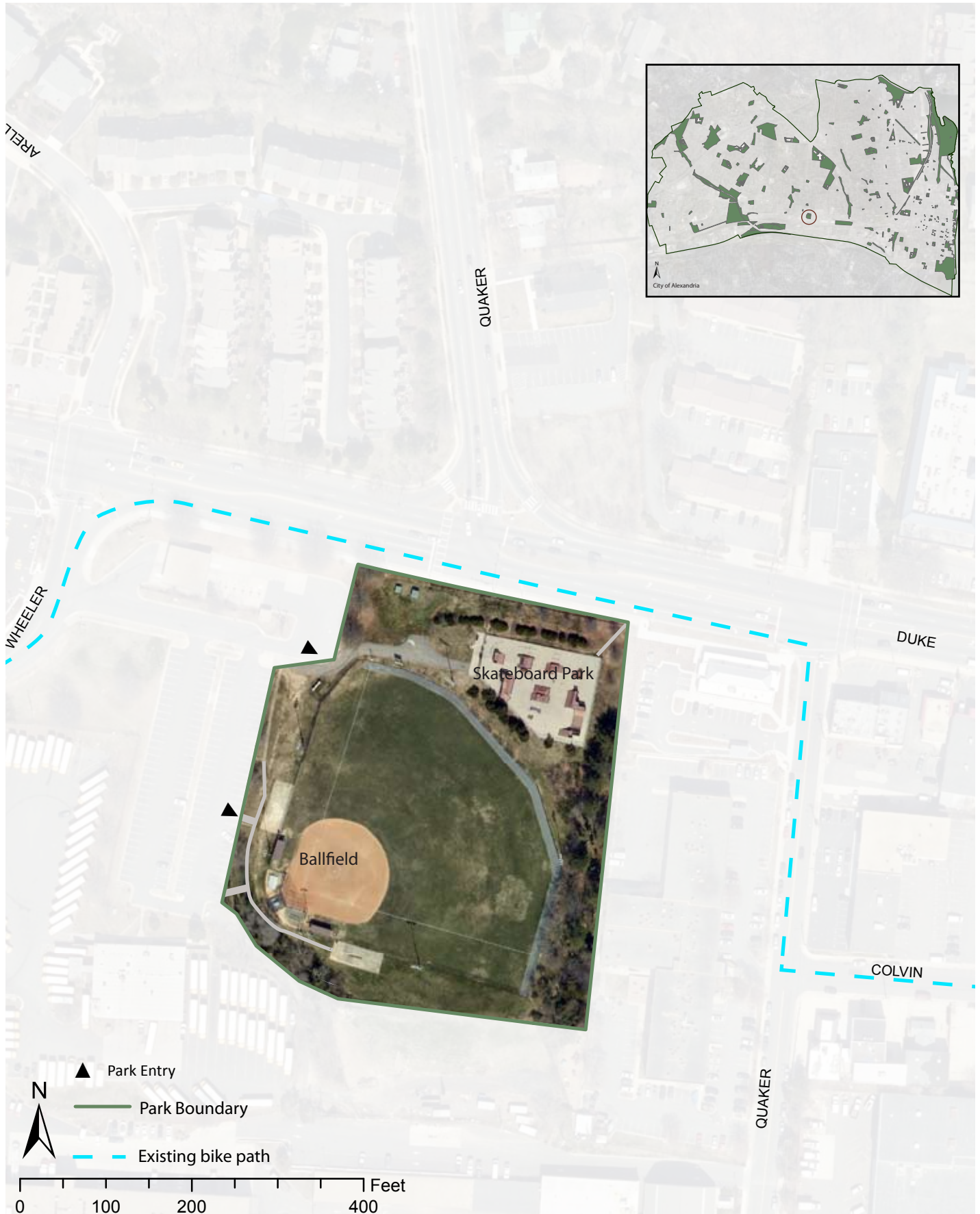
bus stop after noticing the volume of skateboarders using the bus and cutting through the landscape to get to the site (above). The new path has greatly improved site access.

