



Simpson Park Playground & Passive Lawn Renovation Public Workshop on the Final Concept Plan

October 17, 2016



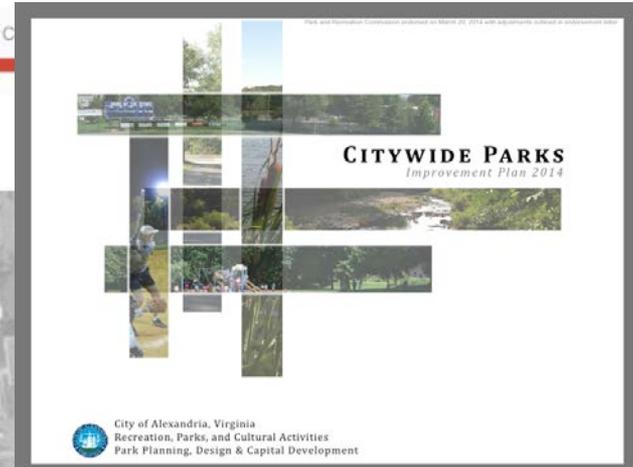
Agenda

- 7:00 PM Welcome, Introductions, Project Background** *Judy*
- 7:05 PM Design Process and Revised Concept** *Cara/Elisabeth*
- *Review results from September meeting and on-line survey*
 - *Review concerns regarding fencing, surfacing and play structure proposals*
 - *Options for consideration*
- 7:35 PM Discussion** *Cara/Elisabeth*
- 8:55 PM Next Steps** *Judy*
- 9:00 PM Adjourn**

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					

Recommendations & Implementation Strategy



The existing sidewalk between the YMCA parking lot and Duncan Avenue is very narrow, making it difficult for park users to pass each other, especially if there is a cyclist or stroller.



The playground is in need of replacement and equipment to cater to multiple age groups.



The current passive use space that is unfenced is north of Big Simpson. Its grass surface is in poor condition.

1

Widen path to be 6-8 feet in width enabling a north-south standard pathway

Many Del Ray residents use this path to walk to neighborhood destinations, yet, the existing four foot path is constricted for simultaneous pedestrian, bicycle, and stroller use at its narrowest points. Widening this pathway would create an easier pedestrian route and meet the City's standard width for sidewalks.

ESTIMATED COST: \$87,500 - \$156,000 PRIORITY: Medium PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 3-10 Years

2

Adjust playground borders, improve entrances, add natural play

The proposed playground area will be moved slightly east to accommodate the widened path (recommendation #1). It will include a rubberized surface and new play equipment to serve multiple ages. Additional tree canopy will shade the area and new benches and trash receptacles will improve the space for parents and caregivers. The entire play area will increase with the addition of a seating wall and climbing features to the east of the playground.

ESTIMATED COST: \$325,000 - \$475,000 PRIORITY: High PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 1-3 years

3

Add stroller parking and plaza at playground entrance

The proposed northwest entrance will provide convenient access to the playground from Duncan Avenue and serve as a welcoming gateway to the entire park. Parents or guardians with strollers will be able to park them in notches along the fence line bordering the proposed entrance.

ESTIMATED COST: \$19,000 - \$27,000 PRIORITY: Medium PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 1-3 Years

4

Create open-use area and improve plantings in passive use areas

This plan proposes regrading open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and help to balance the type of activities in Simpson Park. With re-grading and improved landscape, the area will accommodate uses such as frisbee, picnics, and quiet relaxation. An entrance plaza including pervious brick pavers, benches, and trash receptacles will create a space for park visitors to congregate.

ESTIMATED COST: \$245,000 - \$368,000 PRIORITY: High PROPOSED TIMEFRAME: 3-10 Years



Findings from the Citywide Planning Effort

- 2011 and 2013, RPCA conducted a Park and Recreation Needs Assessments and found that, **the highest City-wide needs are for un-programmed spaces** such as trails, natural areas, and picnic spaces;
- Yet, many of the City's parks, such as Simpson Park, are highly programmed and lacking of these needed items



