

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2024
TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: LAURA DURHAM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

OSTP School Year Update:

Current Enrollment: 1,414

We are currently offering Out of School Time programming at (12) afterschool locations which include (3) LINK Club locations, (2) ESSER locations, and (2) specialty programs (Youth Achieving Greatness and TR Achieving Greatness).

Partnerships & Collaborations: ACPS, Americans Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Virginia Cooperative Extension (4-H), Upcycle, Momentum Collective Inc., and Buddie Ford Nature Center. These partners and organizations are providing specialized programming, academic support, or enrichment activities at Elementary and Middle School OSTP, LINK Club and ESSER sites.

The OSTP Committee is currently planning for the upcoming OSTP Winter Staff Training (1/27) and the 2024 Summer Power-On/ Power-Up program.

Program Wrap-ups:

- On November 17, William Ramsay Recreation Center hosted a **Family Bingo** night for over 50 participants. This was a successful event and gave birth to plans to make this a recurring event at the center.



- The Month of December was very eventful at the William Ramsay Recreation Center, especially with the arrival of the **Snow Globe series** on December 2. Community members enjoyed holiday songs from the Alexandria Choral Society. Although it was held on a dark and cold night, the holiday spirit was on full display with lights, music, hot chocolate, and the wonderful voices of the singers.



- On December 5, seniors at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center created gingerbread houses that we displayed at the **OSTP Holiday show**.



- On December 9, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center held its **Breakfast with Santa** event. Participants had the opportunity to meet, have a meal, and take photos with Santa. The City Manager, Mr. James Parajon, played Santa this year. Participants also enjoyed creating holiday crafts, and a sing-along.



- The **Alexandria Holiday Invitational** was held on Sunday, December 10 at Alexandria City High School. Cheerleading teams from Charles Houston, Mt. Vernon, Patrick Henry, and William Ramsay Recreation Centers competed along with visiting teams from Arlington, Crozet, Annandale, Ft. Hunt and Gum Springs.



- On December 14, Charles Houston Recreation Center held a **Teen Holiday Party**. Teens enjoyed games, refreshments, music, and giveaways.



- From December 14-16, Charles Houston Recreation Center held its annual **Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway**. In partnership with ARHA, this event served over 1,000 youth and families by distributing toys, books, bikes, and other holiday goodies.

- On December 15, Miracle League of Alexandria sponsored a **Holiday party** for the Therapeutic Achieving Greatness program. Participants enjoyed Holiday games and pizza. They also took a special gift home to keep.



- On December 15, Mt. Vernon Recreation Center held its annual **OSTP Holiday Program**. Over 120 participants performed a play based on holiday traditions, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Over 100 parents and community members attended the program.



- On December 16, the Fee Classes and Camps section presented our **Winter Dance recital**. This year's theme was "Polar Express, " featuring 74 dancers ages 3 to 12.



- From December 18-22, the Nature Center conducted a winter break “Around the World” camp. Participants learned about each continent and the different habitats, animals, and cultures found there. One of the most highly anticipated activities of the camp was making chocolate!



- On December 22, Williams Ramsay Recreation Center hosted **Ramsay is Lit!** This teen event brought out over 50 participants. Teens enjoyed games,



food, fellowship, and fun. This event was held to let the teens know that they are welcome in the center, encourage participation, and to inform them of what the William Ramsay Recreation Center has to offer.

Program Updates:

- On December 11, the **Youth Sports Advisory Board** recognized volunteers for their contributions to sports programs throughout the City. During the ceremony, the following volunteers were recognized: Willie Callahan (RPCA Basketball); Kelley Sullivan (RPCA Volleyball); Sherry Reilly, Susan Hodges, Emily Schell Jones (Alexandria Little League); Blake Conjura, Julia Davis (Wahoo Swim Team); Declan Todd (Alexandria Rugby Club); Matt Konrad, Christine Friedberg (Alexandria Lacrosse Club) and David Tomblin (Alexandria Junior Titans Wrestling Club).



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center’s **Senior Cardio and Weight Training** continues to increase in popularity. We had several new participants in the class. The Class continues to reach maximum capacity for each session offered.



