



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR HYBRID MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 5:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS

Chair Ashley Hay
Vice Chair Rory Westberg
Commissioners: Peter Struck, Jodi McCarthy,
Don Cohen, Sara Marxen, and Mar Brettman

LOCATION

MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers
and via Zoom
8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7609 | www.mercerisland.gov

We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at 206.275.7870 or by emailing ryan.daly@mercerisland.gov.

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City Council's [YouTube Channel](#)

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with staff at **206.275.7861** and leave a message or [email](#) before 4 PM on the day of the Commission meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:00 PM: Call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **825 9108 6996** and Password **896196**.

Join by Internet at 5:00 PM:

- 1) Click [this link](#)
- 2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
- 3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter **825 9108 6996** and Password **896196**.

Join in person at 5:00 PM: Mercer Island Community & Event Center - 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL – 5:00 PM

APPEARANCES

This is the opportunity for anyone to speak to the Commission about issues of concern.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report and Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approve the minutes for October 20, 2025 Special Hybrid Meeting
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.
3. PRC 25-15: Deane's Children's Park Site Plan Update
Recommended Action: Receive project update and provide feedback on the preferred Site Plan for Deane's Children's Park.
4. PRC 25-16: Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy
Recommended Action: Provide input on the draft *Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy*.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Absences and Commissioner Reports

ADJOURNMENT



City of Mercer Island
Parks and Recreation
Commission

Department Report
November 6, 2025





Mercerdale Park- Concrete Repairs



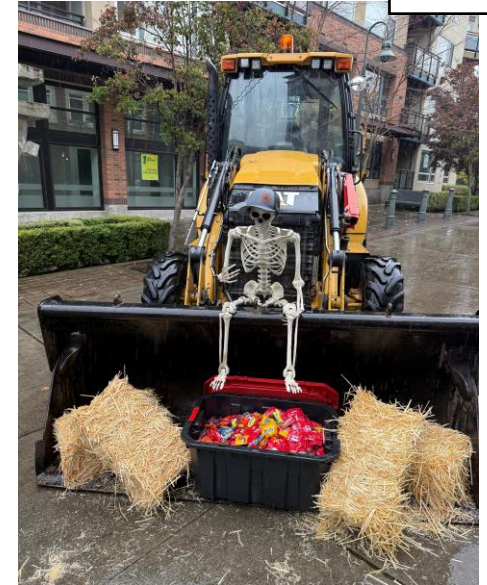
- Root heave and buckling pavement have been ongoing issues in the park.
- These issues are predominant in the plaza area near the street, near the Pergola, and near the Recycling Center.
- The current work includes replacing area of existing concrete.
- This project is being done in conjunction with a variety of other concrete repairs across the City.
- Completion will occur in the coming weeks depending on weather.



Town Center Trick-or-Treating

- Despite the weather, Town Center Trick-or-Treating was a spooky hit on Halloween!
- Staff from a variety of departments partnered up to handout candy all side 60 Town Center businesses.
- And a special thank you to the MI Chamber of Commerce for partnering on this event.

Spooky Fact: The Recreation booth gave out over 40lbs of candy!



Upcoming Programs/Events





 **OPEN ART
STUDIO**

Mercer Island Community & Event Center
9:30am-11:30am

Sept 26
Poems & abstract watercolor

Oct 24
Watercolor in Autumn

Nov 21
Watercolor greeting cards

Irene will cover a unique subject for each session
Free. No registration required
All supplies provided

www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec



Autumn Programs

For our younger Kiddos

Beginning September & October

Music Together with Mrs. Chrsi

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (AM & PM), Saturday (PM)
Class Times & Register at: <https://www.musictogetherwithmrschrisi.com>
More than just a music class. Music Together is about connecting-- with music, with your child, and with other families in your community.

SuperTots Sports

Tuesday AM & Thursday AM
Class Times & Register at: <https://skyhawks.com/supertots>
Led by Skyhawks Instructors, children ages 18 months to 6 years use multi-sport activities to develop motor skills, physical fitness and instill a love for sports.

Art & Us

Thursday AM & Saturday AM
Class Times & Register at: <https://www.petalsartclub.com>
Designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their grown-ups to explore and create together. Join Becca and Bailey from Petals Art Club each week for rotating art stations and crafts.

Sing With Our Kids

Fridays, 10:30am, no registration needed
More info at: <https://singwithourkids.com>
A community project providing free songs and activities for kids up to 5 years. Come join Nancy Stewart and sing along.

Pre-Ballet

Friday PM
Class Times & Register at: <https://emeraldballet-theatre.org>
Led by instructors from Emerald Ballet Theatre, children ages 4-6 years use this joyful introduction to ballet, movement, and music to develop creativity and confidence.

All Programs located at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040

indoor playground

Mercer Island Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Come play and socialize in our indoor gymnasium! We have balls, scooters, tricycles, slides, climbing equipment and more! Equipment is geared towards stimulating gross and fine motor skills, improving balance, and cultivating imagination. For ages 6 and younger.



Monday
9:30am - 11:30am



Wednesday
9:30am - 11:00am



Friday
9:30am - 11:30am



Saturday
11am - 12:30pm



December Events and Illuminate MI

- The holiday lights are being hung in Town Center and we are gearing up for a busy month of December- **with 11 different events across the community.**
- Events organized by the City include:
 - Gallery Reception with MIVAL
 - Tree Lighting
 - Holiday Makers Market with Chamber
 - Community Holiday Party
 - Argosy Christmas Ship
- In addition, city staff will be hanging lights in the Town Center to Illuminate MI during the winter months!

The Spirit of the Season 2025

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21						

11/29-12/14 (Sat 10am-5pm & Sun 12-5pm)

MIYFS Foundation Holiday Tree Sales, MI Presbyterian Church

3 - MIVAL Holiday Art Reception, 5-7pm, MICEC

4 - Holiday Tree Lighting, 5:30pm, Mercerdale Park

5 - First Friday Art Walk, 5-8pm, Town Center

6 - Holiday Makers Market, 10am-3pm, MICEC

6 - Girl Scouts Toy Drive, 10am-4pm, Mercerdale Park & MICEC

14 - Menorah Lighting, 5pm, Mercerdale Park

16 - MIHS Winter Music Concert, 6:30-9pm, MIHS PAC

17 - Gingerbread House Fun, 5:30-6:30pm, Mercer Island Library

17 - MIHS Winter Band Concert, 7-9pm, IMS Commons

19 - Community Holiday Party, 6:30-8:30pm, MICEC

19 - Argosy Christmas Ship, 8:40pm, Luther Burbank Beach

Mercer Island Community & Event Center will be closed
December 22nd, 2025 - January 4th, 2026

Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

Item 1.

November 12 ***Special Meeting w/ Open Space Conservancy Trust***

- E-bike Regulations

December 4

- ~~Intro to the Parks Code~~

January (DATE TBD)

- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan: Preferred Site Plan Discussion
- Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy update

February 5

- Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan



Thank you!



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

2025/2026 PLANNING SCHEDULE

Items are not listed in any particular order.
Agenda items & meeting dates are subject to change.

REMINDER: NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

NOVEMBER 6, 5:00 PM		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE 10/30
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC 25-15: Deane's Children's Park Site Plan Update	Shelby Perrault	
	PRC 25-16: Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy	Ryan Daly	

NOVEMBER 12, 5:00 PM – SPECIAL JOINT HYBRID MEETING WITH OSCT		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC 25-17: E-Bike Regulations Study Session	Amelia Tjaden	

DECEMBER 4, 5:00 PM		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC 25-XX: Intro to the Parks Code	TBD	

2026 (SPECIAL MEETING FOR JAN. 1 HOLIDAY) JANUARY TBD 5:00 PM		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	Deane's Children's Park Site Plan: Preferred Site Plan Discussion	Shelby Perrault	
	PRC 26-XX: Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy Update (If needed)	Jeremy Jasman	

FEBRUARY 5, 5:00 PM		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
Absences:			
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	PRC: 25-XX: Deane's Children's Park Site Plan - Recommendation	Shelby Perrault	

MARCH 5, 5:00 PM Absences:		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	MICEC Fee Waiver Policy	Ryan Daly	
	Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan: Project Update	Sarah Bluvas	

APRIL 2, 5:00 PM Absences:		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	

MAY 7, 5:00 PM Absences:		STAFF WORK	AGENDA GO LIVE
TIME/TOPIC		STAFF	
	Recreation Division Annual Report	Ryan Daly	
	KCLS - Mercer Island Branch Operations Update (May)	Ryan Daly/KCLS	

Pending:

Project - Proposal for Year-round programming at Luther Burbank (2026)

MICEC Fee Waiver Policy

ANNUAL AGENDA ITEMS

KCLS - Mercer Island Branch Operations Update (May)

Annual PRC Chair/Vice-Chair Elections (June)

Annual Bylaws Review (June)

Recreation Division Annual Report



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES October 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Hay at 5:01 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chair Ashley Hay, Vice Chair Rory Westberg and Commissioners Peter Struck, Jodi McCarthy, Sara Marxen, and Mar Brettmann were present. City Council Liaison Craig Reynolds was present.

Commissioner Don Cohen was absent.

Kellye Hilde Deputy Director Public Works, Capital Parks Manager Shelby Perrault, CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvus, Recreation Manager Ryan Daly, Recreation Coordinator Jeremy Jasman, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

APPEARANCES

Lauren Alexander addressed the PRC regarding a location for the MI Rowing Club
Carolyn Boatsman addressed the PRC regarding a location for the MI Rowing Club

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. Staff Liaison Report & Planning Schedule Update

Due to the extensive meeting agenda, the Chair opted for the Staff Liaison Report & Planning Schedule be sent to the PRC via email in lieu of a presentation.

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 4, 2025, Regular Hybrid Meeting was presented.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by McCarthy to:

Approve the minutes from September 4, 2025, Regular Hybrid Meeting.

