

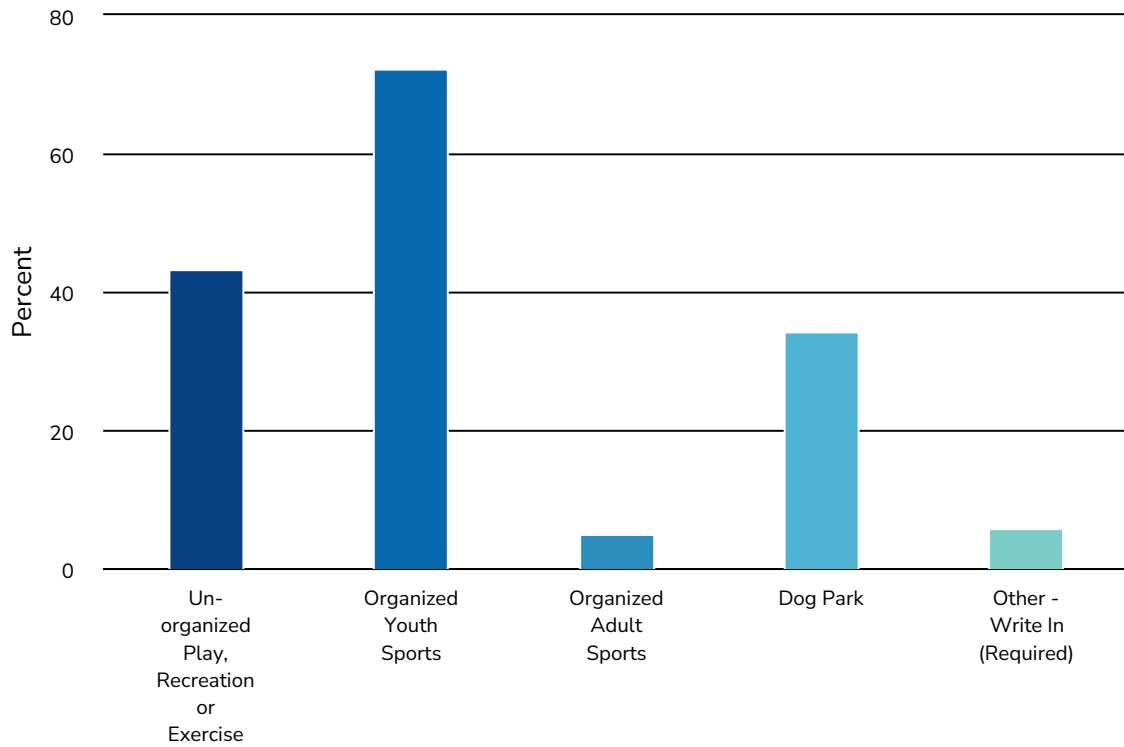
# Report for Eugene Simpson Stadium Park

## Response Counts



Totals: 334

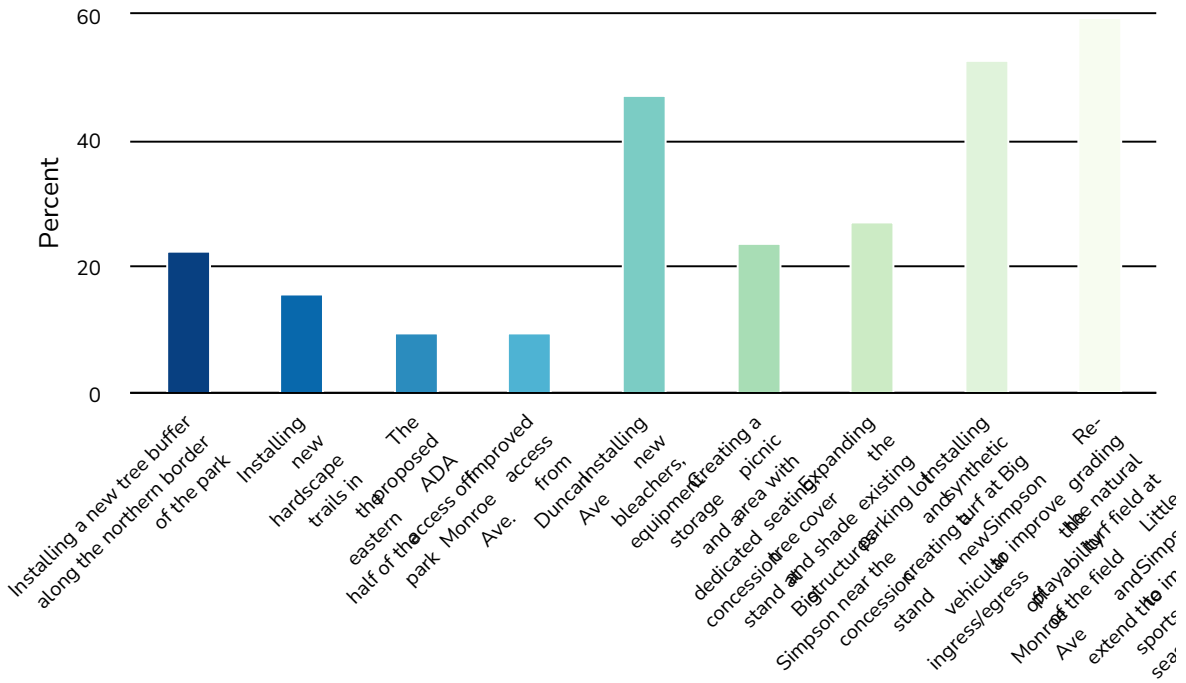
# 1. How do you use Simpson Park? (Select all that apply)

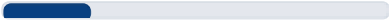
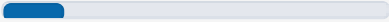
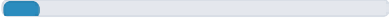
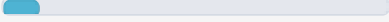
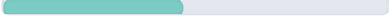
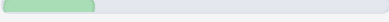
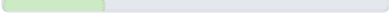

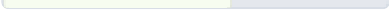


Value	Percent	Responses
Un-organized Play, Recreation or Exercise	43.4%	145
Organized Youth Sports	72.5%	242
Organized Adult Sports	5.1%	17
Dog Park	34.4%	115
Other - Write In (Required)	6.0%	20

<b>Other - Write In (Required)</b>	<b>Count</b>
Adjacent property owner	1
Appreciate having the green space	1
Basketball court	1
Batting practice and taking infield with my Venezuelan brotheres	1
High School baseball	1
High School baseball	1
I live adjacent to it	1
I live right behind it	1
Live adjacent to park, pass through daily on way to and from bringing child to daycare	1
Neighborhood picnics and gatherings.	1
One of the few natural, quieter areas in my the area	1
Pickleball	1
Resident who's backyard faces the Simpson field. I'm concern there will be no open space amd alot more foot traffic. In the back of our homes. Also the batting cages do not need to be double. They are not used very often, and it will take up.more space, not allowing for open space for kids to play. Also, some residence have driveways in the back please allow a allowance to be able to use the drive ways .	1
Sitting in garden; eating	1
Sitting on a bench reading.	1
The field behind E Duncan alleyway backs up to the back of our rowhouse	1
basketball	1
gardens	1
learn about plants in the demonstration garden	1
not yet used	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>

2. The proposed renovation of Simpson Park seeks to deliver the outstanding improvements identified in the 2014 Citywide Parks Plan for Simpson Park. Please identify the three most exciting improvements from the list below. (select up to 3)



Value	Percent	Responses
Installing a new tree buffer along the northern border of the park	22.5% 	75
Installing new hardscape trails in the eastern half of the park	15.9% 	53
The proposed ADA access off Monroe Ave.	9.6% 	32
Improved access from Duncan Ave	9.6% 	32
Installing new bleachers, equipment storage and a dedicated concession stand at Big Simpson	47.3% 	158
Creating a picnic area with seating, tree cover and shade structures near the concession stand	23.7% 	79
Expanding the existing parking lot and creating a new vehicular ingress/egress off Monroe Ave	27.2% 	91
Installing synthetic turf at Big Simpson to improve the playability of the field and extend the sports season	53.0% 	177
Re-grading the natural turf field at Little Simpson to improve the playability and drainage during the wet seasons	59.6% 	199

### 3. Are there elements or aspects of the proposed park renovation concept that should be changed, altered, adjusted, removed, or further enhanced?

#### ResponseID    Response

1                    Ensuring that the tree buffer and/or hardscape trails provide a good partition between the backyards of the houses on Duncan and Bellefonte and the new hardscaping. The residents on those streets don't have places to store trash and recycling bins beyond the alley... we don't need our trash/recycle visible to the public. We don't need a fence as much as bushes or shrubs as to obscure the view of the trash/recycle.

2                    Remove hard-scaping areas near Little Simson and the baseball field. This development will remove large play areas for children and pets, and one of the few natural spaces in this part of the city. Developing these areas will also adversely impact the residents who currently live in River Terrace by removing privacy, and increasing noise and light pollution. Planned development does not actually address the increased traffic congestion, which will further impact residents in the neighborhood who can not afford housing with driveways. This will impact the already dwindling middle income housing options that support generational wealth development for Alexandria - which is what used to make the city so great.

3                    Please do not use bricks for the "trails" it is not a comfortable walking surface. I walk up at Simpson several times a week - although visually it might not be great - the gravel path is a great surface for walking. I walk on the grass next to the bricks when I get to that section. Not sure I will use the new trails as they are too close to traffic and it will be noisy. There is a bit of buffer to traffic noise walking around the park now. Open the Greenway before you start this project so there is another place to walk.

4                    It is unacceptable the size of the dog park is being reduced and shows how mismanaged this "improvement" process has been. After YEARS of working with the city on improving the park, this is a giant step backwards and points to mismanagement of the entire project. Why were the improvements to the dog park already approved without this input? Does the city plan on closing the park again to reduce the size?

