

# Powhatan Park

## History and Character

Powhatan Park lies in the North East area of Old Town. There are no sales records to indicate when the City acquired this 1.5 acre property. The Office of Historic Alexandria reports that there are no known historical sites in or in close proximity to the park. In the 19th century, this part of Alexandria served to connect the City with rural areas. Powhatan Street carried trade goods and people to the Washington and Alexandria Turnpike (est. 1808). Land Use maps from 1939 show a playing field in the southern section of the park and sandboxes in the northernmost section. The middle remains a separate property. Maps from 1977 show a playground was located in the southern 1/2 of the current park and the northern portion was vacant. The park has been in its current layout since the 1980's.



Powhatan Park is directly next to Route One with just a chain link fence separating the park features from the busy thoroughfare. As a result, the park is noisy and feels part of a very urban setting. The infrequently used playground, in particular, is most characterized by its adjacent street rather than play features. The City has replaced and repaired the playground equipment multiple times within the past ten years after a series of vandalism incidents.



The basketball court is sporadically used throughout the day and the tennis court is mainly used in the early morning, though infrequently during other times of day. Currently, the tennis court gate is damaged and there is a gap between the court and fence causing balls to roll outside the court. The 2,400 square foot hard surface area outside of the tennis court, which previously held a park shelter, is in poor condition and has only one bench.

While the park is very visible from Route One, accessing the site is difficult. Pedestrians can enter from the adjacent alley or from the southwest corner at a narrow sidewalk along Route One (top right). Thorny shrubs run along the alleyway where there are not entrances into the park. The difficult accessibility is one reason that there has been a history of crime in the Park.



Despite its location and tired condition, the open lawn is well maintained and in good condition. It's frequently used for dog walking, football, and other passive activities. Trees throughout the site, particularly in the lawn area, provide nice shade.

The park has strong potential to be an active urban public space for neighbors to gather, recreate, and find nature in a City.

## 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, twenty-one of which were specific to Powhatan Park, the results of which are shown below. Staff used the collected information to develop draft park plans.

The North East Citizens Association was heavily involved in all phases of the planning process.

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

(3 rankings shown; based on a weighted score)

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

# Existing Conditions





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

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	4	21.1%
Enhance it	11	57.9%
Transform it	4	21.1%

#### Explain

Add some picnic tables  
 Additional seating for parents near the playground would be beneficial.  
 I wish the few benches were in better lit areas as they attract a criminal element at night.  
 Picnic tables would be nice.  
 There is almost no seating and there needs to be much more need more benches  
 The seating in this park is severely lacking. More benches and shading structures would be greatly appreciated.  
 There is very, very little shade in this park and also very little sight and noise barrier from busy route one traffic. It is not a very nice park to sit in. Adding some evergreen trees or a wooden fence between the park and route one would be a huge improvement.

### What would you like done with the tennis court?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	9	47.4%
Enhance it	8	42.1%
Transform it	2	10.5%

#### Explain

Fence is not connected to the court so the balls roll out of the court  
 The tennis court is in disrepair  
 Last I checked, the latch on the gate was broken. Also tennis balls can roll out from the gap under the fence, which is annoying.

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

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	3	15.8%
Enhance it	11	57.9%
Transform it	5	26.3%

#### Explain

My daughter is older than the play ground options.  
 Needs more playground equipment for older kids. It has too much cement.  
 The playground is rundown and needs attention and new equipment some plants to screen noise from route one.  
 This playground needs some major work. The equipment is boring and outdated and something needs to be done about drainage. Whenever there's a heavy rain, the central part floods. It would also be nice to have some additional shade and benches.  
 More and more young families are moving to this neighborhood and enhancement of the playground would be an excellent investment for the city.

I feel bad bringing my daughter to this playground because the exhaust and noise from route one is so bad. It would be great to plant some evergreen trees or build a wood fence to create a barrier from busy route one traffic. Would make the the playground and park a lot less bleak!  
 The playground is small and next to loud Rt 1. It also has very basic equipment that kids quickly get bored with.  
 Equipment is too small and not very interesting. Swings and seesaw are good but climbing bars and slides could be improved

### What would you like done with the basketball court?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	11	57.9%
Enhance it	6	31.6%
Transform it	2	10.5%

#### Explain

I see lots of kids and teens using this court, which is great!  
 It needs to be rebuilt  
 Provide some seating and maybe some shade  
 The basketball court is in disrepair

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

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	4	21.1%
Enhance it	7	36.8%
Transform it	8	42.1%

#### Explain

The park have too much hard surface area.  
 This area if underutilized as it needs to be maintained  
 I never see anyone using this. Better as more lawn or another playground. A covered picnic area would also be great - there is no shade in this park!  
 The concrete area is very sad. It looks like there used to be a pavilion but it's now missing and it would be nice to have some sort of gathering space. The alleys that border the south and east sides of the park are in very bad shape, too.

### What would you like done with the Open Lawn?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	9	47.4%
Enhance it	8	42.1%
Transform it	2	10.5%

#### Explain

Cut down the bushes next to the alley. The promote criminal behavior and limit sight lines  
 It needs some more seating  
 a neighborhood garden program or any landscaping would make it more interesting.  
 The lawn is nice, but the bushes along the south side are not very nice. Maybe a nice fence instead of bushes.

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

#### Response

A picnic pavilion, a water fountain, and play equipment that is more exploratory for children.  
 Adequate maintenance of landscaping.  
 Bathroom facilities.  
 Dog park  
 Ideally, a water feature similar to what they have in Arlington Parks for kids to play in.  
 Playground equipment for older children such as monkey bars.

To be honest I would love to see a outdoor pool built. Alexandria needs more outdoor pools. I would like to see some sort of natural barrier between Route 1 and the park--Trees or bushes etc.

Shade! Also noise/car exhaust abatement from busy route one traffic. Both of those make the park really bleak. I'm glad to see kids playing on the basketball court, but it's really only the hardy souls that go there. The playground at the Fayette St park is much better and gets a lot more visitors. In my own neighborhood, we mostly go to the Chetworth pocket park, again because it has trees. The Powhatan park has a great location, but it's really not very inviting, which is too bad.  
 There isn't any pick-nick areas and the seating is very very limited. I would also like there to be more shade.

A better playground, perhaps with a sound barrier so kids can be heard over the traffic. Also, a softer boundary between the park and the neighborhood than the thorny bushes provide. more benches. and low plants near route one. I know there are safety concerns that would keep tall plants out of consideration. The park could be a lot prettier without too much trouble. more plantings.  
 Separation from the noise and pollution of Route 1 Comfortable seating Beautiful flowering plants and trees

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

#### Response

Great potential - just needs a little fixing up!  
 Nothing else  
 The park gets a lot of activity, mostly at the basketball court. The rest of the park isn't too interesting for kids to explore once they've mastered the basic playground.  
 Given the small size of the park, we feel it is adequately programmed. The playground is sufficient for the demographics of our neighborhood.  
 It needs some friendly landscaping. The bushes are thorny and often the thorns go through our shoes. We love the open space from our back yard but we feel it could use some updating to attract more families.  
 I think the park needs to be a safer place to use. Lights need to work all the time and not be disconnected by criminal elements  
 The bushes between the alley and the park need to go. They get too high and they block the view. People tend to use the bushes to hide and they promote illegal activities.  
 There are a lot of children that live in the immediate vicinity of this park and it needs to be more welcoming and interesting for them.  
 The park is in poor condition and needs attention. The playground is in very poor shape and there needs to be more equipment.  
 I wouldn't want the neighborhood to lose it. there are more young families moving to this part of Alexandria. The Chetworth park playground is for very young children. this one could serve the age group and older.  
 There needs to be something such as a hedge or brick wall to reduce the noise from Route 1 in the park.

