

Gloria Sitton

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of Alex311 <alex311@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Angeline Farri; Kimberly Welch; Amy Jackson; John Chapman; Kirk McPike; harold.alexander@alexandriava.gov; Melissa Douglas; Karl Bach; Sabrina Encarnacion; Jamye Young; Gloria Sitton; Mark McHugh; Suzanne Derr; Art Viwatpanahchat; CRM Administrator; Christina Thompson; Amy Eggers; Jahaira Patterson; Emerita C. Valentin; Tracy Thompson; Tenesia Wells; Lauren Pickeral; Kay Mendenhall; Stephanie Cruz; Regina Benavides; Sarah Bagley; Sharon Pitts; Keia Waters; Alyia Gaskins; Reese Glassman; Canek Aguirre; Cindy Jenkins; Justin Wilson; Tiffany Fuller
Subject: [EXTERNAL]23-00016436 - Open - COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council -

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council ([23-00016436](#)) service request has been created, updated, and/or requires your attention.

Service Request Type:	COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council	Status:	Open
Service Request Number:	23-00016436	Created By:	Customer Site Guest User
Priority:	Standard	SLA Detail:	5 Business Days
Method Received:	Web	Submitted On:	6/15/2023 4:34 PM
Location:		Overdue On:	6/22/2023 4:34 PM
Description:	<p>Council Members, My name is Thomas Blackwood and I am writing to support the Simpson Park Stadium Renovation, Item 20 in the docket, in its entirety. I also would like to comment specifically to the recommendation to convert the large baseball field from natural grass to synthetic turf. As background, I am currently a volunteer board member for Alexandria Little League. I also have two current high school baseball players that have played on all of Alexandria's baseball fields over the past 7-8 years. There seems to be some confusion as to why there is support for a turf field. It is almost entirely because there is a shortage of diamond field space in Alexandria and the space that we have is frequently shut down due to bad weather. It really has nothing to do with grass versus turf as a playing field but is more geared towards which surface would be usable the greatest amount of time. A lot of the complaints towards turf are not really addressing the concept of usability. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball should be played on grass. o I would agree if we could have a field like the Washington Nationals have. It can take a large rainstorm and be ready to play within an hour due to the specific way it was built but I am pretty sure that not only can Alexandria not afford to build a field that way, we also do not have the maintenance budget to upkeep it. That means our grass fields are frequently closed for practices and games. Demand is increasing in Alexandria and it is hard for me to envision building one or more additional grass fields. Therefore a synthetic turf field would be one way that we could get the fields back into use shortly after a rain event. • Turf fields get too hot to play on. o I think the evidence around the country would show that is not really accurate. Can it get hot, yes but grass fields in the south get hot also. Proper coaching techniques and hydration would ensure that players are being monitored during practices and games to avoid any heat-caused problems. I also think that is this was happening on a large scale we would already be seeing problems with Alexandria Soccer Association which plays perhaps 60-70% of their games on synthetic turf. I would also argue that the typical soccer player is exerting themselves much more than the typical baseball player. • The materials in turf fields can cause health problems. o This is a fairly controversial statement with numerous viewpoints on both sides. All I can add is that based on this link: 		

<https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/federal-research-recycled-tire-crumb-used-playing-fields> it seems like the EPA presents studies that show a variety of opinions including: "In general, the findings from the report support the premise that while chemicals are present as expected in the tire crumb rubber, human exposure appears to be limited based on what is released into air or simulated biological fluids (gastric fluid, saliva and sweat)." There is also a possibility that grass fields may include pesticides or fertilizers although I am unsure if Alexandria uses them on their fields. • There does not seem to be any problems with drainage this year. o I would agree, we have had a fairly dry spring. There were, however, more than a few Saturdays when the ACHS baseball team needed to practice indoors. Luckily they do not play many Saturday games so it was not a large distraction this year. Last year was a different story. It was much wetter and schedules need to be modified. Frank Mann had even larger drainage problems. The Bishop Ireton team missed numerous days of practice and had home games converted to away games to get them in. They also shared Simpson a few times just so they could just get some practices in. If Simpson is converted to synthetic turf this cooperation could be expanded in times of heavy rain and Frank Mann closures. Additionally, within the past 3 years it was so wet that the entire Northern Region baseball tournament had to play games on the few turf fields in the area. • Grass fields could be used by the public in much the same way that synthetic turf fields are used today. o I don't believe this is accurate. There is a recommended amount of time that grass fields can be used in order to allow the grass to recover. A turf field could be opened up to general use much the way the soccer fields are today but we are asking for trouble if we do that with a grass field. • The Del Ray Citizen's Association is against synthetic turf. o I do not believe the Parks Department had a chance to talk with DRCA due to technology problems on the scheduled date. I also do not believe that the Land Use Committee reached out to the larger DRCA membership to see the vast majority of the members opinions. I know I did not get asked. Thank you for taking the time to read this and please feel free to contact me with any questions. Unfortunately I cannot attend the City Council meeting on Saturday to present my thoughts vocally. I will be at a baseball tournament with my two high school sons. It is being played in Fairfax County on a new complex that has 4 synthetic turf fields. Tom Blackwood 801 Ramsey Street, Alexandria, VA, 22301 703-548-9160