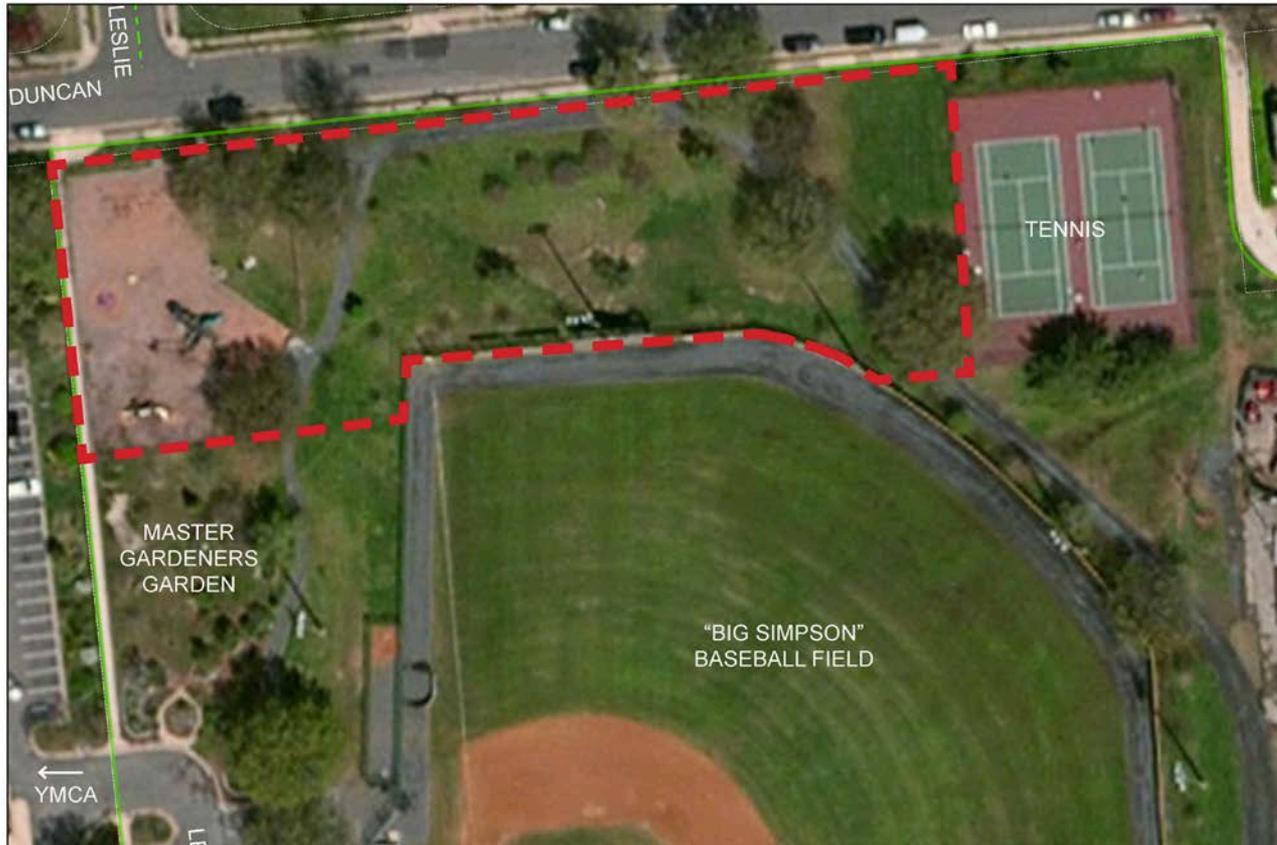
Project Charge

- Accommodate **multiple passive uses** and **balance 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**
- Collaborate with Artist Team



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



Project Area Boundaries outlined in red



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	Oct/Nov/Dec	
	Construction Administration	Summer 2017	
Task C	Public Input and Meetings		
	Community Outreach Letter	February 24 th	Del Ray Citizens Association + adjacent property owners
	Kick-off Meeting	March 1 st	Focus group meetings
	Workshop - Concept Alternatives	May 25 th	Focus group meetings
	Workshop – Revised Concept	September 8 th	
	Commission for the Arts and Park and Recreation Commission	June/Sept	
	Workshop – Final Concept	October 17th	