### How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	19	95.0%
Bike (personal)	0	0.0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0.0%
Drive	1	5.0%
Public Transit	0	0.0%
Carpool	0	0.0%

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

Value	Count	Percent
Less than 1/2 mile	18	85.7%
Between 1/2 mile to 1 mile	0	0.0%
Between 1-2 miles	3	14.3%
Over 2 miles	0	0.0%

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

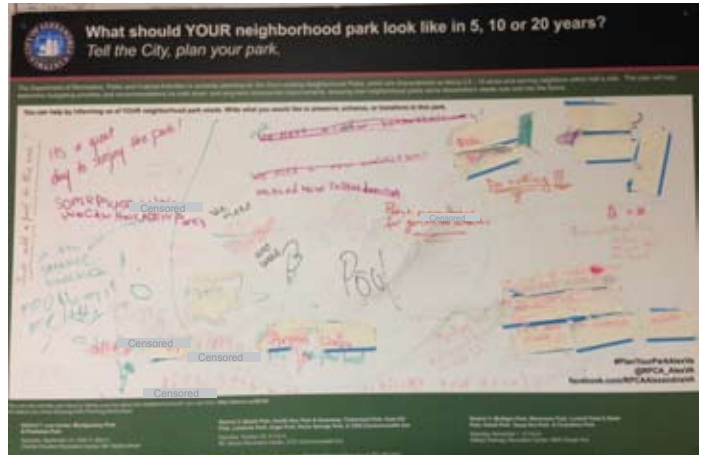
Value	Count	Percent
I am physically limited from walking	0	0.0%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access	2	12.5%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	9	56.3%
There is not enough parking	2	12.5%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	5	31.3%

### How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	5	23.8%
Weekly	10	47.6%
Monthly	1	4.8%
Yearly	5	23.8%

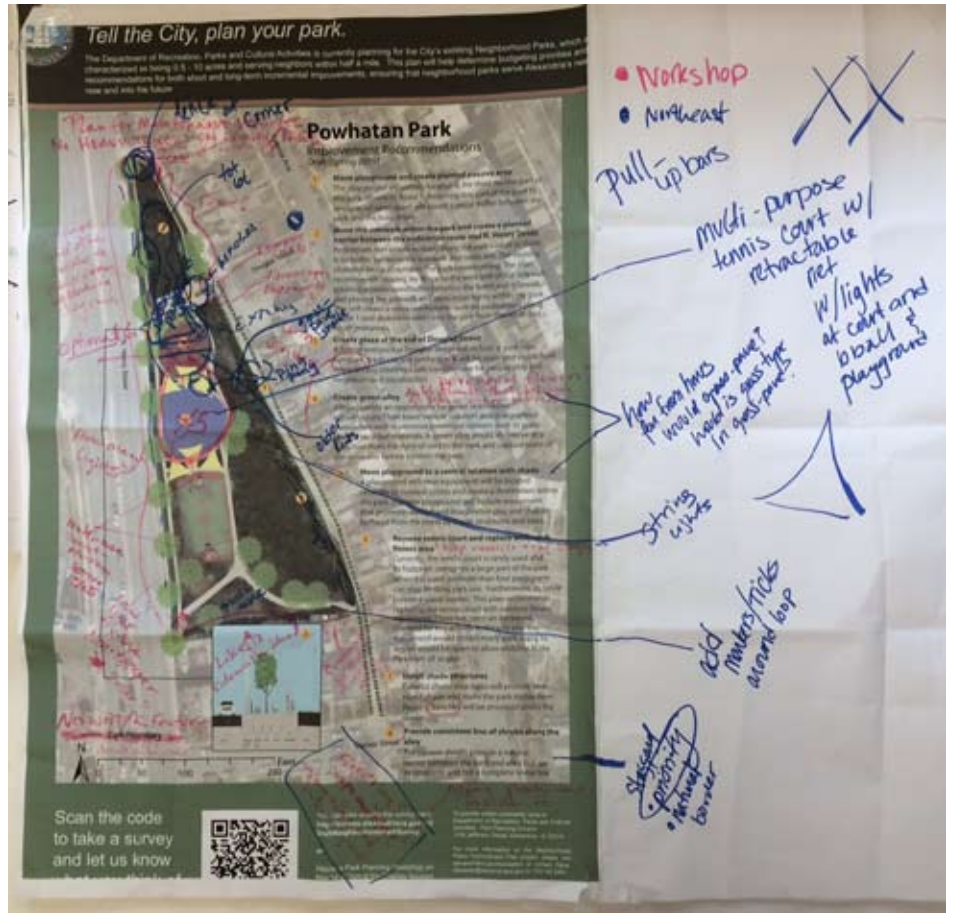
### Graffiti Sign

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 in September 2014 but was removed after two weeks due to vandalism.



### Draft Plan Feedback

In Spring 2015, the community provided feedback on the draft park plan (right) through online surveys (see appendix for full results), park signs and public meetings (comments on the plan shown right). Based on information from the Spring input phase, staff updated the plans to best represent current and future community needs.





# Improvement Recommendations



## 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.

Powhatan Park					
#	Recommendation	Priority	Estimated Cost	Associated Recommendations	Dept Lead
1	Renovate and expand playground	High	\$250,000 - \$400,000	Staff recommends this project be pursued with a portion of the \$250,000 development contributions from Braddock Gateway (CDD2015 - 00005).	RPCA
2	Move the sidewalk within the park and create a landscape barrier between the pedestrian route and North Henry Street	Medium	\$100,000 - \$150,000	Staff recommends this project be pursued with a portion of the \$250,000 development contributions from Braddock Gateway (CDD2015 - 00005).	RPCA, TES, and P&Z
3	Create plaza at the end of Douglas Street	Medium	\$20,000 - \$30,000		RPCA
4	Resurface tennis court and line it for multiple sport uses (includes pivot or retractable net and new fence)	High	\$75,000 - \$100,000		RPCA
5	Create green alley	Low	\$450,000 - \$600,000	Seek stormwater benefit grants	TES
6	Re-pave pathway and add measured marks	Medium	\$70,000 - \$80,000		RPCA
7	Install shade structure and game tables at hard-surface/plaza	Medium	\$30,000 - \$50,000		RPCA
8	Plant consistent line of shrubs along the alley	High	\$25,000 - \$45,000	Highest priority set by community	RPCA
9	Install water line and water fountain with spigot	low	\$15,000 - \$20,000	May need to be installed with recommendation #8 to ensure establishment of shrubs	RPCA

# 2015 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan: Appendix





# Neighborhood Parks Plan

## Powhatan 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, 21 of which were specific to Powhatan Park.

### 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. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors
3. Be a place to relax

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

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve It as Is	4	21.1%
Enhance It	11	57.9%
Transform It	4	21.1%

**Explain**  
Add some picnic tables  
Additional seating for parents near the playground would be beneficial.  
I wish the few benches were in better lit areas as they attract criminal element at night.  
Picnic tables would be nice.  
There is almost no seating and there needs to be much more.  
Need more benches.  
The seating in this park is severely lacking. More benches and shading structures would be greatly appreciated.  
There is very little shade in this park and also very little sight and noise barrier from busy route one traffic. It is not a very nice park to sit in. Adding some evergreen trees or a wooden fence between the park and route one would be a huge improvement.

