



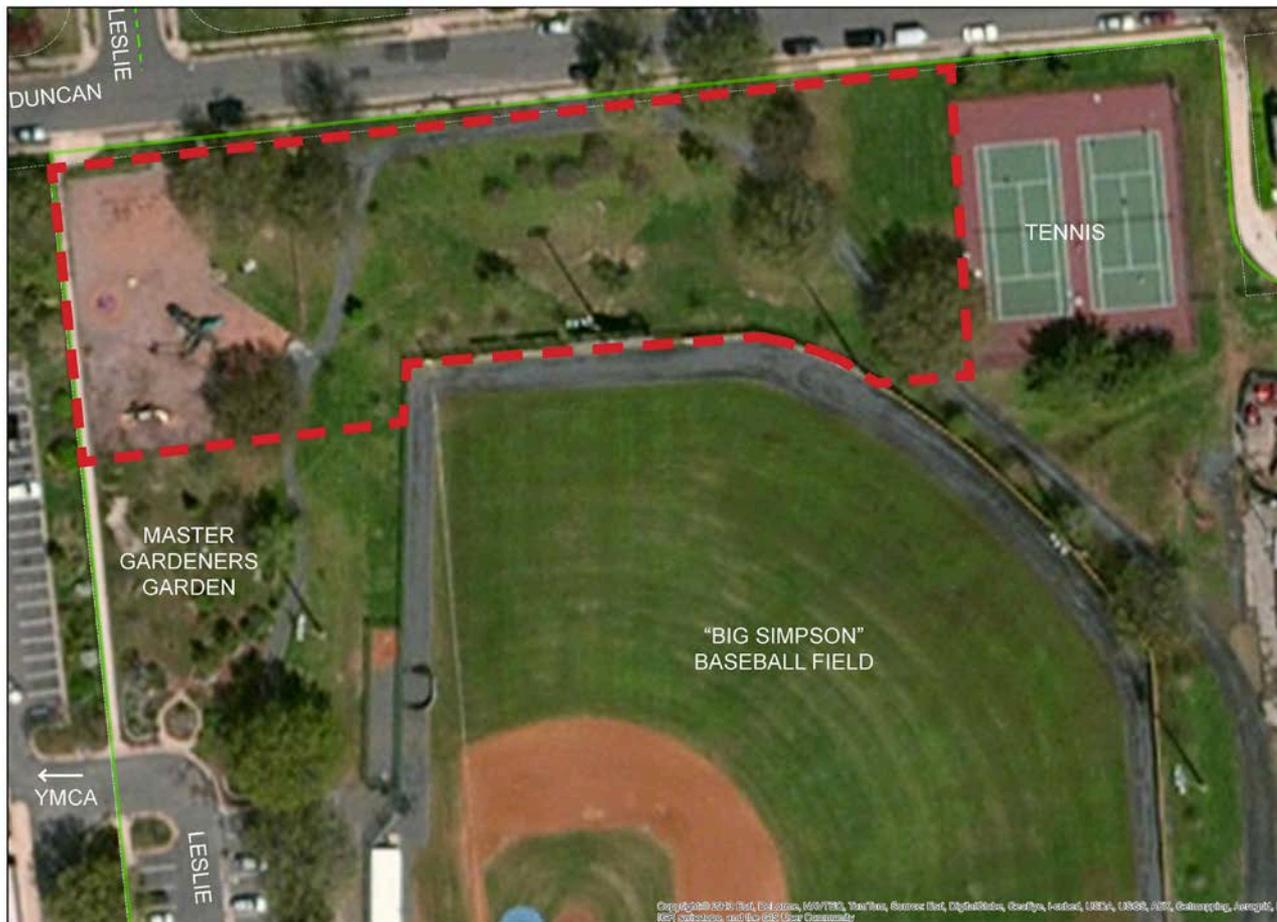
Simpson Park Playground + Passive Lawn Renovation Public Workshop on Revised Concept Design

September 8, 2016



Agenda

7:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Dana/Judy</i>
7:10 PM	Presentation of Revised Concept	<i>Cara/Elisabeth</i>
7:35 PM	Presentation of Public Art	<i>Carol/Tim/Diane</i>
8:00 PM	Group Reactions + Discussion	<i>Cara/Elisabeth</i>
8:30 PM	Adjourn	<i>Dana/Judy</i>



The park, as the subject of this renovation, is bounded by the chain link tennis courts on the east; the “Big Simpson” chain link fence at the south; East Duncan Avenue at the north; and the western edge of the existing concrete walkway at the west. It encompasses the existing playground, passive lawn, and several large shade trees.

The Plan

KEYED LEGEND

1. WIDEN PATH 6-8 FEET TO ENABLE NORTH-SOUTH STANDARD PATHWAY
2. ADJUST PLAYGROUND BORDERS, IMPROVE ENTRANCES, AND ADD NATURAL PLAY
3. ADD STROLLER PARKING AND PLAZA AT PLAYGROUND ENTRANCE
4. CREATE OPEN-USE AREA AND IMPROVE PLANTINGS IN PASSIVE USE AREAS
5. CONNECT PATHWAY TO E. DUNCAN AVE
6. USE BOLLARDS TO LIMIT PATHWAY DRIVING ACCESS TO MAINTENANCE VEHICLES
7. PLANT PERIMETER TREES TO CREATE "GREEN ALLEY"
8. PROVIDE NEW HARD TRAILS IN EAST HALF OF PARK
9. PROVIDE NEW FIELD ENTRANCE AND RAMP
10. IMPROVE MAINTENANCE ROUTE TO SOCCER FIELDS
11. PROVIDE NEW BLEACHERS WITH EQUIPMENT STORAGE UNDERNEATH
12. PROVIDE NEW BLEACHERS WITH CONCESSIONS BOOTHS UNDERNEATH
13. CREATE PICNIC AREA NEAR CONCESSIONS
14. EXPAND PARKING LOT
15. ENCOURAGE USE OF FORTY FIVE TOTAL ON-STREET PARKING SPACES ALONG E MONROE AVE AND MAIN LINE BLVD FOR SOCCER FIELD USE
16. IMPROVE DOG PARK TO INCLUDE LIGHTING, TERRACED HILL, TREES, AND PLAY FEATURES
17. ADD MAINTENANCE STORAGE SHELTER AND YARD BETWEEN FIELDS
18. ADD VEGETATED BIOSWALE ALONG DOG PARK EDGE AND AT MAINTENANCE YARD



