



Barrie Park Site Master Plan

Community Meeting Number 3

April 22nd, 2015





Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Process “A Blue Print for the Future”

Site walkthrough, Focus Groups, 2 Community meetings and a Presentation to the P. D. Citizen Committee and to the Board of the Park District have taken place

Wednesday April 22nd at 7pm

Community Mtg #3 Barrie Center

April 27th 2015

Presentation to the Transportation Commission re: speed table

May 13th

Community Mtg #4, if necessary

Thursday June 4th

Present recommendation and cost estimate to Board at Committee Meeting at Conservatory

Monday June 18th

Park Board to consider accepting final plan at regular Board meeting, 218 Madison Street.



Barrie Park Site Master Plan:

Main Issues Discussed at Meetings

- Lack of Park Space for competing interests
 - 10 acres of park space per 1,000 residents
 - With 82.29 acres = 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents
- Art Turf or Grass Field
- Organized Sports or Spontaneous Outdoor Play (why not both)
- Playground with mulch and natural look or soft surface rubber (why not both)
- Active Adults (exercise, passive rec.) “A park for the community and all ages’
- Parks as ecological systems
and
- Connecting young people to the outdoors and nature



Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Ranking Activities

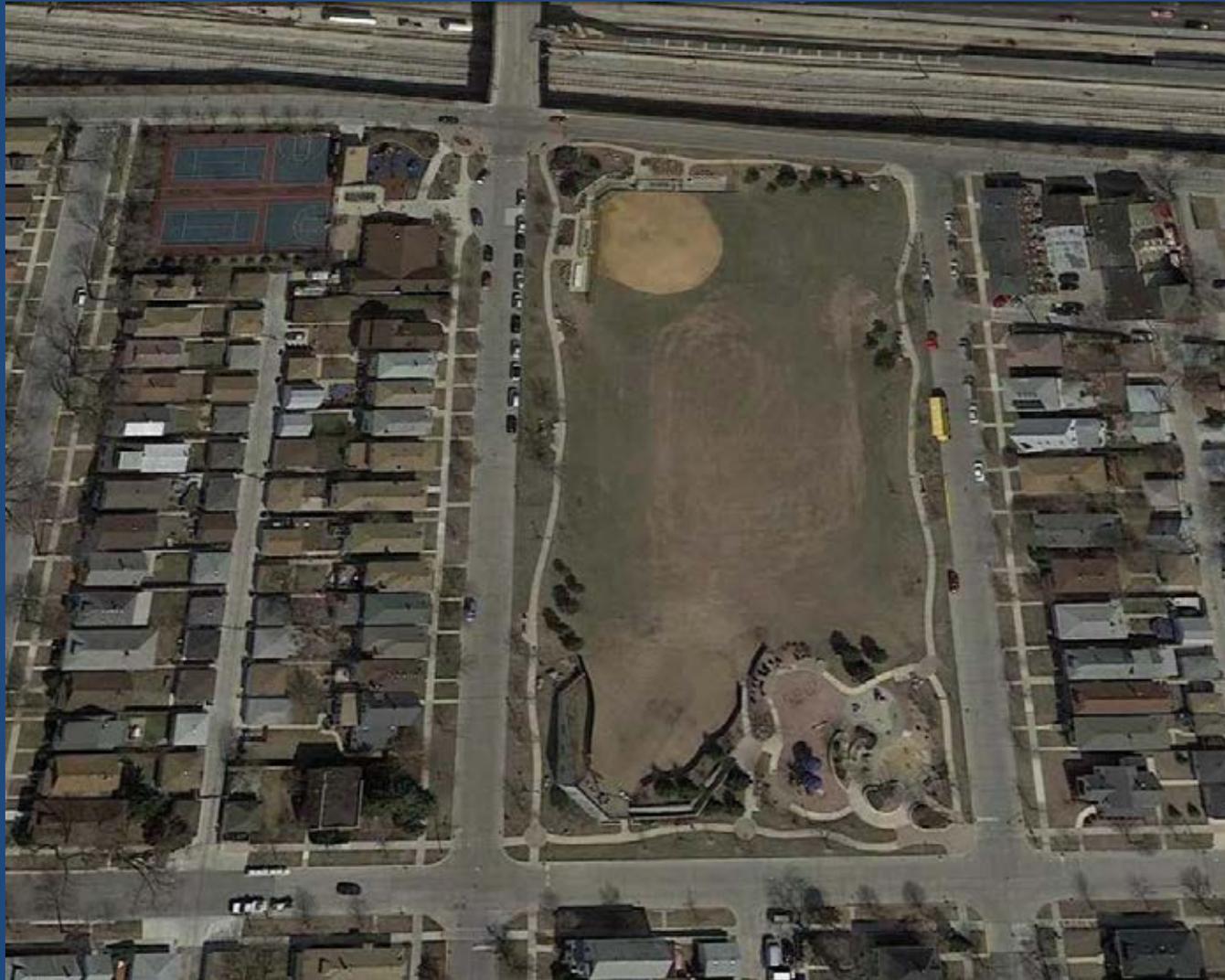
From Latest Questionnaire in Order

1. Playgrounds
2. Spontaneous Play/Passive
3. Landscaped Areas, trees and mounds
4. Picnic Grove
5. Native Plantings
6. Soccer
7. Garden Spaces
8. Picnic Shelter
9. Baseball

Total 90 respondents most had not attended meetings



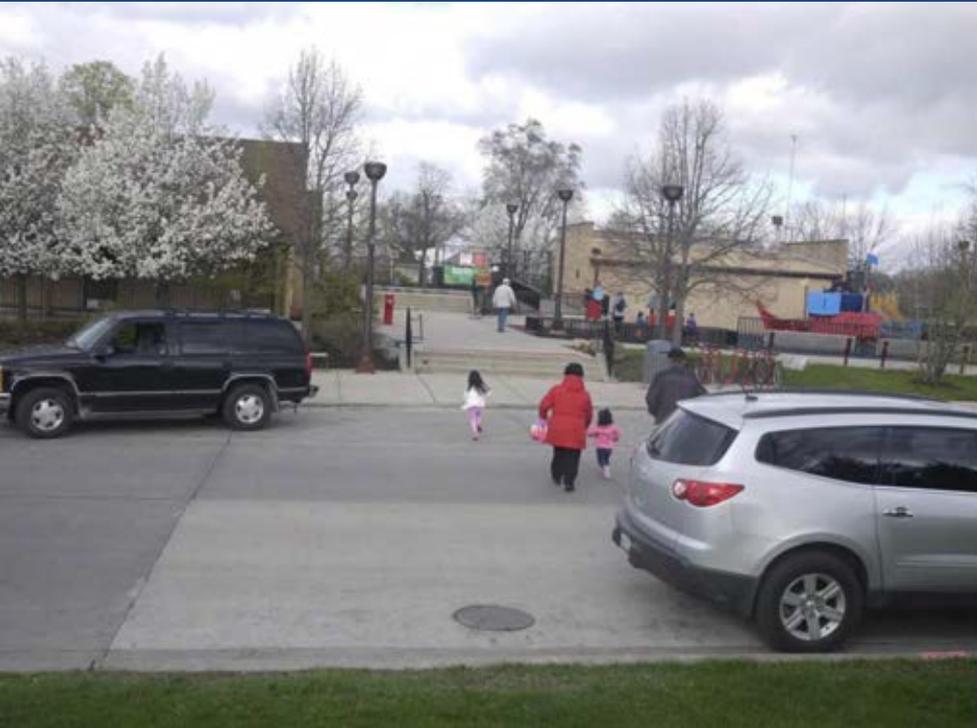
The Park Today



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Morning Drop-off: Traffic Builds Quickly





Sporadic during day

Bus drop-off 3:30, baseball 4, soccer 5:15

Add more activity for summer events



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Proposal: Expand the Drop-off and Add a Speed Table

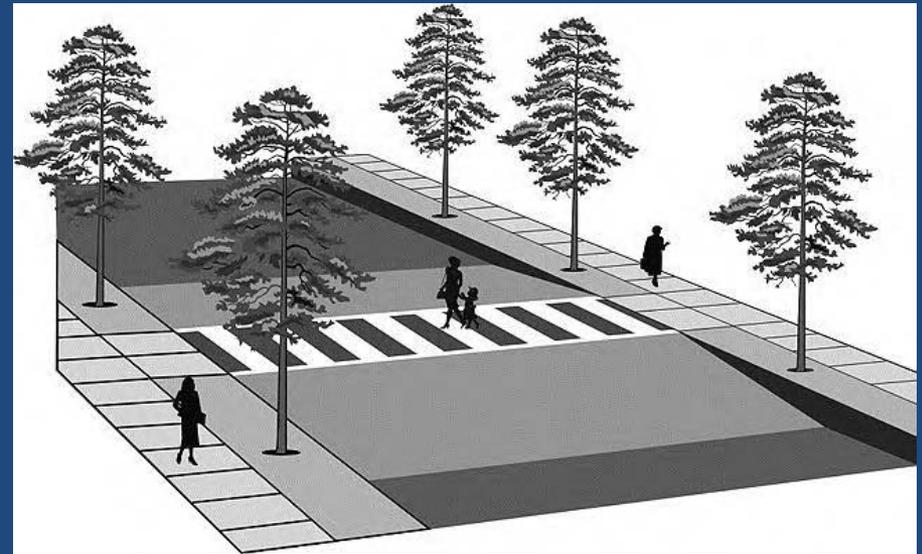
Alert drivers, Calm traffic, Join Center & Park together



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Speed Table most popular and has least impact on area traffic
And in latest questionnaire there is a call for a speed table on Taylor as well





The Center:

Renovated, popular and well used, pre/after school, indoor play, meetings
Community members said there was too much concrete and not enough planting





West Side of Center Underused space



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Suggestion for Barrie Center Focus Groups, Survey and Last Meeting



1. Create better bathroom access (a family bathroom)
2. Create larger multi-use space
3. Retrofit work station into kitchen
4. Parking for Staff - garage at rear

This would mean remodeling the Center and potentially expanding the Center to the west into underused space.



