

# Taney Ave Park

## History and Character

This 2.6 acre park became public land in 1976. The design and park features have not changed in over twenty years. The Park includes a large expanse of natural turf, benches and a picnic area. It is one of the unprogrammed public lawn spaces on the



West End of Alexandria and maintains a pastoral character (top left image). The shaded picnic area includes a newly installed grill and picnic tables (bottom image).



Residents of the adjacent Foxchase Apartment complex use the park most frequently for dog walking, small gatherings and occasional pick-up soccer games. There are no signs to indicate it is a City owned park and given its proximity to Foxchase many users assume that it is part of Foxchase.

Taney Avenue dead ends on either side of the park and vehicular traffic can not travel through, though a four foot sidewalk allows pedestrians to walk from one side of Taney Avenue to the other. A swath of overgrown invasive species separates the pathway from the rest of the park and creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians (bottom images).



## 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 Taney Avenue 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 safe place for children to explore
2. Be a place to create social connections with neighbors
3. Provide opportunity to explore nature

## What would you like done with the natural area?

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

### Explain

It is disgusting and full of trash. The worst is the grass and decrepit sidewalk connecting Taney Avenue.

The park needs more regular clean-up and more law enforcement checking in to cut down on the trash and empty alcohol containers.

## What would you like done with the open lawn?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	3	33%
Enhance it	5	56%
Transform it	1	11%

### Explain

A playground would have an actual draw. it is just a field now.

It would be awesome to have a combo of open field space and a small adventure/non conventional playground in this area. We do not have any playgrounds within easy walking distance and some of the ones that are nearby (Ben Brenman Park) are pretty boring.

## What would you like done with the picnic benches?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	0	0%
Enhance it	8	100%
Transform it	0	0%

### Explain

Not too many places to sit, but there is no reason to hang out there anyways. There is a lot of trash and the park could use more regular clean.

## What would you like done with the seating?

Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it as is	1	13%
Enhance it	7	88%
Transform it	0	0%

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

### Response

A playground!

A swing set and playground for kids

An adventure style/unconventional playground would be amazing!

Dog park or more walking path areas in the open field. Water feature. Gazebo.

Nice lawn, park benches, attractive landscaping, and other natural elements

Playground and a cleaning crew.

## How do you get to this Park?

Value	Count	Percent
Walk	9	100%
Bike (personal)	0	0%
Bike (Capital Bikeshare)	0	0%
Drive	0	0%
Public Transit	0	0%
Carpool	0	0%

# Existing Conditions



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

### Response

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 Nice lawn, park benches, attractive landscaping, and other natural elements  
 Playground and a cleaning crew.

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

### Response

Access is highly limited from east of the park  
 Better trash removal around the picnic tables.  
 The path from the 4000 block of Taney needs to be cleaned up and better maintained.  
 The park needs more attention in general to cut down on teenagers drinking and partying at night and leaving their broken beer bottles strewn around.  
 This grassy area is depressing and the "park" connecting Taney is scary, the sidewalk is narrow, broken, muddy, and the surrounding area is covered in beer cans, broken bottles, and litter.

## 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	2	22%
I have concerns about crime or personal safety	5	56%
There is not enough parking	2	22%
There is nothing in the Park that interests me	8	89%

## How often do you visit this park?

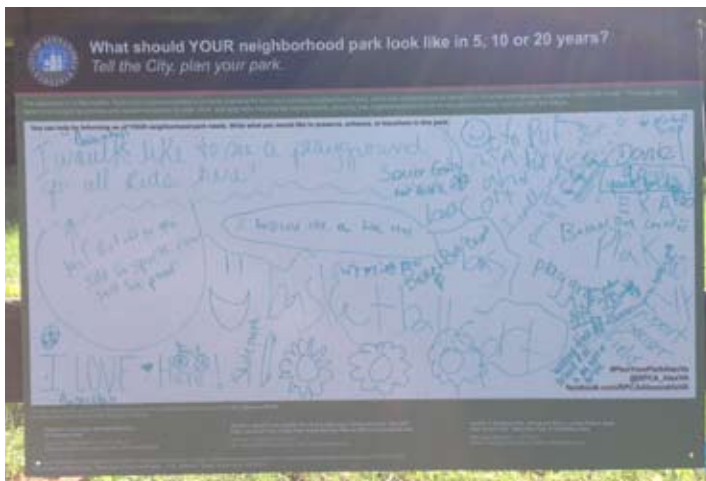
Value	Count	Percent
Daily	0	0%
Weekly	3	30%
Monthly	5	50%
Yearly	2	20%