Passed: 6 – 0

3. PRC 25-11: Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks Joint Park Infrastructure Plan Update

CIP Project Manager Sarah Bluvus and Capital Parks Manager Shelby Perrault presented.
Commissioners asked questions and provided input.

Recess from 7:12pm to 7:22pm

4. PRC 25-12: Athletic Field Use Review and Discussion

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly and Recreation Coordinator Jeremy Jasman presented. Commissioners asked questions and provided input.

5. PRC 25-13: Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly presented. Commissioners asked questions and provided input.

6. PRC 25-14: Letter of Appreciation to Paul West

It was moved by Westberg; seconded by McCarthy to:

Approve the Letter of Appreciation to Paul West and direct staff to transmit.

Passed: 6 – 0

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Absences and Commissioner Reports

Struck reported that the MI Library will now be open on Sundays.

McCarthy added input on having a rowing facility or community on Mercer Island.

Marxen asked a question related to open basketball court availability at School District facilities.

Hay added input on having a rowing program on Mercer Island.

Hay shared Cohen's email communication regarding a location for the MI Rowing Club.

Chair Hay asked for a motion to excuse Commissioner Cohen's absence.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by McCarthy to:

Excuse Commissioner Cohen's absence from the meeting

Passed: 6 – 0

ADJOURNMENT at 8:34 pm



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-15
November 6, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-15: Deane's Children's Park Site Plan Update	☒ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive project update and provide feedback on the preferred Site Plan for Deane's Children's Park.	☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
STAFF:	Kellye Hilde, Deputy Public Works Director Shelby Perrault, Capital Parks Manager	
EXHIBITS:	1. Project Location Map 2. Parks and Recreation Commission – Design Concept Discussion Q&A 3. Preferred Site Plan	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to update the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) on the development of the preferred site plan for Deane's Children's Park.

- On March 18, 2025, the Mercer Island City Council (City Council) authorized staff to proceed with developing a Site Plan for Deane's Children's Park ([AB6641](#)).
- The City Council allocated \$1,500,000 in the 2025-2026 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Program for the planning, design, and construction of the improvements at Deane's Children's Park, including the development of the new Site Plan. The scope of work for the first phase of construction at the park will be determined through this planning process.
- The Site Plan will address universal play standards with a new layout and will include a phasing plan, cost estimate, and recommended funding strategy for replacing equipment and amenities.
- Between April and May 2025, the project team conducted the first round of outreach through an online survey, open house, school visits, and community event booths to gather input on priorities for the Site Plan.
- Key themes from the first round of engagement included strong support for inclusive and accessible play, preserving the park's natural and wooded character, and incorporating imaginative and nature-based design elements.
- Based on this input, two early design concepts were developed: *The Quest* and *Woodsy Wonders*.
- Between July and August 2025, the project team conducted the second round of outreach through an online survey, project booths at four community events, and a discussion with the Friends of Dragon Park to gather input on a preferred concept and preferences on the look, feel, and character of play equipment.
- Key themes from the second round of engagement included strong support for the *Woodsy Wonders* concept, and a focus on imaginative, inclusive play experiences that preserve the park's natural character.
- On September 4, 2025, the project team facilitated a site tour with the Commission to provide an on-the-ground perspective of the two design concepts under consideration. Following the site visit, the Commission expressed support for the *Woodsy Wonders* concept and recommended moving forward with refining this option into the preferred plan ([PRC 25-10](#)).
- During the Commission update on November 6, 2025, staff will provide an overview of the preferred Site Plan and share preliminary play components for review and consideration.

BACKGROUND

SITE PLAN OVERVIEW AND SCOPE OF WORK

In the fall of 2024, the City engaged Berger Partnership as the design consultant to facilitate the development of a new Site Plan for Deane's Children's Park. The plan will address cohesive integration of the Bike Skills area and the playground structures, with the goal of modernizing the park area to meet universal play standards. The plan will also address improvements to pedestrian and bike circulation, restroom and picnic shelter replacement, parking, and other potential park improvements. The final Site Plan will include a cost estimate, phasing plan, and funding strategy.

The planning, design, and construction of Deane's Children's Park will include multiple phases:

- **Phase I:** Develop a Site Plan in 2025 through a community engagement process that will address universal play standards including a new park layout and phasing plan for the replacement of equipment and amenities. The Site Plan will also include cost estimates and a funding strategy. The Parks and Recreation Commission will review the proposed alternatives and present a recommendation to the City Council for adoption.
- **Phase II:** The Site Plan will identify the first phase of capital improvement work, including anticipated replacement of one or more playground structures. The project will advance through detailed design, permitting, and phased construction that is anticipated to take place from 2026-2027.
- **Future Phases:** The anticipated scope of improvements for Deane's Children's Park likely exceed the initial budget allocation. Future capital improvements will be recommended for implementation in phases, to include continued opportunities for community fundraising and grants.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE

The Site Plan development process is expected to take about one year and is divided into five major steps:

- Project Kickoff and Site Assessment: Q4 2024 – Q1 2025 (complete)
- Pre-Design and Pre-Engagement: Q1 2025 (complete)
- Concept Development: Q2 – Q3 2025 (complete)
 - Identify gaps, needs, and priorities of project, and gather input on play elements
 - Develop concept alternatives
- **Final Design Recommendation: Q4 2025 (we are here)**
 - Refine concept alternatives into one final design as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Site Plan Adoption: Q1 2026
 - Parks and Recreation Commission to provide Site Plan recommendation to the City Council for review and adoption.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The first engagement phase took place from April to May 2025. The project team gathered broad community input through an online survey, community events, and school activities to inform the development of design concepts. These efforts reached a wide cross-section of the community – including families, children, and longtime park users – to understand their experiences, priorities, and ideas for the future redevelopment of the park. Feedback emphasized inclusive and accessible play and preserving the park's natural character.

The second phase of engagement, conducted from July to August 2025, sought feedback on the draft design concepts – *The Quest* and *Woodsy Wonders* – through online and in-person outreach. The community favored *Woodsy Wonders* for its alignment with the park’s natural setting and support for imaginative, inclusive play.

A detailed summary of this engagement is provided in the September 4, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting agenda. ([PRC 25-10](#))

DESIGN REFINEMENT

On September 4, 2025, the project team facilitated a site tour with the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) during its Regular Meeting to provide an on-the-ground perspective of the two draft design concepts under consideration. During the visit, staff presented an overview of each concept, highlighting how design elements would be experienced in context and how they reflected community feedback.

Following the site visit and discussion, the Commission expressed support for the *Woodsy Wonders* concept and recommended moving forward with refining this option into the preferred plan. During the meeting, the Commission discussed a selection of items for further exploration and clarification to support their input on the preferred plan; these items are addressed in Exhibit 2 and will be reviewed in greater detail during the presentation.

PUBLIC ART INTEGRATION - OPPORTUNITIES

Staff met with the Arts Council during their October 15, 2025, Regular Meeting to provide an overview of the Site Plan and discuss opportunities for public art integration consistent with the Treehouse Adventure theme from the *Woodsy Wonders* concept ([AC 25-05](#)). The meeting focused on seeking input on integrating public art and placemaking elements using the 1% for Art in Public Places funding generated by this project, with consideration for the first phase of development and additional recommendations captured in the site plan report for future phases.

During the meeting, staff explored a variety of art forms, including sculptural elements to define entryways, graphic media such as tile or paint integrated into building facades, and functional elements like benches and wayfinding. There was general support for the art forms discussed, as well as for incorporating natural materials and a treehouse-inspired nature-themed aesthetic into the park. The Arts Council recommended engaging schools and students who participated in the original outreach and emphasized that the specific art forms should be informed by student input. Opportunities for public art in the first phase will continue to be explored and refined, with direction from the Arts Council guiding implementation.

PREFERRED SITE PLAN

The preferred plan is based on the *Woodsy Wonders* concept as the primary framework for the park’s design. Key features from *The Quest* are retained, including the restroom and picnic shelter, reoriented for improved sightlines and functionality, as well as the sensory “bridge” or pathway connecting to Kenton’s Dragon. The design incorporates Kenton’s Dragon within a broader treehouse adventure theme, using subtle dragon-related elements such as themed nodes and playful discoveries like a dragon’s egg. During the meeting, staff will walk through the different play zones and present options for play equipment within each zone.

COMMISSION FEEDBACK ON PREFERRED SITE PLAN

Staff seek the Commission’s feedback on the preferred Site Plan to inform its refinement into the final design. The questions below are intended to guide the discussion, confirm the design reflects community input, and identify any areas for adjustment.

1. Does the preferred plan reflect the types of play identified through community input? Are there any gaps or adjustments needed? (Note: play equipment options will be presented during the meeting.)
2. Does the plan provide a thoughtful balance between structured play, active elements, and open spaces that support imaginative, unstructured play?
3. Does the plan provide clear, inclusive access for a range of ages and abilities, including pathways, surfacing, and play elements?
4. Are the park's character, themes, and signature elements appropriately incorporated?

During the November 6 meeting, staff will present play equipment options and collect input from the Commission on these questions and other aspects of the preferred Site Plan.

NEXT STEPS

The project team will refine the preferred plan into the final site plan and prepare a corresponding site plan report. Staff will present the final site plan and report to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review at the February 5, 2026, Regular Meeting, at which time the Commission will be asked to provide a recommendation to City Council for adoption of the Site Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive project update and provide feedback on the preferred Site Plan for Deane's Children's Park.



DEANE'S CHILDREN'S PARK

Item 3.



Deane's Children's Park Boundary



Property Line



Map Date: 3/1/2025
Island Crest Park
CIPProjectMaps2024_3.3.aprx

Disclaimer: No warranties of any sort including accuracy, fitness or merchantability accompany this map. Aerial Photo: May 2023



DEANE'S CHILDREN'S PARK SITE PLAN

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

DESIGN CONCEPT DISCUSSION Q&A

PURPOSE

This document provides a summary of key discussion points and areas for further exploration following the Parks and Recreation Commission's review of the *Woodsy Wonders* and *The Quest* design concepts on September 4, 2025. It also includes responses and clarifications from the project team to help guide the next phase of design refinement.