View of tot lot and entry plaza at Barrie Center

“A lot of concrete, gets very hot” and “not enough seating or shade”





Main suggestions for Tot Lot at Barrie Center

Most Popular suggestions from Questionnaires and Meetings

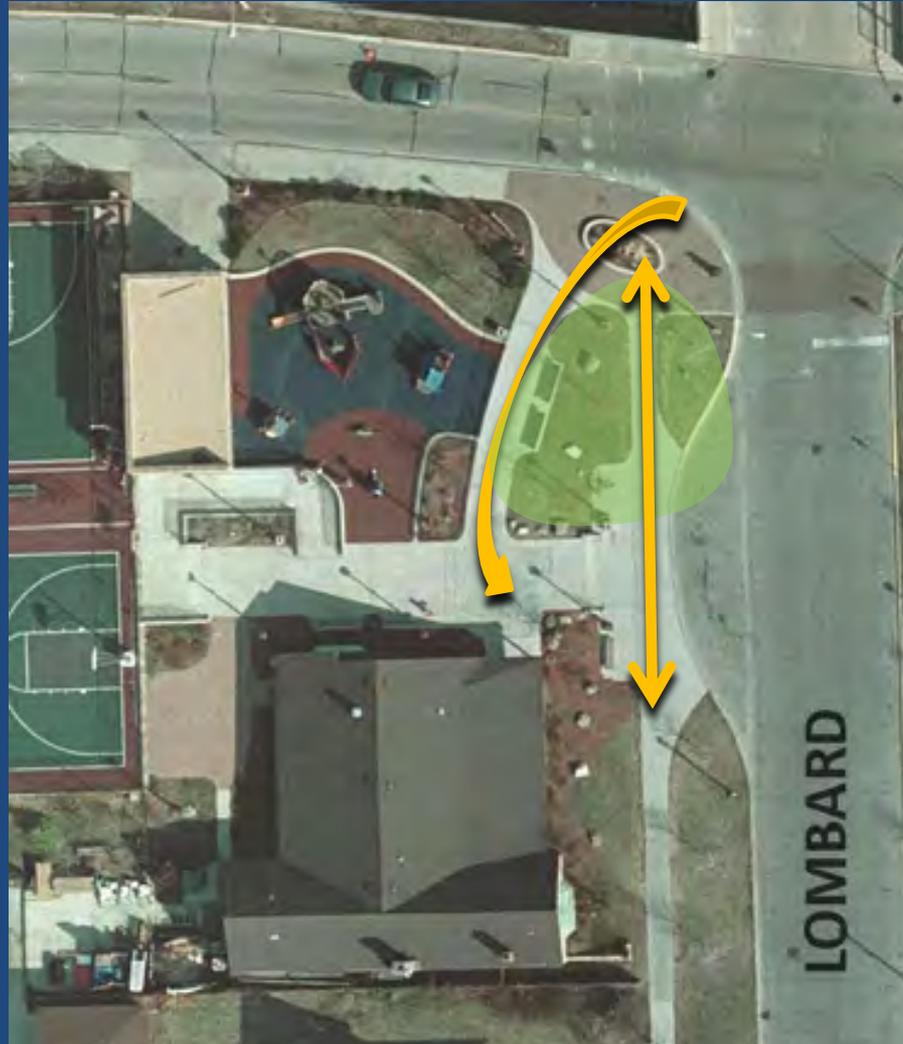
1. Improve Safety
2. Redesign
3. Add Peter Pan mural
4. Add water feature
5. Add picnic pavilion
6. Apply green solutions:

To achieve all this we will need more space

In 2nd questionnaire 11 people voted for the Tot Lot to move as shown in scheme 6

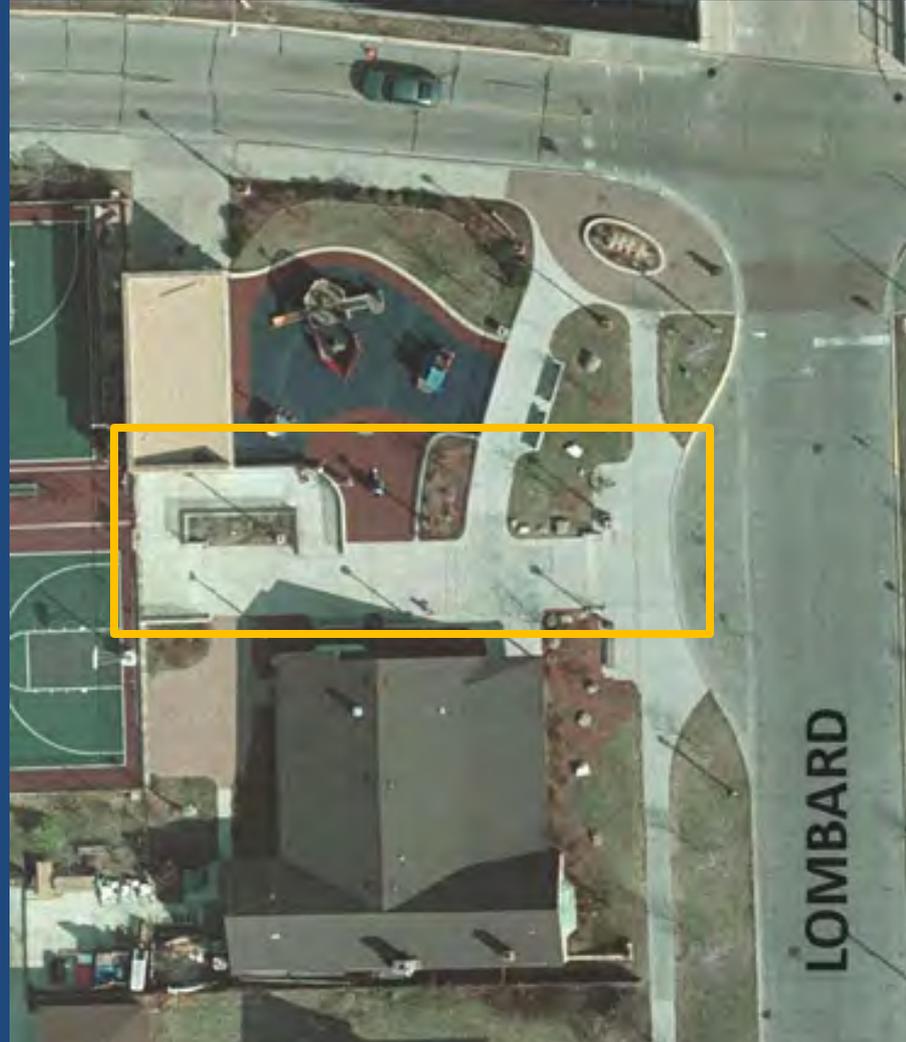


Issues: Ramp splits area into segments
Large areas of green space separated by paths





Issues: Large Areas of Concrete



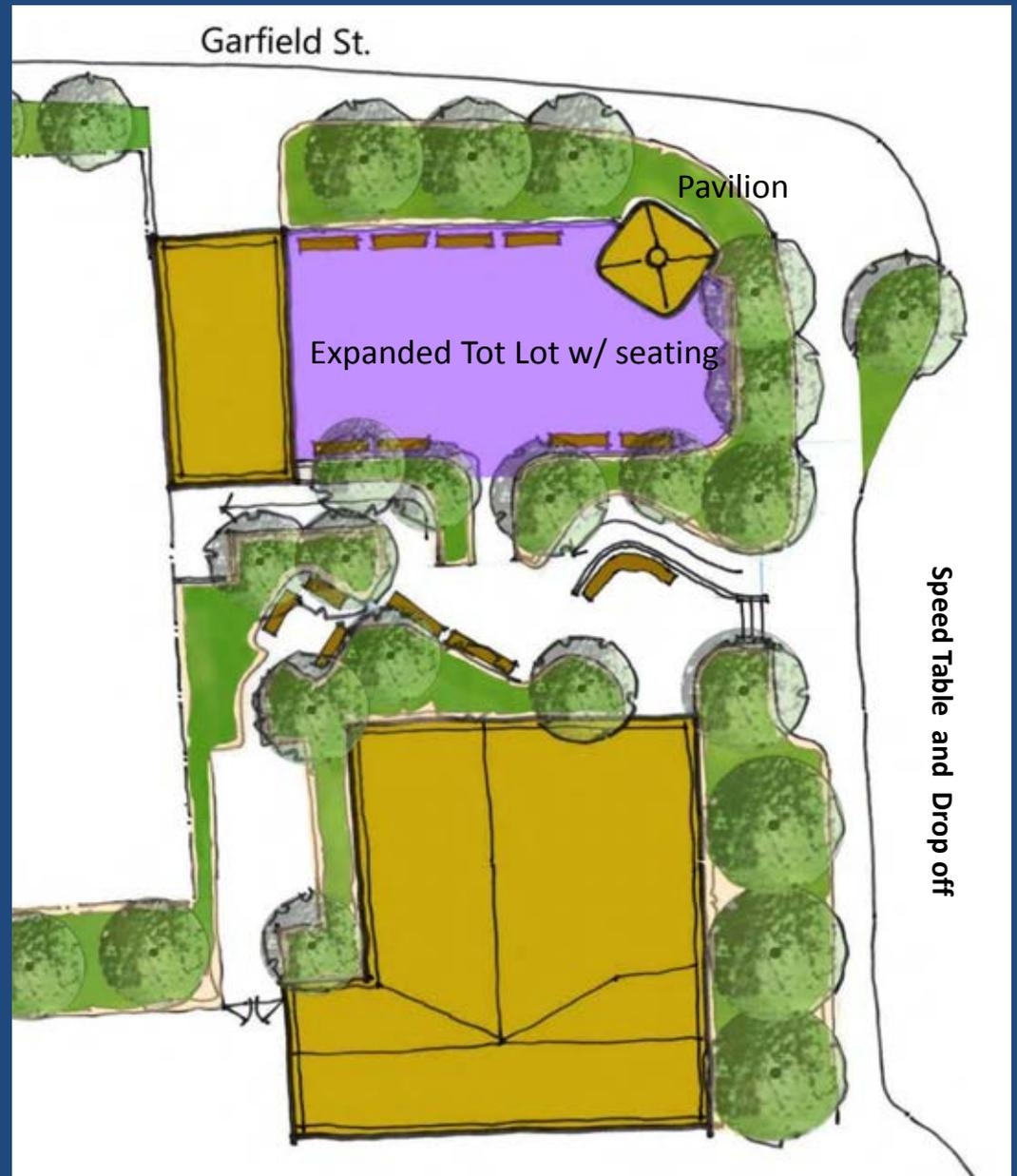


Example: Ramp becomes a place





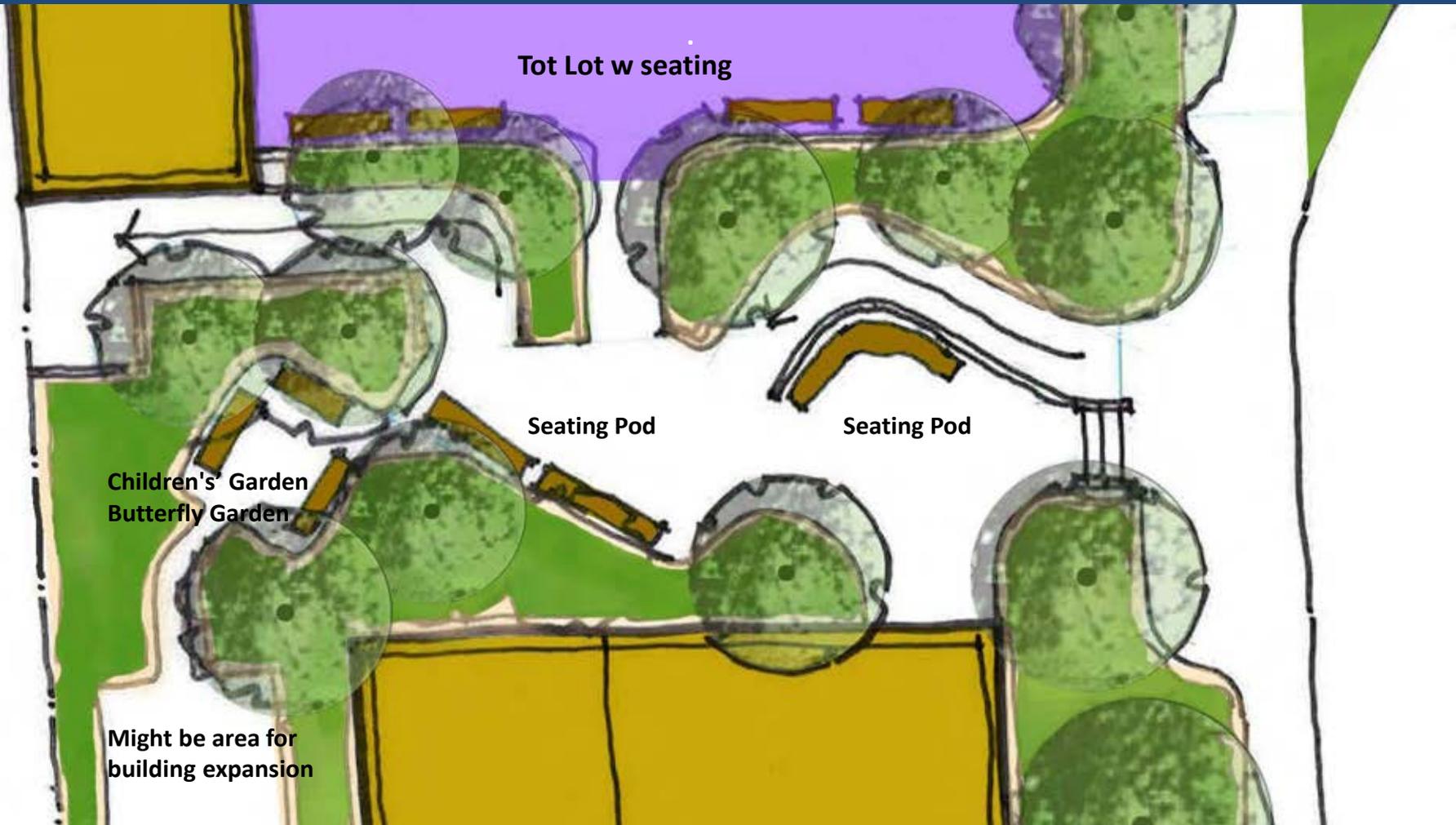
Scheme 1





Scheme 1

Enlarged planting areas, 3 different seating pods, space for garden





The Top of Reservoir



Multi-use space, Volley ball, 2 Half Courts, 2 Tennis Courts, 143 ft x 123 ft (17,589 sq ft) But space is “cut-off” from the rest of the facility