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

Value	Count	Percent
Less than 1/2 mile	4	40%
Between 1/2 mile to 1 mile	5	50%
Between 1-2 miles	1	10%
Over 2 miles	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).



## 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. No changes were made to the Taney Plan.

## Implementation Strategy

The recommendations in the plan (right) can be implemented independent of other projects as funding is available, whether through city or non-city funds. The cost estimates below (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.

Taney Ave Park					
#	Recommendation	Priority	Estimated Cost	Associated Recommendations	Dept Lead
1	Install widened trail connection between the two parts of Taney Ave	High	20,000-25,000		TES
2	Clear non-native brush between the trail and Park	High	5,000 - 7,500	Should immediately follow trail widening (recommendation #1)	RPCA
3	Create entry plaza to the Park	Medium	10,000-15,000		RPCA
4	Install No Parking sign at the two spaces closest to the park	Low	N/A		RPCA/TES
5	Install climbing play features	High	25,000 - 30,000		RPCA
6	Provide accessible path to new benches	High	20,000-25,000		RPCA
7	Repair split rail fence	Low	1,500-2000		RPCA
8	Mark the southeast corner entrance with a park sign	Medium	3,000-3,250		RPCA

# Improvement Recommendations

**1 Install widened trail connection between the two parts of Taney Ave**

The current sidewalk between the east and west end of Taney Ave is in disrepair. A new trail would be 10 ft wide, allowing both pedestrians and cyclist to safely pass through. The trail would also create a new east-west pedestrian-cyclist link that runs parallel to Duke Street.

**2 Clear non-native brush between the trail and Park**

The area between the Taney trail connection and the park is full of overgrown non-native brush. This plan proposes removing some of the brush to make both sections of the park feel cohesive and give sightlines to the trail from the park, enhancing safety.

**3 Create entry plaza to the Park**

The park does not currently have a formal entrance. The park rules and regulation sign is on the fence and a single pathway, without designation, leads users into the park. A plaza at the corner would include park furniture such as a bench, bike racks, and a sign. It's shown on the corner of Taney to invite park users either into the park or onto the trail.

**4 Install No Parking sign at the two spaces closest to the park**

Taney Avenue dead ends at the park and there is no space for a car to turn-around. By making the last two spaces "no parking," cars and maintenance vehicles will have the space and ability to back up and preform a 3-point turn.

**5 Install climbing play features**

The center of this lawn can serve as an area for natural play and climbing features while still retaining the passive character of the park. Natural play may include boulders, balancing equipment, and other child-friendly structures. Existing benches on either side of the lawn provide spaces for parents to sit and watch their children.

**6 Provide accessible path to new picnic tables**

Park Operations recently replaced the park furniture in this Park, including an ADA picnic table. A pathway will be added for people with disabilities to access the table.

**7 Repair split rail fence**

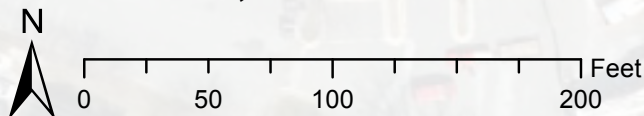
The existing fence is in disrepair and needs replacement.

**8 Mark the southeast corner entrance with a park sign**

Currently the trail is unmarked. A sign will invite park users either into the park or onto the trail.