5                    I do NOT support the move of the basketball courts into dog park space. Not only will basketballs end up in the dog park, which will be disruptive, it also risks basketballs going into the new car egress onto Monroe Ave/the parking lot. The basketball court should have a sufficient buffer to protect players and those who could be impacted by overshoot or wildly rebounded basketballs. Either one or both the basketball court and/or the concession stand should be relocated so that the parking / Monroe Ave egress does not impact the basketball court as proposed by the city in this poorly designed plan.

6                    Your designs for the dog park conflict with the ball fields design. Specifically, the dog park design dated Oct 2022 has the basketball court remaining in place. However, in the ball fields design, the court is moved to the right into the dog park space. Please advise. This is a material difference and one that dog park users were not on notice of given the design differences.

## ResponseID Response

- 8 I think the basketball court fits awkwardly at the moment and should take priority over the plant beds and a couple of the new parking spots in the lot -- just shift the new lot entrance a little to the left (cutting 2-3 parking spots), re-orient the basketball court North-South instead of East-West, shift it over so there's buffers between it, the lot, and the dog park, and adjust the plant beds as needed. Maybe a tree would have to be removed, as well, but I can't tell for sure.
- 10 The dog park is currently undergoing renovations. I oppose any changes that would be made to the approved dog park's renovation plans. This dog park is one of the only places in Alexandria where dogs can truly expand their energy thanks to its size. All the other parks are too small for them to get a good run in. Reducing its size and removing the shade would be detrimental to the Community. Contrary to the other facilities at the Eugene Simpson's Park, the Dog park is utilized all day long/all year around. In addition, placing the basketball court right next to the dog park is a bad idea. Balls will inevitably end up in the dog park, this will create a hazard for both the players, the dog owners and their pets. Having people play ball so close to the dog park will also excite and more than likely stress the dogs. The dog park is supposed to be their safe play zone. Unfortunately, adding a few parking spots to the parking lot will not change the parking challenges encountered due to the soccer, baseball and summer camp activities. While those challenges exist, these changes will likely benefit people from outside Del ray or even Alexandria, not the del ray area residents. The reality is that these spots are empty about 95% of the time, except during the weekends or for practice time (for about 6 months out of a year). Making changes detrimental to the local Community is not a good use of the city's limited resources.
- 12 not that i can think of
- 13 Keep it as simple as possible not to disturb the neighbors
- 15 No
- 16 Yes, I see that the plans have been updated to include moving the basketball court into a section of Simpson dog park which creates a smaller dog park and will ruin the dog park experience. You will have dogs barking constantly at the players and balls flying into the park creating stress. The sidewalk buffer needs to remain in place between the court and the dog park.
- 17 I see the dog park and basketball court will be pretty close together. I would hope that there will be a decent size fence or net to help keep them separated and to stop any lost balls from flying into the dog park.
- 18 Access to the park should be ADA compliant from everywhere.

## ResponseID Response

19 Many neighbors throughout the neighborhood but especially the homeowners along Duncan and the 500 block of E. Bellefonte enjoy the use of the natural green space adjacent to the alley behind Duncan/E. Bellefonte. Families picnic in this area, children play sports informally (soccer, baseball) and neighbors come from throughout Del Ray to play with their dogs in this area. A large concern is the impact redevelopment of this semi-private green area would have on local use, especially as more and more people would likely use it as a pass-through to access the already busy soccer and baseball fields. A secondary concern is any loss of the natural tree/brush barrier which currently insulates our homes from the noise and (at night) light from Rt 1 and the bridge. For these reasons we oppose any extensive redevelopment of this area of the park. However, further development of the already-landscaped field that runs adjacent to Rt 1 from E. Bellefonte to the soccer fields and is separated by the natural tree line would allow for a dedicated path and access point to the more widely used soccer and baseball fields without significantly impacting the more isolated and natural green space. Additionally, the current natural tree border between the landscaped and non-landscaped spaces contains decades-old trees and an abundance of wildlife (opossums and foxes to name a few) all of which would be displaced by development and landscaping in that area. For these reasons we would oppose the redevelopment of this area adjacent to the alley behind Duncan/E. Bellefonte. It is also concerning that the proposed redevelopment appears to be predicated on a study that is now almost 10 yrs old and without the input of the majority of homeowners and residents that would be directly affected.

20 Don't take away dog park space to accommodate moving the basketball court.

22 Please do not remove any of the big, majestic trees. It's unclear based on the plan if the city plans to cut any of them down. Also it would be nice if you could allocate some of the funds to update the playground by removing that large piece of colorful playground equipment and replacing it with something the kids can actually play on. Perhaps you can move it somewhere else where people can admire the colors from distance since it's not good for any type of play. All the kids can do on that awful piece of equipment is walk up and down it. It's also dangerous because the stairs are slippery when it's wet. I've seen many kids wipe out on it and hit their heads. You wouldn't think such a boring piece of playground equipment would be so dangerous! I suggest to replace it with a structure similar in size that the kids can climb, slide down, pretend play and actually have fun on.

23 Having the basketball courts directly beside the dog park is not a good situation. There needs to be some sort of buffer to keep balls from inside the dog park. Basketball games will create unnecessary stress on the dogs.

24 The greenspace behind the Duncan Ave alley should be preserved and not add hardscape.

25 add bathrooms dog park area not discussed very much

26 n/a

27 More play spaces/activities for children. Lights with timers for night time basketball.



## ResponseID Response

- 28 Timing of the basketball court renovations should be scheduled so that the court is offline during the winter months (Nov-March). The court is one of the few full sized outdoor courts in Alexandria and receives regular use during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. The other outdoor courts nearby cannot accommodate a 5 on 5 game, thus limit the number of participants. If the court was closed during the summer it would greatly impact a large contingent of Alexandria recreation facility users. Additionally, the court ponds in the NW corner and drainage should be corrected when it is resurfaced.
- 29 Make the Dog Park bigger. There are more dogs than kids in Del Ray!
- 30 We have such little green spaces for our children. The city continues to grow but open space does not. Thank you for paying attention to the importance of this space.
- 32 More shade seating in the dog park
- 33 Please try to slow down traffic on Monroe in this area - hopefully the new vehicular access will help. There are also significant parking challenges that may not be alleviated even by the expanded parking lot. Those of us who go to the YMCA have trouble parking at times.
- 34 It appears that the Simpson Dog Park is smaller. With a lack of quality (the one across the street with gravel that cuts dogs' paws is not a replacement) fenced dog parks in the city, I am against reducing the footprint of the heavily used dog park. As an Alexandria resident, I hope that the needs of local dog owners, residents and students of our local schools weigh more heavily than pay to play clubs that draw from outside our city limits. Thank you for considering.
- 35 I do not agree with the installation of synthetic turf at Big Simpson. I watch the sprinklers run at the soccer fields way too often. Better water management and smart use of sprinkler systems in the area will help improve the water problems. Adding compost to the grass turf areas each fall will help raise the area which is naturally sinking due to our flooding storms.
- 36 Access to water fountains
- 37 Please don't make any changes that disrupt the basketball court. There's a big group of residents that plays there regularly and would be devastated to lose the court.
- 40 It's not clear from the renovation diagram how much tree cover will continue to exist between houses on the northern end of Duncan Avenue and the eastern section of Kettle Park. The current tree line, while not necessarily valuable from a tree quality/native plant perspective, is very crucial in screening Duncan Avenue homes from the traffic on Route 1/Richmond Highway. If the current tree line will be removed to add a new path (very welcome!), how long will new plantings take to grow in and provide the same shade and screening effect?

## ResponseID Response

41 More all-weather drinking water fountains similar to the ones used at the parks in Plano, Texas - <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dallasnews.com/news/2011/06/21/plano-approves-71000-for-all-weather-drinking-fountains-on-city-trails/?outputType=amp>

42 Please add dedicated lighted Pickleball courts.

43 No synthetic turf at all. It more likely to get kids hurt and it overheats in hot weather. No to creating a second entrance and expanding the parking lot along Monroe. A second entrance will create unsafe situation for traffic & pedestrians on Monroe and will confuse not improve the flow of traffic through the lot. Yes to an entrance East of the dog park to the soccer fields. Purpose of building a whole new concession building seems to be an unnecessary expense when the current one is fairly close to big Simpson. Why don't you refurbish/reconfigure/upgrade the existing concession? No to moving the basketball court.

44 Do not install plastic turf in any Alexandria fields.

45 Turf should be style that allows for Metal Cleats

47 Increased tree canopy

48 When the city originally discussed renovations to the dog park, they told us it wouldn't be reduced in size. Now, the newest plans, which were never previously presented to the community, call for a reduction by about 1/3 to accommodate moving the basketball court and placing a Monroe street entrance. This is contrary to what the city promised us before and unfairly targets one of the most used dog parks in the city

49 Synthetic Turf is a terrible idea. It makes the play area much, much hotter, costs a lot of money, and requires constant maintenance.

50 No synthetic turf

51 We need to maintain a buffer/cover between Kettle Park and the field behind the Duncan alleyway. Those of us who live on Duncan and E Bellefonte do not need all of route 1 looking into our backyards for security purposes. We value living backed up to private green space. The small field behind E Duncan serves as a visual sight line and backyard to all of the connecting row homes. We would like it better cared for by the city. At present the city leaves downed trees to rot and die and leaves shopping carts and big trash items there indefinitely. I hope that the renovation will maintain privacy and increase maintenance.

