

***Special Use Permit #2015-0128
4800 Brenman Park Drive
Ben Brenman Park Dog Park***

Application	General Data	
Request: Public hearing and consideration of a request to add lighting and to expand the Ben Brenman Dog Park	Planning Commission Hearing:	April 5, 2016
	City Council Hearing:	April 16, 2016
Address: 4800 Brenman Park Drive	Zone:	CDD#9
Applicant: City of Alexandria	Small Area Plan:	Eisenhower West

Staff Recommendation: APPROVAL subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the recommended permit conditions found in Section III of this report.

Staff Reviewers: Ann Horowitz, ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION, APRIL 5, 2016: On a motion made by Commissioner Dunn and seconded by Vice Chairman Macek, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of Special Use Permit #2015-0128, subject to compliance with all applicable codes, ordinances and staff recommendations. The motion carried on a vote of 7 to 0.

Reason: The Planning Commission agreed with the staff analysis. Vice Chairman Macek expressed appreciation for the applicant's response to relocate light fixture poles outside the dog park fence and to provide public notice on the change in park hours. Commissioner Brown asked for confirmation that budgeting for the dog park was not part of the Planning Commission purview, and City Attorney Joanna Anderson confirmed that his assessment was accurate.

Speaker:

There were no speakers.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION, FEBRUARY 2, 2016: On a motion made by Vice Chairman Dunn and seconded by Commissioner Lyle, the Planning Commission voted to defer the request on a vote of 7-0.

Reason: The Planning Commission requested a resolution to issues related to light pole locations and to ensuring public notification of a change in the posted hours of the park. Commissioner Macek asked about the positioning of light poles inside the fenced dog run area, which could

cause a safety issue. RPCA staff responded that they had proposed the light positions to ensure proper light coverage. A reconsideration of the pole placement was requested.. Commissioner Lyle expressed concern that the Ben Brenman hours are currently posted as “sunrise to sunset except for permitted uses” and that area residents should be informed about a change of hours. As the Ben Brenman dog park is located in an isolated area, Commissioner Lyle stated that the Duke Street dog park could be illuminated instead. RPCA staff responded that its director, with City Manager approval, is permitted to change park hours or could establish special use times in the dog park section of the park. Staff continued that the Police department supports the illumination of the park for safety reasons. Commissioner Wasowski inquired about the RPCA schedule for the illumination and expansion of the dog park. RPCA answered that light fixtures were planned to be installed in June. Commissioner Macek proposed a condition stating that light poles and their foundations should be situated outside the dog park fence for dog safety.

Speaker:

Omni Morris, resident, supported the applicant’s request to provide safe access to the dog park in Fall and Winter months.



Special Use Permit #2015-0128
4800 Brenman Park Drive



I. DISCUSSION

REQUEST

The applicant, the City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, requests special use permit approval to expand the existing dog park and to add lights around that area's periphery at Ben Brenman Park, located at 4800 Brenman Park Drive.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject property, Ben Brenman Park, is an irregularly-shaped lot of record with 587 feet of frontage on Duke Street, approximately 1,802 feet of frontage on Somerville Street, and a total lot area of approximately 48 acres.

A mix of residential, commercial, and transportation uses surround the parcel. The residences at Cameron Station abut the park to the west. The Alexandria Public Library, Foxchase Shopping Center, and the Duke Street Dog Park are located to the north. Holmes Run borders the park to the east, and buffers the park from the 4600 Duke Street condominiums and a neighborhood of semi-detached residential dwellings. Norfolk Southern rail lines border the park to the south.



Backlick Run traverses the park and creates a natural boundary between the active use areas of the park to the north (soccer and baseball fields, pond and fountain, and recreation building) and the passive recreational, linear-shaped portion of the park to the south. The park area to the south of Backlick Run includes the 13,609 square foot dog park, a picnic shelter, three volleyball courts, and a trail. This section of the park is accessed via two pedestrian bridges that cross Backlick Run (Figure 1).

BACKGROUND

Through the Federal Land to Park Program of the United States Department of Interior, the subject site, formerly the Cameron Station Quartermaster Depot, was transferred to the City for use as a park. City Council approved CDD#96-01 to establish CDD#9 for residential, commercial, and open space development within Cameron Station. City Council approved SUP#98-0048 on June 13, 1998 for Ben Brenman Park, known then as East End Park, and the park was completed in September 2001. City Council approved two subsequent SUPs for additional park amenities: SUP#2006-0057 to add a park playground and SUP #2010-0006 for lighting at two existing athletic fields.

In June 2014, City Council approved The Citywide Parks Improvement Plan that incorporated enhancements to Ben Brenman Park. As part of the park planning process, community feedback

results revealed a high priority for lighting improvements to the unlit and isolated dog area, particularly for early morning and evening hours in the Fall and Winter. In response, the park plan included a proposal for the installation of timed lighting in the dog park and expansion of that area for dog exercise features.

On February 2, 2016, the Planning Commission deferred SUP #2015-0128 and requested that the RPCA provide public notice regarding a proposed change of hours for Ben Brenman Park and revise the proposal to locate light poles outside the dog park fence. An eNews notification was released on February 23, 2016, notifying the public of a community meeting on March 3, 2016 regarding a change of park hours from “sunrise to sunset, except by permitted use” to “6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in all lighted areas of the Park.” The eNews broadcast also included directions for submitting written comment regarding the change of hours. The change of hours statement was posted at Ben Brenman Park as well as on the RPCA Facebook and Twitter pages. The RPCA staff received no opposition to the change of hours. RPCA also made a plan revision to locate the light poles outside the fence area. The revised location is reflected in the Proposal section of this report.



Figure 1: Ben Brenman Park site and location of existing dog park.

PROPOSAL

The applicant, the City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, requests special use permit approval to add lighting in an expanded dog park at Ben Brenman Park. Seven park lights with a maximum height of 15 feet would be sited outside the fence of the expanded dog park. The LED lights would be user-activated and timed for one-hour intervals. The lights would be available for use between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. The existing dog park's area would increase by 13,391 square feet for a total dog park area of 27,000 square feet to provide more dog owners with space to exercise their dogs (Figure 2). The dog park would be expand westward in an existing area of lawn.

II. STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff supports the request of the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities to expand and add lights to the dog park at Ben Brenman Park. The enhancement of the dog park would improve amenities for the neighborhood, drawing additional park participants and contributing to the safety of the area.

Negative lighting impacts are not anticipated given the distance of residential properties from the dog park. The condominiums at 4600 Duke Street are located approximately 1,300 feet from the dog park. The closest Cameron Station residence and semi-detached home in the adjacent neighborhood are located at distances of approximately 1,200 and 700 feet, respectively. Further, spill-over lighting would be negligible immediately outside of the dog park borders and unlikely to impact residences due to the installation of full cut-off lighting as required in Condition 1 of this report. The application of user-activated lighting would contribute to reduced impacts as lighting would be in use during times only when the dog park is in use. Staff also believes that the availability of lighting until 10 p.m. is reasonable as it is consistent with the existing lighting timetable in other Ben Brenman Park areas. The user-activated lighting would be accessible between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., as stated in Condition 2. Further, staff believes that the trees lining both sides of Backlick Run would screen the closest residences from the proposed light fixtures.

Subject to the conditions stated in Section III of this report, staff recommends approval of the Special Use Permit request.

III. RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Staff recommends **approval** subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the following conditions:

1. Full cut-off lighting shall be used at the site to prevent light spill onto adjacent properties. (P&Z)(T&ES)
2. User-activated lighting shall be available between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. (P&Z)
3. A Minor Site Plan amendment (SIT#96-0019) for the installation of light fixtures and the expansion of the dog park shall be administratively approved by the Directors of the Planning and Zoning and Transportation and Environmental Services Departments. (P&Z)

STAFF: Alex Dambach, Director, Land Use Regulatory Services,
Department of Planning and Zoning;
Ann Horowitz, Urban Planner.

Staff Note: In accordance with section 11-506(c) of the zoning ordinance, construction or operation shall be commenced and diligently and substantially pursued within 18 months of the date of granting of a special use permit by City Council or the special use permit shall become void.

IV. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

Transportation & Environmental Services:

F-1 The dog park is out of the regulatory floodplain of Backlick Run. (T&ES)

R-1 Full cut-off lighting shall be used at the site to prevent light spill onto adjacent properties.
(P&Z)(T&ES)

Code Enforcement:

No comments received

Health Department:

No comments

Police Department:

No comments received



APPLICATION

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2015-0128

PROPERTY LOCATION: 4800 Brenman Park Dr. Alexandria, VA 22304

TAX MAP REFERENCE: 059.01-02-01

ZONE: CDD #9

APPLICANT:

Name: City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural activities

Address: 4800 Brenman Park Dr, Alexandria, VA 22304

PROPOSED USE: Addition of lights to the fenced dog exercise area and extension of dog park.

☒ **THE UNDERSIGNED**, hereby applies for a Special Use Permit in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 4-11-500 of the 1992 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

☐ **THE UNDERSIGNED**, having obtained permission from the property owner, hereby grants permission to the City of Alexandria staff and Commission Members to visit, inspect, and photograph the building premises, land etc., connected with the application.

☒ **THE UNDERSIGNED**, having obtained permission from the property owner, hereby grants permission to the City of Alexandria to post placard notice on the property for which this application is requested, pursuant to Article IV, Section 4-1404(D)(7) of the 1992 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

☒ **THE UNDERSIGNED**, hereby attests that all of the information herein provided and specifically including all surveys, drawings, etc., required to be furnished by the applicant are true, correct and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief. The applicant is hereby notified that any written materials, drawings or illustrations submitted in support of this application and any specific oral representations made to the Director of Planning and Zoning on this application will be binding on the applicant unless those materials or representations are clearly stated to be non-binding or illustrative of general plans and intentions, subject to substantial revision, pursuant to Article XI, Section 11-207(A)(10), of the 1992 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

James Spengler, Director, RPCA

Print Name of Applicant or Agent

1108 Jefferson Street

Mailing/Street Address

Alexandria, VA

City and State

22314

Zip Code

Signature

703-746-5502

Telephone #

james.spengler@alexandriava.gov

Email address

Date

11/5/15

ACTION-PLANNING COMMISSION: _____ **DATE:** _____

ACTION-CITY COUNCIL: _____ **DATE:** _____

PROPERTY OWNER'S AUTHORIZATION

As the property owner of N/A - city of Alexandria is applicant, I hereby
 (Property Address)
 grant the applicant authorization to apply for the _____ use as
 (use)
 described in this application.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please Print

Address: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

1. Floor Plan and Plot Plan. As a part of this application, the applicant is required to submit a floor plan and plot or site plan with the parking layout of the proposed use. The SUP application checklist lists the requirements of the floor and site plans. The Planning Director may waive requirements for plan submission upon receipt of a written request which adequately justifies a waiver.

☒ Required floor plan and plot/site plan attached.

☐ Requesting a waiver. See attached written request.

2. The applicant is the (check one):

☒ Owner

☐ Contract Purchaser

☐ Lessee or

☐ Other: _____ of the subject property.

State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant or owner, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than ten percent.

100% City of Alexandria

OWNERSHIP AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Use additional sheets if necessary

1. Applicant. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the applicant, unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than ten percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
^{1.} City of Alexandria		100%
^{2.} City of Alexandria		
^{3.} City of Alexandria		

2. Property. State the name, address and percent of ownership of any person or entity owning an interest in the property located at 4800 Brenman Park Dr, Alexandria, VA 22304 (address), unless the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which case identify each owner of more than ten percent. The term ownership interest shall include any legal or equitable interest held at the time of the application in the real property which is the subject of the application.

