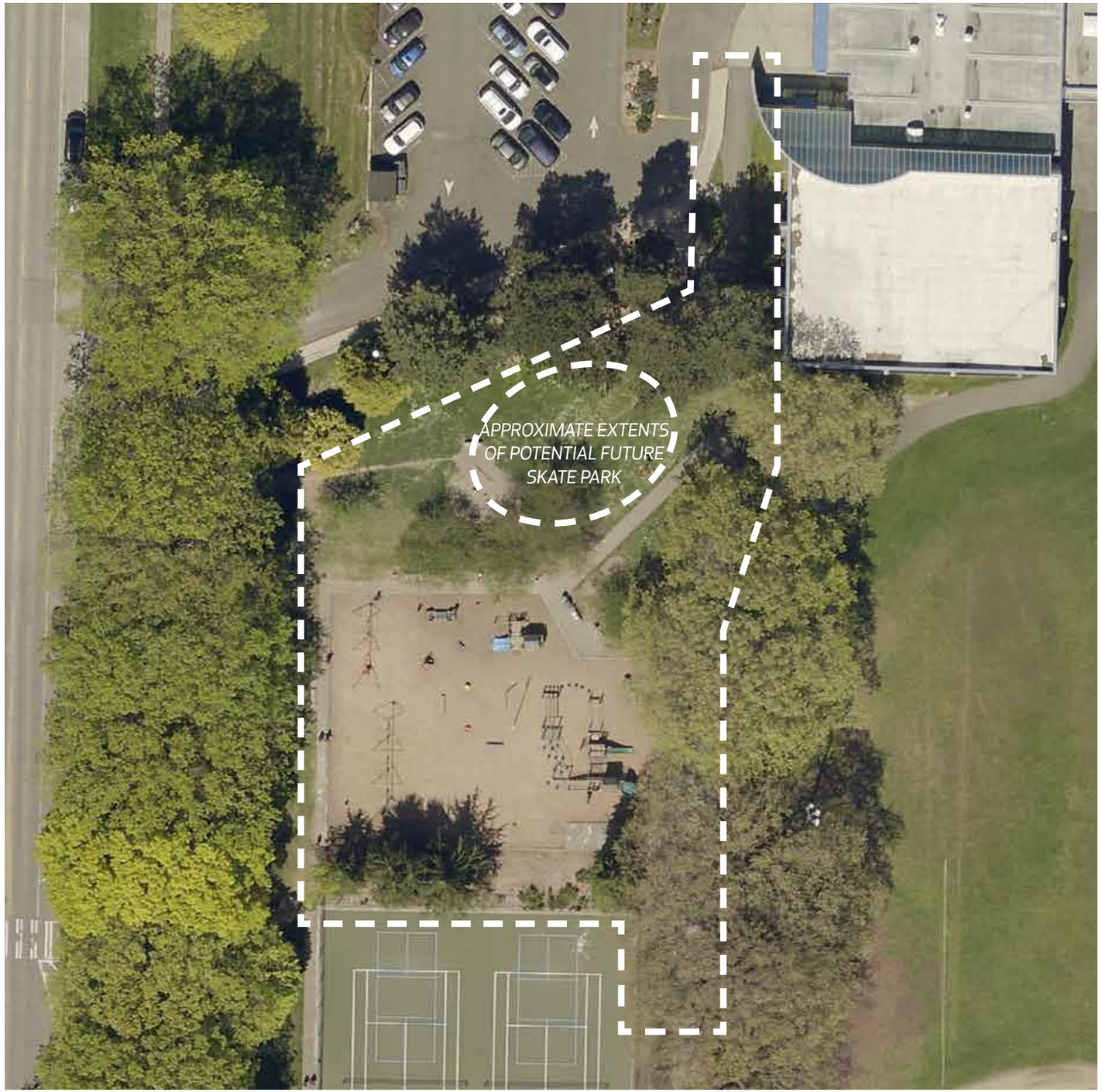


West Magnolia Playground Play Area Renovation

Project Website: https://engageseattleparks.com/west-magnolia-playfield-playground-renovation

Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Magnolia Playground | Play Area Renovation



West Magnolia Playfield Playground Renovation | 2026

Scope of work:

This project will replace the existing play equipment with new equipment that meets current safety and accessibility standards. All improvements will be compliant with the standards from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Site improvements will include:

- New play equipment (including age 2-5 and age 5-12 equipment and swings)
- New safety surfacing
- New site furnishings
- Repair of existing drainage infrastructure
- A new paved accessible route connecting the community center to the play area, tennis courts and future skate park (a separate, community-initiated project supported by a Neighborhood Matching Fund).

Budget:

Seattle Parks District Major Maintenance provides $2,643,301 for planning, design, construction.

Schedule:

Planning: Summer - Winter 2026

Design: 2027

Construction: 2028-2029

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Site Challenges



Non-compliant ramp

Existing ramp into the play area does not meet current accessibility standards





Wood structures in decline

Wood posts are showing signs of rot, requiring complete removal for safety

Non-compliant walkways

Existing walkways do not meet current accessibility standards.

Site Opportunities



Popular play features

Swings are popular across all age groups.





Strong community identity

The playground's connection to the community center creates a community hub

Continuous play

The current structures allow for continuous play loops

What we've heard from you...

What do you love about your playground?

- Central gathering place with easy access to schools, the library, sports fields, the community center and Magnolia Village.
- Shaded, natural environment created by mature trees and a comfortable year-round canopy.
- Wide range of play options supporting toddlers through older kids, encouraging long-term use.
- High-demand swings consistently used and enjoyed across all age groups.
- Ample seating through benches and picnic tables that support caregivers and social use.



What we've heard from you...

What is missing? What would make it even better?

- **More challenge for older kids**: advanced climbing, obstacle, and adventure-style features.
- **Better age separation**: clearer toddler vs. big-kid zones to reduce crowding and improve safety.
- **More shade & weather protection**: shaded play areas and covered structures.
- **Nature-based elements**: natural materials and richer sensory/nature play experiences.
- **Accessibility + safety improvements**: accessible swings, addressing uneven surfacing and lowering equipment entry thresholds so kids can climb safely.
- **Skate park integration (mixed)**: ~18 supportive responses and ~9 concerns, reflecting both enthusiasm and safety/ noise worries.



What we've heard from you...

What colors, themes or elements would make the playground feel more comfortable and/or welcoming for you?

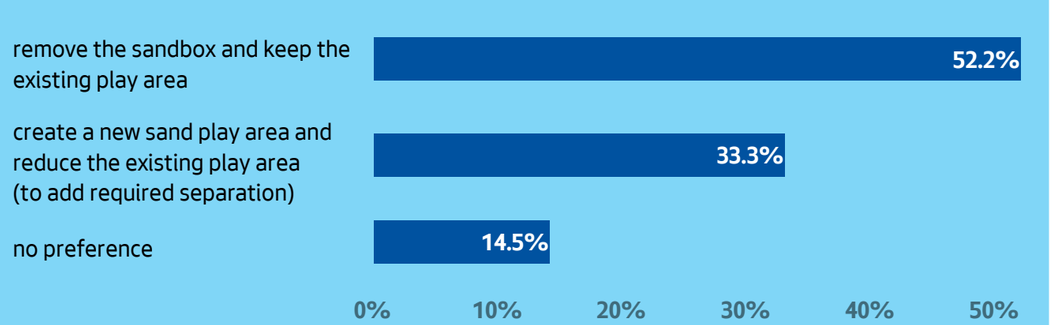
- **Nature-inspired palette**: Most respondents prefer greens, browns, wood tones, and natural-themed structures that blend with the surrounding trees and fit the PNW character.
- **Nature & marine themes**: Some suggested salmon, orca, or seal motifs tying into Magnolia's environment. Kids also proposed themes like rainbows or bright colors.
- **Unique artistic elements**: Several respondents would like one-of-a-kind sculpture or art features (similar to Carkeek's salmon slide or West Seattle's orcas).
- **Inclusive + accessible design**: Many respondents emphasized ADA-friendly play options, multi-generational usability, and equipment serving a wide range of abilities.