Note: CIP Funds have already been allocated to install stairs at Monroe Avenue/basketball court and to replace the Little Simpson Press Box in 2014.

GRAPHIC KEY

HARD TRAILS	PARK BOUNDS	OPEN USE AREAS	ENTRANCE PLAZAS	ATHLETIC FIELDS	DOG PARK
BIKE ROUTE					



Project Budget + Grant Funding

- *Project Budget - \$776,400*
- *Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund grant - \$200,000*
- *Public Art Budget - \$95,000*



Charges for this Project

- Renovate Simpson Park's open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and help to balance the type of activities to establish open play uses and casual gathering areas
- Renovate the playground for ages 2-12, add more shade
- Connect passive use areas
- Make Simpson Park family-friendly for multiple-age groups.
- Collaboration with artist hired by the Commission for the Arts to integrate public art in the overall design



Schedule

Task	Item	Month(s)	Notes/Milestones
Task A	Park Design-Overview		
Task B	Project Development Tasks		
	Site Inventory Analysis	March/April	
	Park Programming	March	
	Maintenance and Operations	April/May	On-site meeting/tour
	Concept Design	April/May/June	
	Construction Documents	September-October	
	Construction Administration	Spring 2017	
Task C	Public Input and Meetings		
	Kick-off Meeting	March	Focus group meetings
	Concept Alternatives	May 25 th , 2016	Public meeting
	Preferred Concept	Sept 8th, 7 PM	Public meeting
	Park and Recreation Commission and Commission for the Arts	Sept 15 th /Sept 20 th	

Guiding Principles



- **Well integrated and multi-use, flexible space**
- Inviting and **safe - clear boundaries and comfortable enclosures/subspace** (fence, seat walls, vegetation, topography, etc.)
- **Circulation will be easily understandable** - clearly defined circulation paths with efficient connectivity (less cut-through paths) and have well defined entrances and access points
- Provide **social space** to accommodate a range of user groups, ages and social interactions
- Incorporate a **seamless integration of landscape, art, and play**
- Improvements project a **sense of place and community**
- Physical components will be **low maintenance and resilient** materials
- Provide **access to 'nature'** and provide health benefits
- **Large and small open areas for spontaneous play**
- **Public Art** will be selected and implemented in accordance with the Public Art Implementation Plan art goals

Site Analysis



- ### PLAYGROUND
- Play equipment is needed for all ages under 12
 - Appropriate signage is needed to indicate intended age use
 - Needs check (summer sun in the shade)
 - Clipped tree reduction desired for natural play
 - Playground equipment must meet all safety size/height
 - Appropriate playground surfacing may include rubber and/or rubber mulch, and/or sand, and/or cinder cover, 100% crushed every 5 years
 - If remaining in some location, bench should be placed farther from the fence to the north
 - Consider irrigation for plant, art, and landscape
 - Sticker parking per Citywide Plan

- ### PASSIVE SPACE
- Accommodate multi-use, flexible passive and active recreation play for children like youth, pre-teen, or school groups like those of soccer
 - Should be engaging to all ages
 - Consider irrigation of grass and soil fertility
 - Consider other programming opportunities for all ages
 - Not intended for sport team use
 - Consider a social or gathering space
 - Open space areas edges poorly defined
 - Lawn area needs to be regraded
 - Consider planting improvements

- ### FENCE + BOUNDARIES
- Existing fence surrounding Big Simpson and tennis courts will remain on site
 - Flagpole banner may be replaced to accommodate new playground area design
 - Change wood table into concrete, height high school standard for fencing, spacing, visibility (Big Simpson fence)
 - Planting in a banner banner may be needed along the E Duncan Ave side of the Park to lower children from center to perimeter
 - Active City standards for fencing, bottom rail of fence should have 2" to 3" clearance
 - Consider a sign within outer boundary between the Playground area and Master Gardeners Garden
 - Review signage including appropriate signs for playground engagement and park rules

- ### TREES
- Pruned memorial tree located on site
 - Arboreal confirmed that most trees are in good health
 - Crappy myrtles and Redwood posts may be removed
 - Large oak and shade trees that remain
 - Additional trees may be added
 - Critical root zone and drip line must be protected
 - Plant irrigation needs needed to protect trees from drought
 - Avoid interference with trees and other plants in Master Gardeners Garden
 - Arise Chemical may be removed due to weed knocking damage

- ### TOPOGRAPHY + GRADING
- Food trucks and other uses, no full power, 20' barn located in the passive space area will remain to help screen view from residences directly across Duncan, between the houses
 - Play grading needed to address surface drainage issues
 - Grading must direct water away from playing fields, additional future rock drains into
 - All paths must meet accessibility requirements