To the west of the property is the City's fueling station and the Alexandria City Public Schools bus facility. To the south is the City's Maintenance Facility.

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, fourteen of which were specific to Lockett Park and the Skate Park. Staff used the collected information to develop draft park plans.

Existing Conditions



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

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

1. Be a safe place for children to explore
2. Provide organized recreational opportunities
3. Have lots of activity

What would you like done with the skate park?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	4	57%
Enhance it	3	43%
Transform it	0	0%

Explain

There is always a lot of trash in the park. It needs to be picked up every morning when it opens
Add to the park

What would you like done with the ballfield?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	11%
Enhance it	6	67%
Transform it	2	22%

Explain

Batting cages.
Make it accessible without a permit.
Please consider creating a useful baseball facility here with turf
Turf entire facility. Add batting cages. make it a multi-purpose facility. add bathroom facility/Jiffy John.
This field is bigger than it needs to be for its typical uses--youth baseball/softball and adult softball. It could be transformed, along with changes to parking, into two fields--a 60' field with a mound and a softball/multi-use field. The city needs additional 60' fields with mounds, cages, and bullpens.
Playground and open space. Not useable by younger kids and more people seem to go to the baseball field near Monroe Ave

The field should be transformed into a multi-purpose facility that can be used for Little League Baseball, 50-70 baseball, softball, tee ball, coach pitch baseball and other rec. sports

What would you like done with the parking lot?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	3	43%
Enhance it	2	29%
Transform it	2	29%

Explain

Could use an upgrade.

What would you like done with the seating?

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

Explain

Could use another bench inside the skatepark area.

How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	2	15%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0%
Drive	11	85%
Public Transit	0	0%
Carpool	0	0%

How far do you typically travel to visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Less than ½ mile	1	8%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	3	23%
Between 1-2 miles	5	39%
Over 2 miles	4	31%

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Walk	2	15%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
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Less than ½ mile	1	8%
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Between 1-2 miles	5	39%
Over 2 miles	4	31%

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	2	40%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from where I live	2	40%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	0	0%
There is not enough parking	0	0%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	2	40%

How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	0	0%
Weekly	5	39%
Monthly	6	46%
Yearly	2	15%

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

Response

It needs more shade
The dugouts that were added are a welcome addition. Thank you.
The grounds around the ball field need work. It's dangerous for little kids -- wooded area drops off and there's frequently marshy conditions. Overall, grounds are uneven, lots of flooding and pooling water.
It has lights which are at a premium on fields in Alexandria. The field should be transformed into a multi-purpose facility that can be used for Little League Baseball, 50-70 baseball, softball, tee ball, coach pitch baseball and other rec. sports. The entire facility should have field turf installed to cut down on rain outs and maintenance issues. With field turf this could be one of the premier multi-purpose fields in the City.

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

Response

Batting cages
Better ballfield
Open space!
Toddler/younger kids playground
more ramps or added structures for skateboarding
mound on ball field; batting cages; bullpen
Unstructured play by children of all ages. The city fails to provide baseball fields that can be accessed by the public. We need places for kids, including teens, to play baseball without coaches and parents supervising their every move.
Batting Cages. Access to bathroom facility. The field does not drain well and is unplayable after a little bit of rain. Turf field would be fantastic - just played on one in DC yesterday, and the boys loved it.
The skate park is nice and has nice landscaping around it but there is always a lot of trash in the morning when we like to visit and it is less crowded.
There should be bathrooms, The back stop needs to be modified to stop foul balls being lost in the woods. The field does not drain. After a rain event it takes days for the field to dry out

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 on the board included:

- Provide lights
- Skate events
- Bathrooms
- More ramps including mini skate ramps
- Snake run
- Round down rail
- Big pyramid
- Concrete bowl
- Stairs with handrails
- Manual pad
- More benches to sit on
- Water fountain
- Vending Machine
- Pool where baseball field i
- More trash cans
- More room/Space



Draft Plan Feedback

In Spring 2015, the community provided feedback on the draft park plan through online surveys (see appendix for full results), park signs and public meetings. Based on information from the Spring input phase, staff updated the plans to best represent current and future community needs. Only minor text changes were made to the Lockett Ballfield and Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park Plan.