What we've heard from you...

The preferred location for the proposed skate park (identified through a separate community process) is very close to the existing sandbox. Because of this, the sandbox cannot safely remain where it is. We are considering two options: removing the sandbox entirely, or creating a smaller sand play area within the current play area footprint, which would require reducing the existing play area to accommodate the sand area and the required safety buffer.

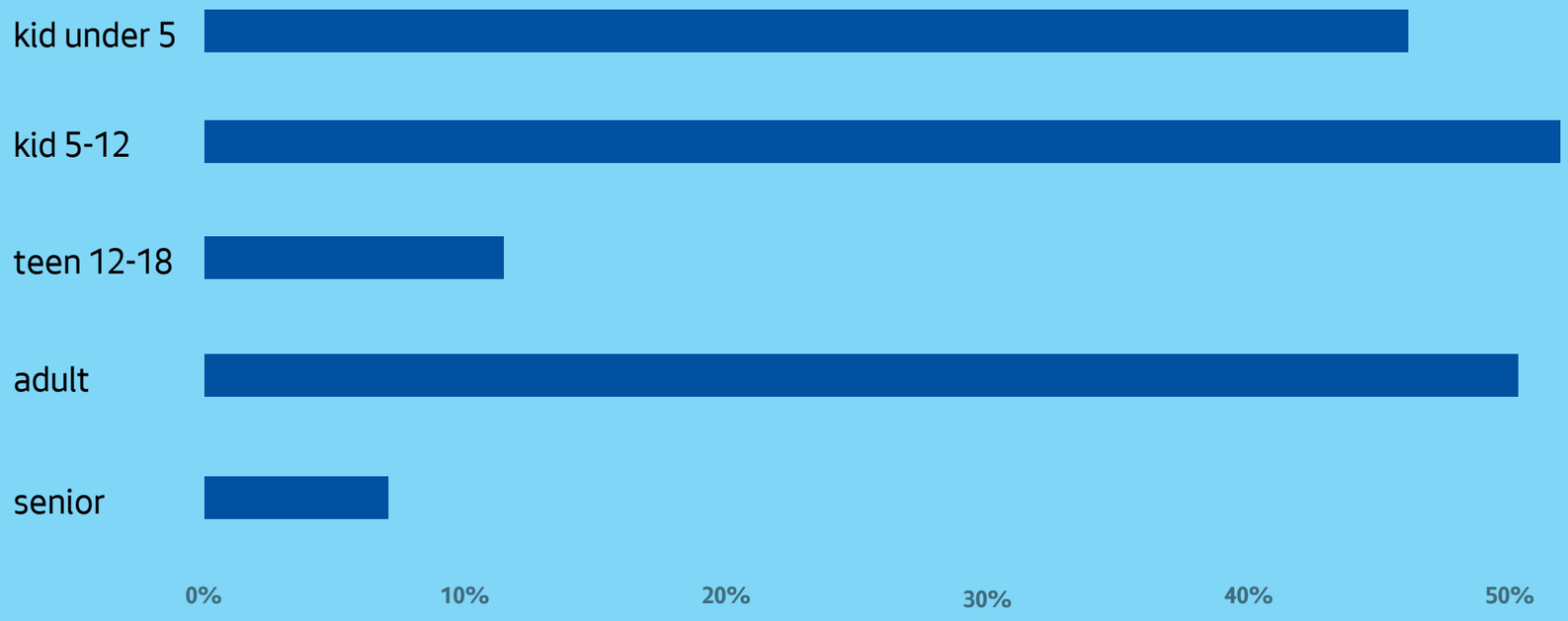
Which option do you prefer?