- ### STREET FRONTAGE
- Current street frontage at E Duncan Ave has poorly defined entrance and needs sidewalk improvements, need to further delineate
 - Street trees may be added
 - Planting along the sidewalk to be higher than 5ft and trees must be placed no closer than 5ft in order to maintain visibility into the park, per City Tree Protection Through Development Change standards
 - A well constructed entrance is needed for safety and visibility, planting includes trees, soil/walk or vegetation
 - Consider street trees as a potential buffer or screening from residential streets
 - Consider an entrance, 'gateway' feature, topographic seating
 - Incorporate signage where appropriate, including entry, wayward regulations, educational, and directional wayfinding

- ### CIRCULATION + CONNECTIVITY
- Improve Park circulation and connectivity to street park features (consider over-the-courts) and connection into the Park from East Monroe Avenue
 - Place covered walkways and cut-through
 - Cut-through and walkways are needed, may be located in more appropriate area of the Park
 - Primary gravel path within 100ft of playground and is generally level
 - Gravel path is used for biking, walking, and other Park users to connect features to the south
 - Equipment area southeast of the tennis courts will be regraded to allow for additional walk, stormwater, south of the tennis courts
 - Overhead locations may be situated
 - Consider existing 100ft gravel path, walk to 0 per Citywide Plan, additional north to south path near the table to avoid impact to grass



- ### SEATING + OTHER AMENITIES
- Existing benches need to go, new benches will need concrete pads (2' larger than the bench)
 - Sign with wood, recycled wood opportunities
 - Drinking fountain does work, but currently in an awkward location in front of playground gate
 - Water cooler or other water station facilities will require additional details in permitting
 - Score grading and seating is needed to improve opportunities for socializing
 - Consider a table and/or other seating that border of the playground area near Master Gardeners Garden
 - Consider children's garden with also responding to emergency concerns
 - Consider trash bins
 - Consider picnic tables

- ### MAINTENANCE + OPERATIONS
- Equipment area east of the Passive Space will be regraded to allow for repair of equipment during winter and connecting the main gravel to existing backstop of the tennis courts
 - Current maintenance without entrance requires removal of crown lawn for access
 - Shaded mower cut
 - Maintain 12" min. bottom area for mowing
 - Consider maintenance walk deliveries and need for dumping station
 - Preference for multi-levels, not multi-levels
 - Mulch added to the playground every 2 years (1" of mulch) is needed and replaced
 - IRS contract would address more specific plant or horticultural related maintenance needs

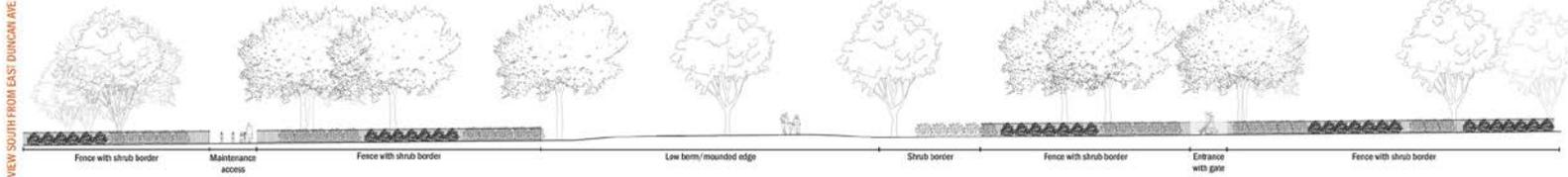
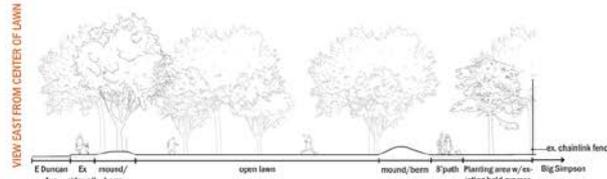
- ### UTILITIES
- Irrigation controls are near the east playground entrance, passive space is not irrigated
 - Water has cross paths with beneath the current playground location
 - Gas, electric, and sewer lines are in range, aligned with E Duncan Avenue
 - An existing light pole is located in the project area north of the score board, outside of the Big Simpson area but within the other outdoor three lights connected to utility poles on south of the playground. The northwestern fixture lights the Master Gardeners Garden

SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION: EXISTING CONDITIONS, ANALYSIS + OPPORTUNITIES DRAFT 5/23/16

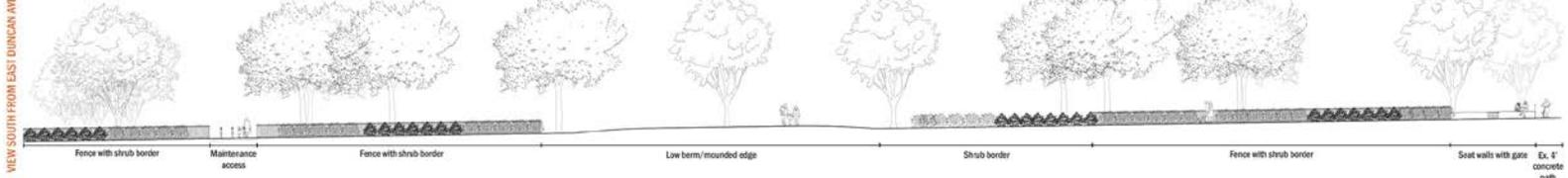
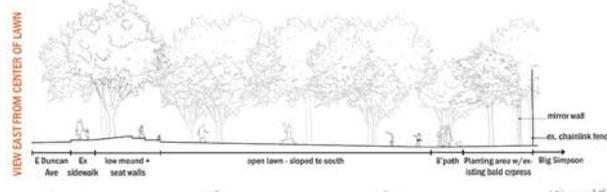
Three Concept Designs