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Call for roofing Top of Reservoir to make it useable year-round

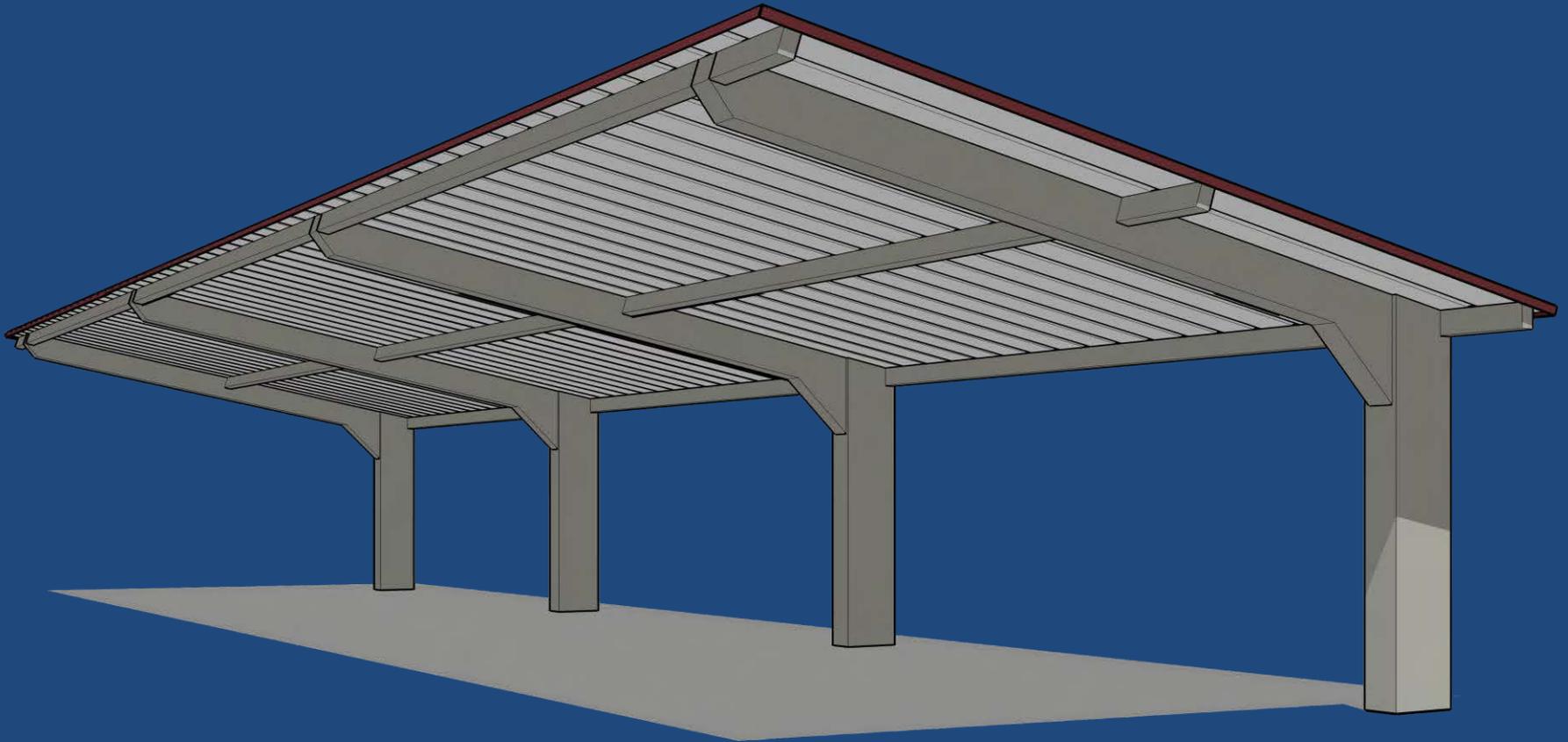


Issues: What Village will allow



Potential Roof Schemes: Cantilevered Roof

Has to have foundations outside of reservoir and reach out over the reservoir



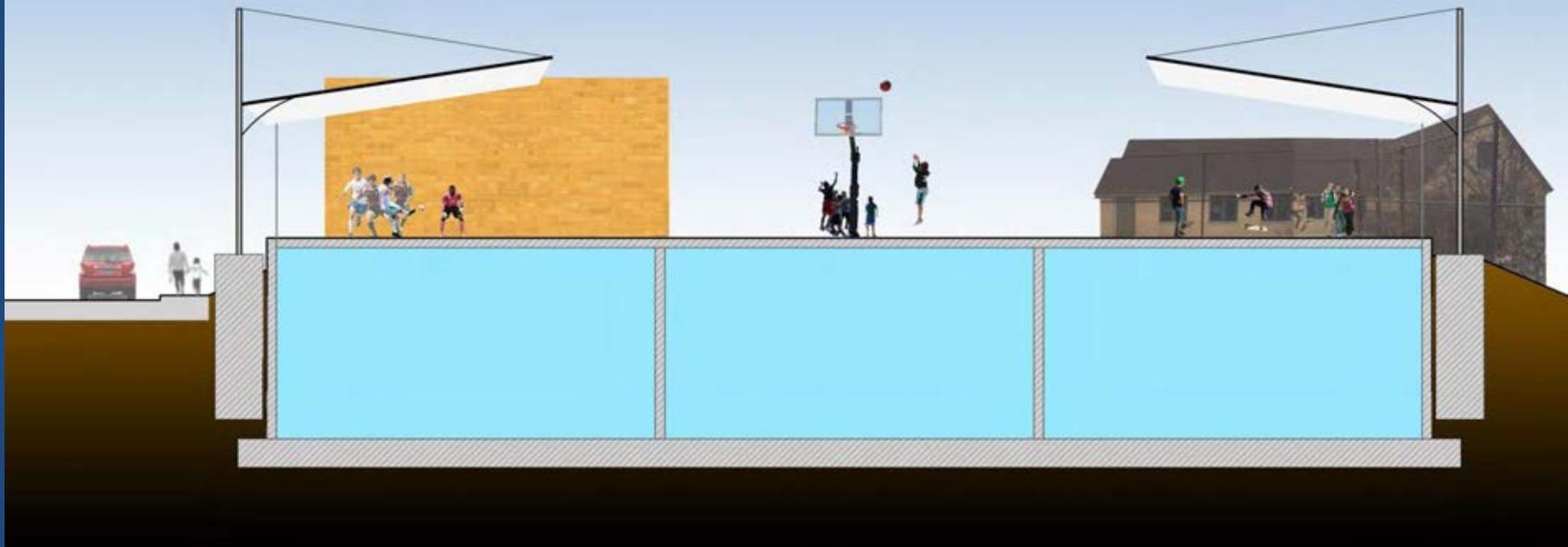


Potential Roof Schemes: Tension structure/mono pitch cantilever

Bean Bags, Horseshoes
when needed
Soccer kick-wall
Movie screen

Multi-use Space
Basketball
Golf Driving Range
Community Gardens?

Grilles, games,
Seating,
Batting Cages
Storage



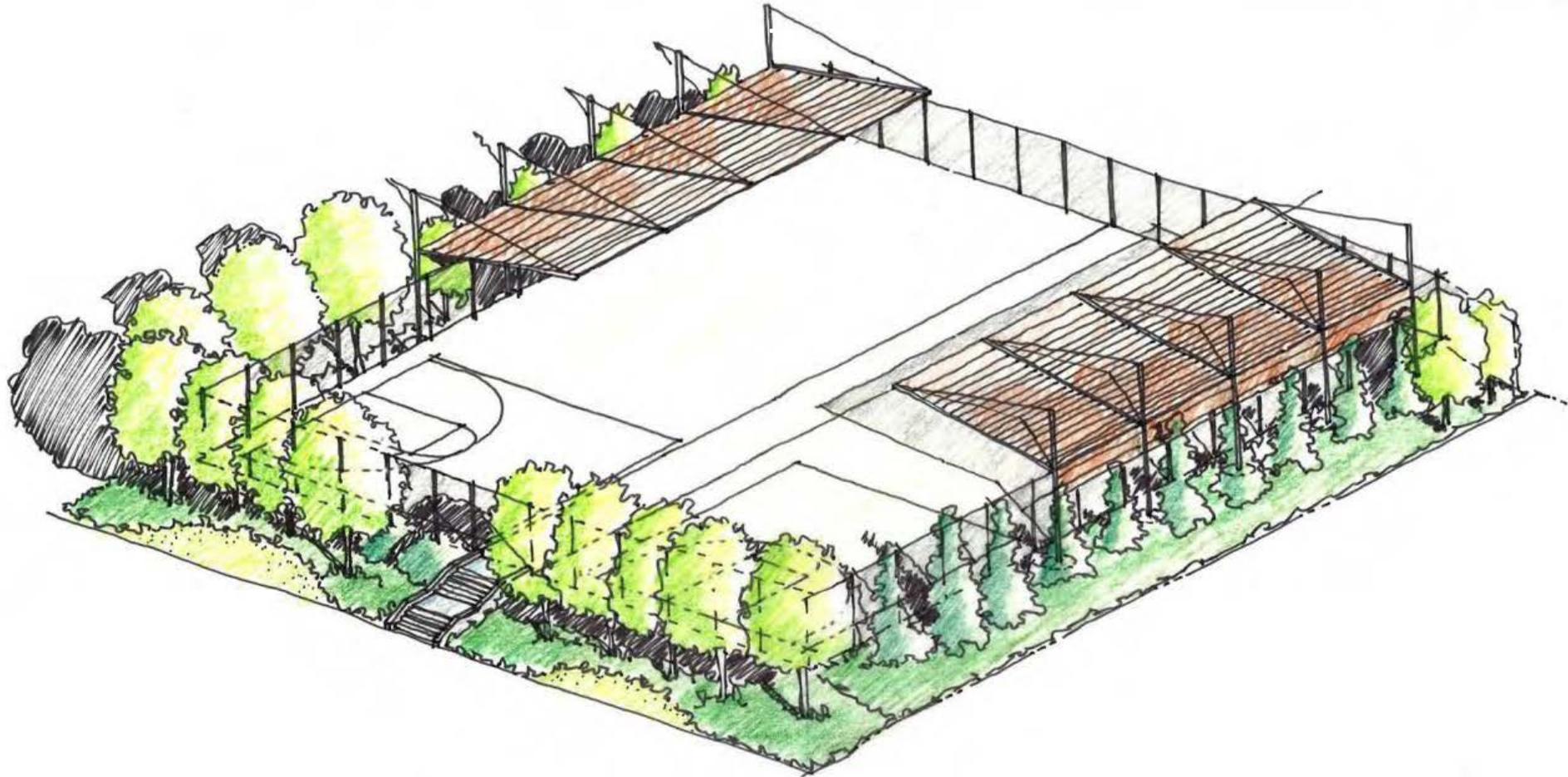


Potential Roof Schemes: Roof should not dominate surrounding homes



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Potential Roof Schemes: Set back from Harvey





Uses from last Questionnaire and Last Meeting in order

1. Pavilion/Rental Space for family gatherings, films, grilling,
2. Community Gardens
3. Basketball
4. Space for Older Kids , chess tables, ping pong etc.
5. Battling Cages
6. An Aerarium, a gym without walls Basketball
7. Mini Skate Park
8. Volley Ball (cant be sand volley ball)
9. Tennis
10. Golf practice cages
11. Bocce
12. Soccer kick-wall
13. Bean bag games
14. Horse Shoes

Total 90 respondents to Questionnaire 2



Entries: Could we make Entrances more Welcoming?

