



# Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Renovation

Park and Recreation Commission

May 18, 2023

# Commission Action

Following the Public Hearing, provide a recommendation on the proposed Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Renovation Design and Park Plan Amendments.

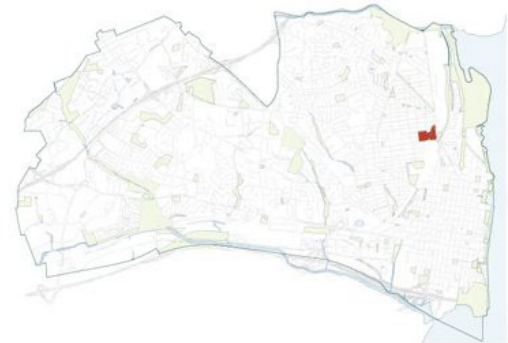


# Public Hearing Agenda

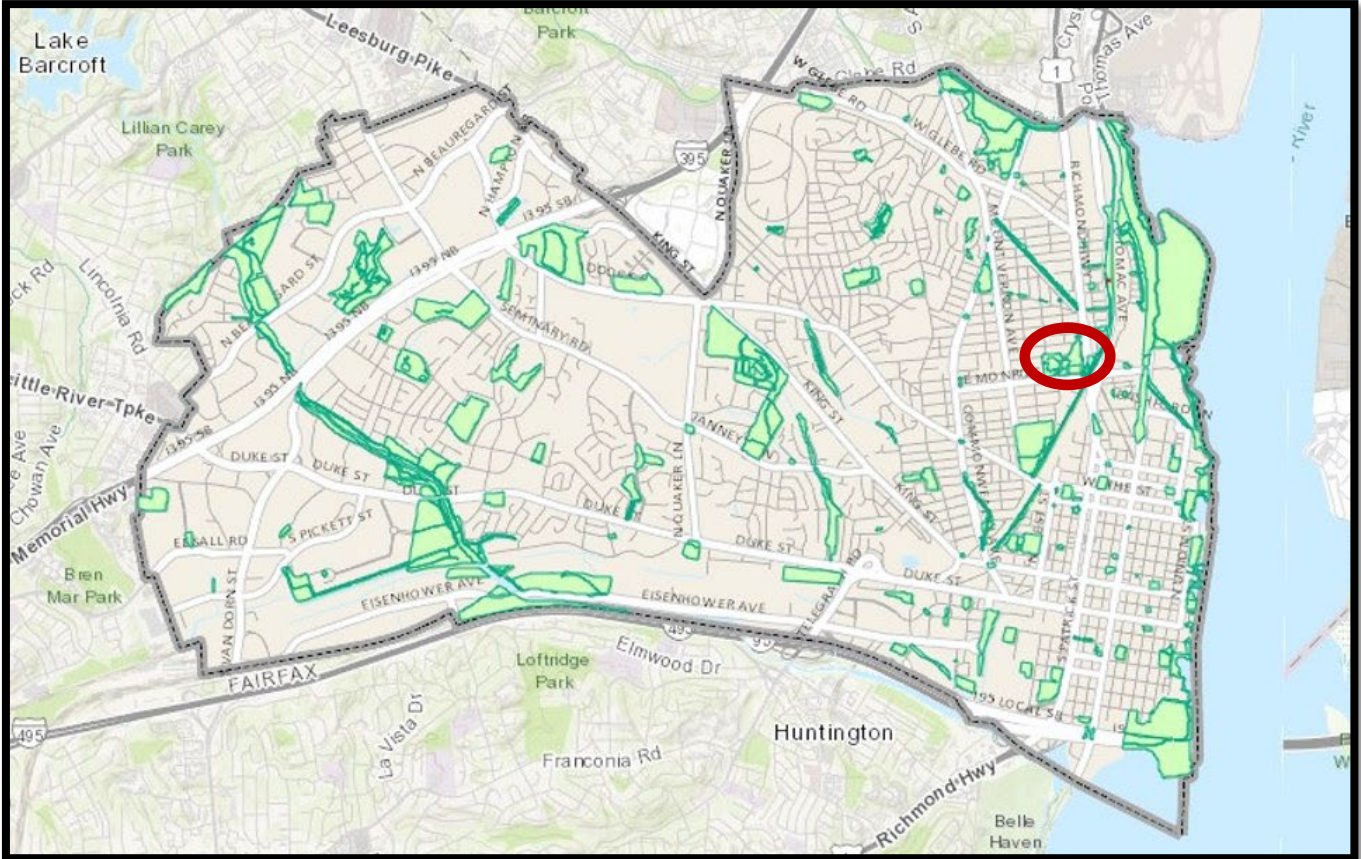
1. Staff Presentation
2. Commission Questions
3. Public Comment
4. Commission Discussion and Action

Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement letter

## SIMPSON STADIUM PARK



# Project Location



**KEYED LEGEND**

1. WIDEN PATH 6-8 FEET TO ENABLE NORTH-SOUTH STANDARD PATHWAY
2. ADJUST PLAYGROUND BORDERS, IMPROVE ENTRANCES, AND ADD NATURAL PLAY
3. ADD STROLLER PARKING AND PLAZA AT PLAYGROUND ENTRANCE
4. CREATE OPEN-USE AREA AND IMPROVE PLANTINGS IN PASSIVE USE AREAS
5. CONNECT PATHWAY TO E. DUNCAN AVE
6. USE BOLLARDS TO LIMIT PATHWAY DRIVING ACCESS TO MAINTENANCE VEHICLES
7. PLANT PERIMETER TREES TO CREATE "GREEN ALLEY"
8. PROVIDE NEW HARD TRAILS IN EAST HALF OF PARK
9. PROVIDE NEW FIELD ENTRANCE AND RAMP
10. IMPROVE MAINTENANCE ROUTE TO SOCCER FIELDS
11. PROVIDE NEW BLEACHERS WITH EQUIPMENT STORAGE UNDERNEATH
12. PROVIDE NEW BLEACHERS WITH CONCESSIONS BOOTHS UNDERNEATH
13. CREATE PICNIC AREA NEAR CONCESSIONS
14. EXPAND PARKING LOT
15. ENCOURAGE USE OF FORTY FIVE TOTAL ON-STREET PARKING SPACES ALONG E MONROE AVE AND MAIN LINE BLVD FOR SOCCER FIELD USE
16. IMPROVE DOG PARK TO INCLUDE LIGHTING, TERRACED HILL, TREES, AND PLAY FEATURES
17. ADD MAINTENANCE STORAGE SHELTER AND YARD BETWEEN FIELDS
18. ADD VEGETATED BIOSWALE ALONG DOG PARK EDGE AND AT MAINTENANCE YARD



2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan

**GRAPHIC KEY**

HARD TRAILS	PARK BOUNDS	OPEN USE AREAS	ENTRANCE PLAZAS	ATHLETIC FIELDS	DOG PARK
BIKE ROUTE					

# 2014 Citywide Park Plan Recommendations

## **Recommendations Addressed with this Project**

5. Connect pathway to East Duncan Avenue
7. Plant perimeter trees to create a "Green Alley"
8. Provide new hard trails in the east half of the park
9. Provide a new field entrance and ramp from East Monroe Avenue
10. Improve the maintenance route to the rectangular fields
13. Create picnic plaza near the concessions
14. Expand the parking lot
19. Provide the option to convert one or both of the existing natural diamond fields to synthetic turf