- On December 15, the senior participants enjoyed an **Ugly Sweater Luncheon** at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. The event featured fun games, music, crafts, food, refreshments, and a contest for the best sweater. There were prizes for the winners from first to third place.



- On December 8, an **8-minute documentary entitled “Desperate”**, premiered in front of an audience that included members of City council, friends, family, city officials, and other community members. The documentary was created by Zahra Rahimi, Hosai Rasuli, and two newly arrived Afghan refugees who are seniors at Alexandria City High School. They are also past participants of the City’s Youth Employment Program which provided an opportunity for them to gain work experience at the William Ramsay Recreation Center. The documentary included real-life testimonials from the girls who fled Afghanistan in August 2021 in the days following the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. At the premiere, Richard Daley who is the Recreation Program Coordinator at the William Ramsay Recreation Center was also recognized for the work he has done in support of these young ladies, the Afghan community and the Literacy program held at Ramsay.



Upcoming Events:

- Sports Section has partnered with Alexandria City High School to host **Titan Youth Basketball Nights** on January 26 & 29. All Alexandria youth basketball players can attend the high school games for free by wearing their Alexandria basketball jersey on those nights.

- Chinquapin is hosting the **annual fitness pass sale**. Starting January 15, there is a 15% off sale for 15 days. This applies to new and expired passes only.
- The Patrick Henry Center is hosting a **Senior Valentine’s Day Party** on Wednesday, February 14th. 11 am-1 pm at the Patrick Henry Center.
- Patrick Henry Recreation Center is hosting a **Senior Winter Crafting Workshop**, on Friday, January 26, from 11 am – 1 pm. This program offers a variety of seasonal crafting activities, from making handcrafted armaments to knitting warm scarves. Connect with fellow seniors while honing your crafting skills in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Special Features:

- Chinquapin is partnering with Chrysalis to sponsor a **Teen Café** beginning January 19 for 9th-12th graders.

Staff Updates:

- **Megan Eckstein** joined the Chinquapin team as a Recreation Manager II, overseeing the land classes and camps. She is an accomplished recreation professional with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from George Mason University. Megan brings over 5 years of experience in park operations and management to her new role.
- **Ingrid Blanco** is the new Aquatics Recreation Manager II, overseeing aquatics facilities. She is currently in school and attending the University of Maryland to receive her bachelor’s degree in business administration. She has been in the Aquatics Industry for 8 years, specializing in Risk Management, Aquatic Safety, CARMP, and Swim Lesson programming.
- On December 18, the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) hosted the **annual Star Awards** during its holiday party. The event honors people in the Del Ray community “who have gone above and beyond in their service” to the neighborhood. Mt. Vernon Center Director, **Elsie Akinbobola**, was recognized with the award for Outstanding City/Government Service for her dedication to the community and support of Del Ray residents and programs.



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2023

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*
PARK SERVICES

FROM: BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF *BZ*
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

ITEM: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE
PARK SERVICES - PARK PLANNING & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Capital Improvement Project Updates

- January Park Planning & Capital Development, Park Services (*Attached*)
- Backlick Greenway Design Update/Vulcan (*Attached*)

Active Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination

- Alexandria West
- Landmark Mall
- Potomac River Generating Station
- High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2024)

Sites Currently Closed or Partially Closed to Public Use for Capital Projects

- Holmes Run Trail (three locations)
- Four Mile Run Park Bridge
- Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Dog Park
- Joseph Hensley Park
- Mount Jefferson Park - (Dog Exercise Area closed)
- Charles Barrett Recreation Center playground – (renovation)
- Stevenson Park ballfield back stop area – (dugout installation)
- Oronoco Bay Park boardwalk and piers - (closed for inspections and structural concerns)

Anticipated Closures Commencing Winter 2024

- Ben Brenman Park Backlick Run Bridge (Bridge support and decking replacement)