— Park Boundary



# 2015 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan: Appendix



# Neighborhood Parks Plan

## Taney Avenue 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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# Taney Ave Park

## Improvement Recommendations

Draft (Spring 2015)

- 1 Install widened trail connection between the two parts of Taney Ave**

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- 4 Install No Parking sign at the two spaces closest to the park**

Taney Avenue dead ends at the park and there is no space for a car to turn-around. By making the last two spaces "no parking," cars and maintenance vehicles will have the space and ability to back up and preform a 3-point turn.
- 5 Install climbing play features**

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- 6 Provide accessible path to new benches**

Park Operations recently replaced the park furniture in this Park, including an ADA picnic table. A pathway will be added for people with disabilities to access the table.
- 7 Repair split rail fence**

The existing fence is in disrepair and needs replacement.



— Park Boundary



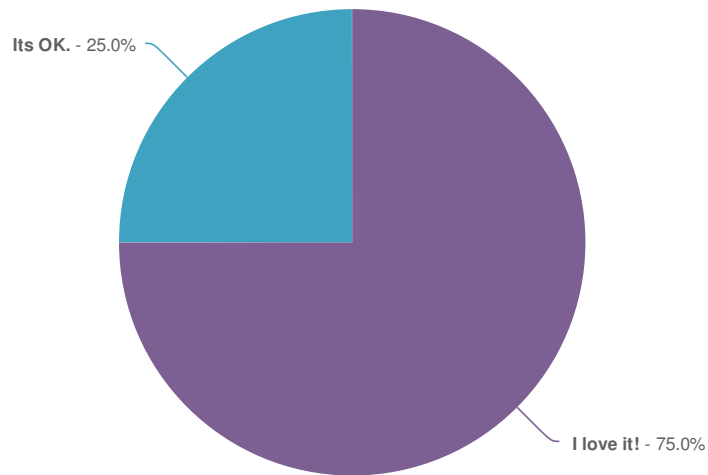
0 50 100 200 Feet





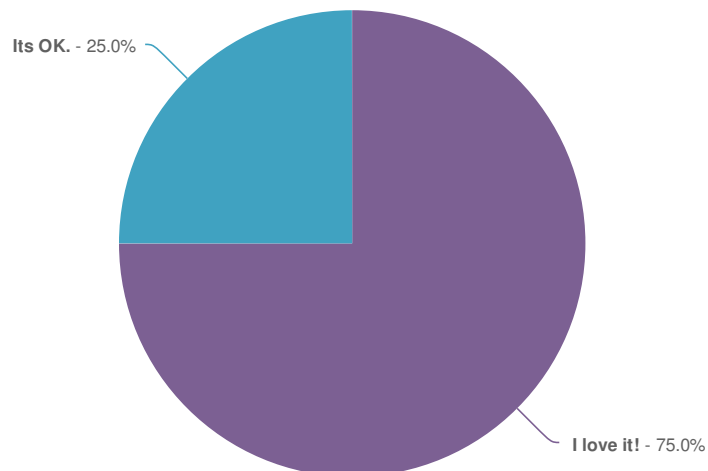
## Taney Ave Park Draft Improvement Plan Survey Results, July 2015



What do you think of the following recommendations?-Clear non-native brush between the trail and Park



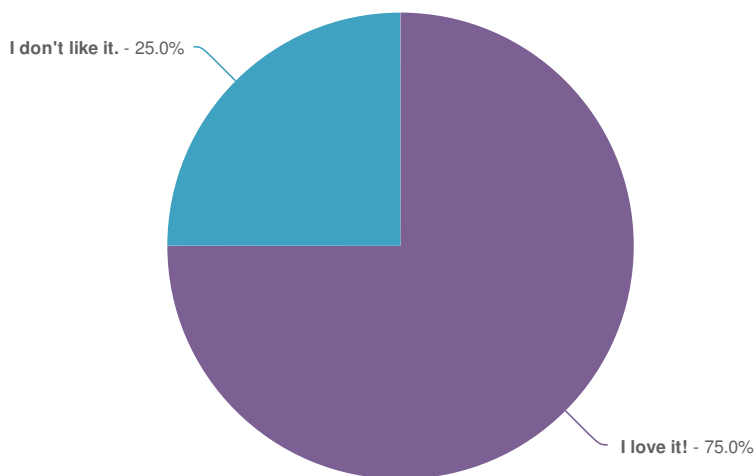
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	75.0%	3
Its OK.	25.0%	1
Total		4