Suggestions include removing walls, limbing up or removing vegetation



NE Corner



NW Corner

- Remove the walls and open up views into the park
- Residents liked the idea of moving the back stop to create a welcoming entry into the park



Entries: Yes we can make entryways more welcoming
Open up corners, Add a rain garden at the entry,
we will need detention areas with new codes





Drainage a major issue for all Mounds and grading block drainage, path becomes swale





Drainage

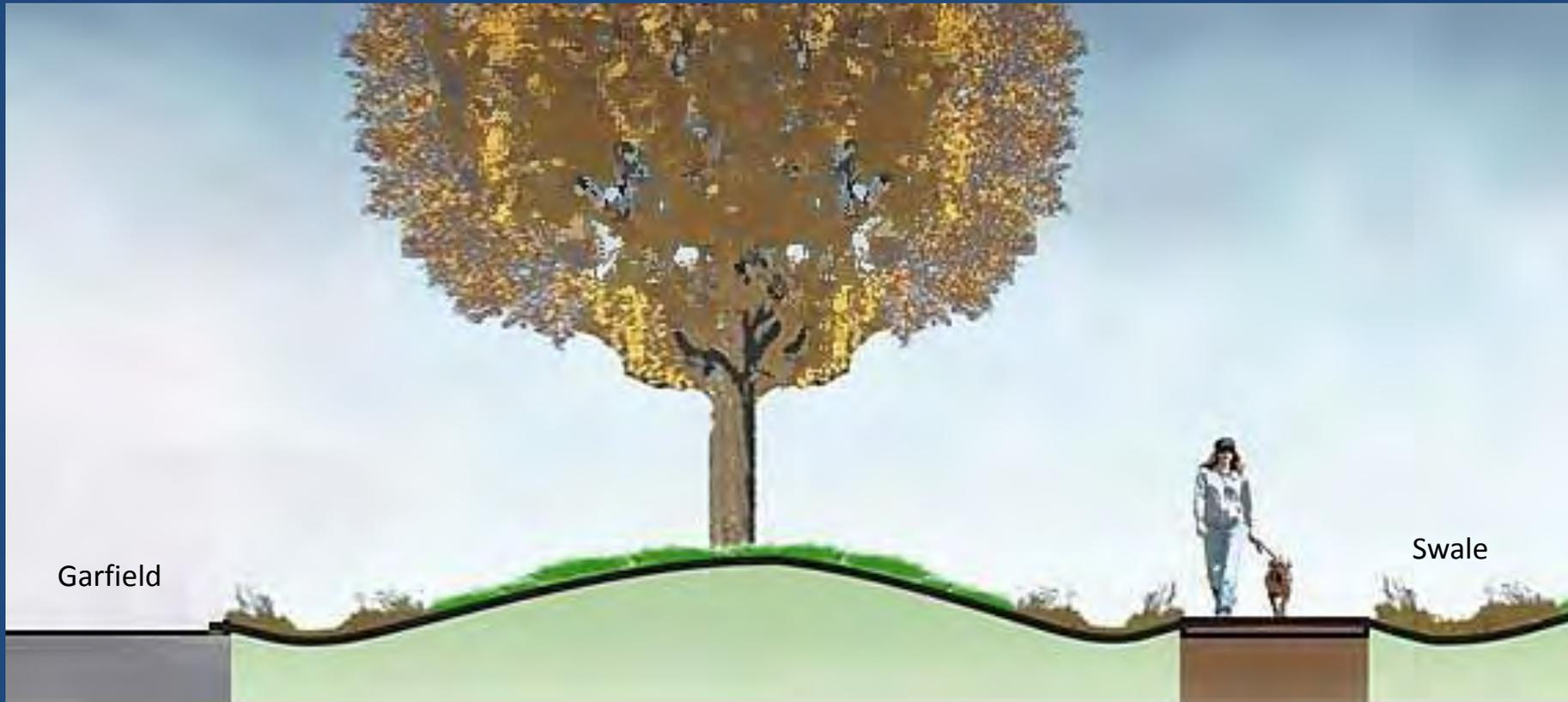
North side path in shadow and gets icy





Drainage

Move paths into the park and regrade and add swales





Sled Hill :

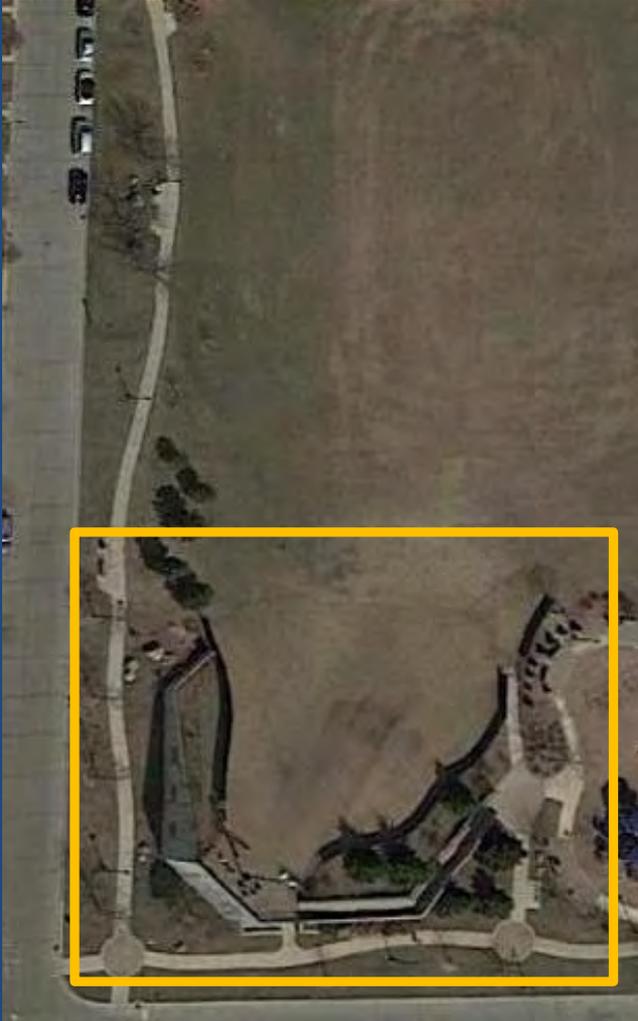
Issues include erosion of Hill and Field, overuse and trampling of this popular feature





Sled Hill Issues and Opportunities

“Runners kill the turf in the summer.” In fact it is not just runners that use it when it was supposed to be closed many people using it, “it is fun.”





Sled Hill Issues and Opportunity

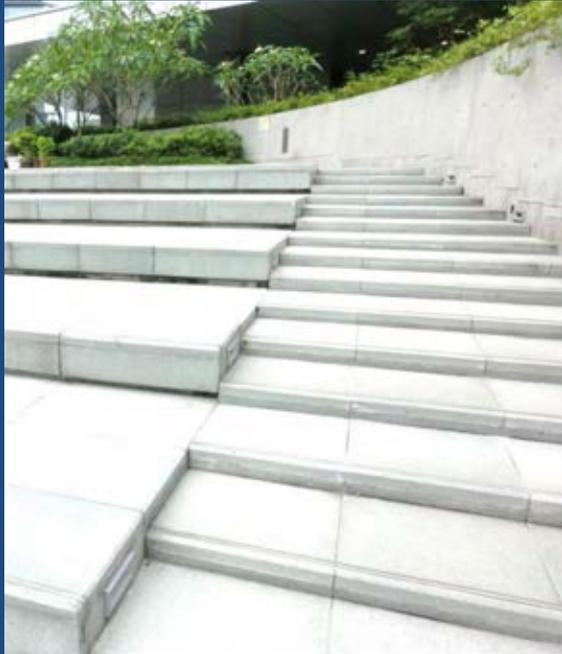
From last meeting and 2nd Questionnaire



1. “Create a secondary small hill for kids.” By far the most popular recommendation
2. Residents on Harvard “But do not block all views into park”
3. Add an exercise stair and exercise course
4. Create fitness stations
5. “Lower the hill 42” allowing a more gradual slope and a better opportunity for maintenance.” This will also give more space for other activities
6. “Reseed as short grass prairie.”



Add Exercise Stairs to Hill



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Southern Entries:

Could we make Entrances more Welcoming?

Long term prepare for the replacement of the play center?



SW Corner



SE Corner



View of playground:

“Planters block views and use up space”





Play Ground

- Rubber surface and contemporary equipment or
- a “nature based” play area with wood chips or both.
- “Really like the boulders at Carroll”

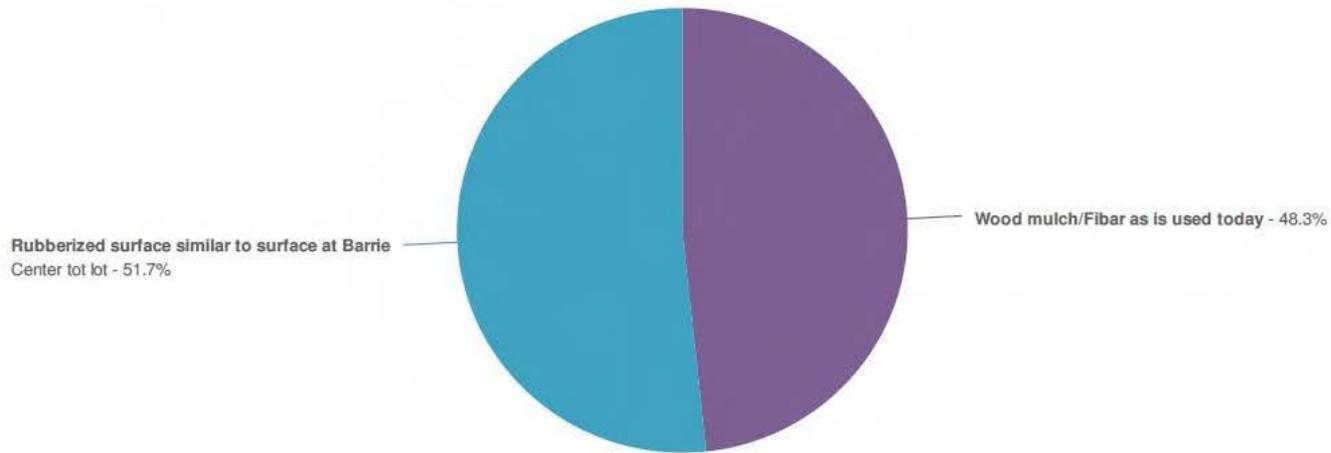




Play Ground

Rubber surface and contemporary equipment or a “nature based” play area with wood chips or both.