#### What would you like done with the tennis court?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve It as Is	9	47.4%
Enhance It	8	42.1%
Transform It	2	10.5%

**Explain**  
Fence is not connected to the courts so the balls roll out of the court.  
The tennis court is in disrepair.  
Last I checked, the gate on the gate was broken. Also tennis ball can roll out from the gap under the fence, which is annoying.

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

Value	Count	Percent
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**Explain**  
My daughter is older than the playground options.  
Needs more playground equipment for older kids. It has too much cement.  
The playground is rundown and needs attention and new equipment.  
Some plants to screen noise from route one.  
This playground needs some major work. The equipment is boring and outdated and something needs to be done about drainage. Whenever there's a heavy rain, the central part floods. It would also be nice to have some additional shade and benches.  
More and more young families are moving to this neighborhood and enhancement of the playground would be an excellent investment for the city.  
The bad thing bringing my daughter to this playground because the exhaust and noise from route one is so bad, it would be great to plant some evergreen trees or build a wood fence to create a barrier from busy route one traffic. Would make the the playground and park a lot less bleak!  
The playground is small and next to loud Rt.1. It also has very basic equipment that kids quickly get bored with.  
Equipment is too small and not very interesting. Swings and seesaw are good but climbing bars and slides could be improved.

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**Explain**  
Cut down the bushes next to the alley. The promenade will be beautiful and in its right place.  
It needs some more seating.  
A neighborhood garden program or any landscaping would make it more interesting.  
The lawn is nice, but the bushes along the south side are not very nice. Maybe a fence or bushes instead of trees.



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

### Response

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Adequate maintenance of landscaping.  
Bathroom facilities.  
Dog park  
Ideally, a water feature similar to what they have in Arlington Parks for kids to play in.  
Playground equipment for older children such as monkey bars.

To be honest I would love to see a outdoor pool built. Alexandria needs more outdoor pools.  
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A better playground, perhaps with a sound barrier so kids can be heard over the traffic. Also, a softer boundary between the park and the neighborhood than the thorny bushes provide, more benches, and low plants near route one. I know there are safety concerns that would keep tall plants out of consideration. The park could be a lot prettier without too much trouble, more plantings.  
Separation from the noise and pollution of Route 1 Comfortable seating Beautiful flowering plants and trees

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

### Response

Great potential - just needs a little fixing up!  
Nothing else

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Given the small size of the park, we feel it is adequately programmed. The playground is sufficient for the demographics of our neighborhood.

It needs some friendly landscaping. The bushes are thorny and often the thorns go through our shoes. We love the open space from our back yard but we feel it could use some updating to attract more families.

I think the park needs to be a safer place to use. Lights need to work all the time and not be disconnected by criminal elements

The bushes between the alley and the park need to go. They get too high and they block the view. People tend to use the bushes to hide and they promote illegal activities.

There are a lot of children that live in the immediate vicinity of this park and it needs to be more welcoming and interesting for them.

The park is in poor condition and needs attention. The playground is in very poor shape and there needs to be more equipment.

I wouldn't want the neighborhood to lose it, there are more young families moving to this part of Alexandria. The Chetworth park playground is for very young children, this one could serve the age group and older.

There needs to be something such as a hedge or brick wall to reduce the noise from Route 1 in the park.

## How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	19	95.0%
Bike (personal)	0	0.0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0.0%
Drive	1	5.0%
Public Transit	0	0.0%
Carpool	0	0.0%

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

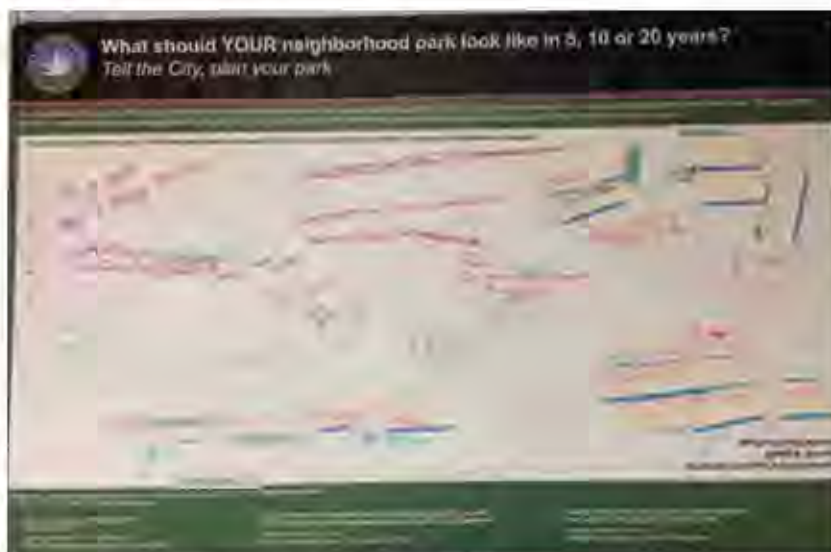
Value	Count	Percent
Less than 1/4 mile	18	85.7%
Between 1/4 mile to 1 mile	0	0.0%
Between 1-2 miles	3	14.3%
Over 2 miles	0	0.0%

## 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	0.0%
There is no pedestrian/bike friendly access	2	12.5%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	9	56.3%
There is not enough parking	2	12.5%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	5	31.3%

## How often do you visit this park?

Value	Count	Percent
Daily	5	23.8%
Weekly	10	47.6%
Monthly	1	4.8%
Yearly	5	23.8%



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 were on site from September to November 2014 (images from October 27).



