

Lyseth Playground Renovation

Conceptual Site Plan

10-29-2021

Portland Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Lyseth Community Playground Renovation

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions Examples

Issues observed or reported about the site.

Pictured:

Ship Wreck structure in disrepair. Similar conditions for other wood elements (swing bridge, stage, etc) and play structures.



Pictured:

Drainage issues in playground. Poorly drained soils make areas unusable for long periods.



Pictured:

Safety concerns for a lack of boundary on blacktop school space and parking areas.



Project Focus, Existing Conditions

Project Focus - The primary focus on playground improvements is the existing woodchip play area, existing equipment elements, pathways, and immediate adjacent spaces, shown in the diagram above.

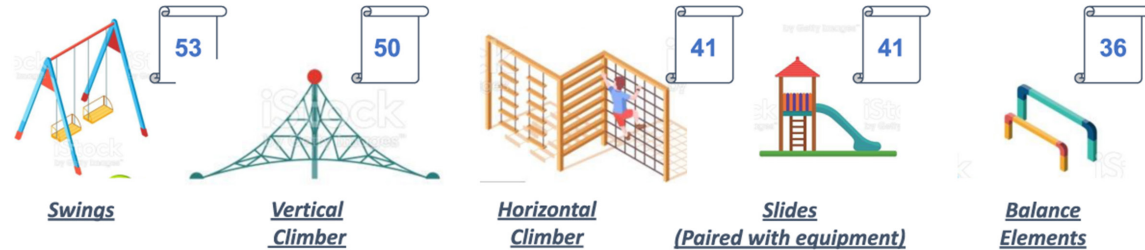
Existing Conditions-

Areas that exhibited drainage issues or provided opportunity for accommodating high demand new elements in a modest manner were included in the design study. Design improvements were based on site assessments, focus group meetings with stakeholders, and feedback from Portland citizens / playground user groups. Prioritization is being made to resolving drainage conditions, providing equipment updates to highly requested needs such as climbing elements, swings, natural play spaces, and improved play structure features (slides, bridges, etc) are targeted to resolve material deterioration and safety concerns.

Public Survey- A thorough survey was shared with school faculty and staff, parks and rec staff, Parent Teachers Association members, neighborhood groups, and the general public to confirm identified concerns with the play area and gather priorities for stakeholders. The surveys were conducted in early spring of 2021, and results are found on the project website: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2703/Lyseth-Playground-Renovation>

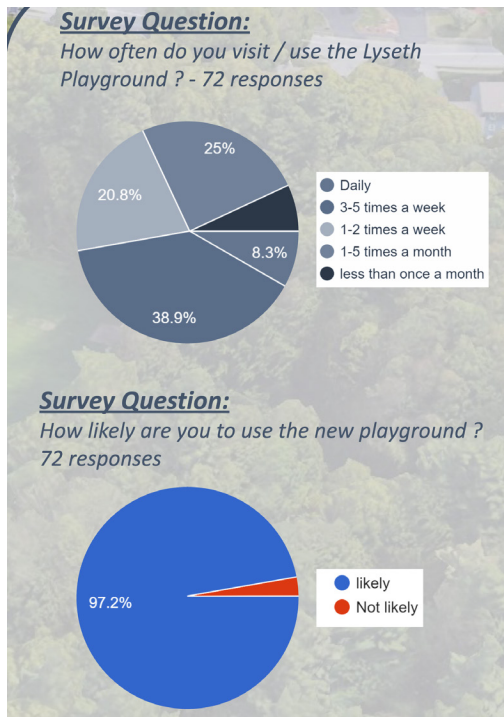
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Outreach efforts and feedback summary



Pictured right:
Highly desired play elements

Respondents Playground Use



Pictured:
72 survey respondents scheduled use of the playground, and perceived future use



Survey summary:

- Respondents engaged** - Numerous public stakeholders, School faculty and City staff provided feedback into the design process. Groups were given survey materials to share perspectives on existing conditions, current use and play activities in the existing playground, what specific concerns exist, and types of desired focus areas there are for the renovation. Site visits were made with members of public works and parks staff, and in person meetings with stakeholders were held to establish important design parameters.
- Survey-take aways**- Most people felt that the children they associate with enjoyed the current playground space. While the satisfaction of the play area was generally felt to be high, concerns about the material condition of existing features, particularly wooden playground elements like the play bridge, plywood stage and log ship, and adjacencies to the parking lot were voiced in feedback.
- Highly used elements:** Most highly used elements in the current space were swings, the net climber, the slides in the play structure, the other elements of the play-structure, the asphalt path, multipurpose field and the forest area along the pine grove trail.
- Highly desired elements** - Swings and climbing experiences were the most requested types of play experiences to provide in the renovation. Also important were equipment features with slides, balance elements, natural play, play structures, overhead bars, and asphalt loop play path, and opportunities for dramatic play.