Improvement Recommendations

QUAKER HILL

1 Route a bike path through the parking lot to Quaker Lane

The existing bike route from the city's east to west goes from Colvin St. up to Duke St. and down Wheeler Ave. By installing a bike path through the City-owned parking lot and parcel south of the ballfield, cyclists would be able to avoid the busy and dangerous section of Duke St. This project is to be in coordination with Transportation and Environmental Services.

2 Extend pathway and provide ADA access to dugouts and seating

There are currently no paths connecting the dugouts, bleachers and ballfield entrance. A new path will connect these features and be accessible from the parking lot.

3 Upgrade ballfield facilities

This ballfield needs upgraded dugouts, first base field access, bleachers, and a press box. There is also space to build batting cages to help meet a citywide need for this recreational feature.

4 Re-grade the ballfield and improve drainage

Following rain events there is often standing water in the outfield due to poor drainage. With standing water, games and practices are forced to be canceled. Re-grading the field and improving drainage will greatly improve the maintenance and usage of the park.

5 Replace the modular skate park features with a concrete design

The skate park was built in 2002 with modular features. These features have a life span of 15-20 years and will need replacement in the upcoming years. This plan recommends replacing the site with the new industry standard of a concrete skate park, as shown in the image below. While more expensive to construct, concrete requires less maintenance and replacement overtime and is preferred by skate boarders. Concrete provides smoother and safer surfaces, seamless transitions, and design flexibility. The current site is 12,000 sq. ft. and there is room to expand up to 18,000 sq. ft. The image below is for illustrative purposes only. The skateboard park users will inform the final design.

6 Improve Plantings along Duke Street

The original plan for the site in 2002 intended for the Photinia plantings to be maintained at a height of 3'-4' ft. in order to maintain visibility into the park. A new planting plan and maintenance will help improve the attractiveness and surveillance of the site from Duke St.



* RPCA staff installed a new pathway from the east corner of the Park in spring 2015 to accommodate the Many skateboarders take the Duke St. bus to the Park, using the bus stop on the corner of Duke St. and South Quaker Lane.

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.

Lockett ballfield and Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park				
#	Recommendation	Priority	Estimated Cost	Dept Lead
1	Route a bike path through the parking lot to Quaker Lane	Medium	15,000 - 30,000	TES
2	Extend pathway and provide ADA access to dugouts and seating	High	35,000-50,000	RPCA
3	Upgrade ballfield facilities	Medium	200,000-300,000	RPCA
4	Re-grade the ballfield and improve drainage	Currently underway		RPCA
5	Replace the modular skate park features with a concrete design	Medium	900,000-1,250,000	RPCA
6	Improve plantings along Duke Street	Low	25,000-35,000	RPCA



The city of Lawrence, KS replaced their fourteen year old 12,000 sq. ft. modular skate park with concrete features in 2014, shown above.

2015 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan: Appendix



Neighborhood Parks Plan

Lockett Field/ Schuyler Hamilton Skate 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.