What we've heard from you...

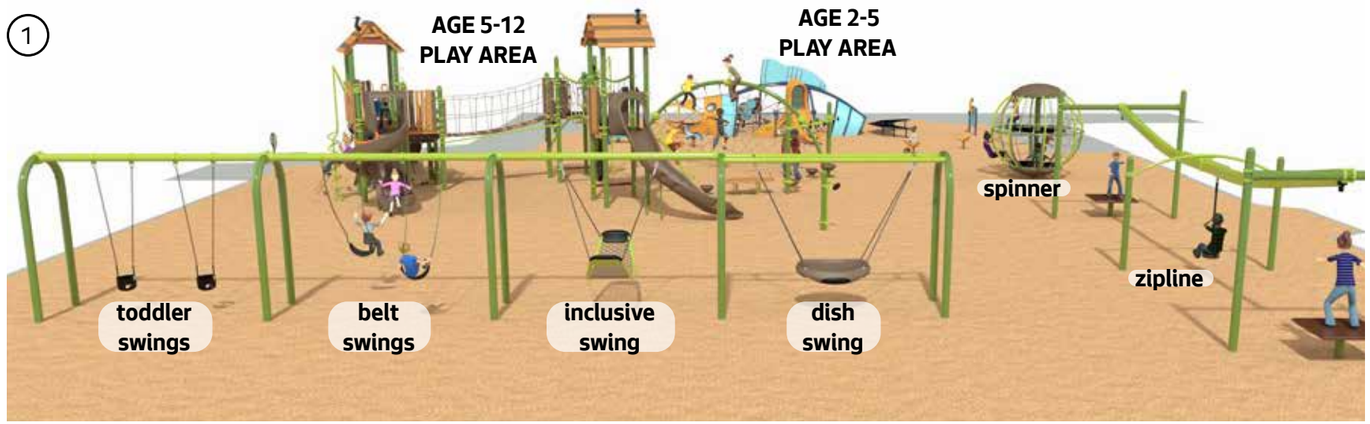
Age Groups Represented in Responses:

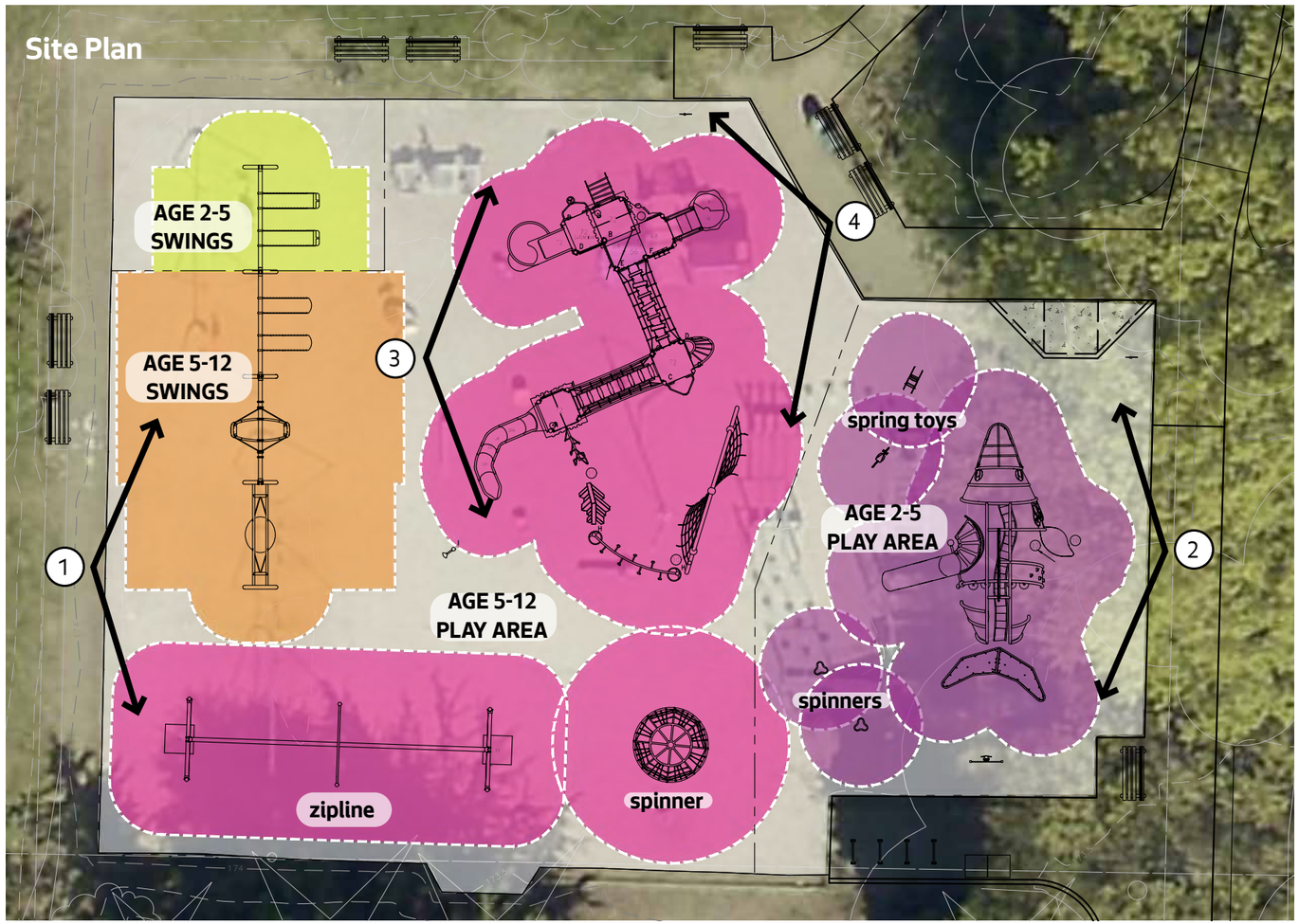




Design Option A