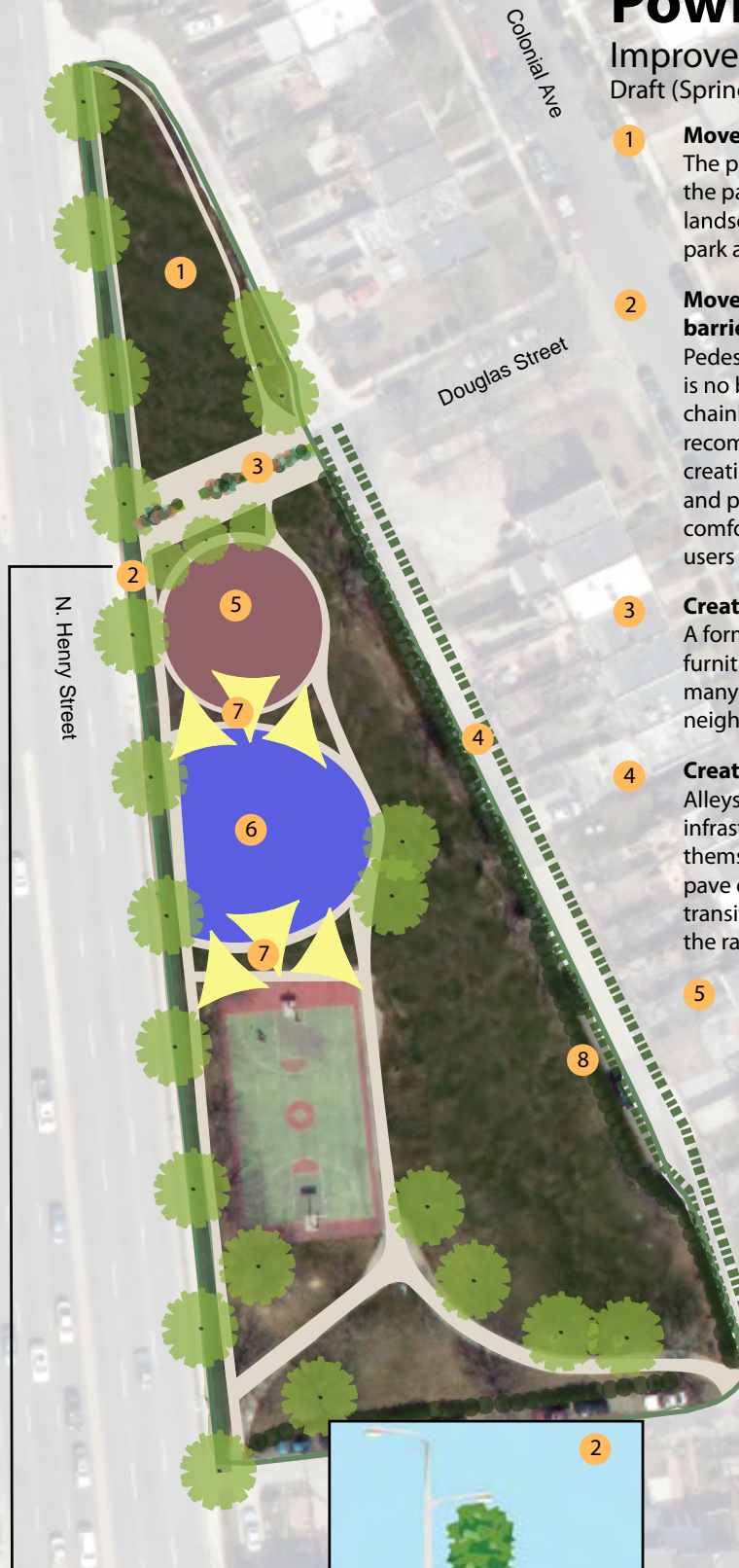




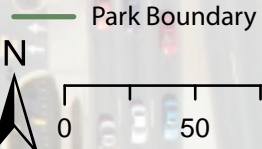
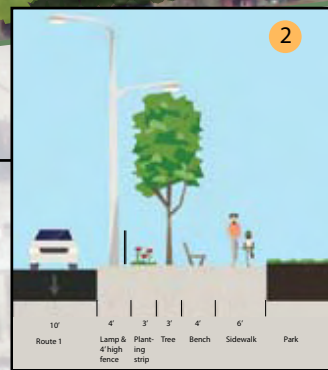
# Powhatan Park

## Improvement Recommendations

Draft (Spring 2015)



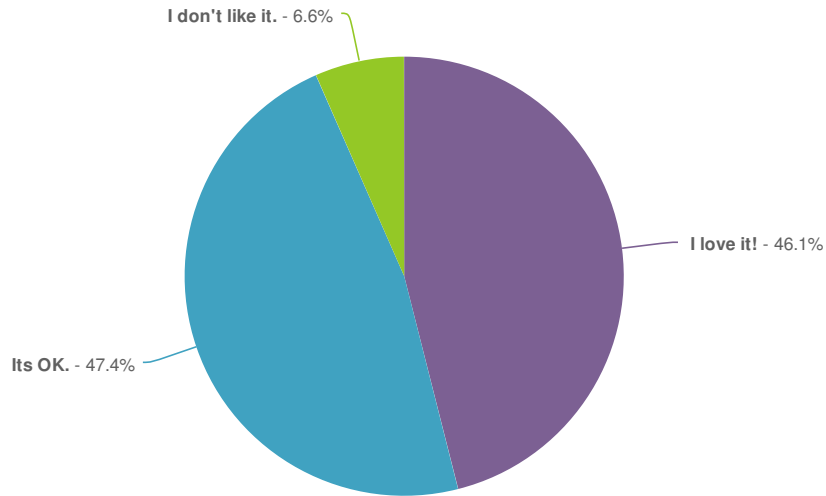
- 1 Move playground and create planted passive area**  
 The playground is currently located in the most narrow part of the park, closest to Route 1. Restoring this part of the park to landscaped open space will create a visual buffer between the park and the busy street.
- 2 Move the sidewalk within the park and create a planted barrier between the pedestrian route and N. Henry Street**  
 Pedestrians feel unsafe walking along the Park's edge as there is no buffer between the sidewalk and route one. The existing chainlink fence also makes the park unwelcoming. The plan recommends moving the fence to the west side of the sidewalk, creating a landscaped buffer between the fence and sidewalk, and placing the sidewalk within the park. This will create a more comfortable walk for pedestrians along Route 1 and also invite users into the Park from the north and south entrances.
- 3 Create plaza at the end of Douglas Street**  
 A formal entrance at Douglas Street will include a park sign, furniture, trash can and landscape. It will be open and visible from many angles creating a safe environment for passive play and neighborhood socialization.
- 4 Create green alley**  
 Alleys provide an opportunity for green stormwater infrastructure. Their lower vehicle volumes and designs lend themselves well to pervious pavement options such as grass-pave or recycled materials. A green alley would also serve as a transition from the right-of-way to the park and capture some of the rainwater before it enters the park.
- 5 Move playground to a central location with shade**  
 A playground with new equipment will be located centrally to increase access and create a destination within the park. The new playground will include equipment that promotes natural and imaginative play and shall be buffered from the street by shade structures and trees.
- 6 Remove tennis court and replace with adult fitness area**  
 Currently, the tennis court is rarely used and its footprint consumes a large part of the park. When it is used, no more than four participants can play, limiting park use. Furthermore, its fence creates a visual barrier. This plan recommends replacing the tennis court with outdoor fitness equipment. There has been an increased demand for this activity in the City and the equipment would attract many park users. Its design would be open to allow visibility in the Park from all angles.
- 7 Install shade structures**  
 Colorful shade structures will provide year-round shade and make the park visible from Route 1.
- 8 Provide consistent line of shrubs along the alley**  
 The current shrubs provide a natural barrier between the park and alley but are inconsistent and not a complete linear line.





## Powhatan Park Draft Improvement Plan Survey Results, July 7, 2015

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Create green alley



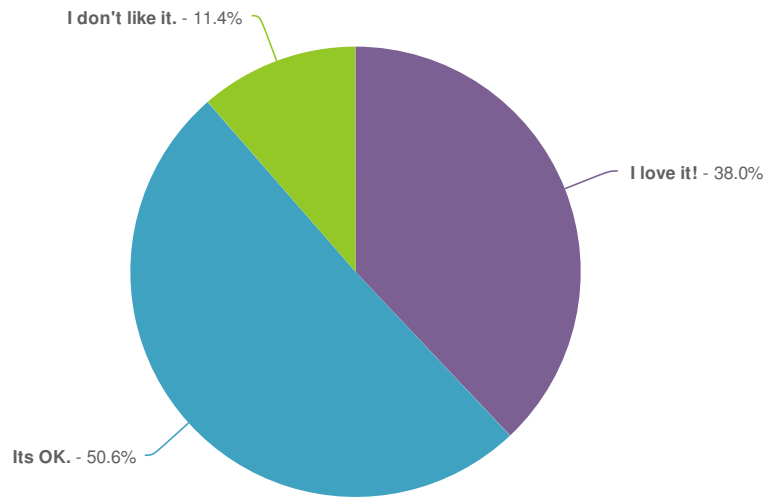
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	46.1%	35
Its OK.	47.4%	36
I don't like it.	6.6%	5
Total		76

Explain-Create green alley

Count	Response
1	I don't fully understand the vision yet.
1	Please make all of the alleys green. They currently collect too much rainwater (poorly)
1	Why?
1	Wonderful idea!
1	would like more information/examples on exactly what this would be.
1	Green space is good, but we really need the parking. It is already difficult to find parking on Colonial Avenue.
1	Parking on Colonial Ave is very difficult as it is. Removing the spaces in the alley will only make it worse. However, installing 'green' pavers in the alley, while keeping the parking sounds a like a fair solution.