# Proposed Plan Amendments

## Recommendations

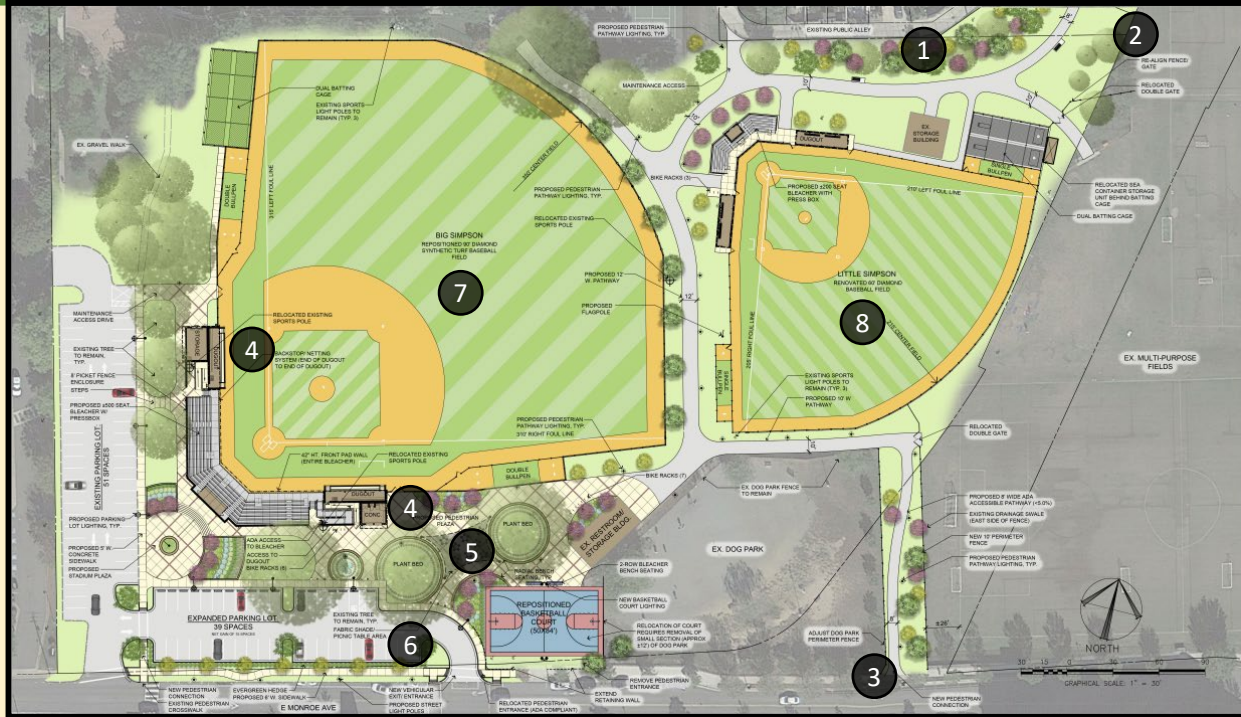
1. Recommendation 11: Provide New Bleachers With Equipment Storage Underneath.
2. Recommendation 12: Provide New Bleachers with Concessions Booths Underneath.



# Eugene Simpson Park Ball Field Renovations

Design: 2021 to 2024 → Construction: 2024 to 2026

*Tell the City, plan your Park!*



## Project Goals:

**#1** Plant Trees along the northern alleyway

**#2** Provide hardscape trails in the east half of the park

**#3** Provide new ADA access from Monroe Ave.

**#4** Install new bleachers, equipment storage and concessions

**#5** Create a picnic area near the concessions

**#6** Expand the parking lot and improve circulations

**#7** Improve the turf at Big Simpson with option for synthetic turf

**#8** Improve natural turf drainage at Little Simpson





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# Public Engagement

- 2014 Citywide Park Plan/2021 Amendment
- June 2022 - Youth Sports Advisory Board (6/13)
- June 2022 - Park and Recreation Commission (6/16)
- January 2023 - Master Gardeners of Alexandria
- March 2023 - Park and Recreation Commission (3/16)
- April 2023 - Youth Sports Advisory Board (4/10)
- March & April 2023 - Concept Design Posted
- March & April 2023 - Online Survey Open
- April 2023 - E-New publication
- April 2023 - Flyers
- April 2023 - Onsite Pop-up Meeting (4/19)
- April 2023 - General Public Meeting (4/26)

# Upcoming Meetings

- May 18 2023 - Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearing
- June 6 2023 - Planning Commission Public Hearing
- June 17 2023 - City Council Public Hearing

# Community Feedback Received

All community comments received by the deadline are posted on the Commission website and were sent to the Park and Recreation Commissioners prior to the public hearing.