Contact Information:

Name:	Thomas Blackwood	Primary Phone:	+1 (703) 548-9160
Email:	tom_blackwood@yahoo.com	Social Persona:	

Service Questions:

Question	Answer
Which Council Member would you like to contact?	All Members
What is the nature of your request?	Legislative or Policy Issues
Is your request related to the upcoming public hearing or Council meeting?	Yes

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20
6-17-23

Gloria Sitton

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of Alex311 <alex311@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 9:10 AM
To: Angeline Farri; Kimberly Welch; Amy Jackson; John Chapman; Kirk McPike; harold.alexander@alexandriava.gov; Melissa Douglas; Karl Bach; Sabrina Encarnacion; Jamye Young; Gloria Sitton; Mark McHugh; Suzanne Derr; Art Viwatpanahchat; CRM Administrator; Christina Thompson; Amy Eggers; Jahaira Patterson; Emerita C. Valentin; Tracy Thompson; Tenesia Wells; Lauren Pickeral; Kay Mendenhall; Stephanie Cruz; Regina Benavides; Sarah Bagley; Sharon Pitts; Keia Waters; Alyia Gaskins; Reese Glassman; Canek Aguirre; Cindy Jenkins; Justin Wilson; Tiffany Fuller
Subject: [EXTERNAL]23-00016490 - Open - COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council -

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council (23-00016490) service request has been created, updated, and/or requires your attention.

Service Request Type:	COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council	Status:	Open
Service Request Number:	23-00016490	Created By:	Customer Site Guest User
Priority:	Standard	SLA Detail:	5 Business Days
Method Received:	Web	Submitted On:	6/16/2023 9:08 AM
Location:		Overdue On:	6/23/2023 9:08 AM
Description:	<p>Dear City Council, I am writing to you about the Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Renovation Plan. I live on Duncan Ave in one of the houses that abuts the northern section of the park. I use, or walk through, the park almost every day. Overall the plan seems like a solution in search of a problem. I understand the parking lot can get very busy a few weekends a year, but for the most part, there is plenty of capacity at the park. The biggest issue for me is how long it has taken to complete the dog park renovation. As a result, I have concerns about the general disruption to use of the park during the renovation, especially given the inevitable delays. I do also see issues with the design of the northern section of the park that reflect a lack of local understanding. I've included a markup of the design with my house highlighted with a red box. Currently, there is a line of shrubs and trees (green line) that provides a barrier between the park area and route one. This creates a peaceful area for people to picnic and hang out. The new design eliminates that barrier which will leave the park very exposed to Route 1. I also have privacy concerns with eliminating that tree line as well as worries about noise from Route 1. If approved, the landscaping should be changed to provide more of a barrier to Route 1 on the East side of the park and more privacy to the alley on the west side (so people don't have to see our garbage cans). The biggest issue though is with the proposed paths. The current design of 2 wide paved paths winding through the park just doesn't make sense. It ignores the existing vernacular path that currently runs along the north end of the soccer field (Red Line), which is used by people coming north up Route 1 or from Slaters road. That is also where the bus stop and bike share stations are as well as the closest connection to the Potomac Yards trail. Given that, this is a very important connection for the park. The connections to Bellefonte and to the alley (why?) are less important. It would make much more sense to have a single wide paved path connecting the park to Route 1 along the soccer fields. The other paths could be eliminated entirely, leaving the park more open for casual enjoyment. If a path is needed, it could be narrower and less intrusive (like dirt or gravel). This would make it more pleasant for people to enjoy the park, guide people on bikes and scooters towards the Potomac yards trail, and probably save some money. I am</p>		

	unfortunately unable to attend the hearing tomorrow but I hope you take this feedback into account as you consider the plan. Sincerely, Eric Ashcroft 543 Duncan Ave
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Contact Information:

Name:	Eric Ashcroft	Primary Phone:	+1 (646) 594-3869
Email:	ashcroft.eric@gmail.com	Social Persona:	

Service Questions:

Question	Answer
Which Council Member would you like to contact?	All Members
What is the nature of your request?	Legislative or Policy Issues
Is your request related to the upcoming public hearing or Council meeting?	Yes



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6-17-23

Gloria Sitton

From: patrice cunniff linehan <linehanp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 17, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Gloria Sitton
Subject: Re: Speaker's Form for Item 20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thank you. My husband was there but he mainly spoke about the dog park space reduction so I wanted to submit my input on possible solutions to the parking difficulties other people are expressing.

I was at the YMCA and park at 3pm today and there were only about five cars total in the park and Y lots so the teams may need to coordinate their schedules as another option.

Anyway, the decision has already been made to pave the green space and reduce the permeable surface. So, it's disappointing to see this setback to our open space.

I appreciate you sharing my comments with the council.

-Patrice Linehan

On Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 02:23:22 PM EDT, Gloria Sitton <gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov> wrote:

The public hearing on this item is closed. I will share your attached comments with Council.

Gloria Sitton

City Clerk and Clerk of Council

City of Alexandria, Virginia

703-746-4550 (office)

gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov

Office Hours: M-F 8am- 5pm

From: Patrice Cuniff Linehan, Ed.D
To: Honorable Mayor, City Councilmembers and City Staff
Date: Saturday, June 17, 2023
Subject: Request to maintain current park green space

I am urging you to amend Special Use Permit #2023-10003 at 426 East Monroe Avenue to pave green space to add parking spaces during the Simpson Stadium Park renovation. There is already a dearth of parkland, green space, and pervious land in the City of Alexandria. I am confident the staff and community can find more creative solutions to ensure as many people can enjoy this beautiful multi-use park space.

In the nearly 30 years that I have lived on East Monroe Avenue, I have supported use of the park in many ways and appreciate the way the staff and community worked together to find agreeable solutions:

- Supported closing Leslie Avenue so the YMCA and Simpson Park could add more parking between the two recreational spaces, even though it added to traffic that passed by my house (because cars could no longer turn right on to Leslie Avenue)
- Supported opening parking spots directly in front of our family home on East Monroe so more people could park.
 - There had been "No parking" signs at the intersection/crosswalk at Dewitt Avenue
 - My only request was to widen the sidewalk at the intersection so that wheelchairs and strollers could pass a utility pole that blocked the sidewalk
 - E.g., One young man I know had to operate his wheelchair in the street as he commuted to his job at Best Buy and it's much safer for him now
- Our family served as Adopt-a-Park volunteers, participated in regular clean-up and maintenance of the Master Gardener spaces, served on a committee to study childhood obesity in Alexandria and identify rare space for toddlers to play at Simpson Park, supported the Alexandria High School baseball boosters, raised money and led clean-up efforts to enhance the dog park, etc.
- We have used the park nearly every day for over 25 years and appreciate the time and energy the staff has put into this neighborhood amenity that benefits the City and so many residents - e.g., Commonwealth Academy and Discovery Learning Center, etc.

I play soccer at Simpson, Fort Ward, and Brenman fields. At Fort Ward, the parking lot is shared with the St. Stephens and St. Agnus school, which is a solution that could be used at Simpson in partnership with nearby Reingold, Commonwealth Academy, Discovery Learning and others. At Brenman, the parking lot is very small and, usually, there are no available spots there; however, parking is allowed along the road, and I can walk a short distance to the field. The City could open parking at the turn off Route 1, close to the The Porter apartments on the weekend to accommodate parking for the busier weekend use.

Not long ago, I testified against reduced parking for the development of that apartment building, when City staff told us there was ample parking on the street, so residents didn't need parking in the apartment building. Although the developer had to add a few more spaces into the plan, the City still allowed them to reduce the number of parking spaces below the recommended amount. I suggest the City staff work with the apartment owners to share their guest spots on high-use park days instead of reducing green space at the park.

There is a need to add to our tree canopy and parkland to help mitigate flooding and create space for the natural surroundings (including birds and other wildlife) that are proven to enhance the health and wellbeing of residents.