52 I am against reducing the size of the dog park.

53 The city should not remove the trees shielding duncan avenue houses from US 1

54 More benches, especially near the garden area

57 Should not be changing to turf

## ResponseID Response

60	More batting cages, general purpose synthetic surface field for recreation and practice.
62	No synthetic turf !
63	Having a turf field for baseball will help build our city's baseball program and keep kids engaged in the sport.
67	Just that after almost 10 years, we should actually do them!
69	I really appreciate the plans and am so excited to improve these facilities for our young athletes.
73	This does not need much.
77	A high-quality basketball court would be great. For example, full square backboards.
78	Synthetic turf turns a grass field into a landfill. Children inhale and swallow ground up rubber trash. Synthetic turf is a heat island and makes playing on it during the summer unsafe.
79	Alexandria is lagging behind other nearby jurisdictions in its physical baseball/softball facilities. Improvements at Simpson will start to address this- just the sheer loss of playing time due to field conditions has been a real stumbling block. Down the road, the high school teams will be more competitive if the youth leagues have more support.
82	Artificial turf and lights for the soccer fields.
83	Reduce dog park.
84	Synthetic turf should not be installed anywhere. I understand there are issues with mud in the rainy season, but synthetic turf is terrible for the environment, which is a bigger concern for me.
86	No
88	There should be more of a buffer between the basketball court and the dog park. It seems whomever designed it doesn't have a dog that likes to chew basketballs or chase people who are running.
93	No. It would be great if the field renovation could occur first, then the stadium so that players can play on the field during the actual stadium renovation.
95	Sacrifice parking to offer more green space and usable recreation space. The city can enter into an agreement with businesses surrounding the park to provide special event parking.
96	More Baseball amenities

**ResponseID    Response**

97                    It's a terrible plan. It's a band aid. Instead, build a new baseball field at Simpson where the soccer fields are to avoid a two-year disruption. Move soccer/ASA to Eisenhower Avenue (soccer is easier to accommodate than baseball/softball, and you've ignored baseball/softball for years). Upgrade Frank Mann baseball (the field doesn't drain). Upgrade Brenman Softball to accommodate baseball. Invest in baseball/softball. Move soccer. Avoid a two-year disruption. Stop kicking the can down the road.

101                    No, but please ensure that the dirt used for Little Simpson will drain well, and not become hard as a rock during dry periods. Also ensure that the bases can be easily relocated to accommodate different base path lengths, and that the mound has a good, safe landing spot for the front leg of pitchers.

103                    No turf field

104                    Installing synthetic turf at Little Simpson instead of simply re-grading.

105                    no - all are good options

108                    Synthetic turf is horrible. Use the money to properly maintain natural fields.

113                    The name of the park should be changed to the Steve Scalise Park. Given that the city didn't release a statement at the time of the attempted assassination by a crazed Bernie Sanders supporter or even wish Rep. Scalise well in his recovery, it would right a wrong. Please don't install synthetic turf. It's an environmental disaster and not befitting the Eco City.

114                    Simpson Park is community space that has been neglected and needs attention.

116                    Improve the playing field lighting. It's well below recognized safety and recreational industry standards.

118                    Nope -- looks great!

119                    Well it seems that there are plenty of other parks/dog parks in the city but this is a one of a kind field and offering to be used by so many. The uniqueness needs to be prioritized.

120                    N/A

121                    No

122                    None

125                    no

126                    There should be consideration of and communication about the health effects of synthetic fields.

## ResponseID Response

127 I am concerned about the basketball hoop being so close to the dog park. I don't want my kids running into the dog park to retrieve a ball, or have a ball injure someone in the dog park. I am not sure the fencing is high enough. I am also concerned about health concerns associated with the installation of turf along with environmental factors. In a meeting it was brought to our attention allergens are included in the turf and I never heard or saw anything more about the long term exposure of that or studies on children with allergies.

128 Love the expansion of the parking lot/traffic flow and improved accessibility

129 The existing parking lot does not need to be expanded. If anything, there should be less parking, and make use of the parking lot for Aldi & CVS for event parking. The grading at Little Simpson & turf at Big Simpson should happen. New hardscape trails in Simpson Park are also a good thing.

131 N/A

133 Synthetic turf should be REJECTED. Improve drainage, but let the kids keep playing on grass!

134 Little Simpson should be turfed as well.

140 One thing to consider is the concession stand is run by parent volunteers at games. It would be ideal if the concession stand placement offered parents the opportunity to not only run the stand but to also see the field.

142 I think it looks fantastic and will encourage more people to use the park.

143 Like it

145 Please don't shrink the dog park!

146 Alexandria is so far behind other local areas in terms of baseball fields. We should have a field our little leagues and our schools are proud to play on!

147 Make sure the field can be updated and playable for our youth! We have so few fields and when we can't use the ones we have it takes away growth opportunities for our kids.

150 Please keep the existing trees to provide shade. Additional trees and shrubs would also be great. The strength of this park is the garden area, natural play area and passive grass space along Duncan Ave. Any changes to the more organized athletic spaces should compliment the relaxed and natural feel of the rest of the park.

152 I think baseball is not a sport to be played in the rain, too dangerous, therefore making the fields turf may be unnecessary. But I defer to the Alexandria Little League etc to make that determination.

154 Let's put as much proportionally into baseball as we have soccer. Our fields are terrible compared to our neighboring communities.

ResponseID	Response
155	no
156	Add another baseball field
160	Yes Improved batting cages, improved pitching surfaces and installation of minor league park
161	The only thing that should be altered is that it should have been done by now! These improvements are beyond overdue.
165	Both big and little simpson should be synthetic turf fields. The city has invested in many synthetic soccer fields; it's time to treat diamond sports equally.
170	na
171	Make it turf with sand instead of rubber and add a Jumbotron video board at Big Simpson and a smaller one at Little Simpson
172	Upgrade/revamp dugouts at Little Simpson as well.
174	A fake turk field would be cool
176	No
179	More baseball fields
180	No it looks great
182	Prioritize kids exercising informally -- add more basketball hoops. Good for unorganized play. I'm not a pickleballer but have you considered the spike of interest in that sport? Consider adding a pickleball court to keep both tennis and pickle players happy.
183	installing synthetic turf on other baseball fields like little simpson.
184	Padding for the backstop behind home plate on Big Simpson.
185	Whatever can be done to increase youth sports access, more playable days. Alexandria kids need organized youth sports, positive role models, avenues for building fitness and character. We are seriously lacking opportunities for that in Alexandria.
189	Everything looks good
191	Adding a third baseball field? City is growing. we need more, not less baseball fields.
192	Dislike the idea of synthetic turf in baseball field. Understand why it would be used, but it should only be a last resort.

## ResponseID Response

195	Great design, I used the two fields over the course of my son growing up baseball. The design keeps a great balance of traditional pathways while efficiently engaging the under used spaces. It appears to provide what most stakeholders want.
196	Looks amazing! Please improve the facilities for our youth athletes!!! Baseball brings so much joy to kids and families!
198	More prominent signage about the need to leash certain dog breeds. There was a time when a pit bull lunged at me and it's owner had to use nearly all his strength to tackle and restrain his dog.
199	There are many access points to the park on the north side. There are too crowded elements on Monroe with coffee shop, shopping, YMCA etc. city must provide users less crowded and safer access
200	Yes. Enhance the importance of starting the project. The project was approved in 2014, we are currently in year 2023.
202	I would enhance the importance of starting the project proposed in 2014. It is 2023...
205	none - the improvements to the fields in Alexandria are past due. I can't wait! And my kids are even more excited
208	Best for youth baseball
209	finish the dog park! And don't add more parking. Leave the dog park alone, its the most used piece of land in the city
210	finish the dog park! And don't add more parking. Leave the dog park alone, its the most used piece of land in the city
213	The need for synthetic turf at Big Simpson and a re-do of the natural grass at Little Simpson is much needed. Our children, and the adults, that both utilize those fields and the other fields in the City deserve to fields that can withstand some of the elements - which we currently do not have.
215	I think things look good as is.
218	At least a portion of the park should be renamed for representative Stephen Scalise and to honor the congressmen, their staff, and Capitol Hill police officers who were attacked by a deranged gunman. (A Bernie Bro who was chummy with ex Mayor Euille.) The city has done NOTHING to commemorate this horrible event. Do the right thing and dedicate some space to their heroic actions on June 14, 2017.
219	Little Simpson should be a softball field. Be equitable to girls.
220	Rename it in honor of Steve Scalise. Shade structures important too.

## ResponseID Response

221	I believe the park should be renamed the Steve Scalise park. The shooting at the park should not represent the residents of Alexandria. By naming the park in Honor of Steve Scalise it will show the rest of the country that while we disagree with Representative Scalise on many issues we are not a city who will gun down our political opponents.
222	The name should be changed to Steve Scalise Park. Synthetic turf isn't eco friendly. Is that really the direction the so called eco city should be headed?
223	I don't like the idea of a turf field at Big Simpson but I will leave it to the experts on what is best for that field.
225	I strongly feel that the additional parking lot, which displaces both the basketball court and the dog park, is not in the spirit of an active city park community. I think adding ADA access is smart and important but folding it in to an additional parking lot, adding pavement to an important green space, is counter intuitive and harmful.
226	Moving the basketball court into the existing dog park is a disruption to enjoyment of either. Less a concern of losing physical dog park space, the activity of bouncing balls and running would create a distraction for dogs. Recommend studying both the basketball court orientation relative to the dog park, and whether a vegetation barrier between the court and dog park would reduce dog behavior distractions to enable enjoyment of both spaces.
229	All efforts should be made to give Alexandria a home for youth baseball. We are by far and away trailing other jurisdictions in terms of field quality, quantity and lack the ability to host tournaments to showcase our city and fields. Quite dissimilar from soccer and ASA which has the space, the financial resources and backing to host events at multiple sites in the city.
232	Higher fencing/netting around Big Simpson to protect park users and vehicles
233	Need to enhance facilities for youth sports in the area of the park. The current facilities are inadequate.
234	Please add more parking. As a property owner right behind the baseball field, it's frustrating when park patrons (baseball, pickleball, soccer) don't utilize other options first, before parking in front of resident's home (terribly, with so much wasted space between vehicles). Please offer alternatives for residents with kids, groceries, and non-WFH jobs.
236	No
237	Improve various access points to park Open all soccer field fences Consider shuttle buses for big events
239	Simpson is a fabulous facility! Do not do any of these changes!!! I can't believe you're going to regrade little Simpson again...why? Leave it alone. Also, if you want to turf a facility, why not turf a sub-par facility rather than your flagship field?