Site Analysis



PRELIMINARY SITE ANALYSIS
SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE SPACE RENOVATION



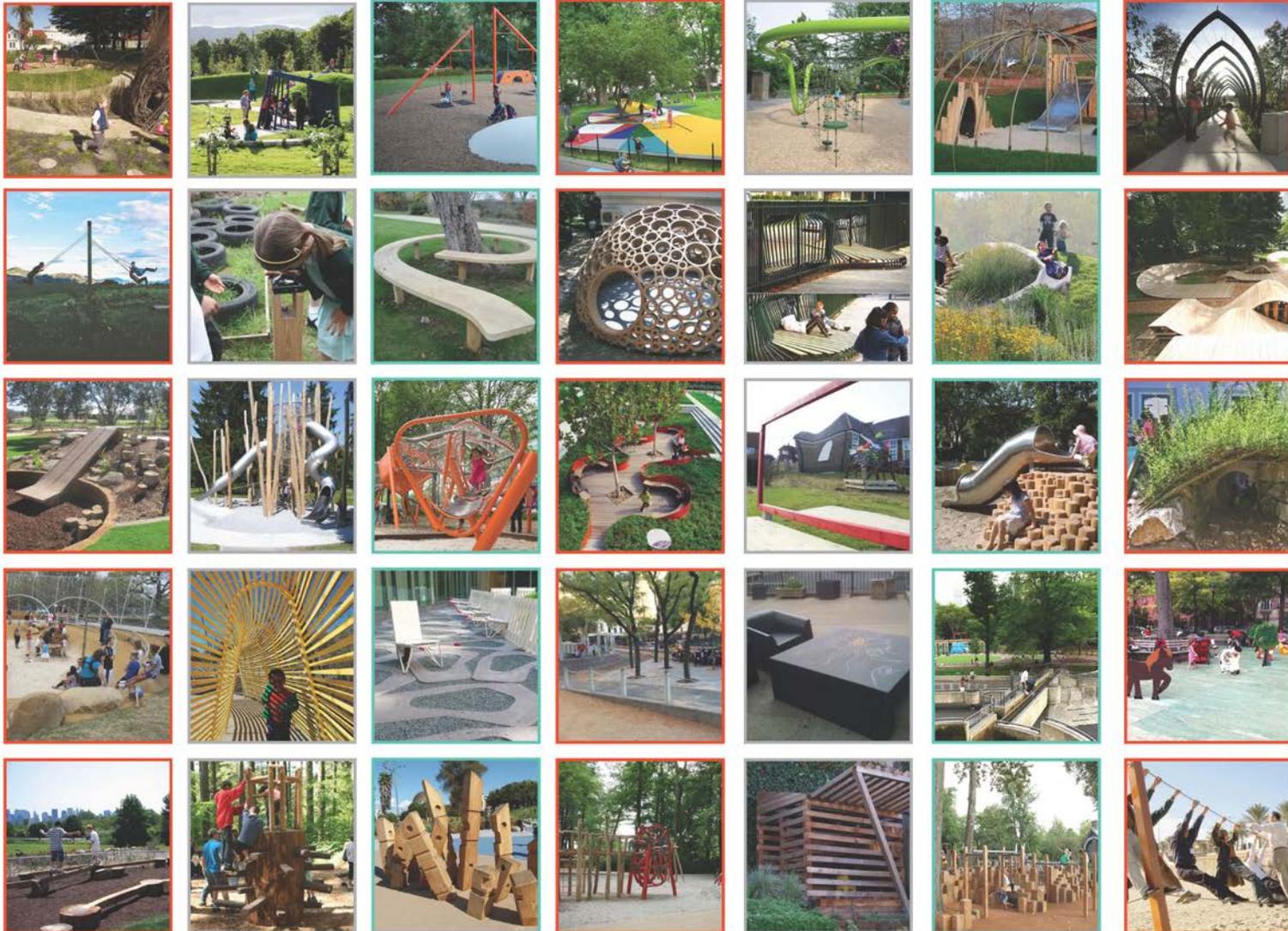
Guiding Principles

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

Community Meeting May 25, 2016

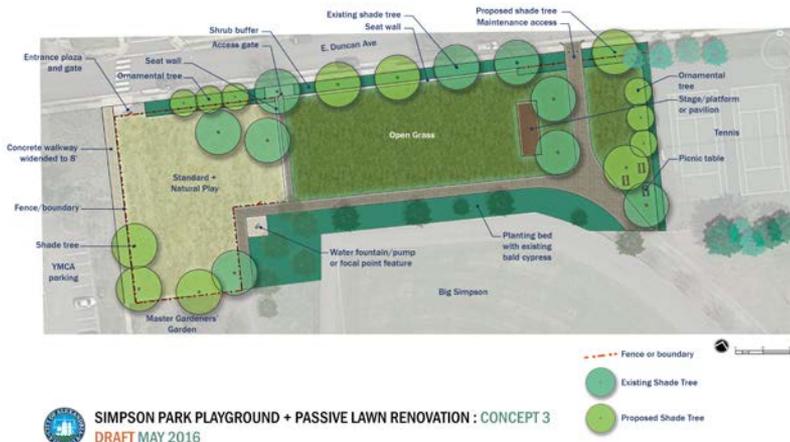
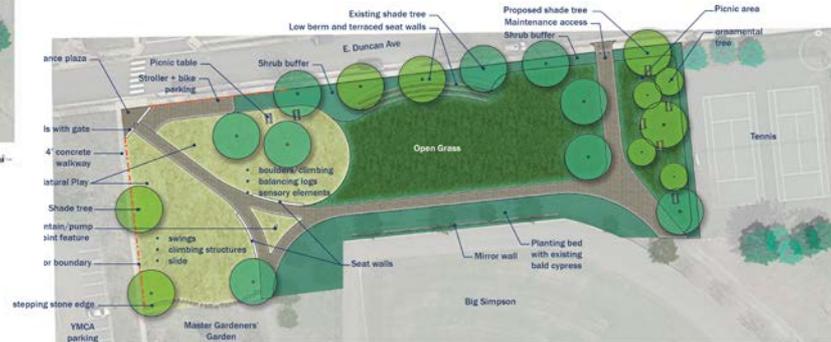
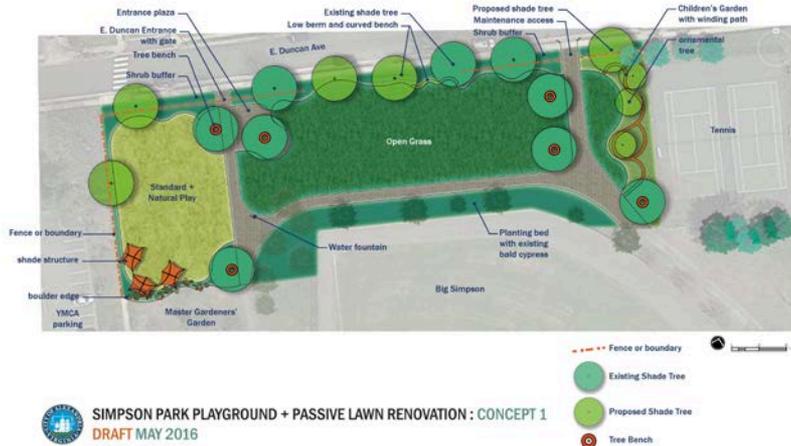


Inspiration Board



SIMPSON PARK PLAYGROUND + PASSIVE LAWN RENOVATION
INSPIRATION BOARD DRAFT 5/18/16

Three Concept Alternatives



Community Meeting Preferences



- **Concept 2** layout
- Retain **concrete walk** at current width; add wider diagonal path
- Incorporate **natural play** features
- Muted (natural) **colors** with **accent** hues
- **Swinging** and **climbing**
- Mix of **rubber** and **wood fiber** play surface, mixed response on **stone dust**
- **Seat walls** use where possible
- **Shade trees** rather than shade structures
- Picnic **tables**
- Art that is **climbable** and good for **sitting**