Name	Address	Percent of Ownership
^{1.} City of Alexandria	1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	100%
^{2.} City of Alexandria		
^{3.} City of Alexandria		

3. Business or Financial Relationships. Each person or entity indicated above in sections 1 and 2, with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property are required to disclose any business or financial relationship, as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance, existing at the time of this application, or within the 12-month period prior to the submission of this application with any member of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or either Boards of Architectural Review. All fields must be filled out completely. Do not leave blank. (If there are no relationships please indicate each person or entity and "None" in the corresponding fields).

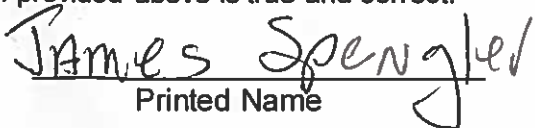
For a list of current council, commission and board members, as well as the definition of business and financial relationship, [click here](#).

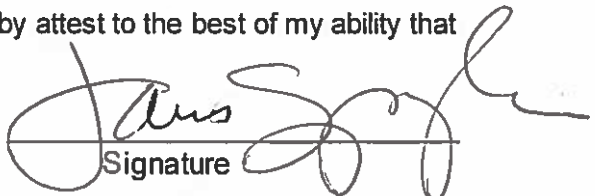
Name of person or entity	Relationship as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance	Member of the Approving Body (i.e. City Council, Planning Commission, etc.)
^{1.} City of Alexandria	None	None
^{2.} City of Alexandria		
^{3.} City of Alexandria		

NOTE: Business or financial relationships of the type described in Sec. 11-350 that arise after the filing of this application and before each public hearing must be disclosed prior to the public hearings.

As the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent, I hereby attest to the best of my ability that the information provided above is true and correct.

Date


 Printed Name


 Signature

If property owner or applicant is being represented by an authorized agent such as an attorney, realtor, or other person for which there is some form of compensation, does this agent or the business in which the agent is employed have a business license to operate in the City of Alexandria, Virginia?

☐ **Yes.** Provide proof of current City business license

☐ **No.** The agent shall obtain a business license prior to filing application, if required by the City Code.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

3. The applicant shall describe below the nature of the request **in detail** so that the Planning Commission and City Council can understand the nature of the operation and the use. The description should fully discuss the nature of the activity. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

The proposed permit requests lighting and expanding the fenced dog exercise area in Ben Brenman Dog Park (4800 Brenman Dr). This site is zoned for CDD, which requires special use permit for new park lights.

Currently, the dog area is unlit, despite many dog owners using the park after dark, particularly during late fall and winter months. Many other areas of the park, including park paths and the ball fields are lit until 10pm. The existing lights in those areas are unable to reach the dog area.

The proposed dog park lights would be user-activated by push button, staying lit for 1 hour unless pushed again. The lights could only be used between 6am and 10pm. As shown in the attached lighting plan, the proposed lighting system includes seven lights, each with the maximum height of 15 feet.

In addition to the lights, the permit requests expansion of the dog park, as proposed in the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan (see attachment). This will accommodate users with more space to exercise their dogs. This expansion will also allow more dog owners to be in the park without it being too crowded.

USE CHARACTERISTICS

4. The proposed special use permit request is for *(check one)*:

- ☐ a new use requiring a special use permit,
☐ an expansion or change to an existing use without a special use permit,
☒ an expansion or change to an existing use with a special use permit,
☐ other. Please describe: _____

5. Please describe the capacity of the proposed use:

A. How many patrons, clients, pupils and other such users do you expect?
 Specify time period (i.e., day, hour, or shift).

B. How many employees, staff and other personnel do you expect?
 Specify time period (i.e., day, hour, or shift).

6. Please describe the proposed hours and days of operation of the proposed use:

Day:
 Monday-Sunday

Hours:
 6am-10pm

7. Please describe any potential noise emanating from the proposed use.

A. Describe the noise levels anticipated from all mechanical equipment and patrons.

No increase in noise levels is anticipated.

B. How will the noise be controlled?

N/A

8. Describe any potential odors emanating from the proposed use and plans to control them:

N/A

9. Please provide information regarding trash and litter generated by the use.

- A. What type of trash and garbage will be generated by the use? (i.e. office paper, food wrappers)
Will increase amount of dog waste due to longer hours of park use and expansion of park.
-
- B. How much trash and garbage will be generated by the use? (i.e. # of bags or pounds per day or per week)
Two bags per week.
-
- C. How often will trash be collected?
Daily
-
- D. How will you prevent littering on the property, streets and nearby properties?
Waste receptacles are present throughout the park.
-

10. Will any hazardous materials, as defined by the state or federal government, be handled, stored, or generated on the property?

☐ Yes. ☒ No.

If yes, provide the name, monthly quantity, and specific disposal method below:

- 11.** Will any organic compounds, for example paint, ink, lacquer thinner, or cleaning or degreasing solvent, be handled, stored, or generated on the property?

☐ Yes. ☒ No.

If yes, provide the name, monthly quantity, and specific disposal method below:

- 12.** What methods are proposed to ensure the safety of nearby residents, employees and patrons?
The dog park is currently fenced and will remain so.

ALCOHOL SALES

- 13.** A. Will the proposed use include the sale of beer, wine, or mixed drinks?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe existing (if applicable) and proposed alcohol sales below, including if the ABC license will include on-premises and/or off-premises sales.

PARKING AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

14. A. How many parking spaces of each type are provided for the proposed use:

142 _____ Standard spaces
 _____ Compact spaces
 9 _____ Handicapped accessible spaces.
 _____ Other.

Planning and Zoning Staff Only

Required number of spaces for use per Zoning Ordinance Section 8-200A _____

Does the application meet the requirement?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- B. Where is required parking located? (check one)

☒ on-site

☐ off-site

If the required parking will be located off-site, where will it be located?

PLEASE NOTE: Pursuant to Section 8-200 (C) of the Zoning Ordinance, commercial and industrial uses may provide off-site parking within 500 feet of the proposed use, provided that the off-site parking is located on land zoned for commercial or industrial uses. All other uses must provide parking on-site, except that off-street parking may be provided within 300 feet of the use with a special use permit.

- C. If a reduction in the required parking is requested, pursuant to Section 8-100 (A) (4) or (5) of the Zoning Ordinance, complete the PARKING REDUCTION SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION.

☐ Parking reduction requested; see attached supplemental form

15. Please provide information regarding loading and unloading facilities for the use:

- A. How many loading spaces are available for the use? N/A

Planning and Zoning Staff Only

Required number of loading spaces for use per Zoning Ordinance Section 8-200 _____

Does the application meet the requirement?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- B. Where are off-street loading facilities located? No loading to occur
- C. During what hours of the day do you expect loading/unloading operations to occur?
N/A
- D. How frequently are loading/unloading operations expected to occur, per day or per week, as appropriate?
N/A
16. Is street access to the subject property adequate or are any street improvements, such as a new turning lane, necessary to minimize impacts on traffic flow?
N/A

SITE CHARACTERISTICS

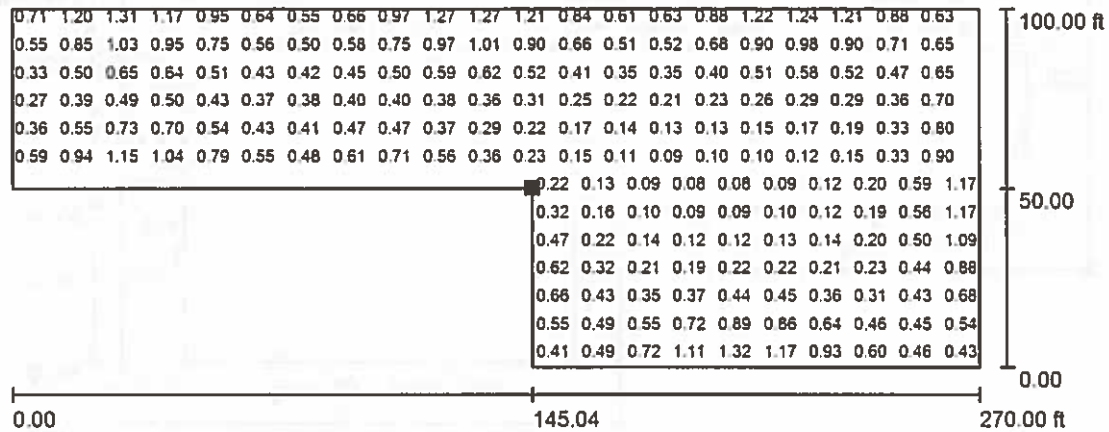
17. Will the proposed uses be located in an existing building? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- Do you propose to construct an addition to the building? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- How large will the addition be? _____ square feet.
18. What will the total area occupied by the proposed use be?
13,609 sq. ft. (existing) + 13,391 sq. ft. (addition if any) = 27,000 sq. ft. (total)
19. The proposed use is located in: (check one)
- ☐ a stand alone building
 - ☐ a house located in a residential zone
 - ☐ a warehouse
 - ☐ a shopping center. Please provide name of the center: _____
 - ☐ an office building. Please provide name of the building: _____
 - ☒ other. Please describe: Park

End of Application

Ember LED
719 West Nyack Road
Suite 39
West Nyack NY 10994

Operator Jonathan Robins
Telephone 201.228.0880
Fax 888.423.6211
e-Mail info@emberled.com

Dog Park Simulation / Ground Element 1 / Surface 1 / Value Chart (E)



Values in Footcandles, Scale 1 : 589

Not all calculated values could be displayed.

Position of surface in external scene:

Marked point:

(145.044 ft, 50.000 ft, 0.000 ft)



Grid: 128 x 128 Points

E_{av} [fc]
0.53

E_{min} [fc]
0.08

E_{max} [fc]
1.38

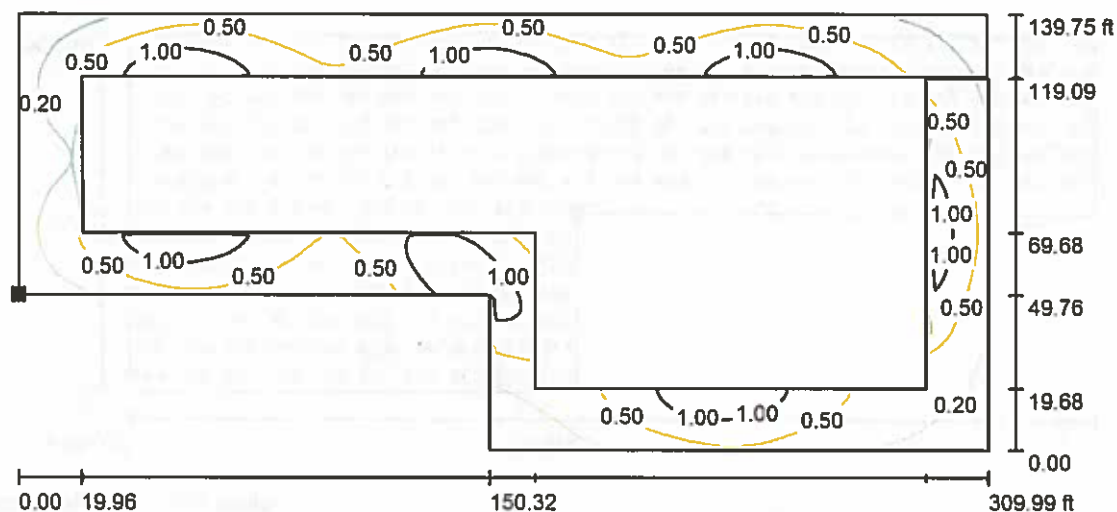
$u0$
0.152

E_{min} / E_{max}
0.058

Ember LED
719 West Nyack Road
Suite 39
West Nyack NY 10994

Operator Jonathan Robins
Telephone 201.228 0880
Fax 888.423 6211
e-Mail info@emberled.com

Dog Park Simulation / Exterior / Isolines (E, Perpendicular)



Position of surface in external scene:
Marked point:
(-20.013 ft, 30.075 ft, 0.000 ft)

