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# NEWS

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## Winter weather pushes park's completion to June

**John David Parsons**  
*Online Editor*

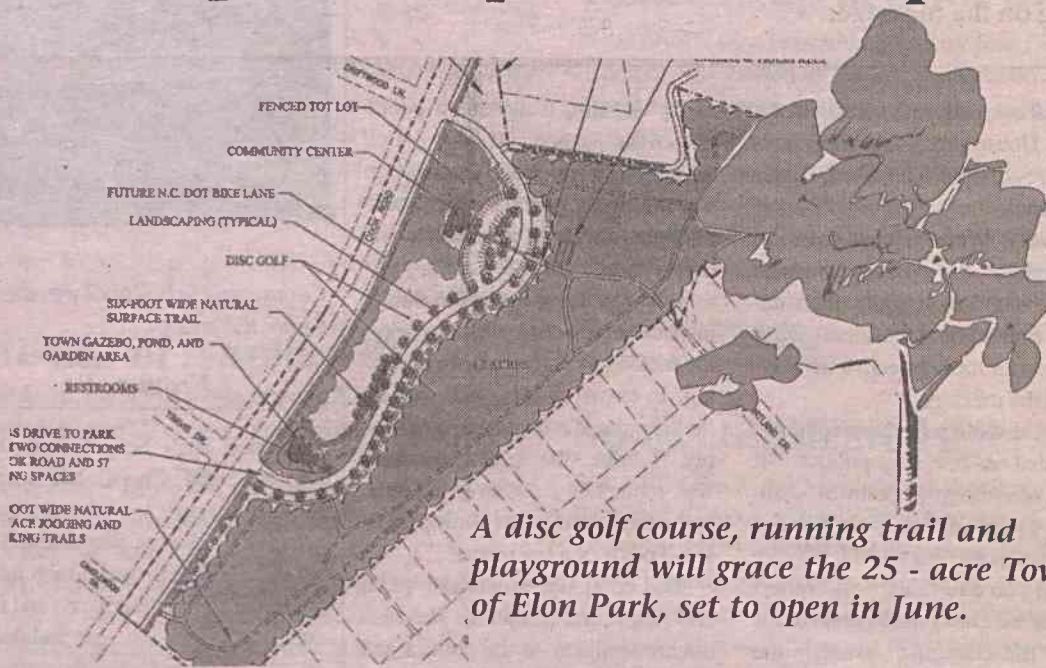
An 18-hole disc golf course, natural-surface running trail and playground are planned for the Town of Elon's \$700,000 park to be completed this June.

Located on Cook Road, the 25-acre park will also include a garden pond, picnic areas with grills and a community building with restrooms.

"Ultimately, what the community wanted was a passive park," which means no recreational fields, said Town Clerk Sabrina Oliver. She explained that the park was not big enough for recreational fields, and the parking, lighting and noise associated with the fields were inappropriate for its residential location.

"[The location] was attractive to the town because it was near downtown and within walking distance of several hundred homes," Oliver said.

After the park's completion, a bike path from Haggard Avenue to the interstate will intersect the park. Parking will hold about 50 cars, said



*A disc golf course, running trail and playground will grace the 25 - acre Town of Elon Park, set to open in June.*

Mike Dula, town manager.

The Town of Elon owns 76 acres near Western Alamance High School to be used for recreational fields, but no immediate plans for development have been made.

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Committee provided a \$250,000 grant for the

park. The Town of Elon matched that grant with money set aside in its budget. Twin Lakes Center, a retirement community, donated \$150,000, while Elon University and Glen Raven Inc. each donated \$25,000.

The park's projected completion date in April was pushed back to

June due to the icy weather of the past month, said Dula.

One interesting feature of the park is its fenced "bark park" for bigger dogs and a "pup park" for smaller dogs, Oliver said.

Another feature of the park is its \$220,000 playground. The playground committee, comprised of

Elon citizens and parents, raised additional money to make the playground universally accessible. For example, the playground includes swings designed for children with disabilities and the elderly.

The park includes porch swings that will be separate from the playground, a feature that caters to grandparents who take their grandchildren to the park.

"We really wanted this playground to be unique as compared to anything else in the area," Folger said.

The committee is currently assessing the bids that have come in from playground vendors.

"Since we are just citizens, all we can do is go to the Board of Aldermen and make a recommendation, but the town has been very open to all our suggestions," said Folger who indicated the playground's contracting decision will be made next month.

Contact John David Parsons at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.

## Elon students and faculty discuss politics in national teleconference

**Andrew Baker**  
*Reporter*

Approximately 40 Elon students and faculty members took part in a national teleconference regarding "The New Student Politics" Feb. 19.

Additional representatives from colleges across the nation also participated in the teleconference, which was broadcast from Michigan State University, the host site of the debate.

Seven panelists debated issues written in "The New Student Politics: Wingspread Statement on Student Civic Engagement," a document that was written by 33 juniors and seniors from 27 colleges and universities in 2001. The document is described as one that "examines

contemporary conceptions of civic engagement, politics and service."

"It's really about students talking about their voice," said Jeff Stein, assistant dean of students at Elon.

The document gives specific suggestions about how campuses can improve their commitment to student

civic engagement through service-learning, increased support for student political activity and attentiveness to student voice. The document also articulates a clear vision



Andrew Baker/ Photographer

*Elon students exchange ideas during the teleconference that took place in McKinnon Hall Feb. 19.*

for what it means to be engaged in civic life and why they chose particular forms of engagement.

The discussion panel was comprised of seven professionals and

students, including David Cooper, a Michigan State professor, as moderator; Ernie Boone, executive director of Black Child and Family Institute; Piyali Nath Dalal, a University of Minnesota graduate; John Keiser, president of Southwest Missouri State University; Sarah Long, an author of "The New Student Politics;" Fabricio Rodriguez, a member of the national Campus

Compact Advisory Board and Emily Yee, a senior at University of California at San Diego.

The Michigan State host site began broadcasting the panel dis-

cussion at 2 p.m. to schools around the nation. For 30 minutes, panelists debated issues raised in the "New Student Politics" document. During the last 30 minutes of the broadcast, the panel took questions via e-mail, telephone and from the audience.

Elon University student Brett Cooper was one of the few students whose question was addressed during this short time. He asked, "Aren't the students proposing forced service learning in the curriculum?"

Panel member Ernie Boone answered the question by saying, "Sometimes you have to force people to open their eyes."

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