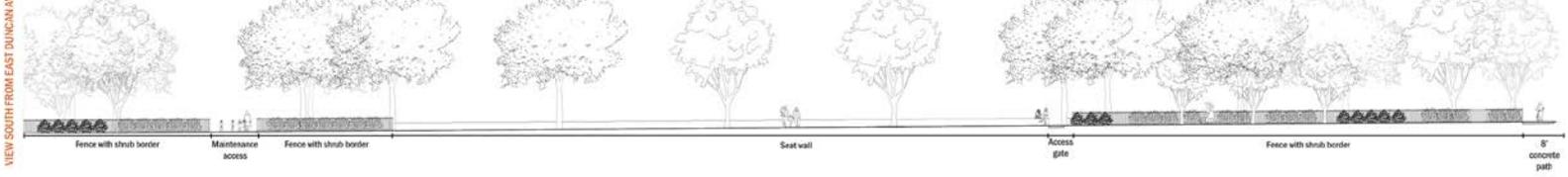
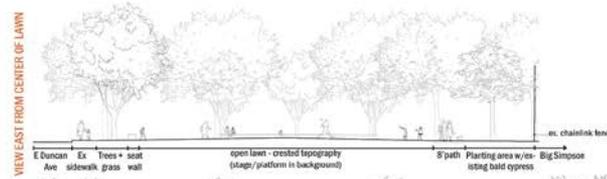
CONCEPT 1