9. There is a proposal to redesign the playground in the SE corner of Barrie Park. What surface do you prefer for the playground?



Wood mulch/Fibar as is used today	48.3%		43
Rubberized surface similar to surface at Barrie Center tot lot	51.7%		46
Total			89



Play Ground

Rubber surface and contemporary equipment or a “nature based” play area with wood chips or both.

Rustic Play with boulders, logs, etc. 55.8%

Contemporary similar to the equipment at Irving Elementary or Longfellow School 33.7%

But can we have both?



Play Ground Suggestions Survey and last meeting:

1. Redesign the playground, remove the concrete planters
2. Improve lines of sight
3. Add a flex space - Create fitness areas for parents
4. Add a flex space - Create fitness areas for parents
5. Add more boulders like at Carroll
6. Add more boulders like at Carroll
7. Bring playground and ball field (back stop) closer
8. Add multipurpose space for pop-up uses
9. Art mosaics or sculpture to enliven the space



Field Issues and Opportunities

From Focus Groups, Meeting and Survey



- Field doesn't drain. Fix drainage
- Artificial turf field v Grass Field
- Soccer has attracted 60 percent more participation than any other recreational sport during the past decade.
- Batting cages and storage
- Distance markers and exercise stations sitting areas along the path
- Planted and Natural areas
- Exploration and Picnic areas
- Pop-up areas for multiple activities



Play Ground and Field Suggestions: Exercise Stations, Mini Spartan Course, Distance Markers



Grasses and No Mow areas
Similar to Mills Park not areas of Field Park

Seating Pods

Stone seating/exercise area



Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Art Turf Research Humboldt Park



The 'fenceless' Humboldt Park soccer field – one of the ten 'Take the Field' soccer fields in the City of Chicago

Courtesy of Randy Machelski
smith group jjr

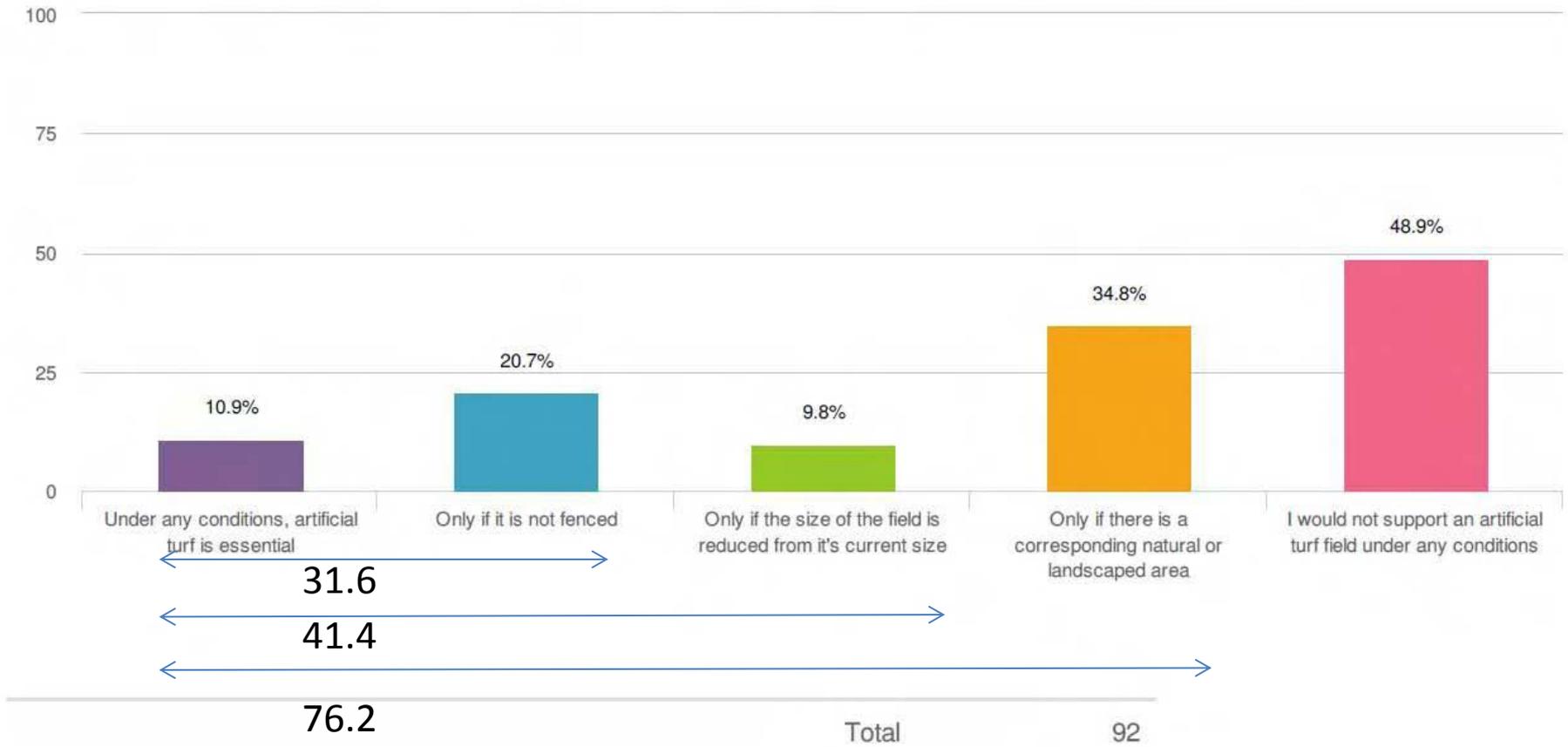
Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park





Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Art Turf?

11. There is interest in an artificial turf field at Barrie Park. Under which of the following conditions would you support an artificial turf field? (more than one box may be checked)



76.2 points for art turf under certain conditions versus 48.9 points under no conditions

Previous Schemes 1, 2, 3





Previous Schemes 4, 5, & 6



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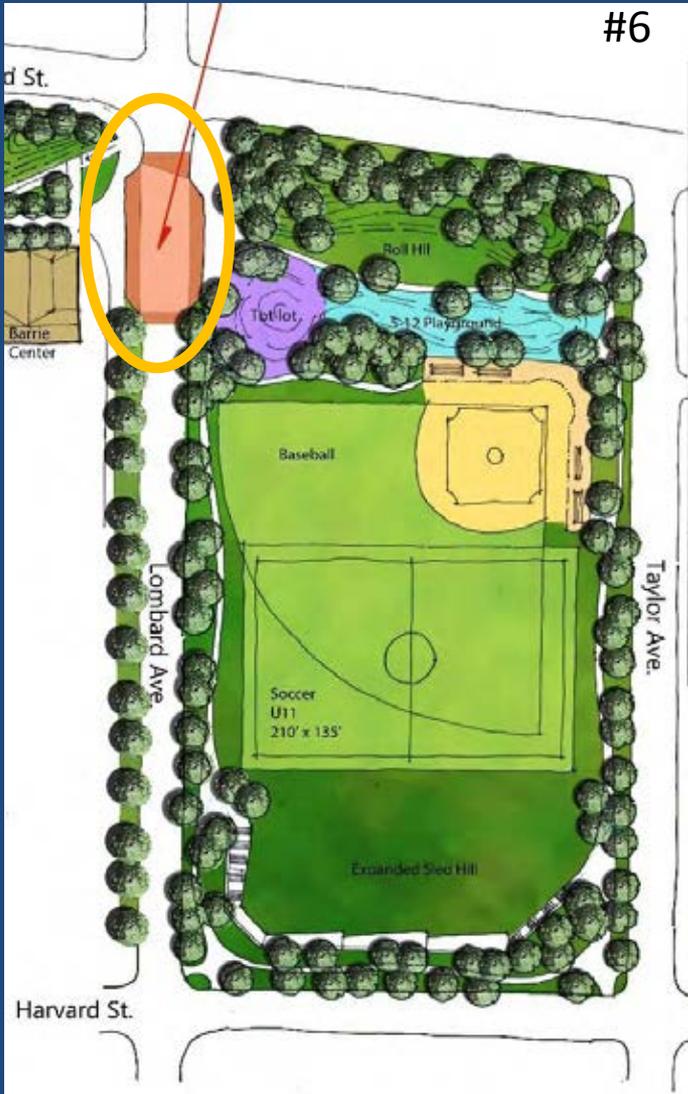
Scheme 6 followed by 4 most popular in questionnaire and at last meeting



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Both have a speed table



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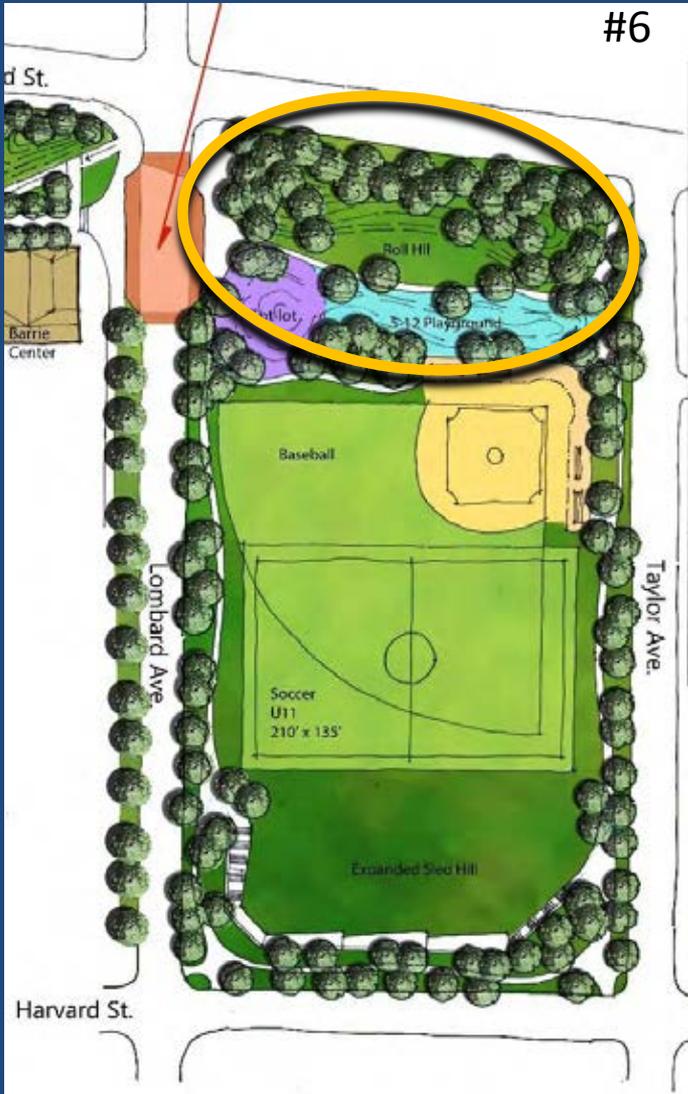
Both move the Back Stop, Large entry into park on NW, Improves safety and helps join Park and Center



