

15
2-12-02

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: DEFERRAL OF DOCKET ITEM #15 REGARDING THE STATUS OF CHETWORTH PARK'S FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA UPON COMPLETION OF NEW FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA IN POTOMAC YARD'S RAIL PARK

At the February 7, 2002 Planning Commission meeting, the Commission deferred action on the special use permit (SUP) to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park for 90 days.

As a result of the Planning Commission's deferral of the SUP application, City Council consideration of the status of Chetworth Park's fenced dog exercise area will be deferred until a future date.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

15
2-12-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CHETWORTH PARK'S FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA UPON COMPLETION OF NEW FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA IN POTOMAC YARD'S RAIL PARK

ISSUE: Whether the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area should be changed upon completion of the new fenced dog exercise area at Rail Park in Potomac Yard, which is anticipated to open in late May 2002.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Receive the recommendation in this report, which is to eliminate the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area upon the opening of the initial one-acre fenced dog exercise area at Rail Park in Potomac Yard, and thereafter to allow only dogs on-leash at Chetworth Park. This recommendation is consistent with the original recommendation regarding Chetworth Park's fenced dog area from the Park and Recreation Commission;
2. Schedule this recommendation for public hearing on Saturday, February 23, 2002; and
3. Following the public hearing on February 23, 2002, adopt this recommendation.

BACKGROUND: In September 2000, City Council approved the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 1). The original recommendation from the Park and Recreation Commission for Chetworth Park stated:

This park is too small for a fenced dog area. When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park should be eliminated.

As a result of its public hearing on the Master Plan, City Council changed the recommendation from "should be eliminated" to "will be reevaluated."

At the October 13, 2001, public hearing, Council received comments from a number of citizens regarding the fenced dog park and the children's playground uses at Chetworth Park. Following a discussion on these issues, Council unanimously voted that staff proceed with the playground

changes in Chetworth Park, and look for alternative sites for the fenced dog park by the end of 2001 because it was apparent that the two uses at Chetworth Park were in conflict.

Staff prepared a status report in December regarding an analysis of alternative sites for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, which concluded that we would proceed with Crescent Resources to develop one acre of the three-acre Rail Park as a fenced dog park site as rapidly as possible (Attachment 2).

Since the December 4 report to Council, staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities have held a series of citizen meetings related to the development of a fenced dog park at Rail Park. Due to the variety of opinions of their constituency, the Northeast Citizens Association is not taking a position on this issue.

DISCUSSION: Crescent Resources, the developer of Potomac Yard, has agreed to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park as soon as possible¹. In accordance with the time line presented in staff's December status report, the Planning Commission will consider Crescent Resources' application for a special use permit (SUP) to make initial improvements for a public fenced dog park on the one-acre southern portion of Rail Park at its February 5 meeting. This SUP will be docketed for public hearing and consideration at Council's February 23 public hearing meeting.

Amenities in the initial plan incorporate several of the suggestions from the citizen input process during December, including fencing around the perimeter of the dog park, fenced de-leashing pens at the dog park entry, park seating and benches, ground surface material for the park such as blue stone dust, screening of the fence area that faces the Old Town Greens tennis courts, an asphalt trail that connects the dog park entry and the street, covered trash receptacles, pick-up bag stations and a bulletin board for posting park regulations.

If the Planning Commission and City Council approve the SUP for the initial fenced dog park at Rail Park, Crescent Resources intends to begin work as soon as possible with a target date of late May 2002 to complete the project. It is the recommendation of staff that, at the time the initial one-acre dog park at Rail Park is completed and opened, the designation of Chetworth Park as a fenced dog exercise area be eliminated, and thereafter that only dogs on-leash be permitted at Chetworth Park. This recommendation is based on the conclusion that, largely due to the small size of Chetworth Park, the use of the park by off-leash dogs is incompatible with the full and uninhibited use of the park by children and other park users, and poses too many unacceptable risks to warrant the continuation of the fenced dog park. This recommendation does not mean that dogs will not be permitted in Chetworth Park; it only means that dogs will have to be on a leash, under the control of a capable person, at all times while in the park.

¹ In the future, as development at Potomac Yard proceeds, Rail Park will be a permanent three-acre fenced dog exercise area.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Master Plan for Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Area

Attachment 2: December 4, 2001, Memorandum - Status Report Regarding Alternative Sites for
a Fenced Dog Park Near Chetworth Park

STAFF: Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

EXHIBIT NO. 1**CORRECTED VERSION AS OF 9-25-00**
SEE PAGE 2*City of Alexandria*16
9-27-00**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS

ISSUE: Approval of the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks as amended based on input from the September 16 Public Hearing (Attachment 1) and incorporating guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council approve the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks as amended to include the guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas and the following changes to specific areas:

- A) Area 1 - Founders Park - The Founders Park dog exercise area will remain located where it is currently delineated near Union Street, and staff will continue to monitor this area. Staff will recommend to the City Manager by April 2001 if further action is necessary. If, at a later date, the dog exercise area is determined to be unsatisfactory for all users of Founders Park, an alternative location will be considered.
- B) Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind the CVS was originally recommended as a new dog exercise area. It is now recommended that this area not be included at this time on the list of proposed new dog exercise areas.
- C) Area 17 - New area behind George Mason School - Staff will return to Council with a recommendation regarding the proposed new designation or the use of fencing in this area by December, 2000 after reevaluating this area with all area users.
- D) Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place - The language in the Master Plan has been changed to read: "When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park will be reevaluated."