Values in Footcandles, Scale 1 : 676



Grid: 128 x 128 Points

E_{av} [fc]
0.56

E_{min} [fc]
0.06

E_{max} [fc]
1.38

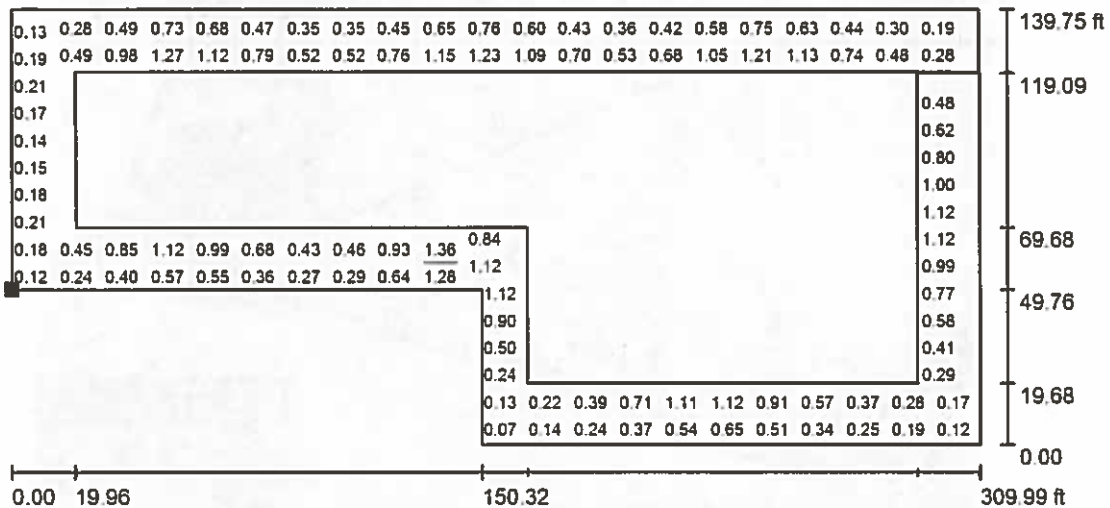
u_0
0.100

E_{min} / E_{max}
0.041

Ember LED
719 West Nyack Road
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West Nyack NY 10994

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Dog Park Simulation / Exterior / Value Chart (E, Perpendicular)

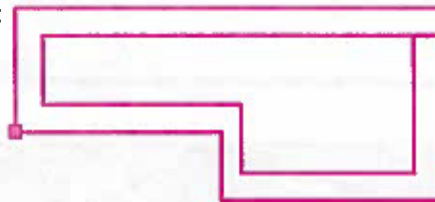


Not all calculated values could be displayed.

Position of surface in external scene:

Marked point:

(-20.013 ft, 30.075 ft, 0.000 ft)



Grid: 128 x 128 Points

E_{av} [fc]
0.56

E_{min} [fc]
0.06

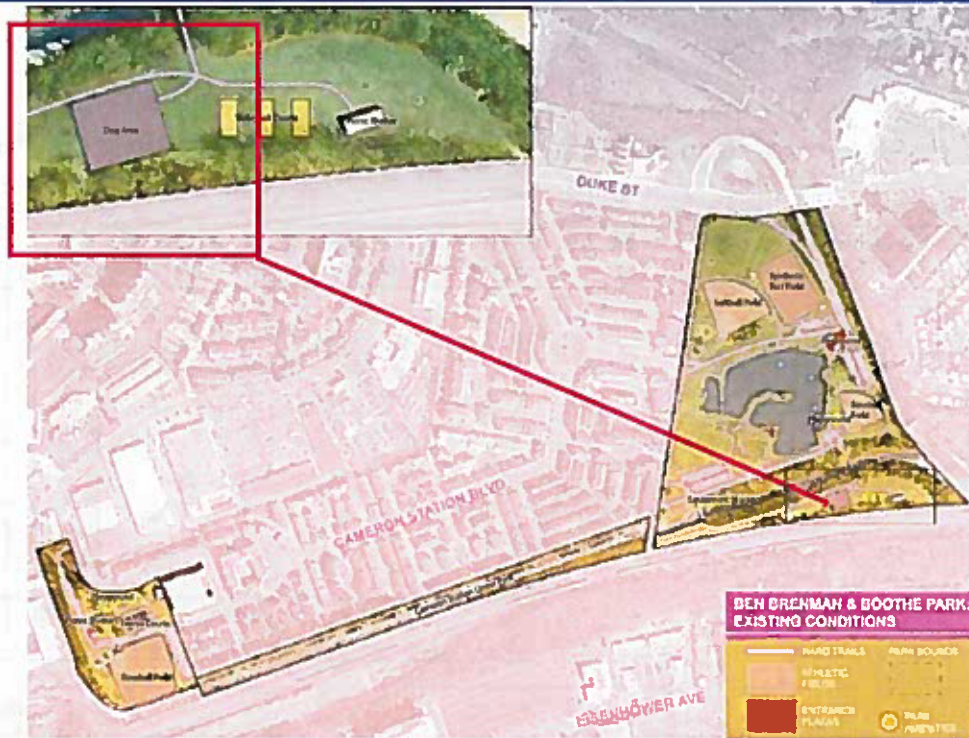
E_{max} [fc]
1.38

$u0$
0.100

E_{min} / E_{max}
0.041

Brenman existing and proposed layout, as shown in the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan 2014

Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement letter



BEN BRENNAN, BOOTHE, & CAMERON STATION PARKS

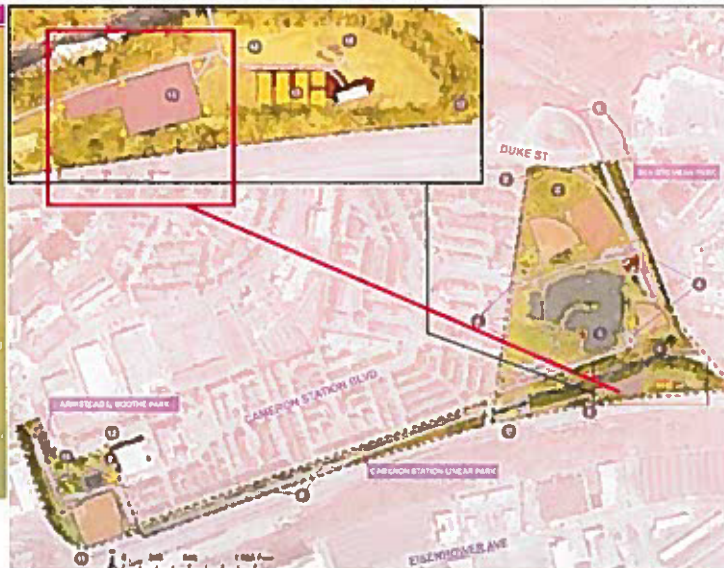
25

Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement letter

The Plan

KEYED LEGEND

1. IMPROVE CONNECTIONS TO HOUSE RUN TRAILS
2. RESERVE SPACE TO ADDRESS LONG-TERM NEED FOR COMMUNITY CENTER
3. RENOVATE OPEN PASSIVE USE AREA
4. INCREASE BICYCLE PARKING
5. RETROFIT CAMERON STATION POND
6. OPEN VIEWSHEDS
7. RELOCATE MAINTENANCE BUILDING AND PROVIDE VEHICULAR ACCESS BRIDGE
8. ADD TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND SHADE STRUCTURES
9. STUDY FEASIBILITY OF BIKE-FRIENDLY PATH
10. CONSOLIDATE FIVE SMALL PLAYGROUNDS INTO TWO LARGE PLAYGROUNDS
11. PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS TRACKS TO EISENHOWER AVENUE
12. HOLD LOCATION FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE SCHOOL GARDEN
13. PROVIDE DOG PARK LIGHTING (PUSH-BUTTON ACTIVATED, TIMED) AND EXPAND DOG PARK TO INCLUDE DOG EXERCISE FEATURES
14. LIGHT BRIDGE EXIT (MOTION-SENSOR ACTIVATED, TIMED)
15. RENOVATE COURTS TO INCLUDE MULTI-USE SPACES
16. INSTALL NATURAL PLAY FEATURES TO CREATE PICNIC ACTIVITY CENTER
17. PLANT TREES TO CLOSE GAP LEADING TO RAIL TRACKS

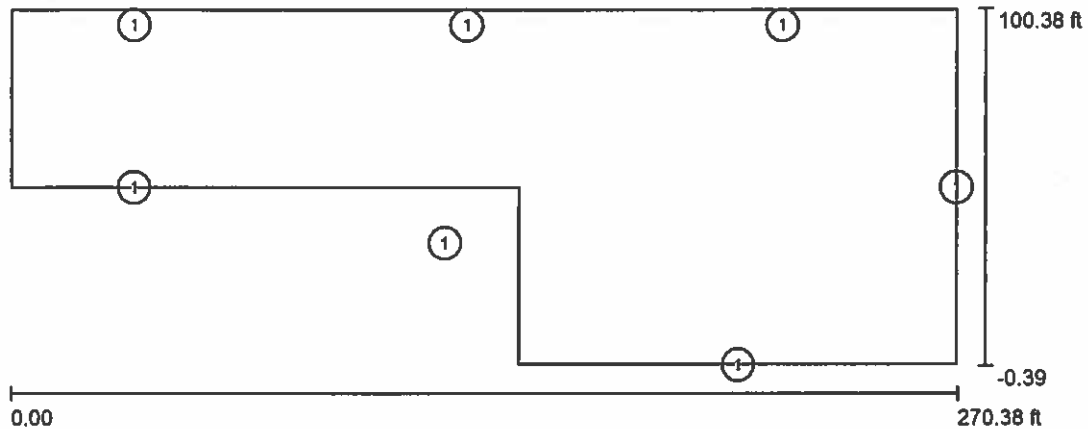


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BEN BRENNAN, BOOTHE, & CAMERON STATION PARKS



Dog Park Simulation / Planning data



Light loss factor: 0.95, ULR (Upward Light Ratio): 0.0%

Scale 1:590

Perimeter Lighting
eSHINES SERIES
eSHINE PATHWAY

Luminaire Parts List

No.	Pieces	Designation (Correction Factor)	Φ (Luminaire) [lm]	Φ (Lamps) [lm]	P [W]
1	7	vSHINE BY VALEN LIGHT - LED PATHWAY LUMINAIRE TYPE I DISTRIBUTION EMBERLED PRESENTS: VPW-L20-700 23- 3/16"L. X 15"W. X 4-7/8"H. WIDE ANGLE STREET LIGHT TYPE I DISTRIBUTION 20 COOL WHITE LEDS WITH WHITE REFLECTOR DIFFUSED GLASS LENS (1.000)	3391	3391	43.4
Total:			23739	23739	303.8

vSHINE PATHWAY

LED Path Luminaire
Fixture Webpage

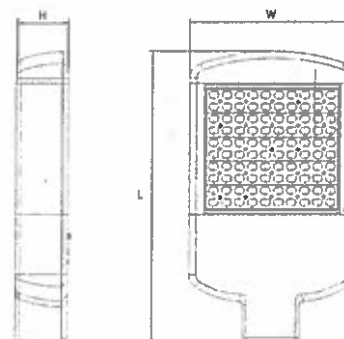
Catalog Number

Notes

Type

Introduction

The vSHINE Pathway utilizes curvilinear and rectilinear angled design for low mounted pole integration. Its optical performance is ideal for nighttime safety on paths and trails while providing a modern enhancement to the visual landscape. The vSHINE optics are designed to create precise, uniform lighting spreads with no hot spots, meaning that perfect illumination is achieved with a minimum fixture set along pedestrian walkways, bikeways, tracks, and more.