CONCEPT 2



CONCEPT 3

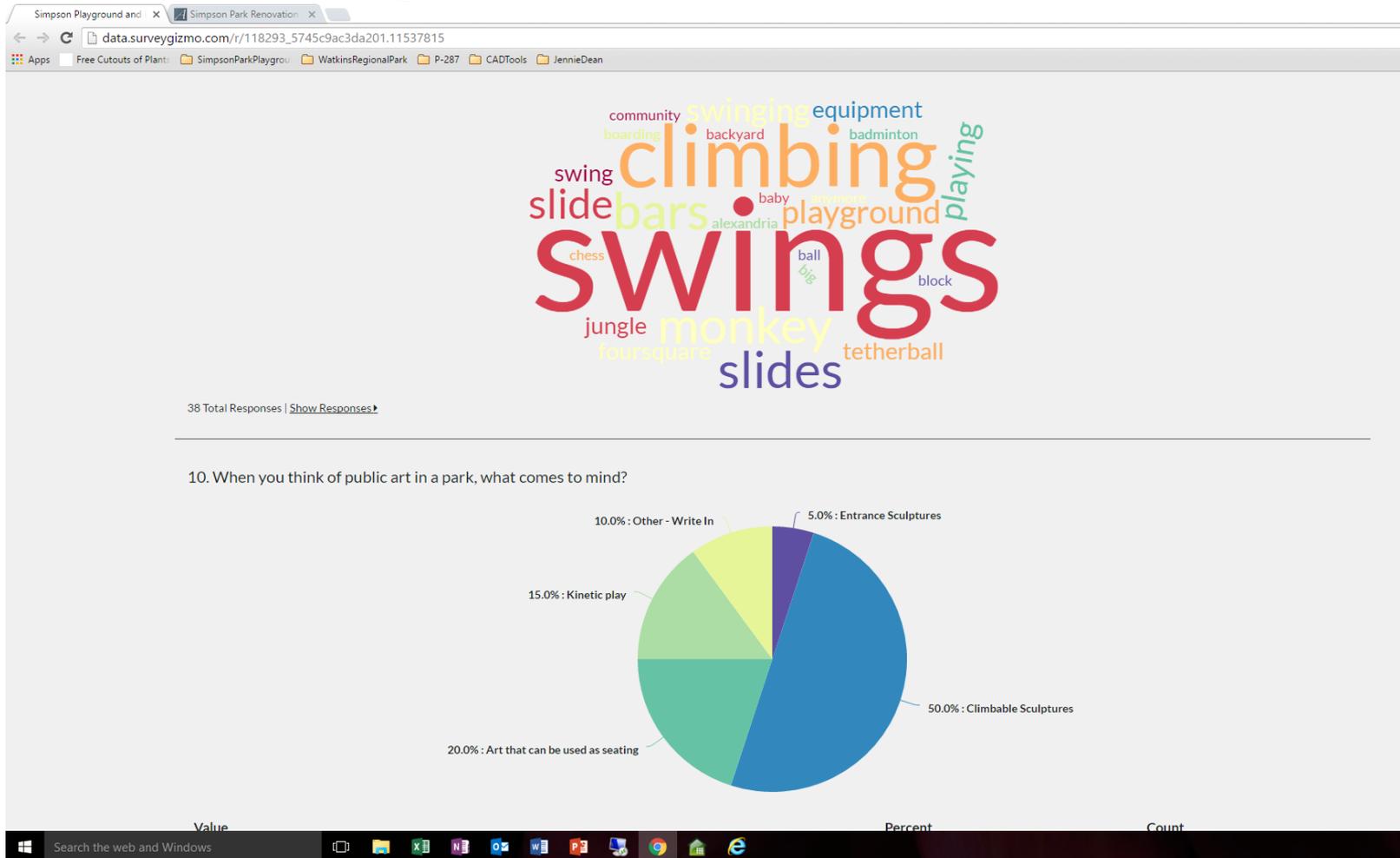


Community Meeting May 25, 2016

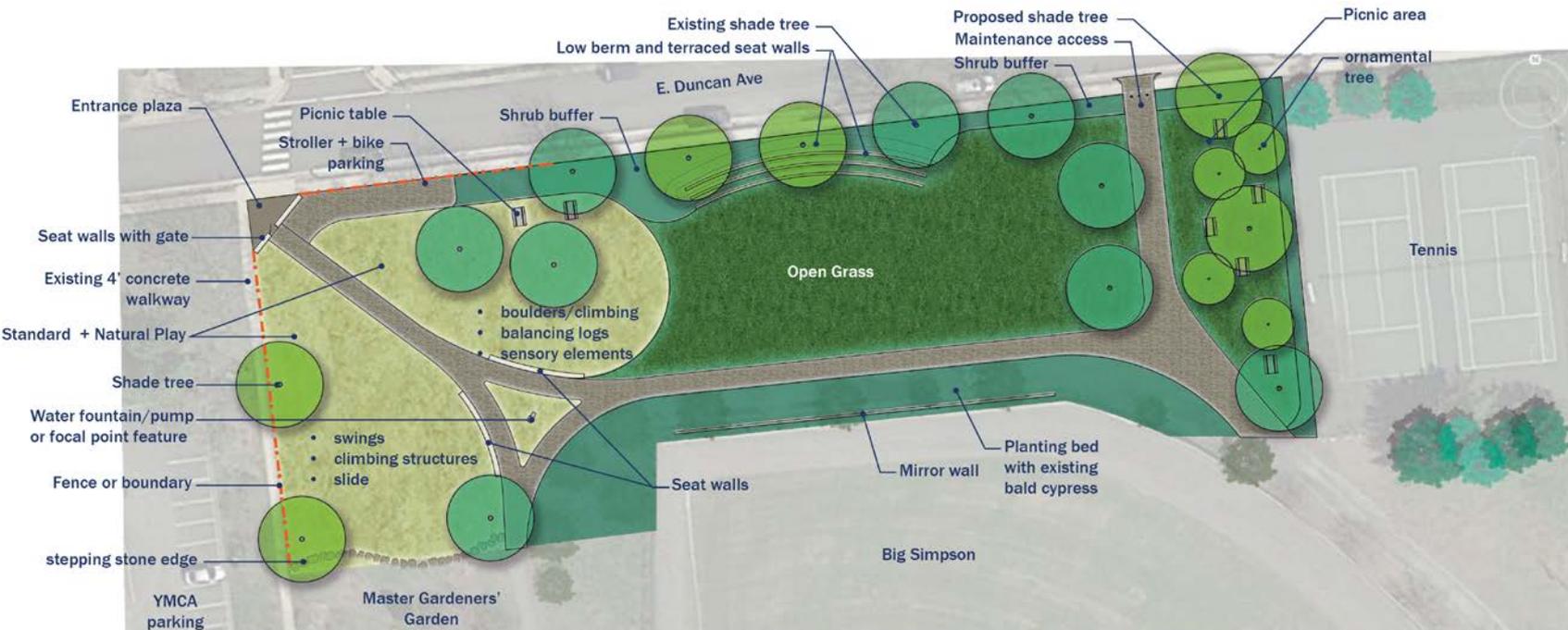


Online Survey - Concept Design

May 25th - June 15th



Concept 2 was the overall preferred option, but with revision.