## ResponseID Response

240	Make the dog park smaller. There is no good reason for there to be 2 dog parks on Monroe Ave across from each other.
241	Looks fantastic!
243	Field turf and drainage are the most important thing to make sure it is used by the most city residents not just a small group of dog owners (which also includes myself).
244	whatever can be done to make this a family friendly location and invite old fashioned, safe fun for kids of all ages while playing sports in the city - love that there will be more seating, better concessions and easier accessibility
246	Our children use the facilities at Little Simpson for baseball. Improving the utility and ability to use the field despite the weather is critically important to us. We also use the dog park, but there is another, much larger dog park directly across the street. The sports facilities are much more important and used ALL THE TIME by residents.
249	N/A
250	No artificial turf - it's contrary to the City's Eco-City commitments to reduce plastics and PFAS.
252	Please don't shrink the dog park!!
254	The Simpson Park Improvement Plan was approved in 2014. It is long overdue that these improvements get underway. All city baseball programs - Alexandria Little League, Alexandria City High School, Bishop Ireton, and local travel teams - face many field closures each spring due to rain. Often for several days. Synthetic turf on Big Simpson and improved natural turf and drainage at Little Simpson will drastically cut down on field closures at those fields. Other improvements at the park will enhance the baseball programs as well - improved dugouts, a new dedicated concession stand at Big Simpson, new press boxes and bleachers at both fields, a permanent storage building A larger parking area is greatly needed Additional enhancements to the park include hardscaped walkways, a planted tree buffer with native vegetation, a picnic and passive area for all to enjoy
255	Plant even more trees. I question that the new parking lot is necessary and am disappointed by the loss of green space in that area.
256	No
257	Simpson's baseball fields are in great shape. It seems like a better investment to add turf fields to other fields like at GWMS.
258	Please consider the residence of Duncan Ave, as we are often left with out parking on game days. Also residence will be losing a majority of the open space which we enjoy with our family. I just ask please consider the residence of Duncan ave.

## ResponseID Response

259 Please remove option to replace natural grass with turf. It makes playing sports during high temperature very difficult. Additionally, hard surface increases risk of concussion! Although it is usually said that turf is better for the environment, there is now arguments against it. Thank you!

260 There is too much emphasis on sports activities and renovations. The ball fields frequently sit unused 5 days of the week. In the winter even longer. As vital open space in the neighborhood there should be ways to permit usage of the fields for walking, running, exercise, sitting, stargazing, birdwatching, and picnicking. For example, place a walking path around the inside perimeter of the baseball field. Open the soccer fields up by removing the fencing on the inner side of the fields as there is already a natural berm. The gardens should be enhanced by planting a tree line around the gardens to provide separation from the parking lot, playground and baseball field. Add an additional bench in the shade for summer use as the current bench is directly in the sun - great for winter, not for summer.

261 The area immediately behind 525 E. Belfont should be left untouched as it provides a buffer to the ball park, etc. and a meeting/gathering spot for neighbors to socialize peacefully.

262 I'm not sure, but I currently dread having practices or games at Simpson due to the access, parking, and drainage issues.

263 Depending on the proposed timeline, consider plans for future bathroom improvements/renovation. Additional trees to provide shade along the far ends of the soccer fields would be helpful as well.

265 Prefer grass over turf

266 The drainage pit on the West side is unattractive and needs to be re-landscaped. The park needs more trees and less asphalt.

269 Please plant more trees throughout the park. Please expand the tree border to include the entire northern boundary of the park, currently there is a gap in the tree boundary between the park and the townhomes to the NW. Do not expand the parking lot; instead, focus on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to encourage more people to use public transit, walk, and bike.

271 I think adding turf is not a good idea. Leave it as regular grass

273 DO NOT INSTALSYNTHETIC TURF. It is toxic and environmentally unsound. It will require upkeep and will eventually end up as land fill.

274 The turf field MUST allow metal cleats as a large majority of the users will be wearing them and can cause major damage to the turf. It is only a matter of time before someone ruins it with metal cleats so paying the extra for that ability to begin with is crucial.

## ResponseID Response

- 275 There must be separation between the basketball court and the dog park. Both are important uses of the park but are disruptive to each other. The separation that exists now is the least they should have.
- 277 I live in one of the town home directly on the alley from Duncan Ave. I have very serious concerns removing the low and full bushes and trees will have an immediate and direct impact to our quality of life, creating a direct visual line of site to us-1 and drastically increasing 24-hr sound levels from us-1. Installing new baby trees will not mitigate this noise in the near term (or even medium term). What will be needed are low full bushes like is there now. Our property value will drop and our discomfort will dramatically increase. I do think that park needs work, but not at the complete loss of any sound or visual buffer for the houses and those of us that have been here since before there was even a park (there used to be tons of trees between us and us-1!). It feels like our homes continue to be sacrificed in increments. The noise levels (especially street racing) keep increasing from cars, street racing, and airplanes and Alexandria isn't doing anything to mitigate it. Please do not get rid of the bushes.
- 278 No
- 279 PLEASE OPEN THE DOG PARK SOONER. I get that things take time but a year is just wild and unproductive.
- 281 Consider reorienting basketball court so the basket is not up up against the dog park. Currently there is a high potential that basketballs will end up in the dog park. Tgere needed to be space between the court and the dog park. The noise and motion from the park will cause dogs to bark, increasing noise. Do Not take away more of the dog park for the walkway -take it from the soccer fields.
- 282 Add more space and equipment to the dog park. The stadium is only usable for those with kids and an unnecessary tax on those of us without. The dog park and pedestrian jogging trails are more useful for all citizens
- 283 I am concerned about the hardscaping. With all of the known water issues in this city, how will this change affect the surrounding homes? Additionally, parking on the Duncan side is already scarce; adding additional walking trails to this part of the park will invite even more issues for residents.
- 284 Shrinking the size of the incredibly popular dog park is a bad idea. The parking expansion should come from the existing empty grass space rather than the dog park.
- 285 Please retain the existing size of the dog park. It's one of few places in the city where off leash dog play is possible. Much of city owned property across Alexandria are dedicated to people activity already. Simpson dog park represents one of the few city assets that, as a tax payer, I directly benefit from.
- 286 Do not take away part of the dog park. Do not extend the parking area.

**ResponseID    Response**

287                    Items 1 and 2, tree planting along alley and hardscape trails are unnecessary. They will disrupt current, quite satisfactory, organic use of the area by residents and their guests.

288                    The basketball court should not encroach on the dog park and definitely should not interfere with the wonderful tree and is beautiful and provides much needed shade.

289                    -Synthetic turf should not be installed. Synthetic turf is known to be carcinogenic, toxic, and linked to increased injuries for athletes. There is no benefit of this material for our kids or our community. -The green space behind the soccer field (contained by Route 1, Duncan Avenue, and Bellefonte Avenue) should not be developed. This area should be designated as a protected wildlife area as many kinds of animals live undisturbed in this small habitat (including foxes, possums, wild turkeys, and hawks.) Tearing up the land, ripping out the trees, and installing hardware for and unnecessary paths for humans to traverse would ruin a precious piece of natural land we have left in this city. It would also result in a huge loss of privacy for all families living there, as well as increased noise, light, and air pollution. We must protect the health of the environment and its inhabitants. -The batting cages are in desperate need of renovation. Numerous large birds are consistently caught in the mesh overhang (most recently and Coopers hawk and an owl.) These animals often die from exhaustion in trying to escape. The batting cages should not have the mesh inner lining as the metal fencing contains any baseballs that might hit a passerby. Please fix this ongoing issue.

290                    The dog park should be a prioritized feature for the renovations. The dog park is used by countless residents daily and the closure has resulted in increasing emissions (forcing dog owners who can walk to the park to drive to other parks that include grassy areas (versus the gravel park across the street) and a vacuum in the Del Ray community, one of the most dog-centric neighborhoods in the DMV. Give us back our dog park!

291                    Have you removed all impediments to blind users of the dog park?

292                    I'm most passionate about the playground (which isn't shown in the images) and the tennis courts at the park. Could those be enhanced/included in the images at least? I'd like to understand how they'll be affected.

293                    add more native trees and plants.

294                    The parking lot expansion and new entrance to Monroe Ave are welcome changes, but too grand. Expanding the parking lot less (4 fewer spaces) would save having to move the basketball courts and shrink the dog park. ...which seems particularly wasteful, given that it's currently being renovated.