Location of Amenities and Play Equipment

Q: How will the placement of amenities and play areas balance activity and open space?

A: The team will refine placement to avoid overcrowding while maintaining inclusive circulation and accessibility. Final layout decisions will be guided by safety standards, spacing requirements, and the available site area. Open spaces will be intentionally preserved to encourage imaginative, unstructured play opportunities.

Play Equipment

Q: How are age groups and play types distributed across the site?

A: Zones will be identified in the PowerPoint presentation to illustrate play areas by age group and activity type, with additional detail to be provided as specific equipment is selected.

Q: How will unstructured play be incorporated?

A: Unstructured play will occur through natural elements such as log stacks, ropes, and forest discovery nodes, encouraging imaginative and self-directed play.

Q: Can taller play structures be accommodated given existing trees and root zones?

A: Yes. Equipment vendors will design within defined root protection areas, and current tree canopies provide adequate clearance for taller structures. Final heights will be verified with the selected vendor during detailed design.

Q: Should smaller structures be consolidated into larger ones?

A: This idea is under consideration as the design advances, particularly for the large treehouse structure and eastern fort/tunnel area.

Materials

Q: Will natural materials be used, and what are the cost and maintenance implications?

A: Natural materials are preferred where feasible. The presentation will include additional information on maintenance, cost, and life-cycle considerations.

Accessibility

Q: How are accessibility and inclusivity being addressed in paths and play features?

A: The design includes a hierarchy of trails—paved, gravel, and soft-surface—and distinguishes between accessible and inclusive play elements. These distinctions will be shown in the presentation.

Access and Flow

Q: How is trail redundancy being addressed and how will impacts to the tree canopy be minimized?

A: The trail network has been refined to reduce overlapping routes and focus on key circulation paths that support accessibility and

connections between play areas. Alignments are being carefully planned to minimize disturbance to mature trees, helping preserve the park's established canopy and woodland character.

Q: How will park access be coordinated with the adjacent Bicycle Skills Area (BSA)?

A: A central amenity zone is proposed to accommodate both park users and BSA visitors. The new shelter and restroom are positioned near the BSA access point to support circulation without interfering with play zones.

Q: Will student walking routes to Island Park Elementary be maintained?

A: Yes. The plan retains a central path that mirrors current routes, minimizing impacts to existing trees.

Q: How will entry points and parking lot safety be addressed?

A: Phase 1 improvements will include upgraded fencing and self-latching gates along the southern edge of the park to enhance safety and manage access. The design reflects a balanced approach to entry preferences, removing one entrance on the south side while retaining two primary access points—one on the east and one on the west.

Elements to Carry Over from *The Quest to Woodsy Wonders*

Q: Which features from The Quest are being retained?

A: The restroom and picnic shelter have been reoriented to match The Quest layout for improved sightlines and functionality. Additionally, the sensory “bridge” or pathway connecting to Kenton’s Dragon will be incorporated into the preferred plan.

Q: How will *Kenton’s Dragon* be incorporated?

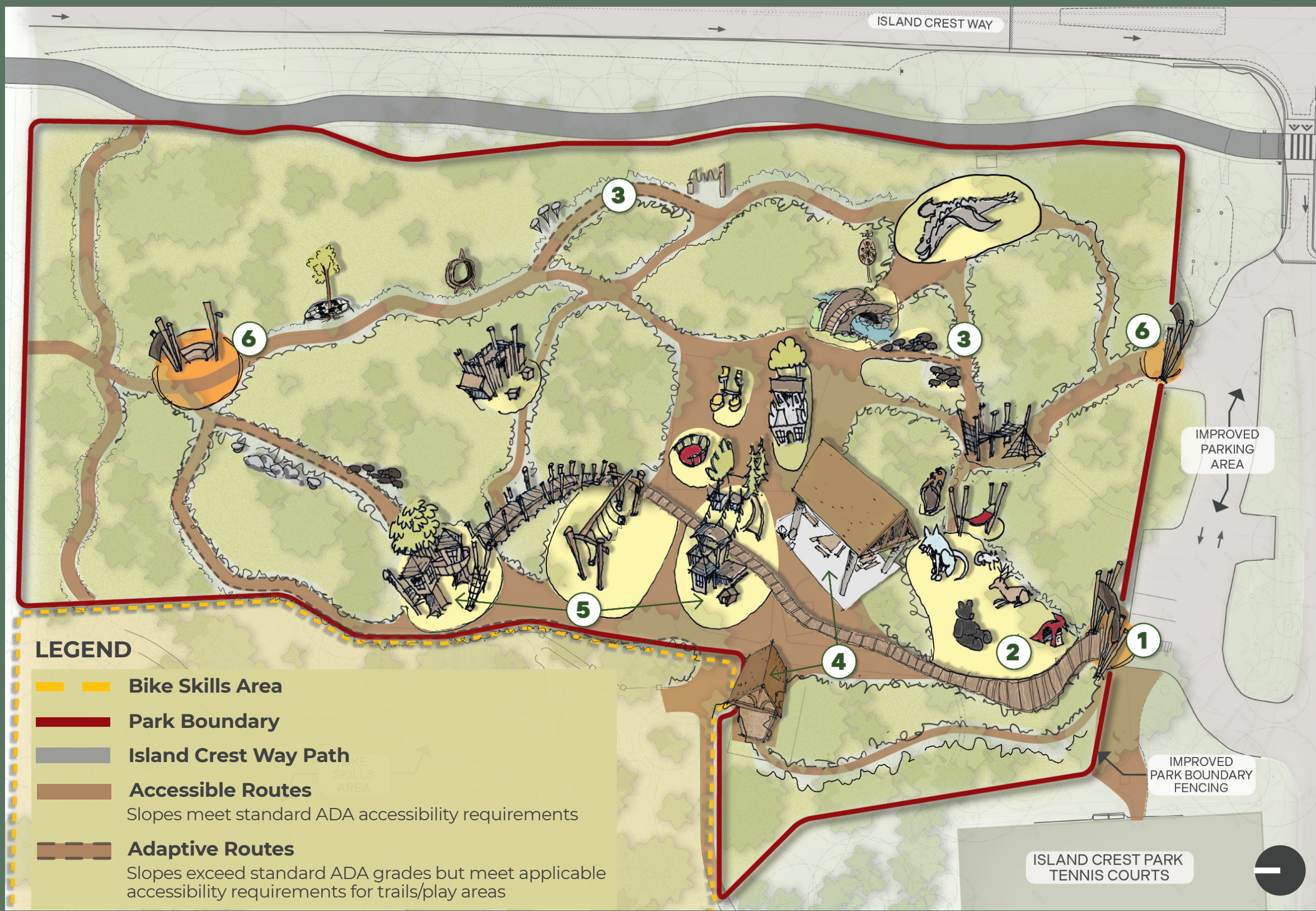
A: The design balances a treehouse adventure theme with subtle dragon-related elements near the sculpture, such as themed nodes or playful “discoveries” like a dragon’s egg.

SUMMARY

The preferred plan builds on the “Woodsy Wonders” concept as the primary framework for the park’s design. This approach celebrates the site’s natural woodland feel, featuring treehouse-inspired structures and nature-based play that sparks imagination.

Elements from “The Quest” concept are also included - like the restroom and picnic shelter, now oriented to enhance sightlines and overall flow. A sensory “bridge” or path, adds a meaningful link to Kenton’s Dragon.

- 1 MAIN ENTRY & FOREST PATH**
- 2 CRITTER CORNER**
- 3 THE DISCOVERY PATH**
- 4 RESTROOM & PICNIC SHELTER**
- 5 CENTRAL PLAY AREA & TREEHOUSES**
- 6 ALTERNATIVE PARK ENTRY**



This plan was developed from input gathered during previous community engagement activities. Design is subject to change through additional design work.



Deane's Children's Park Site Plan

PRC 25-15| November 6, 2025



Meeting Agenda

- Background
- Preliminary Design Concepts – Recap
- Public Art Opportunities
- Inclusive Design Principles
- Preferred Site Plan
 - Play Components
 - Parking Lot Improvements
- Preliminary Phasing
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to update the Parks & Recreation Commission on the development of the preferred Site Plan for Deane's Children's Park and discuss the following:

1. Does the preferred plan reflect the types of play identified through community input? Are there any gaps or adjustments needed?
2. Does the plan provide a thoughtful balance between formal play, active elements, and open spaces that support informal play?
3. Does the plan provide clear, inclusive access for a range of ages and abilities, including pathways, surfacing, and play elements?
4. Are the park's character, themes, and signature elements appropriately incorporated?



Background

Site Context

Item 3.

- Park built in 1962
- City acquired park in 1968
- Park renamed in 1985 in honor of Lola & Phil Deane

LEGEND

-  ISLAND CREST PARK
Existing Park Boundary
-  BIKE SKILLS AREA
Existing Boundary
-  SITE PLAN LIMITS
Scope of Work



Early Site Assessment

Item 3.

Play Equipment

- Near end of its useful life
- Equipment not accessible, lacks diverse & inclusive opportunities

Park Amenities

- Structures near end of their useful life
- Furnishings not accessible, in disrepair

Site Circulation

- Play areas spread out, lack wayfinding
- Trails /paths not accessible, not defined
- Accessible parking stalls non-compliant





Preliminary Design Concepts - Recap

Community Engagement Summary

Item 3.

Overview:

- Conducted July – August 2025
- One online survey: 72 responses
- Four community event booths
 - Summer Celebration, Music in the Park, National Night Out, Pride in the Park

Key Takeaways:

- Broad support for *Woodsy Wonders*
- Integrate Kenton's Dragon in refined design
- Support for imaginative play
- Climbing and sliding most popular play in larger structures, followed by balancing and tunnels



Pride in the Park Community Event Booth

Play Equipment – Look & Feel

Item 3.