What do you think of the following recommendations?-Create plaza at the end of Douglas Street

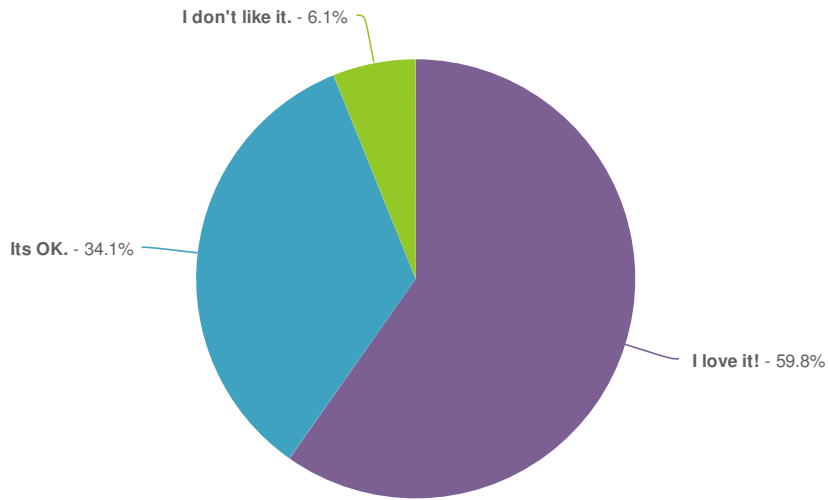


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	38.0%	30
Its OK.	50.6%	40
I don't like it.	11.4%	9
Total		79

Explain-Create plaza at the end of Douglas Street

Count	Response
1	Any thoughts to put in a water feature here? some like at the now Potomac Ave. Park.
1	I worry about vagrancy and the city's ability to maintain plantings.
1	Sure.
1	Would be great if paired with a crosswalk across Rt 1 and a signal. The roaring (speeding) traffic is the worst element of this park.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install shade structures



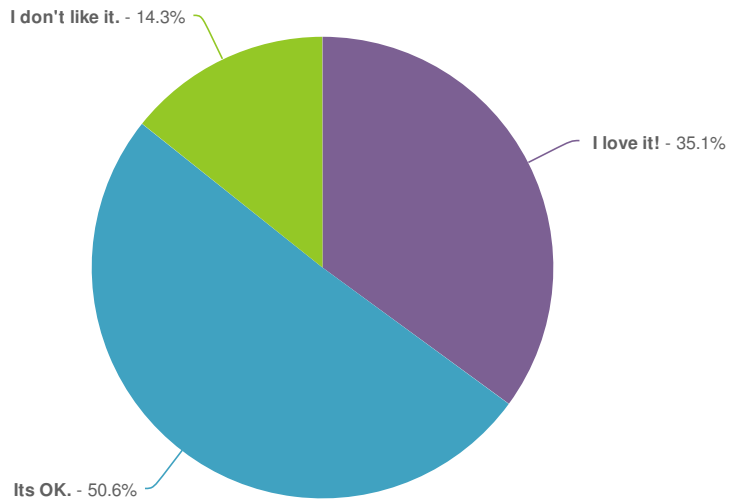
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	59.8%	49
Its OK.	34.2%	28
I don't like it.	6.1%	5
Total		82

### Explain-Install shade structures

Count	Response
1	Does this include landscaping? We have some beautiful trees that I hope are not removed.
1	Great idea! We need shade during our hot summer months.
1	How about trees? Keep it green.
1	I hope they aren't thinking of taking down current trees
1	Plant more trees
1	I think trees would make for better shade structures than something that could become dated or poorly maintained.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Move playground and create passive area



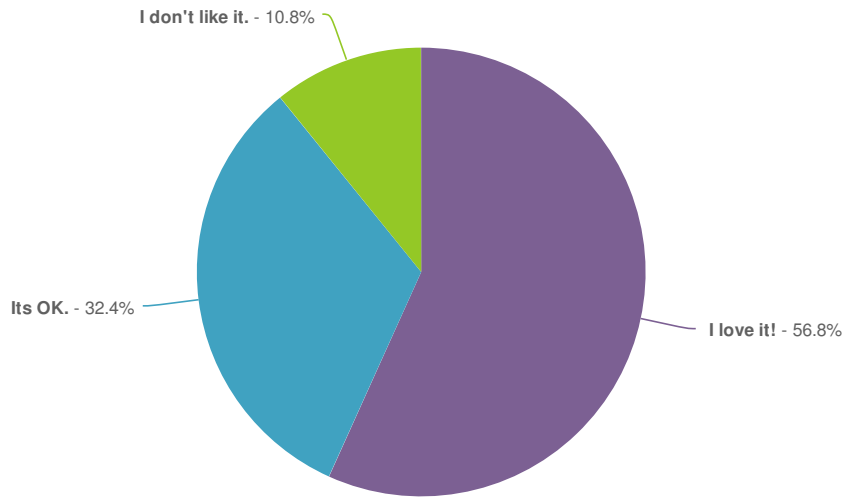


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	35.1%	27
Its OK.	50.7%	39
I don't like it.	14.3%	11
Total		77

Explain-Move playground and create passive area

Count	Response
1	I don't really get what a "passive area" is other than "an area no one will go".
1	Leave the f***** tennis courts slone
1	Keep playground in existing place--very few kids in neighborhood and plenty of bigger playground options in walking distance
1	Not necessary. Playground needs updated equipment appropriate for all ages. (It's boring for children over 4.)
1	Agreed. it's strange to have the smallest part being the playground. There are currently also a lot of drainage issues in this location. Possible this could also become a community garden, as we all have small yards in the area.
1	I support moving the playground but think that there are better uses for the park than having a passive area. A tot lot similar to the one on Commonwealth would be a welcome addition.
1	However, steps should be taken to prevent dog use of the new area. The interm park on Fayette street has a No Dogs policy and parents are now allowing their toddlers to play in the grass there as a result. The existing open area on the south end of Powhatan Park could continue to be used as an on leash dog area (Though many owners allow their dogs to run freely off leash.)

