

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Re-designation of Striker Fields Park

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Meeting Date: April 23, 2013  
Department: Public Works  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: A  
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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

This work session provides options to re-designate Striker Fields Park from a community park with lighted sports fields to a neighborhood park with passive recreation.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On September 25, 2013, the council approved a motion directing staff to develop a plan to re-designate Striker Fields Community Park to a neighborhood park. Included with this motion was a request to hold a public hearing about this issue.

The site for Striker Fields Park was acquired by the City in 1983 from the Cone family, which sold six acres to the City and donated an additional five acres. In 1996, a land exchange of about two acres was made to acquire the present site of Crescent Park, which is a neighborhood park approximately 0.25 miles from Striker Fields Park, which is now includes 8.6 acres.

This park site has been designated as the site of a future sports field complex, and is expected to be developed in conjunction with the adjacent District 4J future school site. Although District 4J staff has indicated that future development of the adjacent planned school site is very likely, the timing is not known. Therefore, plans to develop Striker Fields Park are not scheduled, and will likely not occur within the next five years.

Throughout the City, the need for sports fields exceeds the capacity of existing fields. Creating a sports field complex at the Striker Fields location in the Northeast Neighbors neighborhood of Eugene was identified as a priority in 2004. This analysis was based in part on community-wide input at that time. In the northeast quadrant of the City, Ascot Park is the only City facility that provides multiple soccer and baseball fields. Sheldon Sports Park and Cal Young Sports Park, primarily owned and managed by District 4J, provide additional sports fields in the area. Over the past 10 years the City of Eugene has not added additional baseball fields or soccer fields, so the need for additional sports fields remains.

#### **Re-designation Process Options**

Two options for the council consideration for re-designation of Striker Fields Park are described

below. One option is to include consideration of the re-designation of Striker Fields Park within the upcoming Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan (PROS Comp Plan) update process, which is planned to begin in 2015. A second option is to begin a separate public process, including a public hearing, this spring to consider re-designating Striker Fields Park.

The PROS Comp Plan update option provides the most efficient use of limited staff and funding resources by rolling the consideration of Striker Fields Park into the public input and adoption process for the update of the PROS Comp Plan, taking advantage of mailings, meetings, and hearings that are already planned and required. This option would likely take longer to get to the final result than the other option, but has the advantage of including consideration of the community's entire sports field needs and recreation services, which might yield opportunities for cost savings and service improvements. This option would not involve any additional meetings, surveys, hearings, or work sessions beyond what will be included in the comprehensive plan process.

The separate public process option would address re-designation of Striker Fields Park ahead of the PROS Comp Plan update process, and would be the quickest route to a decision. This option would involve one public meeting, with an accompanying online survey conducted by POS staff, followed by development of a staff recommendation, a public hearing before the council on the recommendation, and council deliberation and action. This could be completed in 2014.

## **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

The PROS Project and Priority Plan (2006) contains adopted policy regarding future park development. The Project and Priority Plan provides the following direction for development of Striker Fields Park:

*"Develop Striker Fields as community park within sports complex model, with significant athletic fields, lighting." (Priority 3- "projects that should be completed in the next 15 years to protect existing assets and to implement high priority programs and services.")*

The PROS Comprehensive Plan (2005) also designates Striker Fields Park as a community park, however, the City Council's adoption of the PROS Comprehensive Plan was remanded by the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals, and it does not currently have policy status.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

The council has the following options:

1. Direct staff to incorporate re-designation of Striker Fields Park into the update of the PROS Comprehensive Plan, beginning in 2015 (PROS Comp Plan Update Option).
2. Direct staff to initiate a public process, including a public hearing before the council, to consider re-designation of Striker Fields Park in 2014 (Separate Public Process Option).
3. Other, as directed by the council.
4. Take no action.

## **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends Option 1 (PROS Comp Plan Update Option).

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

Move to direct staff to incorporate re-designation of Striker Fields Park into the update of the PROS Comprehensive Plan, beginning in 2015, and to include a public hearing before the City Council.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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