These amendments were discussed with the Park and Recreation Commission at its September 21 meeting, and the Commission concurs with changes A, B, and C. As to recommendation D - Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place, the Commission recommends retention of the original language, stating the fenced dog park should be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in the neighborhood is located. The Commission believes that if another more appropriate site becomes available, the Chetworth Park site is too small for a fenced dog park and should be eliminated.

BACKGROUND: After receiving testimony on the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks at its September 16 Public Hearing, City Council requested that staff reevaluate several sites, evaluate the request for lighting at the Beatley Library fenced dog park as well as other fenced dog parks, and clarify which City staff in the future will be enforcing the ordinances pertaining to the off-leash dog areas.

DISCUSSION: Following the City Council Public Hearing on September 16, 2000, staff reevaluated the following sites:

A) Area 1 - Founders Park Dog Exercise Area: . .

In the Master Plan, this area was described as being at the northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac River. After the Master Plan was disseminated in June, users of Founders Park asked that this site be changed to a 100' x 100' area on the north side of Founders Park near Union Street. The users and the Animal Control officers stated that this was the area that had been used during the past several years, not the signed area in the northeast corner of the park.

Staff reevaluated the area in June and found that the proposed 100' x 100' area in the northeast corner of the park would impact both the walking path and the volleyball court. Staff installed bollards designating a 100' x 100' area near Union Street as an alternate site, with the understanding that this site would be reviewed over the summer and addressed when the Master Plan came back to Council for approval in the fall. Staff did hear from one individual that he preferred the original location at the northeast corner, but the majority of comments, including residents of the Founders Park area testifying at the September 16 public hearing and numerous, favored the site near Union Street.

It should also be noted that the Waterfront Committee at their June 15, 1999 meeting passed a resolution that the "Dog Exercise" sign be removed from Founders Park and that the leash laws be strictly enforced. The Committee believed that ~~there~~ should be no off-leash area at Founders Park. At their March 21, 2000 meeting, the Committee addressed the lack of enforcement for dogs off leash at Founders Park and asked that the City Manager call a meeting of key city staff to address this problem. Staff reported to the Waterfront Committee at their May 16 meeting that as a result of a meeting with the City Manager on April 19, three parks, Founders Park, Ft. Ward Park and Simpson Park were selected for increased attention for enforcement of leash laws.

Between April 19 and June 9, Founders Park was visited 70 times for a total of 41 hours of patrol time. Twenty five warnings were issued with no summonses issued. Currently Animal Control Officers visit Founders Park at least twice a day and often, more frequently. At the Waterfront Committee meeting May 16, members continued to express the opinion that Founders Park was an inappropriate place for dogs off leash. Staff has also requested input from the Founders Park Civic Association; however, staff has yet to be informed of the outcome of a vote by the Civic Association on this issue.

In light of the public hearing testimony and staff review, staff recommends that this dog exercise area be located where it is currently delineated near Union Street. Staff will continue to monitor this area, and staff will make a recommendation to the City Manager by April 2001 if further action is necessary. If, at a later date, the dog exercise area is determined to be unsatisfactory for all users of Founders Park, an alternative location will be considered.

B) Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind CVS:

This area is listed in the Master Plan as a recommended new Dog Exercise Area. Since the Master Plan was disseminated to the public, the fenced dog park at Beatley Library has become very popular, and an additional new fenced dog park will be opened this fall in Ben Brenman Park. Considering the addition of these two areas, and based on comments at the public hearing, staff concurs that a dog exercise area at Pickett Street behind the CVS not be included at this time.

Staff recommends this area be removed from the listing of proposed new dog exercise areas in the Master Plan.

C) Area 17 - Area behind George Mason School:

This area is listed in the Master Plan as a recommended new Dog Exercise Area. In response to a petition from 14 residents stating that they would only support this area for dogs off-leash if it is fenced, staff will reevaluate this area. In order to receive input from all area users, a neighborhood meeting will be held and staff will return to Council by December, 2000 with a recommendation for this area.

D) Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place:

The Master Plan recommended this fenced dog park be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park is opened and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located. Many users of this area asked City Council that the word "eliminate" be reconsidered as this dog park is currently a favorite place in the neighborhood.

The Park and Recreation Commission discussed this issue at its September 21 meeting, and the Commission recommends retention of the original language, stating the fenced dog park should

be eliminated when the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in the neighborhood is located. The Commission believes that when another more appropriate site becomes available, the Chetworth Park site is too small for a fenced dog park and should be eliminated.

Staff also concurs that the Chetworth Park area is too small for a fenced dog park, and staff recommends that the word "eliminate" be changed to "reevaluate" in the wording of the Master Plan as it relates to this fenced dog park.

Area 19 - Beatley Dog Park Lighting Request:

City Council asked staff to evaluate the request for lighting at the Beatley Library site and to discuss what other parks have lights. There are no lights at any of the Fenced Dog Parks with the exception of Simpson. Simpson Park currently has a light in the Fenced Dog Park, which was installed on an existing light pole at a cost of \$350. There are currently no plans to install a light in the Simpson Fenced Dog Park near Monroe Street when we move the area from its current location. Staff will look into costs for lighting all the fenced dog parks in the context of the FY 2002 budget; however, staff caution that depending upon the site improvements that could be required at various dog parks, the cost to install wiring and lighting may significantly exceed \$350. Such improvements will need to be considered in light of the many competing priority needs in the City's budget.