Survey results and written comments are generally supportive of the project

Reoccurring comments and concerns include:

- Impacts from Route 1 due to vegetation removal and hard surface paths
- Tree removals and tree canopy in the park
- Impacts to the dog park due to adjacent uses, tree loss, and decreased size
- Conversion of Big Simpson to synthetic turf
- Parking and circulation impacts
- Construction impacts and timing



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# Response Summary to Public Feedback

## Impacts from Route 1 due to vegetation removal and hard surface paths

- Increase tree and shrub buffering along the hard surface paths in the north portion of the park

## Tree removals and tree canopy loss in the park

- Phased removal of invasive trees and trees in declining health
- Safety concerns will be addressed first

## Impacts to the dog park due to adjacent uses, tree loss, and decreased size

- Reduce the square footage impact to the dog park, impact will be a reduction of 2% of the dog park
- Additional measures proposed to save the tree in the dog park adjacent to the restroom building
- Additional buffering including a low wall, plantings, and noise screen

## Conversion of Big Simpson to synthetic turf

- 86% of comments were in favor of synthetic turf, 14% were against
- Propose synthetic turf with organic infill so address concerns with rubber infill

## Parking and circulation impacts

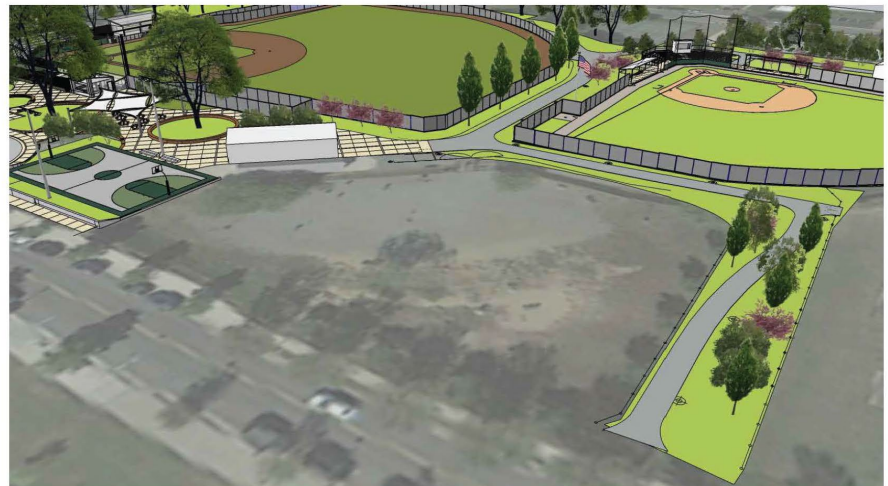
- Comments were evenly divided, no changes are proposed

## Construction impacts and timing

- Further evaluation will be done to minimize disruptions to the community and park users



BIG SIMPSON - OVERALL VIEW



OVERALL SITE - CONNECTION TO MONROE AVE.



BIG SIMPSON - ENTRY PLAZA



BIG SIMPSON - LEFT PLAZA



BIG SIMPSON - SEATING AND CONCESSIONS



BIG SIMPSON - GATHERING PLAZA



BIG SIMPSON - SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD



BIG SIMPSON - VIEW FROM BLEACHERS





LITTLE SIMPSON - ACCESS BETWEEN FIELDS



LITTLE SIMPSON - NATURAL TURF FIELD



LITTLE SIMPSON - BACK OF BLEACHERS



LITTLE SIMPSON - ACCESS FROM KETTLE PARK



# Discussion and Public Comment



**Additional information:**  
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[Bethany.Znidersic@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Bethany.Znidersic@alexandriava.gov)

**Project Website:**  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugen-e-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan>