Park & Recreation Commission -Park Planning Report



January 18, 2023

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To	
1	Witter Recreational Fields Netting	This project will design and install netting along all four sides of the two rectangular fields.	Construction has completed on the south end of the field and the north side is anticipated to be complete in late January/February. Netting installation for both sides will be completed in late January/February. Coordination with user groups is in progress to minimize impacts to programs.	Implementation	District 1	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
2	Oronoco Bay Park Piers and Boardwalk	Pier repairs to wood decking (FY21 carryover)	The pier and boardwalk were closed to ensure the safety of the community following inspections that determined the structures are not suitable for use. Further engineering investigations are being pursued to assess the structural conditions and recommendations for next steps.	Initiation	District 1	06/30/23	Derek Claytor
3	Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Jefferson Houston	Design and Installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	Installation of the light poles and fixtures is complete per the City Council-approved Special Use Permit. Coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing to energize the system. Anticipating project completion in February 2024.	Implementation	District 1	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
4	MacArthur School Recreation Programming Space Construction	New recreation office and program space at Douglas MacArthur School	Facility opened in August 2023. Synthetic turf field opened late September. Work continues on the playground. Anticipated completion of playground is January 2024. Staff continue to work with ACPs on punch list items in office space and accessible rooms.	Close-out	District 2	12/29/23	Jack Broward
5	Simpson Dog Park Renovation	This project will address erosion and drainage issues in the Simpson Park dog park per the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan.	Contracting issues have delayed the completion of the project. City staff are exploring various options to complete the project as efficiently as possible to minimize the impacts of the delay on the community.	Implementation	District 2	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
6	Charles Barrett Rec Playground Construction	This project will implement and construct the approved design for the playground renovation.	Mobilization began in early November with the installation of the erosion and sediment controls, tree protection and site surveying. Demolition of the old playground was completed and the site was excavated and re-graded. In December, the playground equipment installation commenced and will continue throughout the month of January. The contractor will also begin installation of the stormwater management systems which include new piping and a dry swale BMP. While most of the playground equipment has been installed, the installation of the poured in place safety surfacing is weather dependent and will require warmer temperatures for installation.	Implementation	District 2	04/30/24	Judy Lo
7	Mount Jefferson Park Improvements	This project includes the City responsibilities per the Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) conditions.	City and Stonebridge (developer) completed design and permitting activities for regrading and landscape improvements for portions of the park, including the dog park, with poor drainage. Implementation of the approved landscape and drainage plan will occur through winter 2024 and into spring 2024 as weather conditions allow. The opening of the dog park and completion of remaining landscape improvements will be announced as a completion schedule is refined. Landscape bond release is anticipated for spring 2024.	Close-out	District 2	06/30/22	Judy Lo
8	Colasanto Interactive Fountain Construction	This project phase includes funding for construction of interactive fountain.	The solicitation documents are in review and the Invitation To Bid (ITB) will be posted mid-January. The bid opening is anticipated in February.	Procurement	District 2	09/02/24	Bethany Znidersic
9	Four Mile Run Park Bridge Replacement Construction	This project will replace the existing bridge in Four Mile Run Park near the parking area for the two diamond fields at the end of Commonwealth Avenue.	Landside construction is anticipated to be completed in January 2024. Bridge fabrication and delivery has been advanced to the end of January with installation through February 2024. Substantial completion anticipated in March 2024.	Implementation	District 2	07/30/24	Jack Broward
10	Replace Chinquapin Diving Board	Refurbish/replace diving board stands/boards	One diving board has been replaced. Final adjustments are anticipated in January.	Close-out	District 2	01/26/24	Trina Wood
11	Stevenson Dugout Replacement	This project will install two dugout structures at the existing ball field. Irrigation has been relocated and contractor is currently obtaining permits. Anticipated construction is July-August of 2023.	Installation of the new dugouts is substantially complete. Contractor is currently fine grading and establishing the site. Construction fencing is anticipated to be removed in mid to late January. The remainder of the ball field fencing/netting is anticipated to be installed in spring.	Implementation	District 3	12/01/23	Daniel Unkle
12	Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter Access Improvements	Provide barrier free accessible route that connects picnic shelter, picnic tables, and parking. The ADA accessible path will also connect to the sidewalk on Van Dorn Street	The forest conservation area was surveyed and staked. Tree plantings to establish the forest conservation area will be scheduled. BMP certification will be submitted.	Close-out	District 3	06/15/24	Judy Lo
13	Hensley Park Renovation Phase I	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	Construction is in progress and is anticipated to be complete in early 2025. Please see the project website for more information: alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/joseph-hensley-park-renovation	Implementation	District 3	12/01/24	Bethany Znidersic
14	Ben Brenman Re-Carpeting	This project will replace the synthetic turf and infill on the Ben Brenman rectangular field.	The shop drawings for the turf renovation and replacement have been approved. The work will be scheduled for June and coordinated with user groups to minimize impacts to field programs.	Procurement	District 3	07/19/24	Bethany Znidersic

Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
15 Fort Ward Playground Relocation	Relocate playground to an accessible location as recommended in the Fort Ward Management Plan	The site survey and tree inventory were completed and geotechnical investigation will be scheduled in January/February. Any ground disturbing activity will follow the Fort Ward ground disturbance protocols. Community engagement was completed in December to provide updates on the design development process: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan#CommunityEngagement The consultants will continue work on the schematic design.	Design	District 3	09/01/25	Judy Lo
16 Ewald Park Site Design	Design of Ewald Park per the 2015 Neighborhood Parks Plan	Staff is developing the scope of work for planning and design and anticipates hiring the consultant by the first quarter of 2024. The project will kick off the second quarter of 2024 with community engagement activities.	Initiation	District 3	06/30/25	Judy Lo
17 Holmes Run Trail Repairs Construction	This project includes the restoration of four sections of Holmes Run Trail damaged and closed following July 2019 heavy rains.	Site 4, 4600 Duke Street is complete and open. Sites 2 (west 395 bridge) & 3 (Ripley Crossing) is in construction procurement; and site 1 Dora Kelley is in design.	Planning	District 3	12/29/23	Jack Browand
18 Athletic Field Lights on Synthetic Turf Field Francis Hammond	Design and Installation of athletic field lights on one existing synthetic turf field. Field location to be determined through community engagement. Potential field locations in George Washington Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School and Recreation Center, Jefferson Houston K-8 School and Francis Hammond Middle School.	Installation of the light poles and fixtures is complete per the City Council-approved Special Use Permit. Coordination with Dominion Energy is ongoing to energize the system. Project completion is anticipated in January 2024.	Implementation	District 3	11/30/23	Daniel Unkle
19 Minnie Howard Basketball Court Lights	Funding transfer to ACPS to install athletic lights on the new basketball court installed with the High School Project.	Construction continues and remains on schedule for substantial completion in spring 2024. The Aquatics facility will open the summer of 2024 with programming anticipated to begin in fall 2024.	Initiation	District 3	08/01/24	Jack Browand

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2022

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: MAYA CONTRERAS, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
JARED ALVES, AICP, URBAN PLANNER III

THROUGH: JOSE C. AYALA, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
ANA VICINANZO, URBAN PLANNER III

ITEM #5c: BACKLICK GREENWAY DESIGN (VULCAN SITE)

ISSUE: Follow-up presentation of the proposed Backlick Greenway along Backlick Run within the Vulcan Materials site at 701 S Van Dorn Street and 698 Burnside Place. The applicant first presented a concept to the Commission on March 17, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission receive the park design and provide feedback on the prioritization of the proposed park elements.

BACKGROUND: Lennar and Potomac Land Group II, LLC are dedicating 264,840 sq. ft. (6.07 acres) to the City, as part of a pending development case, DSP #2023-00014. Portions of the dedication is land under water associated with Backlick Run, with the remaining 192,689 SF (4.4 acres) becoming a future public park. If the overall project is approved, they will dedicate the park to the city as part of the redevelopment of the Vulcan Materials industrial site. In addition to the park, the redevelopment includes a neighborhood of townhomes, stacked townhomes, multifamily condominium buildings, and a hotel with retail (see Attachment 1).