Please allow the staff to reconfigure the parking lot to make it safer and more accessible for drop off and carpooling, without adding any additional paving.

For example, maybe the new road configuration can have a designated entrance and exit with parking along the road, instead of the current parking pattern. When my family was working with the City on promised – but NOT fulfilled – enhancements to Monroe in the past, we were told that it was not safe to slow traffic down at the top of the incline between Rt 1 and the park so I'm now surprised to learn the planning staff is requesting a turn into the park at that point, instead of closer to the existing egress at the Aldi parking lot.

If we work together with the neighbors, YMCA, Aldi, CVS, and other local businesses, I'm sure we can find a solution that will work. We talked to the director of the YMCA, and he had not been consulted by staff about working together to find a solution. As someone who worked with the City as a volunteer facilitator to develop the Civic Engagement Handbook and policy, I have been very disappointed at the lack of use of the guidance document. It seems we are just developing plans and guidance that admire our City's problems instead of using the talents and skills of our residents to help find viable win-win solutions that we can implement together.

We are here to support your efforts, but we can't know what we don't know so I encourage you to engage us in the process. Thank you for your dedicated service to the City of Alexandria and your commitment to improving the quality of life of Alexandria residents by enhancing Simpson Park.

Sincerely,

Patrice Cuniff Linehan
Collective Learning Consulting LLC
401 E. Monroe Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301
Phone: 703-946-5431

20
6-17-23

Gloria Sitton

From: noreply@salesforce.com on behalf of Alex311 <alex311@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2023 8:07 PM
To: Angeline Farri; Kimberly Welch; Amy Jackson; John Chapman; Kirk McPike; harold.alexander@alexandriava.gov; Melissa Douglas; Karl Bach; Sabrina Encarnacion; Jamye Young; Gloria Sitton; Mark McHugh; Suzanne Derr; Art Viwatpanahchat; CRM Administrator; Christina Thompson; Amy Eggers; Jahaira Patterson; Emerita C. Valentin; Tracy Thompson; Tenesia Wells; Lauren Pickeral; Kay Mendenhall; Stephanie Cruz; Regina Benavides; Sarah Bagley; Sharon Pitts; Keia Waters; Alyia Gaskins; Reese Glassman; Canek Aguirre; Cindy Jenkins; Justin Wilson; Tiffany Fuller
Subject: [EXTERNAL]23-00015520 - Open - COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council

COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council (23-00015520) service request has been created, updated, and/or requires your attention.

Service Request Type:	COU-Contact Mayor, Vice Mayor and/or City Council	Status:	Open
Service Request Number:	23-00015520	Created By:	Customer Site Guest User
Priority:	Standard	SLA Detail:	5 Business Days
Method Received:	Web	Submitted On:	6/7/2023 8:05 PM
Location:		Overdue On:	6/14/2023 8:05 PM
Description:	Simpson Park Renovation: Don't sacrifice green space and open space for an expanded parking lot (+16). I find it counterintuitive and ironic that RCPA - in charge of parks and activities - proposes to encourage increased car use by expanding parking and decreasing park and open space - namely the dog park. This last minute proposal was not part of a 12 year process with the Simpson Park Dog Owners Group (nearly 600 followers on Facebook page). There are ample existing parking options. Please see attached. I would like to be contacted regarding this issue. Thank you. Paul Linehan		

Contact Information:

Name:	Paul Linehan	Primary Phone:	+1 (571) 303-8177
Email:		Social Persona:	

Service Questions:

Question	Answer
Which Council Member would you like to contact?	All Members
What is the nature of your request?	Legislative or Policy Issues
Is your request related to the upcoming public hearing or Council meeting?	Yes



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20
6-17-23

Gloria Sitton

From: Abigail Harwell
Sent: Saturday, June 17, 2023 8:05 AM
To: Gloria Sitton
Cc: Bethany Znidersic
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL]Simpson Park: feedback for next meeting

Good morning Gloria -

Below is another comment letter for item 20 on today's City Council docket. Can this email be shared with the city council still? Please let me know how I should handle this - thanks!

~ **Abigail Harwell**

Urban Planner III (Public Facilities)
City of Alexandria, Virginia
Department of Planning & Zoning / Development Division
703.746.3802 (direct)
alexandriava.gov

From: Bethany Znidersic <Bethany.Znidersic@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 9:46 PM
To: Abigail Harwell <Abigail.Harwell@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Simpson Park: feedback for next meeting

Abigail,

In the email below, the resident asked that I send on her comments. What is the process to send comments received this way? Can this be added to the Council supplemental information?