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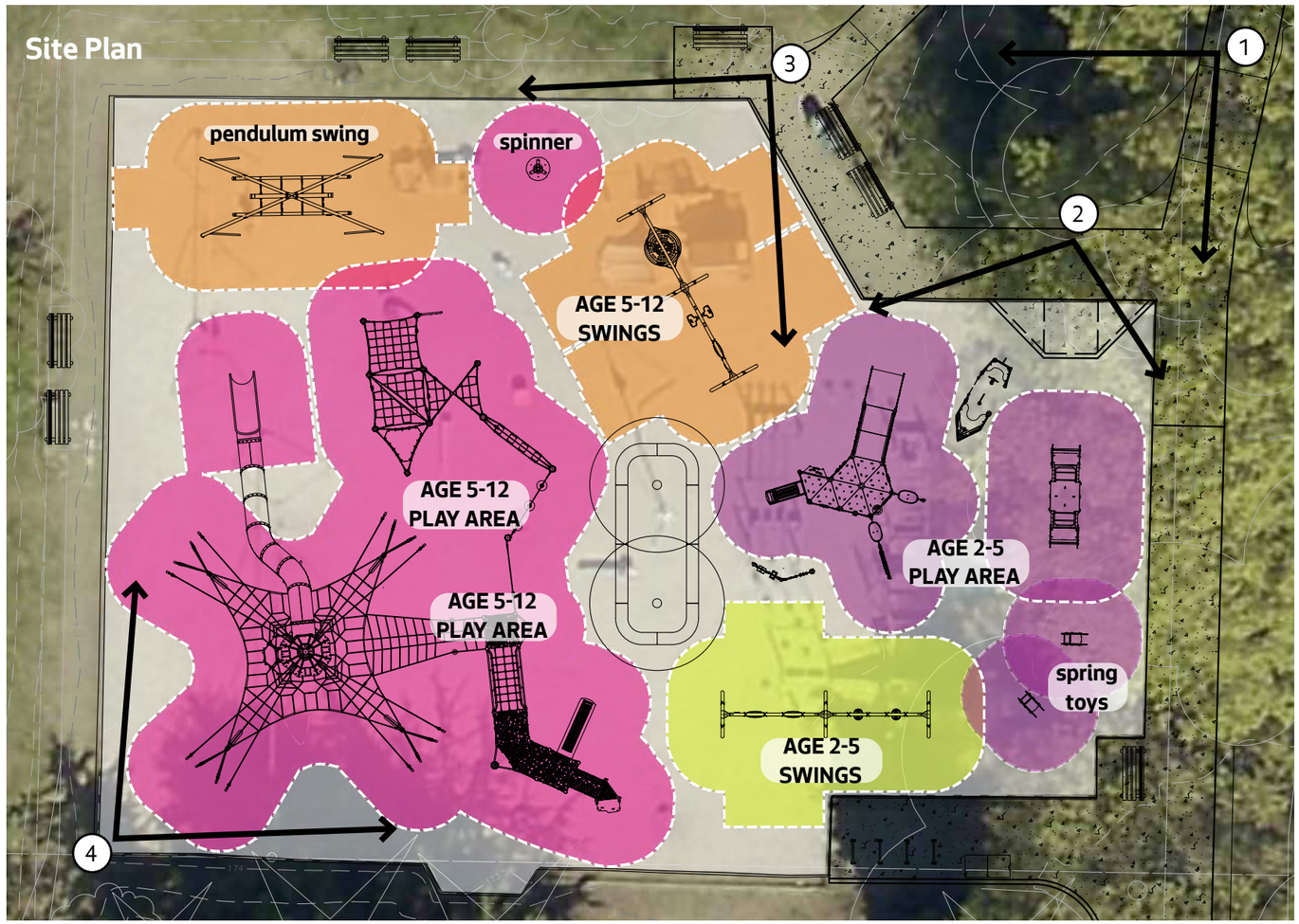