Top-Rated Overall



2nd Choice – Online Survey



2nd Choice – Event Voting

Preferred Design Concept

Item 3.

WOODSY WONDERS



1 ARRIVAL & FOREST PATH

As you arrive, you'll be greeted by natural wood materials that set the tone for a forest-inspired, treehouse-themed experience. The forest path acts as the central spine, connecting major elements of the playground and ensuring accessibility for all visitors.

- It begins at the park entrance, leads to various play areas, and ends at a large treehouse climber.
- The northern part of the forest path can be designed as an elevated walkway, offering unique views and playful interactions.

2 CRITTER CORNER

Tucked near the park entrance, this play area is designed for children ages 2 - 5. Here, little ones can discover forest animals, climb on nature inspired structures, and enjoy:

- Spaces for exploration and imaginative play
- Sensory friendly features
- Cozy spots for quiet breaks

3 DISCOVERY PATH

Designed for younger explorers, this is a playful loop that weaves through nature-inspired activities - blending movement, imagination, and moments of calm. Along the way, kids can:

- Balance, climb, and crawl through a woodland adventure
- Pause for quiet moments and seating nestled in the woods
- End at an accessible treehouse structure that connects to the adventure hub and leads to Kenton's Dragon.

4 PICNIC SHELTER & RESTROOM AMENITIES

This central area will feature structures with a natural aesthetic to blend into the park's rustic, forest-inspired setting and create a welcoming place for families to gather, rest, and connect. Donor recognition could be integrated onto the restroom walls - similar to a tile wall display.

5 TREEHOUSE ADVENTURE HUB

This playground brings the magic of the forest to life with a variety of treehouse-style play experiences designed for a wide range of ages and abilities. From fully inclusive post-and-platform structures to swings, every child can find their own way to play, explore, and connect. Highlights include a willow tunnel for quiet discovery, a rocking 'river raft', and rope climbers for adventurers.

The design blends challenge and accessibility, so every child can join the fun - at their own pace, in their own way.



Public Art Integration - Opportunities

Public Art Integration

Item 3.

Arts Council Meeting

- Discussed 1% for Art funding and public art opportunities in Phase 1 and future phases
- Explored sculptural, graphic, and functional art using natural, treehouse-inspired materials
- Recommendations will be included in Site Plan report
- Support for student involvement to shape theme and final designs





Inclusive Design Principles

What is Inclusive Play?

"A universally designed, sensory-rich environment that enables all children to develop physically, socially, and emotionally. An engaging place that provides the just-right level of challenge and offers opportunities to succeed. A well-designed place that addresses all levels of ability. A place that goes beyond minimum accessibility to create play experiences that meet a variety of needs and interests."

- Landscape Structures (2021)



Designing Inclusively - 7 Principles

Item 3.

1

ACCESSIBILITY, SAFETY, & COMFORT

- ENTIRE SITE IS ACCESSIBLE
 - PARKING LOT
 - PLAY AREAS AND ADJACENT SPACES
 - ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
- SAFETY IS ENSURE WITH:
 - CLEAR LINES OF SIGHTS
 - SENSE OF ENCLOSURE IN THE SITE
 - LIMITED ACCESS POINTS
- SHADE OPPORTUNITIES

2

EQUITABLE PLAY EXPERIENCES

- PLAY EXPERIENCES AT VARYING LEVELS OF AVAILABILITY AND INTERACTIVENESS
- PREVIEW AREAS
- PLAY ELEMENTS SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENTAL SEQUENCE OF MULTIPLE SKILLS

3

FLEXIBILITY & VARIETY

- MULTITUDE OF PLAY OPPORTUNITIES
- MULTIPURPOSE AREAS
- RANGE OF FEATURES
- PLAY ELEMENTS SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE OF MULTIPLE SKILLS

4

READABILITY & MESSAGING

- LANDMARKS
- OPEN / CLEAR VIEWS THROUGH SPACE
- SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING
- SIMPLE AND CLEAR MESSAGING OF WHAT THE SPACE IS USED FOR
- PICTURES AND SYMBOLS TO REDUCE BARRIERS FOR ALL TO COMMUNICATE

Designing Inclusively - 7 Principles

Item 3.

5

SENSORY ENGAGEMENT

- OFFERING ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH ALL THE SENSES:
 - SIGHTS
 - TOUCH
 - SMELL
 - TASTE
 - SOUND
 - VESTIBULAR (INNER EAR, SENSE OF BALANCE)
 - PROPRIOCEPTION (INTERNAL BODY AWARENESS WHERE YOU ARE IN RESPECT TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS)



6

DEGREES OF SOCIAL INTERACTION

- CREATE AREAS THAT PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES:
 - LARGE COMMUNITY SPACES
 - SMALL COMMUNITY SPACES
 - ONE-ON-ONE SPACES
- PROVIDING COZY SPACES SEPARATE FROM ALL THE OTHER GATHERING SPACES



7

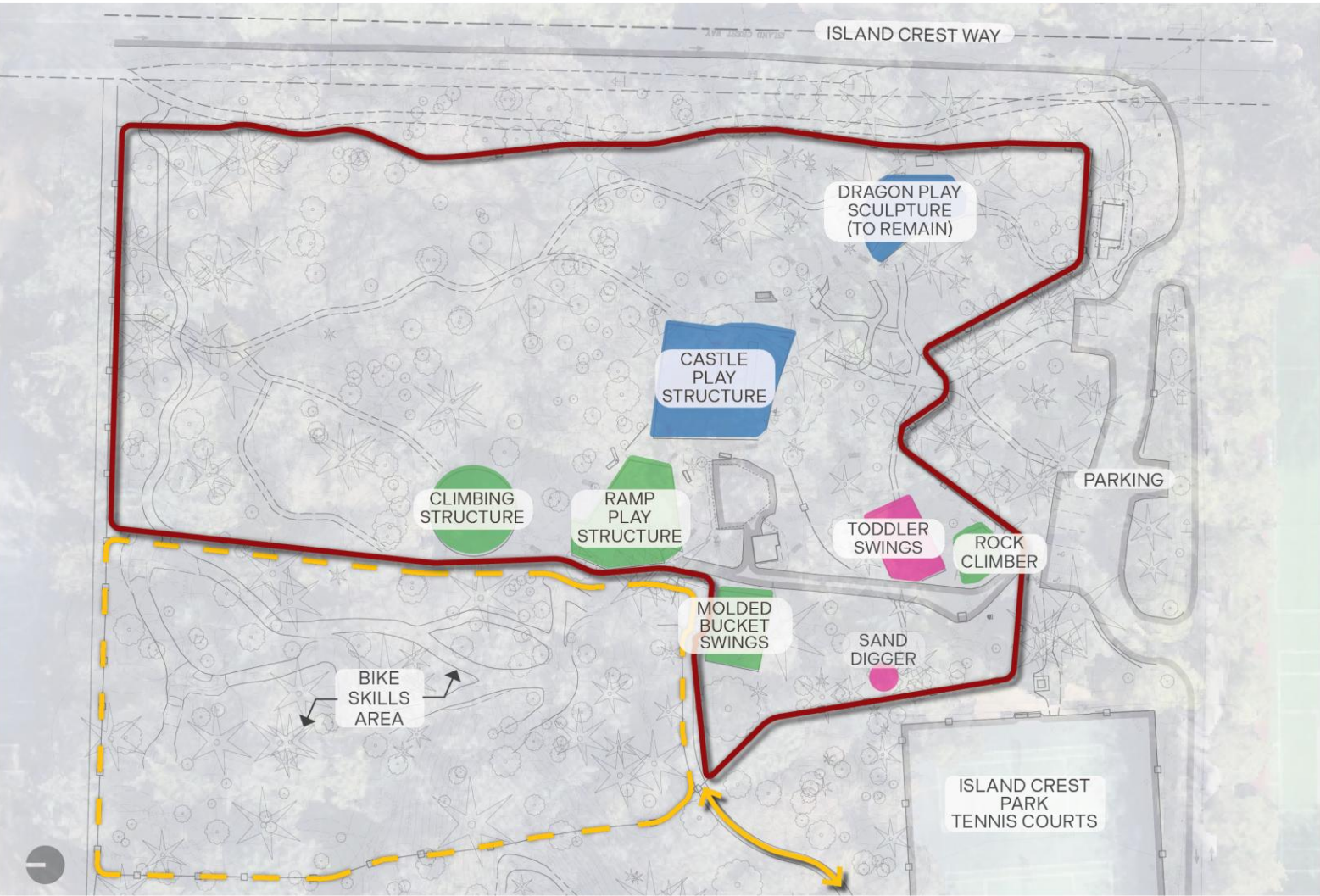
MULTI-GENERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO THE PLAY ELEMENTS TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT
- CREATE A SPACE THAT PROMOTES:
 - SUPPORT
 - EMPATHY
 - SHARED EXPERIENCE
 - PERSPECTIVE

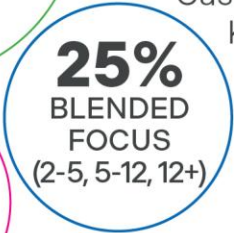


Existing Park | Play Distributions

Item 3.