296                    better softball/baseball field

297                    DO NOT REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE DOG PARK!!!!!!

## ResponseID Response

- 298 I am a local without a yard who walks to Simpson dog park twice daily to exercise and socialize my dog. I am incredibly concerned about the how proposed renovations will impact the dog park. Here are three top concerns I have with the current design: 1. PLEASE do not cut into the size of the current dog park. The dog park is heavily utilized as is and cutting it down further would be problematic because dogs need space to run around and play safely. This design significantly decreases the size of the dog park, decreasing the area by about 1/3. Furthermore, as the city continues to increase density, more humans and more dogs will be using the park in the future – we should be protecting the dog park space as it is, not decreasing it. The community was promised during the dog park renovation planning process that would not happen and it is incredibly disheartening to see the city go back on that promise. It feels like the city is valuing the money-generating sports fields by expanding those and designing renovations primarily with sports users in mind while ignoring the needs of local dog owners and treating the free, critical resource of the dog park as null land. 2. This design cuts out the one, large tree in the dog park that everyone, humans and dogs alike, rely on for shade during the hot months. It gets so incredibly hot here and that tree is an absolute refuge. It is the best, natural shade that cannot be easily replaced. Please do not cut down that beautiful old tree and take it away from the dog park users. 3. Please do not put the basketball court right up against the dog park fence. There needs to be at least as much of a buffer as there is now between the two. Mixing enthusiastic basketball playing bumping up against the fence with a bunch of dogs directly on the other side is a bad idea. It is already problematic to have the basketball court as close as it is- putting them side by side would make that so much worse.
- 299 Prefer trees NOT be removed from northeastern corner near Bellefonte and Rte 1 as they provide a much-needed barrier. The paths will increase parking on Bellefonte.
- 300 The dog park needs to stay as is
- 302 Keep the dog park as is. The idea of a snake area is good too which I think could get use from the dog park users as well
- 303 The maintenance of the soccer field should be improved. One nice professionally maintained grass field and some non-cancer causing material synthetic fields such as the new fields around RFK stadium would be welcomed by me as a referee and Del Ray resident.
- 304 Expanding the parking lot isn't as important as the other proposed changes. If anything. the extra territory should be used for recreation or green spaces.
- 306 adjust fence line at north west corner of soccer field so full field is still available
- 307 It is amazing the city is looking to invest in recreational facilities! However, this is by far the nicest baseball facility in the city limits. During the recreational baseball season most of the the other fields are unusable due to poor drainage and inadequate maintenance. Rather than put all of our community investment into one field, it would be more advantageous for the community to invest in lights, drainage and maintenance and some of the other fields in the city. 20 teams can't all play on one field.

## ResponseID Response

309

No

313

I am disappointed the city gave false premises to the original park plans regarding the dog park section. Taking away nearly the entire area for a court that already has space. Parking is a available and accessible. This does not represent the dog friendly attitude of this area. By not addressing the impact of other changes and asking the excitement for these elements in the prior question doesn't allow for people to truly express the negative consequences of minimizing the dog area.

314

Add designated pickleball courts instead of hardscape trails or picnic area.

315

Reopen the dog park please! This is subsuming so much of the dog park to stage a 2 year project for the ball fields.

316

Personally, I have experieced never ending real estate taxes increases. I question you should ask if I approve of more gold plated parks that make Alexandria almost unaffordable.

317

The grading of the dog park is steep.

319

No

320

I am a regular user of Big Simpson and the area around. Keeping the mature trees around that field, bleachers and concession stand are so important. Visitors from other high schools and counties constantly state that they enjoy the shade and the windbreak. After visiting their fields, I absolutely agree. The other night, a group came to label a tree near the "bunker" that is slated for removal. That mature tree and several others within the park are what makes Simpson the comfortable park that it has become. We should not create a new, treeless park like so many of the suburbs. I am hopeful that a way to create many of great aspects of this plan can coexist with the mature trees in the park. Please don't remove the natural shade and replace it with fake, canopy shade sails! I know that there is concern from the dog park groups about losing 12 feet of the fenced dog park. As an owner of multiple dogs who use the park I care a lot less about that than I do about the trees. Please keep the trees! They differentiate our park from others in the greater DMV area and add so much character to our home park. Many families spend most of their weekends at that park, please keep it's character and don't make it too fancy (manufactured/manicured) for everyone to feel at home. Half of Alexandria basically lives there!

321

I do not like that the proposed renovation decreases the size of the dog park and moving the basketball park right next to it. This is a massive dog community with limited space for dogs to play off leash where dogs have space to truly run. Decreasing the size of the park takes that away. Moving the courts right next to the park will also create noise and disturbance that will cause chaos for the dogs. There needs to be a buffer between them as there is now.

322

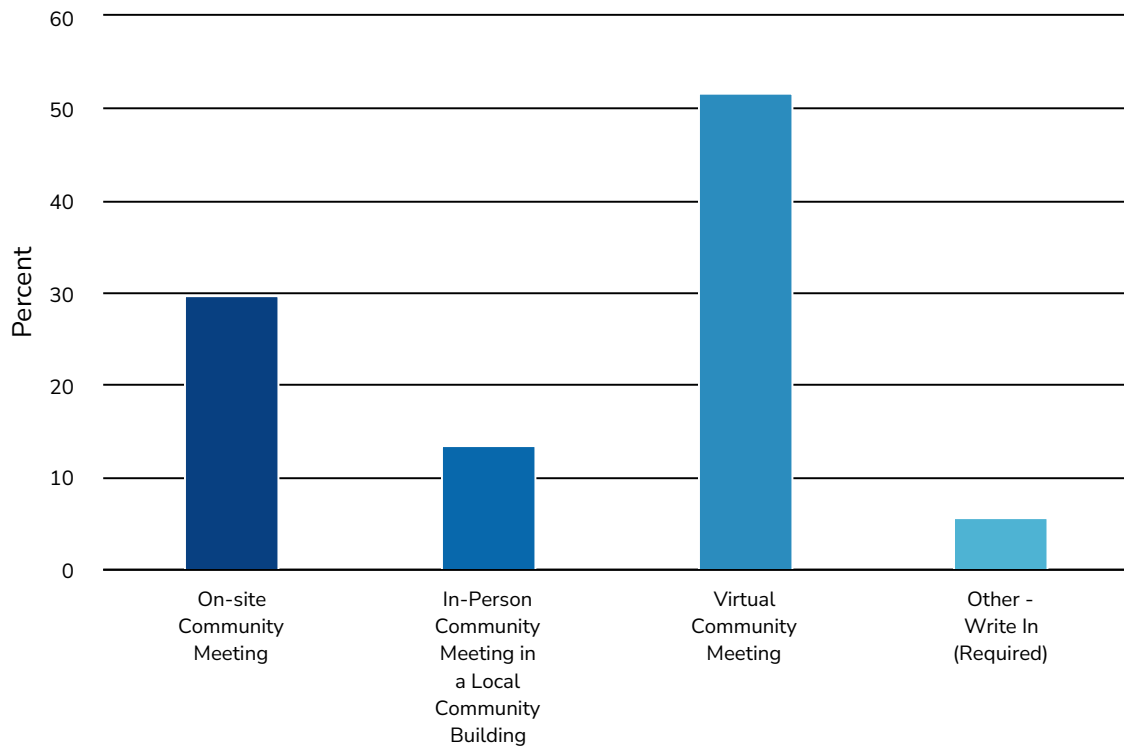
If at all possible, the concession stand should be oriented such that the parent volunteers running the stand can see the field in order to watch their kids play. I would say 100% of the workers are volunteers whose kids are playing at that time.

## ResponseID Response

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- 323 A parking study on Duncan ave should be required before proceeding with park renovations. As it is, parking is incredibly difficult. Planning to increase park amenities while not addressing parking, especially for residents and homeowners, is irresponsible. The street should be re-zoned for residential use. We are completely unable to find parking in evenings and weekends.
- 324 It looks awesome.
- 327 I haven't come across a phasing plan, but the sooner the Big Simpson renovations can be completed the better!
- 329 No
- 330 The fields are top priority for the city and my family as we play baseball and use the Simpson park almost daily. This project timeliness seems very long. I'd like to enhance the timeline and get this done quicker if possible. Parking needs better organization and more parking is ideal.
- 331 Does it make sense to include the rectangular fields in the plan? They are heavily used and loved and need to be a part of the overall plan.
- 332 The dog park cannot continue to host the entirety of the K9 cardio dog walking business. They have caused countless complaints and dangers to people in the community with their dogs. They have taken over the Monroe park and it's completely out of control
- 333 - I would make sure that the new parking lot is a one-way arrangement - I would rethink the Concession Stand. Not sure if it is good idea for it to be adjacent and in direct contact with the Visitor's dugout. Noise issues.
- 334 - I would make sure that the new parking lot is a one-way arrangement - I would rethink the Concession Stand. Not sure if it is good idea for it to be adjacent and in direct contact with the Visitor's dugout. Noise issues.

4. This City will present the proposed park rendering and gather additional community feedback this Spring 2023. What is the best way to receive feedback?