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Design Option B

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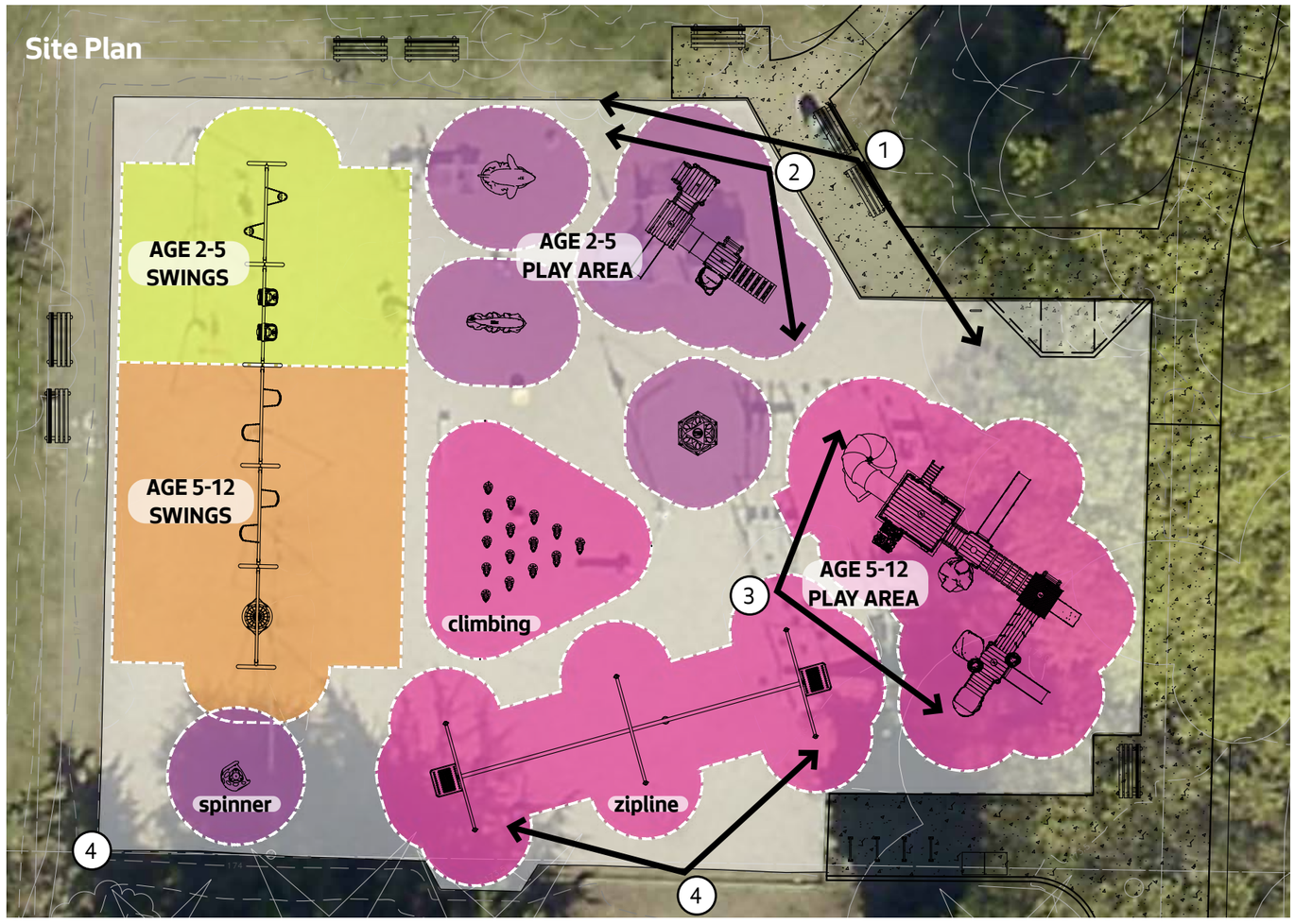


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Design Option C

1





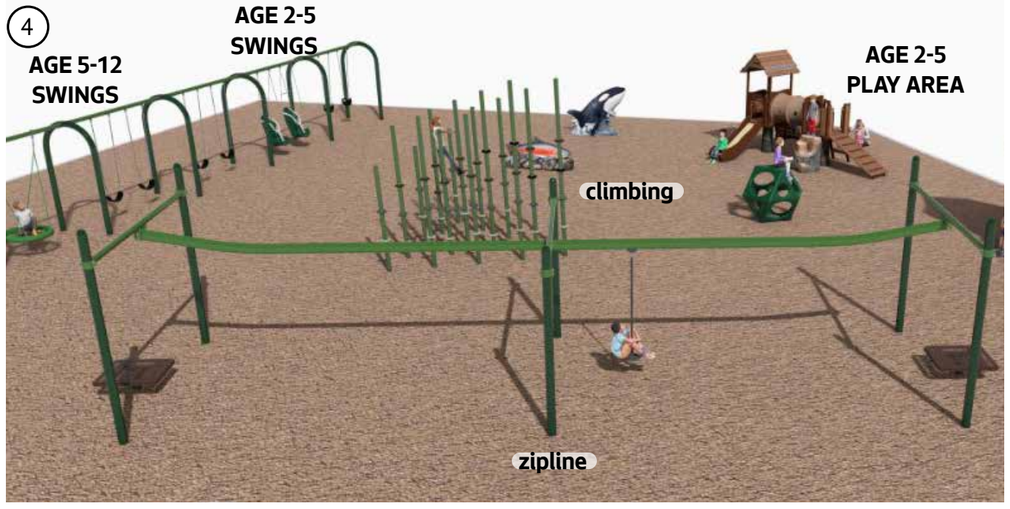
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Design Options