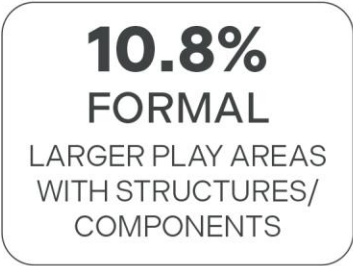


DISTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT AGE RANGES



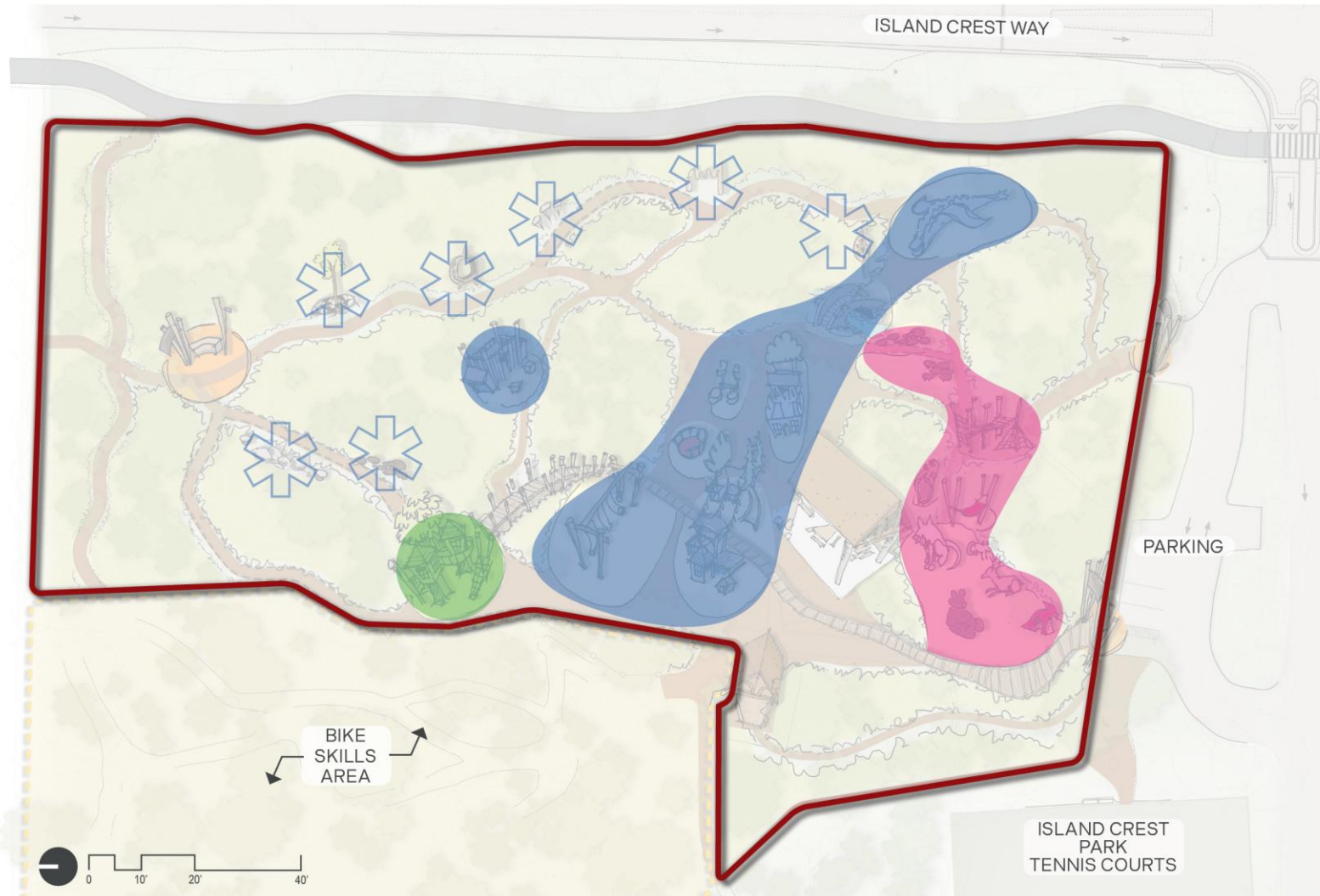
- Rock Climber: 5-12
- Toddler Swings: 2-5
- Sand Digger (removed): 2-5
- Molded Bucket Swings: 5-12
- Ramp Play Structure: 5-12
- Climbing Structure: 5-12
- Castle Play Structure: 2-12
- Kenton's Dragon: 2-12+

DISTRIBUTION OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL PLAY:

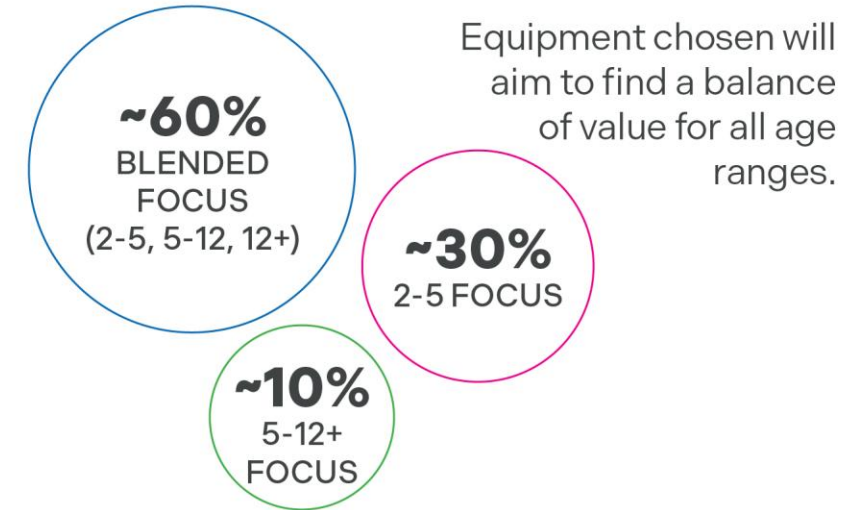


Proposed Park | Play Distributions

Item 3.



DISTRIBUTION OF EQUIPMENT AGE RANGES



DISTRIBUTION OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL PLAY:

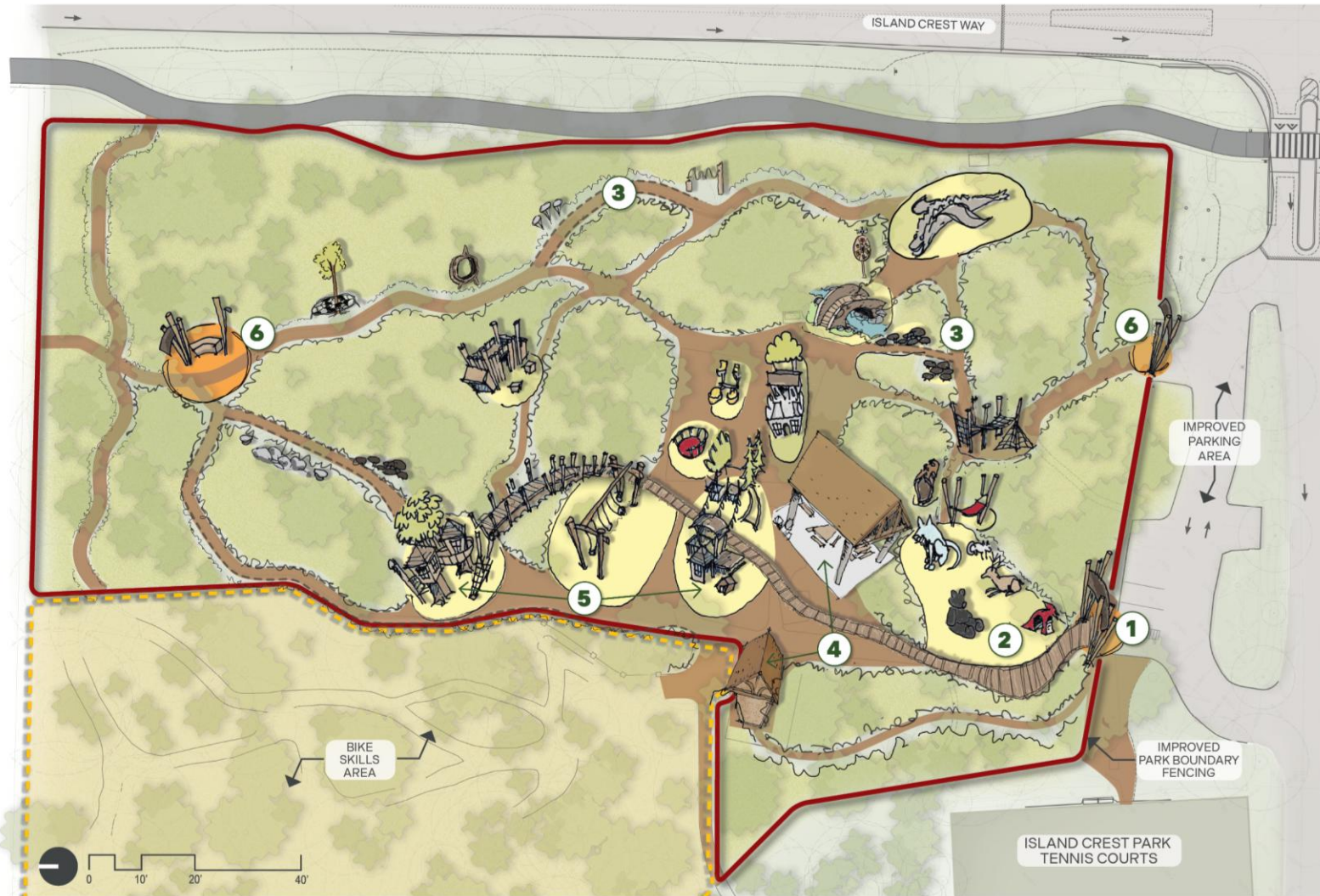




Preferred Site Plan

Preferred Site Plan

Item 3.