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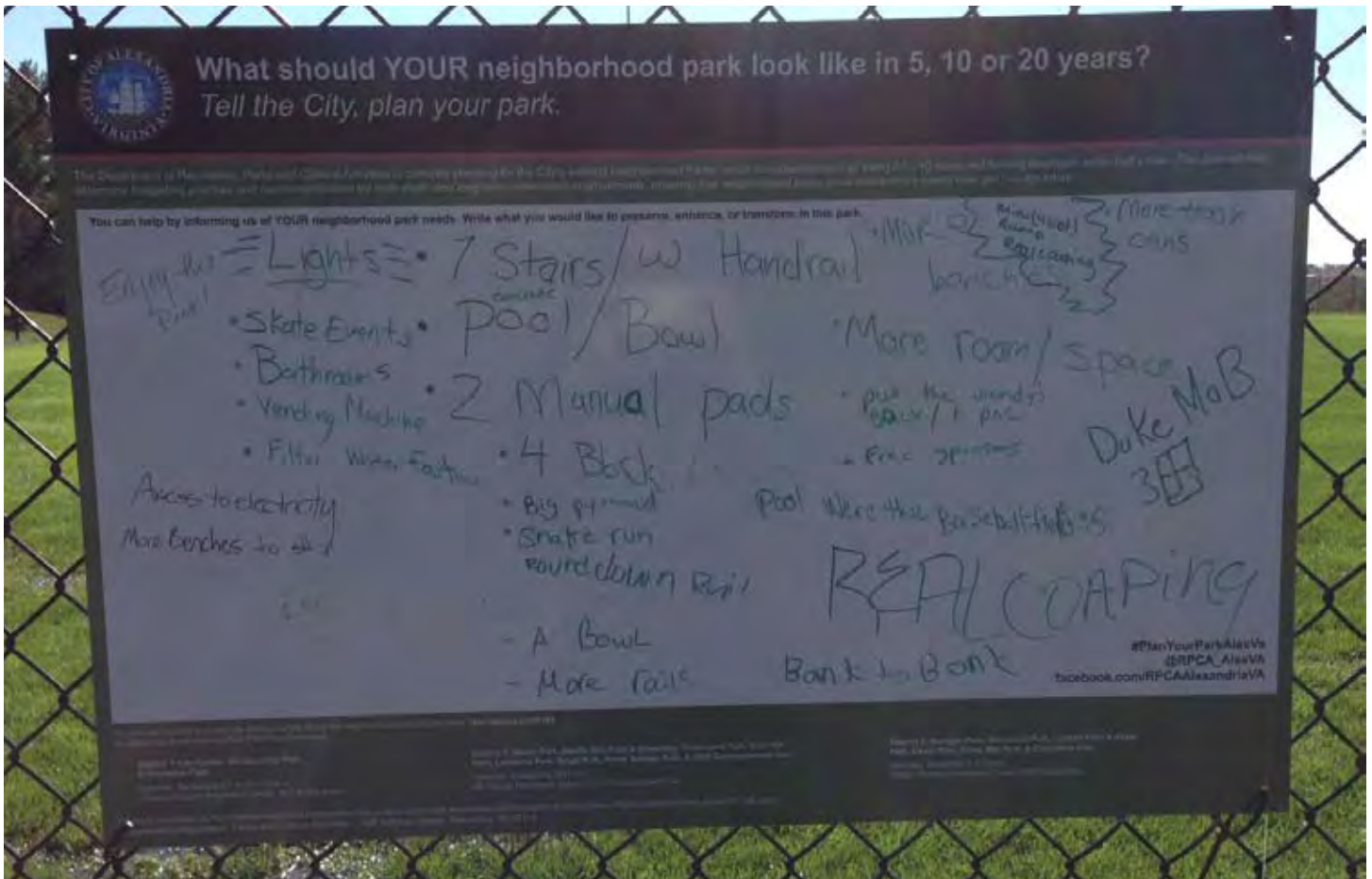
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Lockett Ballfield & Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park

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Draft (Spring 2015)

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6 Install new pathway from the east corner of the Park

Many skateboarders take the Duke St. bus to the Park, using the bus stop on the corner of Duke St. and South Quaker Lane. Yet, the entrance to the park is on the West side. There is a clear desire line from this pathway to the Skate Park, indicating where a pathway is needed for easier access.