The future public park, part of Backlick Greenway, is partially within the 100-year floodplain and is almost entirely within the Resource Protection Area (RPA) associated with Backlick Run. Currently, the bank is heavily vegetated with invasive species, so staff have worked with the applicant team to devise an invasive species management plan to prepare and restore the site for the future park. The DSP outlines potential context sensitive amenities to complete the park, such as meandering path, picnic tables and benches, natural play areas, interpretive signs, and an overlook with steps down to the water. One notable element would be a pedestrian/cyclist bridge spanning Backlick Run and connecting to city-owned land on the opposite bank on Burnside Place behind Public Storage and within the same Coordinated Development District.

In addition to Backlick Greenway, the applicant will maintain three publicly accessible, private open spaces: a pair of north-south pedestrian green streets that connect the multifamily

condominium buildings through the townhouse community to the park and playground with a public access easement located outside of the RPA in the southwest corner of the site adjacent to the park. Visitors could access the greenway and other open spaces walking from bus stops on N Van Dorn Street, including the future West End Transitway, and via adjacent on-street parking.

DISCUSSION: The Eisenhower West Small Area Plan (SAP) chapter of the Alexandria Master Plan envisioned restoring the banks of Backlick Run to create Backlick Run Greenway (see Figure 1). Constructing this park would advance the greenway and the design responds to the recommendations of the SAP, including:

- Restoring and stabilizing the stream, removing invasive species, and removing impervious surfaces,
- Providing a multiuse trail and passive open space, including benches and picnic areas,
- Making the stream edge accessible, and
- Interpreting the environmental role of the stream and park design with signage.

Figure 1 – Backlick Run Greenway in the Eisenhower West SAP



Since constructing the park is in-line with the Small Area Plan (SAP) recommendations, staff are proposing to allow the applicant to credit the cost of the park and the pedestrian/cyclist bridge against the expected Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Developer Contributions Policy. Since the budget will not cover the pedestrian/cyclist bridge and the entire park construction, staff requests that the Park and Recreation Commission provide guidance for the prioritization of the current and future park contributions. The park features include:

- Invasive species removal
- Multi-use trail
- Benches and picnic tables
- Naturalistic playground

- Observation deck and staircase to water
- Signage
- Plantings & stormwater features