Dimensions: vSHINE Pathway

Model No.	L (in)	L (mm)	W (in)	W (mm)	H (in)	H (mm)	Weight (lb)	Weight (Kg)	EPA
VP-L8-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L16-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L20-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L40-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L60-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L8-1050	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L16-1050	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L20-1050	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VP-L40-1050	27.13	689	14.96	380	4.80	122	31.08	14KG	1.1
VP-L60-1050	27.13	689	14.96	380	4.80	122	31.08	14KG	1.1

Dimensions: vSHINE Pathway Wide

Model No.	L (in)	L (mm)	W (in)	W (mm)	H (in)	H (mm)	Weight (lb)	Weight (Kg)	EPA
VPW-L10-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VPW-L20-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VPW-L30-525/700	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VPW-L40-525/700	27.13	689	14.96	380	4.80	122	31.08	14KG	1.1
VPW-L60-525/700	27.13	689	14.96	380	4.80	122	31.08	14KG	1.1
VPW-L10-1050	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VPW-L20-1050	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VPW-L30-1050	20.98	533	14.96	380	4.80	122	28.86	13KG	0.9
VPW-L40-1050	31.22	793	14.96	380	4.80	122	35.52	16KG	1.2
VPW-L60-1050	31.22	793	14.96	380	4.80	122	35.52	16KG	1.2

Ordering Information

vSHINE Product	Number of LEDs	Driver Type	Distribution	Finish*	Voltage Type	Color Temperature	Mounting Options	Control Options
VP = PATHWAY	L8 = 8 L16 = 16 L20 = 20 L40 = 40 L60 = 60	525 = 525 mA 700 = 700 mA 1050 = 1050 mA	T2 = Type II	PG = Gray PW = White PBZ = Bronze PBL = Black	V1 = 90-305 V V2 = 347- 480V (1) VS = Solar	30K = 3000 Kelvin 45K = 4500 Kelvin 55K = 5500 Kelvin	MOSF = Standard Slipfitter** MOST = Square Tenon (2 3/8") MORT = Round Tenon (2 3/8") MOSTC = Square Tenon (CAP) MORTC = Round Tenon (CAP) MODSC = DUAL Square Tenon (CAP) MODRC = DUAL Round Tenon (CAP) MOTSC = Triple Square Tenon (CAP) MOTRC = TRIPLE Round Tenon (CAP) MOORC = QUAD Square Tenon (CAP) MOOSC = QUAD Round Tenon (CAP) MOAKBP = Adjustable Knuckle Pole Bracket (4) MOAKBW = Adjustable Knuckle Wall Bracket	COSDD = Standard Driver COPCR = Photo Cell Receptacle COEMS = External Motion Sensor (6) COIMS-SR = Integral Motion Sensor - STREET COTD = TD1 - TD10 (5) Dimming COBLC = Backlight Control House Side (3)
VPW = PATHWAY WIDE	L10 = 10 L20 = 20 L30 = 30 L40 = 40 L60 = 60	525 = 525 mA 700 = 700 mA 1050 = 1050 mA	T1 = Type I					

Example: VP-L8-525-T2-PG-V1-3K-MOS-COPCR

Notes

347-480 V - No additional cost.

All lamps are configured to 4500K-5000K. 3000K-6000K available on request. Consult with your agent for lead times.

BLC: Back light control is an optional extra. Please add this code next to the end of the model number.

The adjustable knuckle bracket can be added to the fixture to make it rotate up to 180 degrees and can be used in conjunction with other slipfitters / tenons.

Factory programmed dimming options available on request.

External motion sensors used for wall or pole mounting separate to the fixture.

Other body colors available upon request.

Standard slipfitter is 2" - 2.4" OD Slipfitter with +/- 5 degree leveling adjustment.

Valen Light reserves the right to make changes at any time in order to supply the best product possible.

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+61 2 8005-6858

Performance Data

Lumen Output

Lumen values are from photometric tests performed in accordance with IESNA LM-79-80. Data is considered to be representative of the configurations shown, with the tolerances allowed by Lighting Facts. Actual performance may vary as a result of end-user environment and application.

vSHINE PATHWAY

Model	LEDs	Drive	System Watts	Lumens	3000 4000 5000		
					B	U	G
VP-L8-525-T2	8	525	13	1218	0	0	0
VP-L16-525-T2	16		26	2436	0	0	0
VP-L20-525-T2	20		32	3139	1	0	1
VP-L40-525-T2	40		64	6278	2	0	1
VP-L60-525-T2	60		96	9418	2	0	2
VP-L8-700-T2	8	700	17	1499	1	0	0
VP-L16-700-T2	16		35	2999	1	0	1
VP-L20-700-T2	20		43	3865	1	0	1
VP-L40-700-T2	40		87	7731	2	0	1
VP-L60-700-T2	60		130	11596	3	0	2
VP-L8-1050-T2	8	1050	28	2070	1	0	1
VP-L16-1050-T2	16		56	4141	1	0	1
VP-L20-1050-T2	20		69	5337	1	0	1
VP-L40-1050-T2	40		140	10674	2	0	2
VP-L60-1050-T2	60		209	16011	3	0	3

vSHINE PATHWAY WIDE

Model	LEDs	Drive	System Watts	Lumens	3000 4000 5000		
					B	U	G
VPW-L10-525-T1	10	525	16	1452	1	0	1
VPW-L20-525-T1	20		32	2754	1	0	1
VPW-L30-525-T1	30		48	4127	2	0	2
VPW-L40-525-T1	40		64	5554	2	0	2
VPW-L60-525-T1	60		96	8331	3	0	3
VPW-L10-700-T1	10	700	22	1787	1	0	1
VPW-L20-700-T1	20		43	3391	1	0	1
VPW-L30-700-T1	30		65	5081	2	0	2
VPW-L40-700-T1	40		87	6839	2	0	2
VPW-L60-700-T1	60		130	10258	3	0	3
VPW-L10-1050-T1	10	1050	35	2468	1	0	1
VPW-L20-1050-T1	20		69	4682	2	0	2
VPW-L30-1050-T1	30		105	7016	2	0	2
VPW-L40-1050-T1	40		140	9442	3	0	3
VPW-L60-1050-T1	60		209	14164	3	0	3

Features & Characteristics

APPLICATIONS The vSHINE Pathway is ideal for paths, running and biking trails, parks, and walkways.

CONSTRUCTION The system's top and bottom sections are fixed to the heat sink, which is contained in the mid section. The LED drivers are mounted to the die-cast aluminum back casting for optimal heat sinking and operation efficiency. This allows the fixtures to operate consistently and reliably at 45-50°C high ambient conditions and for the heat sink to be naturally cleaned and cooled. This product is optimized for accessibility and easy maintenance, with tool-less entry to the electrical chamber and driver and a hinging base section with access to the other electrical components.

OPTICS vSHINE optics are precisely designed to shape the distribution, thereby maximizing efficiency through product spacing. The vSHINE optics are engineered from Poly-methyl-methyl-acrylic optical grade (PMMA) PC, which optimizes light transmission. The average transmittance in the visible spectrum is 400nm-700nm >90%. Meets global roadway standards and glare index.

LEDs Manufactured with the Cree XLamp XP-G2 LED, the vSHINE Pathway is capable of up to 429 lumens at 143 lumens per watt when driven at 1.5 A. Calculated L70 value of 250,000 hours based on in-situ testing, LM-79 data and LM-80 data. Flux Characteristics (Tj = 85 degrees Celsius).

ELECTRICAL The fixture is built with a UL listed Philips Xitanium driver, which comes standard in 90-528 VAC single phase. It is IP67 rated with up to 92% efficiency. The driver is mounted inside the bottom section with tool-less entry for simple maintenance.

MOUNTING The vSHINE Pathway arm mounting has a 50/60mm maximum diameter light arm for direct connection to the bottom section. Optional retrofit spigot sizes are available upon request. Adjustable -5, 0, and +5 degree tilt with 4 nuts allow the light arm to be clamped quickly and easily with tube spinners, socket or battery drill.

FINISH Cast components and arm are finished in polyester powder coat paint for superior weather, wear, and fade protection. Standard colors in black, RAL and custom color matches are available.

WARRANTY Five year limited warranty on LEDs and driver. 10 year warranty on mold and extrusion.

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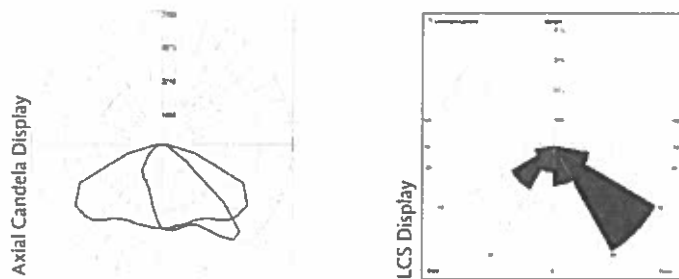
Temperature Multipliers

Ambient Temperature		Lumen Multipliers
0°C	32°F	1.05
10°C	50°F	1.03
20°C	68°F	1.01
25°C	77°F	1.00
30°C	86°F	0.99
40°C	104°F	0.97

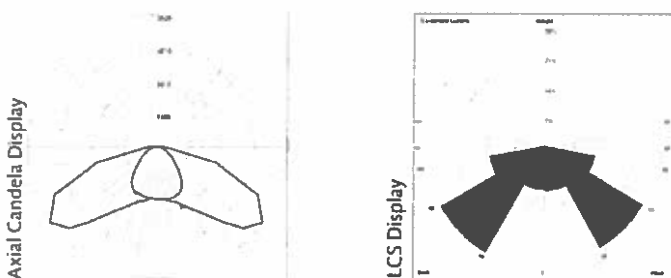
Photometric Diagrams

To see complete isometric reports or to download .ies files, go to Valen Light 's [vSHINE Pathway page](#).

vSHINE Pathway



vSHINE Pathway Wide



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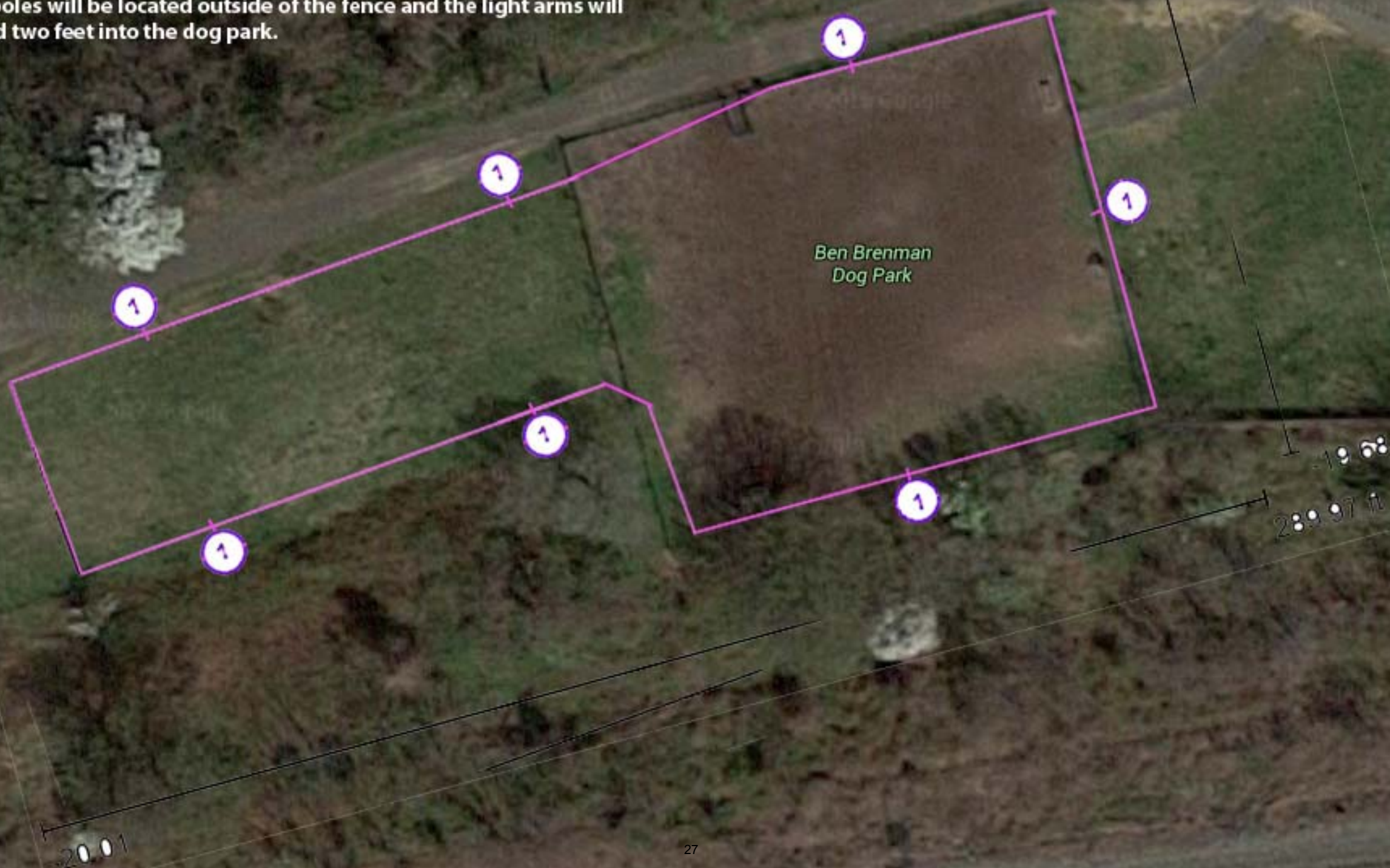
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NOTE: Image is not to scale. Exact fence alignment will be determined through design process. Per Planning Commission condition, light poles will be located outside of the fence and the light arms will extend two feet into the dog park.



