

From: [KJ SIMILA](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 3.2a March 28, 2022
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 4:22:15 PM
Attachments: [5 NEN Parks Features Lost.rtf](#)
[NEN recreational space lost.pdf](#)
[5 NEN pks Features Lost.rtf](#)

Greetings Salem City Councilors

Please take fairness into account when making Neighborhood Association Boundary adjustments tonight for the new "D" Street Park that was part of the Oregon State Hospital's "North Campus".

Several relevant "Decision Factors" were ignored by city Community Development staff in their short-sighted and error-filled recommendation under Agenda Item 3.2d. **Please** consider all of the factors below before taking a vote on Neighborhood Association boundaries at this new Park's location.

Further Facts: 1) The New D Street Park is entirely within Ward 1;
2) NEN is 99% in Ward 1, NESCA is less than 5% in Ward 1;
3) Three existing Salem City Parks are located in two or more Neighborhood Ass'ns;
4) City Staff did not involve NEN in any timely discussions of making this a shared park;
5) The Council Members need information below & attached to make a fair decision;
6) NEN has lost 5 park sites since 1950; NESCA has gained 4 park sites since 1950.

Adoption of Resolution 22-11 by Council Action tonight will be a slap in the face of the NEN Neighborhood Association that has worked tirelessly since 1995 to preserve and add park and recreation space to the central Salem neighborhoods.

Testimony of Ken Simila, Salem resident homeowner @ 1810 20th St. NE, Salem OR 97301.
I have lived in Salem 73 years and resided in the NEN Neighborhood for 72 years. I currently serve as Vice-Chair of the NEN Neighborhood Association, and have been a NEN Board Member for 27 years.

I am addressing the new City Parkland that was purchased by the City of Salem between 23rd and 25th Streets NE along "D" Street NE. For reasons that follow, the Board of NEN feels that the Neighborhood Association Boundary at the former State Hospital North Campus site should run north-south through the middle of the new "D" Street Park.

There is current precedence established for this "shared park" boundary between Salem Neighborhood Associations. The Salem Deepwood Museum and Garden Park property is shared by both the SCAN and SESNA Neighborhood Associations. From Mission Street south the **SCAN-SESNA boundary** runs through the Deepwood Park property not along a street or any obvious feature. Salem's Minto-Brown Park is also shared between two Salem Neighborhood Associations.

The NEN neighborhood had its first Park Site opened during the 1890's. As the neighborhood grew out, seven public recreational sites were created throughout the neighborhood. **Since 1950, however FIVE of these recreational "park-like" sites in NEN have been taken away.** Attachment A is a map showing the location of these FIVE removed "park" sites in NEN. In the past I, my wife, my siblings, and my sons all have played, recreated and picnicked in these locations along with many other NEN neighborhood residents.

Attachment B is an inventory listing of the recreational features removed from the NEN Neighborhood when these FIVE "Park" sites were lost as public recreation places for NEN and other Salem residents.

For these reasons, NEN residents feel the new "D" street Community Park should be shared by both adjacent Neighborhood Associations. The Park would not be cut in half to become two separate parks.

It would remain one Park, just like Deepwood is one Park. This approach would not change how the park is administered by city staff. Rather it would widen citizen inputs for an important community resource. NEN has a long history of cooperation with its adjacent neighborhood associations and the Salem Parks Board and Parks Foundation.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Simila, Vice Chair, NEN Board, 1810 20th Street NE, Salem 97301

ATTACHMENT B. To Ken Simila, Testimony 2/28/22
INVENTORY LISTING OF ELIMINATED PUBLIC RECREATION SPACES
IN SALEM'S **NEN** NEIGHBORHOOD, WITH USER FEATURES LOST

1) Old Washington School Site at Center St. NE - Marion St NE; 12th St. NE - 13th St. NE. Note: In use 1918-1950

USER FEATURES LOST: a) softball field b) climbing "jungle gym" c) triple swing set d) triple chinning bars e) metal self propelled merry-go-round f) tether ball pole g) metal ten foot high slide h) two basketball standards with oval metal backboards, i) two rest rooms on ground floor of the building j) three picnic tables in the NW corner grove of fir trees

2) Olinger Pool Park Site at 1200 block of "A" Street NE along north bank of Mill Creek. Note: In use from 1938 - 1985

USER FEATURES LOST: a) two softball fields & six tennis courts b) climbing "jungle gym" c) triple swing set d) triple chinning bars e) metal self propelled merry-go-round f) tether ball pole g) metal ten foot high slide h) two rest rooms on ground floor of the building i) twelve picnic tables in the SW & NE and SE corners in groves of fir and white oak trees

3) NorthEast Park Site at SE Corner of Oregon State Fairgrounds all-grass south parking lot Note: In use from 1965 - 1980

(Access from NEN was via two public paved public pedestrian/bike paths from the ends of 21st St. NE and 23rd/24th St. NE.) After 1985 Sunnyview Ave NE was extended east, paved and opened to the public for the first time from 17th St. NE to Evergreen St. Sunnyview Ave. NE is 100 yards north of the former park site.

NOTE: On a city-owned lot behind 1999 Garfield St. NE two public concrete block restrooms were erected by the city for NE park users year-around.