Enforcement:

City Council asked for further clarification as to which City staff, in the future, will be enforcing the ordinances. The Animal Welfare League has four Animal Control officers who provide service from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. Police officers will respond to specific calls from the Animal Control officers and the public if available. The Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Department will designate the following positions to be trained by the Police Department to help enforce the ordinances pertaining to dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks and issue citations: Deputy Director of Parks and Natural Resources, Park Superintendents, Assistant Park Superintendents, and Park Facility Specialist. This will provide an additional six positions authorized to enforce the ordinances pertaining to dog parks Monday through Saturday.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost for installing lights at the fenced dog parks will be considered in the context of the FY 2002 budget; however, additional funding for these improvements will need to be considered in the context of the many competing needs in the City's budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, including recommended amendments
- 2) Park and Recreation Commission's Proposed Guidelines to establish new Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks and proposed ordinance changes. (City Council Docket Item from September 12, 2000)

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS
FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA (including recommended amendments)**

The City of Alexandria has had 26 designated dog exercise areas for over twenty years, none of which were fenced until 1996. Fences were installed at the existing dog exercise areas in Simpson Park in 1996, Chetworth Park in 1997, and Montgomery Park in 1998. The new fenced dog park near Beatley Library on Duke Street was opened in 2000. These fenced areas have become very popular and citizens are asking for more such areas throughout the City. In addition, citizens have requested that dog exercise areas, where dogs can be off leash but the area is not fenced, should be improved by providing well defined areas, trash receptacles and posting established rules.

Definitions:

<u>Owner:</u>	A person having right of property in a dog.
<u>Running at Large:</u>	Any animal that is off its owner's property and is not restrained by a physical leash, which is held by a handler, attached to a collar.
<u>Handler:</u>	Any person having a dog(s) under their care, custody or physical control.
<u>Dog Exercise Areas (DEA):</u>	Areas of open space set aside for the specific use of dog owners/handlers to allow dogs off lead. Feces must be immediately picked up inside DEA.
<u>Fenced Dog Parks (FDP):</u>	Fenced areas set aside for dog owners/handlers to allow their dogs off lead. Feces must be immediately picked up inside a FDP.

Rules:

The following rules will be posted at all areas:

- All dogs must be under the owner's/handler's control.
- Only three dogs per person (owner/handler) are allowed in FDP or DEA.
- All dog handlers must have a leash in hand at all times.
- No female dogs in heat are allowed.
- Only dogs 4 months and older are allowed.
- Dogs must be legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing both current tags.
- Dog owners/handlers must keep their dog(s) in view at all times.
- Any bite of a person or other dog must be immediately reported to Alexandria Animal Control and all parties involved must wait for an officer to respond, except in the case where immediate medical care is needed.
- Dogs must not be allowed to bark incessantly or to the annoyance of the neighborhood.
- Dog owners/handlers must immediately pick up and dispose of, in trash receptacles, all dog feces.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed at any time inside a DEA or FDP. An aggressive dog is defined as a dog(s) posing a threat to human beings or other

dogs. Owners (handlers) are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injury caused by them.

- Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting a DEA or FDP.
- If people are not abiding by these regulations, please contact Alexandria Animal Control at (703) 838-4775.

In addition to the above rules, the following rules will be posted at Fenced Dog Parks:

- Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult when inside a FDP.
- Food is not allowed inside a FDP, non-alcoholic beverages are allowed.

City Ordinance: One of the first items that needs to be addressed is the preparation of a new ordinance amending the City Code to limit, to three, the number of dogs per handler at both the Dog Exercise Areas and the Fenced Dog Parks. The Commission believes that for the safety of the animals and the handlers that one person cannot adequately control more than three animals at one time. This ordinance will be enforced by Animal Control or by the Police Department. Based on the City's current civil penalties provisions, a written civil citation would be issued in the amount of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for each subsequent violation. It is recommended that the civil penalties be raised to a class four civil penalty which would be \$100 for the first violation, \$250 for the second, and \$500 for each additional violation.

Enforcement: The Park and Recreation Commission recommends that the animal control officer issue a written warning on the first offense. The City Attorney's Office advised that this should be left to the discretion of the officer. If a violation is of great magnitude, a ticket should be issued on the first offense. It is recommended that in addition to the City's animal control officers, the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities may delegate authority to her employees to enforce these code provisions and issue notices of violations.

What the City will provide:

Fenced Dog Parks

Covered Trash Receptacles/Pick Up Bags
Posted Rules
Fencing and Gates
Water if feasible
Shade where possible

Dog Exercise Areas

Posted Rules
Defined Boundaries
Covered Trash Receptacles/Pick Up Bags
Shade where possible

Additional Amenities

Additional amenities such as benches and bulletin boards will be added if outside funding (citizen's support) is available.

I. Recommendations for Existing Dog Exercise Areas: (Attachment 5)

Area 1 - Area at northeast corner of Founders Park at ~~Oronco Street~~ and the Potomac Union Street:

This area should be retained in the short term with clear delineation of the area with signs and bollards. Stricter on-leash enforcement should be attempted in the remainder of Founders Park. If it is later determined that results are unsatisfactory, an alternative location should be considered.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles and additional signs directing people to dog exercise area.

Meeting with interested citizens in June, a site adjacent to Union Street was found to be more appropriate. This site was staked off over the summer months and after further review it is recommended to replace the northeast corner location with this site.

Area 2 - City property at southeast corner of Gibbon and Union Streets (Pommander Park):

Recommend a small ornamental fence be installed on western edge as a buffer between the park and the sidewalk on Union Street.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 4 - Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth:

Recommend ornamental fencing on Braddock and Commonwealth

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 5 - Hooff's Run, east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets:

Recommend reducing parking area if possible and enlarge exercise area.

Install ornamental fence along Commonwealth/Oak/Chapman for safety of dogs

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 6 - Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway:

Area is located on top of hill in slightly wooded area. Identify area with signs and add trash cans.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 7 - Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (Tarleton Park):

Recommend moving DEA to area along the dry streambed and away from tot lot.

Make a clear delineation of the area with bollards and signage.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles in addition to posting the area near tot lot - "Dogs Must Be On Leash"

Area 8 - Southeast Corner of Armistead and Beauregard:

Although the area is hilly and not suitable for Frisbee and other such dog activities, it is wooded and still is a desirable location for people to walk dogs off leash.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 9 - Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts:

Post signs designating DEA. Also need signs on either end of Chambliss Park identifying the park.

Recommend boundary fencing along Chambliss and walking path up hill.

Pick up bags and receptacles

Area 10 - East side of entrance to Fort Ward Park:

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Move area further away from Braddock Road and the Fort Ward Road, and clearly delineate. Area should remain unfenced.

Area 11 - Median to Timberbranch Parkway between Braddock and Oakley Place:

Provide pick up bags and receptacles at both ends

Clearly define area and avoid areas covered by poison ivy.

Area 12 - Chinquapin Park east of loop:

Move DEA to wooded area off loop. Opportunity for larger designated off-leash area which could be delineated with bollards and signage.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 13 - East entrance to Monticello Park:

Delineate a specific area to be used as DEA with bollards.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 14 - Edison Street cul-de-sac:

Unless use of entire area as DEA is acceptable, delineation is recommended.

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

Area 15 - 200 ft. W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue:

Recommend fencing at Raymond Avenue

Provide pick up bags and receptacles

II. Recommendations for New Dog Exercise Areas (Attachment 5):

~~Area 16 - Holmes Run - Pickett Street behind the CVS:~~

~~Area 17 - Area Behind George Mason School - Currently not designated as DEA but is in a desirable area. Recommend a barrier fence along the old foundation wall to keep dogs off the soccer field. Site to be reevaluated and a recommendation given to Council by December, 2000, after meeting with neighborhood residents.~~

III. Recommendations for existing Fenced Dog Parks: (Refer to Attachment 5)

Area 18 - Simpson Stadium Park at Monroe Avenue:

Move the area from the Duncan Avenue side of the park to the Monroe Street side of Simpson Park
Install water for irrigation
Provide a covered trash receptacle inside the park

Area 19 - 5000 block of Duke Street east of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library:

Reinstall fence and gates so they are correctly aligned with cement entry pad.
Provide covered trash receptacle
Reinstall fence to include tree area

Area 20 - Montgomery Park at the corner of Fairfax and 1st Streets:

Enlarge area, provide additional shade through the planting of trees and landscape fence line.

Area 21 - Chetworth Park at Chetworth Place:

This park is too small for a fenced dog area. When the Potomac Yard Fenced Dog Park and/or an additional site in this neighborhood is located, this fenced dog park ~~should be eliminated~~ will be reevaluated. In the meantime, fencing and gates should be installed to ensure the children entering the play area do not have to pass through the dog area.

Area 22 - Ben Brenman Park south of Backlick Run:

Provide covered trash receptacles.

IV. Recommendations for New Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 5):

Area 23 - Southeast corner of Wheeler and Duke Street:

Recommend fencing the entire existing dog exercise area
Cover drain with grate
Provide covered trash receptacles

Area 24 - Potomac Yard:

A new three acre area park between the two rail lines just west of Potomac Greens to be developed by Commonwealth Atlantic Properties as part of the overall development of Potomac Yard.

Area 25 - Carlyle:

A new two plus acre park at the north end of Mill Road. Developers will fence area, provide water, benches, receptacles and trees.

V. Recommendations for Elimination of Areas that are no longer Appropriate (Attachment 5):

Area 26 - Jones Point Park - The National Park Service does not allow dogs off leash at any National Park. Jones Point Park is leased to the City of Alexandria by the National Park Service and we must adhere to their regulations.

Area 27 - Loop at Duke Street - Telegraph Road Interchange - Due to traffic this area is unsafe for dogs to run off leash.

Area 28 - Holmes Run Parkway between Library and Beatley Bridge (Recommend new area be added behind CVS on Pickett St.)

Area 29 - Loop to Van Dorn from Duke Street - This area has no parking, no access, and with heavy woods and bramble it is not a safe site.