Summary

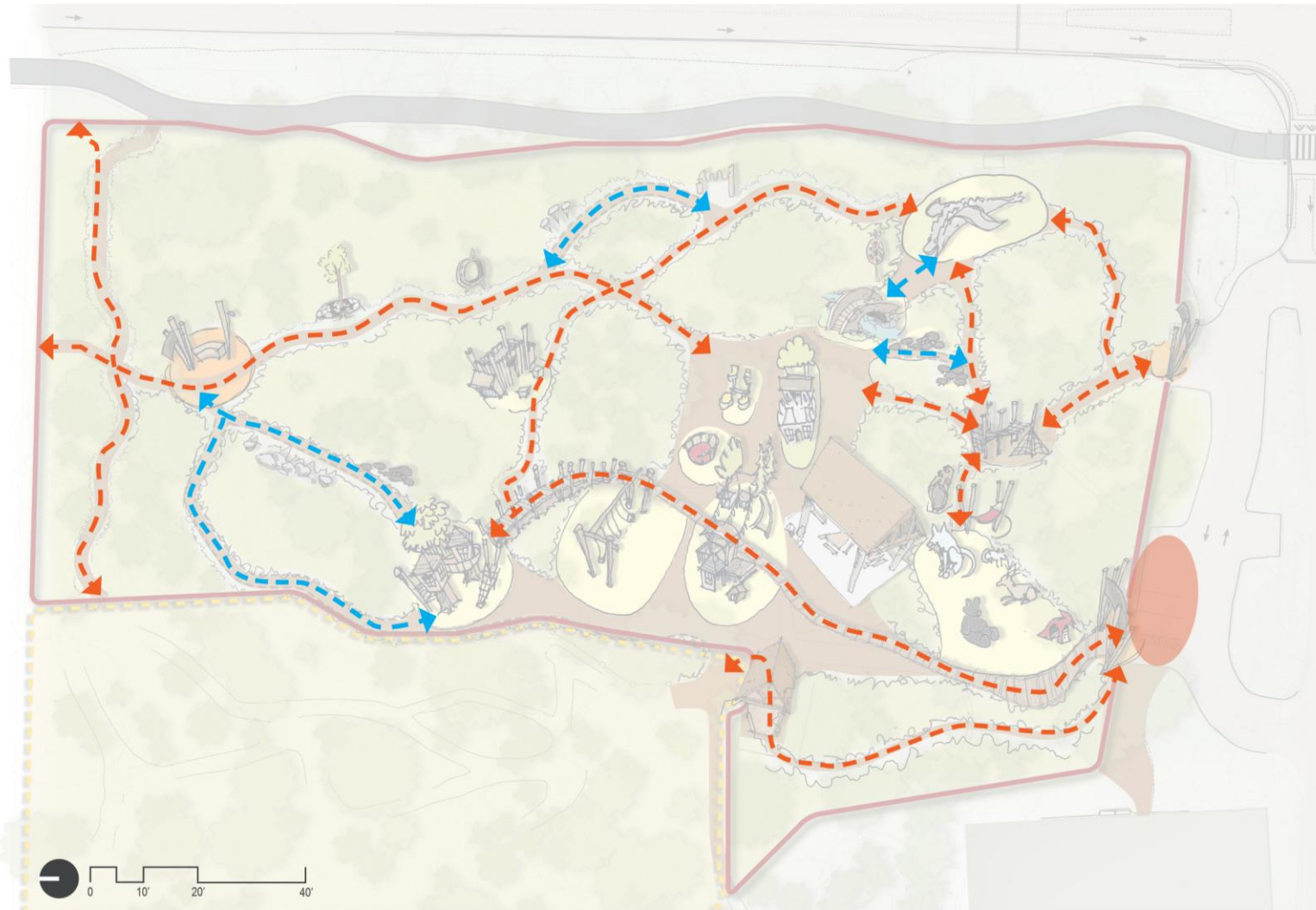
- Builds on “Woodsy Wonders” concept
- Showcases the site’s natural woodland character with treehouse-inspired play
- Integrates select “Quest” elements — restroom and picnic shelter
- Adds a sensory bridge/pathway connecting to Kenton’s Dragon

Legend

- ① MAIN ENTRY & FOREST PATH
- ② THE CRITTERS
- ③ THE DISCOVERY PATH
- ④ SHELTER & RESTROOM AMENITIES
- ⑤ MAIN COMPONENT PLAY & TREEHOUSES
- ⑥ ALTERNATIVE PARK ENTRY

Accessible & Adaptive Circulation

Item 3.



←---→ Accessible Routes

- Slopes meet standard ADA accessibility requirements

←---→ Adaptive Routes

- Slopes exceed standard ADA grades but meet trails and playspace accessibility requirements

● Accessible Parking

The Forest Path Experience

Item 3.



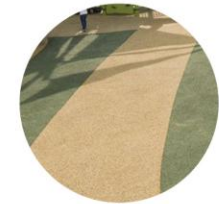
Forest Path Paving

Concrete Pavers



Forest Path Play Surfacing

Unitary Play Surfacing



Elevated Forest Path

Wood Boardwalk System

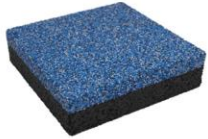


Site Surfacing Materials & Strategies

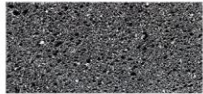
Item 3.

MORE
ACCESSIBLE

ACCESSIBLE SURFACING MATERIALS



Unitary Safety Surfacing
(Pour-In-Place)



Asphalt Paving



Concrete Paving



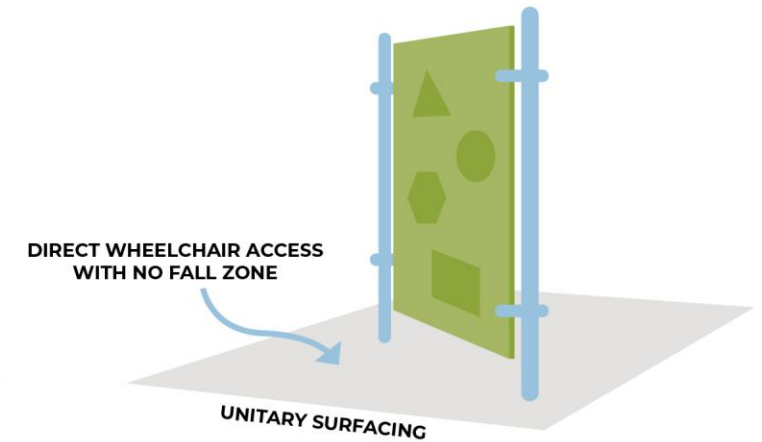
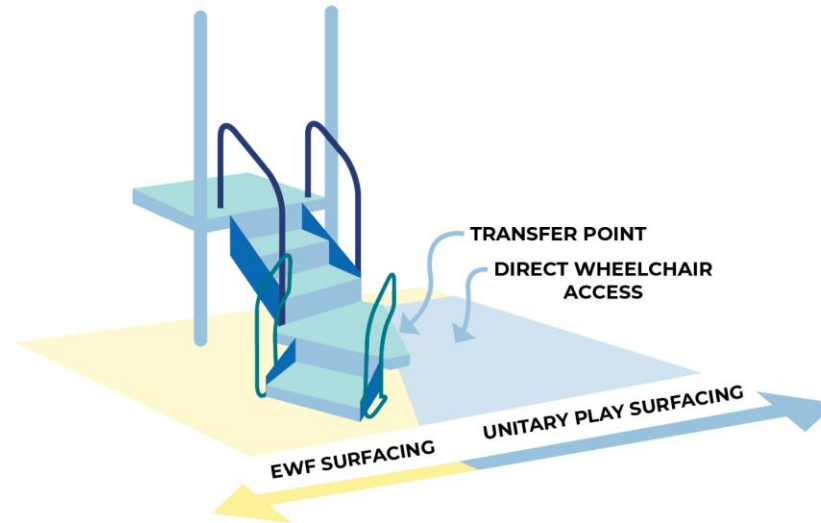
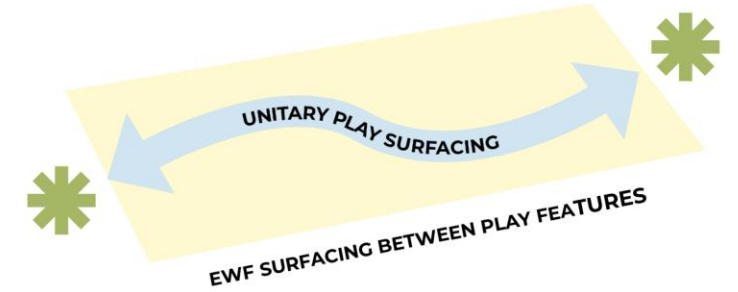
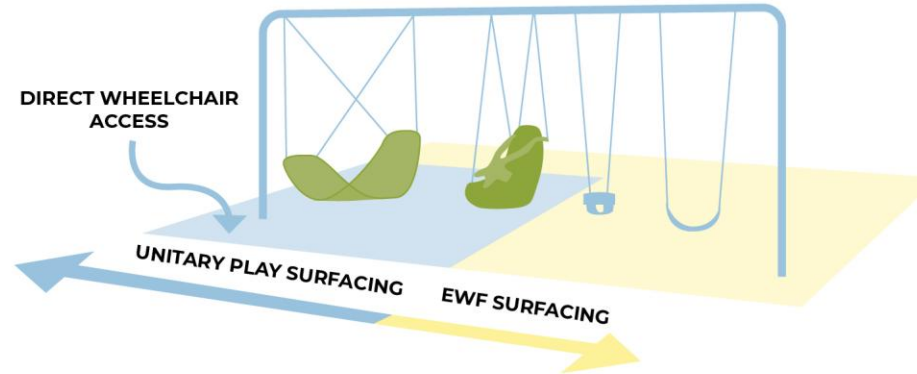
Crushed Rock with
Binder



