

# Puget Ridge Playground

## Community Comment on Design and Play Equipment Selection.

Our public process included listening to the desires of the community through an online survey (with nearly 100 responses), two public meetings (April 16 at Sanislo School and June 6 at the park site itself), and posting illustrations of the selected design and play equipment at the park site and on the project web page for comment (July 30 through August 14). The public comment received at each of these meetings was considered during the preliminary design process and a summary of the latest comments (received on the preferred site design and selected play equipment) was also considered prior to finalizing the design and equipment selection. The table below summarizes the comments on the design and selected play equipment where the primary points were to maintain the “charm” of the little park and keep the focus for the play equipment on younger kids.

Please follow the design changes on the project page as the project moves through the final design phases in the next few months.



Comment	Staff Comment
Overall comments	
We are happy the park is being renovated; The new design looks great; Like that most of green space remains intact.	There was strong community comment to maintain the fenced green spaces, update the seating, and provide a climbing structure and clubhouse/playhouse that works for younger kids and older as well to replace the well-used existing wood structure.
Disappointed in the new play equipment selection; prefer wood structures. The charm and character of the little park is being lost. Equipment selection feels generic, losing the uniqueness of existing park; “nature-themed” should be wooden climbing structures.	<p>We know there is a strong desire for wooden play equipment to replace the old equipment, but because of termite problems, along with safety and maintenance issues, Parks has moved away from wood.</p> <p>The design and play equipment selection include maintaining the fully fenced play area, incorporating a wooded trail around the perimeter, including a climbing structure with monkey bars, a playhouse, and spinners, adding more seating and plantings, and retaining all but one tree; all of which was described as desirable components by community members participating in the process. We are reviewing the equipment selection in light of the comments received and will modify components as possible given budget constraints.</p>
We would like the playground to continue to be geared to younger kids like the existing play equipment, which seem to be for the average two-year old.	The equipment selection is primarily for younger kids, but the main climbing structure is intended for both younger and older kids so that the structure has a higher play value as the primary structure of the playground.
Like the timber color scheme – fits with nature-theme	Although Parks is moving away from wood structures due to the termite and maintenance issues, we worked to meet the desires of the community for a forest/nature theme that was desired by the community.
Like the playhouse and how it is located on path so kids can start there and explore.	Providing a clubhouse/playhouse was highly desired.
Is the current gate going to stay?	The existing gate will be retained, but modified slightly to conform to ADA standards.
There are existing Azalea’s/Rhody’s situated along the east fence. Will these be preserved? Will there be new plantings here?	The existing azalea’s will remain and additional native plantings will also be provided in pockets along the entire perimeter of the park.
Will the lawn area need to be maintained by the local residents? Will there be irrigation, or will the community need to continue watering this park?	A quick coupler will be added to water connection to aid in hose-bid connection. We are discussing what maintenance can be provided by Parks Maintenance division.

Upper-Terrace Play Area	
The climbing structure seems to be the same as what is going into a lot of Seattle Parks.	Although styles differ and specific play components vary, climbing structures are highly desired in each Seattle Parks playground. These usually include similar components, including platforms, ladders and slides, and often monkey bars - all highly desirable for play. We tailor the style, components and configuration to be age appropriate, meet the community desires and fit the site.
Disappointed other ADA suggested play equipment wasn't used in final selection, such as playhouse; these would keep the same vibe and uniqueness of this park.	We did consider the playhouse structures that was suggested, however given budget constraints for the project we decided to go with one play equipment company to reduce overall costs.
The current climbing structure works well for our young crowd (2-5 years). What age is the new climbing structure geared to? It seems to be geared to older kids.	The proposed structure is designed and approved for ages 2-12. The community desire expressed at the two meetings was to provide play that was primarily aimed at younger kids, but also would accommodate older kids particularly for the play structure. This structure meets both age levels.
Would like an ADA ramp to roll up onto the play structure. There are kids in wheelchairs in the neighborhood.	A wheelchair ramp will be added to both the upper and lower sections of the play area. A wheelchair transfer will be provided for the play structure.
We would like a 2-5 play structure with a smaller slide – something like GameTimes “Mother Tree” which could tie into the larger play structure style.	In our online survey and public meetings, we received extensive feedback that people wanted monkey bars. The suggested play structure would prevent the ability to include the popular feature.
We would like an ADA wide ramp added for children to wheel up to the larger play structure. Please add in interactive panels up on the inside.	We will look at whether a larger ramp to the climbing structure can be provided, but given the site constraints and manufactures options, this may be the largest possible. The play structure will be accessible by way of an ADA compliant transfer station. We will look at including interactive panels within the structure.
Lower-Terrace Play Area	
What ADA features are included in the play equipment?	The lower play area includes free standing play panels (i.e. the musical chimes), which don't require a use-zone of 72" like the springers do. The springers are not ADA play equipment.
There seems to be little play value in the lower play area. Can another springer be place in the lower play area instead of the musical panels? The existing springers are used a lot and we will be losing the see-saw bench seats that are popular because parents can sit with these kids.	There is no space for any additional springers here. Springers require a safety use-zone around each of the springer toys. Play panels do not require use-zone. The layout of the selected springers completely max-out the space available in this part of the play area.  However, we are looking at the play value of the selected springers and we will see if there are others that might better meet community desires, accessible requirements and fit within the space of the lower play area.