What do you think of the following recommendations?-Create entry plaza to park



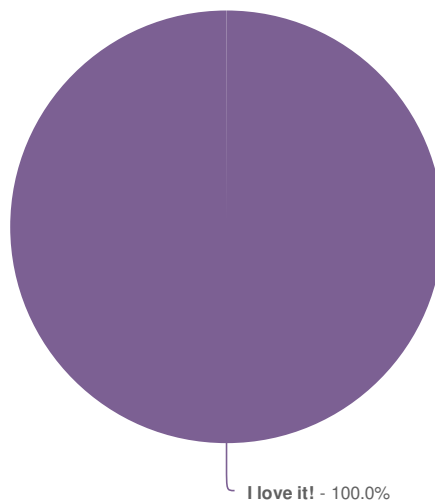
Value	Percent		Count
I love it!	75.0%		3
Its OK.	25.0%		1
Total			4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install No Parking sign at the two spaces closest to the park



Value	Percent		Count
I love it!	75.0%		3
I don't like it.	25.0%		1
Total			4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install climbing play features

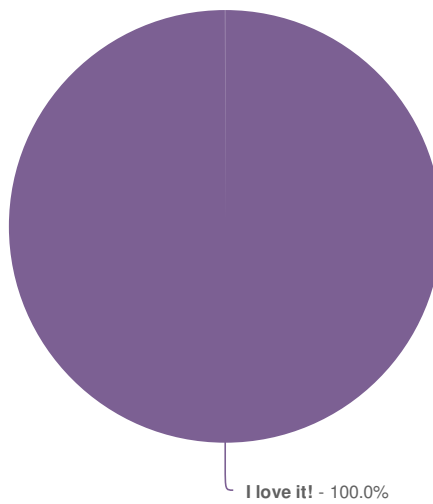


Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	100.0%	4
Total		4

Explain-Install climbing play features

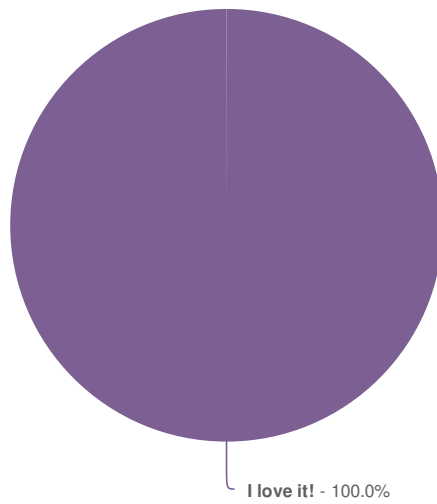
Count	Response
1	Need more kids play area here and not just the climbing structure

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Install widened trail connection between the two parts of Taney Ave



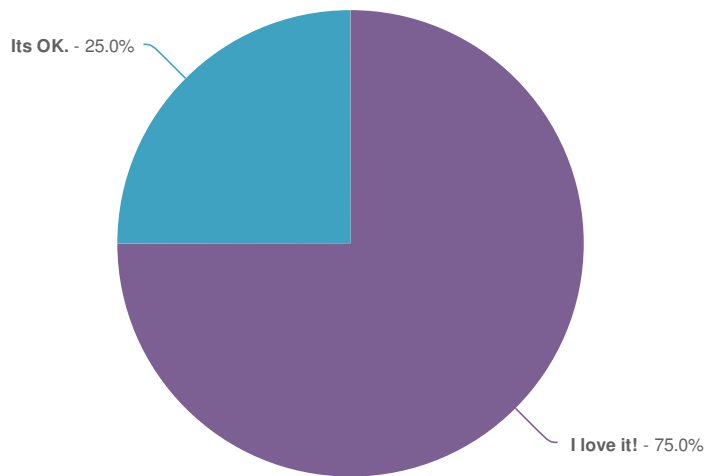
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	100.0%	4
Total		4

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Provide accessible path to new benches