Feb. 2nd Meeting-- Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park

SUP2015-0128
Additional Materials

Ali Ahmad <ali.ahmad@gmail.com>

Wed 1/27/2016 4:40 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Planning Commission:

I write to you today very much in favor of the expansion of the dog park and especially the addition of seven lights to enhance the public safety and utility of the park.

This is vital for Public Safety. Dog park users are currently left with insufficient light in the early morning and evenings, especially in the fall and winter. This will make dog owners safer. This is a well used dog park, and the addition of lights and expansion proposed are a real benefit to the surrounding neighborhoods.

The staff report discussed at length concerns about the light pollution and I believe they are unfounded. I live in a "semi-detached home in the adjacent neighborhood [Wakefield-Tarleton]" and my house is likely the one or one of the ones located approximately 700 feet away. Ben Brenman park lights already produce light pollution until 10 p.m. every night. The marginal increase of these lights would easily be outweighed by the utility it provides to me and my neighbors as dog owners. However, the staff report repeatedly notes the use of full cut-off lighting and user-activated lighting. I also concur that the trees will provide additional buffer.

Taken into account, this is a no-brainer from the perspective of individuals looking for a great amenity in a public park. I am happy to answer additional questions about the benefit this would bring to my life and the lives of my neighbors.

Finally, I'd like to note, I am President of the Wakefield Tarleton Civic Association, and while information has been shared about this we will not meet prior to the public hearing and therefore I write today in my personal capacity as a dog-owner and a person close enough to be affected.

Sincerely,
Ali Ahmad
703.895.9899
230 S. Jenkins St.

Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park.

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

shopping@duwayne.ws

Wed 1/27/2016 4:47 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Planning Commission,

I am in favor of lights at the Brenman Park Drive Dog Park. I feel this would be GREAT addition to the west end to add value to everyone, and not just a few. Everyone speaks of how wonderful Arlington's Shirlington Dog Park is, so why can't Alexandria to be equally known for being dog friendly in the evening. This would also assist those that don't get home until after 6pm or have to leave early in the morning.

Other points I concur with are the following:

1. This is vital for Public Safety. Dog park users are currently left with insufficient light in the early morning and evenings, especially in the fall and winter. This will make dog owners safer.
2. The lights would be limited to between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. and will be user activated
3. This is a well used dog park, and the addition of lights and expansion proposed are a real benefit to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Duwayne Frank
4104 Usher Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22304

Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

Caroline Poe <crd.poe@gmail.com>

Wed 1/27/2016 5:23 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Cc: Andrew Poe <af_poe@yahoo.com>;

Dear Planning Commission,

My husband and I are residents of 10 S. French St. and would like to voice our support for the addition of lights at the Brenman Park Drive Dog Park. We feel that the addition of lights is vital for public safety, as there is currently insufficient light in the park during the early morning and evening hours, especially during fall and winter. The addition of lights would make this well used park safer, and would encourage folks to bring their dogs there, rather than walk them on otherwise dark streets in the early morning and late evening hours. The proposal for lights would ensure there is no light pollution, as the lights would be far enough away from the residential buildings around the park as to not affect them. We think the addition of lights is a win-win. Thank you for listening to our thoughts.

Respectfully,

Caroline and Andrew Poe

10 S. French St.

Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

Gillian O'Neill <gillianmabrey@gmail.com>

Thu 1/28/2016 6:18 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the addition of lights to the Ben Brenman Park dog park. I am also happy to learn that the park is being expanded.

The addition of lights between the hours of 6 AM and 10 PM will allow me to feel safe enough to use the park before and after work. I often take my young, energetic dog out alone and have avoided using the Ben Brenman dog park at certain times of day due to my safety concerns. Having this space available for pre-work dog exercise will be a real positive for those days when my husband and I have to work late. The time outside is good for me, too! As a bonus, I think using user-activated LED lights is energy efficient and bolsters Alexandria's reputation for being environmentally concerned and engaged.

This expansion and improvement is just one more reason to love living in Alexandria and in the Wakefield-Tarleton neighborhood in particular.

Best regards,

Gillian O'Neill
102 S Ingram St

Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park.

SUP2015-0128
Additional Materials

Alison Jameson <maryalisonjameson@gmail.com>

Thu 1/28/2016 8:10 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Planning Commission Representative,

With this letter, I wish to convey my strongest support for lighting in the dog park. I take my dog to this park several times a week, but never when it is dark because the park is a bit isolated and I don't feel it is safe. In the winter, this means I cannot use the park on weekdays because it is dark when I go to work and dark when I get home. I would get much more use from the park if it was lighted. The proposal to increase the footprint of the dog park would be great, too!

Sincerely, Mary Alison Jameson, resident of Cameron Station.

Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

alison@alisonjamesononline.com

Thu 1/28/2016 8:13 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I live in Cameron Station and I fully support lighting in the dog park! I take my dog to this park several times a week, but have limited use on winter weekdays because of the hours of darkness. I have often mentioned to other dog owners that I wished the dog part was lighted so I could use it more often. The proposal to increase the footprint of the dog park is also very desirable as the park is well used with many dogs running around inside.

Sincerely, Peter Lampert

Fwd: Lights for Dog Park at Ben Brenman Park, Cameron Station/

Dorothy Strunk <dorothystrunk@aol.com>

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

Sat 1/30/2016 10:30 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

-----Original Message-----

From: Dorothy Strunk <dorothystrunk@aol.com>

To: plancomm <plancomm@alexandria.gov>

Sent: Sat, Jan 30, 2016 10:21 am

Subject: Lights for Dog Park at Ben Brenman Park, Cameron Station/

Dear Planning Commission:

I am writing to request that you approve the installation of lights at our dog park. This is a well used park, liked by the dogs and their owners. There are no homes nearby that would be bothered by the addition of lights.

Let's try and make this city a friendly user one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dorothy R. Strunk
30 South Hudson Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

Dorothy

Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800 Brenman Park Drive - Dog Park

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

Chris Hoeffner <choeff@umich.edu>

Sun 1/31/2016 10:52 AM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Cc: Ann Horowitz <ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov>; 'Ali Ahmad' <ali.ahmad@gmail.com>;

Dear Planning Commission:

My name is Christine Hoeffner. I live at 28 S. Hudson St., Alexandria, VA. I am writing on behalf of myself and my miniature Australian shepherd Phoebe in support of the Special Use Permit request to add lighting to and expand Ben Brenman Park dog park. The installation of lighting is vital for public safety and to enable better utilization of the dog park. The current lack of sufficient light in the early morning and evening hours, especially in the fall and winter, deters me from using the park and limits opportunities to provide my dog the exercise and socialization time that she needs as a higher-energy breed. The addition of lighting will increase my sense of personal security when using the dog park. Expansion of the area devoted to the dog park will provide more space for the dogs to run and play with one another like Phoebe and her Ben Brenman park friends Bree, Josie and Koda shown in the picture below.



Because the lights will be user-activated and because the dog park is in a part of Ben Brenman Park that is remote from any residences and surrounded by trees and other vegetation, the proposed dog park lighting

would not have negative impacts to residents of the Cameron Station or Wakefield-Tarleton neighborhoods. Installation of lighting at the dog park is consistent with the use of lighting at the nearby athletic fields and trails.

Finally, dog walkers such as myself visit Ben Brenman Park at the same general times each day. I encounter the same people most days, both fellow dog walkers and other park users. Any unfamiliar people or activities attract our attention. I curtail my use of the park in the colder months because of the lack of lighting at the dog park area. With lights at the dog park, dog walkers and others will populate the area between Backlick Run and the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks with greater frequency throughout the day and year, continuing their passive surveillance of the entire park to the benefit of other park users, the adjacent neighborhoods and the City.

I respectfully request the Planning Commission approve Special Use Permit #2015-0128 4800. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this application.

Sincerely,
Christine Hoeffner and Phoebe

FW: Dog Park improvements/planning meeting - Ben Brenman dog park

SUP2015-0128

Additional Materials

John Michalowski <John.Michalowski@ey.com>

Mon 2/1/2016 11:23 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

To the planning commission members:

I am a resident / homeowner in Cameron Station (and have been since 2004). I have used the dog park countless times for my dogs over the years. It was and continues to be a great place for our dogs to “make friends” and for a little social interaction for us 2-leggers. I have been to other dog parks in the surrounding area and never found any of them to be as safe or friendly – both for my dogs and my children who eventually joined me at the dog park. (In fact, our first son was born shortly after my wife’s water broke in that park.) The park holds very good memories for our family. We 100% support putting in the lights (how great will it be to take the dogs out for exercise in the short daylight season) and expanding the park. More room to run is always a good thing.

Thank you for reading my note.

Kind regards,

John

--

John Michalowski | Partner | Transaction Advisory Services

Ernst & Young LLP

Office: 703-747-1610 | john.michalowski@ey.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dana Wedeles** <Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2016 at 11:33 AM

Subject: Brenman Dog Park Lights

To: "omnimorse@gmail.com" <omnimorse@gmail.com>

Hi Ms. Morse:

I am reviewing my notes from the Ben Brenman Park Plan meetings two years ago and see that you discussed the dog park needs quite a bit. I just wanted to bring to your attention that as a result of the plan we plan to install the lights in the next few months and also expand the dog park. In order to do so we must first seek approval from the Planning Commission and City Council. The item is docketed for tomorrow evening at

7pm: http://legistar.granicus.com/alexandria/meetings/2016/2/1492_A_Planning_Commission_16-02-02_Docket.pdf.

If you are unable to attend you may send comments about the dog park to the planning commission members in advance at plancomm@alexandriava.gov.

Let me know if you have any questions

SUP2015-0128
Additional Materials

Thanks

Dana W. Wedeles, AICP

Urban Planner

City of Alexandria

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Division of Park Planning, Design + Capital Projects

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

703.746.5491 (office)

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Planning Commission input

RADMRFD@aol.com

Tue 2/2/2016 4:47 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;



Rear Admiral Robert F. Duncan
United States Coast Guard (retired)

324 Helmuth Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22304
(703) 944-4051
RADMRFD@aol.com

re: Ben Brenman dog park lighting; 2 Feb 2016

Ladies & Gentlemen,

As a respondent during the public comment outreach in the preparation of the Citywide Parks Study, conducted a few years ago, I was and remain grateful that these concerns had been addressed in that report and that the City Council has been both made aware of this problem and approved a lighting plan to address this ongoing public safety concern. During my service on the Cameron Station community Board of Directors, I received many concerned comments about the lack of lighting, several of which referred to 9-1-1 calls made regarding suspicious activities and individuals in that area. As a Board member, I discussed these concerns regularly with our community police representative, Asst Chief Blaine Corl, who encouraged me to work with City departments to correct this deficiency.