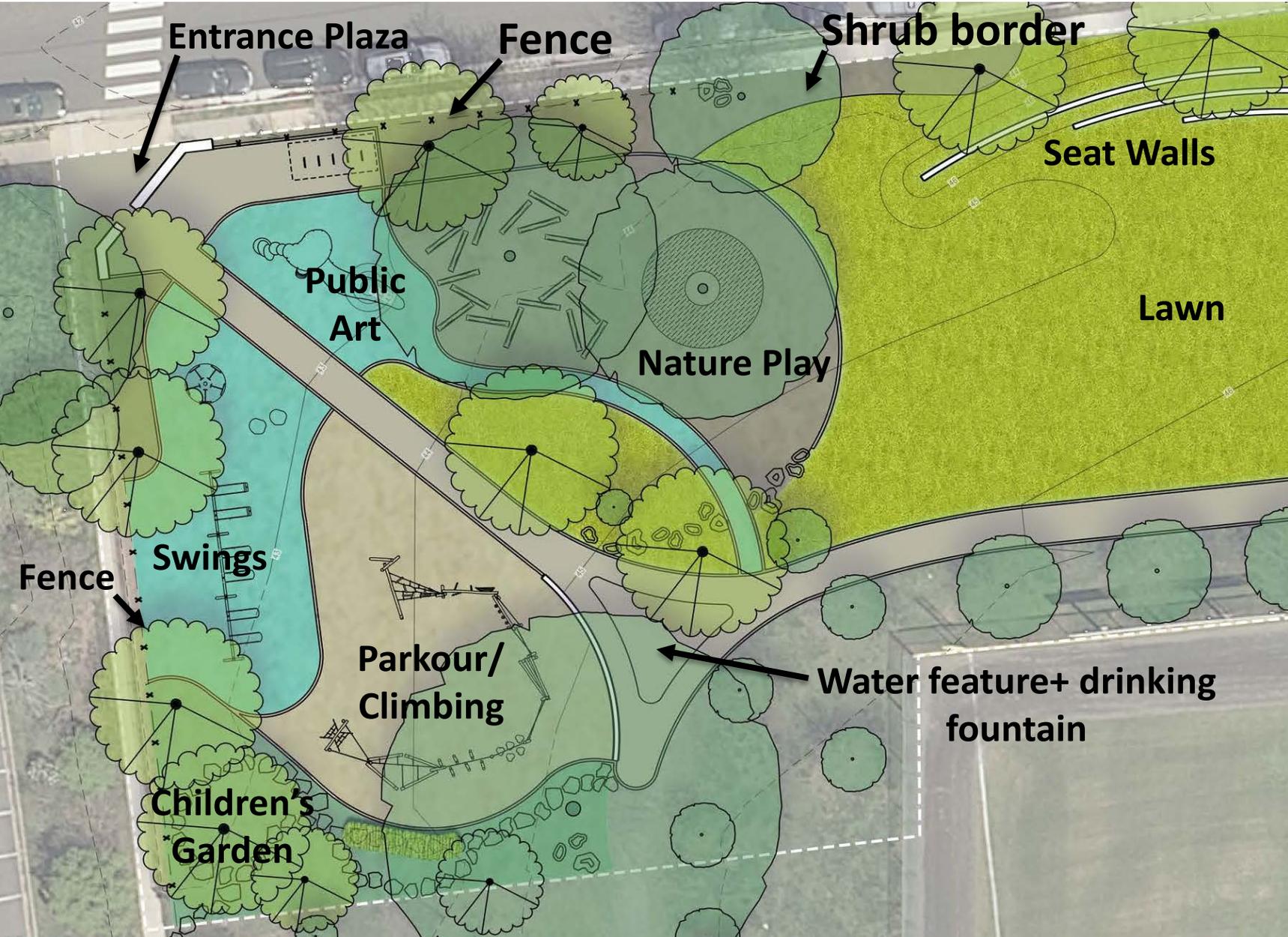
Community Feedback-Key Points

- Prefer **Concept 2** layout
- Retain **concrete walk** at current width; add wider diagonal path
- Incorporate **natural play** features
- Preference for muted (natural) **colors** with **accent** hues
- Prefer **swinging** and **climbing**
- Prefer mix of **rubber** and **wood fiber** play surface
- Mixed response on **stone dust**
- Use **seat walls** where possible
- Use **trees for shade** rather than structures
- Add picnic **tables**
- Prefer art that is **climbable** or **seating**

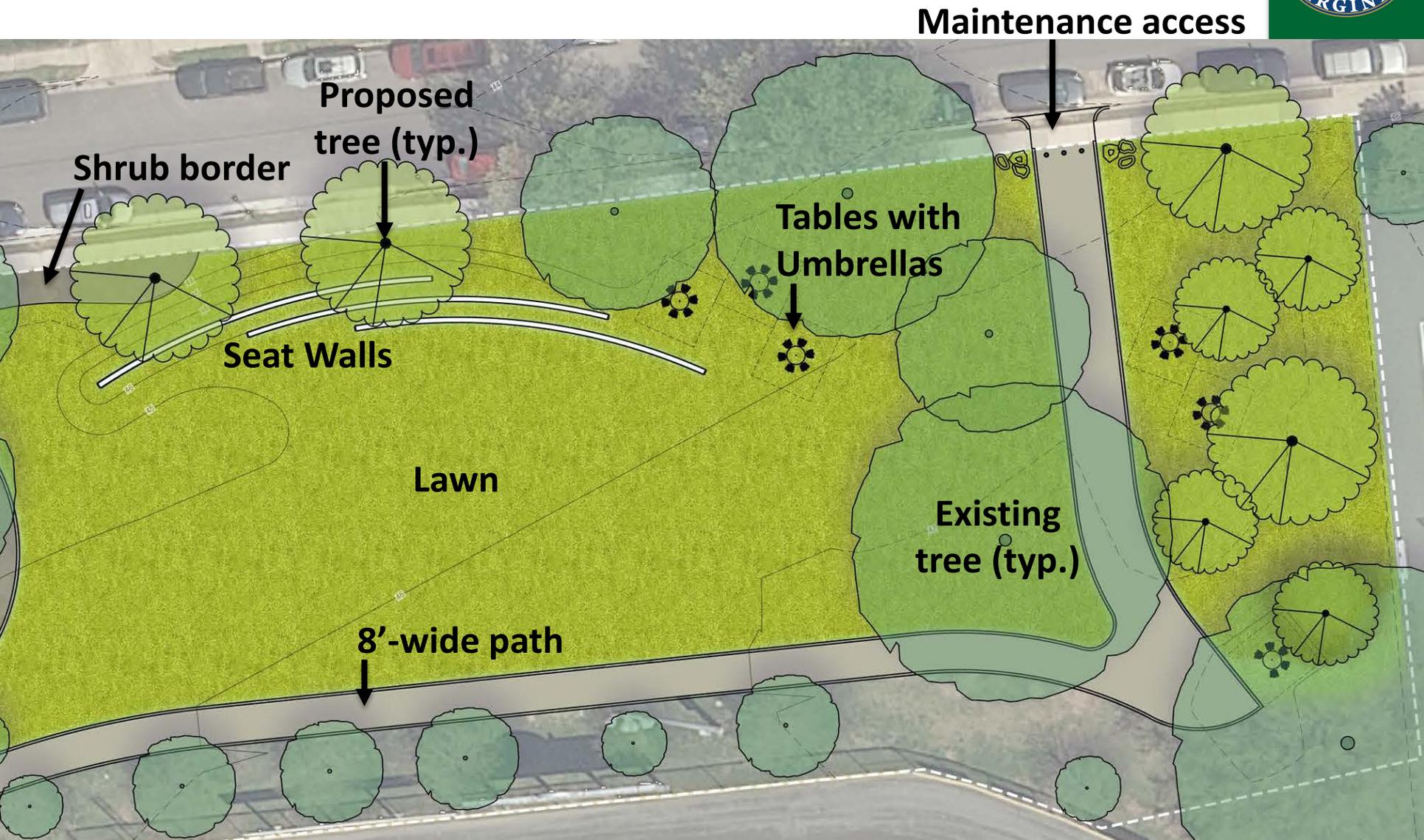
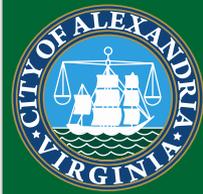
Revised Concept