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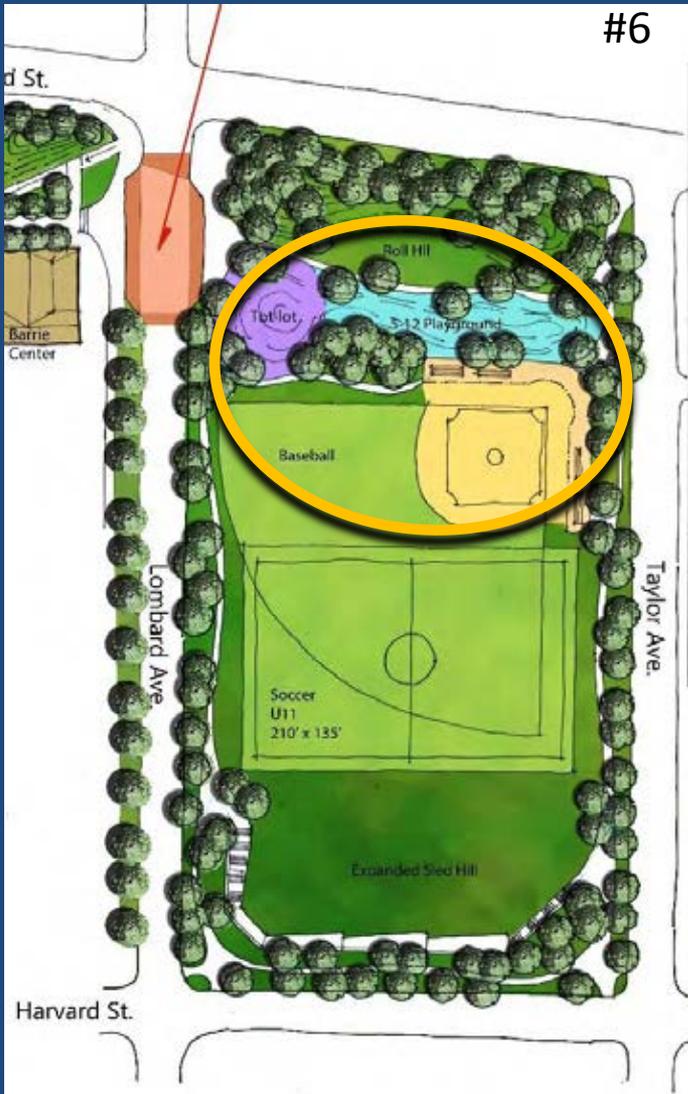
Both schemes add "Parklike" space



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Positive relationship of Playgrounds to Back stop in #6 However, staff think tot lot location unsafe



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Scheme 6 has expanded hill the most popular element, improved NW & NE entries, & playground behind backstop



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Schemes 6:

- Speed Table and connection to Center
- Opens the both Northern Corners
- Tot lot next to Playground behind backstop
- One BB Diamond
- More Trees, Planting, Gardens
- Berms buffer to Garfield and Ike
- Expanded Sled Hill with different elevations for different ages most popular feature





Issues and Concerns

- Will it all fit?
- Look at turning the field N/S. E/W not desirable
- Issues with sled hill and field overlap or if art turf used, mixing them in this scheme
- Need to minimize walls to sledding hill on Harvard to provide views into park
- Protect playground from Garfield: “we need space for mounds”
- Staff safety Concern: “The Tot Lot should stay beside the Center “ They do not want tots crossing Lombard.

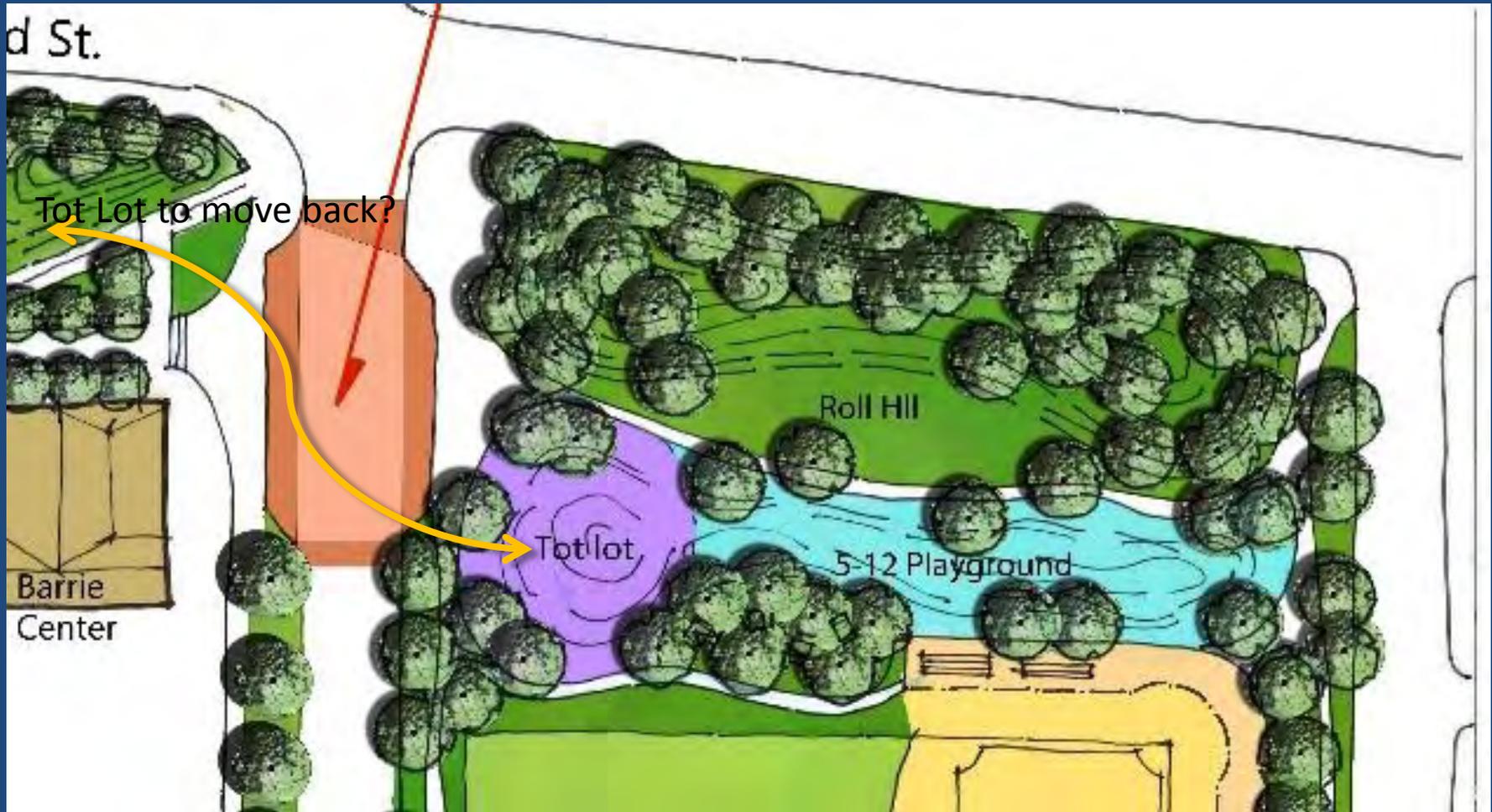


#6



Northern Playgrounds and “Natural” Areas

Looking at Concepts but they could be elsewhere in the park



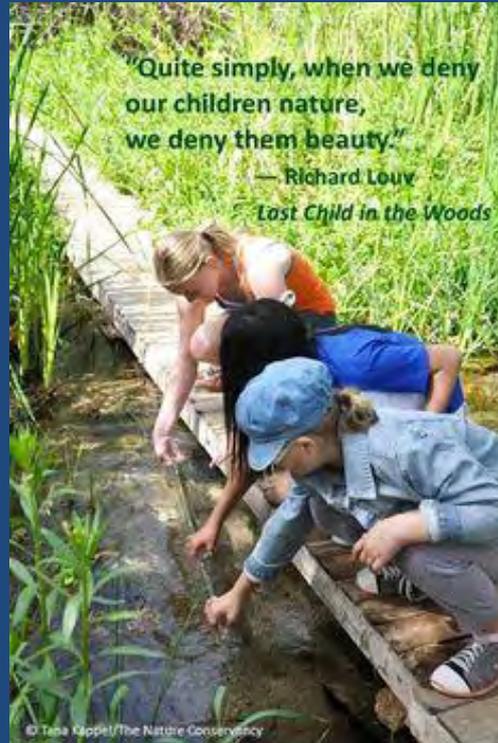
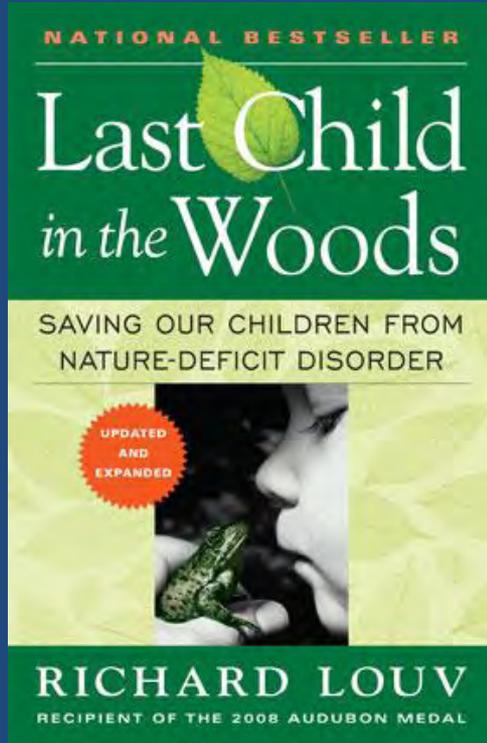


Suggestion for Playgrounds: We could have both Natural Area and Rubber Surface





Unstructured Outdoor Recreation: Why is it important



National Movement

“Launched in 2006, *No Child Left Inside*® is a promise to introduce children to the wonder of nature – for their own health and well-being, for the future of environmental conservation, and for the preservation of the beauty, character and community.”



Unstructured Outdoor Recreation Mills Park 2008



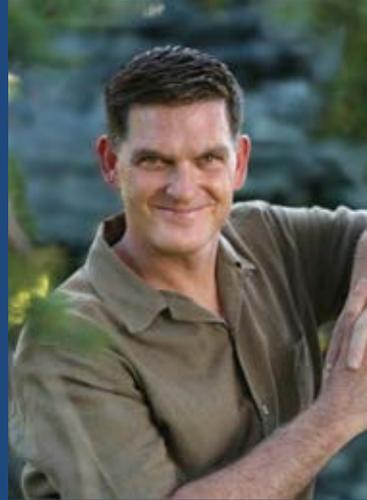
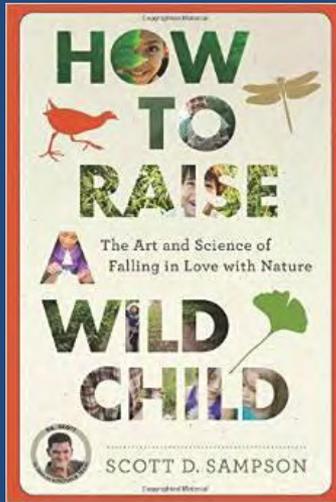
The PDOP created a different type of playground at Mills Park Discovery Area.