In my capacity as a resident, I regularly use this dog park, as does my wife. We have both experienced scary situations directly exacerbated by the lack of lighting. The dog park is directly adjacent to a City maintained picnic area which includes an open-sided structure covering tables and abutting a woodland strip which extends to railroad tracks, on one side, and the confluence of Backlick and Holmes Run. That area has regularly attracted a collection of homeless men and other transients. Periodically, City workers, under police supervision, have removed derelict couches and squatter tarps, etc., in an effort to clear out potential problem communities. Many of these individuals have apparent mental health problems and have been randomly belligerent and confrontational. My wife experienced one such early morning loud outburst in the picnic area next to the dog park and called 9-1-1 for assistance. Her experience has not been unique.

Ideally, lighting should be installed that follows the automatic daylight controlled lighting at adjacent Ben Brenman Park. I appreciate the positive recommendation tendered to the Council in the Staff Report. I would ask that consideration be given to an automated system, along the hours chosen by that report, but not dependant on user activation. Any selection system (eg a mounted switch on a light pole) presents a target for vandalism, already noted in the adjacent picnic pavilion, and opportunities for those with bad intentions to defeat the lighting system. Also, the park may be approached from two directions, either of which would require dog walkers to travel some significant distance, in the dark, to get to any activation switch located at the dog park. It would be very much more effective if the lighting automatically came on during the times identified by the Staff Report.

Thank you for your consideration.

3/22/2016

Planning Commission input - PlanComm

Robert F Duncan
234 Helmuth Lane, Alexandria, Va

Brenman Park Dog Park

Lou Ann McFadden <louann.mcfadden@comcast.net>

Tue 2/2/2016 6:39 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

I understand the Planning Commission is discussing recommended enhancements to the Brenman Park Dog Park. I wanted to convey my support for any projects, especially lights. We use the park twice a day and to be able to go after dark safely would make us love Brenman Park even more.

I hope this isn't too late for your consideration.

Michael and Lou Ann McFadden
Residents of Alexandria

Sent from my iPhone

Dana Wedeles

From: Heather Hammack <hkladue@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:54 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Ben Brenman Dog Park

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I am in favor of Ben Brenman Park being open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in all lighted areas of the Park. As a resident of the West End of Alexandria who also has a dog, I use the Ben Brenman dog park extremely frequently. Since both my husband and I work full-time, we can rarely go to the dog park after work except in the summer. Having lights for the dog park would benefit us and all West End resident dog owners greatly.

Thank you,
Heather Hammack
Usher Ave. resident

Dana Wedeles

From: Bonnie Petry <bonnie.petry@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 2:41 PM
To: PlanComm
Cc: Judy Coleman; jennifer.atkins@cloudigylaw.com; wakefield-tarleton@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Regarding Dog Park Lights and the Preservation of the Existing Resident Access to Ben Brenman Park

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the installation of solar-powered, timed lights at the Ben Brenman Dog Park and some concern that the measure was not approved at the last Planning Commission meeting.

I support the installation of lights on two levels.

First off, I am a dog owner who lives in the Wakefield Tarleton neighborhood that adjoins Ben Brenman Park's Eastern boundary of Holmes Run. Ben Brenman Park is a short four to five minute walk from my house and I walk my dog in that park almost every day of the week. Those of us with active breed dogs really depend on that dog park to provide our dogs with badly needed exercise and socialization. These lights would allow us to give our urban canine companions badly needed exercise in the winter months when it is dark by the time we return home from work. I believe strongly that these lights would greatly improve safety for local residents. It is my understanding that the Alexandria Police Department has expressed support for this measure and believes it to be a safety enhancement for the community. It is worth noting that this project is included as a high-priority item in the city's plan for Ben Brenman Park.

Secondly, I support the installation of lights at the Ben Brenman Dog Park because this project is the result of a thorough and transparent park planning process in which RPCA staff reached out to residents through online surveys and community meetings in a receptive, honest, and transparent manner. The result was a plan for Ben Brenman Park that reflects the input we provided and the high priority we placed on this request. When I saw the plan for Ben Brenman Park, I was greatly heartened to see that residents' request for dog park lights was taken seriously by the city and was even characterized as a high priority investment, as indicated by the feedback provided to the city.

But just as city processes were beginning to look like they were starting to align with what residents believe to be important and desirable, I learned that the Planning Commission chose to defer the consideration of this planned and researched "easy fix" project. To be clear, this project enjoyed both city staff and citizen support, with only supportive letters submitted.

If this permit application was deferred in an effort to ultimately derail or stop a commonsense city project that would benefit residents and let them know that the city is listening to them, then *I am quite concerned*.

Lastly, I am disheartened to learn that a discussion of whether to allow lights at the Ben Brenman Dog Park has now widened into a referendum on park access by all users, not just those with a dog.

I would hope that that the entrance of “park operating hours” into the discussion is not an attempt to ban residents from walking their dogs in the park at 6:30pm in January, or jogging around the Ben Brenman Pond at 9:00pm on an August night when its cool enough to exercise. To be clear, it would be an enforcement nightmare to allow residents to use the lighted sports fields until 10:00pm but try to sort out and ban other residents not using the sports fields “at dark.”

In conclusion, this project, which enjoys the strong support of city residents and city staff, needs to be approved in respect of the fair process that was conducted and residents’ access to Ben Brenman Park until 10:00pm needs to be maintained.

Sincerely,

Yvonne “Bonnie” Petry

Vice President of the Wakefield Tarleton Civic Association

Dana Wedeles

From: Stacy E. Costello <sec@sacklaw.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 1:28 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Brendan Park dog park hours

As a Cameron Station owner, I am opposed to extending the hours and to adding lights to the dog park. I am not able to attend the meeting but wanted to send my comments. Bright lights and barking dogs are not wanted for the evening. No thank you.

Sincerely,
Stacy Costello of 246 Murtha Street, Alexandria Va.22304.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Dana Wedeles

From: Daniel Gustav Anderson <danielgustavanderson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 7:07 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Cc: PlanComm
Subject: Ben Brenman Park

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing in regard to an upcoming Planning Commission meeting regarding the use of Ben Brenman Park and the dog parks in it. The issues involved in this matter extend beyond the simple matter at hand--whether or not lights should be installed in portions of the park, and the hours of use for the park extended after dark to 10pm--into questions of equity, access for all to public resources, and transparent process.

After extensive study of citizen need, the commission was advised that it would be in everyone's best interest to add lights to portions of the park and allow citizens to use the park after dark. This is important to citizens in my neighborhood, Wakefield-Tarleton, where most of us work during the day and use the park to walk ourselves and our dogs in the evening. Brenman Park serves Wakefield-Tarleton and Cameron Station. There is a sense that some of our neighbors in Cameron Station, which is considerably more affluent and less diverse than Wakefield-Tarleton, would prefer not to have us share the park with them, and that this is impacting the work of the planning commission.

There is last-minute resistance on the commission to extending the hours of the park and lighting the dog park areas. There is a strong perception that the commission is being used to privatize Ben Brenman Park to the use of Cameron Station residents only, to the exclusion of the people of color and less affluent residents of Wakefield-Tarleton. This is underscored in the peculiar and undemocratic decision on the part of the commission to hold their March 3 2016 meeting to determine this matter not in a publicly-accessible place, but in a meeting room at Cameron Station.

I am asking you to consider ways in which access to our parks and other public places may be made equally available to all citizens, without favoring some over others.

To the immediate point, I urge the commission to light the dog parks, and to extend the hours of use for Ben Brenman Park to 10pm.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Daniel Anderson
41 S Hudson St.

Alexandria, VA 22304

Dana Wedeles

From: Sara Deshong <sararose0409@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 6:49 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Dog park lights

Hi Dana,

Please move ahead with dog park lights in Ben Brennman park, another thing we would love to have is water for the dogs, a fountain like in Del Ray.

Many Thanks,

Sara Deshong and Petulia (pup)

Dana Wedeles

From: Stephen Harris <stephar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 12:02 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Cc: Bonnie Petry; Ali Ahmad
Subject: Ben Brenman Dog Park and Lights

Greetings Ms. Wedeles.

I live in the Wakefield-Tarleton neighborhood on the eastern side of Ben Brenman Park, off Duke Street. We bought this house in Alexandria almost 10 years ago because we fell in love with the area and neighborhood. Our neighborhood is composed of hard working people mostly civil servants, teachers, coaches etc.

Recently, it has come to our attention that there is a motion to change the rules associated with the dog park area in Ben Brenman park. Previously, signage indicated that the park was open and lit till 10 pm, a privilege that we took advantage of many a time. Seeing as this is the western boundary of my neighborhood, we would often walk our dogs in the cool summer evenings after sunset, as well as walk back through the neighborhood from one of our favorite Indian restaurants in the winter. It is a beautiful place to see the leaves change in the fall and is spectacular to walk through as the sunsets. It is a favorite outdoor recreational spot. We've even attended meetings with the police nearby that have gone till the sun starts to go down. My understanding is that there is a consideration to change the lighting and the times of the park to read as "sundown" rather than 10pm. I know that this example may be an extreme but, in the mid winter the sun sets even as early as 4:50pm (dec 21st). This change in signage would cut a full five hours of usable time from that park space, a park space which is supposed to be available to all residents and paid for by our taxes.

Additionally, my understand is that a resident or residents of Cameron Run may have asked for this change because they hope it will keep up an "undesirable element" out of their neighborhood. First, this park is for everyone and is not in "their neighborhood." Second, it disappoints me that the city would bow to the pressures of this neighborhood or certain individuals, especially those who continue to push for the gentrification of lower income areas. I've always enjoyed the diversity of our neighborhood; all socio-economic, racial, religious, and even sexual orientation are all welcome here. This latest proposal seems to go against the ethos of the city of Alexandria and frankly I'm concerned that city officials have forgotten our amazing and diverse history.

Lastly, my opinion would be that having the lights on longer would actually create a safer environment for the people who live near the park. If the people of Cameron Run are concerned about light pollution then I would suggest the city look at smarter lighting choices and the addition of trees to the park.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting on March 3rd, but I wanted to make sure that as a tax paying - committed resident of Alexandria, my voice was heard.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my email and look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions or comments.

Stephen Harris and Erik Stemmy
46 S. Gordon St

Dana Wedeles

From: wgoff1950@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:31 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: dog lights

We have schools and others building in the city that are falling apart and you wants to spend money on lights for dogs? The city sure has gone to the dogs! Increase their taxes not mine.

wgoff1950@aol.com

Dana Wedeles

From: Mimi <WGoff1950@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 11:18 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Dog park

Can u tell me how much the dog lights are going to cost? And when are you going to tell us your going to charge to use the park? 🐕🐕

Sent from my iPhone

Dana Wedeles

From: Mary Nardelli <mnardelli60@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:16 AM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: BEN BRENMAN PARK/DOG PARK SAFETY LIGHTS

I SUPPORT THE NEW POSTED SIGNS & THE DOG PARK IMPROVEMENTS!. This area is Dog Friendly and we all love our dogs and want to walk safely at night - especially in Sprint and Summer.

Mary Nardelli
102 S. Jordan Street
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-461-8976

Dana Wedeles

From: Dorothy Strunk <dorothystrunk@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:13 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Cc: ali.ahmad@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park

I am writing to let you know of my support for lights at the Ben Brenman Dog Park. I use the dog park several times a week and it would be very nice to have longer hours to use the park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dorothy Strunk
30 South Hudson Street

Dana Wedeles

From: Ali Ahmad <ali.ahmad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Support for Corrected Hours Posting and Dog Park Lights & Expansion in Ben Brenman Park

Ms. Wedeles:

The elected board of the Wakefield Tarleton Civic Association has voted by electronic ballot to support fixing the posted hours of the park and the installation of the dog park lights. The full membership has not had a chance to vote at a meeting on this issue, as the announcement of this special public meeting fell after our last Association meeting and our next Association meeting is not for two weeks.