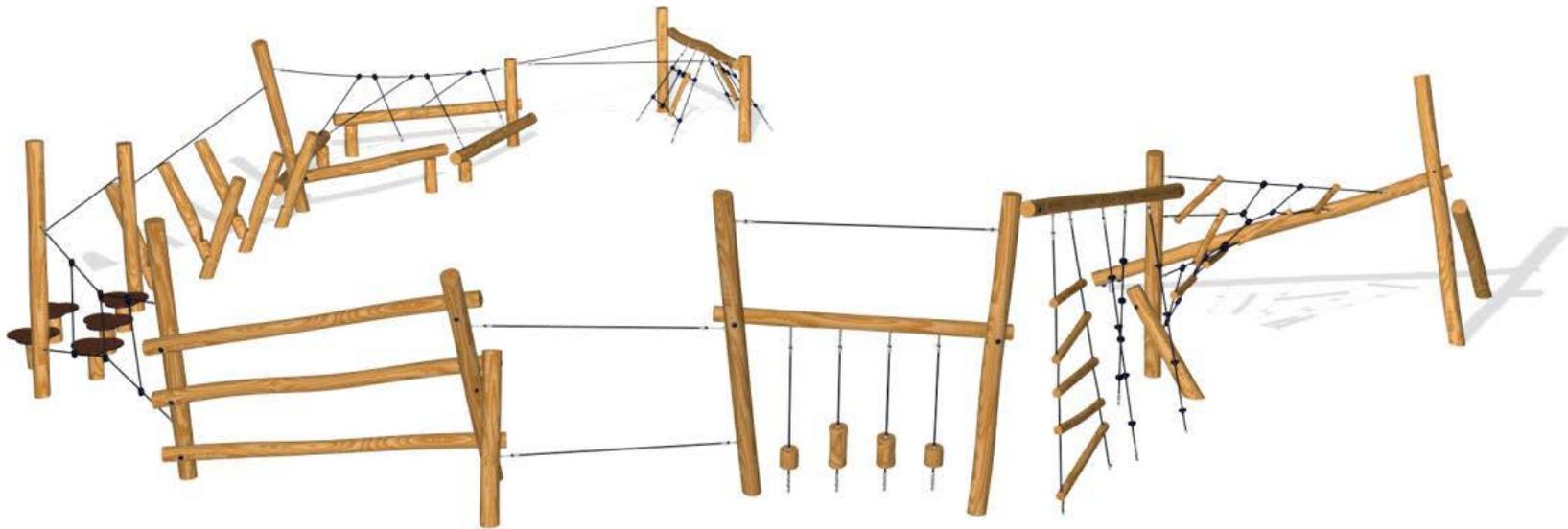
Revised Concept - Playground



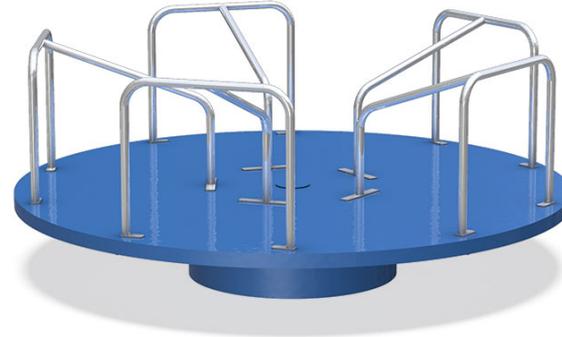
Revised Concept - Passive Lawn



Parkour Climbing Course



Swing and Spin



Climb on Seed Pod + Mosaic Pods May+Watkins Design



Nature Play



Water Feature + Drinking Fountain (TBD)