Preferred Concept Alternative



Parkour Climbing Course



Swing and Spin



Climb on Seed Pod by May+Watkins Design



Nature Play

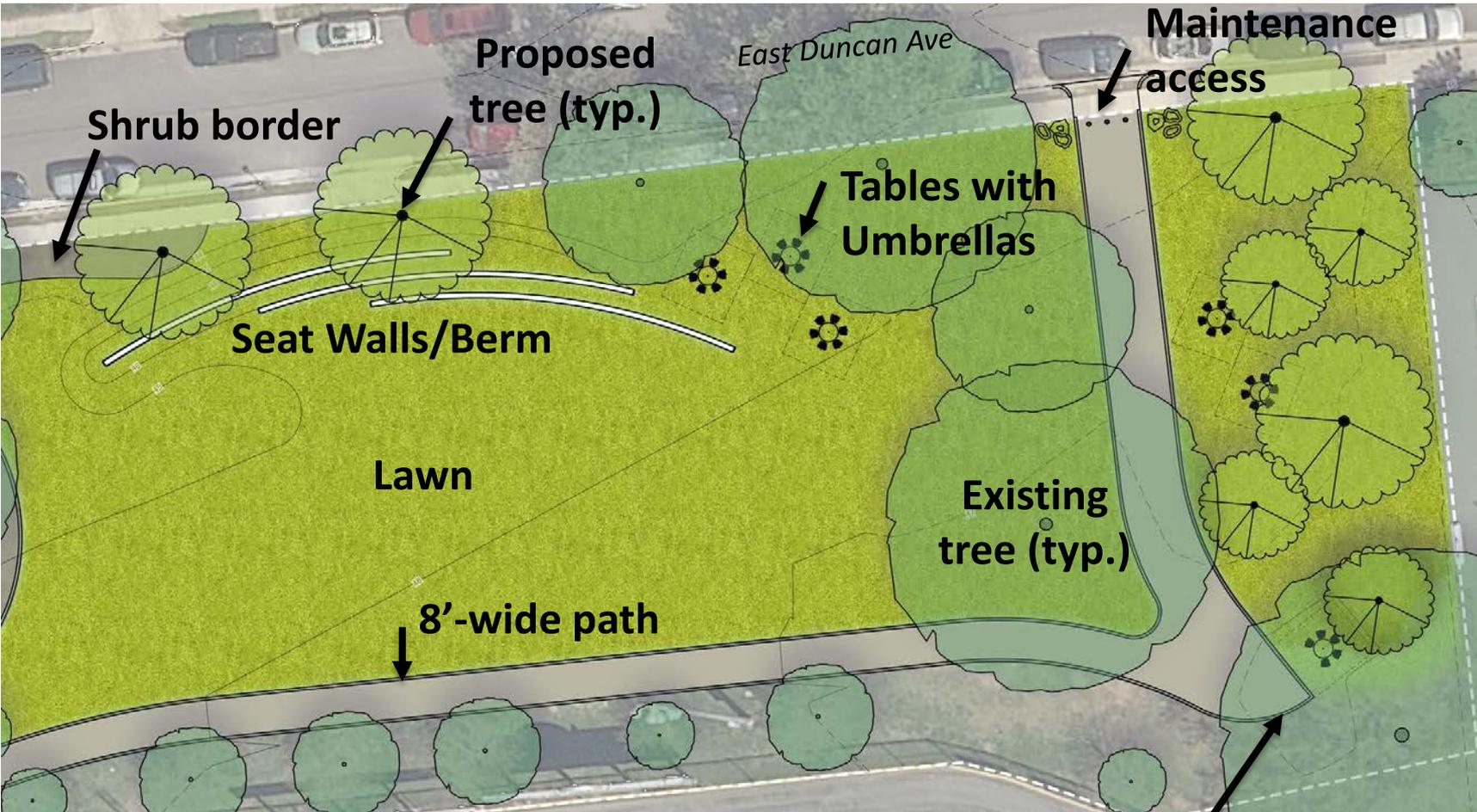


Table Seating with Umbrellas

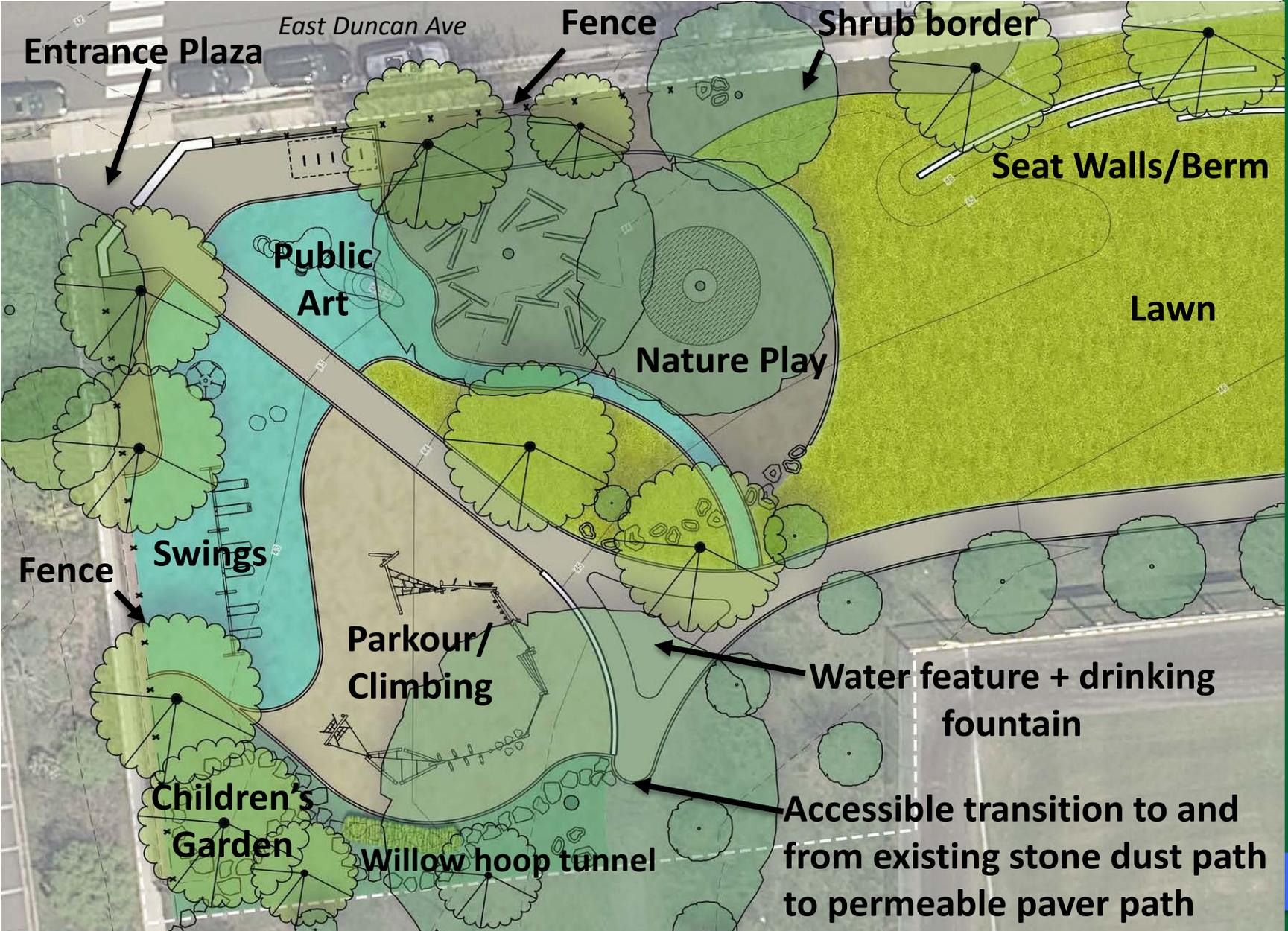


Water Feature + Drinking Fountain

Preferred Concept Alternative



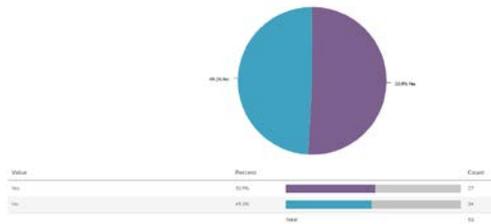
Preferred Concept Alternative



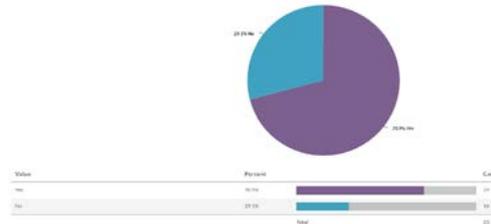
Community Survey Response

- Total of 286 responses to the survey (9/6-9/26)
- Positive feedback (purple)
- Concerns raised regarding playground surfacing, playground equipment, and playground boundaries/fencing locations

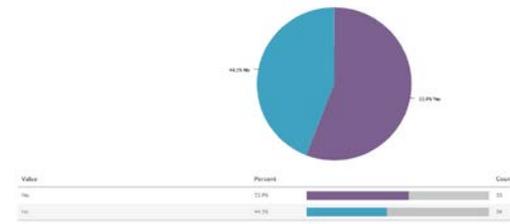
1. Does the final concept reflect your feedback from the last workshop and/or online survey?



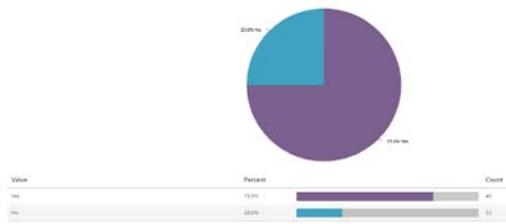
3. Does the revised concept... illustrate a clear circulation system?



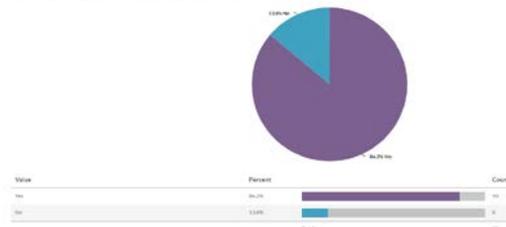
5. Does the revised concept... provide safe, clear boundaries?