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Move playground to a central location with shade

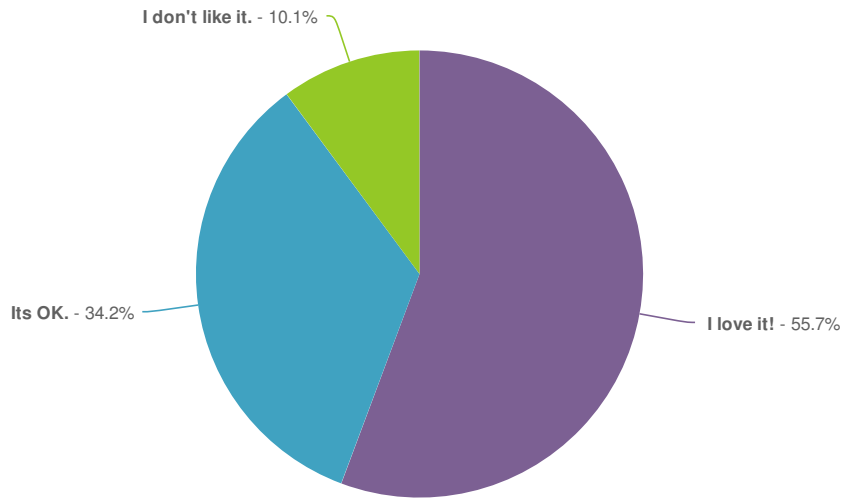


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	56.8%	42
Its OK.	32.4%	24
I don't like it.	10.8%	8
Total		74

Explain-Move playground to a central location with shade

Count	Response
1	Maybe upgrading the playground in its current location is all that is needed.
1	Playground. Shade. Win win.
1	Recommend swapping adult area and playground.
1	Shade is good. But you could simply plant some trees closer to the playground.
1	This could be located on the current concrete patio.
1	the playground is fine where it is. Kids like watching the trucks and Route 1 activities. Add some shade though.
1	I recommending swapping the locations of the playground and the adult fitness area, so that the children's area is more central. I also recommend putting this play area along the alley side, instead of Rt 1 to create a larger buffer zone from the busy street. Also, please consider putting in equipment that allow for more free play.
1	What about considering a space for natural play instead of paved/covered surfaces? Children could climb on rocks instead of wood/plastic/metal obstacles.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Move the sidewalk within the park and create a planted barrier between the pedestrian route and N. Henry Street



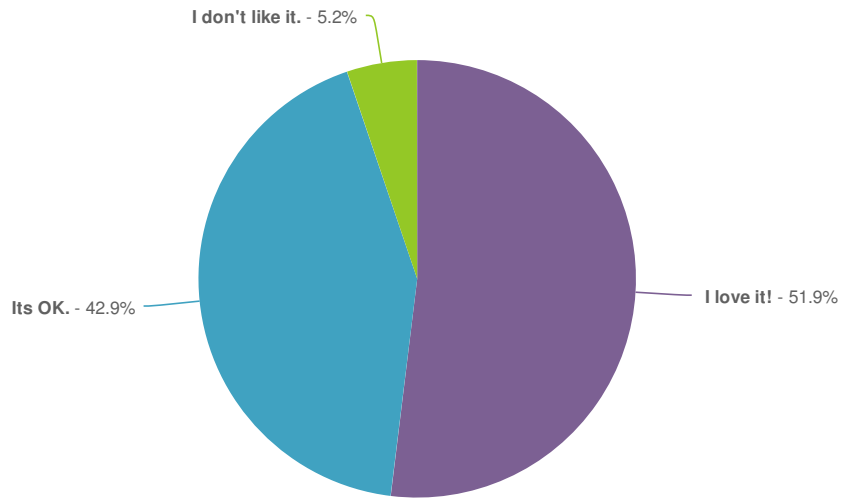
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	55.7%	44
Its OK.	34.2%	27
I don't like it.	10.1%	8
Total		79

**Explain-Move the sidewalk within the park and create a planted barrier between the pedestrian route and N. Henry Street**

Count	Response
1	Absolutely necessary.
1	Great idea as long as it doesn't force the removal of the tennis courts.
1	However, the fence should be attractive and not too high.
1	The fence provides safety for balls or children from going in to the Route 1 traffic.
1	This area has some shady people lurking at night. Not good for nighttime safety
1	Yes! That sidewalk is very dangerous and always covered with road debris.
1	Our house backs up to the park and a barrier between Rt. 1 and the park/houses would make the area so much more pleasant and buffer the noise pollution coming from Rt. 1. Lots of trees and shrubs, please.
1	I like the general idea, the sidewalk and chain link fence are horrible, but the inset shows a 20' buffer between the park and street, which is too wide for this already narrow park.

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Provide consistent line of shrubs along the alley



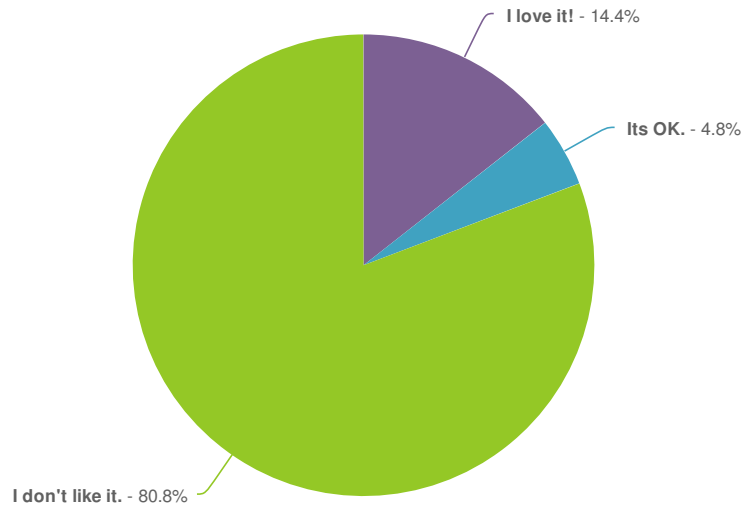


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	52.0%	40
Its OK.	42.9%	33
I don't like it.	5.2%	4
Total		77

### Explain-Provide consistent line of shrubs along the alley

Count	Response
1	Current shrubs are thorny- please replace with something nicer (and less imposing)
1	Nice as long as they are low maintenance and stay looking manicured.
1	So when I park my car in the alley, how do I get through the shrubs to get to the court?
1	Though we wouldn't want to see it extended to the north of Douglas street.
1	if this means removing the dangerous security bushes we are very excited!
1	The shrubs should come down, as they create a visual barrier which promotes illegal activities. Also, the shrubs don't help the rat problem.
1	This is a great idea, the bushes that are currently in place are unsightly and have very sharp leaves.
1	I also recommend the same treatment to the alley along the south edge. This alley is generally in poor condition. Please, please, please do not take away any of the parking, though. It would also be nice to have a low fence on the inside of the shrubs, to catch any balls, etc. that tend to roll under the shrubs and into the alley.

### What do you think of the following recommendations?-Remove tennis court and replace with fitness area



Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	14.4%	15
Its OK.	4.8%	5
I don't like it.	80.8%	84
Total		104

### Explain-Remove tennis court and replace with fitness area

Count	Response
1	ABSOLUTELY NOT. My husband and I use the tennis court.
1	Can't we fix the tennis court instead? No one ever uses public fitness equipment.
1	DO NOT LIKE THIS
1	I do see people out there regularly playing, so some may object to it's removal.
1	I play tennis here. Please do not remove!
1	I think less people will utilize the fitness area than the tennis court. Repair the courts.
1	I want to keep the tennis courts as I love to play and use it often.
1	I would like to request the installation of vertical fitness poles.
1	Keep the tennis court
1	Keep the tennis court! It's a great facility for al the community to use for years to come
1	No no no. Just a bad idea.
1	No! I love the tennis court and it seems incredibly wasteful to rip out an existing resource.
1	Recommend swapping adult area and playground.
1	Tennis court needs to stay. It is a great resource.

