

# Alexandria adds \$200,000 to renovation budget for Frank O. Hunter Park

5:03 PM, Oct 31, 2012 | Comments [Recommend](#) 2 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

[Recommend](#) 2

Print Email Share A A +

Written by **Cynthia D. Jardon**

FILED UNDER

News  
Local News  
Alexandria  
Frank O. Hunter Park

The Alexandria City Council voted to add \$200,000 to the renovation budget for Frank O. Hunter Park on Tuesday during its regular meeting.

It passed an ordinance amending the 2012-13 capital budget for recreational park improvements. This move allows the park's improvement project to move forward.

Frank O. Hunter Park is on Willow Glen River Road and is one of the city's oldest parks. It is one of six parks included as part of a master plan improvement project developed by Lose & Associates. The company, hired to study the city's parks, recommended in August 2009 that the city invest \$60 million in its parks and recreation systems.

Plans call for the city to spend around \$3.7 million on the parks, as well as an additional \$1.3 million in future planning suggestions. The money is part of the city's Specially Planned Activity Redevelopment Corridors, or SPARC, initiative, an infrastructure program funded primarily by two bond issues totaling \$40 million.

The city, which budgeted about \$2 million for renovations to Frank O. Hunter Park, advertised for bids on park improvements last year. The bids came in over budget. The project was rebid and still the bids were over budget, delaying the project.

Alexandria Mayor Jacques M. Roy said his administration studied the most recent low bid and looked at where it could be cut but decided scrimping on the renovations would not be the best move.

"We can rebid it again," he said Tuesday, "but it looks like it will keep coming in over the original budget. And if we rebid it, it will be another six months before anything gets started."

District 3 Councilman Jerry Jones Jr. said that the park in that district and the people who use it have been promised upgrades for years.

"It's time it gets them," Jones said.

The first phase of the park's expansion will include a football facility with a tailgating area, press and ticket box, concession stands and seating for nearly 700 people. In addition, there will be a practice field, as well as new basketball and tennis courts, a walking trail and an expanded parking lot.

Expansion of the current gym to include a second gym is part of subsequent plans, along with a wellness area, office area with meeting rooms, improved picnic area and expanded walking trail.

### Director appointed

The council also confirmed Roy's selection of Alaina Mire as the city's director of personnel and human resources.

Mire is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a degree in civil law. She had served as an assistant city attorney since 2007 until becoming the city's acting director of personnel and human resources in March.

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Popular Most Commented More Headlines

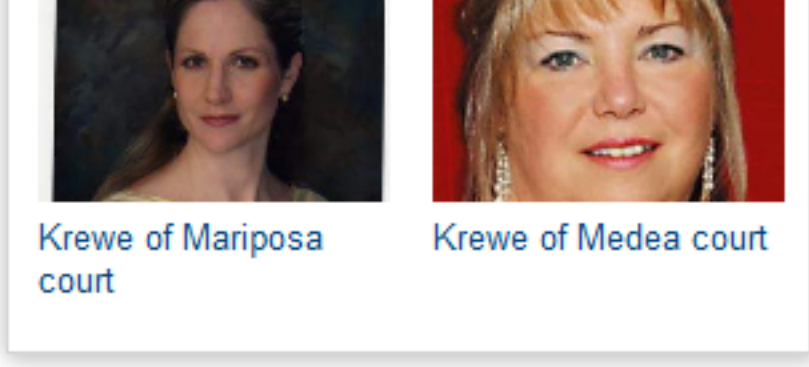
- 1 Police Reports
- 2 Sowell: Obama hopes voters will buy his Libya con until Nov. 7
- 3 Louisiana IDs face Jan. 15 federal Real ID Act deadline
- 4 Gun limits among 9 constitutional amendments on La. ballot
- 5 Commentary: Global warming gains some believers

### Most Viewed



Naked woman shot and killed by police  
Oct. 22, 2012

### PHOTO GALLERIES



**Personalized Mugs**  
Receive 5% off w/ code "Google5" Place Your Order And Save Today!  
[www.discountmugs.com/mugs](http://www.discountmugs.com/mugs) AdChoices

ADVERTISEMENT

[View Comments](#) | [Share your thoughts »](#)

### TOP VIDEO PICKS

selected by Taboola



Naked woman shot and killed by police  
Oct 22, 2012



Murder suspect dragged through courtroom by 6...  
Oct 25, 2012



Cenla: Peabody Magnet High School Band  
Nov 2, 2012

**SendGrid** is the leader in email deliverability and cloud based infrastructure. Sign Up Now

### ARCHIVES

View the last seven days

- Yesterday, Nov. 03
- Friday, Nov. 02
- Thursday, Nov. 01
- Wednesday, Oct. 31
- Tuesday, Oct. 30
- Monday, Oct. 29
- Sunday, Oct. 28

See our paid archives for news older than a week.

SUN 4 MON 5 TUE 6 WED 7 THU 8 FRI 9 SAT 10

- Pioneer Heritage Center**  
Pioneer Heritage Center
  - R.W. Norton Art Gallery**  
Norton R W Art Gallery
  - Deaf ministry and children's church with puppets**  
New Hope Worship Center
- MORE EVENTS | SUBMIT AN EVENT

### HELP

- Subscribe Today!
- Pay My Bill
- Manage Subscription
- Delivery Problems
- Vacation Stop
- Place Classified Ad
- Ad Information
- Contact Us
- MORE HELP

### PHOTO GALLERIES



ADVERTISEMENT