Area 30 - Median of Yoakum Parkway near Virginia Power Sub-Station - Area is small and in high traffic area.

Area 31 - Park at Rynex Drive - The vehicular entrance to the Rynex Natural Area is between the park and Fairfax County in a very remote area. It is hilly and very wooded.

Area 32 - Northwest corner of Seminary Road and Beauregard - High traffic area and lack of access makes this an unsafe area.

Capital Costs:

For Each Fenced Dog Park:

Fencing	
6' High - 6 gauge Chain link	\$16 lin. ft.
includes two air lock gates and posts required	
Ground Cover	
Enkamat	\$1.18 s.f.
3-D reinforcement of heavy nylon monofilaments	
Turfgrids	\$.76 s.f.
Polypropylene fibers rototilled 4" - 6" deep	
Grassy Pavers	\$1.48 s.f.
Flexible polyethylene plastic	
Grassing	
Bermuda sod	\$.33 s.f.
Bermuda sprigging	\$.20 s.f.
Irrigation	\$.13 s.f.
Furnishing and installing	
Trash Receptacles	\$500
Water	\$3,000
includes copper service, approximate cost of meter, hose bib and fixture	
Signage	\$300 each
Brown metal signs with white lettering	

Capital costs for a 20,000 s.f. fenced dog park (similar in size to Simpson)

Fencing (100'x 200')	\$ 9,600
Enkamat with sod	\$29,600*
Turfgrids with sod	\$15,800*
Grassy Pavers with sod	\$33,600*
Trash receptacles, water service and signage	\$ 3,800
Irrigation	\$ 2,600
Total costs	\$31,800 - 49,600

* subtract \$2,000 if Bermuda grass is sprigged

For Each Dog Exercise Area:

Bollards 2' high constructed of recycled plastic with dog paw insignia	\$80 each
Trash Receptacles	\$498 each
Signage Brown metal signs with white lettering	\$280 each
Total capital costs for Dog Exercise Areas (assuming 4 bollards)	\$1,100

Maintenance Costs for both Fenced Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas:

Maintenance including aeration, overseeding and fertilization	\$.22 s.f.
Maintenance including grass mowing and trimming	\$.006 s.f.
Bags and Liners for trash receptacles (approximate one year supply)	\$175

Fees: In order to assist with the capital costs and maintenance, it is recommended that the animal license fees be increased, with a portion of these fees set aside for dog park initiatives. Currently, there is a state mandated maximum of \$10.00 per dog on license fees.

Current Fees: \$10 - non-neutered dog
\$2 - neutered dog

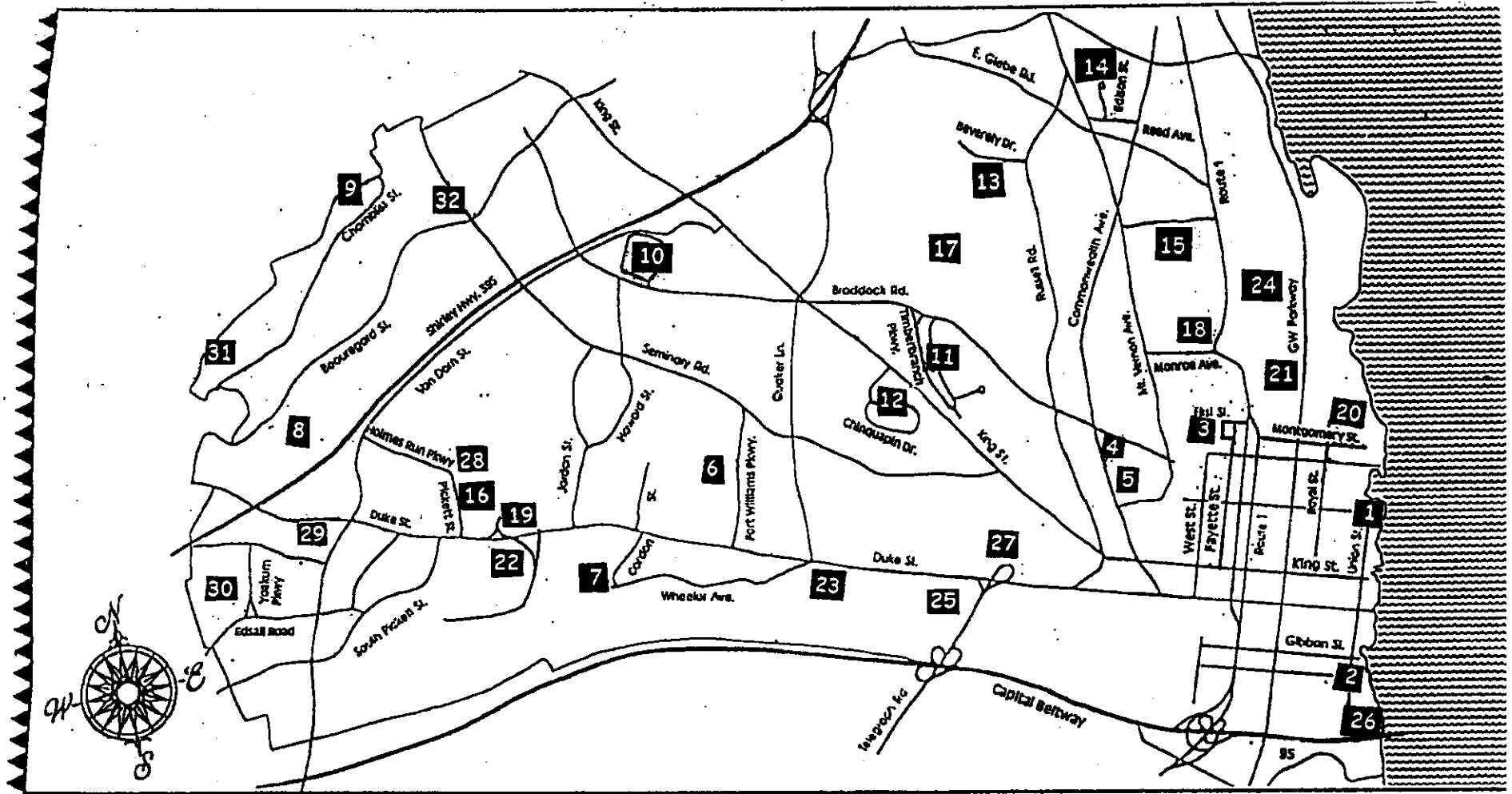
Recommend: \$20 - non-neutered dog
\$10 - neutered dog