Value	Percent	Responses
On-site Community Meeting	29.7%	99
In-Person Community Meeting in a Local Community Building	13.5%	45
Virtual Community Meeting	51.7%	172
Other - Write In (Required)	5.7%	19



<b>Other - Write In (Required)</b>	<b>Count</b>
Survey	2
Additional surveys	1
Any which way that the city will listen	1
Email	1
Email/E-Survey	1
I live in the neighborhood and was not made aware of the actual changes until this last month. Information should be mailed to all surrounding residents with images	1
Meetings limit those of us who work nights - open forum with a longer time limit for everyone to access feedback forms	1
Not sure	1
Often feedback is ignored anyway so it does not matter how you collect it	1
On-line	1
Online collection of opinions, not a one time meeting	1
Post a notice at the dog park adjacent to Swings	1
Post signs everywhere so when there will be meetings the community is aware. Don't just put the meeting info in an email or put it in a newsletter. The community hate it when the city blind sides them with changes and there was never signage on site for the change (ie adding pickelball courts (the city claimed their were signs but no one saw them), updating the playground). Meetings should be in held person and allow virtual option.	1
Solicit Feedback (per step 6 below) from interested parties electronically.	1
Written public comment. In person and zoom advantages residents who have more time for public meetings, biasing the information that is collected.	1
allow electronic comments submission via email	1
forms like this	1
virtual and in person	1
Totals	19

## 5. Do you have any additional feedback to provide regarding the proposed park renovation?

ResponseID	Response
2	Please communicate the research done on the impact the changes will have on the community: pedestrian and car traffic, safety, environmental, noise and sound. And plans the city has to support adverse impacts on property owners.
3	Keep the demonstration garden at its current size
5	The soccer fields receive more wear and tear than the baseball fields. Why are they not being considered for synthetic turf? The soccer fields also need lighting. This should be considered as part of the park renovation.
7	Looks like a well needed project.
9	I believe that Little Simpson should be turf as well.
13	No additional bleachers and limit the hours
15	No
17	Once it is started, I hope the construction is a speedy process.
18	None.
19	Those living immediately adjacent to the park (Duncan/E. Bellefonte) are concerned that we haven't been contacted for our positions regarding these changes that stand to effect us and our properties the most. It appears that a community study was completed in 2014 - nearly a decade ago - whereas most homeowners in the affected area purchased within the past 9 years.
20	So, they seem to be working about one day a week on the dog park. Is that why it's projected to take a year?
22	It seems like the plan is already set so I'm not sure why you're asking for community feedback now. Please stop wasting people's time with these bias surveys at this juncture of the plan if you don't plan to listen to them.
25	Where are the bathrooms? Maybe I just can't understand the drawings.
26	Major concern is the timing and access to fields during renovations. Can work be timed for off-season/low-usage season rather than at peak times. Thank you.
27	Add a timeline (target completion date)
29	Make the Dog Park bigger. There are more dogs than kids in Del Ray!

**ResponseID    Response**

30                    Just thank you for addressing the importance of this space for our children and families

31                    Keep in mind the potential for increased injuries while playing on an artificial turf field!

34                    The ADA compliant improvements are great. Not a huge supporter of artificial turf everywhere. VA summers make it difficult to use when school is out.

35                    I've read about synthetic turfs and play areas being linked to increased cases of cancer and breathing problems in youth, as the materials break down, and do not think we should go with a synthetic grass material to cover the baseball fields.

37                    Please don't mess up the basketball court.

41                    More shade (more trees) outside of the ball fields, more use of native trees and plants, restroom facilities and amenities similar to those used at Oak Point Park in Plano, Texas - <https://www.plano.gov/1476/Oak-Point-Park-Nature-Preserve> , maybe a small sustainable outdoor "natural" pond where families can fish or see fish (e.g., koi or a non-invasive fish species), perhaps squeeze in a mini-community garden where Alexandria residents can sign up to grow fruits and vegetables, plant pawpaw trees, future pedestrian-friendly connection and development to the water retention pond at Richmond Highway and Slaters Lane

42                    Add dedicated regulation lighted Pickleball courts.

43                    Make sure that plans are suitable to purpose and not over-engineered. For example, adding second entrance and parking to Monroe parking lot may on its face seem like a good thing; however, my assessment is that there will never be enough parking spots there to address the parking issues you think expanded parking would address and the second entrance on Monroe is more likely to cause more traffic flow issues that alleviate them, especially if you consider cars traveling East bound on Monroe making a left to enter the parking lot. This would require allowing cars to still enter from the YMCA lot (and cars entering on both sides of the lot) or an even more traffic-creating left into the new entrance. The existing traffic pattern could be better especially on Saturdays but altering it for two entrances would likely cause a negative cost-benefit rather than a positive taking traffic into consideration.

44                    Parking is a nightmare for the surrounding community. This must be prioritized.

47                    Looking forward to an updated space

48                    The new plans also propose eliminating the noise/privacy trees screen between US1 and Duncan avenue. This also goes against what the city promised the area residents. When the now existing pocket park was proposed, the city promised to maintain the tree line to block the noise from US1, now less than a year later, the city is ignoring its past assurances and proposing against to remove the trees. This is not acceptable

49                    Do not install plastic turf.

## ResponseID Response

53	The city should keep the promises they made in the past to maintain the trees shielding duncan avenue from the noise/lights of US1.
57	No
60	There is a shortage of sports fields for youth sports in the city.
63	The ymca parking should be in the back area and allow for the parking up front for the park
65	Alexandria city is full of young families. We need excellent facilities for sports to keep families here and children engaged in local programs. Without these facilities families have options to live in Fairfax or Arlington or to play on travel programs. These parts of our community are visible to people who travel here to play and are a representation of Alexandria's excellence in providing for the community!
66	As a dog owner, I fully support making the dog park smaller in order to enhance sports and activities for children and youth in our community.
67	The park really needs these improvements (and the parking improvements) that have been so long delayed to improve the fields and mitigate cancelations due to weather.
70	The proposed plan looks outstanding and benefits everyone in the community as well as Alexandria City School District.
73	We need this field, don't take to long with renovations.
74	I think that it is important to invest in the youth of the city. The baseball fields give them a positive outlet to learn and grow. They should be approved.
77	As a dog owner who has used the dog park at this location numerous times, I have no objections to encroachment and proposed loss of feet. There is more than enough space remaining. I've never seen the dog park "over crowded" or thought that space wasn't more than enough.
78	Please reconsider the synthetic turf. It will make the field dangerously hot and looks terrible after 6 years. Crumb rubber contains heavy metals and is not healthy for children.
79	No

## ResponseID Response

80 The Simpson Park Improvement Plan was approved in 2014. It is long overdue that these improvements get underway. All city baseball programs - Alexandria Little League, Alexandria City High School, Bishop Ireton, and local travel teams - face many field closures each spring due to rain. Often for several days. Synthetic turf on Big Simpson and improved natural turf and drainage at Little Simpson will drastically cut down on field closures at those fields. Other improvements at the park will enhance the baseball programs as well - improved dugouts, a new dedicated concession stand at Big Simpson, new press boxes and bleachers at both fields, a permanent storage building. A larger parking area is greatly needed. Additional enhancements to the park include hardscaped walkways, a planted tree buffer with native vegetation, a picnic and passive area for all to enjoy.

83 We really need this for our kids that play baseball. We are sorely lacking compared to other communities around us.

85 It's critical to families and investing in our parks for livability and health

86 No

88 Glad you are putting in new turf for the baseball fields.

90 THIS IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT AND NEEDS TO HAPPEN. We have such limited field space for baseball in our city, and it is embarrassing to compare what we are able to provide when compared to neighbors across Northern Virginia. It shows a lack of commitment to our children and a lack of prioritization for health and wellness

92 Looks great! An exciting opportunity for the Alexandria community!

93 It would be great if the field renovation could occur first, then the stadium so that players can play on the field during the actual stadium renovation.

94 Parking for baseball is of vital need due to so much more pressure from new businesses coming on to the Monroe St area and since the YMCA takes up a lot of parking also.

95 I live near Simpson. The city will never be able to provide enough parking to meet the demand. Please don't sacrifice any green space or recreation space for parking. It won't address the problem.

97 Do something. I'm appalled at the pace of this project. Simpson Field is a pathetic excuse for a high school baseball facility, and it should have been replaced years ago. It was poorly engineered in the first place. It is a blight on the community now. The city had so many opportunities to build new fields elsewhere, but they punted every time. Now it's time to invest in the existing facility, even though the school would be best served by a new facility elsewhere (where the soccer fields are behind Little Simpson). That would also benefit the community, because Simpson Field could be redeveloped for another use. Just an appalling lack of vision, and now you have to sink money into a crap location.

## ResponseID Response

99	Field upgrades are essential. Alexandria baseball fields are sub-par to fields in other localities that we compete against. We have a limited number and the quality is not as good. A case in point - Our 9U travel team does not even have access to fields for outdoor practice - which is a major issue - many/most of those kids play little league as well.
101	I fully support the project. Please do what you can to provide additional, full-sized baseball fields in the City, and make sure that at least one new full-sized field is constructed and playable before taking Big Simpson offline.
102	With nearly ten years passing since this plan was approved, it's exciting to see it finally get underway. I and may others are VERY supportive of the plan as proposed and encourage you to move forward confidently and avoid additional delays. The baseball and softball improvements are particularly crucial for a city that does not have sufficient, or sufficiently weather-proofed, baseball and softball facilities. It has also been exciting to see Simpson become popular and well-used pickleball destination and that use should be supported and preserved.
103	No
104	Instead of re-grading Little Simpson, would prefer installation of synthetic turf.
105	This is long overdue to stay competitive with neighboring baseball programs. Also, I am hearing those not in favor are worried about the dog park being reduced in size - that is a ridiculous argument if true.
108	NO SYNTHETIC TURF
109	This is a really exciting development for youth sports in Alexandria! Simpson Park is frequented by so many of our city's athletes and I know everyone will appreciate the new updates!
114	Our recreational space should reflected the health of our vibrant city!!
118	Looks great!
119	Nope
120	N/A
121	No
122	These renovations were approved by the city in 2014, and are incredibly long overdue to support the programs that the city offers as well as offering a well thought out communal space for all to enjoy.
125	No

## ResponseID Response

126 The concession stand, bleachers, and stands are essential and would greatly add to the community well-being. As a dog park user, losing 12 feet is not at all a problem. There is a huge dog park across the street as well. It would be silly not to make these necessary changes to the youth and adult sports communities' enjoyment of this public space.

127 Parking continues to be an issue and I am afraid this really does not resolve that for facility use. The length of the Monroe does not safely allow for parking and Monroe does not provide enough street parking.

