



Roanoke Park Play Area Renovation



Project Website: <https://engageseattleparks.com/roanoke-park-play-area-renovation>



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Roanoke Park| Play Area Renovation



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
- New trees, mulch and lawn restoration around the play area
- Pavement repair for accessibility

Budget:

Seattle Parks District Major Maintenance provides \$627,134 for planning, design, construction.

Schedule:

Planning: Fall – Winter 2025/2026
Design: 2026
Construction: 2027

Site Challenges



Sand spilling into safety surfacing

Loose sand spilling into engineered wood fiber surfacing reduces fall protection.



Aging play equipment

Play equipment no longer meets current safety standards.



Non-compliant walkways and ramps

Existing walkways and ramps do not meet current accessibility standards.

Site Opportunities



Popular play features

Swings and slides are popular across all age groups.



Strong community identity

The park is a beloved neighborhood gathering space.



Shaded setting

Mature trees provide generous shade at the play area.

What we've heard from you...

What do you love about your playground?

- Sandbox: seen as unique, inclusive, and beloved by children of all ages.
- Swings and slides: consistently appreciated.
- Natural setting: trees, wood chips, and integration with the park's landscape.
- Community feel: many respondents noted the playground fosters neighborhood connection.



What we've heard from you...

What is missing? What would make it even better?

- Play equipment for younger children (ages 2-5): many noted this age group is under served.
- More climbing and upper body features: monkey bars, climbing walls, and balance elements.
- Inclusive and sensory play: features like music panels, imaginary play, and accessible swings.
- Shelter from rain on play structures: suggested for year-round usability



What we've heard from you...

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

- Natural tones: browns, greens, and muted colors to blend with the environment.
- Nature themes: trees, wood, and organic shapes.
- Avoid bright plastic: many respondents dislike garish or overly commercial-looking equipment.
- Popular play elements:
 - Spinners and whirl features
 - Bridges and tunnels
 - Music and sensory panels
 - Imaginative play (e.g., kitchens, pirate themes)



Spinner



Whirl



Bridge



Tunnel



Music



Sensory Panels



Imaginative Play

What we've heard from you...

Should the sandbox be removed to expand the play area for ages 2-5, or kept with reduced play space?

- 35% — Remove the sandbox
- **58% — Keep the sandbox**
- 7% — No preference

Age Groups Represented in 130 responses:

- Children under 5 - heavily represented
- Children ages 5-12 - also common
- Teens and adults - many responses from parents, caregivers, and local residents
- Seniors - several responses from older community members



Sandbox Update

Why we're making this change:

Sand from the sandbox often spills into the wood chip area, which makes the play surface less safe and harder to maintain.