USER FEATURES LOST: a) a softball field with a chain link backstop b) climbing "jungle gym" c) triple swing set d) triple chinning bars e) metal self propelled merry-go-round f) two basketball standards with oval metal backboards, g) two spring-mounted riding toys h) tether ball pole i) metal ten foot high slide j) two city-owned rest rooms k) two picnic tables behind the backstop

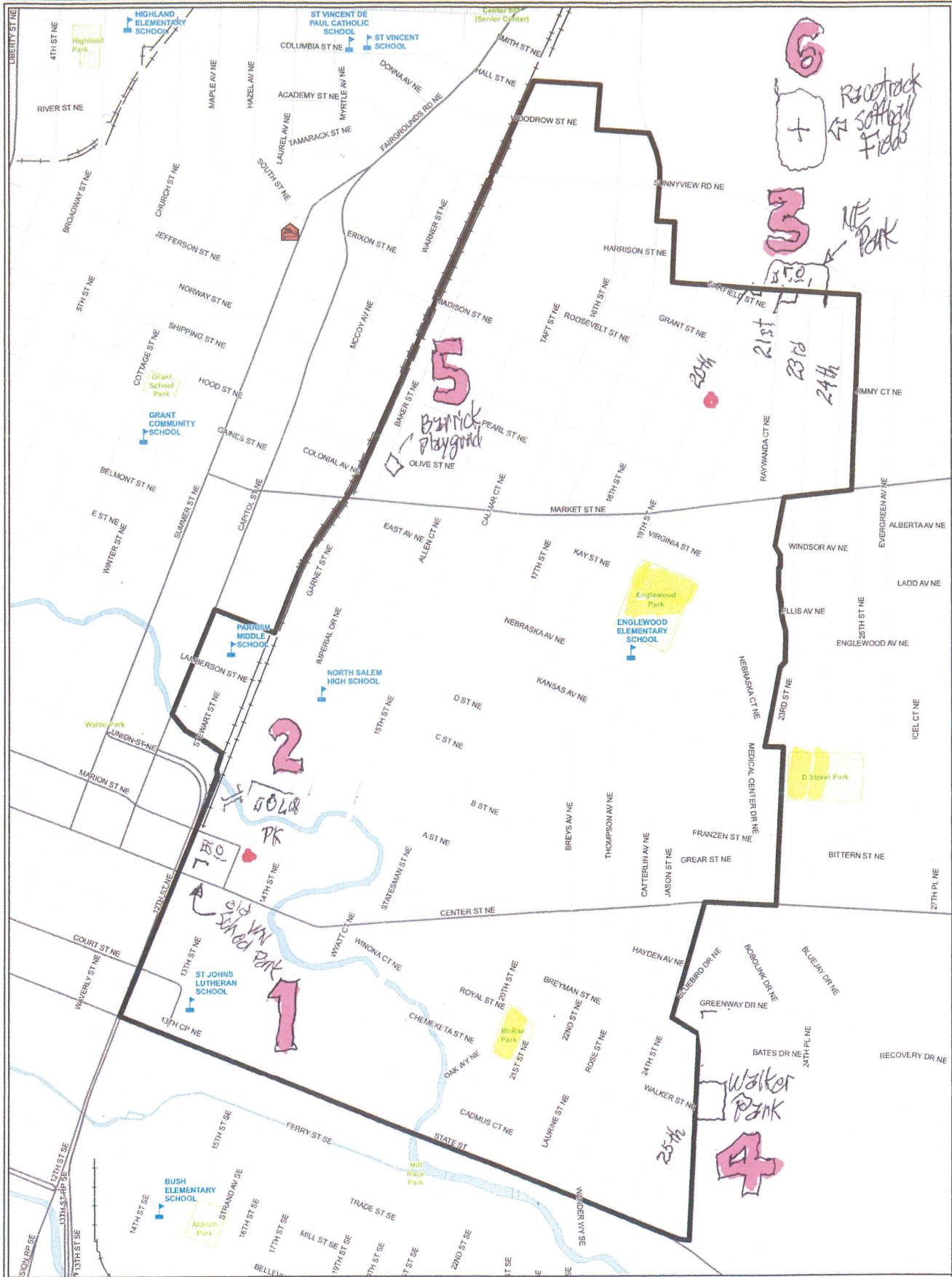
4). Walker Park Site at corner of 25th St. NE and Walker St. NE at NW corner of Oregon State Penitentiary and SW corner of Oregon State Hospital Grounds. Note: in use from 1946 -1978

USER FEATURES LOST: a) softball field b) three picnic tables c) two porta potties d) running drinking water from a single pipe with faucet

5) Children's Playground Site, 1400 Baker St. NE/1305 Olive St. NE at SW corner of Barrick Field behind south backstop of the Fast-pitch Baseball Diamond. Note: In use from 1970 -1995

USER FEATURES LOST: a) two spring-mounted riding toys b) small slide c) rope climbing pyramid d) two picnic tables e) single rest room f) drinking water from a water fountain

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Legend

- Neighborhood Boundary
- Urban Growth Boundary

- Outside Salem City Limits
- Parks

- Fire Stations
- Schools

**PARKS
LOST**

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