Count	Response
1	Tennis is an important sport for the community
1	The "fitness area" looks ridiculous.
1	There are not enough tennis courts in this area!
1	There are not enough tennis courts. Why remove one?
1	There is not enough tennis courts in OT
1	There are so few tennis courts in the city already. we can't get rid of the few that still exist.
1	We need more tennis courts.
1	if no one is playing tennis spaced is open for other use, like stretching and exercise
1	what about a combination tennis/basket ball, adult fitness area could go where playground was
1	we use the tennis courts. We don't want to give them up for fitness area. Would only consider giving it up for an Arlington-esque amazing playground! There are new fitness areas over on Mainline Blvd and a gazillion gyms and yoga places. Alexandria NEEDS a really nice playground like Arlington has on every corner! :)
1	No one uses the adult fitness things. They put some in along the new bike path in Potomac Yards and I rarely see people using them, other than kids using it as a playground.
1	Leave the tennis court. The fitness equipment in parks is rarely used by adults and for the purpose intended. It's a waste of resources.
1	No one uses the outdoor adult fitness areas. It's a waste of space and money! Fix and maintain the tennis courts.
1	Fitness areas are a great idea. These were a nice benefit on the trail to the West of the train tracks and would be good to include here.
1	This is a highly utilized and popular tennis court. Offers a healthy avenue for children and adults.
1	Adult Fitness Area? What exactly is this? You say there is a "demand" for this but fail to explain what the fitness area will entail. Instead of removing the tennis court it NEEDS to be renovated. The tennis court is used FREQUENTLY by the neighborhood and just needs to be resurfaced and fencing fixed as the fence is not flush with the court surface.
1	I am confused with this one renovation, only because the tennis court is always being used and is one of the few tennis courts in the area. I see families with their kids on the court often, I do not feel that an outdoor fitness center is of good family use.
1	I believe this is a huge mistake. The report inaccurately states that the tennis court is rarely used. In fact it is used quite often, which is remarkable given the current state of the court. What actually needs to happen is a renovation of the tennis court to fix the surface and fence issues. The fence could be painted black to limit the visibility of the structure, instead of the current green. Also, correct lighting should be added to the court, which would increase its use even more. The lighting would also help with security concerns held by some of the residents. Please save our court! Adding adult fitness equipment is not needed. The area is already ranked as the fittest city in the nation, and the majority of individuals already have gym memberships. If the city must add this equipment to fulfill a quota, it could be added to the grass area adjacent to the basketball court. From my experience, this equipment becomes a second playground for children anyways.
1	Hate this idea. The tennis courts are a wonderful part of our park. If we are not using them, others are quite often. Please do not remove tennis courts. Adding a fitness area is an o.k. idea, but it does not need much space, and certainly not at the expense of losing our tennis court.
1	Hey! I use that court! I almost never have an issue with others using it. It is always my best choice.
1	I support keeping the tennis court as long as the court can be used for a number of different sports. Futsal would be amazing.



Count	Response
1	I live on Colonial and use regularly. Great activity that brings neighborhood together. Don't remove!!!
1	I use the tennis court quite often and do not like the "adult fitness" idea at all. Bacci court in addition to tennis would be great
1	Don't move the tennis court and put in ridiculous prison exercise equipment that no one will ever use. People will always use a tennis court.
1	Local tennis players use the courts. Doubles tennis is 4 people on the court. during a game. Singles is two people on the court at a time. This is the game of tennis What does the staff of Parks Department not understand.
1	I know there is debate about this, but I do hope the tennis court is removed. Tennis is not an accessible sport and only those who are OK at it can get a workout from playing. A fitness area would be more popular and would have a greater impact on the health of our neighborhood.
1	I love the idea of a fitness area; wish it didn't have to come at the expense of the tennis court but if we only can have one I vote the fitness area.
1	I see people using the tennis courts all of the time. I have never seen anyone use an outdoor fitness area. This is an odd proposal, especially since there is a community gym right down the road.
1	Please keep the tennis court. Rather than remove it lets up it. Tennis is fitness, and better all around workout than fitness equipment.
1	I like the idea of removing the tennis court so that there can be more room for the play area...I'm not sold on the adult fitness idea though. I think the equipment could be unsightly, under utilized and subject to vandalism...we can't even keep the existing teeter totter in good repair.
1	Please keep the tennis court. There are too few in the city. Really what this needs is to be restored!
1	Although I understand the need for additional fitness areas, there are a reducing number of tennis courts in Alexandria already.
1	We are already suffering from a lack of courts in the area and this is one of the "hidden gems" in the area. Please do not remove the court.
1	We love the tennis courts. If they are removed we hope we get a really unique and well thought out play ground!

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

Count	Response
1	Do not touch the tennis courts please - many of us use this court and we enjoy it.
1	Don't F*** with the tennis courts
1	I want to see more of a barrier between the park & Henry street
1	Keep the tennis court please!
1	Keep the tennis court please.
1	Leave the courts as is!!
1	Leave the tennis court
1	Listen to the people who overwhelming want the tennis court preserved.
1	Most were;

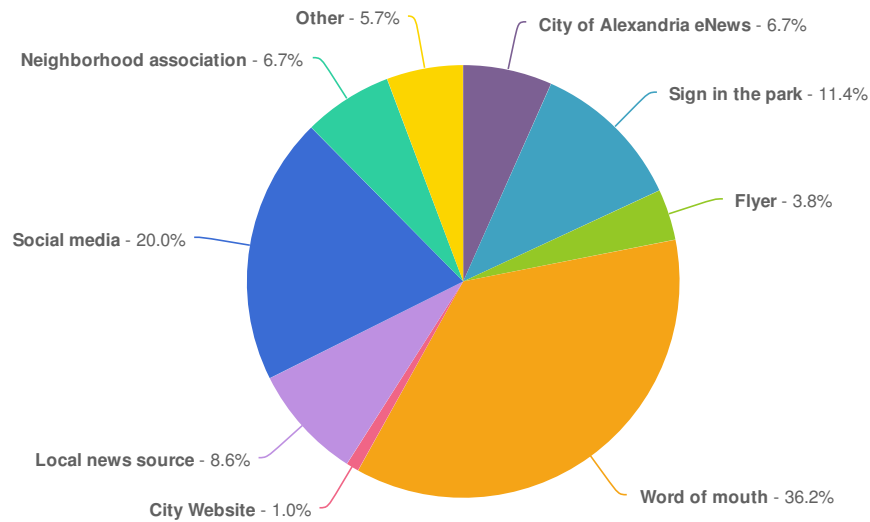
Count	Response
1	NO. City wants to removed tennis courts that are heavily utilized.
1	No, I think you ignored the people who wanted to keep the tennis court.
1	Please do not remove the last remaining tennis court in Alexandria.
1	Put in a pool
1	Remove shrubs beside alley for safety. Better equipment in playground.
1	Tennis courts should be repaired. Tennis keeps people in their neighborhood.
1	Unfortunately I was unable to attend.
1	We enjoy the tennis court but it need to be closed around bottom of fence
1	YES
1	YES, except please do not remove the tennis courts.
1	Yes if you make sure to keep the tennis courts
1	Yes, it seems that everything was covered.
1	i think this is fantastic if we're able to implement all of the changes.
3	yes
1	There should be more tennis courts built in Alexandria. Every time i play, there is a huge line of people trying to get on the court and play also. Thanks.
1	As long as a firm commitment to a good buffer between route 1 and the park for noise reduction and visually by way of a sound barrier fence, and/or trees and shrubs. I think most residents and users would be happy. Though I'm not against retaining the tennis court, if the adult gym does come to pass, please make it an "adult gym" rather than the playground-like apparatus that is located on the pathway located on the east side of the railway line to Braddock Station.
1	The worst part of the park is the traffic. Things that minimize the sound/smells, like trees, or limit the speeding (the cars accelerating out of Old Town are the loudest) would make the park more enjoyable.
1	She saw a sign at the park that is rallying people to the imminent loss of the tennis courts. Never hear about the park planning process etc. He interest was having something for dogs in the park. Does not think we should move the playground "since kids are all over the play anyway."
1	Please preserve the tennis courts. They're used and a welcome activity for many in the neighborhood.
1	Please DO NOT remove the tennis courts from this park. They are used a great deal, by people in the immediate neighborhood and people in the Alexandria community as a whole. Removing the tennis courts would be a HUGE travesty. The remarks I heard were to FIX the tennis courts, not remove them.
1	The park should retain the tennis courts; they are often being used, regardless of what is stated. Outdoor fitness areas are often an eye sore and rarely used. They usually become another area for children to play and the odd runner to do a few moderate exercises. A tennis court is family-oriented and it's use spans all age groups. Please consider keeping the tennis court.
1	Please take a look (more than one) at the outdoor adult fitness areas installed along Potomac Yards -- no one uses them! This idea is so 1980s!
1	I really like your plan - especially the fitness area part. My only hope is that dogs are allowed on the lawn areas. I was disappointed to see that this would not be allowed on the new Fayetteville Street park.