The rest of the language in this communication is mine personally. I am writing to express my strong support for the new posted hours in Ben Brenman Park and my continued support for the expansion of the dog park and the installation of lights to extend the safe use of the dog park.

I moved to my home in Alexandria for its access to parks. My house backs up to Tarleton Park and I use it at least once everyday during my morning dog walk. My dog uses it two more times each day, with the aid of a professional dog walker. I am using the park every weekend throughout the day.

But in the evening during the week, my wife and I like to walk along with our dog after dinner. During the Fall and Winter, we get home from work far too late to use Tarleton Park or the Holmes Run Trail. In the Summer, we often wait till it's dark so as to enjoy the cooler evening air.

We have used Ben Brenman Park in the evening hours since we moved into our house 6 years ago. Not even on the coldest night have we been the only people using the park. The park is the perfect well-lit, safe area to walk for some many West End residents. We use it for recreational walking with our dog, with our foster dogs, and also to access the London Curry House for the occasional dinner out. A lot of people do this. There is no doubt that the current situation, in practice, is that the park is open till 10 p.m. in the lighted areas.

While we are aware the posted signs say that the park closes at dark except for permitted use, it makes little to no sense to say that a loud cheering sports team playing a little league baseball or softball game under their very bright lights is allowed to use the park until 10 p.m. while precluding me from walking my dog.

In fact, I would argue that the park does not go dark- certainly not before 10 p.m. Ben Brenman Park is very, very well-lit.

I live very close to the footbridge from the Holmes Run Trail to Ben Brenman Park. I live with the light pollution caused by the lights being on in Ben Brenman Park until 10 p.m. I live with the noise from the permitted use of baseball/softball games on the diamond closest to the footbridge. I live with these costs because I enjoy the immense benefit of living near a park.

The current posted hours also present the opportunity for uneven enforcement of park closure. A beautiful well-lit, and well utilized park does not look dark to any resident of Alexandria. It would be a tragedy for anyone to

think they were being barred from the park because of the color of their skin or because they come from lower-income housing.

On the specific subject of the dog park lights: the addition of seven lights to enhance the public safety and utility of the park.

This is vital for Public Safety. Dog park users are currently left with insufficient light in the early morning and evenings, especially in the fall and winter. This will make dog owners safer. This is a well used dog park, and the addition of lights and expansion proposed are a real benefit to the surrounding neighborhoods.

The staff report discussed at length concerns about the light pollution and I believe they are unfounded. I live in a "semi-detached home in the adjacent neighborhood [Wakefield-Tarleton]" and my house is likely the one or one of the ones located approximately 700 feet away. Ben Brenman park lights already produce light pollution until 10 p.m. every night. The marginal increase of these lights would easily be outweighed by the marginal benefit it provides to me and my neighbors as dog owners. However, the staff report repeatedly notes the use of full cut-off lighting and user-activated lighting. I also concur that the trees will provide additional buffer.

Taken into account, this is a no-brainer from the perspective of individuals looking for a great amenity in a public park. I am happy to answer additional questions about the benefit this would bring to my life and the lives of my neighbors.

--

Ali Ahmad
703.895.9899

"I'm a slow walker, but I never walk back."
Abraham Lincoln

Dana Wedeles

From: Gillian O'Neill <gillianmabrey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 6:07 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Ben Brenman Park and Safety Lights

Dear Ms. Wedeles,

I am unable to make the Thursday meeting due to work commitments, but I wanted to make known my support of the updated, corrected park hours sign and the installation of safety lights. I support the new posted signs and the dog park improvements.

Updating the sign language to say 6 AM until 10 PM extends the accessibility of the park, particularly for those of us in the Wakefield Tarleton neighborhood. The park is already open during those times for use of the sports fields, so we are not asking for special consideration. Those of us who have dogs to walk or who would like to go to the London Curry House restaurant just want to be able to use the park.

Best regards,

Gillian Mabrey O'Neill

Dana Wedeles

From: angela brown <angelabrown907@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:10 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Dog Park

I support the new posted signs and the dog park improvements. Thanks

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Dana Wedeles

From: Asa Orrin-Brown <asaorrinbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 8:51 AM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Lights and hours at Ben Brenman Dog Park

Dana,

I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight, but wanted to write in support of the plan to add lights and to extend the hours of Ben Brenman Dog Park. I live in the neighborhood, and am often out with my dog after dark -- especially in the winter time. Currently we stay away from that area at night completely, not just because of the posted hours but because of the people who seem to be buying and selling drugs. I sincerely think the lights and extended hours would help clean up the area and get rid of the problem individuals. If there are more members of the community using the area, we will be better able to report suspicious activity to the police, and I suspect that in a very short time the dealers will at least relocate to another area -- hopefully outside of the City of Alexandria.

Extended hours and lights in the park would also be very useful for the dog owners in the community. In the half year we have had a dog, since adopting from the Alexandria shelter, we have met around one-hundred neighbors who regularly use Ben Brenman Dog Park. In the winter time, it is very hard for most of us to get there before dark. Work, commuting time, and other commitments (for me fixing dinner and getting my son to bed on time for school) often make it impossible to get out with our dogs until 8:00 or 9:00. Extending the parks hours until 10:00 would be very helpful, and make an already great community resource even more valuable.

Thank you for your help in this matter and service to the community.

Best regards,
Asa

Dana Wedeles

From: Katy Rother <mkrother@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Ben Brenman

Dana -

I understand there is a proposal to change the posted hours of the park and also to increase the size of the dog park and install lights. I think that is a wonderful plan and I fully support it. The posted hours to the park are clearly not an accurate reflection of the community's understanding of the park hours as it is utilized after dark by many people daily. It is also used by early morning joggers and dog walkers, which could be in violation of the posted hours depending on the time of year. During the shorter daylight hours of the fall and winter months, enforcement of the currently posted hours would make the park unusable for those of us who are commuting and working during the daylight hours.

The improvements to the dog park would also be a wonderful benefit to our community full of dog lovers. Again, my schedule makes the dog park unusable during the week most of the year. Lights in the dog park would be a welcome addition so that my (adopted) dog and my future foster dogs can have time to run and socialize with other dogs.

Thank you for this effort and for these valuable additions to our community.

Sincerely,
Katy Rother
230 S. Jenkins Street

Dana Wedeles

From: Dana Wedeles
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 8:44 AM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: FW: Planning Commission input

From: RADMRFD@aol.com [<mailto:RADMRFD@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:45 PM
To: Dana Wedeles
Subject: Re: Planning Commission input

Dana,

Thank you for the update. As you might expect, I am disappointed in this new element being introduced into the discussion, at this very late date. I deliberately cast my argument in terms that addressed what I honestly believe is a serious, ongoing, public safety concern. The City is facing an open liability.

I regret that there appears to have been little to no discussion about the Commissioner's concern. I think it could easily have been pointed out that it comes down to a matter of "uses"; what uses are intended to be supported by the park proper vs those intended to be supported by the dog park and the operating hours necessary to support those uses.

Not too long ago, the City spent over a million dollars on installing a professional-grade soccer field with ample hi-intensity lighting in Ben Brenman Park. That part of the park is regularly used, as intended, for soccer games after dark. The public rest rooms, across the street from the soccer field, in the same building as the community police station, are certainly available, and used, as intended for soccer players and fans. I do not recall a community outreach being conducted to ascertain interest in supporting these activities after dark; nor a movement to change all the park signs to include the phrase "... except during evenings when soccer activities are taking place." Before the soccer field was built, I recall many evenings taking my family to Ben Brenman Park to watch outdoor movies, sponsored by the Park Department, which were always shown after sunset (in fact, after full dark). Again, no sign modification seems to have been thought necessary.

The same discussion could be had regarding the baseball field in the main part of the park.

Last year, the City specifically authorized the conducting of an Ethiopian religious event in Ben Brenman Park - the focal point of which was an enormous bon fire. It was conducted well after sunset and was quite dramatic. Once again, no signage modification occurred.

Perhaps it was improper, but I noticed that more than a few residents genuinely enjoyed the exhilarating atmosphere of the park under a deep layer of snow and a full moon last week; using sleds, etc.

I could go on with further examples.

Today's sunrise in Alexandria was at 7:12. In December it was as early as 7:06. Sunset today is at 5:31. In December it occurred as early as 4:46. Of the large population of Alexandria dog owners (ie voters) who use this dog park, from Cameron Station and adjoining high density residential communities, a very high percentage have jobs and many commute to their place of employment around a highly congested metropolitan area. That means, walking your dog before going to work, and after returning home from a long day at work. Many, myself included, currently forego using the dog park in question for the safety concerns that I elaborated on in my letter to the Commission. If we intend the dog park to serve the use for which it was clearly intended, and for which it is proposed to expand, it must meet the needs of this community; which includes use before sunrise and after sunset.

As I stated in my opening, I am extremely disappointed that this matter has been left uncorrected for the several years that I have attempted to work with the City. These examples, and more, could easily have been discussed at the Commission meeting and resolved. I find this further delay both unacceptable and unnecessary. And certainly unresponsive to a serious citizen's concern, respectfully pursued - for a very long time.

Regards,

R F Duncan

Ben Brenman Park
Community Meeting
March 3, 2016, 7:00pm
Cameron Station Community Room, 200 Cameron Station Blvd

Agenda

7:00pm

Review of Dog Park Lights Proposal to-date

- a. Citywide Parks Improvement Plan, endorsed by Council in 2014, recommends lights and expansion of the Ben Brenman dog park as the top priority for Ben Brenman Park based on community input, safety concerns, and use.
- b. Council approved \$22,000 for dog park lights in the FY16 budget. An additional \$75,500 is proposed in the FY17 budget for the dog park expansion and general dog park improvements.
- c. Any new lights in an area of the city zoned Public Open Space requires a Special Use Permit. Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) submitted an SUP for Planning Commission Review on February 2, 2016 (see attached staff report for SUP2015-0128). The Commission chose to defer the request until RPCA provided proper notification to the adjacent neighborhoods that the addition of lights would trigger a change in park hours. The Commission also added a condition that the bases of the light poles will be located outside the fence line (RPCA has confirmed with the lighting designer that this can be achieved).
- d. RPCA sent an eNews out on February 23rd to notify the public of the March 3rd community meeting and to provide information on how to send in written comment regarding the change of hours. The eNews was also posted in Ben Brenman Park at the entrances and at the dog park. RPCA also posted the information on Facebook and Twitter.

7:15pm – 7:20pm

Review of hours

- a. The original Special Use Permit for Ben Brenman Park (SUP98-0048) allows the hours of operation for the park to be 6 a.m. to 10

p.m. However, the current signs in the park have been more limited in large portions of the park to sunrise to sunset, except by permitted use.

- b. The current posted hours state that the park is open from “sunrise to sunset, except by permitted use.” The new posted hours will state that the park is open from “6 a.m. to 10 p.m. in all lighted areas of the Park.”

7:15pm – 7:40pm

Public Comment

- a. The attached document includes all written public comment received both prior to the Planning Commission meeting on February 2nd and any written comments received following the eNews announcement February 23rd.
- b. RPCA will record all comments made tonight and transcribe the meeting. We will submit all recorded comments to both the Park and Recreation Commission on March 10, 2016 and to Planning Commission on April 6, 2016.

7:40pm – 7:45pm

Next Steps

- a. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on March 10, 2016, 7:00pm (APD Headquarters)
- b. Planning Commission will reconsider request for SUP2015-0128 on April 6, 2016, 7:00pm at City Hall. (All properties adjacent to the park will receive written notification about the meeting 10 days in advance, as required by Planning and Zoning).
- c. If the Planning Commission approves the SUP, RPCA will proceed with installing the lights and expanding the dog park in Summer 2016.