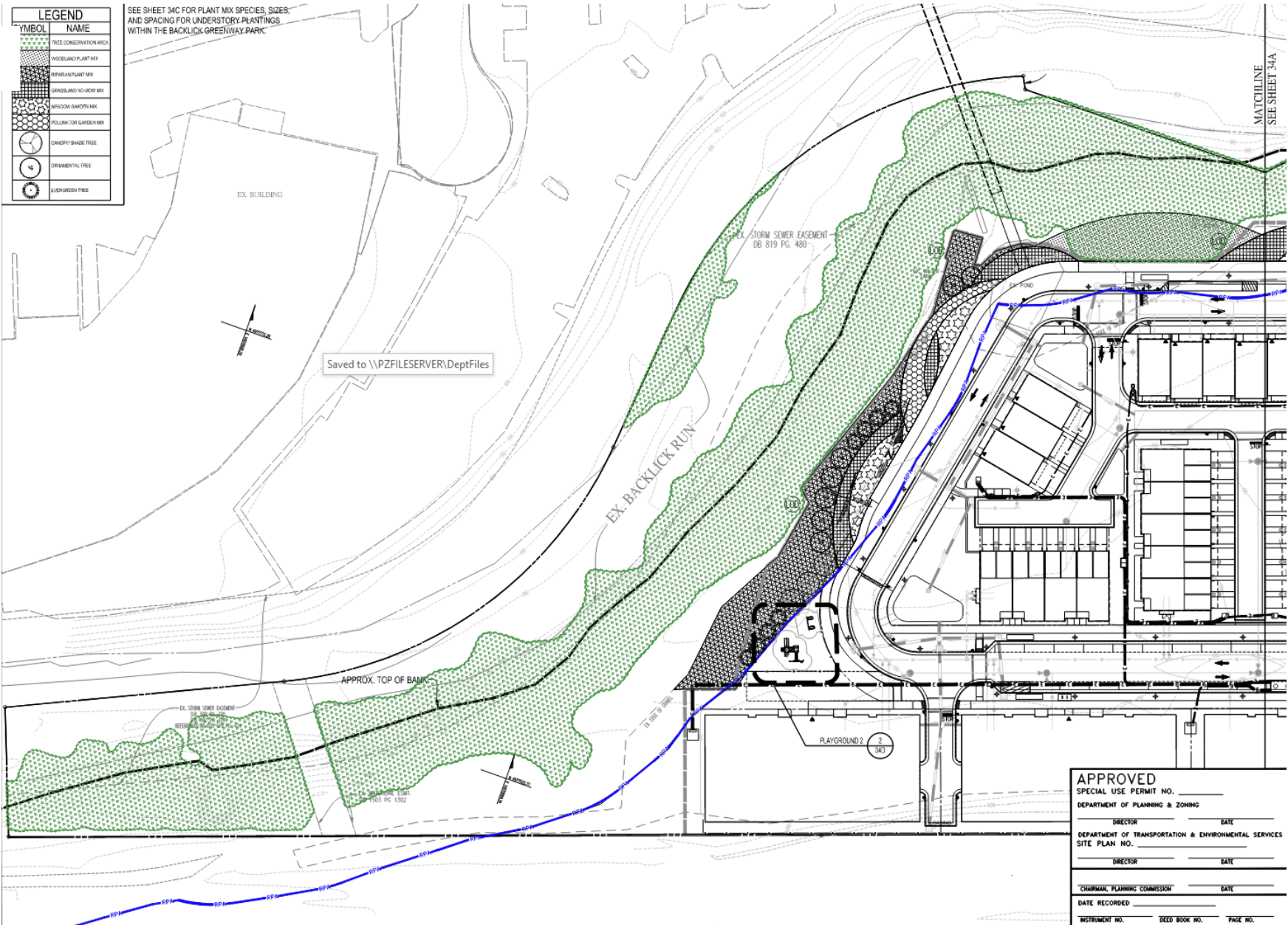
During the Final Site Plan process, Staff would work with the applicant team to determine which (if any) additional park amenities may be provided with this development case based on the remaining EW/LVD contribution. However, the plan, as depicted in this development case, would guide future park investments including potential contributions if additional sites in the plan area redevelop according to the SAP.

