

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS FOR KENNEDY PARK
6:00 pm Thursday, December 5,
2024 via Zoom

- Introductions – Mike Sturm
- Playground Design Process
 - a. Playground Workshop – Discuss project location, timeframe, budget, general equipment selection, surfacing
 - b. Playground Meeting – Two playground concepts for playground will be presented based on input from previous meeting, select one concept, identify any changes needed
- City of Madison Playgrounds
 - a. Over 180 playgrounds!
 - b. Highest number of playground per capita in the United States
 - c. Guidelines for playground development
 - i. Develop a sustainable system
 - ii. No more than one playground area per park
 - iii. Standardized playground design process
- Playground Equipment Standards
 - a. City of Madison
 - i. Promotion of wide variety of skill sets
 - ii. Manage long term maintenance costs
 - iii. Provide quality equipment
 - b. National Standards
 - i. US Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - ii. American National Standards Institute
 - iii. American Society for Testing and Materials
 - c. Colors
 - i. Natural colors will be shown as default for manufacturer selection
 - ii. Other color options are available for posts and handrails are available
 - d. Equipment
 - i. Play Structure
 - ii. Double bay swings structure with two belt and two tot swings
 - e. Surfacing
 - i. Must meet ASTM F1292 – Critical Fall Heights
 - ii. Must meet ASTM F1951 – ADA Accessibility
 - iii. Only wood fiber mulch and shredded rubber mulch meet those requirements
- Project Location & Site Constraints
 - a. Adjacent Playgrounds
 - i. There are 8 existing playgrounds within 1 mile of Kennedy Park (2 were replaced in the last 5 years (Hiestand (2019) and Galaxy (2020)); and one will be replaced this year as well (Portland Park (2025)).

- b. Site Conditions
 - i. The existing playground location can generally be reused –sits in a good location relative to other amenities in the park such as the picnic shelter and will retain existing asphalt path connection to the park’s main walking path access
 - ii. 2-3 new backed benches will be added adjacent to and/or within the new playground footprint; both of the existing benches that are semi- associated with the current playground are not in good shape (and generally sit very low) – they will be removed as part of the project.
 - iii. Existing equipment and mixed pea gravel/rubber surfacing will be fully removed with project – Parks staff makes every effort to reuse and recycle as many components as possible.
- Project Timetable
 - a. Construction in 2025 – Parks seeks to minimize “down time” from when existing equipment is removed to the new equipment going in. **If the neighborhood is aware of “blackout” dates for planned events/festivals in 2025, please let Kate know – the contract can be scheduled around the event to ensure the playground is still in-place.**
- Project Budget
 - a. Approximately \$72,000 for the playground equipment.
 - b. **(NOTE: Kennedy Park is a “Community” level park in the City of Madison and as such in 2025 Parks will be installing BOTH a 2-5 age range structure and a 5-12 age range structure)**
- **Kennedy Park Equipment and Play Surfacing Selection**
 - a. Age Group: attendees reached consensus for intended age range choosing a **as noted above, Kennedy Park will receive both a 2-5 age range structure and a 5-12 age range structure in 2025.**
 - b. Surfacing: The attendees discussed the pros/cons of both wood fiber and rubber mulch surfacing along with the preferred but exceeding budget contiguous surfaces used at the inclusive playgrounds in Madison (ex. Poured-in-place rubber) but landed through **majority vote for wood surfacing.**
 - c. Playlines: After discussion & review – attendees selected the playground manufacturer **Gametime for the 5-12 structure** and **Burke for the 2-5 structure** and requested the next designs to show playground structures that have a **roofed elements (both age ranges)** and **hanging seats/roped steppers and climbing features** such as those shown on the middle image of the 5-12 Gametime visual; as well as a **storefront panel/shop window, teeter totter element and driver’s wheel on the 2-5 structure.**
 - d. Colors: attendees liked the idea of returning a **“purple” playground** to Kennedy – as that is how it is generally known by the neighborhood. The options to **add “lime/limon” and “sky/light blue” handrails** to accompany the **purple posts** was appealing and would allow attendees at the next session to choose from equipment designs with these color options for the next meeting.
 - e. Fundraising was discussed primarily around the request to utilize contiguous surfacing (such as poured-in-place rubber) but given the approximately 3x cost increase it was seen as exceeding the capabilities within the neighborhood.

- Next Steps
 - a. Please share this information with all those who would like to receive it – attendance at the next meeting does not require attendance at the workshop!
 - b. Email Kate Kane at kkane@cityofmadison.com to share input on surfacing preference and to receive email notification of future playground meetings.
 - c. Kate will take information from this meeting and incorporate into conceptual designs (including two equipment designs) to be presented at a follow-up playground meeting.
 - d. Follow-up meeting will additionally be noticed via e-mail, City of Madison Parks website, and sent to alder.

If interested in receiving notice of the next playground meeting, please contact Kate Kane at kkane@cityofmadison.com or at (608) 261-9671.

The next meeting will be on January 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm via Zoom