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Conceptual Landscape Plan

Pictured Right:

Concept plan rendering showing locations of new play equipment, pathways, and other elements



Program Elements:

1. **Climbing Area** - Centralized play area with vertical and traverse (horizontal) climbing elements. Smaller challenge elements for balance and strength
2. **Double Loop Pathway** - Asphalt play path and circulation design to connect playground entrances and promote play circulation between destination elements.
3. **Nature Play / Outdoor Classroom** - Two areas for flexible uses, either focused play or organized teaching. Plantings, lawn, fencing, and boulder elements help define the area and provide interactive natural features for children and visitors.
4. **Nature Play - Natural building and digging area** - dedicated space for visitors to dig, assemble, and collaborate on natural material creations.
5. **Swings and Hammocks** - Swing elements will be increased, with a dedicated pocket for hammocks and a swing set tucked into the existing wood lot edge.
6. **Parking Improvements** - Safety bollards installed to restrict vehicle access to play areas, expanded lawn and infiltration plantings to define play area perimeter.
7. **Playstructure Improvement** - New playstructure with slides, platforms, and challenge elements. Adjacent structures may include springer, accessible swing and spinner
8. **Play Entry Plaza** - Pull off area or departure threshold for play structure space transition. Style of plaza could be useful tool for fund raising elements or special elements about playground.
9. **Masterplan (potential future expansions, funding based)**- Pre-K / Toddler play space, storage facility, basketball court re-alignment, & markings for blacktop play

Lyseth Community Playground Renovation

Climbing Loop Enlargement Plan



Play Element Examples

Example styles may differ, based on selected vendor



Pictured:

Example of natural timber style traverse (horizontal) climber.



Pictured:

Example of vertical climber play element, Longfellow elementary school climber shown.



Pictured:

Boulders and planting beds framing open lawn panel. Lawn can be a play area, or used as outdoor classroom

Program Elements:

Climbing Area - Centralized play area with vertical and traverse (horizontal) climbing elements. Smaller challenge elements for balance and strength

1. Traverse Climber - Linear climbing equipment, ropes, vertical line elements, posts, balancing elements in a challenging equipment layout.
2. Vertical Climber - Taller vertical climber, likely central post with extended rope "wings" to accommodate larger age ranges, abilities, and numbers of young climbers.
3. Balance beam / gymnastic bar / rope bridge / balance posts - Variety of smaller elements that focus on balance activities and movement play.
4. **Climbing Loop Pathway** - Asphalt play path 6' - 8' wide. Lower portion wider and re-inforced for maintenance access. Connects to Structure play path loop, Pine Trail, and neighborhood entrance.
5. **Entry Lawn / Outdoor Classroom** - Open lawn space with a ring of sittable / playable boulders and planting beds. Allows for maintenance access with a new, removable parking lot bollard
6. **Care Giver Seating** - Benches with accessible space for wheeled equipment pull ins.
7. **Future Pre-school play area** - possible expansion for preschool and toddler play settings

Play Element Examples
Example styles may differ,
based on selected vendor



Pictured Right:
Natural building; insect habitat creations. This could occur in the digging /building area.



Pictured :
Talbot play equipment renovation. Slides, access steps in background, accelerator / nest swing in mid ground.



Pictured:
Two conventional swing seats with a "nest" or accelerator style group swing in the second stall.

Lyseth Community Playground Renovation
Play Structure Loop Enlargement



Program Elements:

1. **Bramblewood Play Entry Plaza**- Playground entry threshold, gathering area off of the loop pathway. Could be opportunity for commemorative element, paving art, or PTA fund raising feature.
2. **Play Structure Swings**- Central swing features. If funding allows, opportunity for inclusive swings
3. **Natural Building / Digging Space**- Small gravel for digging, and space for natural building materials from woods for play activities. Native planting bed, reclaimed curb and boulders on perimeter.
4. **Featured Play Structure** - Upgraded play structure, for ages 5-12 with slides, ladders, platforms, bar elements, and climb features. Foot print shown is example of Talbot structure.
5. **Supporting Play Elements** -Supporting play features, like an inclusive spinner, or spring riders
6. **Swings and Hammocks** - Swing elements will be increased, with a dedicated pocket for hammocks and a swing set tucked into the existing wood lot edge.
7. **Spectator Lawn / Natural Play**- Open lawn, with natural boulder seating, planting beds, fence line
8. **Seating / Play Path Loop**- Asphalt trail loop around play structure. Inclusive seating, curb edge