

ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY'S Guide to Backyard Sinkholes

Have you or your furry friend noticed a sinking spot in your yard or alley? You might be the caretaker of a piece of Alexandria's buried history!



Privies are holes under the former locations of outhouses. They were often filled with trash and other evidence about people in the past. If they are disturbed by a bottle digger, we lose an irreplaceable piece of Alexandria's history.

1

If you find a low spot on your property, call Alexandria Archaeology at 703.746.4399 or put in a 311 service request for “sinkhole on property.”

2

City of Alexandria Archaeologists will ask for permission to visit the sinking area. Alternatively, you can provide photos and location information.

3

City Archaeologists won't dig the area. They will record the information and advise that the well or privy be preserved in place for future generations.

4

Archaeologists will recommend the best way to fix the sinkhole problem while caring for your backyard history.

5

Owners will receive a brief history of their property, including maps and images to share with family and friends.

www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org

703.746.4399 - Archaeology@alexandriava.gov

Urban Archaeology in Action



Working together to
discover and share the
city's collective past.



VISIT THE FREE MUSEUM

- Watch archaeologists at work in the public lab
- Learn about the latest discoveries in the city
- Test your archaeology skills with hands-on exhibits

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 3rd Floor
105 North Union Street, Studio #327
Alexandria, VA 22314

GET INVOLVED

- Book walking tours or lectures
- Ask about school lessons (free for ACPS)
- Get help with historical research

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Alexandria is one of the only cities in the nation with
archaeologists on staff to preserve history.



A division of the City of Alexandria