7 Improve Plantings along Duke Street

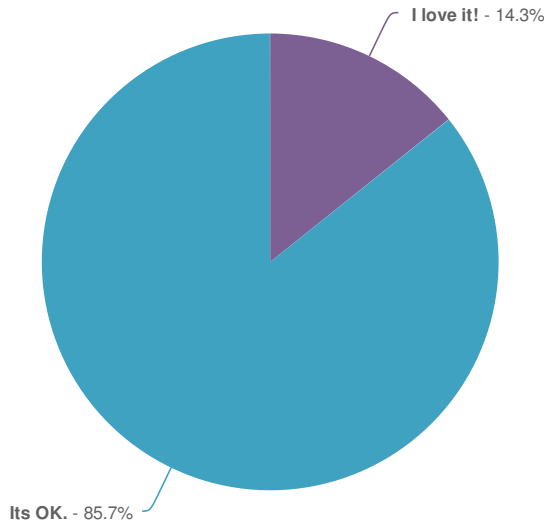
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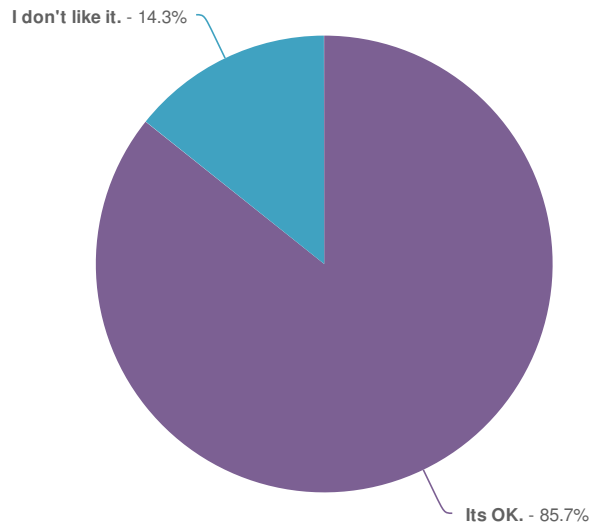
Luckett and Skate Park Draft Improvement Plan Survey Results, July 2015

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Extend pathway and provide ADA access to dugouts and seating



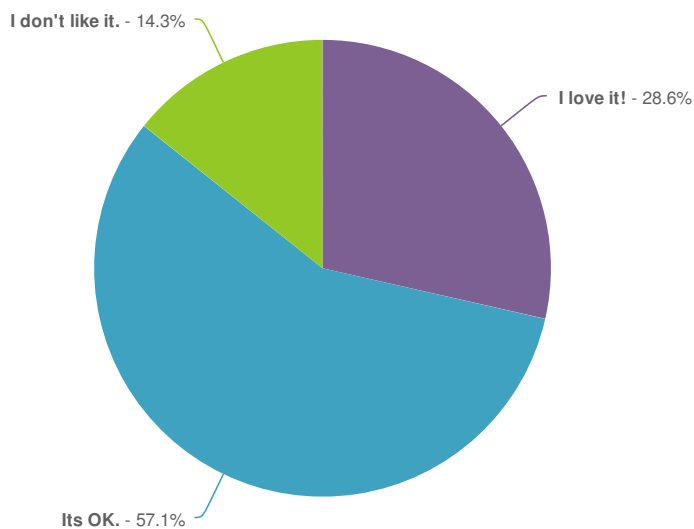
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	14.3%	1
Its OK.	85.7%	6
Total		7

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Improve Plantings along Duke Street



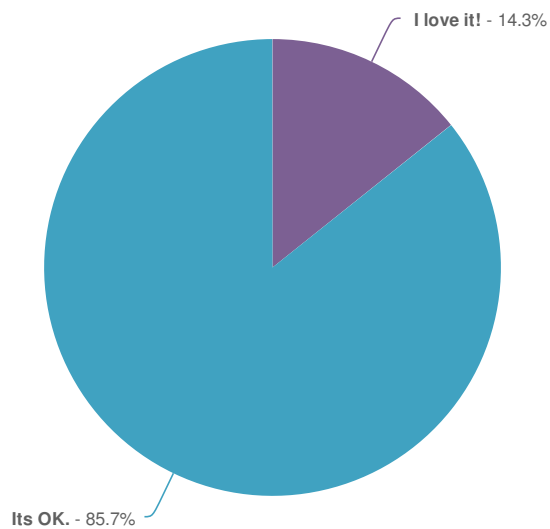
Value	Percent	Count
Its OK.	85.7%	6
I don't like it.	14.3%	1
Total		7

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install new pathway from the east corner of the Park



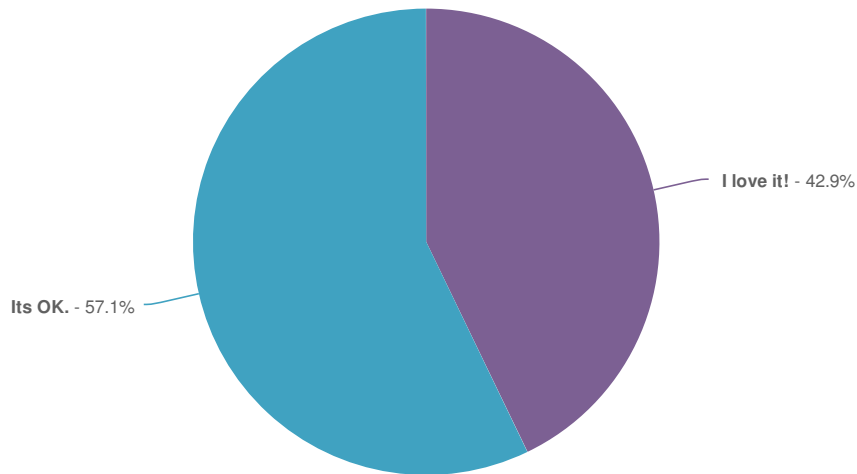
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	28.6%	2
Its OK.	57.1%	4
I don't like it.	14.3%	1
Total		7

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Re-grade the ballfield and improve drainage



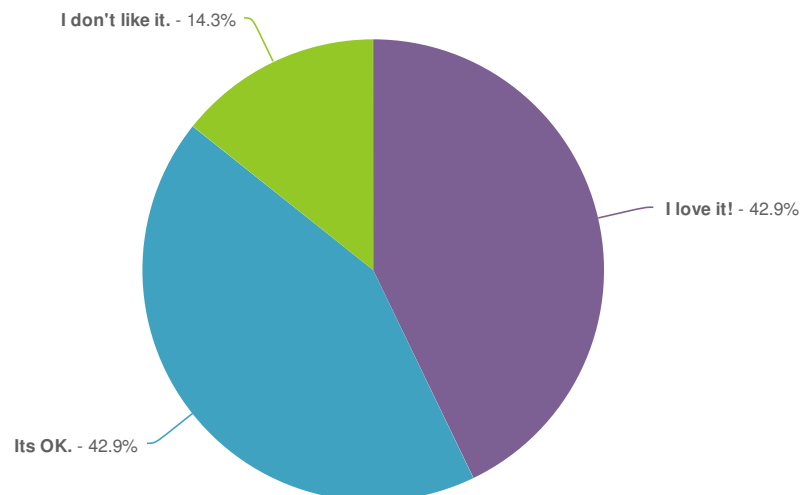
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	14.3%	1
Its OK.	85.7%	6
Total		7

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Replace the modular skate park features with a concrete design



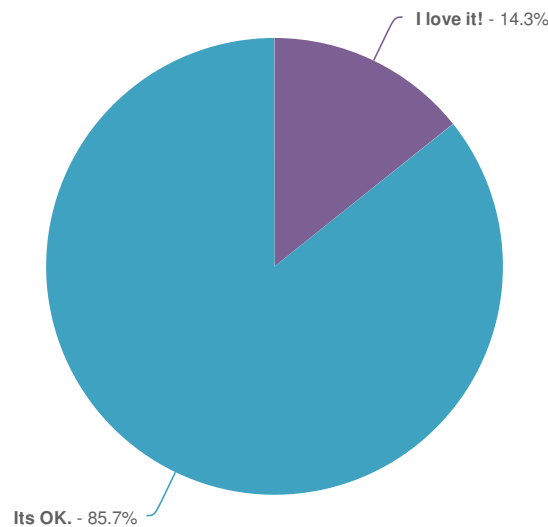
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	42.9%	3
Its OK.	57.1%	4
Total		7

