Seattle Parks & Recreation

West Magnolia Playfield Play Area Renovation

Community Survey Results as of 08/24/2026

1. What do you love about your playground?
   - Central community hub: Families consistently praised the playground's convenient location near Magnolia Village, Blaine K-8, the library, community center, and sports fields. Many described it as one of the neighborhood's key gathering places.
   - Mature trees + natural setting: Respondents love the abundant shade and natural feel. The tree canopy is valued for comfort year-round.
   - Variety of play features: Both toddler and big-kid users benefit from diverse equipment: swings, slides, monkey bars, obstacle-course elements, spinning cups, imaginative-play spaces, and open circulation that supports all ages. Many families noted their children have grown up using this playground.
   - Swings (high demand): Multiple responses emphasized how important the many swings are for all ages, with some describing them as the most consistently used and enjoyed feature.
   - Benches and picnic tables: Caregivers value the seating and gathering areas throughout and around the playground.

2. What is missing? What would make it even better? Why?
   - More challenging equipment for older kids: Strong interest in more climbing structures (rope towers, tree-like climbers, tilted climbing walls), parkour/obstacle features, multi-level slides, zip lines, and opportunities for adventurous play appealing to bigger kids.
   - Clearer age separation + expansion of toddler-safe zones: Parents of young children expressed concerns about crowding and big-kid use of toddler structures. They suggested clearer age guidance, expanded toddler areas, and design strategies that separate small and large children more safely.
   - Shade + weather comfort: Requests included providing more shaded play surfaces and covered play structures.
   - Natural materials + sensory features: Many respondents encouraged incorporating natural elements to create richer sensory and nature-based experiences.
   - Accessibility + safety improvements: Suggestions included accessible swings, addressing uneven surfacing and lowering entry thresholds and equipment that kids climb onto unsafely.
   - Amenities + circulation: Respondents requested more picnic tables, improved grass, more trash cans, water fountains, stroller-friendly paths, and better connections to the hillside above the playground.
   - Skatepark integration (mixed feedback): About 18 respondents (representing adults, teens, and older kids) enthusiastically support the future skatepark, seeing it as an important addition for older kids and teens. About 9 responses expressed concerns about noise, crowding, teen behavior, and impacts to toddler safety.

3. What features, colors or themes would make the playground feel more comfortable or welcoming to 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, though this was less common.
   - 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.

4. Which option do you prefer?
   - 52.2% - remove the sandbox and keep the existing play area.
   - 33.3% - create a new sand play area and reduce the existing play area (to add required separation).
   - 14.5% - no preference

Seattle
Parks & Recreation

5. I am / we are...