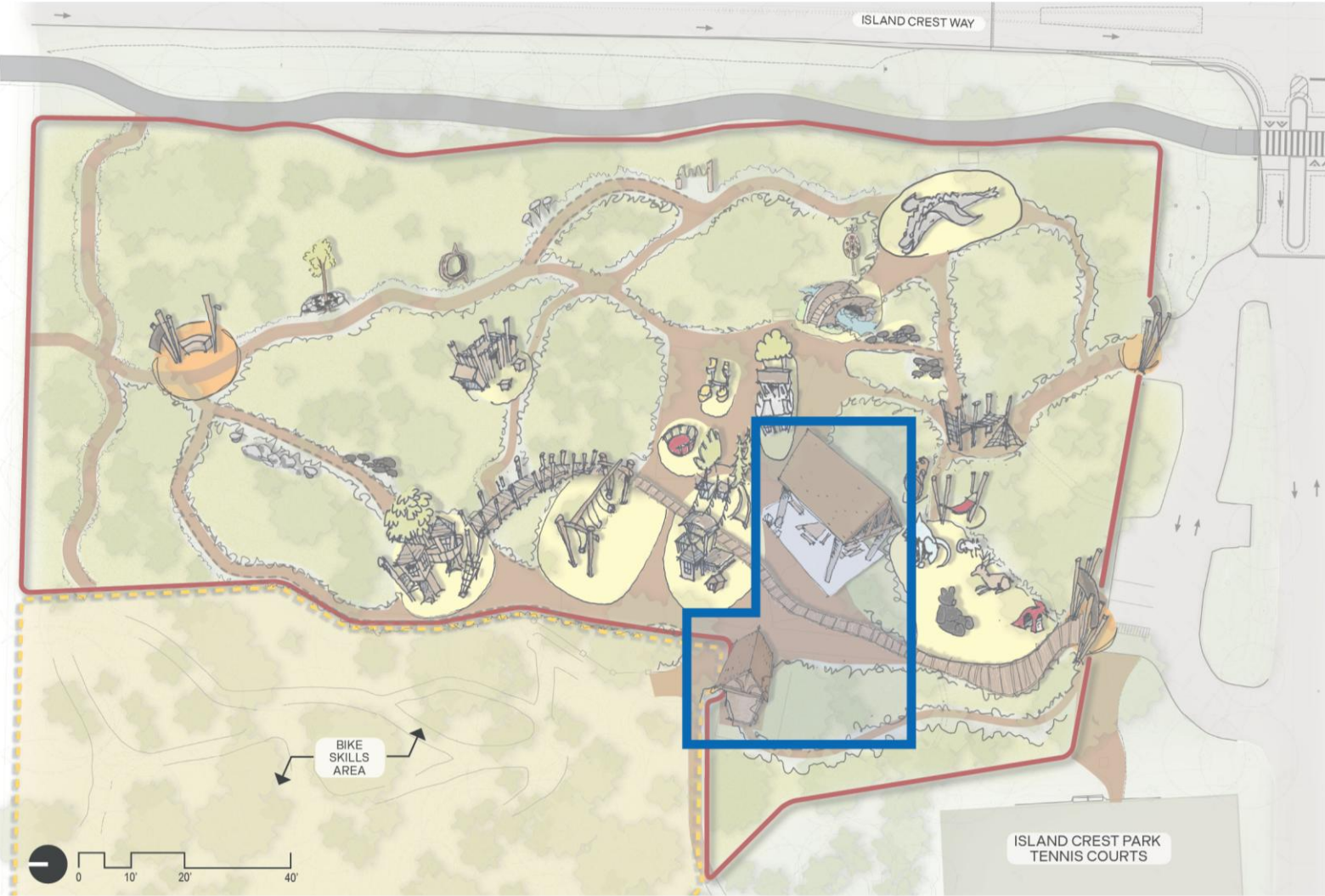
Engineered
Wood Fiber Safety
Surfacing (EWF)

LESS
ACCESSIBLE

MULTIPLE SURFACES TRANSITION CONDITIONS



Park Amenities

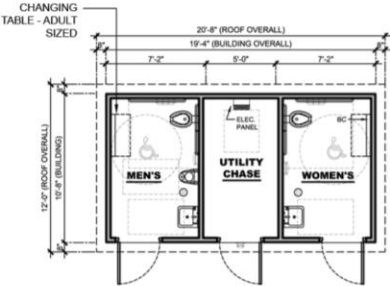


SHELTER & RESTROOM AMENITIES

The proposed shelter and restroom have been moved to “The Quest” concept’s location, per PRC direction received in September 2025.



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND SHELTER



RESTROOM SCHEMATIC W/ SPACE FOR ADULT CHANGING BENCH



Play Components

Critter Corner

Item 3.

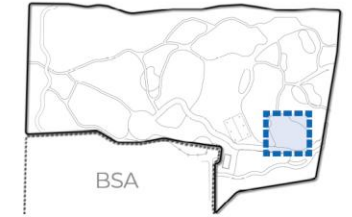
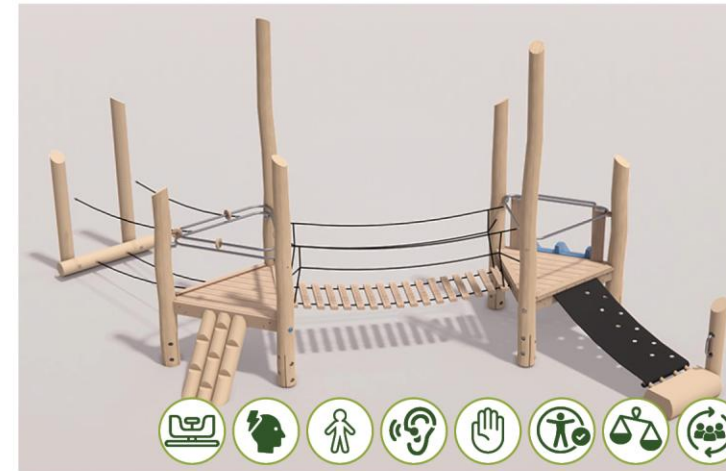
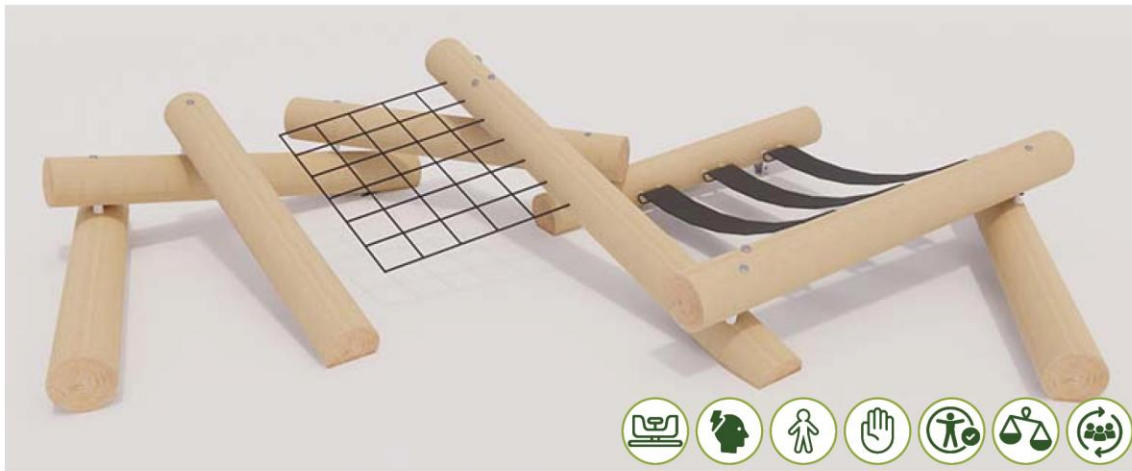


Overview

- Park entry play area for ages 2 - 5
- Forest critter themed, on the way to the Dragon's den
- Adaptive climbers for play, exploration, and quiet time
- Small-scale introduction to the park with clear sightlines

2-5 Entry Zone | Earthscape Collections

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



WOOD



RUBBER



ROPE



METAL

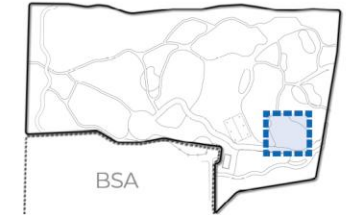
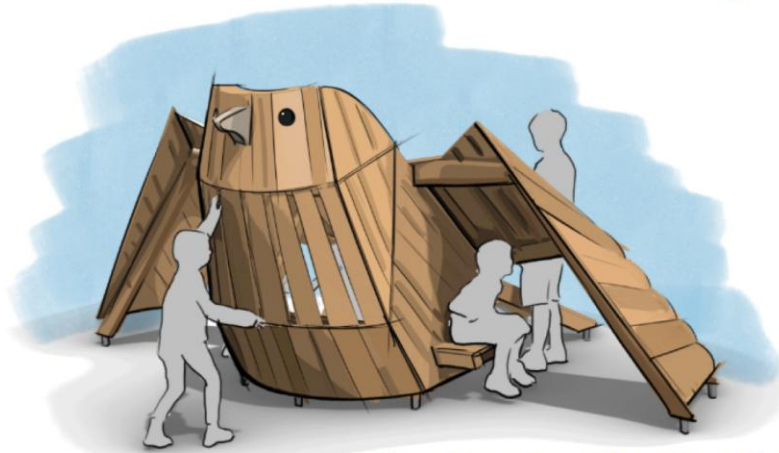
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~25 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- MONITOR FOR MAJOR WOOD SPLITTING FIRST 3 YEARS
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

2-5 Entry Zone | Kompan

Item 3.