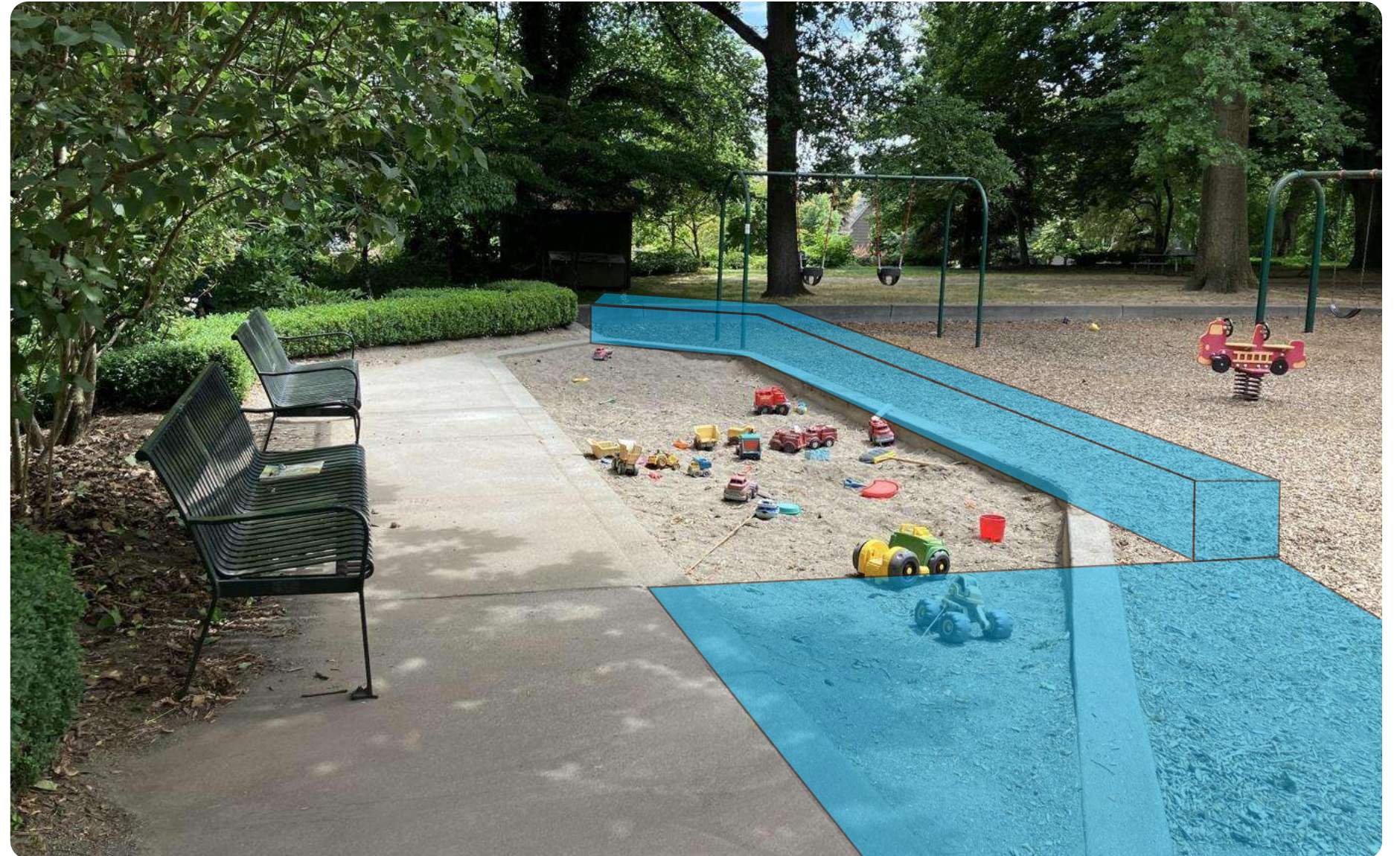
What we're proposing:

We plan to add a low seat wall along the edge of the sandbox. This will act as a barrier to keep sand in its place and improve safety in the play area.

Extra benefits:

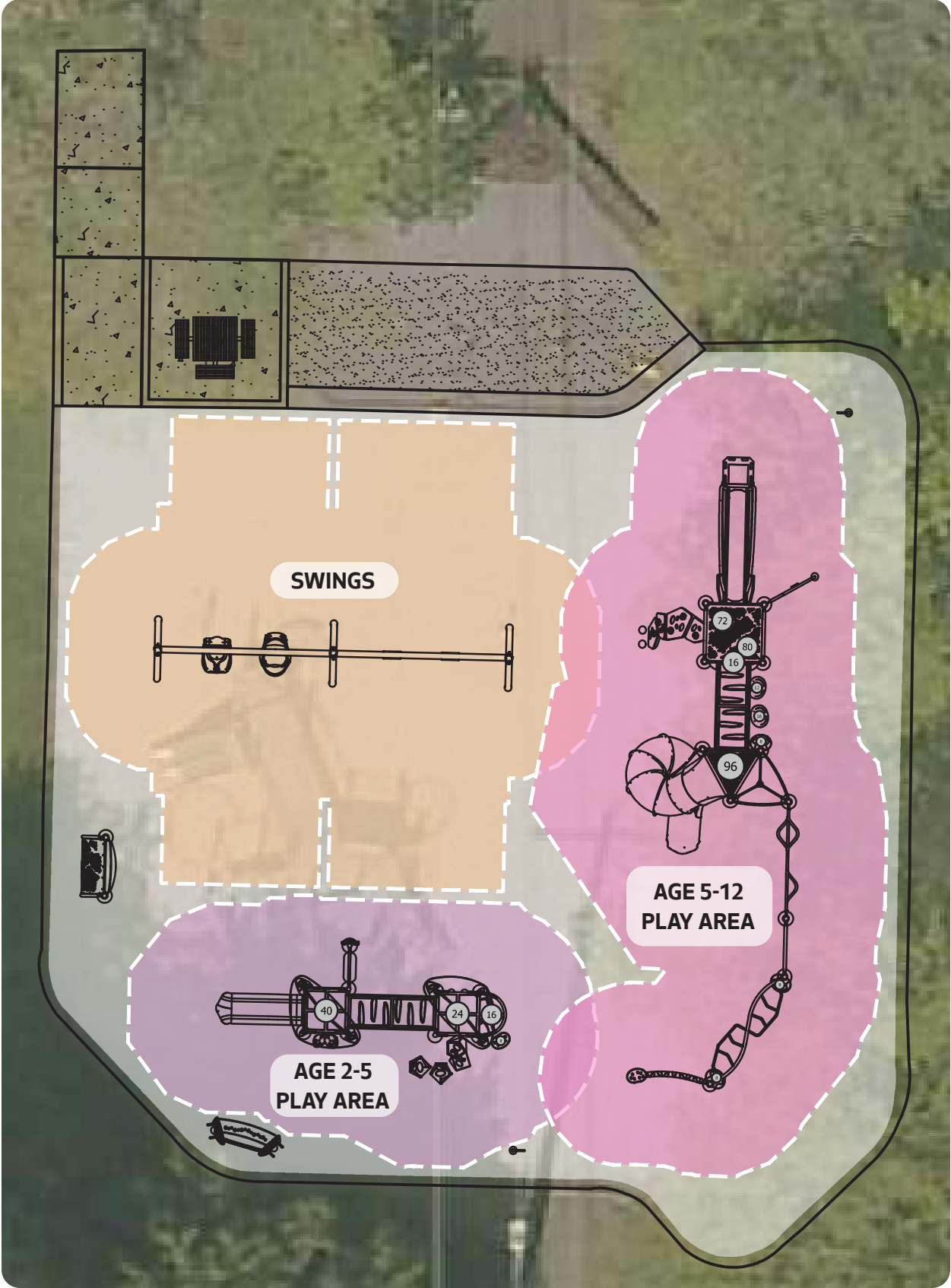
The seat wall will also provide more places for caregivers to sit while supervising children.

We're also considering adding a small accessible picnic table to match the existing benches, so families have a spot to rest, snack, or play games.



