

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the FY 2003 Annual Report from the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission (Attachment).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That City Council receive the Annual Report from the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission and thank the Commission for its efforts on behalf of the City.

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is an eleven-member advisory board created by City Council in March 1970 to study issues relating to park and recreation needs. City Council appoints nine residents to the Commission from three planning districts and two high school age members to represent the youth of the City.

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission has prepared a report that highlights the principal activities of the Commission during FY 2003 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003) and the Commission's planned future efforts.

**ATTACHMENT:** FY 2003 Annual Report for the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission.

**STAFF:**  
 Sandra Whitmore, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
 Janet Barnett, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

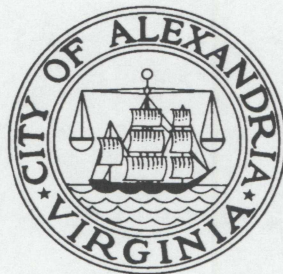
# **City of Alexandria**

## **Park & Recreation Commission**



**FY 2003 Annual Report**

**July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003**



**ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003**

**Introduction**

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is an eleven-member advisory board created by City Council in March 1970 to study issues relating to park and recreation needs. City Council appoints nine residents to the Commission from three planning districts and two high school age members to represent the youth of the City.

The purpose of the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is to allow City residents to participate in planning activities, serve as a panel to hear citizen suggestions or concerns relating to recreation and park programs, advise City Council on community recreation needs, and assist the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in its continuing effort to be aware of and sensitive to public needs, and to adjust its programming to meet the changing needs of its diverse residents.

The Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month from September to June at recreation centers throughout the City. The Commission recognizes outstanding City residents, organizations, and youth at its annual ceremony in July as part of the City's annual Birthday Celebration.

**Members of the Park and Recreation Commission for Fiscal Year 2003**

Planning District I	-	Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair
Planning District I	-	Henry Brooks
Planning District I	-	William Conkey
Planning District II	-	Picot Chappell
Planning District II	-	Bruce Dwyer
Planning District II	-	Kirk Fedder
Planning District III	-	Kenneth Foran
Planning District III	-	Ellen Murray
Planning District III	-	Fabian Robitaille
Youth Representative	-	Jessica Schneller
Youth Representative	-	Francesca Schneller

**City Staff**

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

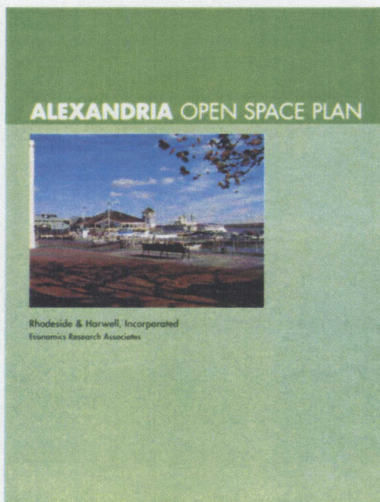
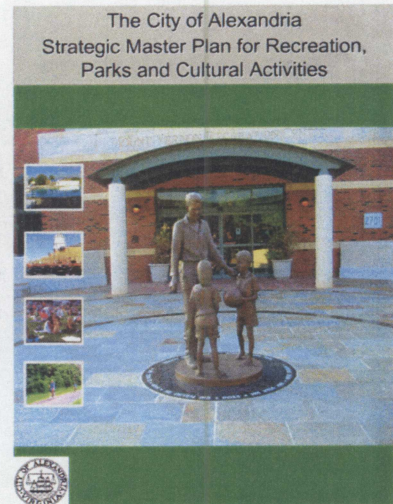
## 1. Park and Recreation Commission Accomplishments

The Commission worked with staff, the Alexandria Public Schools, and architects in developing a design plan for building a new T. C. Williams High School, and the simultaneous expansion of the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center. The Commission wants to ensure that the two building will be able to provide adequate resources that would benefit expanded school and recreation programming for all the residents of the City;



The Commission was instrumental in the development and construction of the City's first Skate Park. The park is located off Duke Street at the James T. Lockett Softball Stadium. The park was dedicated on June 15;

The Commission worked with staff, consultants, and the public in the final preparation of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Strategic Master Plan. The Strategic Master Plan provides a broad policy and management framework to guide departmental decision-making to meet current and future land use and recreational needs of City residents for the next ten years. The plan was presented and adopted by City Council on June 24, 2003;



The Commission worked with staff, consultants, and the public in the final preparation of the City of Alexandria's Open Space Plan. The plan establishes a framework for addressing the City's short and long term open space needs. In addition, the plan identified 15 goals including the protection and enrichment of existing parks, the development of innovative opportunities for creating additional open space, and the linking and expansion of pedestrian, bicycle and trail systems. The plan was presented and adopted by City Council on June 24, 2003;

The Commission continued its efforts to evaluate guidelines concerning the City's dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks, balancing the rights and responsibilities of dog owners and non-owners;

The Commission continued to work with staff, the Waterfront Committee, and the public on the planning and design process of Windmill Hill Park; and

The Commission solicited and received nominations for the Annual Park and Recreation Commission Awards and were awarded at the City's Annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration held in July. The awards were presented as follows: Organization Award presented to the Friends of the Alexandria Skate Park; Corporate Neighbor Award presented to Jack Taylor Toyota; Outstanding Citizen Award presented to Larry Trice, T.C. Williams High School; Outstanding Citizen Award presented to Jim Gibson, Volunteer Youth Coach; and Outstanding Youth Award presented to Shaniqua A. Brooks, Natural Resource Volunteer. In addition, the following received special recognition awards for their efforts in the improvement of parks and recreation facilities: the Honorable Kerry J. Donley, the Honorable David G. Speck, and the Honorable Claire M. Eberwein.

Commission members participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the renovated and expanded Jerome Buddie Ford Nature Center and the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center. The centers are expected to be completed and open to the public in the spring of 2004.



## **2. Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearings**

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission encouraged public participation in the decision making process involving recreational issues by holding public hearings. Three public hearings were held on January 16, for residents from Planning District III, February 20, for residents from Planning District II, and March 20, for residents from Planning District I.

## **3. Park and Recreation Commission Future Goals**

The Commission will continue to evaluate existing recreation programs and make recommendations to modify programs to modify or add new programs to best serve the diverse needs of Alexandria residents from different age groups, demographic groups, and

geographic areas. The Commission will closely monitor the progress of the new construction of T. C. Williams High School, and the future renovations of the Chinguapin Park, Patrick Henry and Charles Houston Recreation Centers. In addition, the Commission will continue to work on issues pertaining to open space and program needs identified in the adopted City of Alexandria Open Space and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Strategic Master Plan.