Thanks,
Beth

Bethany Znidersic

Division Chief
City of Alexandria, Virginia
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Division of Park Planning and Capital Development
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.746.5492 (office)
www.alexandriava.gov

From: A S <astipkala@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 3:22 PM

To: Bethany Znidersic <Bethany.Znidersic@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Simpson Park: feedback for next meeting

Hi Beth,

Thank you for being willing to meet with a group of us last week. I'm writing to submit some thoughts about the Simpson Park plan as it relates to the green space north of the soccer fields. I will be unable to attend the meeting tomorrow. I would appreciate it if you can pass on the following message. As I mentioned previously, you may not hear from many of us, as people feel that they have no way to stand up against the city. I may be one person responding, but I hope I can convey that there are many more people I have spoken to who may not take the time to write a letter. Overall, a main grievance is that the city has allocated the majority of the recreation space for a specific group of users (organized sports players) who use the fields on a limited basis. We would like to see the little remaining green space preserved for informal recreational use and to preserve the trees.

Issue 1: Walkways: The paved walking paths are not favored by the majority of residents in the 500 block of Duncan Ave and those around the corner on Bellefonte Ave. These are the residents most directly impacted on a daily basis by paved walkways and removal of green space. I would like to outline the issues with this plan and some alternative suggestions.

- a. First, there are multiple parallel paved routes within a very close space. Those include the sidewalk on Rt. 1, the existing alleyway behind the houses, and Duncan Ave. Anyone coming from the north to the ballfields can readily access three different options, all of which are very easily accessible from the path at Potomac Yard, the Jefferson Trail, and the rest of the community in that direction. There is no added value in removing green space to create yet another route to the same place.
- b. As residents of Duncan and Bellefonte have expressed to Beth in the site walk, there are few people coming on foot or on bike from the north to the fields. If the City of Alexandria feels that we are incorrect on this, I might suggest a usage study to see how many people would plan to use a bike path along this space when there are the existing parallel routes mentioned above, and that the study include members of the Alexandria Soccer Association, whichever baseball association(s) are affiliated with these fields, and the local schools.
- c. As an avid cyclist who must exit out of either end of the alley to ride toward a bike path, I can say that riding on the alley has never been a problem to get to a path. Many of the residents are failing to see why an additional path is proposed at the expense of the green space.
- d. From the observation of residents on Duncan Ave, most baseball players are dropped directly in front of the fields with their gear, which may include multiple bats, a mitt, and other items such as water bottles. Even soccer players would have to bring their ball and cleats. It is not realistic to expect players will be coming on bicycles.
- e. There is already a looped gravel track that goes most of the way around the baseball field. Why can this track not be fully connected/paved to allow anyone interested to walk there and avoid paving the remaining green space? Creating an additional loop adjacent to the first does not seem like a logical use of space.
- f. Residents of Bellefonte and Duncan do not wish to have additional foot or bicycle traffic behind our houses. In addition to it feeling like an invasion of our privacy, it can also create a safety problem and potentially invite people loitering or having better access to the backs of our houses. We already have to accept the ball fields which were not there when many of us moved in. Adding paved paths removes the little remaining quiet space and privacy we have left.
- g. The proposed 8 foot width of these paths is also problematic. As many residents will attest, families attending the games often drive on the grass to get closer parking or when parking is unavailable on the street. This width invites drivers to use the path as a personal road to get closer to the fields. Even with a pillar at the end of the path, given the frequency with which people drive on the grass, I would expect that people would drive around the pillar and onto the bike path.
- h. There is little free green space in this area. When some residents moved here years ago, there was more green space and it has been chipped away at for use primarily by the sports associations. The vast majority of the space in the entire Simpson "complex" is used a fraction of the time if we look at the soccer fields and two baseball fields. This is incredibly inequitable. Homeowners on Bellefonte and Duncan Ave directly adjacent to the sports field use the green space for recreation- throwing baseballs or frisbees, games of tags, casual picnics with a blanket, and walking dogs. Chopping up this space with paved paths removes what little green space is remaining for unrestricted use. While we understand that

many voices have contributed to the plan, there are only very few people who live directly here and will feel the daily impact of the changes.