Additional Recommendations:

It is also recommended to add a box on the license application requesting donations to help maintain Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.
Information on dog licensing should be sent to all households via some mechanism (car tax bill, utility bill, or other method) to be determined at a later date.

Environmental concerns: The Park and Recreation Commission also recommends that due to environmental concerns and to ensure the water quality in the area any new DEA or FDP must be set back an appropriate distance from a body of water.

Implementation of the recommendations will be prioritized and budgeted appropriately after the Master Plan has been adopted.



City of Alexandria Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Areas:

- | | | | |
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| <p>1. Northeast corner of Founders Park at Oronoco Street and the Potomac</p> <p>2. City property at southwest corner of Gibbon and Union Streets</p> <p>3. City property at northeast corner of First Street and Payne Street</p> <p>4. Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth</p> <p>5. Hooff's Run, east of Commonwealth between Oak and Chapman Streets</p> <p>6. Area between Ft. Williams and New Ft. Williams Parkway</p> | <p>7. Along Old Mill Run west of Gordon St. (Tarleton Park)</p> <p>8. Southeast corner of Armistead and Beauregard</p> <p>9. Along Chambliss Street south of tennis courts</p> <p>10. East side entrance to Fort Ward Park</p> <p>11. Median to Timberbranch Parkway between Braddock and Oakley Place</p> <p>12. Chinquapin Park east of loop</p> <p>13. East entrance to Monticello Park</p> <p>14. Edison Street cul-de-sac</p> <p>15. W&OD Railroad at Raymond Avenue</p> | <p>16. Holmes Run on Pickett St behind CVS - PNE</p> <p>17. Area Behind George Mason School - PNE</p> <p>18. Simpson Park along Duncan Avenue - F</p> <p>19. Duke Street east of the Beatley Library - F</p> <p>20. Montgomery Park at Fairfax and 1st Street - F</p> <p>21. Chetworth Park - F</p> <p>22. Ben Brenman Park south of Backlick Run - F</p> <p>23. Southeast corner of Wheeler and</p> | <p>Duke Street - PNF</p> <p>24. Potomac Yard - PNF</p> <p>25. Carlyle north of Mill Road - PNF</p> <p>26. Jones Point Park - PE</p> <p>27. Loop at Duke Street - PE</p> <p>28. Holmes Run Parkway between Library and Beatley Bridge - PE</p> <p>29. Loop to Van Dorn St. from Duke Street - PE</p> <p>30. Median of Yoakum Parkway near Virginia Power Sub-Station - PE</p> <p>31. Park at Rynex Drive - PE</p> <p>32. Northwest corner of Seminary Road and Beauregard - PE</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

PNE=Proposed New Dog Exercise Area, F=Fenced Dog Park, PNF=Proposed New Fenced Dog Park, PE=Proposed to be Eliminated

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2000

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S PROPOSED GUIDELINES TO ESTABLISH NEW FENCED DOG PARKS AND DOG EXERCISE AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MASTER PLAN FOR DOG EXERCISE AREAS AND FENCED DOG PARKS AND PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGES

ISSUE: Receipt of the Park and Recreation Commission's Proposed Guidelines for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks and proposed ordinance changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

1. Receive the guidelines for establishing new fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission for inclusion in the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (as discussed on page 2 of this memorandum);
2. Pass the proposed ordinances that make changes to the City Code consistent with the recommendations set forth in the Master Plan on first reading and schedule them for public hearing on September 16, and second reading and final passage on September 26; and
3. Thank the members of the Park and Recreation Commission for their work on these matters.

BACKGROUND: At its June 27 legislative meeting, City Council received the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (Attachment 1) from the Park and Recreation Commission and draft ordinances amending the City Code. Council requested that the Master Plan and ordinances be docketed for public hearing on September 16, and for adoption on September 26.

In accordance with Council action in June, the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks was released for review by the public over the summer. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities mailed copies of the proposed Master Plan to veterinarians, animal hospitals, civic associations, pet supply stores, the Alexandria animal shelter, the Alexandria Animal Welfare League and numerous interested citizens. In addition, the Department will post notices of the September 16 Public Hearing at all current dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks prior to the public hearing.