A labyrinth, mounds, boulders, petroglyphs, and a carved tree stump

But we would need more



7 years later Unstructured Outdoor Recreation Today



Scott Sampson of Dinosaur Train and Curator at Denver Museum of Nature

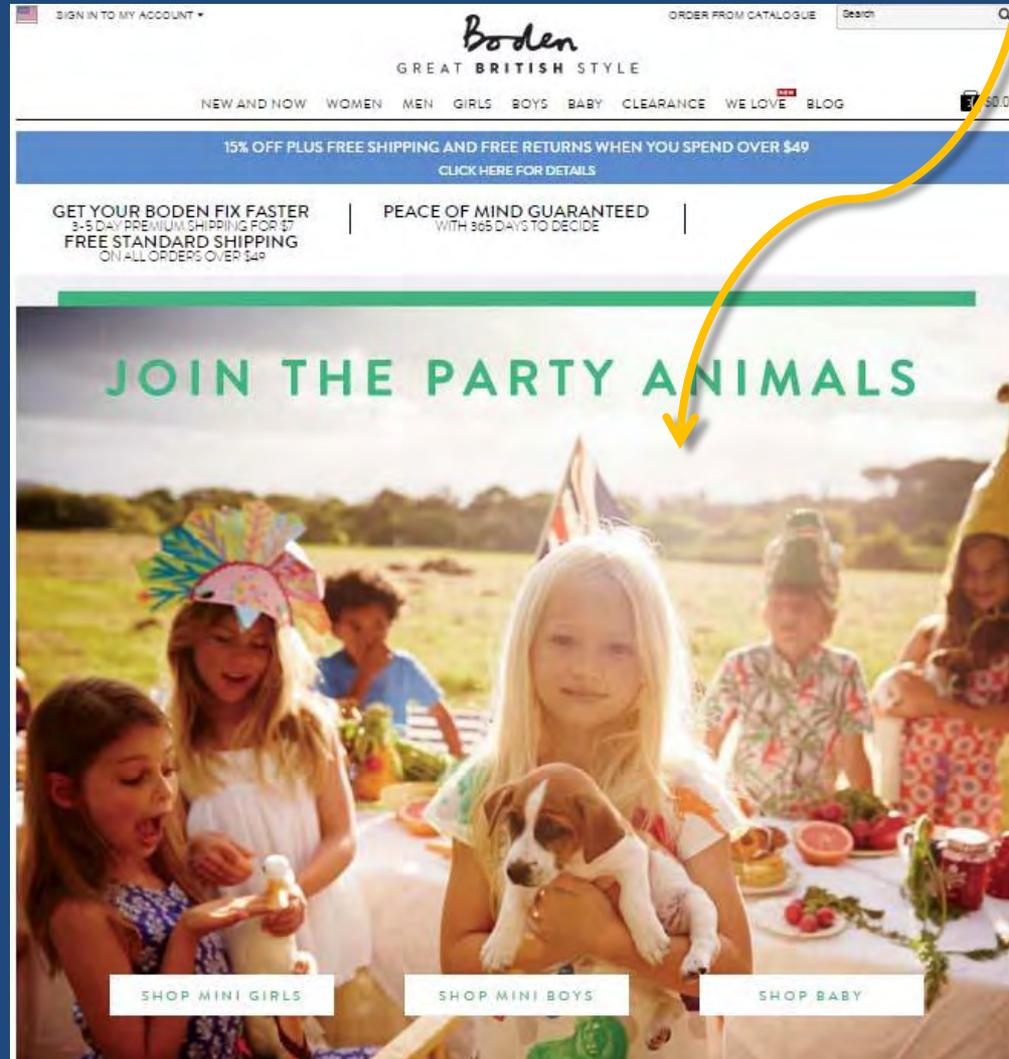
“Research shows that free play is critical for brain growth, body growth, and emotional growth. The outdoors provides this multi-sensory smorgasbord of opportunities to engage, not just on a computer screen, but through sight, sound, touch, and smell.”

“For young children, it's mostly about unstructured play.”

“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”



“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”
THIS IS NOT REALITY





“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY” More Like This





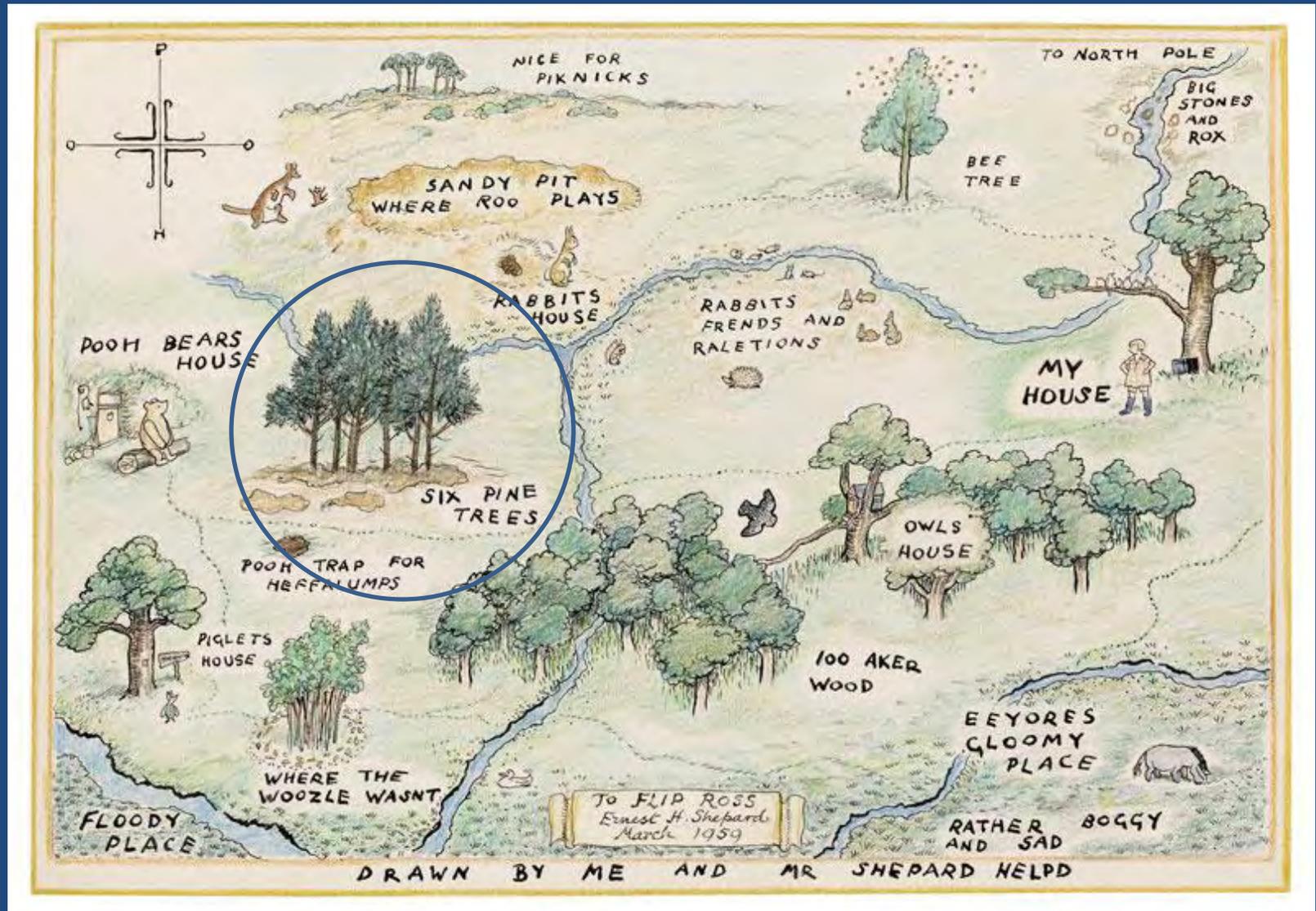
“BUT YOU HAVE TO LET YOUR KIDS GET MESSY”



Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park



And Think like a Child: A Landscape Narrative





Distinctive Elements: White Trees on Mounds Sycamores and Aspens (Ghost Trees)



Aspens will not be as densely planted



Distinctive Elements: Interesting Evergreens



Fox Willow Grove Illinois



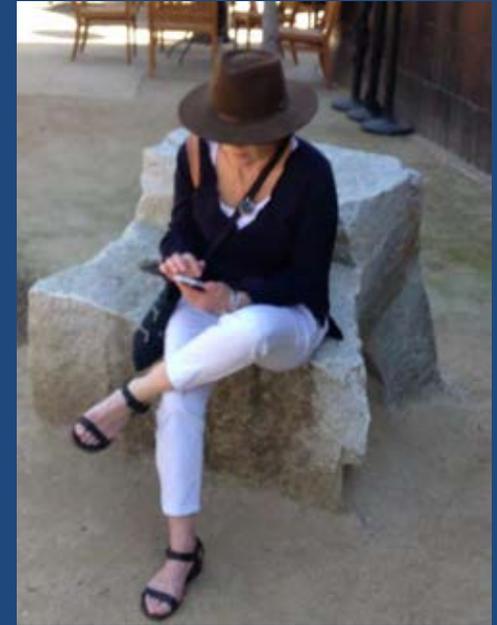
Distinctive Cellular Paths: Paths and Spaces at same time



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Distinctive Boulders: Benches and art pieces at same time





Maybe we are ready to take design of discovery areas farther?
Can we interpret these land forms from a creek in Robinson's Woods ?



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Curved paths and mounds



Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park



How can we interpret these land forms?





How can we interpret these land forms? Mounds and Islands?