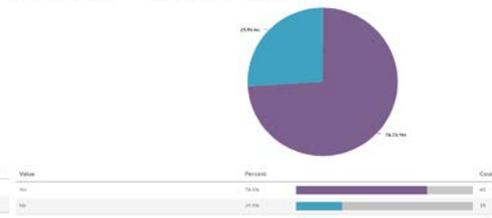
7. Does the revised concept... foster a sense of place and community?



9. Does the revised concept... provide opportunities for access to nature?



11. Does the revised concept... provide opportunities for spontaneous play?

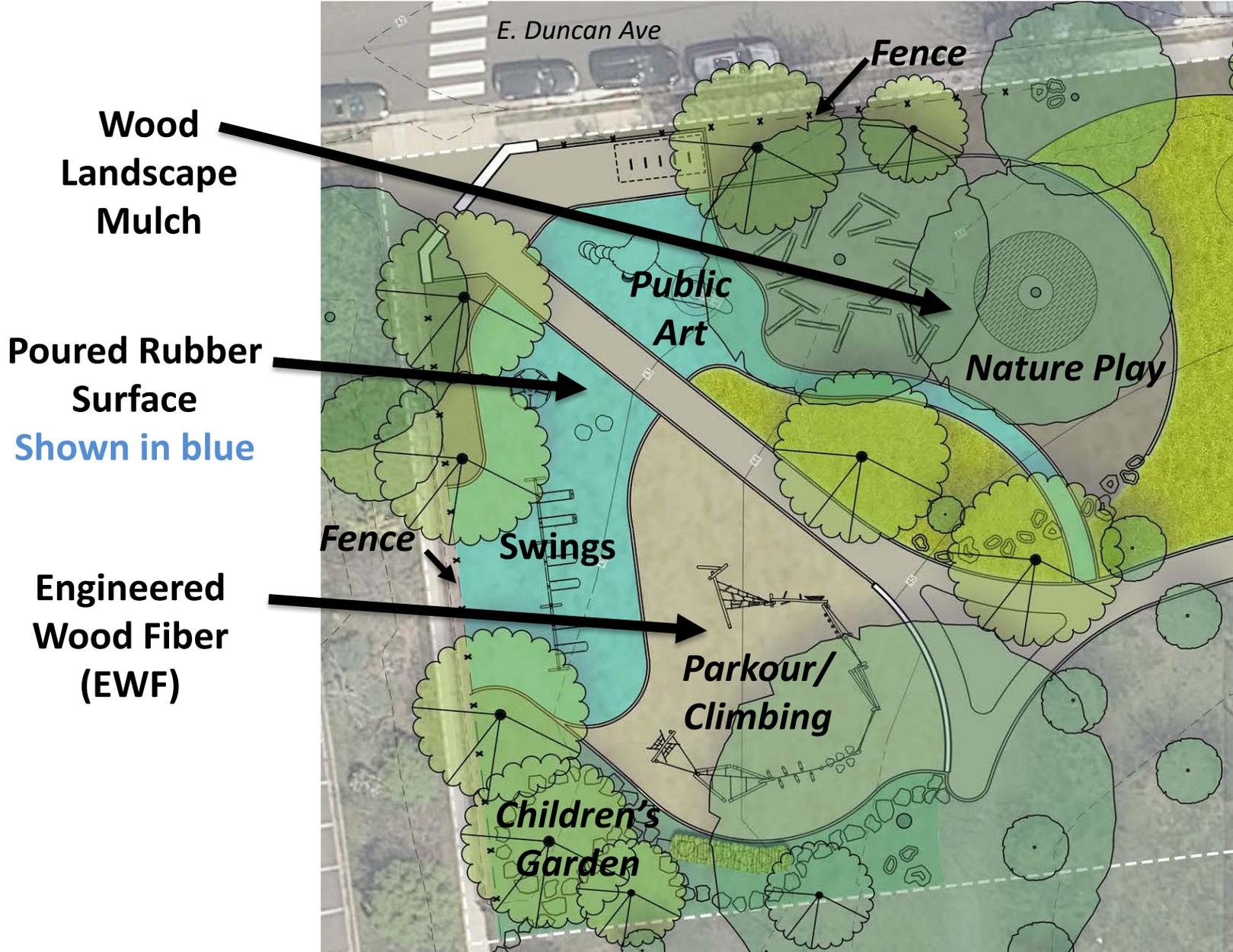




Discussion

- Playground Surfacing
- Playground Boundaries/Fencing
- Playground Equipment Options

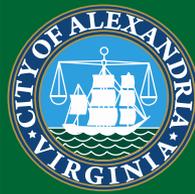
Playground Surfacing





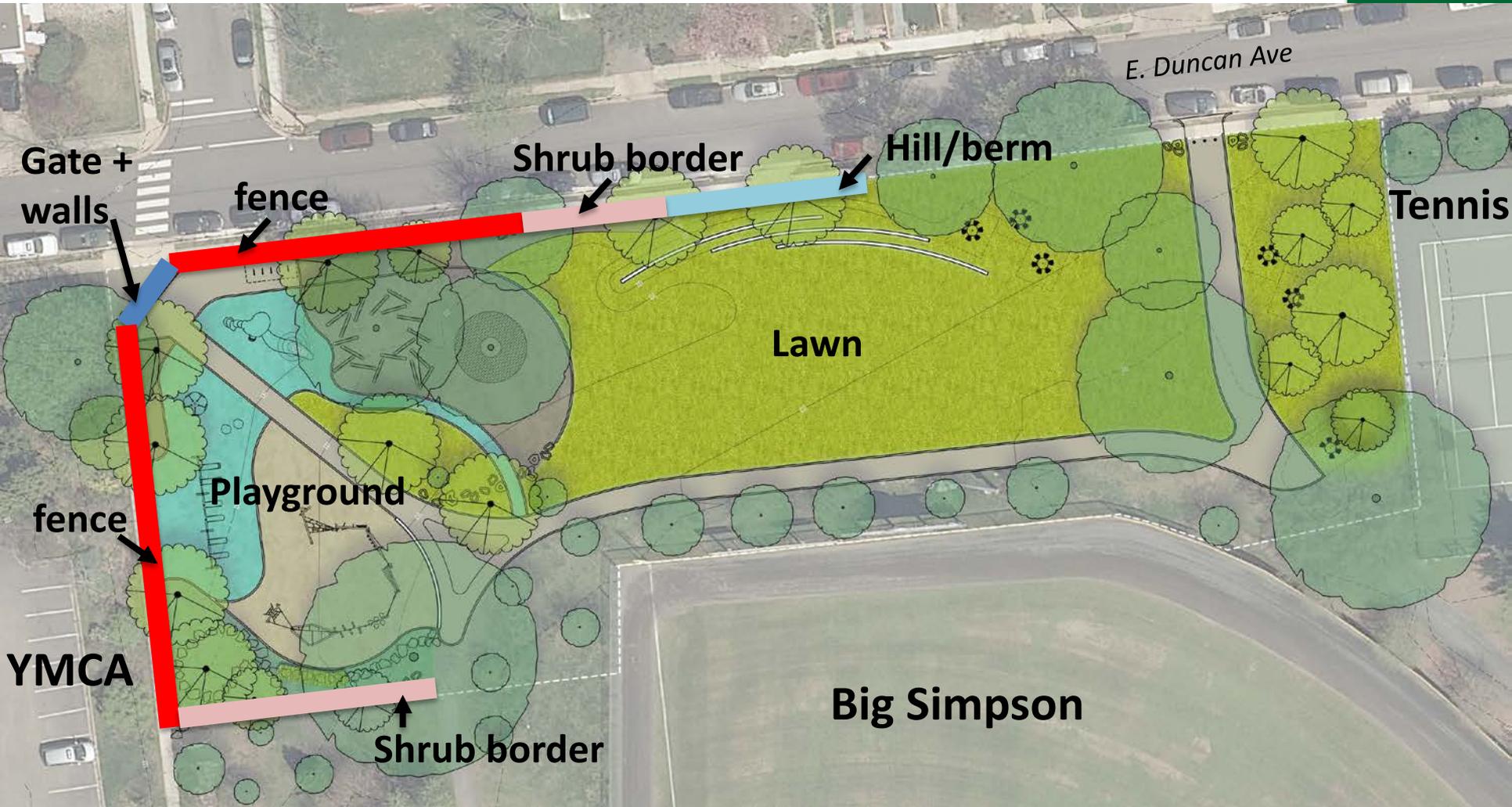
Combination Poured in Place Rubber and Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF)

