



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural
Activities 1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

May 10, 2021

Honorable members of the Planning Commission

Re: This letter summarizes the Park and Recreation Commission's support for the Armistead L. Boothe Park Resource Protection Area Exception Request.

On April 15, 2021, the Park and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the Resource Protection Area (RPA) exception request at Armistead L. Boothe Park. The Commission found that the exception request is consistent with the minimum area impact necessary to meet the programmatic requirements of the project, and the purpose of the Environmental Management Ordinance.

Armistead L. Boothe Park was approved in 1998 and is an important asset in the City's recreation infrastructure. The existing natural turf field serves both diamond and rectangle sports programming, as well as student activities from the adjacent Samuel Tucker Elementary School. The field is located directly adjacent to the concrete channel of Backlick Run on the southern border. The site includes several grandfathered impervious surface encroachments in the two RPAs that line the west and south borders of the park. The improvements in the proposed plan will shift the field north and east to create forested RPA buffers on the west and south borders. The forested buffers will remove the existing impervious surfaces and managed turf. In addition to the native plant and habitat benefits of the new forested buffers, the project is designed to direct stormwater to the Ben Brenman Park stormwater management pond. The RPA encroachment is a synthetic turf surface designed as a BMP that will filter stormwater before sending it to the stormwater pond in Ben Brenman Park, thereby treating it twice before it enters the stream. The managed natural turf field conversion to synthetic turf will reduce the use of fertilizers and irrigation water on site. The design is based on the minimum area required to support the recreation programming and incorporates methods to ensure water quality in our City streams is addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Baum".

Gina Baum, Chair
Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning & Zoning
Jack Browand, Acting Deputy Director, Park Planning
Bethany Znidersic, Acting Division Chief, Park Planning