Simpson Park Playground + Passive Lawn Renovation
Public Workshop on Revised Concept Design

September 8, 2016
Agenda

7:00 PM  Welcome and Introductions  Dana/Judy
7:10 PM  Presentation of Revised Concept  Cara/Elisabeth
7:35 PM  Presentation of Public Art  Carol/Tim/Diane
8:00 PM  Group Reactions + Discussion  Cara/Elisabeth
8:30 PM  Adjourn  Dana/Judy
The park, as the subject of this renovation, is bounded by the chain link tennis courts on the east; the “Big Simpson” chain link fence at the south; East Duncan Avenue at the north; and the western edge of the existing concrete walkway at the west. It encompasses the existing playground, passive lawn, and several large shade trees.
The Plan

KEYED LEGEND
1. WIDEN PATH 5-8 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 BOOTH 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

Note: CP Funds have already been allocated to install stairs at Monroe Avenue/basketball court and to replace the Little Simpson Press Box in 2014.

GRAPHIC KEY

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

SIMPSON STADIUM PARK
Project Budget + Grant Funding

• *Project Budget* - $776,400

• *Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund grant* - $200,000

• *Public Art Budget* - $95,000
Charges for this Project

• Renovate Simpson Park’s open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and help to balance the type of activities to establish open play uses and casual gathering areas

• Renovate the playground for ages 2-12, add more shade

• Connect passive use areas

• Make Simpson Park family-friendly for multiple-age groups.

• Collaboration with artist hired by the Commission for the Arts to integrate public art in the overall design
# Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Month(s)</th>
<th>Notes/Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Task A</strong></td>
<td><strong>Park Design-Overview</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Task B</strong></td>
<td><strong>Project Development Tasks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site Inventory Analysis</td>
<td>March/April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park Programming</td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance and Operations</td>
<td>April/May</td>
<td>On-site meeting/tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Concept Design</strong></td>
<td>April/May/June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction Documents</td>
<td>September-October</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction Administration</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Task C</strong></td>
<td><strong>Public Input and Meetings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kick-off Meeting</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Focus group meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concept Alternatives</td>
<td>May 25(^{th}), 2016</td>
<td>Public meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Preferred Concept</strong></td>
<td>Sept 8(^{th}), 7 PM</td>
<td>Public meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park and Recreation Commission and Commission for the Arts</td>
<td>Sept 15(^{th})/Sept 20(^{th})</td>
<td></td>
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Guiding Principles

• Well integrated and multi-use, flexible space
• Inviting and safe - clear boundaries and comfortable enclosures/subspace (fence, seat walls, vegetation, topography, etc.)
• Circulation will be easily understandable - clearly defined circulation paths with efficient connectivity (less cut-through paths) and have well defined entrances and access points
• Provide social space to accommodate a range of user groups, ages and social interactions
• Incorporate a seamless integration of landscape, art, and play
• Improvements project a sense of place and community
• Physical components will be low maintenance and resilient materials
• Provide access to ‘nature’ and provide health benefits
• Large and small open areas for spontaneous play
• Public Art will be selected and implemented in accordance with the Public Art Implementation Plan art goals
Three Concept Designs
Online Survey - Concept Design
May 25th - June 15th

10. When you think of public art in a park, what comes to mind?

- 50.0% Climbable Sculptures
- 20.0% Art that can be used as seating
- 15.0% Kinetic play
- 10.0% Other - Write In
- 5.0% Entrance Sculptures

38 Total Responses | Show Responses
Concept 2 was the overall preferred option, but with revision.
Community Feedback-Key Points

- Prefer **Concept 2** layout
- Retain **concrete walk** at current width; add wider diagonal path
- Incorporate **natural play** features
- Preference for muted (natural) **colors** with **accent** hues
- Prefer **swinging** and **climbing**
- Prefer mix of **rubber** and **wood fiber** play surface
- Mixed response on **stone dust**
- Use **seat walls** where possible
- Use **trees for shade** rather than structures
- Add picnic **tables**
- Prefer art that is **climbable** or **seating**
Revised Concept
Revised Concept - Playground

- Entrance Plaza
- Fence
- Shrub border
- Seat Walls
- Lawn
- Public Art
- Nature Play
- Water feature + drinking fountain
- Fence
- Swings
- Parkour / Climbing
- Children’s Garden
Revised Concept - Passive Lawn

- Lawn
- Shrub border
- Proposed tree (typ.)
- Seat Walls
- 8'-wide path
- Maintenance access
- Tables with Umbrellas
- Existing tree (typ.)
Parkour Climbing Course
Swing and Spin
Climb on Seed Pod + Mosaic Pods
May+Watkins Design
Nature Play
Water Feature + Drinking Fountain (TBD)
Seating with Umbrellas
Seeds and Grasses Climb-on, Mosaics + Finials
Mosaics and steel
Seeds and Grasses Climb-on
View from Ramp Entrance
View from Path
View from Path
Mosaic Sculpture
Simpson Park - Color board for Climb-on

This palette includes the major colors for the Climb-on Structure. The mosaic elements, the concrete tint and the Pour in Place have not yet been selected.

Custom Neon Lime
Pantone 390

Golden yellow:
RAL 1004
Pantone 124

Turquoise blue:
RAL 5018
Pantone 7474

Pastel green:
RAL 6019
Pantone 344

Traffic orange:
RAL 2009
Pantone 1665

Deck cover pour in place various

Swatches
Reactions and Discussion

• Did we hear your feedback from the last workshop and/or online survey?

  Does the revised concept...

  ...illustrate a clear circulation system?

  ...provide safe, clear boundaries?

  ...foster a sense of place and community?

  ...provide opportunities for access to nature?

  ...provide opportunities for spontaneous play?

  ...successfully integrate public art?

• Are there areas that still need focus?
Next Steps

• Park and Recreation Commission – September 15th

• Public Art Task Force Meeting

• Commission for the Arts – September 20th

• Construction Documents September – October 2016
Contact Information

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