128 Very exciting for our Alexandria families!

129 The improvements are generally good. I don't quite understand why it is taking so long to complete the Dog Park renovations. The City should rethink expanding the parking lot next to the Y, and have more green space. Perhaps link up the dog park with the one on the opposite side of the street next to Swings.

131 n/a

133 No - other than keeping both fields grass and dirt!

135 Absolutely support this effort! Not only will this benefit sports for youth in our area but enhances the area for visitors to our fields.

142 No. I am excited for the changes.

144 I fully support the much needed upfield updates.

146 Please please do not make any changes to the plans to upgrade the baseball areas. It is so important to our children and their friends who love baseball, and who can't believe how nice the fields in Arlington and Fairfax are. We can make our fields nice too and your plan will help with that!

150 Please keep the existing trees to provide shade. Additional trees and shrubs would also be great. The strength of this park is the garden area, natural play area and passive grass space along Duncan Ave. Any changes to the more organized athletic spaces should compliment the relaxed and natural feel of the rest of the park.

152 I'm very pleased to see City funds being used for the right reasons and for the benefit of city taxpayers as it should be! Bravo!

155 I'm a dog owner and I think the changes won't stop me from using the park.

156 Adding another baseball field

160 Get rid of the dog Park because it isn't properly maintained. If you have a dog park you need one for small dogs and one for large dogs.

**ResponseID    Response**

161                    I would urge you to complete this project as soon as you can. I'm a baseball parent and I've watched, dismayed, as my child plays in fields all over NoVa that are far superior to this one. Frankly, it's embarrassing that the fields are in the condition they are in, and these proposed improvements would do a lot to bring our park in line with others in the area. If I'm considering moving to Arlington vs. Alexandria, and public facilities are part of the equation, right now, Arlington wins, hands down. This should not be the case. Similarly, additional parking, better lighting, modernized drainage and a decent concessions stand are very, very basic needs that should be addressed.

163                    No

165                    The top priority must be making the fields synthetic turf, or at a minimum graded/with. Mechanized tarp, to maximize playability in wet weather. The non-baseball renovations should be lowest priority.

166                    the negative comments are from the dog park community: their dog park will still be substantial, PLUS there is a new dog park nearby that's opening. So they're fine.

168                    Turf field in little Simpson as well.

170                    na

171                    Jumbotron on Big Simpson and smaller one on Little Simpson but connect to the current analog one. For Big Simpson completely take out the current one but maybe keep the Titans sign.

173                    Would love to see lots of containers for recycling. Also an attachment to a water fountain to easily fill water bottles would be amazing!

174                    No

175                    The City of Alexandria desperately needs more larger baseball fields. We can't find practice space or game space without leaving the city.

176                    We very much need those synthetic fields for Simpson, and then next Frank Mann!!

177                    Alexandria desperately needs better quality baseball fields for youth. Other communities have done same and it makes a big difference.

178                    The city desperately needs fields to accommodate ACPS, Little League and Alexandria travel baseball, which have grown dramatically in recent years. Alexandria has become a hotbed of baseball not only supporting school teams but also a growing number of small businesses that thrive on coaching players of all ages. Baseball as an industry is growing in Alexandria but constrained by a lack of field space this project is critical to the city's baseball community.

180                    No



## ResponseID Response

182 Please prioritize opportunities for PEOPLE to exercise and simply go outside, either for organized or DIS-organized activities. To me, the lowest priorities are dogs (low priority), trees (lower priority), and cars (lowest priority).

183 The city should look into more joint ventures with private entities and donors to leverage funds to make further improvements to baseball fields. Our baseball fields are by far worse off than all our neighboring communities.

184 Nope - renderings look great!

185 Very excited about the artificial turf. We have so many canceled games and so many teams vying for so few fields.

188 The park is a tremendous resource for the community—please do whatever you can to build out the baseball fields and improve their usability

189 None at this time

191 We are losing kids to video games rather than organized baseball .. A city our size should have a robust and proud baseball program.

193 Please take care of this as soon as possible.

197 I think improved baseball facilities and surrounding gathering spaces would be a very worthwhile improvement. The more these fields can be used (rain or shine), the better. I think it's worth whatever impact this may have on the dog park.

198 If it is at all possible to allow Little Simpson to be unlocked during the off-season, this would be a wonderful gift to the community. I understand that some will use the field as a dog park but perhaps signage about violators will be fined if they are caught on surveillance camera will help with deterrence. Perhaps it might help to allocate an increased budget to help with maintenance/cleaning (by volunteers or Little League reps to help regular groundskeepers maintain the unlocked fields during the off-season). In fact, it would go a long ways toward true/actual equity in the community if the fields at Little Simpson, Brenman, Adams, Boothe, and Four Mile Run Softball were kept unlocked, especially during the off-season. It would help to keep rakes and nets near these fields for the public to use as well. I have experienced on more than one occasion (as I am pulling out an equipment bag for practice) children from the surrounding community approach me in the parking lot to ask how they can be allowed to play on the baseball field. These are children who are underrepresented in a sport like baseball. During the fall and spring seasons, each late afternoon/evening, children who play in the playgrounds near these locked fields watch as team after team of kids generally not from their community come to practice and play on these fields they do not have access to. Imagine what a feeling of otherness they must experience from observing this disparity and unfairness. Registering with Little League should not be the only way a child can access a baseball field.

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200	My understanding is that there is negative feedback from the dog community. In order to have more parking and a full-sized basketball court, the dog park will lose 12 feet. But the dog park will still be of a substantial size and the city has built another brand new dog park directly across Monroe street from Simpson Park. So in reality, they have gained quite a bit of space and options. This project should put the focus on the neighborhood youth, not neighborhood dogs in my opinion which has been long overdue.
202	Dog parks are short term solutions. Ball parks are long term solutions that last generations.
208	It is a key youth sports location
209	finish the dog park - don't take away its space for a parking lot
210	finish the dog park - don't take away its space for a parking lot
212	Youth sports is very important to the community and should be a priority for the city
213	This project is essential to the children, parents, and adults who utilize this area and should move forward as planned.
215	Try to make netting higher than 30 feet if possible.
218	Are bathrooms being updated? At least a portion of the park should be renamed for representative Stephen Scalise and to honor the congressmen, their staff, and Capitol Hill police officers who were attacked by a deranged gunman. (A Bernie Bro who was chummy with ex Mayor Euille.) The city has done NOTHING to commemorate this horrible event. Do the right thing and dedicate some space to their heroic actions on June 14, 2017. Since the city reads this and unanimously took away our rights to carry firearms in parks, I hope that you understand that pepper spray is not a viable option for self-defense.
219	Take care of girls in sports
222	The City's lack of official response to the attempted assassination was embarrassing. Please correct that wrong by renaming the park in honor of Steve Scalise.
225	Overall I find that several areas of intended renovation are adding pavement or other non-organic or botanical surfaces. I would be extremely disappointed if the park went in this direction.
226	I am extremely disappointed that city planners appear to be wasting tax dollars by first investing in the dog park renovation and then proposing changes to the fencing before the first phase is even reopen to the public. If we are investing public resources in one project, that initiative should have a minimum lifespan to reap an appropriate return on investment before new projects are undertaken.

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228	<p>My son plays for a local travel team - Alexandria Reds 13U White. They are required to travel to South County School in Lorton, VA weekly to practice on a big field because there is no big field space available to them in the entire city of Alexandria--and that field in Lorton is only available once/week. And we currently have no games scheduled in the City of Alexandria. It is astounding to me in a city the size of Alexandria with all of its resources is unable to provide field space to support just two travel programs (Reds &amp; PrimeTime). Because of the lack of adequate field space, our teams often struggle to compete against regional competition, who often have facilities to support their travel teams to practice &amp; play 3-4 times week.</p>
229	<p>The dog park modifications are fine. There are two dog parks separated by Monroe Avenue. They both are large and offer amenities needed for people and their dogs. We should show that same commitment to our youth by upgrading the baseball fields at Simpson.</p>
232	<p>It's a great asset. Glad to know the city is ready to invest more in it.</p>
233	<p>None</p>
234	<p>Please consider options or priority parking for residents of Duncan Ave, who rely on street parking to come home.</p>
236	<p>No</p>
239	<p>Big Simpson and Little Simpson are incredible fields. The City is wasting money working on them!!! Why not convert the baseball fields south of GWMS to turf? Layout specs show you could fit a 90ft diamond, Two 60 ft Teeball/Coach pitch diamonds, and a full rectangular field (although you have to eat up some of the GWMS driveway to accomplish). Any money the city spends on fields should go to adding capacity. The Big Simpson project adds zero capacity. (Avoiding a few rain outs is not our baseball teams real problem...field availability is our real problem).</p>
240	<p>Too many dog parks</p>
241	<p>These are the things that the City needs to do to remain committed to the things that make Alexandria a fantastic place for families. Shrinking the dog park is a minimal casualty especially when there are several others within walking distance of this one.</p>
242	<p>We would love to use this facility more to host out of town teams and allow them to experience our community.</p>
243	<p>Please keep the turf fields in the plan, our city fields and playing opportunities totally stop when there is rain</p>

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244 strike a balance between children and dogs. it's great that the dog park is being updated but there are far more children and families that use the space and improvements can make it useable more often. pathways around the entire park from bellefonte to Duncan to Monroe are a great idea for families and dog walkers alike! better concessions with tables and shade structures are inviting for hanging out during multiple seasons. Alexandria needs safe places for youngsters to safely hang out and have fun! This is a great, central location for doing exactly that.

247 There are already too few baseball fields in the city so anything that can be done to improve existing fields so they can be used to their max capacity would be great. Keeping the fields offline for the shortest amount of time possible would also greatly benefit kids across the whole city.

249 N/A

252 Please don't shrink the dog park!!

253 They are long over due and needed.

254 The Simpson Park Improvement Plan was approved in 2014. It is long overdue that these improvements get underway. All city baseball programs - Alexandria Little League, Alexandria City High School, Bishop Ireton, and local travel teams - face many field closures each spring due to rain. Often for several days. Synthetic turf on Big Simpson and improved natural turf and drainage at Little Simpson will drastically cut down on field closures at those fields. Other improvements at the park will enhance the baseball programs as well - improved dugouts, a new dedicated concession stand at Big Simpson, new press boxes and bleachers at both fields, a permanent storage building A larger parking area is greatly needed Additional enhancements to the park include hardscaped walkways, a planted tree buffer with native vegetation, a picnic and passive area for all to enjoy

256 Alexandria needs to consider the equity of sports for its children. Alexandria has many wonderful facilities, however its baseball facilities are inadequate and result in the cancelation of many games each season due to inadequate drainage. The community should prioritize activities for its youth above all other considerations for this project.

258 I just ask to keep the residence of Duncan Ave. In your planning. There is alot of traffic in this field . People using the fields soccer and little league do not respect our neighborhood or the area by the field. They often park cars on the grass and park in the ally.

259 Not at this point. Thank you for this initiative!

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260	The park's open green space is a great asset to the neighborhood especially in a time of massive development next door in Potomac Yards. The usage by the community should be enhanced by facilitating more access to the open spaces. There should be public art commissioned as well as scheduling concerts, urban nature walks, and activities for youth and seniors. All these items however need to access the currently walled off sports fields. Sports is great for the community and should be promoted and facilitated but the balance is off right now with the public's access to this wonderful open space.
262	No
263	I strongly support the proposed improvements.
266	No big buildings around the park. It kills any park to have towers around it.
269	Baseball fields should be open to the public when not in use by organized team sports. Currently the fields are locked except for team sports use. That is a waste of public space that could otherwise be enjoyed by the neighborhood.
271	N/a
272	Especially because this field serves as the high school baseball team's facilities, believe strongly that the field conditions need to be improved to appropriately support the team.
273	Why is it taking a year to do the dogpark?
275	The dog park is much needed and I am worried that it isn't receiving as much priority or focus as the sports fields.
277	Keep residents in mind. Things are already loud. Also the new proposed lighting for the soccer fields at night. We already have so much light pollution from us-1 and the baseball fields that even our blackout curtains can't contain it. What about residents?!?!?
278	No
279	Renovating a dog park shouldn't take over a year!!
280	The improvements to the baseball fields will be of great value to our thriving youth, young adult, and adult baseball communities.
281	Reorient the basketball court so it is not directly up against dog park fence
282	Don't take away from the dog park
283	To reiterate what I said above, I don't believe the designs do enough to address current parking issues. I am a Duncan resident, and between baseball, soccer, and pickleball, I struggle mightily to find parking for myself.
284	No

## ResponseID Response

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287 Please heed the residents closest to the park. Do not go through the community feedback and survey process just to check the "city was listening" box.

288 Don't mean be the basketball court into the dog park area. The dog park doesn't need to be smaller and the tree is essential. A couple extra parking spots are not worth it.

289 It 's a cause for concern that city officials are using almost a decade old information for planning this project. Please don't destroy the natural barriers to Route 1 and wildlife habitat. Please don't take away the best part of the neighborhood.

290 The dogs of Del Ray deserve a safe, grassy area for play, enrichment and socialization.

292 I really like the path from Bellefonte into the park, and I like the path from the street to the tennis courts. Paths and green space are wonderful!

295 Please take the field improvements seriously! There are so few fields for our elementary aged children to play on in the city of Alexandria (baseball, softball, soccer) and the weather disruptions put a serious hit on the seasons. We need to prioritize our children. Thank you for all you do.

296 no

297 DO NOT REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE DOG PARK!!!!!!!!!!

## ResponseID Response

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298 I have several other points of feedback beyond the three elements I mention in question 3 above: 4. The parking lot expansion seems to come at a very high cost and for an additional 20 spaces it does not seem worth it. The only time parking is difficult is when a game is happening and when that happens, an additional 20 spaces will not be nearly enough. I know that people want to park close but there is always street parking available in the neighborhood, even on those busiest days. Please conduct a parking study to see if the proposed parking lot enhancement will solve the problem before blindly proceeding, as well as a cost-benefit analysis for the loss of green space and impact to the dog park that would ensue if the parking lot is expanded. If not, as I assume it won't, please consider other creative parking solutions, such as advertising public transit or the available parking on Main Line Blvd a short walk away (there is always parking available there!). 5. I am concerned about the amount of pavement added all across the park. I understand that some pavement is needed to meet accessibility requirements but the amount in the plans is excessive and beyond those requirements. Please preserve as much green space as possible, for the enjoyment of the community and to receive the benefits of natural stormwater management. Pavement is also incredibly hot on my dog's paws. I love walking in Simpson in the summer because there is so much grass, dirt, or small gravel that I don't have to worry about her paws burning. The new design seems to add pavement everywhere which will be tough for dogs to walk on in the summer. 6. The loss of the two, big old growth trees for an expansion of the parking lot, athletic fields, and new bleachers is heartbreaking. It takes hundreds of years for trees to grow like that. Old growth trees add significant value to a community. Please reconsider the plans; I do not think the purported benefits are worth the cost of these precious, beautiful, shade supplying trees. 7. The new pathway in-between the dog park and the soccer fields seems problematic. It is not a good idea to create a funnel for people right up next to the dog park fence. Some people are scared of dogs and some dogs are scared of people (especially energetic children, which would likely be funneled that way to get to the soccer fields). The fence is going to be a magnet for human/dog interaction problems since the walkway is thin and there's really nowhere for the people to go if the dogs get agitated at the fence line. Please reconfigure the ADA accessible pathway so it doesn't cut into the dog park and put a concentrated amount of people walking right next to the dog park. I felt so incredibly disheartened when I saw these plans, as did so many other dog park users that I know. It feels like the athletic fields were given a huge boon at great expense to the dog park. Thank you for collecting public feedback and I sincerely hope you will give serious consideration to the concerns of the folks who live in the neighborhood and use the park every single day and fix the problematic aspects of the design.

300 Why take from the dog park which is used year round unlike all the other facilities which are only used in spring and summer

301 Our children love the park and play baseball there. Thank you for improving our sporting fields for the city's children and adult residents!

302 Not that hasn't already been stated

303 No

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304 For the long run, replacing the natural turf at Big Simpson with synthetic isn't good for the environment or people. Synthetic turf contains carcinogens and neurotoxins, which can lead to cancer and other nasty things. Synthetic turf fields create heat islands as well. If the synthetic field becomes hot enough, the heated turf can melt shoes and blister hands and feet. Whereas natural turf cools the environment and doesn't melt shoes or blister hands and feet. Natural turf also reduces noises by absorbing, deflecting, reflecting, and refracting various sounds. Lastly, natural turf reduces atmospheric carbon dioxide and releases oxygen.

309 No

313 To keep the dog park area large and not relocate the basketball court to impede on that space. It's a huge waste of taxpayer dollars to move a court we already have in place.'

314 Add designated pickleball courts instead of hardscape trails or picnic area.

316 Nope. You already know my sentiments.

317 Thank you :)

318 Enhance batting cage facilities and keep them open for the public.

319 The parents of the kids in the community that count on baseball to keep busy and out of trouble truly look forward to the changes of big and little Simpson. I know the Dog park community feel away about losing a little bit of space but thy have 2 parks to utilize where our older kids only have the 1.

320 I think most of my comments were captured above. I am concerned about the Big Simpson field being out of commission during the High School baseball season next spring. I hope that all measures are taken to turf the field during the off season. There are too few fields of that size in Alexandria to share with Bishop Irenton, etc.

321 I agree with making it more compliant for our community members with disabilities and adding turf.

322 Please do not allow the dog park lobby or tree enthusiasts change the progress that you have made to this point. Progress that has been overdue for decades. As a dog owner and city resident, I know the city has several excellent places for dogs to play and socialize, including the upgrades happening at Simpson as I write this. The high school baseball team and local little leagues (that require a 90 foot field) have just ONE place to play. It's time we as a city took some pride in that. That field is the same one I played on in 1997!! The dog park is getting an upgrade before the baseball field... It's bad enough they have to be bussed across the city to play. It would feel good to feel home at a new and improved facility. Thanks for all the hard work so far. I look forward to seeing the finished product and the look on the players faces as they start a new era of playing baseball in Alexandria!



## ResponseID Response

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323 Address the existing parking problems, first. Adding a few spaces to the park lot will not make a dent.

325 It is wonderful to see that the city is paying some attention to the baseball fields. There are only 2 90' city fields in Alexandria that are shared by ACHS, Bishop Ireton, Little League, travel baseball and college programs. I hope that the city would consider converting at least one more field to a 90' baseball field as soon as possible. Why should soccer get all of the attention?

329 No

330 Seems as though there is debate about turfing the field. It makes total sense to put in the top quality artificial turf on both big and little Simpson. Eliminate the weather, extend seasons, reduce maintenance, and improve the look. There should be higher netting to protect balls from leaving the park at big Simpson on both foul lines to the end of the dugout at a minimum. Far too many vehicles are hit by foul balls currently. This netting is a necessity and we see this everywhere in other municipalities. It's time for Alexandria to step up and get this done.

331 The updates to the parking lot are critical for access and safety.

332 Please control the dog park

333 Time line... It is very important for the ACHS Titans baseball program to have access to the fields at all times. Hence, the time-line for the project should be arranged to coincide with the Summer off-season and be complete by early Fall. There is no reason for this to not be a huge priority.

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