Design Option A

Site Plan

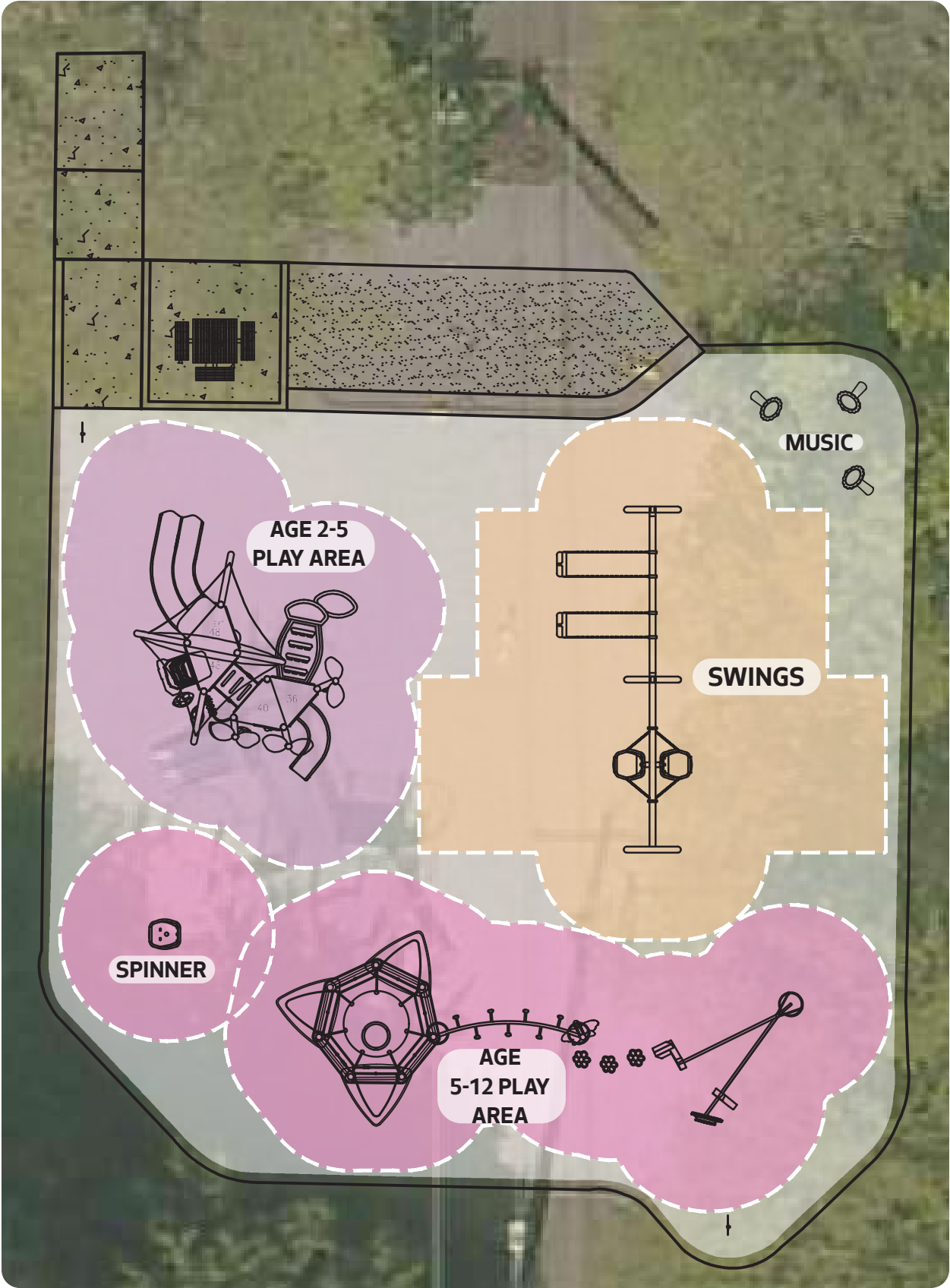


Views



Design Option B

Site Plan

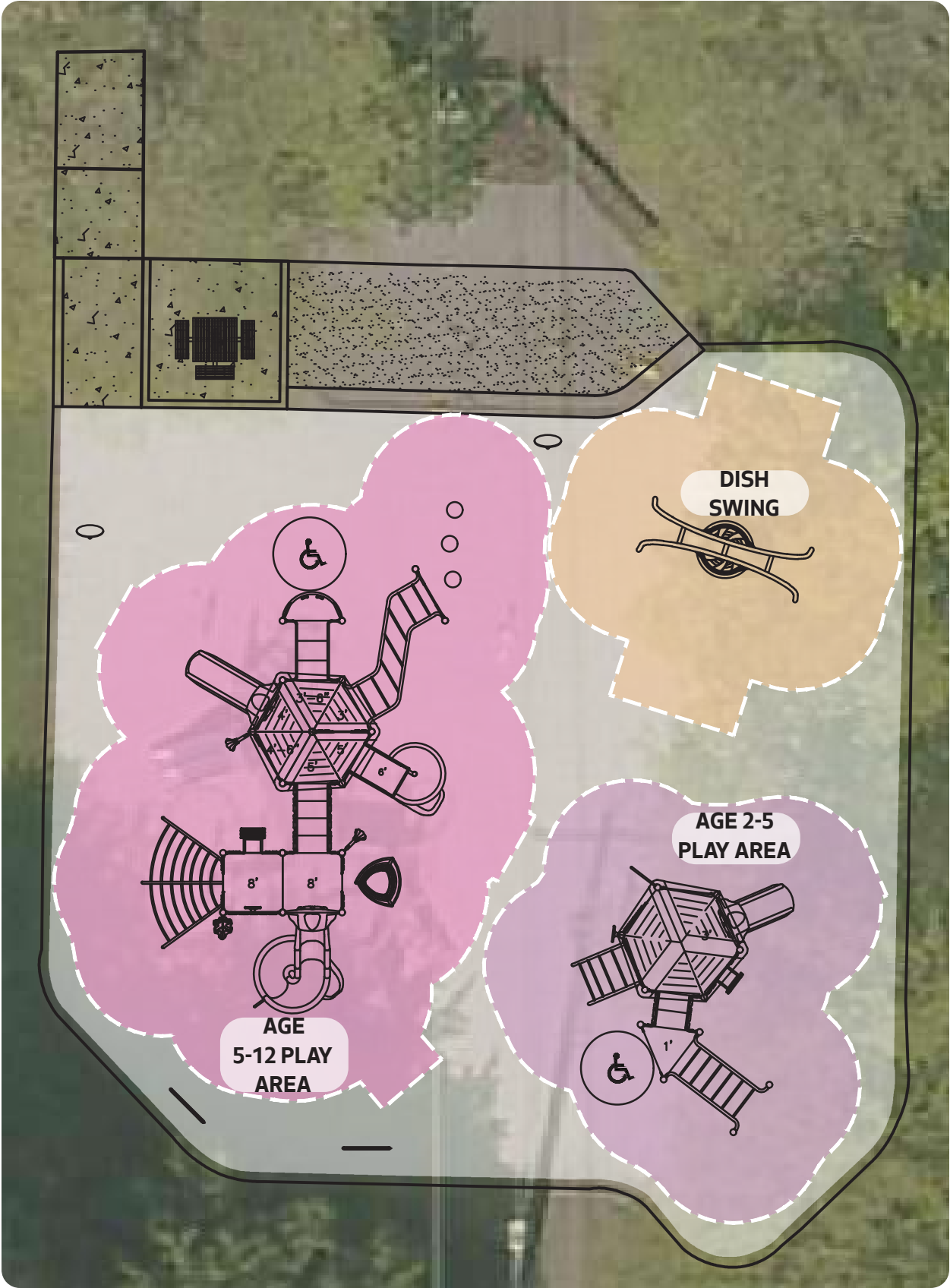


Views



Design Option C

Site Plan



Views



Design Options

Option A



Age 2-5 play equipment:

- Small play structure with a short slide
- Easy climbers and stepping pods
- Spinning and sensory activities
- Imaginative play panels

Age 5-12 play equipment:

- Large climbing structure with lots of ropes
- Big twisty tube slide
- Multiple climbing challenges and balance features
- Shaded platforms for resting and play

Proposed swings:

- 2 toddler swings
- 1 adaptive swing
- 1 inclusive swing for multiple users

Option B



- Age 2-5 play equipment:
 - Shaded structure with a double slide and curved slide
 - Sensory panels
 - Climbing and balancing activities
 - Music
- Age 5-12 play equipment:
 - A large net-climbing structure
 - Balance steppers
 - Upper body
 - Group stand-up spinner
- Proposed swing:
 - 2 toddler swings
 - 1 multi-user swing

Option C



- Age 2-5 play equipment:
 - Small play structure with a short slide
 - Monkey bars
 - Shaded platform for resting and play
 - Play panels
- Age 5-12 play equipment:
 - Structure with shaded platform and panels
 - Winding slides
 - Variety of climbing and balancing features
- Proposed swing:
 - 1 dish swing