The two alternative suggestions I would propose are:

1. Paving paths behind the existing treeline north of the soccer fields (inside Kettle Park) and leaving enough green space for residents to have recreational space. This would allow the city to have their proposed path while keeping the green space behind our residences. My suggestion would be to put the bike path closer to Rt. 1 and to then follow along the soccer field (perpendicular to Rt. 1) if it is important to create a paved path to the bus station.
2. Widening the existing alley by 4-5 feet and putting a white line and reflectors to demarcate a bike route. This would allow the existing paved space to be more useful and avoid paving over green space unnecessarily. As many residents have mentioned, the alley is not wide enough for garbage and recycling trucks to pass through and residents have had to end up doing our own maintenance to fill in muddy ruts with gravel on occasion. Widening the alley would solve two problems at once. I recognize there are light posts that cannot be moved but I might suggest to pave around them. There are plenty of sidewalks in Del Ray that wind around utility poles or tree roots. I don't think we need to abandon logical alternatives because small issues exist.

Issue 2: Trees

I have expressed issue with the tree removal (particularly the Bradford Pear trees that are three stories tall). These tall trees provide a visual barrier to the vehicles, the headlights, the apartment building, and the people moving along Rt. 1, as well as the planes as they descend. I have requested a phased approach to tree removal, and this has verbally been agreed to. However, I would like to know more about:

- a. What would this phased approach look like? How tall would the new plantings grow before the Bradford Pears are removed?
- b. Is the removal of 4-5 "invasive" trees creating enough benefit to counter all of the damage it does for the residents of Duncan and Bellefonte? As in, there is a Bradford Pear tree in my neighbor's yard. I imagine they are all over Alexandria. Does the removal of a few trees solve any problems?
- c. The new plantings have been described in some ways, but it does not seem that there are any plantings that will in the near future, or ever, provide the visual screen that the existing trees do. Are the variety of arborvitae able to grow to the height of these trees? Are there other plants that would be an actual replacement and provide the same value for residents?

Thank you for sharing my feedback,
Alexa

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20
6-17-23

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Justin Marino <justin@masonandgreens.com>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2023 8:18 PM
To: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Cc: Casey Colzani; AlexEHHealth@vdh.virginia.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]23-1227 Comment
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.tiff

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from justin@masonandgreens.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to have my comments entered into the record for docket item 23-1227 to be heard at the June 17th, 2023 hearing.

I do not have significant concerns with the majority of the proposed plan for Simpson Field. The concern I do have, is with the environmental and public health impacts of installing artificial turf on the site. In 2019 the EPA performed a study on the materials used in artificial turf fields. Their reports and details can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/july-2019-report-tire-crumb-rubber-characterization-0>

The report found that amongst the volatile organic compounds (VOC) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC), chemicals such as Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, Phenanthrene, Fluoranthene, Benzopyrene, Benzoghiperylene, Benzothiazole, 4-tert-octylphenol, Diisobutyl Phthalate and Bis2 Phthalates were present. Many of the chemicals found are known carcinogens and cause cancer, birth defects, and a wide range of other health problems.

Installing a field that is made of synthetics is creating a public health crisis in waiting, as well as an environmental catastrophe. The Alexandria Health Department in partnership with the EPA and other public and private scientists should be sounding the alarm on this. Furthermore, the City should be moving to replace all fields and recreation areas in which synthetics are used in order to protect our children, environment and citizenry as a whole.

It is inevitable that using these type of materials will be banned in the near future, that people and classes will sue the Companies and entities responsible for installing them. The decision really comes down to how many kids do we want to give cancer to, and how much damage do we want to do to the environment before the synthetics are ordered to be removed?

Best Regards,

Justin Marino
Owner

MASON & GREENS

Sustainable Dry Goods | Grocer

P: (202) 431-1052
E: justin@masonandgreens.com
www.masonandgreens.com

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20
6-17-23

CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov

From: Brian Collins <brian.c1@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 17, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Jack Browand
Cc: CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Field Temperature Guidelines Safety

[You don't often get email from brian.c1@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hi Jack, I hope you are having a good weekend.

I am looking for the Alexandria City Parks and recreation policy regarding safety and field temperature standards/policy.

Specifically, if there is a policy, what are the safety standards to ensure children and adults are not exposed to excessive heat for events scheduled artificial turf?

For example, does the city monitor field surface temperatures and is there any standard for when play is allowed or disallowed. What if a field temperature exceeds 105 degrees, is play allowed?

I'd appreciate on how I can obtain any policy, guidelines or standards.

Thanks, Brian
703-795-8169

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