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Route a bike path through the parking lot to Quaker Lane



Value	Percent		Count
I love it!	42.9%		3
Its OK.	42.9%		3
I don't like it.	14.3%		1
Total			7

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Upgrade ballfield facilities

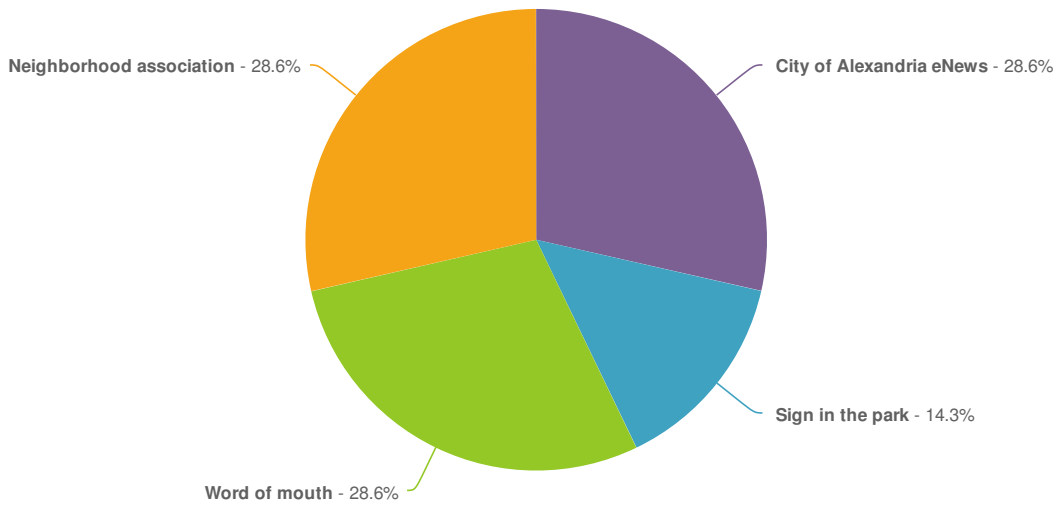


Value	Percent		Count
I love it!	14.3%		1
Its OK.	85.7%		6
Total			7

Do you feel all of the comments were heard and addressed in the draft Luckett Field/Skate Board Park plan? If not, what is missing and how can we make the plan better?

Count	Response
1	Yes
1	allow the skateboarders to have input in the skatepark design
1	The skatepark needs to have input from the local skateboarders who use the park every day. The new design needs to reflect the demand that is in place for skateboard parks of today, a balance between plaza/street skating and the other half of bowl/transition skateboarders. A true demographic study / poll should be done to which genre of skateboarding should be more focused on. i.e. who skates at the park the most, and what do they want to see done.
1	Yes everything has been heard but they do need to add a stair set , not too many bowls balance everything out

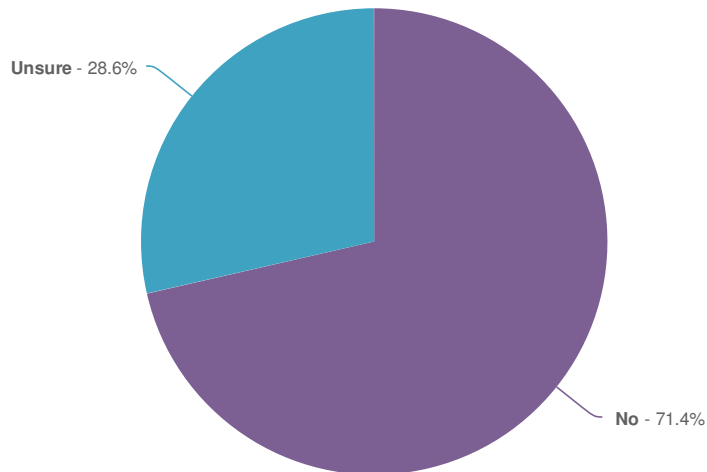
How did you learn about the Neighborhood Park Plan survey?



