



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

March 28, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: FY 2024 Proposed Budget

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council,

As you enter the FY 2024 add/delete process, the Park & Recreation Commission respectfully requests your consideration on the following two items:

1. \$200k for summer youth employment expansion to be fully funded in all cases. Our youths are signing up for our recreational programs en masse and not being able to meet the demand for these programs would be a tremendous loss for our community as we recover from COVID. Our youth recreational programs are too important to be dependent on a potential but unknown tax increase.
2. \$6M in CIP funding added to Joseph Hensley phase 2 to complete construction, which is already fully designed, including conversion of the rectangular field to synthetic turf, athletic lighting, accessibility improvements and parking. This work will finalize redevelopment of a City park after more than a decade of planning. As it stands, the rectangular field will not be accessible during the next phase of construction, and waiting until a future date to complete that work will delay full utilization of the site and invite increased construction costs. Already one of the most actively used parks in the City, we need Hensley available to keep up with an ever increasing demand for recreational spaces, in particular, with many of the primary City recreational centers set to temporarily go offline over the next few years.

We strongly believe that municipal dollars must be carefully allocated to their highest and best use and we raise these two issues for your consideration as an investment in the future of our most-valued resource; our citizens.

We strongly encourage the full funding of both priorities in FY 2024.

Please reach out to the Commission to further advise on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Beggs", written in a cursive style.

Stephen Beggs, Chair
Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Park & Recreation Commission members
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Morgan Routt, Director OMB
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities