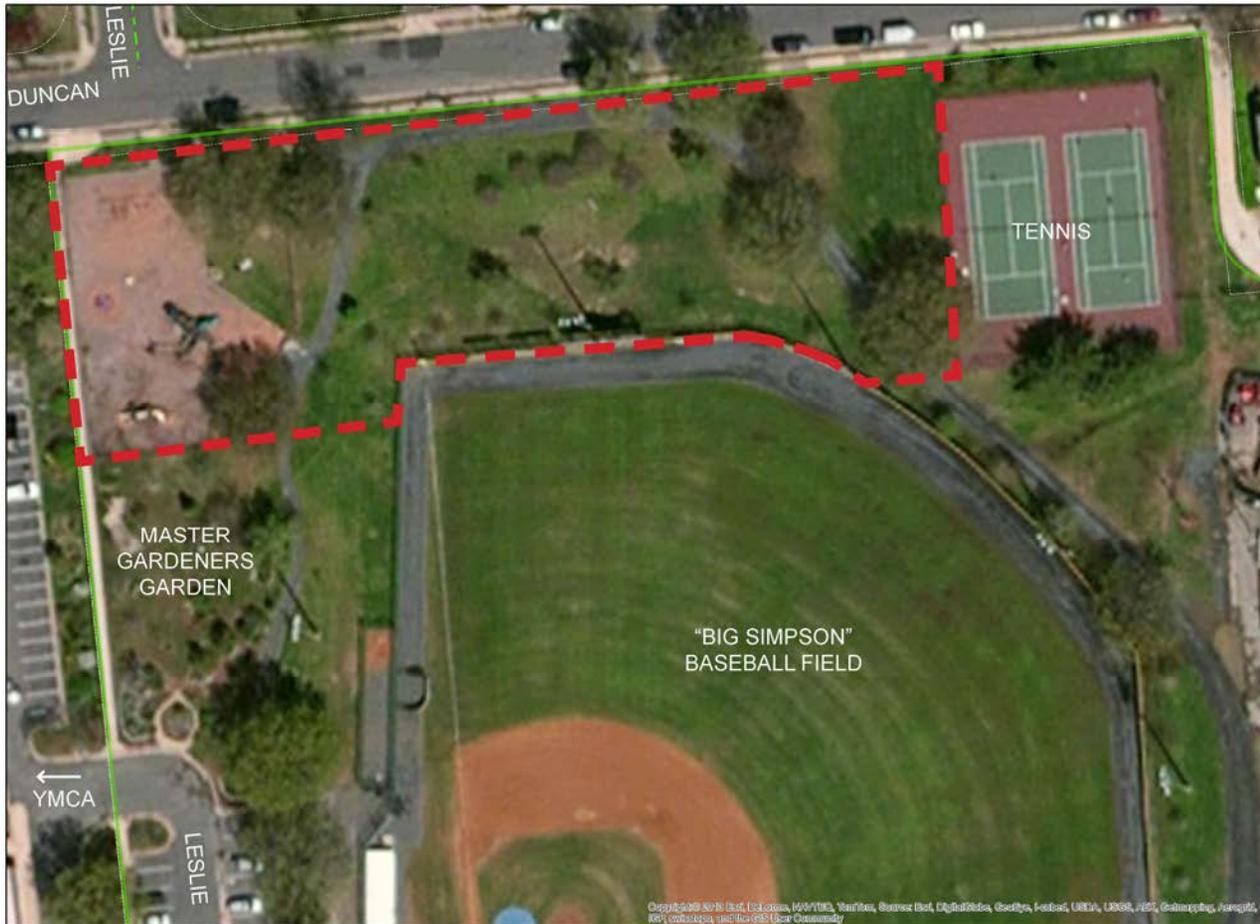


Simpson Park Playground + Passive Lawn Renovation Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

June 23, 2016



The park, as the subject of this renovation, is bounded by the chain link tennis courts on the east; the “Big Simpson” chain link fence at the south; East Duncan Avenue at the north; and the western edge of the existing concrete walkway at the west. It encompasses the existing playground, passive lawn, and several large shade trees.



Improvement Plan 2014

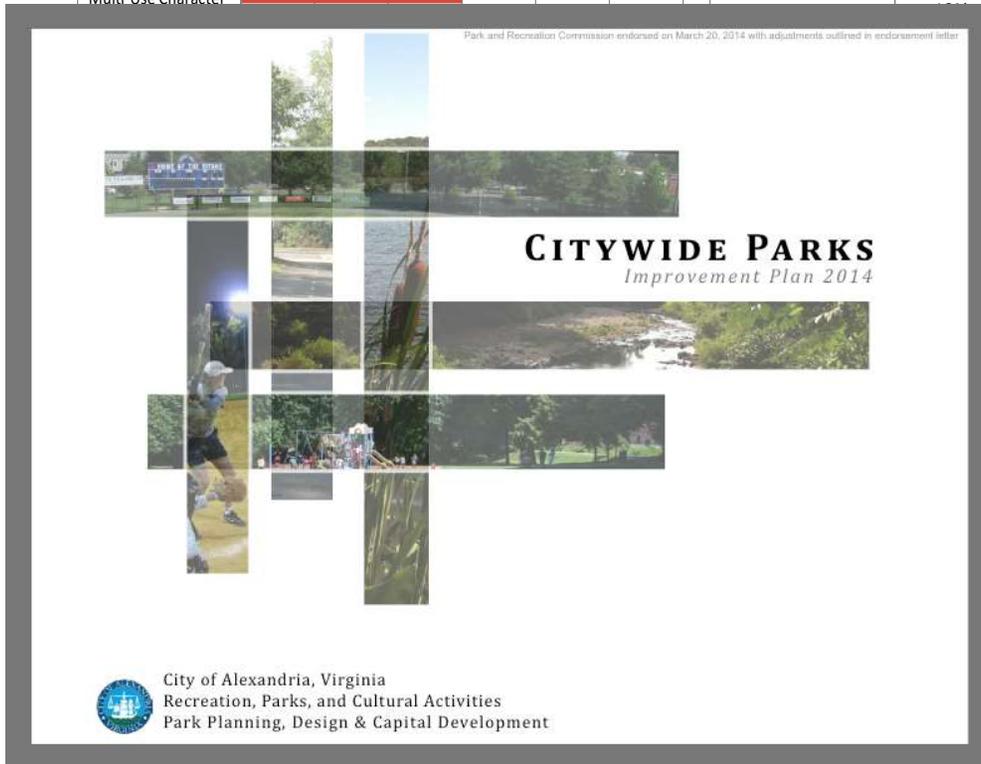
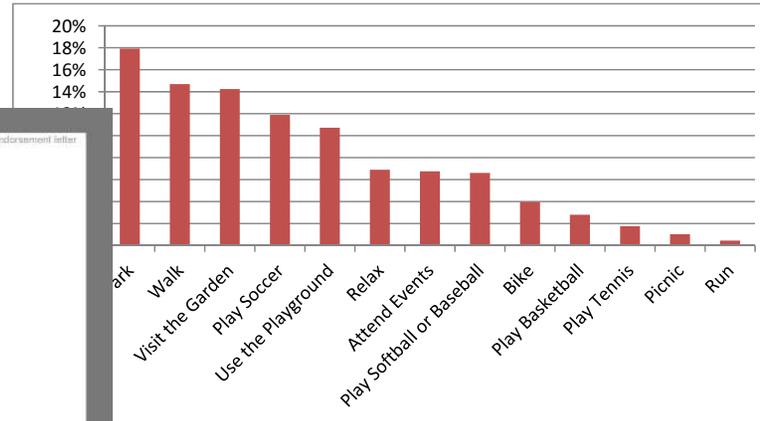
Park and Recreation Commission endorsed on March 20, 2014 with adjustments outlined in endorsement letter



What do you like about the Park?



What do you do in the Park?



These include:

Parking

The survey and both workshops indicated that a parking management strategy is needed to determine how to control parking during heavy use of the soccer field. From the users

Dog Park

The dog park is highly active, year-round and facilitates a strong community among dog owners. Many dog park users feel that the facility lacks amenities such as shade, lighting, new surfacing, and seating.

or access from the streets. Shows the entrances for where Avenue, formalized become ways that patterns

Playground

As shown in the survey results, the playground is a priority for Park improvements. As suggested, a playground renovation should include rubberized surface, areas for ages over five, and more shade. The design could also be better connected to passive use areas, making it family friendly for multiple age groups.

Passive Community Space

Simpson Park has many facilities to support organized activity for specific user groups. It lacks, however, a welcoming space to throw a frisbee, gather for a picnic, or let kids just "run around." While the Park is compact, better circulation could help carve out open areas for unorganized passive use. Additionally, the field may be opened on occasion for monitored use without a permit.

Charge for this Project

- Renovate Simpson Park's open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and to help to balance the type of activities to establish open play uses and casual gathering areas
- Renovate the playground for ages 2-12, add more shade
- Connect passive use areas
- Make Simpson Park family-friendly for multiple-age groups.



Collaboration with an Artist

- City's Office of the Arts hired an artist team to integrate public art into the site
- Public art is part of the overall design



Schedule



Task	Item	Month(s)	Notes/Milestones
Task A	Park Design-Overview		
Task B	Project Development Tasks		
	Site Inventory Analysis	March/April	
	Park Programming	March	
	Maintenance and Operations	April/May	On-site meeting/tour
	Concept Design	April/May/June	
	Construction Documents	August-October	
	Construction Administration	Spring 2017	
Task C	Public Input and Meetings		
	Kick-off Meeting	March	Focus group meetings
	Concept Alternatives	May 25 th , 2016	Public meeting
	Preferred Concept	Sept 8th, 7 PM	Public meeting
	Commission for the Arts and Park and Recreation Commission	June 23 rd /Sept 15 th	

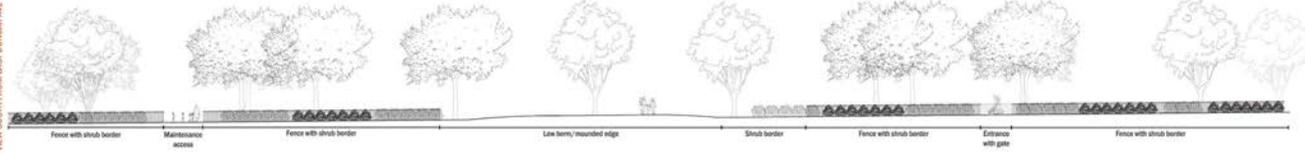
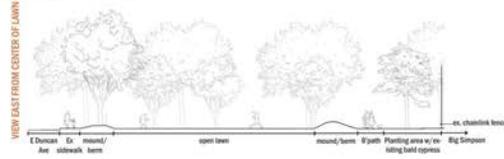
Three Concept Designs



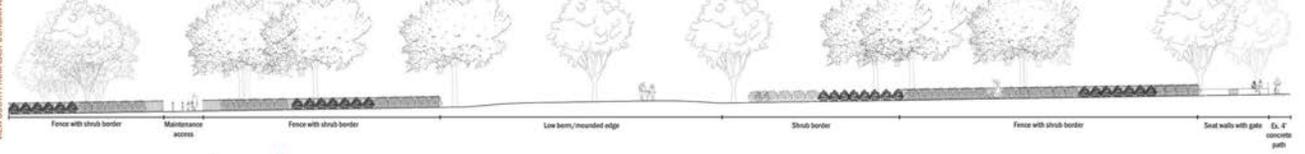
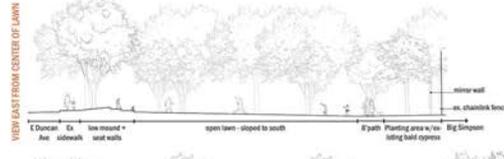
EXISTING



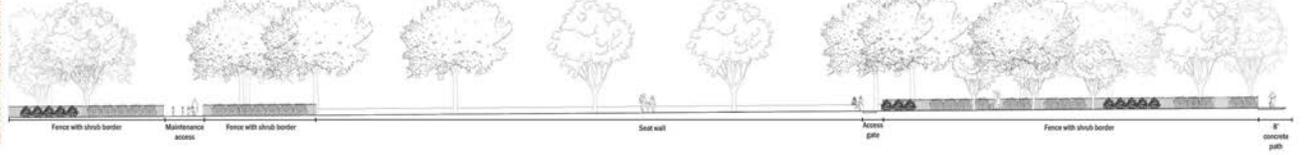
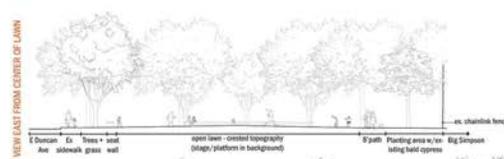
CONCEPT 1



CONCEPT 2



CONCEPT 3



SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION
CONCEPT SECTION-ELEVATIONS
DRAFT MAY 2016

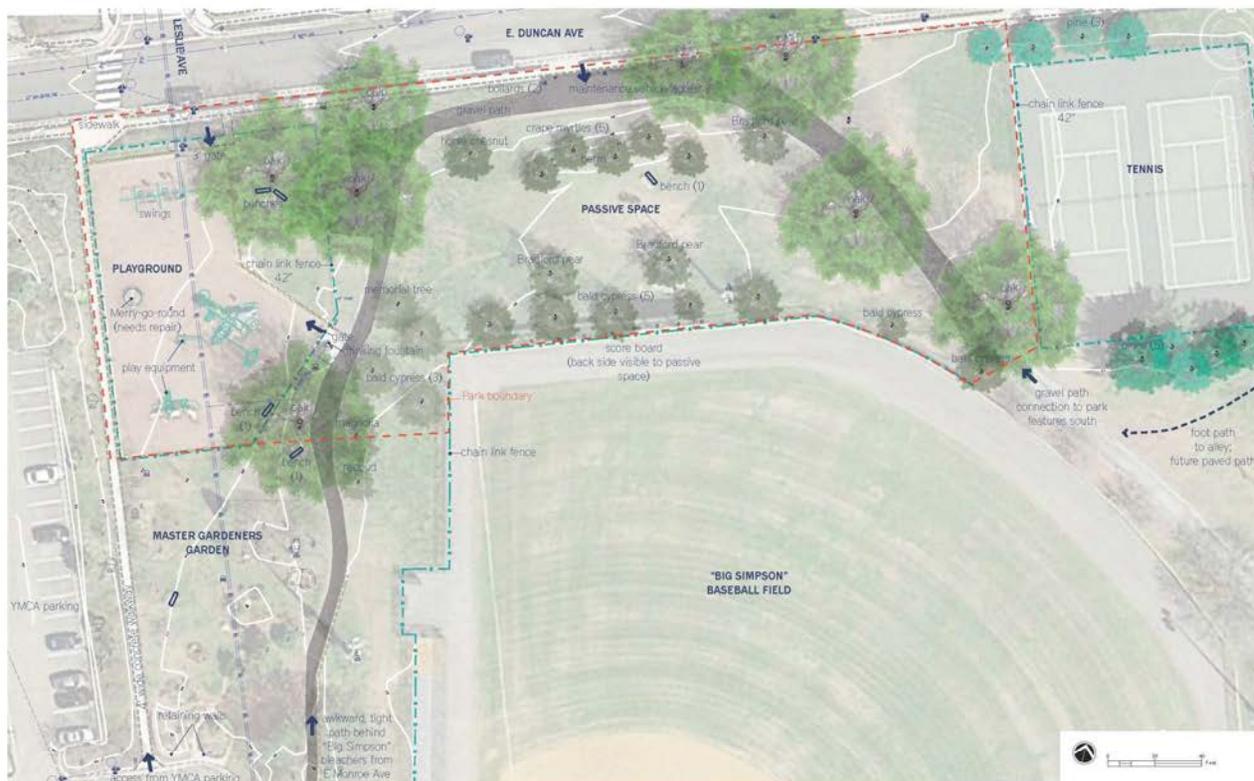


Community Meeting May 25, 2016



Site Analysis

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| <p>PLAYGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play equipment is needed for all ages under 12 Appropriate signage is needed to indicate intended age use Needs shade (summer sun is brutal) Citywide Plan indicates desire for natural play Playground equipment must meet all safety standards Appropriate playground surfacing may include mulch and/or rubber materials, neither viable currently (see 120'x70' much over 3 years) If remaining in same location, swings should be offset further from the fence to the north Consider integration of play art and landscape Sticker parking per Citywide Plan | <p>PASSIVE SPACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate multi-use, flexible passive and active recreation play for activities like yoga, picnicking, or pick-up games like frisbee or soccer Should be engaging to all ages Consider integration of play art and landscape Consider other programming opportunities for all ages Not intended for sport team use Consider a social or gathering space Open space area edges poorly defined Lawn area needs to be regraded Consider planting improvements | <p>FENCE + BOUNDARIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing fence surrounding Big Simpson and tennis courts will remain on site Playground fence may be reworked to accommodate new playground area design Design must take into consideration Virginia high school standards for fencing, opacity, visibility (Big Simpson fence) Fencing or a similar barrier may be needed along the E Duncan Ave edge of the Park to prevent children from entering the street Adhere to City standards for fencing, bottom rail of fence should have 2" to 3" clearance Consider a seat, well or other boundary between the Playground area and Master Gardeners Garden Include signage indicating appropriate ages for playground equipment and park-use | <p>TREES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect memorial trees located on site Arboreal conditions that most trees are in good health Crash myrtles and Bradford pears may be removed Large oaks and shade trees shall remain Additional trees may be added Critical root zones and drip lines must be protected Mulch rings or entire beds needed to protect trees from mowers Avoid interference with trees and other plants in Master Gardeners Garden Horizontal Distal may be removed due to weed wacking damage | <p>TOPOGRAPHY + GRADING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eroded areas under trees, no turf growing 2.0' berm located on the passive space area was created to help screen views from neighbors directly across Duncan, barrier to be removed Five grading needed to address surface drainage issues Grading must direct water away from playing fields, potential future bulkhead site All paths must meet accessibility requirements | <p>STREET FRONTAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current street frontage at E Duncan Ave has poorly defined entrances and needs sidewalk improvements, need to formalize the entrance Street trees may be added Planting along the street can be no higher than 3' and trees must be spaced no less than 5 ft in order to maintain visibility into the park, per Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design standards A well defined edge or barrier is needed for safety and visibility, this may include fence, seat wall or vegetation Consider street trees as a potential buffer or screening from unwanted views Consider an attractive "gateway" feature Incorporate seating Incorporate signage where appropriate, including entry, basic and directional, entrance, and directions/walking | <p>CIRCULATION + CONNECTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve Park circulation and connectivity to other park features (consider overall circulation) Award connection into the Park from East Monroe Avenue Poorly defined entrances and out-throughs Curb cut and maintenance access may be located in a more appropriate area of the Park Primary gravel path spans in width (120' average) and is generally well Gravel path is used by bikers, jog walkers, and other Park users to access features to the south Equipment area southeast of the tennis courts will be relocated to allow for a direct east-west connection, south of the tennis courts Driveway locations may be adjusted Consider widening north-south conc. walk to 8' per Citywide Plan, alternative north-south path may be viable to avoid impact to garden |
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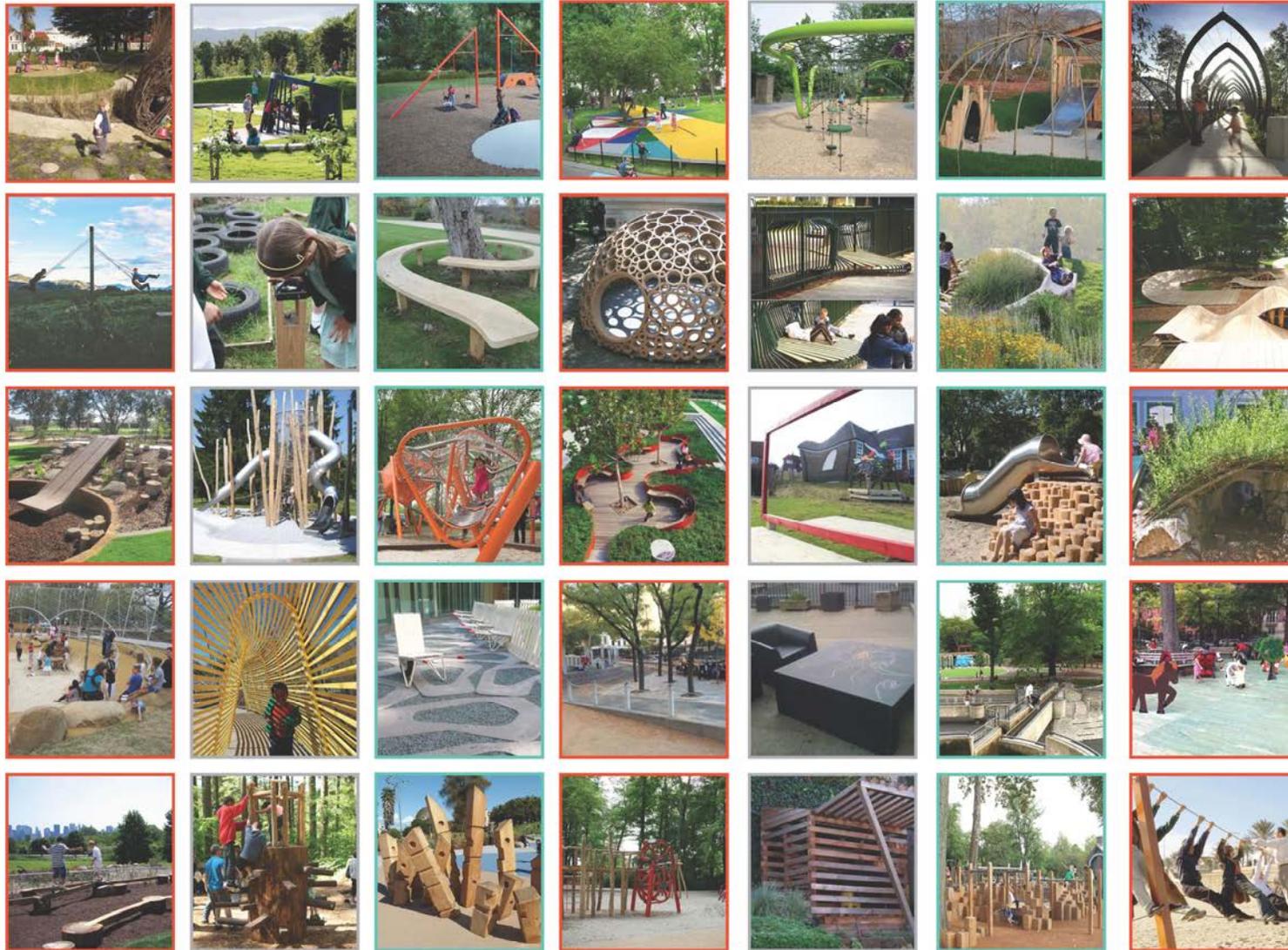
- SEATING + OTHER AMENITIES**
- Existing benches need to go, one bench will need concrete pads (2' larger than the bench)
 - Seat walls could improve seating conditions
 - Creating benches shows work, but is currently in an awkward location in front of playground gate
 - Water pump or other water play feature possible, will require additional steps in permitting
 - Sticker parking and seating is needed to improve opportunities for socializing
 - Consider a seat wall or other seating at the border of the playground area and Master Gardeners Garden
 - Consider children's garden while also responding to maintenance concerns
 - Consider a shade structure
 - Consider picnic tables

- MAINTENANCE + OPERATIONS**
- Equipment area east of the Passive Space will be relocated to allow for ease of circulation running east-west connecting the main gravel path, and south of the tennis courts
 - Current maintenance vehicle entrance requires removal of chain link for access
 - Smallest mower 4'40"
 - Maintain 12' min. between trees for mowing
 - Consider maintenance bulk deliveries and need for dumping location
 - Preference is for mulch tree skirts not mulch beds
 - Mulch added to the playground every 3 years (6" of existing mulch is removed and replaced)
 - IFB contract would address more specific plant or horticulture related maintenance tasks

- UTILITIES**
- Irrigation controls are near the east playground entrance, passive space is not irrigated
 - Waterlines across north-south beneath the current playground location
 - Gas lines and sewer lines are primarily aligned with E Duncan Avenue
 - An existing light pole is located in the project area just north of the score board, outside of the Big Simpson chain link fence, two other codes street lights mounted on utility poles are south of the playground, the northwestern future lights the Master Gardeners Garden

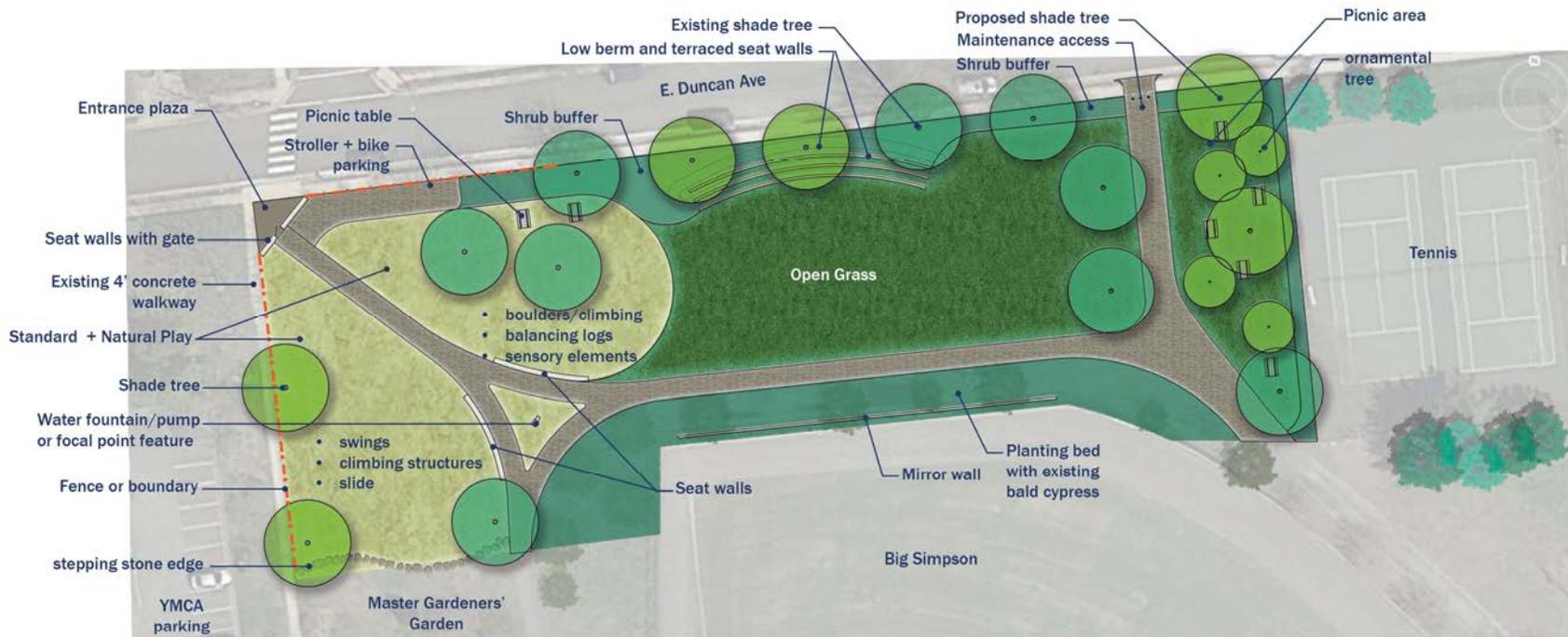
SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION: EXISTING CONDITIONS, ANALYSIS + OPPORTUNITIES DRAFT 5/23/16

Inspiration Board



SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION
INSPIRATION BOARD DRAFT 5/18/16

Concept 2 was the overall preferred option, but with revision.



SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION : CONCEPT 2
DRAFT MAY 2016

Public Art



Halpatiokee State Park, FL



Next Steps

- Public meeting with revised, preferred concept – September 8th, 2016, 7 PM at Mount Vernon Rec Center
- Arts Commission
- Park and Recreation Commission – September 15th, 2016