Value	Percent	Count
City of Alexandria eNews	28.6%	2
Sign in the park	14.3%	1
Word of mouth	28.6%	2
Neighborhood association	28.6%	2
Total		7

Responses "Other"	Count
Left Blank	7

Will you be attending the workshop on June 4 from 7pm-8:30pm at Patrick Henry Recreation Center to discuss the draft park plans?

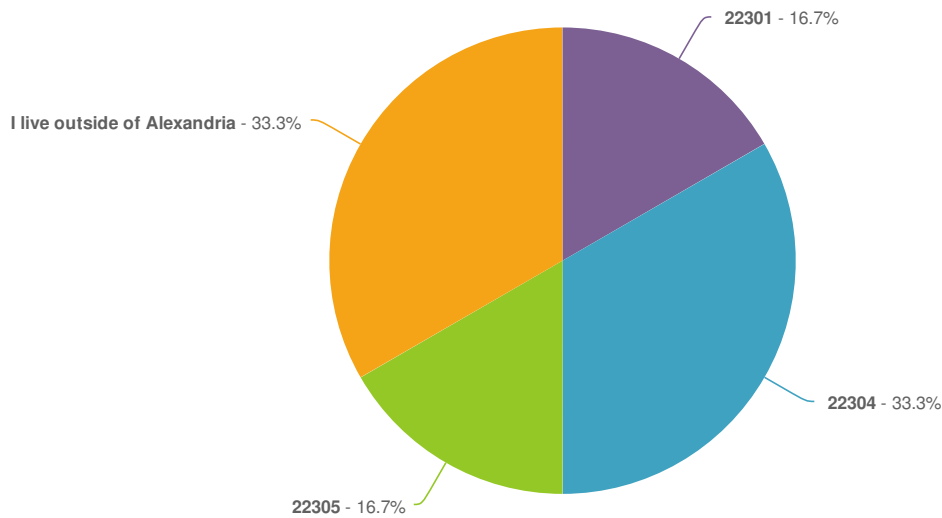


Value	Percent		Count
No	71.4%		5
Unsure	28.6%		2
Total			7

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

	# in household	Responses
Under 5	4 100.0%	4
6-12	2 100.0%	2
13-18	3 100.0%	3
19-29	2 100.0%	2
30-49	6 100.0%	6
50-69	1 100.0%	1
70 or above	1 100.0%	1

What is your zip code?

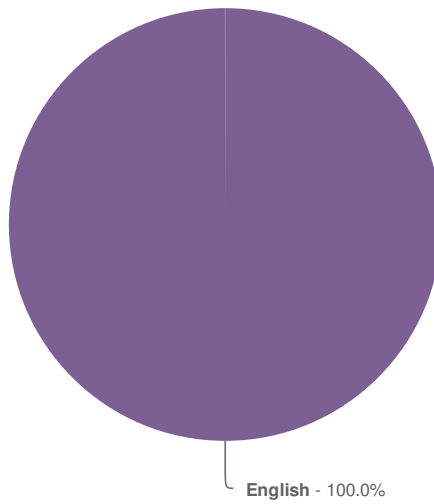


Value	Percent	Count	Statistics	
22301	16.7%	1	Sum	89,214.0
Total			Average	22,303.5

Value	Percent	Count	Statistics
22304	33.3%	2	StdDev 1.5
22305	16.7%	1	Max 22,305.0
I live outside of Alexandria	33.3%	2	
Total		6	

Responses "I live outside of Alexandria"	Count
Left Blank	7

What is the primary language spoken in your home?



Value	Percent	Count
English	100.0%	5
Total		5

Responses "other"	Count
Left Blank	7