Option A



Age 2-5 play equipment:

- Fish-themed climber with imaginative play features and slide
- Small pod climbers for early balance practice
- Sea creature spring toys
- Periscope and nature-themed panels
- Small saddle spinners

Age 5-12 play equipment:

- Large climbing structure with a variety of nature-inspired climbers
- Multiple slide options, including tall and curved slides
- Monkey bars
- Freestanding net climber
- Accessible spinning globe for cooperative play
- Zipline

Proposed swings:

- 2 toddler swings
- 2 belt swings
- 1 inclusive multi-user swing
- 1 dish swing

Option B



Age 2-5 play equipment:

- Small play structure with ramp, slide and early climbing features
- Interactive panels (clock, tic-tac-toe, music, mirror)
- Boat-themed imaginative play
- Hammocks and benches
- Seesaw and sea creature spring toys

Age 5-12 play equipment:

- Large net-tower climber
- Straight slide and tunnel slide
- Multiple climbers (climbing wall, curly climber, vertical ladder, vertical nets)
- Suspension bridge and arch bridge
- Scooter carousel spinner

Proposed swings:

- 2 toddler swings
- 2 belt swings (age 2-5)
- 2 belt swings (age 5-12)
- 1 dish swing
- Pendulum swing (multi-user)

Option C



Age 2-5 play equipment:

- Nature-themed imaginative play structure
- Cozy Cocoon spinner
- Orca and Salmon climbers
- Playcube to support early climbing
- Interactive panels (Storefront, Slide-N-Learn)

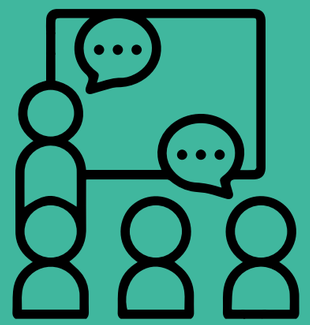
Age 5-12 play equipment:

- Nature-themed structure with multiple climbing and play routes
- Bamboo Jungle for active climbing and agility challenges
- Zipline

Proposed swings:

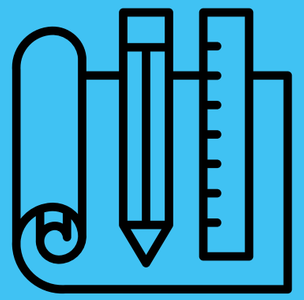
- 2 toddler swings
- 2 inclusive swings
- 4 belt swings (age 5-12)
- 1 dish swing

Next Steps...

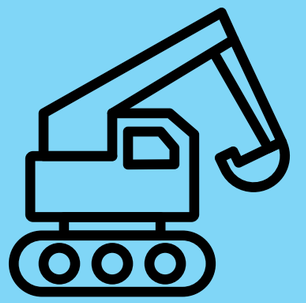


Saturday, October 31st from **10 am to noon** we will be hosting a public meeting at the park (adjacent to the play area). At this meeting, we will share some preliminary design ideas, and will listen to your feedback.

Following the meeting, we will post an online survey where you can provide input on these preliminary designs. The online survey will be open for three weeks and will close on **Monday, November 23rd.**



We will use this input to prepare a concept plan, which will be shared with the community on the project website in early 2027. We will then start drawing construction documents.



After the plans are completed by the end of 2027, the play area will be built in 2028.

The play area will be closed during construction (we anticipate this to be about a 6-month period).

We'd like to hear from you! Please fill out the survey on our project page:

https://engageseattleparks.com/west-magnolia-playfield-playground-renovation