Seating with Umbrellas





Seeds and Grasses Climb-on, Mosaics + Finials



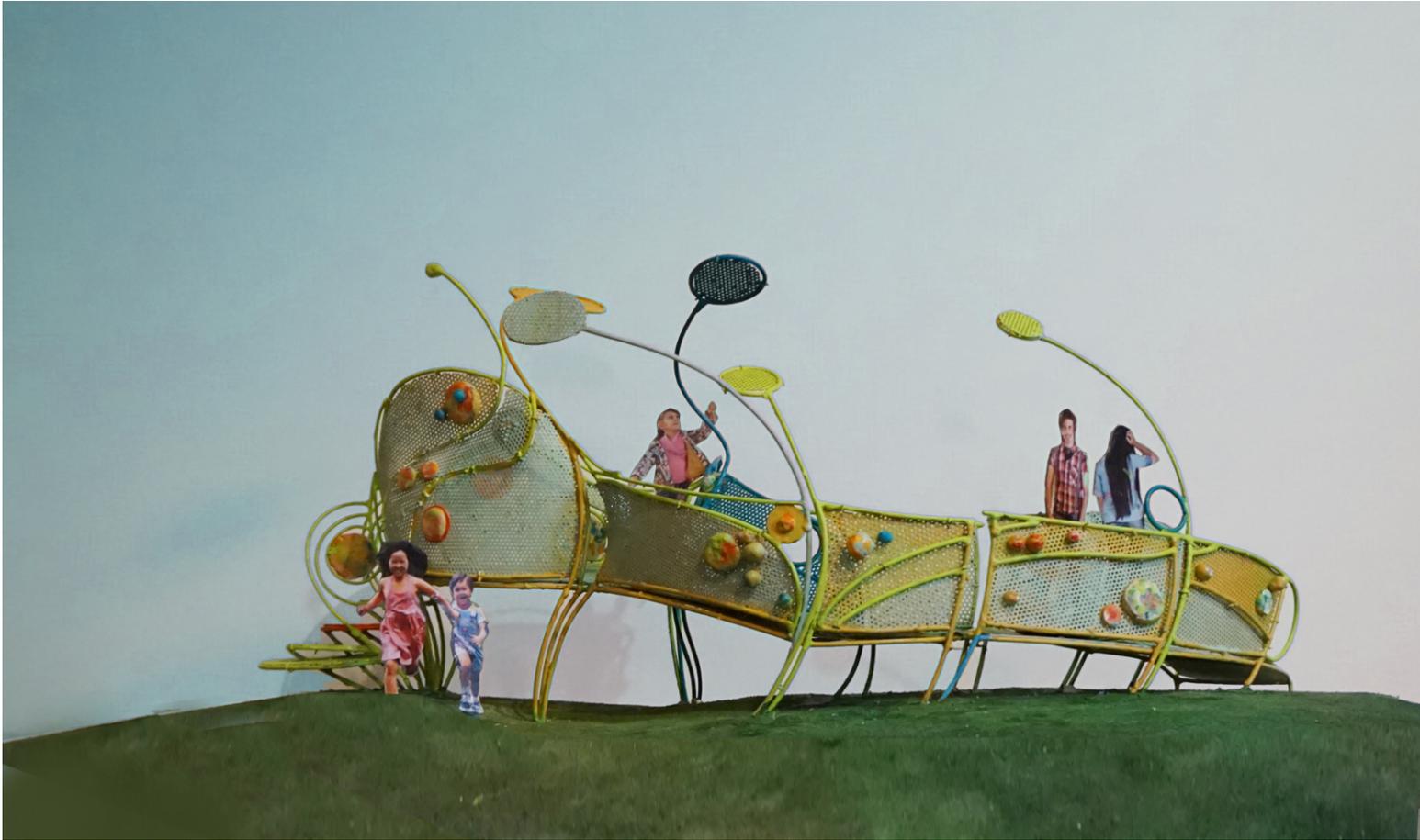
Mosaics and steel



Seeds and Grasses Climb-on



View from Ramp Entrance



View from Path



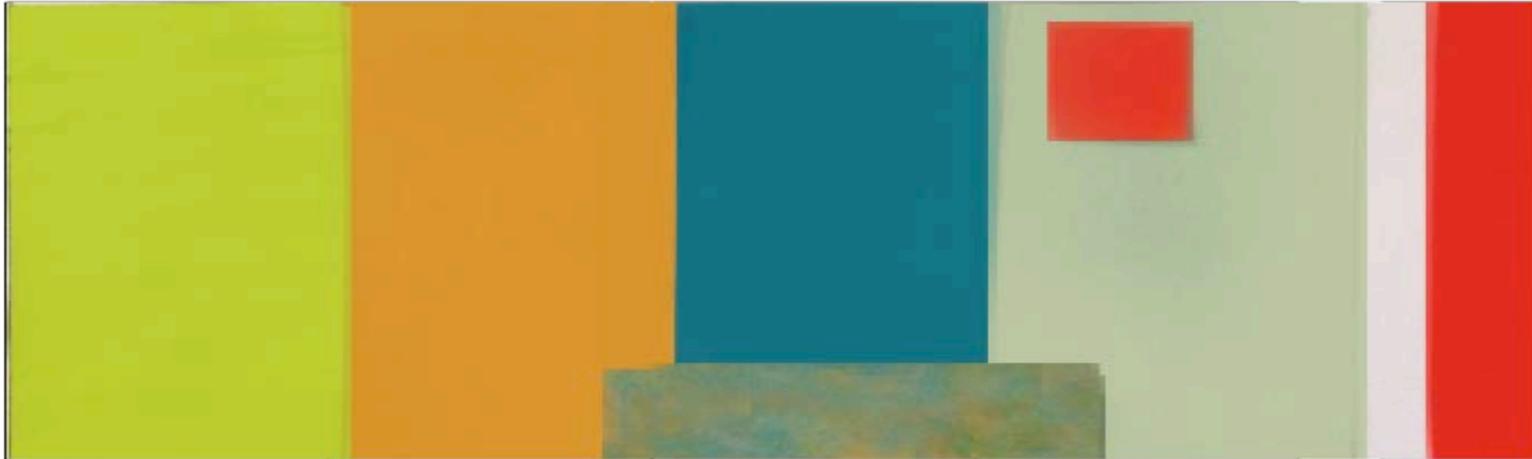
View from Path



Mosaic Sculpture

Simpson Park - Color board for Climb-on

This palette includes the major colors for the Climb-on Structure. The mosaic elements, the concrete tint and the Pour in Place have not yet been selected.



Custom Neon Lime
Pantone 390

Golden yellow:
RAL 1004
Pantone 124

Turquoise blue:
RAL 5018
Pantone 7474

Pastel green:
RAL 6019
Pantone 344

Traffic orange:
RAL 2009
Pantone 1665

Deck cover pour in
place various



Swatches









Reactions and Discussion

- **Did we hear your feedback from the last workshop and/or online survey?**

Does the revised concept...

- ...illustrate a **clear circulation system**?
- ...provide **safe, clear boundaries**?
- ...foster a **sense of place** and **community**?
- ...provide opportunities for **access to nature**?
- ...provide opportunities for **spontaneous play**?
- ...successfully integrate **public art**?

- **Are there areas that still need focus?**



Next Steps

- Park and Recreation Commission – September 15th
- Public Art Task Force Meeting
- Commission for the Arts – September 20th
- Construction Documents September – October 2016

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