Background on Surfacing Selection



- The rubber surfacing provides **ADA accessibility**, provides consistent **impact attenuation**, improves **site drainage**, and **reduces maintenance**.
- The community expressed interest in using **rubberized surfacing** in the **Citywide Plan** with **244 completed surveys** collected in that effort.
- This plan **splits the surfacing** material into areas with **rubber surfacing** and areas with **engineered mulch** or shredded hardwood mulch, where applicable.
- The **City's health department** has conducted extensive **research** on rubber materials here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploaded/Files/recreation/info/AlexandriaHealthDepartmentCrumbRubberReview16Sep2015PRC.pdf>
- The rubber surface is **cleaned by pressure washing** and can be further washed using **biodegradable or organic solvents**, as recommended by the manufacturer.
- The poured in place rubber surface will contain a **subsurface drainage** system to quickly drain water and **reduce standing water**.
- As with many finishes and surfaces, during hot weather the surfaces may get warm however the rubber surfacing **does not typically exceed the temperature of a tennis court**. Adults are advised to **use caution** and to check surfaces **before allowing** children in the playground or on equipment. **Lighter colors** will be used at Simpson.

Preferred Concept Alternative Boundaries/Fencing Location



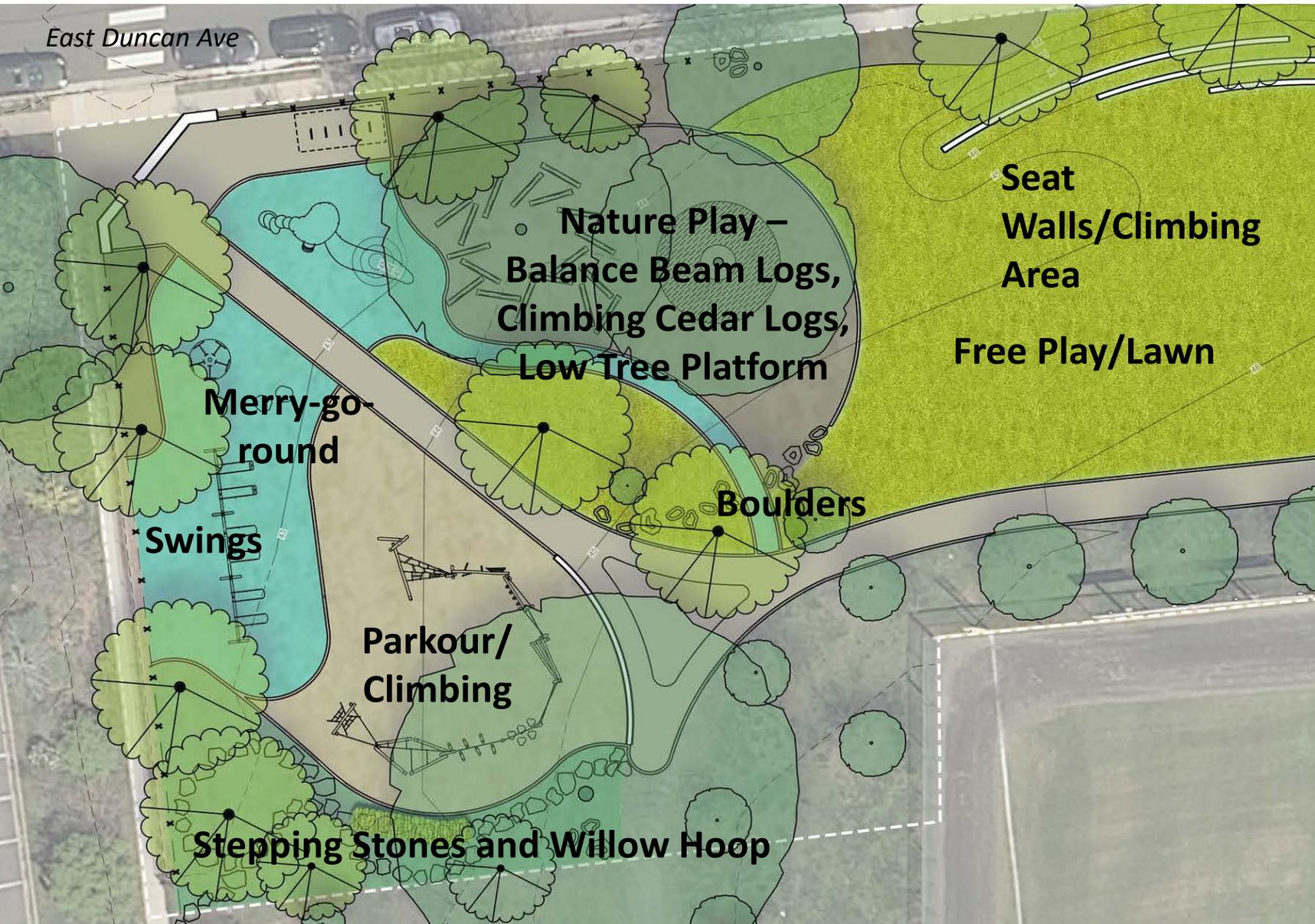
Seat walls



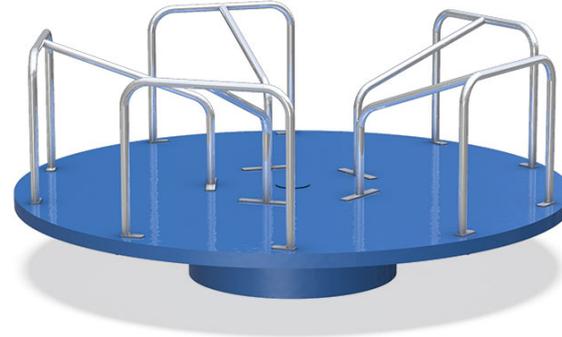
Metal ornamental fence (City standard)



Preferred Concept Alternative Playground Features

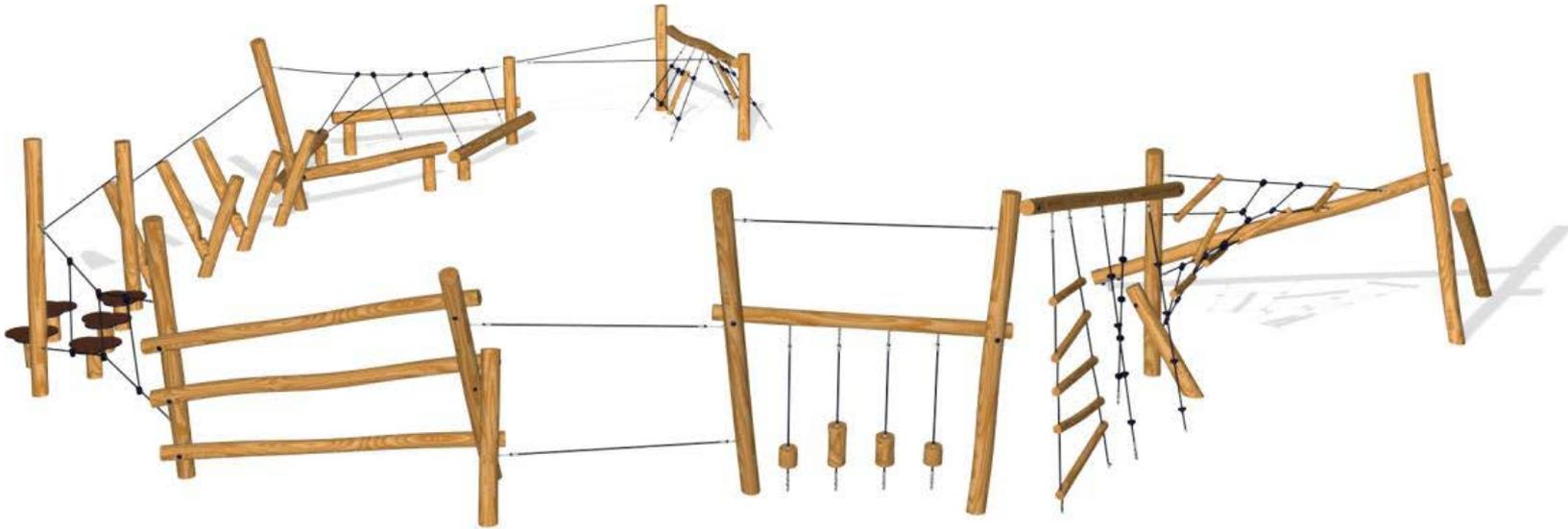


Swing and Spin



Parkour Climbing Course

Ages 5+ (5-12)



Nature Play

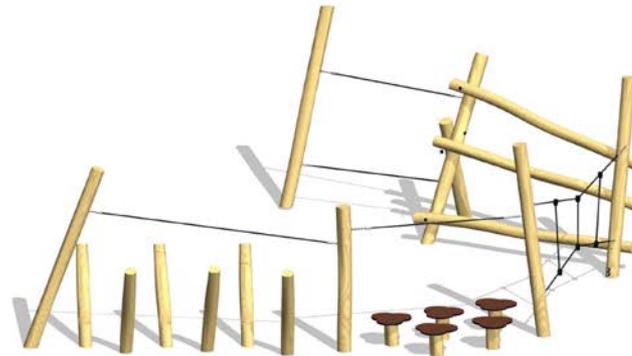
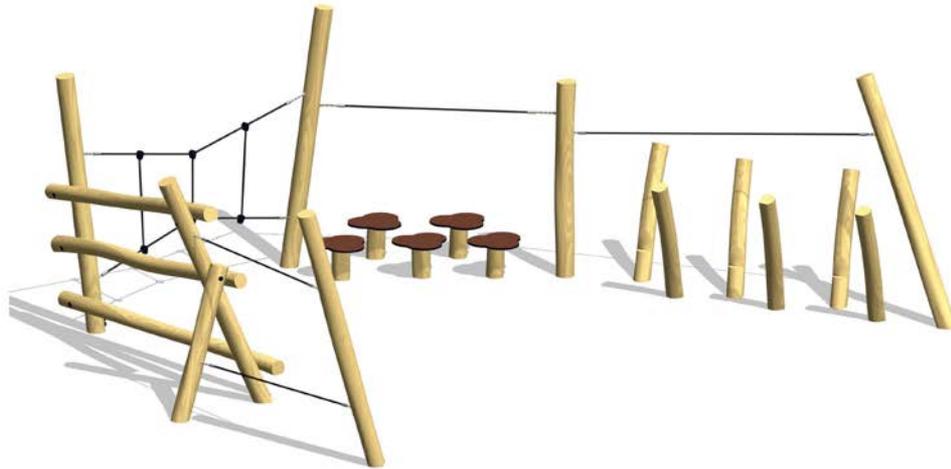


Half Parkour Climbing Course

Ages 5+ (5-12)

NRO892206

In-Ground Footings
2016 CUSTOM



Track ride tower (transfer station not shown) 5+ (5-12 years)