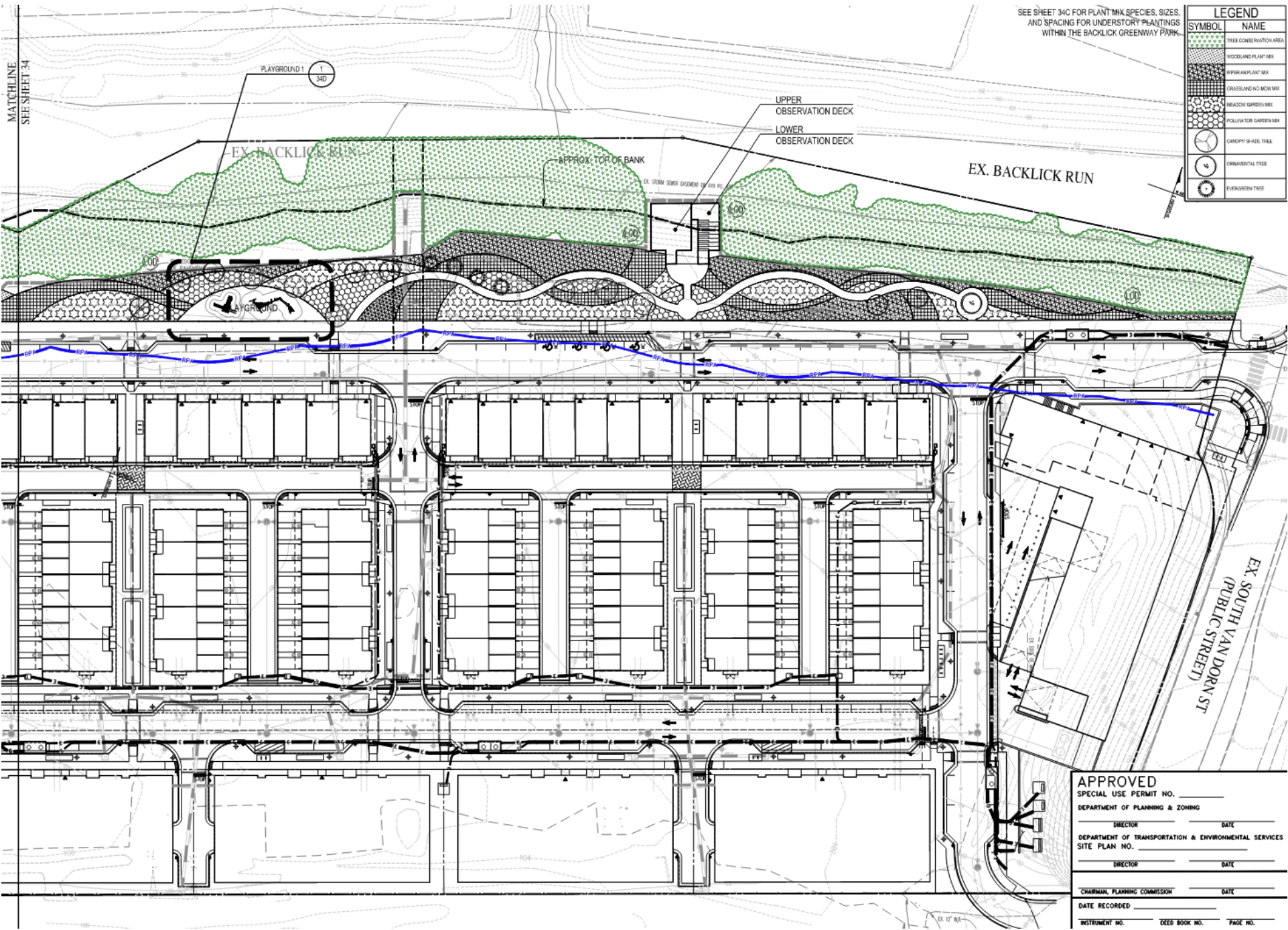
The applicant has submitted their Completeness plan and anticipate receiving project approvals at the Planning Commission and City Council public hearings this April. In addition to the previous Park and Recreation Commission meeting, the applicant has presented at an open community meeting and attended meetings of the Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group.

FISCAL IMPACT: The applicant team will fund, design, and construct the park improvements through an in-kind contribution consistent with the Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Contributions Policy. RP&CA will be responsible for maintaining the park. Annual maintenance costs will be identified through the planning process described above.

STAFF: Jared Alves, AICP, Urban Planner III
Maya Contreras, Principal Planner
Jose C. Ayala, Principal Planner
Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner III

Attachment 1 – Park Plan Completeness #4, 12.21.23





MATCHLINE
SEE SHEET 34

PLAYGROUND 1
1
340

EX. BACKLICK RUN

APPROX. TOP OF BANK

EX. STORM SEWER GROUND 10' TO 15'

UPPER
OBSERVATION DECK
LOWER
OBSERVATION DECK

EX. BACKLICK RUN

SEE SHEET 34C FOR PLANT MIX SPECIES, SIZES,
AND SPACING FOR UNDERSTORY PLANTINGS
WITHIN THE BACKLICK GREENWAY PARK.

LEGEND	
SYMBOL	NAME
	TREE CONSERVATION AREA
	WOODLAND PLANT MIX
	RIPARIAN PLANT MIX
	GRASSLAND/NO MOW MIX
	MEADOW GARDEN MIX
	POLLINATOR GARDEN MIX
	CANOPY SHADE TREE
	ORNAMENTAL TREE
	EVERGREEN TREE

APPROVED

SPECIAL USE PERMIT NO. _____

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

DIRECTOR _____ DATE _____

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SITE PLAN NO. _____

DIRECTOR _____ DATE _____

CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION _____ DATE _____

DATE RECORDED _____

INSTRUMENT NO. _____ DEED BOOK NO. _____ PAGE NO. _____

EX. 12' RA

EX. SOUTH VAN DORN ST
(PUBLIC STREET)