At its June 27 meeting, Council also requested that the Park and Recreation Commission develop proposed guidelines, for inclusion in the Master Plan, that can be used by the City Manager when designating future Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

DISCUSSION: The following criteria are recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission to be used by the City Manager as guidelines for the designation future sites for new Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks:

1. Area must be at least ½ acre, or 21,780 square feet.
2. Area must be at least 50 feet from a residential property line, or 50 feet from a commercial/industrial structure.
3. Area must be at least 60 feet from the top of a bank of any stream bed or water source. It will be located to minimize potential problems for wildlife and habitats, and is subject to normal environmental assessment procedures, including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.
4. Area must be easily accessible for police and animal control protection.
5. Unfenced areas must be a safe distance away from roadways.
6. For Fenced Dog Parks, there must be adequate monies available to establish landscaping and buffers around the perimeter.

Recreation staff concur with these guidelines, and have indicated that all of the criteria would need to be met to designate a future site.

FISCAL IMPACT: Upon review and acceptance of the Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks, staff will recommend that Council increase dog license fees for spayed and neutered dogs from the current fee of \$2 to \$10, and for other dogs, increase the fee from the current \$10 fee to \$20. There are currently 2,950 dog licenses in the City, comprised of 2,500 for spayed or neutered dogs and 450 are for other dogs. If all of the current licenses are renewed at the proposed higher rates, the increase in revenue would total \$24,500 per year. However, an increase in fees of this magnitude will likely result in fewer dog owners renewing their licenses, and as a result, the actual net additional revenue received is likely to be less than \$24,500. It should be noted that there is no change recommended in the license fees for cats, which will remain at \$2 for spayed and neutered cats, and \$10 for other cats.

The new dog license fee annual revenue will help offset part of the operating costs of implementing the Master Plan. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities projects that the additional operating costs of implementing the Master Plan would be between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per year. Capital costs would be additional (beyond the \$25,000 currently funded in the capital budget), and would vary based upon the particular capital plans developed for each fenced dog park or dog exercise area. If City Council approves the Master Plan, City staff will develop a schedule for implementing the proposed improvements to the fenced dog parks and dog exercise areas. This schedule would be used to develop operating and capital budget plans, and the pace of implementation of the schedule would be subject to annual funding considerations.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks (City Council docket item from June 27, 2000)

STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
Kirk Kincannon, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR A FENCED DOG PARK NEAR CHETWORTH PARK

BACKGROUND: At the October 13, 2001 public hearing, City Council received comments from a number of citizens regarding the fenced dog park and the children's playground uses at Chetworth Park. Following Council discussion on these issues, Council unanimously voted that staff proceed with the playground changes¹ in Chetworth Park, and look for alternative sites for the fenced dog park by the end of year.

DISCUSSION: Staff reviewed five sites as possible locations for a fenced dog park near Chetworth Park, including the site identified by Councilwoman Pepper that is immediately west of and adjacent to Domino's Pizza on Slater's Lane. In reviewing these sites, staff took into consideration location, property ownership, and the potential cost to the City of developing the site for a fenced dog park. Of these five sites, the three acre site at Potomac Yard, called Rail Park, is currently designated to be a fenced dog park as part of the approved Potomac Yard plan.

Crescent Resources has agreed to accelerate the development of this fenced dog park by starting immediately to develop one acre of this three acre site for use by May 2002, with the remaining two acres to be developed later in 2002. I have directed staff to work with Crescent Resources to facilitate the development of this dog park as soon as possible. Crescent Resources will make application for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a temporary fenced dog park in December, have it heard by the Planning Commission and City Council in February, and begin construction in March with completion planned by May, 2002. After receiving additional community input from potential users of the entire dog park site Crescent Resources will complete the remaining two acres in late fall of 2002. Crescent Resources will pay for the development of the site, with no cost to the City. A meeting for all City residents to provide input into the design of the dog park is scheduled with the architects from Crescent Resources on Thursday, December 13, 2001, at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center. Residents from the Chetworth Park area will be invited to this meeting, but they will also be briefed prior to December 13 at a separate meeting on December 6 as discussed below.

¹ The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities had been working with Northeast Civic Association for several months regarding improvements to Chetworth Park. At the October 3 meeting of the civic association, the association approved the playground improvement plans recommended by the Department of Recreation, which include removing and replacing the playground equipment, and modifying the fence and gate so children can enter the playground area directly without going through the dog exercise area.

The following is a summary of the other four sites reviewed by staff, including why these sites are not recommended as sites for a fenced dog park.

- 1) The parcel identified by Councilwoman Pepper that is immediately west of and adjacent to Domino's Pizza on Slater's Lane: this property is owned by Crescent Resources and would only serve as a temporary park until Crescent develops the property. The City would bear the expense of developing the site. I do not believe it is fiscally prudent to expend monies for the temporary development of this site as a fenced dog park, and I do not recommend that the City acquire this site from Crescent for permanent use as a fenced dog park.
- 2) The City-owned property at Slater's Lane and Powhatan Street: this property is seen as a gateway for people entering Old Town Greens and, in the future, Potomac Yard. A fenced dog park would not be seen as an aesthetically pleasing gateway to these communities. The City would bear the expense to develop the site. This site is not recommended for development as a fenced dog park.
- 3) The property at Slater's Lane and Portner Road, adjacent to the City-owned parcel: this property is privately owned. If it were made available for a temporary dog park, the City would bear the expense of developing the site. I do not believe it is prudent to expend monies for the temporary development of this site as a fenced dog park, and I do not recommend that the City acquire this site.
- 4) The property at the corner of Bashford Lane and Powhatan Street: this property is owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the site is too small for consideration as a fenced dog park.

Staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will hold a meeting on December 6, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. to brief residents of the Chetworth Park area on these efforts to identify an alternative site, the plan to proceed with the development of Rail Park as the alternative site, and the time line for the playground improvements at Chetworth Park. This meeting will be held at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

While the one-acre portion of Rail Park is under development, Chetworth Park will remain both an off-leash dog area and a park for children and passive users. Once the one-acre fenced dog park at Rail Park is completed in the Spring 2002, I will docket the reevaluation of the fenced dog park at Chetworth Park for City Council's consideration, as required under the approved Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas and Fenced Dog Parks.

cc: Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Lori Godwin, Assistant City Manager

EXHIBIT NO. 3

15
2-12-02

Sent to CC, CM,
Recreation
#15 2/12/02
future

Concerned Fairlington Residents
PO Box 6914
Shirlington Station
Arlington, VA 22206-0914

February 11, 2002

Alexandria City Council
City Hall
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Docket Item 15, Chetworth Park's fenced dog exercise area.

Concerned Fairlington Residents is a citizens group dedicated to improving the quality of life in Fairlington, Arlington and Alexandria. We are an historic community, located in both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

CFR encourages the siting of dog exercise areas in commercial and industrial zoned locations where they will bother no one. We encourage municipalities to move DEAs from residential neighborhoods and public parks to locations zoned industrial and commercial (e.g., the former Potomac Yards) whenever possible.

Many of Arlington County's dog exercise areas have been constant problems since they opened. We estimate that dog exercise areas in Arlington's parks and residential areas have cost taxpayers at least \$1 million for unanticipated staff time to resolve problems over the past 5 years. At least two Arlington DEAs will need hundreds more hours of staff time to resolve ongoing problems.

We ask Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to find sites zoned industrial and commercial for dog exercise areas, as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,
Beth Davis
Beth Davis



Sent to CC, CM, Recreation



15, 2/12/02 PF

March 22, 2002

Alexandria City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria VA 22314



Honorable Members of the City Council:

It recently came to our attention that you received a letter from Concerned Fairlington Residents regarding a dog park in Alexandria, that referenced dog parks in Arlington. We welcome this opportunity to set the record straight.

Like all other county park facilities, dog parks are overseen and monitored by Arlington County's extremely diligent Parks and Recreation staff, which carefully and thoroughly investigates suggestions or complaints about any public park use. Rarely do decisions about placement or operation of soccer fields, swimming pools, picnic areas, bike paths, dog parks, or any other public facility meet with approval by 100% of the population, 100% of the time, so it is important that all sides be afforded an opportunity to be heard and that county staff spend time looking into the arguments made by proponents as well as opponents. The thoroughness and inclusiveness of Arlington's Parks and Recreation Staff is the mark of good government, not a waste of county funds.


We are baffled by the letter's reference to \$1 million in "unanticipated staff time" needed to resolve "constant problems." We have no idea how that figure was derived, what time was considered "unanticipated" given the mandate of the Parks and Recreation department and its allocation of personnel for issues including dog parks, and what problems have been "constant". We urge the Council to take these allegations for the blanket and unsupported statements they are.

ArlingtonDogs is an all-volunteer organization that advocates on behalf of Community Canine Areas in Arlington; works to educate owners about responsible guardianship; helps enforce leash, vaccination, licensing, and poop laws; and sponsors a variety of charitable functions that raise money for shelters, rescue efforts, police K-9 units, and others. We are a group, however, that would simply not exist without Arlington's Community Canine Areas. We were organized around the parks, we met each other there, and our primary efforts revolve around these parks. As you consider Alexandria dog parks, we urge you to balance unsubstantiated claims against the demonstrated

ArlingtonDogs
P.O. Box 41603, Arlington, VA 22204
Telephone: 703-578-0522 or e-mail: arlingtondogs@hotmail.com

community cohesiveness and community spirit, quality of life improvements, and desirability that dog parks have brought to our community. And we urge you to hold dog parks to the same processes, deliberations, and standards as any other public recreational facilities enjoyed by your constituents.

Sincerely,



Lynn Cummings
Chair, ArlingtonDogs

cc:

Arlington County Board
1 Courthouse Plaza
Arlington VA 22201

Arlington County Manager Ron Carlee
1 Courthouse Plaza
Arlington VA 22201

ArlingtonDogs
P.O. Box 41603, Arlington, VA 22204
Telephone: 703-578-0522 or e-mail: arlingtondogs@hotmail.com

15
2-12-02

Concerned Fairlington Residents
PO Box 6914
Shirlington Station
Arlington, VA 22206-0914

Sent to CC, CM,
Recreation
#15 2/12/02
future

February 11, 2002

Alexandria City Council
City Hall
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

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Sincerely,

Beth Davis
Beth Davis

