## City of Alexandria, Virginia Neighborhood Park Improvement Plans





January 26, 2016 City Council

# Neighborhood Park Planning Planning by Park Typology

- Summer of 2012, RPCA began a multi-year process to develop a series of Park Improvement Plans categorized by typology
- Ensure a system of open space that equitably responds to the City's recreational and natural resource needs, as prescribed in the 2002 City of Alexandria Strategic Master Plan for Open Space, Parks, and Recreation
- Through typology plans, RPCA determines budgeting priorities and recommendations for both short and long-term incremental improvements, ensuring that public parks serve Alexandria's needs now and into the future

Туроlоду	Description	Size	Service area	Est. Timeline
Citywide	Multiple uses	10 – 50 acres	0-25 miles	2013-2014
Neighborhood	Multiple uses	0.5 – 10 acres	0-5 miles	2014-2015
Pocket Park	Mainly single use	Under 0.5	0-0.25 miles	2016-2017
Natural Resource areas	Primarily wooded or preservation areas	N/A	Citywide	2016
Shared Use	Open space shared with schools or other city facilities	5-20 acres (average)	0-25 miles	Included as part of 2014 Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan
Destination/ Historic	Contains unique features and attracts non-city residents	Varies	0-100 miles	Plans completed individually
Regional	Administered by other entities	50-75 acres	0-100 miles	Planned externally
Corridors/ Trails	Serve as linear connections for pedestrians and cyclists	N/A	0-100 miles	Included as part of 2014 Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan

# Neighborhood Park Planning Parks included



- 1. Angel Park
- 2. Beach Park
- 3. 3550 Commonwealth Ave
- 4. Chambliss Park
- 5. Ewald Park
- 6. Goat Hill Park
- 7. Hooff's Run Park
- 8. Hume Springs Park
- 9. Landover Park
- 10. Lee Center
- 11. Luckett Field and Schuyler Hamilton Skate Park
- 12. Montgomery Park
- 13. James Mulligan Park
- 14. Powhatan Park
- 15. Stevenson Park
- 16. Taney Ave Park
- 17. Timberland Park

Note: Mt. Jefferson Park and Beverley Park are included in the plan, though they followed separate planning processes.

#### Renovate and expand playground

Park Boundary

Example park plan

The new playground will include equipment that promotes natural and imaginative play. Demographics in the area show a higher percentage of children under 5 rather than older so play equipment would be more geared towards this age group, though not exclusive). The playground versanism will incorporate the hillside north of the tennis court for climbing and sliding features. It will also aim to minimize impact to the existing trees in this area.

#### 2 Move the sidewalk within the park and create a landscape 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 N

Pedestrians feel unsafe walking along the Park's edge as there is no buffer between the sidewalk and N Henry St. The existing chainlink fonce also makes the park unvelopming. The plant recommends moving the fance 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 et N. Henry and also invite users into the Park from the north and south entrances. The northern and southern portion will include a small blazx with loaintings and a park is into twe loainting and park into the park into the park from the north and south entrances. The northern and

southern portion will include a small plaza with plantings and a park sign to welcome park users into the park. The playground will have a fence along this plaza and sidewalk. Lights along the street will be replaced, though it may be in a later phase of implementation due to cost.

#### Create plaza at the end of Douglas Street

A formal entrance at Douglas Street will include a park sign, furniture and landscape. The plaza will also align with the end of Douglas Street creating a welcoming entrance. A Resurface tennis court and line it for multiple sport uses

Currently, the tennis court is mainly used during limited times of the day. During a large portion of the afternoon it stays empty, yet its footprint consumes a large part of the park. To increase use of the facility, this plan recommends resurtaining the court, installing a moveable net system (it may be retractable or on a pixot) and liming the court for other sports. This would provide a flexible court space as bit when tennis is not being played the facility could be used for court soccer or street hockey. Coals may be built in to the fence. During neighborhood association meetings, the community supported adding lights to the courts as well. The addition of lights will require a special use permit and may be added at a later stage of implementation due to cost.

#### 5 Create green alley

TFeet

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Alleys provide an opportunity for green stormwater infrastructure. Their lower vehicle volumes and designs lend themselves well to pervice 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. The green alley would not reduce paiking and selected surface materials must be strong enough to support a garbage truck.

#### Re-pave pathway and add measured marks

The hard-surface throughout the park is cracked and uneven in many areas. Re-surfacing the pathways will make a big impact in improving the parks attractiveness. The e-surfaced path will connect to the new path along N. Henry at both the north and the south, creating a loop. The path will include measured marks to allow park users to walk a loop for exercise. Each walk around the loop will equal 1/4 mile.

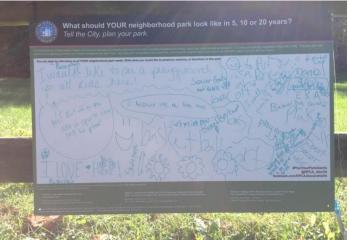
Install shade structure and game tables at hard-surface/plaza The plaza area currently is underused and unsightly. Colorful shade structures will provide year-round shade and make the park look more exciting. Picnic benches under the shade structures will provide community gathering space. Along the edge of the plaza would be outdoor game tables meant to attract multi-generational use, these may include ping-pong and foosball. Stringed lights will also make the site more lively. Plant 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. Community feedback indicated that replacement of these shrubs is a very high priority for the park. A detailed planting plan will be determined at the next stage of planning, but community members suggested replacing the thorny shrubs with a softer edge, trees, ornamental grasses and a low fence. Install drinking fountain with hose bib A water fountain will provide both drinking water and water for a hose to use for watering plants.

## Neighborhood Park Planning Process



- Spring/SummerInternal research, site2014observations,
- Fall 2014:Public outreach and information<br/>gathering
- Winter 2014: Develop recommendations and conceptual draft plans
- Spring 2014: Public outreach and feedback on draft plans
- Summer 2015: Plan revisions & implementation strategy
- Fall 2015:Public hearingPRC endorsement
- January, 2016: City Council Receipt of Plan





# Neighborhood Park Planning Prioritization Factors

- 1. Park user safety
- 2. Community 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

Neighborhood Park	Average estimated cost
Beach Park	
Chambliss	
	\$ 2,430,000.00
	(additional \$1,000,000 if synthetic
Ewald Park	turf and lights added to field)
Goat Hill Park	\$ 149,500.00
Hume Springs Park	\$ 105,000.00
Landover Park	\$ 72,000.00
	\$ 4,783,000.00
Lee Center	Includes therapeutic pool
Luckett	\$ 1,340,000.00
Montgomery Park	\$ 937,000.00
Mulligan Park	\$ 290,000.00
Stevenson Park	\$ 973,000.00
Taney Ave Park	\$ 95,500.00
Timberland Park	\$ 74,500.00
Angel Park	\$ 125,000.00
Commonwealth Ave	\$ 251,500.00
Hooffs Run	\$ 317,500.00
Powhatan Park	\$ 1,215,000.00
Neighborhood Parks Improvement	
Total	\$ 13,945,000.00

Each of the Park Improvement Plans within the plan provide specific line item cost estimates under the assumption that various recommendations will be funded independent of others and at different times.

However, if the City were to fund and implement all of the plans and recommendations at once, the table on the left shows the overall cost. These estimates include all soft costs (contingency, engineering, survey, geotechnical, environmental, and permitting).

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# 1. Use the recommendations as a guide for the FY18 CIP

- 2. Meet with community groups to seek partnerships for implementation
- **3. Begin the Pocket Park plans**

# Questions?