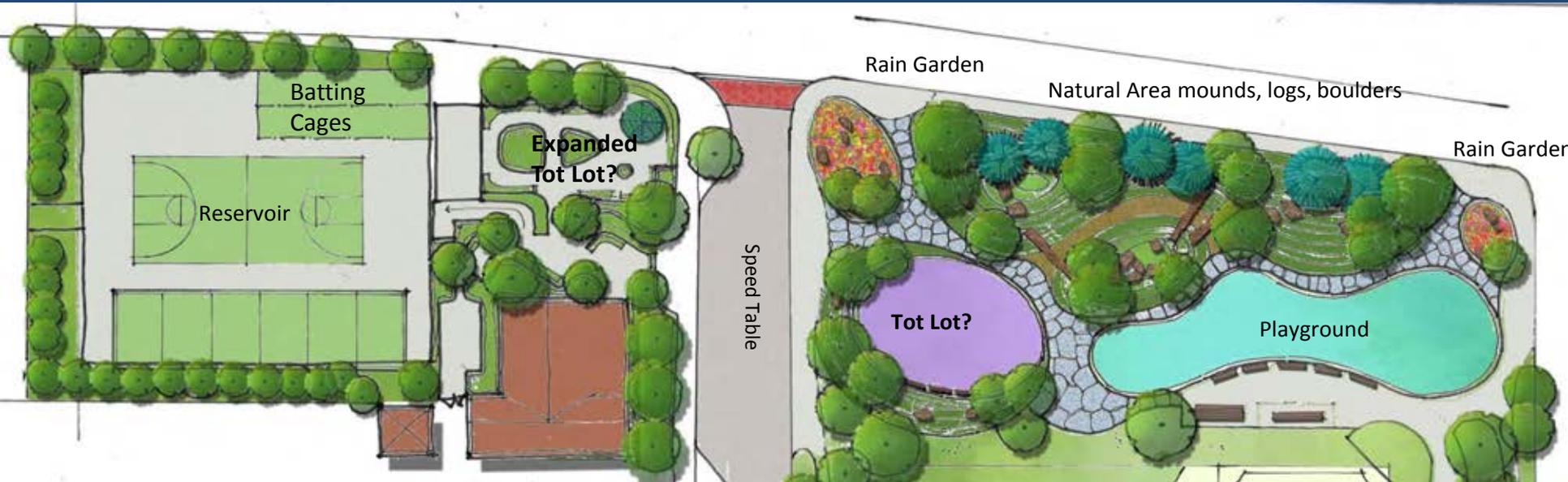


Curving Path, Mounds, Lots of Trees, Keep Fallen Trees, add Boulders

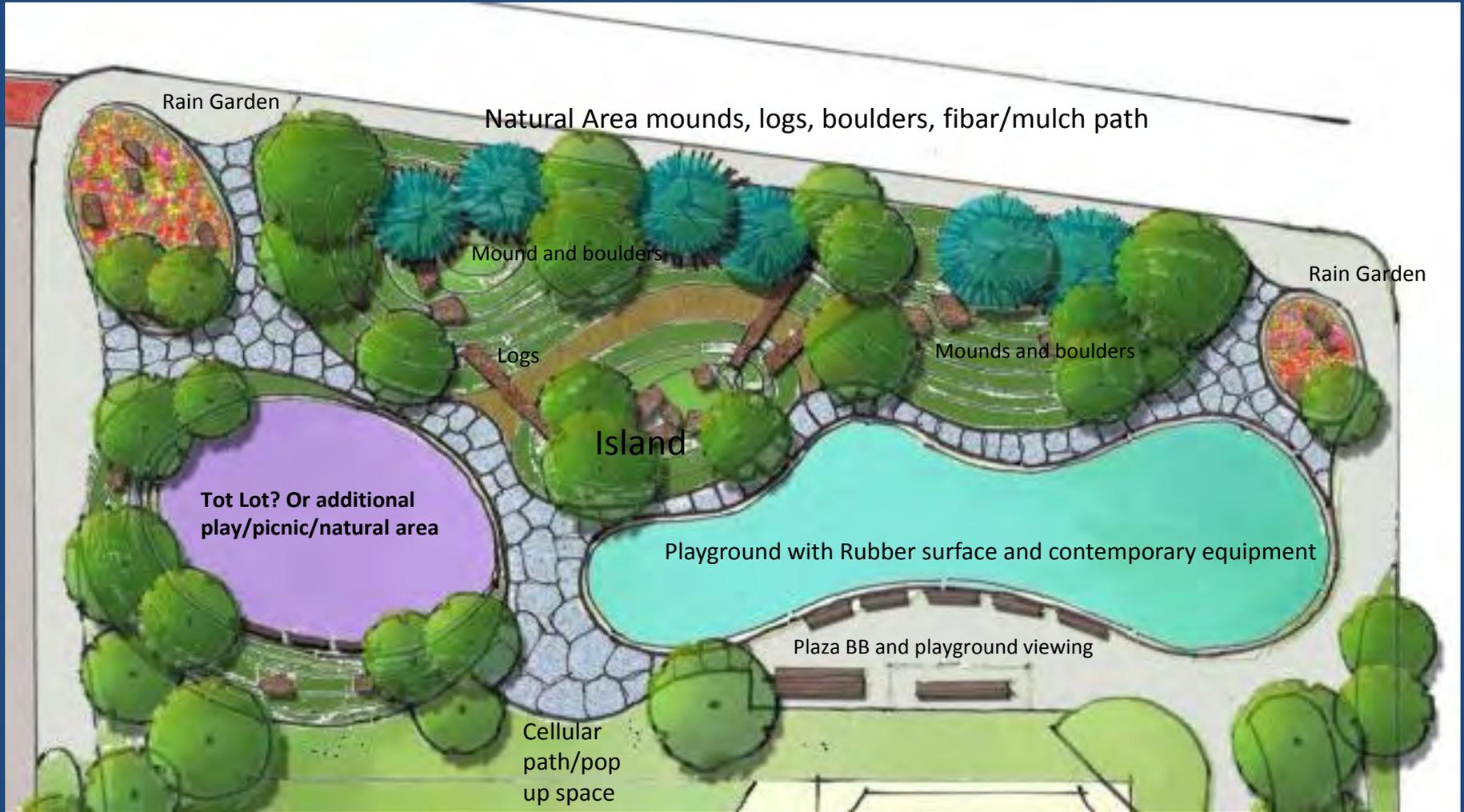




New Scheme # 7 Detail of the North End



New Scheme # 7 Detail of North End





Making it all Fit: Something's got to Give

Playgrounds

Natural Areas

Field

Sled Hill



If we turn the field and move the field away from the sled hill
“Natural” area and Playgrounds would be reduced in the north





If we have art turf, the fields can overlap and less impact on “Natural” area/Playgrounds & Hill





New Scheme # 7



Issues

- Tot Lot moved back but there is still an issue with
- Field/Sled Hill overlap

Natural Area

Plaza/Pop up Spaces/Multi-use

Sled Hill steps down

New Scheme 8: Space for Natural areas, Field & Sled Hill



- Art Turf Field shares space with BB infield

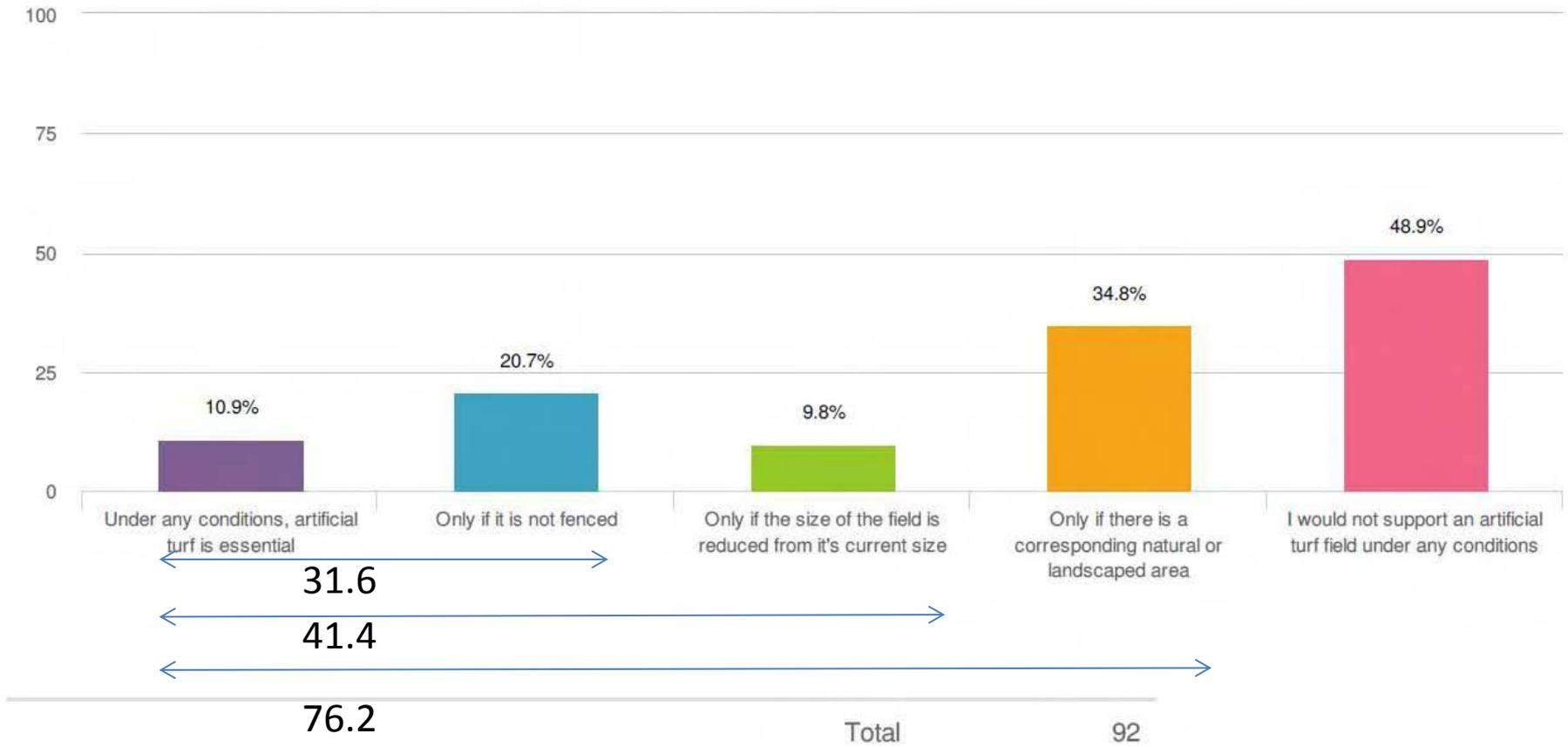
Scheme 8 gives space for all the elements





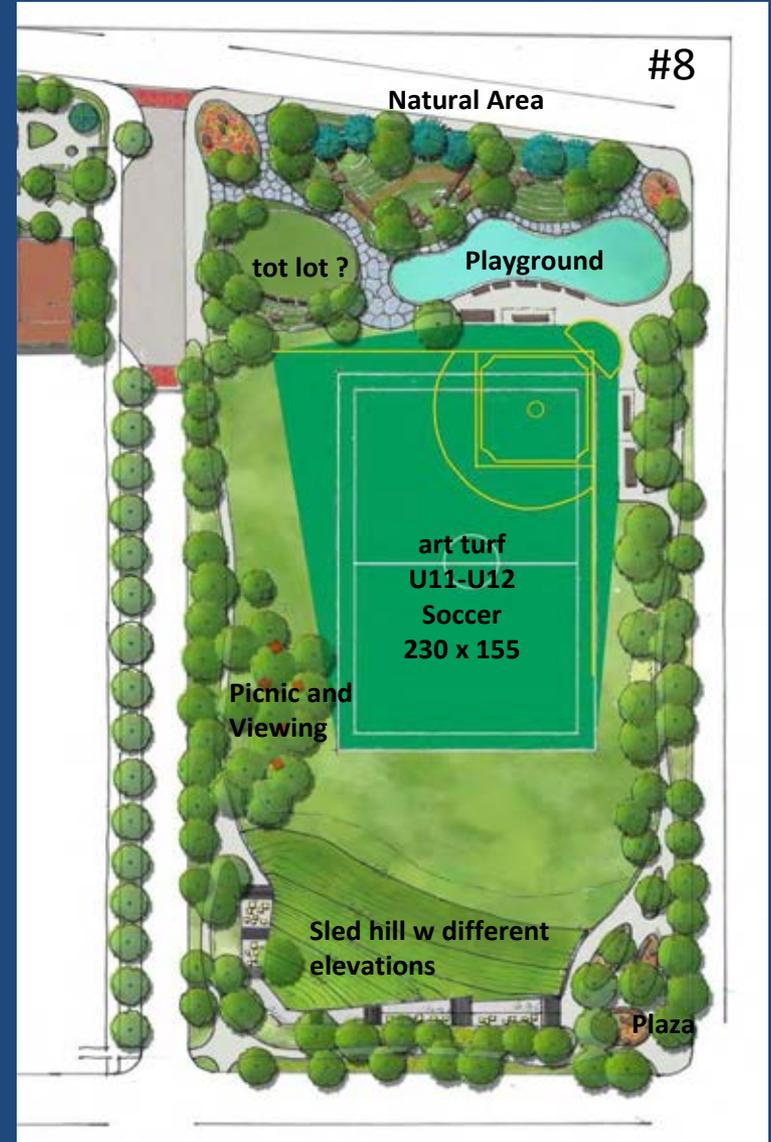
Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Art Turf?

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Comparison between Scheme 7 and 8





Barrie Park Site Master Plan



THANK YOU
NOW YOUR COMMENTS



Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Agenda

Ideas may strike you later you can email Diane at
Diane.Stanke@pdop.org

There will be a survey on Park District Website
<http://www.pdop.org>

and go to
<http://www.pdop.org/about/park-planning-projects>
for this presentation



Barrie Park - Park District of Oak Park



Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Tree Survey

Tree population at Barrie Park mainly younger trees.

Bald cypress, Crabapple, Norway Spruce, River Birch, Austrian Pine

Trees generally in good condition

1 River Birch tree in the playground in decline

Green Ash EAB infested. Monitor and eventually remove



Barrie Park Site Master Plan: Baseball Fields