Play Tower with slide and rings



Slides



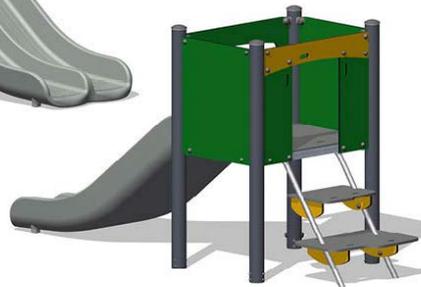
Ages 5-12



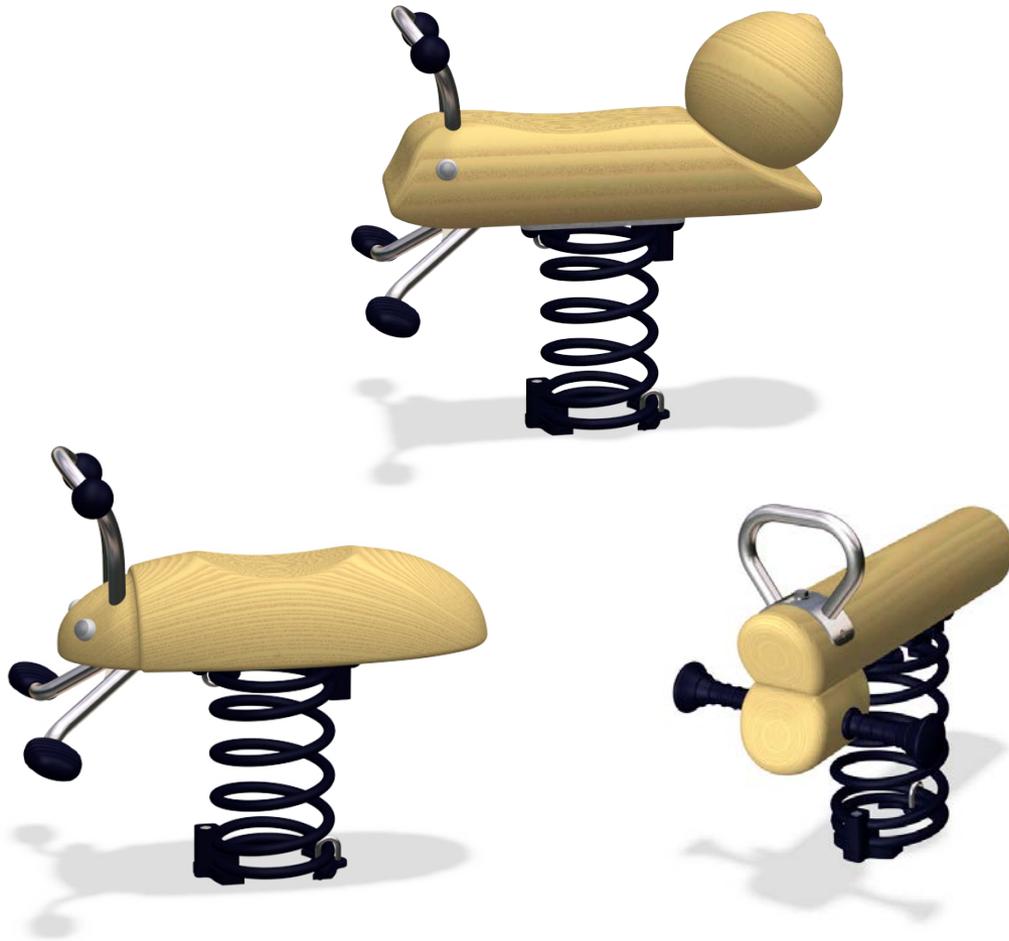
Ages 2-5



Ages 2-5



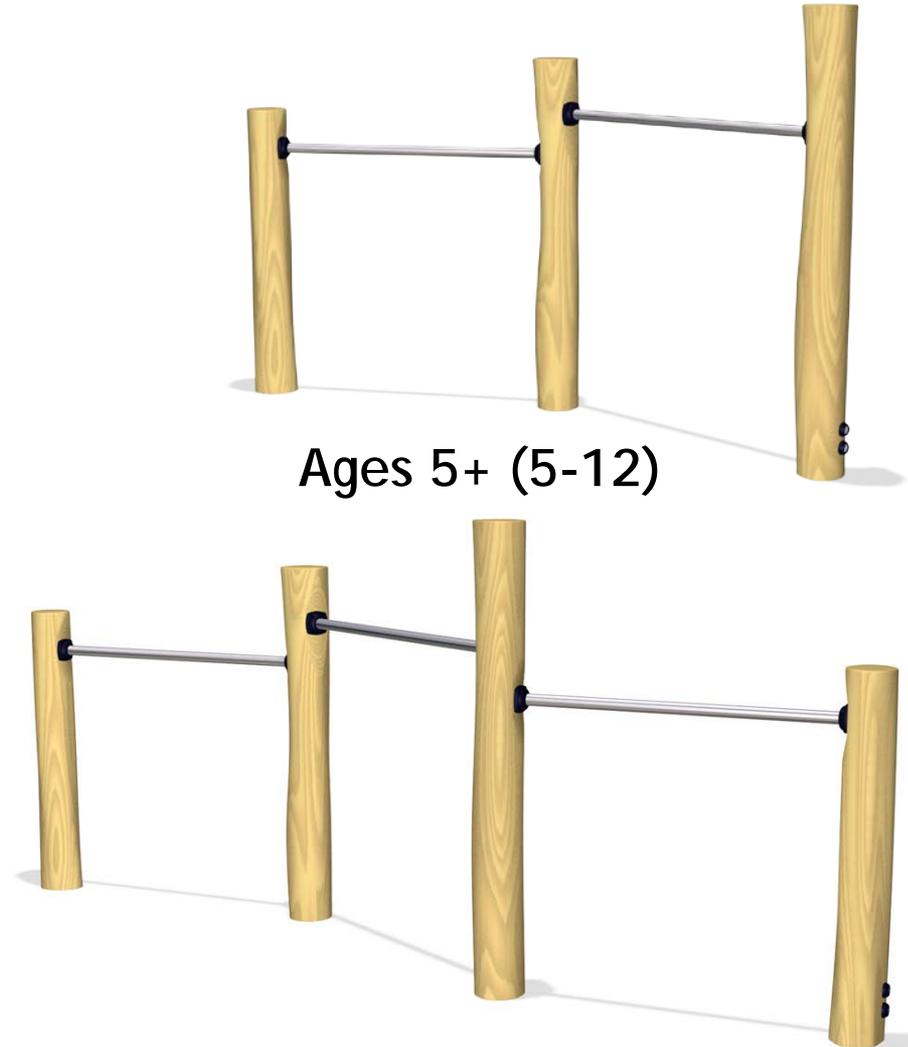
Springers 2+ (2-5 years)



Overhead Fitness Ladder and Somersaults



Ages 13+



Ages 5+ (5-12)



Next Steps

- Final Concept posted to project website by the end of October
- Construction Documents October – December
- Construction in Spring of 2017



Contact Information

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