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

What do you think of the following recommendations?-Repair split rail fence



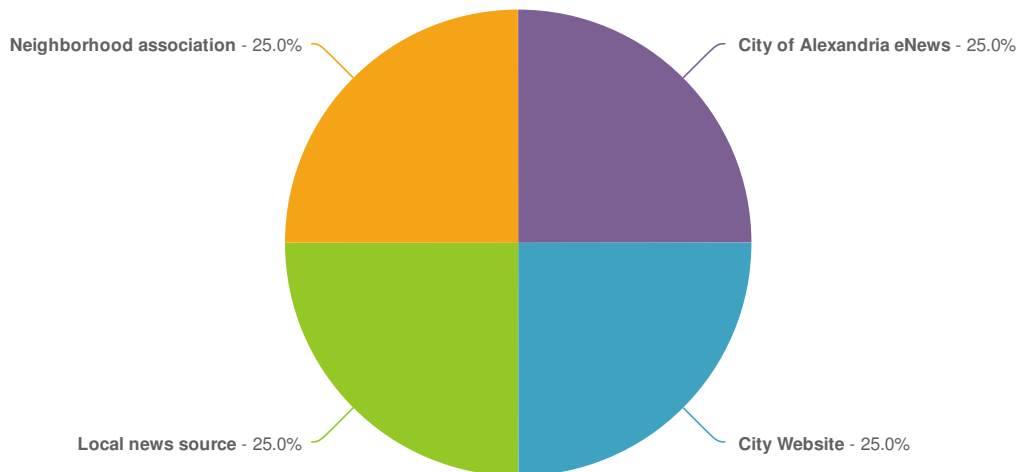
Value	Percent	Count
I love it!	75.0%	3
Its OK.	25.0%	1
Total		4

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

**Count Response**

1 I didn't get an opportunity to put in input on this plan before it was created and feel it should have been sent out to a wider audience prior to design

How did you learn about the Neighborhood Park Plan survey?



Value	Percent	Count
City of Alexandria eNews	25.0%	1
City Website	25.0%	1
Local news source	25.0%	1
Neighborhood association	25.0%	1
Total		4

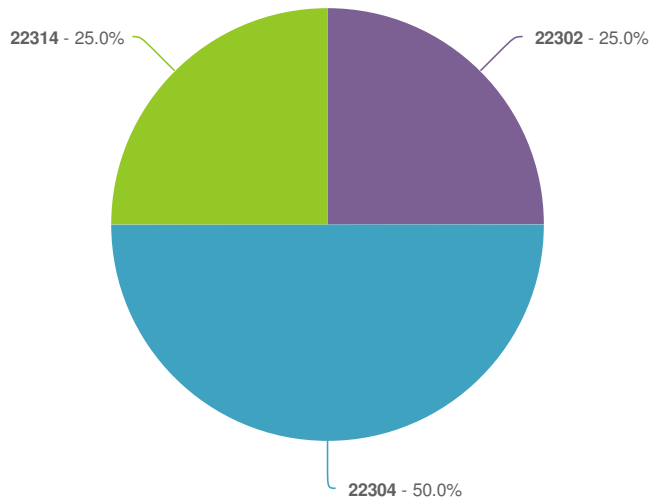
Responses "Other"	Count
Left Blank	4

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

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

	# in household	Responses
30-49	3 100.0%	3
50-69	1 100.0%	1
70 or above	1 100.0%	1

What is your zip code?

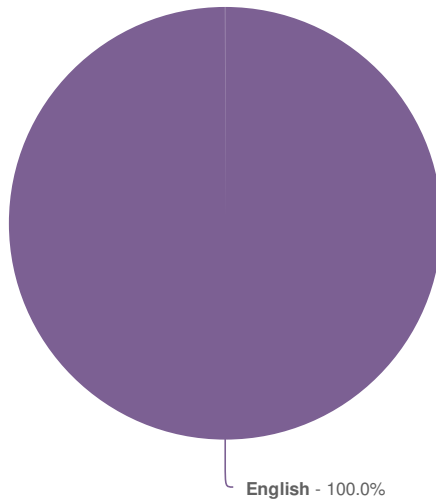


Value	Percent	Count	Statistics
22302	25.0%	1	Sum 89,224.0
22304	50.0%	2	Average 22,306.0
22314	25.0%	1	StdDev 4.7
Total		4	Max 22,314.0

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

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