Can the music maker interactive panels be swapped for nature-themed interactive panels? Music toys seem out of place here given the close proximity to residences.	We are looking at other play panels that would fit this suggestion.
Suggest adding an Arch swing And Rainbow Arch inclusive ball roller (model #5056 and model # 3087  Removed- All musical stations. Please replace with nature themed interactive panels. This park is nestled in our neighborhood and we are worried about sound.	The site is too small for play swings. We are considering a bench swing as a potential seating option.  We are considering alternative play panels.
<b>South End &amp; Lawn Area</b>	
Why are there so many log benches at the south end of the play area.	These are logs, not benches; they are intended to make the loop trail feel more natural and wooded.
Is it possible to place a baby swing somewhere at all? Or an Arch swing? Any chance that a swinging bench could be included in the south end of the play area?	We looked at sizing a baby swing early on and it was determined that the site was too small. Unfortunately, the amount of space that swings require is far beyond what this park can accommodate. We are looking at a swinging bench for the area south of the upper play area, but this is cost-dependent and we cannot guarantee it at this time.
Is it possible to utilize the sloping lawn space for play equipment?	The lawn area was highly valued by many participants in the online survey and those attending the public meetings.
Are those benches along the trail at the south end?	The logs shown on the plan are not benches; they are intended to make the loop trail feel more natural and wooded.
Is there room to include more rocks and balance logs or climbing “mushrooms” in the park for kids to climb on?	There will be rocks and logs added to the trail that goes around the perimeter of the park. Budget will likely restrict climbing mushrooms though.
<b>Public Process</b>	
Frustrated with the public process.	We understand that public process doesn’t always meet everyone’s needs. The budget for this park is small and we tailored the process to gathering information from those that used the park and lived in the neighborhood by conducting an online survey and two community meetings, notifying people by

<p><u>Online survey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions focused on desired theme, instead of what activities are desired.</li> <li>• Survey images seemed inappropriate for the young age and small size of the park.</li> <li>• Many neighbors were expecting a wood structure that catered more towards toddlers than 5-12.</li> </ul> <p><u>Community Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific selected play equipment choices were provided at the 2nd community;</li> <li>• The 3 musical panels were new and not discussed previously.</li> <li>• Having images of play equipment at the second meeting would have been beneficial to everyone.</li> </ul>	<p>placing a sign at the park, providing flyers in schools and community centers in the area and postcards to nearby residents.</p> <p>The online survey asked for input on how the park is used now, what elements the community likes, what play equipment style is desired (showing images of various styles), what play activities are most desired (showing images of different types of play), and what features are most desired, including play for ages 2-5 or ages 5-12. The results were presented at the meeting and provided on the project website. The nature inspired theme was the most highly desired style and the top three play activities were climbing sliding and rockers/springers. Play geared to toddlers (ages 2-5) was rated highest, and play for ages 5-12 was second.</p> <p>At the meetings, staff described the overall project, also explaining that the renovation was a priority because the wood structure needed to be replaced due to its age and the fact that other wood structures from the same manufacture were being removed in other parks due to termite issues compromising the structural integrity of the equipment. Parks is moving away from wood play structures for this reason and due to other maintenance issues and costs.</p> <p>Although the specifically selected play equipment was not shown at the second meeting, the selected play equipment style and a photograph of a similar climbing structure to the one selected were presented, along with other images of play equipment options within that style. These were discussed at the meeting at the park, along with the site design proposal. The site plan showed the proposed layout of equipment, as well illustrating the other planned park features, including the trail and seating plaza.</p> <p>To accommodate concerns that the final selection of equipment had not been shown, Parks equipment illustrations at the park and on the project website and allowed additional comment which is presented in this summary.</p>
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