**Count Response**

- 
- 1 I support the City maintaining this facility, and suggest that the city further invest in making the court into an excellent one. It appears to be in sub-par condition presently, and this can result in lack of use. Prior to the City enhancing the surface of the Montgomery Park tennis courts, these were seldom used. Make this into a great court, and people will find it! Also, you might consider a windscreen to block off the sight of hundreds of cars passing by constantly.
- 
- 1 Do not remove the tennis courts in favor of an adult fitness area; nor should the playground be removed. There are fitness areas located nearby, but very few tennis courts in the area. Playgrounds are a necessity close to the neighborhood. Please listen to your residents.
- 
- 1 more benches and some tables would be fantastic, along with a structure that can be used for gathering. This park is very central to the neighborhood and would be a great place for neighborhood gatherings. more information on what would be included in the adult fitness area would also be appreciated.
- 
- 1 There is a need for tennis courts. This particular one is not well maintained and not attractive.
- 
- 1 We really hope the message is received that families are staying in Old Town and not fleeing as much to other areas. We hope the city utilizes this wonderful space for the children of North Old Town and keep the tennis court for the adults. We still have some characters that show in the park being so close to the shelter. Please don't make it too shaded! :) Thanks for listening!
- 
- 1 Yes and thank you! I really hope there is some thought given to this particular playground as this is the central spot for our children as well as the section 8 children and they don't have loved ones that can drive them to Arlington's cooler parks. We've had dinky :) parks in this area since my daughter was born (7 years ago) and with all of the new construction this playground has potential to be a real asset to this area. These children deserve special thought to the design. I think given the space this playground has the city could do right by Powhatan park and really try to make it a draw. With the new businesses across the street such as Lost Dog and Sugar Shack, Mason Social...this can really serve our community in so many ways if given the proper attention! :)
- 
- 1 There are already too few public tennis courts in Alexandria. We need to maintain the ones we have in our city. I do not wish to see the one at Powhatan Park removed.
- 
- 1 No. I recommended a bacci court and support keeping the tennis court. There are just a handful of kids and many single and young professional adults so please keep that in mind. Losing the tennis court would be a major disappointment. I use it most weekend mornings and there isn't another one that is close by. I like the mix of space in the park it just needs to be "spiffed" up with better lighting (safety at night), nicer benches, and more shade.
- 
- 1 I do not believe this to be the case. 17 of the 19 respondents to the survey wanted to either enhance or improve the tennis court. Not remove it.
- 
- 1 The town should reach out specifically to residents whose homes line the park boundary. This park is my back yard and any have a much higher impact on our property than others.
- 
- 1 No. You are removing a perfectly great tennis court. Please do not do this. There are so few in our area. Thank you.
- 
- 1 during a Fall 2014 survey (PDF), 89% of respondents indicated they wanted the court preserved or repaired. Despite the survey results, the removal of the court is still a part of the future planning for Powhatan Park.
- 
- 1 How about night time lighting for the courts. Other courts have it, what is wrong with this court. Would get more usage AND improve safety.
- 
- 1 Please do not remove the tennis court. I am a 30-something adult and know the neighborhood supports this feature. An adult fitness area does not support the demographics of our neighborhood.
- 
- 1 I like the idea of moving the children's playground as it should be away from the road. What about moving it adjacent to the current tennis court or next to the basketball court? Plenty of space there for that.
- 
- 1 It would be great to see futsal courts or small soccer goals added to the current basketball court. Or, instead of removing the tennis four to resurface as a futsal court. Futsal is a very popular and growing game that promotes a healthy lifestyle for youth and adults.



## How did you learn about the Neighborhood Park Plan survey?



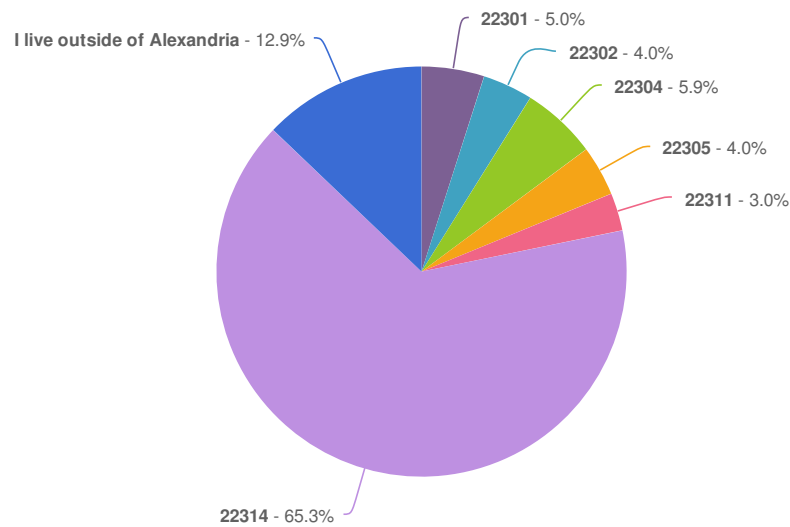
Value	Percent	Count
City of Alexandria eNews	6.7%	7
Sign in the park	11.4%	12
Flyer	3.8%	4
Word of mouth	36.2%	38
City Website	1.0%	1
Local news source	8.6%	9
Social media	20.0%	21
Neighborhood association	6.7%	7
Other	5.7%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>105</b>

Responses "Other"	Count
Left Blank	104
Friend	1
Montgomery Tennis Meetup	1
Word on the street	1
our tennis organization	1
saveourtenniscourt.com	1
www.saveourtenniscourt.com	1

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

	# in household	Responses
Under 5	31 100.0%	31
6-12	24 100.0%	24
13-18	16 100.0%	16
19-29	18 100.0%	18
30-49	76 100.0%	76
50-69	22 100.0%	22
70 or above	8 100.0%	8

What is your zip code?



Value	Percent	Count	Statistics
22301	5.0%	5	Sum 1,963,414.0
22302	4.0%	4	
22304	5.9%	6	
22305	4.0%	4	
22311	3.0%	3	
22314	65.4%	66	
Total		101	

Value	Percent	Count
I live outside of Alexandria	12.9%	13
Total		101

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

	Count
Left Blank	110