7:45pm – 8:00pm

Preliminary discussion on renovations and small additions to the Alexandria Police Firing Range

March 11, 2016

Below is an overview of recorded public comments

A full audio version is available on the City's website at www.alexandriava.gov/dogs

Question #1: I'm not sure exactly where you expanding the dog park. About 4 years ago I was walking and there was a fenced in area that said hazard, do not enter. What happened to this area?

- Staff provided clarification that this area was in Tarleton Park where a former playground was located and was not intended to be a dog park. Staff then clarified the location of the Ben Brenman Dog Park location and the fenced in area next to the picnic shelter and volleyball courts.

Question #2: There is a difference between the Linear Park and Ben Brenman Park which comes down to Somerville Street. Is that where Linear Park stops, which says 6am-10pm and where Brenman begins with different signs?

- Staff clarified, yes, Linear Park has signs with 6am to 10pm and Brenman says sunrise to sunset, unless permitted use. The signs in Brenman will say 6am-10pm, where lit. We are specifically seeking it state "where lit" to deter people from gathering in unlit parts of the park, such as the picnic area, at night.

Question #3 (Bob Duncan): Can you explain to me the user operated button? It seems to me that if you push the button the light can go out and leave you in the dark in the dog park.

- Staff explained that the lights will have a strobe to give a warning to let users know when the lights are about to go out. There is one button so there is a control point and you can keep your eye on who is pushing it.

Comment #1 (Bob Duncan): The challenge is that there has been homeless issues and squatter camps out there and the police we spoke to said that if you light that area the transient population will be less likely to encounter park users. There are people who are reluctant to use that dog park. For three years now I've supported this plan, but I would really encourage to have the lights on at all times the park is open instead of user activated. The button may also be an attraction for vandalism.

- Staff explained that they spoke to police and the police suggested the push button because if they see the light is on then they know people are in the dog park. We can look into future timing changes based on future use and needs without delaying this particular process.

Comment #2: (Bonnie Petry): I support the dog park application and our access to the park. I am a walker and dog owner. I respect the fact that this can improve people's lives and I've seen park planning ask community members in a transparent process what they would like to see over a long period of time. I know you have reached out and spoken to Officer Lloyd and that other officers have been involved. Right now people are using the park after dark. If you are a responsible dog owner and you get home at 6pm, here is a place you can walk your dog. In the summertime if I want to get active exercise I am running at nine in the evening and I appreciate the ability to walk in the park at this hour. In talking to my neighbors I haven't talked to any who opposes this plan. Right now there are people with children in the park at 9pm and its confusing

because there are people using the fields and police are in the park at that hour on patrol. When you have people who walk their dogs, these are people who care about their dogs and will talk to each other and talk to the police when needed. Dog walkers are safety asset for this park and both neighborhoods. If there were to be an attempt to cut off access there would be a great deal of citizen input coming in.

- Commissioner Mindy Lyle responded: I am the planning commissioner who pulled this from the consent calendar. My concern was the lights being inside the park instead of outside the fence. The first design was an issue. The 2nd concern was there are well over 100 bedrooms that face the park and if we are changing the hours, I felt it was only fair to give people whose bedrooms are on the park to have an opportunity to provide input. When we put lights in the tot lot they were concerned about the lights. It was not to deny access.

Comment #3 (Ali Ahmed): For me personally, I have often been concerned about the signs because I've assumed permitted use mean "you have a permit." On my way to this meeting I passed 5 dog walkers, so I think the park is already being used this way. The homes right across the park are Wakefield-Tarleton, and that is my house that is as close as you can be. So the light and noise affects me as much as anyone in those 100 bedrooms. The marginal cost of people using the park at night is very little compared to the marginal benefit of the park use. I chose to live near the park and it's awesome. I strongly support changing the signs so that it is clear when I can be in the park with my dog and not be stopped by a police officer. Our association has not had a meeting between the time this meeting was announced and held, but we held an electronic poll and the association was in support. In response to Mr. Duncan, I don't think this should be deferred because of the user button, but as someone who would see the lights all the time, it doesn't bother me if the lights were on all the time.

- Staff responded that we will clarify the word "permitted" meaning "by permit" on our signs.

Question to Commissioner Lyle from attendee (name not identified): do you know if the 100 bedrooms have provided comments?

- Commissioner Lyle stated that she did not know
- Staff explained the ways comments can come in and that P&Z requires all adjacent properties receive written notification and they will again before the April 6th

Comment #4 (Nancy Tingen): Reading through the proposal I am definitely in support to change the signs 6am to 10pm. I don't own a dog, but I walk with my neighbors who do have dogs and I love this park. I also love the solar lights.

Comment #5 (Wiley Bean?): I am a dog owner and dog walker. I frequently walk my dog in Brenman Park and sometimes at two in the morning and the police have noticed me and told me to leave, but most of the time they know who I am. I am definitely in favor of more lighting in the park, but I think from seeing other dog walkers using the park that lighting won't make much difference in the evening because it still won't be safe with the riff raff nearby. After 9pm, I'm not sure it will lead to much new use.

- Staff responded that we have met with the CPTED officer who stated that “its not safe now, but this is making it safer.” We would not place the dog park here now, but it is and we know you are using so we are trying to make it safer.

Comment #6 (Colby ____): I think there ought to be more thought about the button because you would be leaving your dog to push the button.

- Staff explained that the reason to place the button where we did was so your path to the dog park is lit, but we can look into a second button in the dog park. We also might be able to have three lights activated from one button and the other four from another button. These will be solar lights and it’s the first time we have used solar in the city so we will have to work through the kinks and understand what the technology can do.

Comment #7 (Omni Morse): I often use flashlights and lanterns to use the dog park. The lights will increase the number of users in the park and provide more eyes on the park. Having the lights can be a beacon to other dog users that other dog users are there. I like having the push button but I’m not comfortable leaving my dog there. I think that if we can get the lights in the dog park first we can see about lighting other parts of the path. Maybe by the time we have more funds to light the path maybe solar technology will be better.

- Attendee (name not identified) responded: she makes a good point- what criminal wants to be around all these dogs?
- Staff responded: a point Onmi made is when you have a congregation and a community it tends to deter inappropriate behavior. If you want to become a more organized group I am happy to meet with you about how to form a formal partnership and would advise you in doing so. Simpson Dog Park is a good example on how to do that.
- Bob Duncan responded: The dog park has become a central point of community. A couple of years ago one of the woman who we met at the dog park was killed, this dog park community planted two trees to recognize her and that represents a special community that cares about each other.
- Attendee (name not identified): I am a single woman and I never go to the dog park unless my friend is with me. I would probably be encouraged to use the dog park if I saw the lights were on and saw the lights were on.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 4, 2016

TO: CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: KARL MORITZ, DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO DOCKET ITEM #5: SUP#2015-0128,
4800 BRENMAN PARK DRIVE

This memo contains revisions to the staff report for Docket Item #5 (SUP#2015-0128) which are attached as a separate page and includes an image and caption (Figure 2) depicting the proposed expansion and lighting fixture locations, as well as Parking and the Zoning/Master Plan Designation analysis. This information was inadvertently omitted during publication. The attached page is to be inserted after the Proposal section on page 5 and before the Staff Analysis on page 6 of the staff report.

Staff recommends approval of SUP#2015-0128 subject to the following revisions and to the SUP conditions that appear in the staff report.



Figure 2: Footprint of proposed dog park expansion surrounded by a fence. Light locations identified with circles.

PARKING

The park includes 151 parking spaces to accommodate park activities and complies with zoning.

ZONING/MASTER PLAN DESIGNATION

The subject property is located in the CDD#9 zone that designates the property for park use. The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan chapter of the Master Plan supports the park use and includes a proposal to enhance park connections by linking Ben Brenman Park to Clermont Natural Park with a bike and pedestrian bridge over the Norfolk Southern rail tracks.

Comments on April 5 Planning Commission Docket Item 5 - Ben Brenman Dog Park Lights & Expansion

Additional Materials

SUP2015-0128

4800 Brenman Park Dr

Arthur Impastato <aimpastato@earthlink.net>

Fri 4/1/2016 3:44 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Cc: Dana Wedeles <Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing to urge that the Planning Commission consider prioritizing the use of funds for park improvements. As most of you may be aware, parks like Ewald Park are desperately in need of improvements and it is used to a much greater degree than the dog park at Ben Brenman Park. In fact, the dog park in Ben Brenman Park is one of two dog parks within easy walking distance of my house. I do not believe it makes sense to spend a total of \$97,500 on a dog park when City funds are limited and when people already have access to two dog parks in close proximity to each other.

At the February 23 City Council legislative meeting, it was noted that Ewald was one of the parks needing "complete renovations." It was also noted by Ms. Wedeles that officials consider six factors in determining how to prioritize funding park projects: safety; community feedback and the results of needs assessments taken in 2011 and 2013; the life span of existing amenities; the potential for private funding sources; the level of impact on users; and the relationship to other nearby projects. Under these six guidelines and the statement that Ewald Park is in need of complete renovation, it is very difficult for me to comprehend how we came to the conclusion that spending almost \$100,000 for one of two dog parks that are within walking distance of each other is a wise expenditure of money.

I urge you to put this money to better use such as renovating Ewald Park.

Thank you,

Arthur "Sash" Impastato
239 Medlock Lane
Alexandria, VA 22304

Please Approve Special Use Permit #2015-0128

Additional Materials
SUP2015-0128
4800 Brenman Park Dr

Ali Ahmad <ali.ahmad@gmail.com>

Tue 4/5/2016 1:18 PM

To: PlanComm <PlanComm@alexandriava.gov>;

Cc: Dana Wedeles <Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov>;

Dear Planning Commission:

I am writing to reiterate my support for the installation of safety lights and the expansion of the dog park at Ben Brenman Park. I have read through the material made available in the staff briefing packet, including the comments from my fellow neighbors. I think you'll see from reading those emails and from the comments at the March 3, 2016 public meeting that support for the improvements is both broad and well-considered. As the staff reports notes, this has been a high priority for dog park users for years. Furthermore, it's a key safety concern which needs to be addressed.

While no comments in opposition were made publicly at the March 3rd public meeting, I see a small number of comments submitted in opposition to you today. I truly respect my neighbors who do not share my opinion, but I think the two distinct criticisms I've read, 1) noise and light pollution and 2) cost and priority of park funds, are a bit out of context.

In regards to noise and light pollution, there is no action that would reduce noise and light at Ben Brenman Park in the evenings currently up for consideration. As I mentioned in my comments at the March 3rd meeting, I live very close to the dog park and of course I live very close to other Ben Brenman Park amenities, including lighted sports fields. There are a lot of lights in Ben Brenman Park already, and the marginal increase of higher quality more directed light-pollution reducing lights will not appreciably change the experience of being a park neighbor. However, it will appreciably and positively change the user experience in the dog park and the park altogether.

As far as noise from the park goes, existing permitted uses like league team sports are much louder and have more associated automobile traffic. Furthermore, being able to use the dog park later would likely reduce nuisance barking as dogs who do not otherwise have yards to play in Cameron Station will have a place to go with their owners to burn off energy before bed.

In essence, quiet and darkness are not on the table. Nor should they be, as Ben Brenman is a wonderfully well used very active park and there are naturally costs associated to the incredible benefits those of us who live so close to a park enjoy.

Additionally, the concerns expressed about the budget implications are relevant. However, the improvements are already funded. For the benefit they bring to park users they are relatively inexpensive. Improving existing amenities to increase their utility is a prudent use of taxpayer money. More importantly, a denial of this SUP on grounds that the money can be spent better elsewhere offers no guarantee on other priorities in the West End.

Thank you for your service to our community on the Planning Commission and in the many other public roles you hold.

Respectfully,
Ali Ahmad
230 South Jenkins Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

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