

## Independence Park Construction Summary:

- Construction Notice to Proceed - Monday, January 18, 2021
- Construction Duration – up to 18 months
- Construction Phasing:
  - Phase A: Was completed this summer with the renovation of the ballfields/grandstands/backstop areas.
  - Phases 1 &2: Shall occur in the park section between Charlottetown Ave. and Hawthorne Lane.
  - Phase 3: Shall occur between Hawthorne Lane and the Park Drive loop.
- Selective Clearing:
  - the first step in the construction process will be the removal of small maturing trees and deceased/declining trees in Phase 1 and 2 areas.
  - Phase 3 selective clearing shall occur in the Fall 2021.
  - The following will help explain the reason and rationale for this necessary work:
    - **During the design and planning for the renovation, there was much discussion about the existing tree canopy. The plans developed for the renovation take these concerns into account. New walls and paths are located to work with the large shade trees whenever possible. The grading around the trees is designed so that it is a “fill” situation rather than a “cut” scenario. There are also multiple strategies specified to protect the remaining trees with appropriate fencing, careful construction sequencing and an arborist who has been retained to treat selected trees with growth regulator, fertilizer, root pruning and aerating. As Charlotte’s oldest park, Independence has been subject to ad hoc introductions of program elements and planting approaches over many years. The renovation of the park includes the removal of certain trees and adding new trees (over 250) so as to not reduce the overall number. This will result in a park that will have a thriving canopy of large, healthy shade trees well into the twenty-first century.**

- **The planned tree removal in Independence Park falls into several categories. The majority of trees are being removed to reestablish the perimeter of the park with large shade trees, as per the Nolan Plan. This is in lieu of smaller species such as crape myrtles. Over two thirds of the trees being removed are small maturing trees. The second category is to be able to construct accessible paths within the park, particularly from both corners of Hawthorne Avenue and Seventh Street. The third category is to reestablish the “hollows’ with their accompanying paths and long views. Finally, there are the trees that are in poor health which will likely not survive.**
  - **For your safety, please stay clear of these areas while the tree removal process takes place.**
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- Park use during construction – Since the park construction will be phased, there will be portions of the park that will still be accessible to park patrons. We have tried very diligently to accommodate park patrons and the General Contractor so that both groups can safely use the park and limit impacts to the construction process/progress. Please stay clear of any fenced construction sites for your continued safety. We have coordinated with Elizabeth Traditional School several times to keep them advised of the project and still allow for safe, outdoor recreation space for the students during construction.
  - We appreciate everyone’s understanding and patience through this construction process. We will be sending out periodic updates to the construction schedule as necessary to keep you in the loop. Please let us know of any questions or comments you may have.