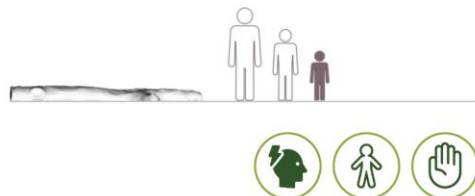
PRIMARY MATERIALS



ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION



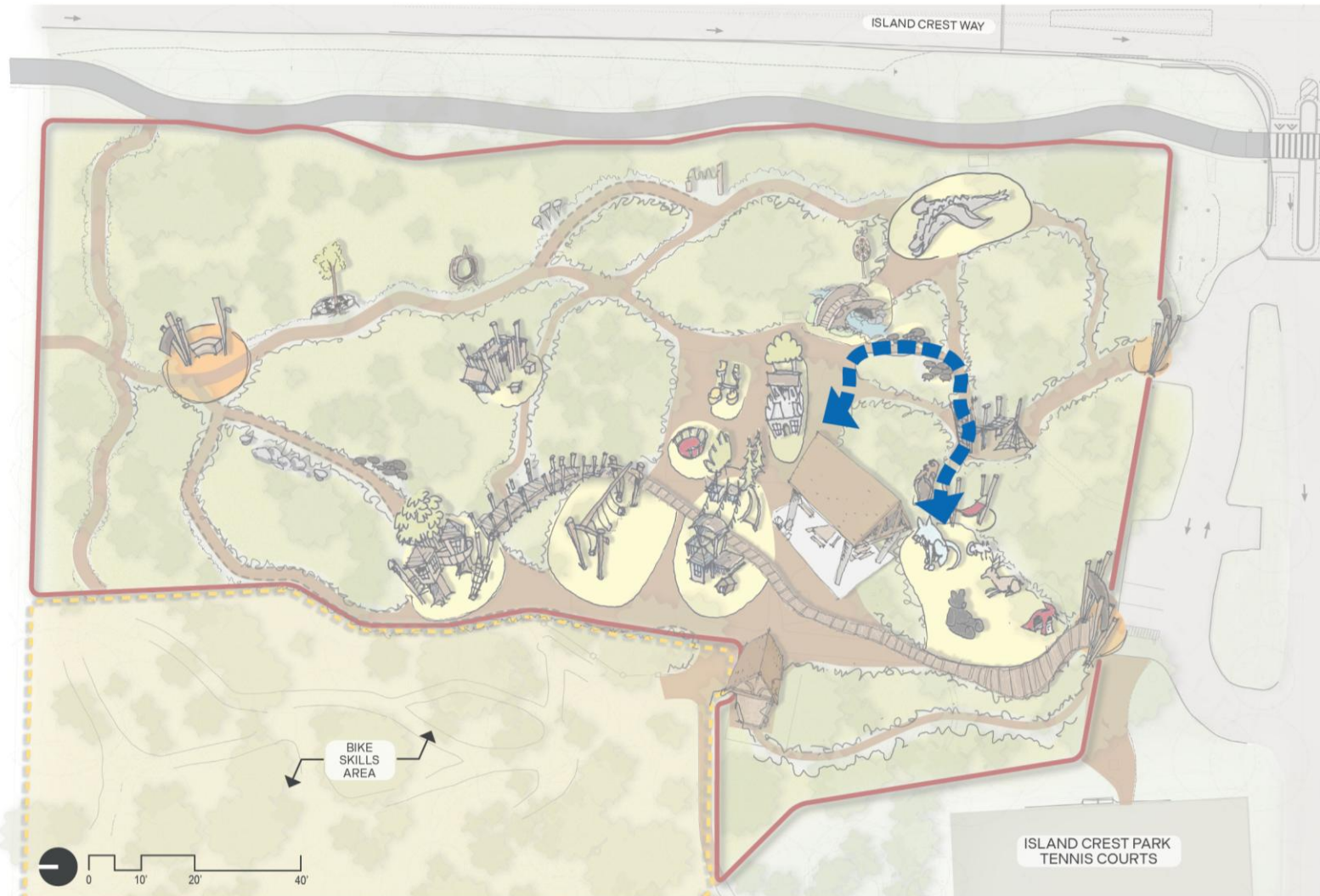
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~50 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
- CAN PRESSURE-WASH TO CLEAN
- PRETREATED FOR GRAFFITI PROTECTION
- PAINT/STAIN REPAIR AS NEEDED

Discovery Path

Item 3.

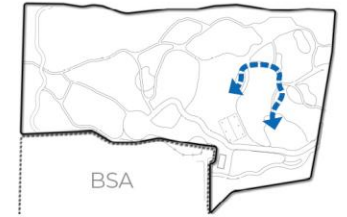
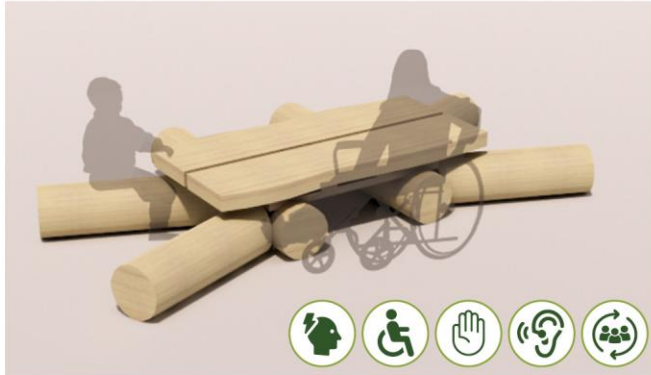


Overview

- Link play elements for ages 2 - 5
- Offers mix of active and passive experiences
- Small-scale interventions to minimize tree impacts
- Thoughtfully placed within canopy gaps

2-5 Discovery Path | Earthscape Collections

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



WOOD



RUBBER



ROPE



METAL

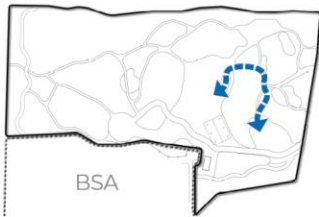
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~25 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- MONITOR FOR MAJOR WOOD SPLITTING FIRST 3 YEARS
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

2-5 Discovery Path | Kompan

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



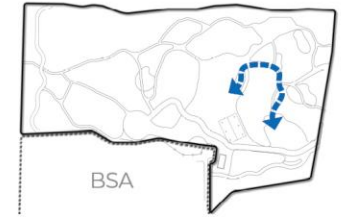
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

2-5 Discovery Path | Kompan

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



WOOD

RUBBER

ROPE

HDPE

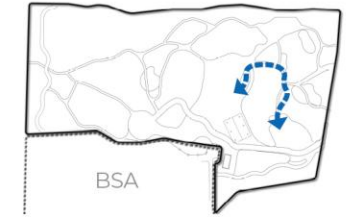
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

2-5 Discovery Path | Landscape Structures

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



HDPE

METAL

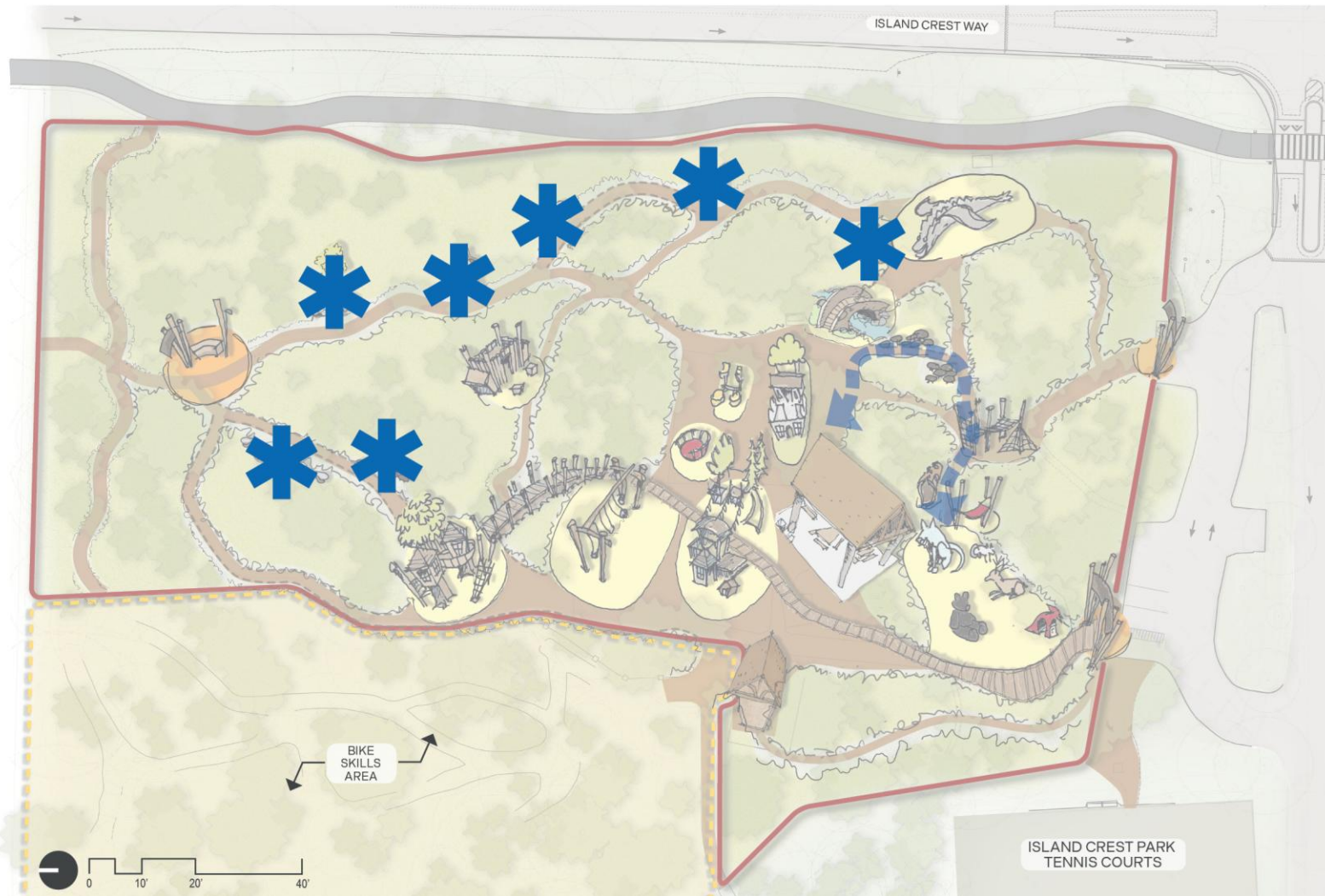
ROPE

ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:
• 6 MONTH INSPECTIONS

Discovery Path Extended | Forest Surprises

Item 3.

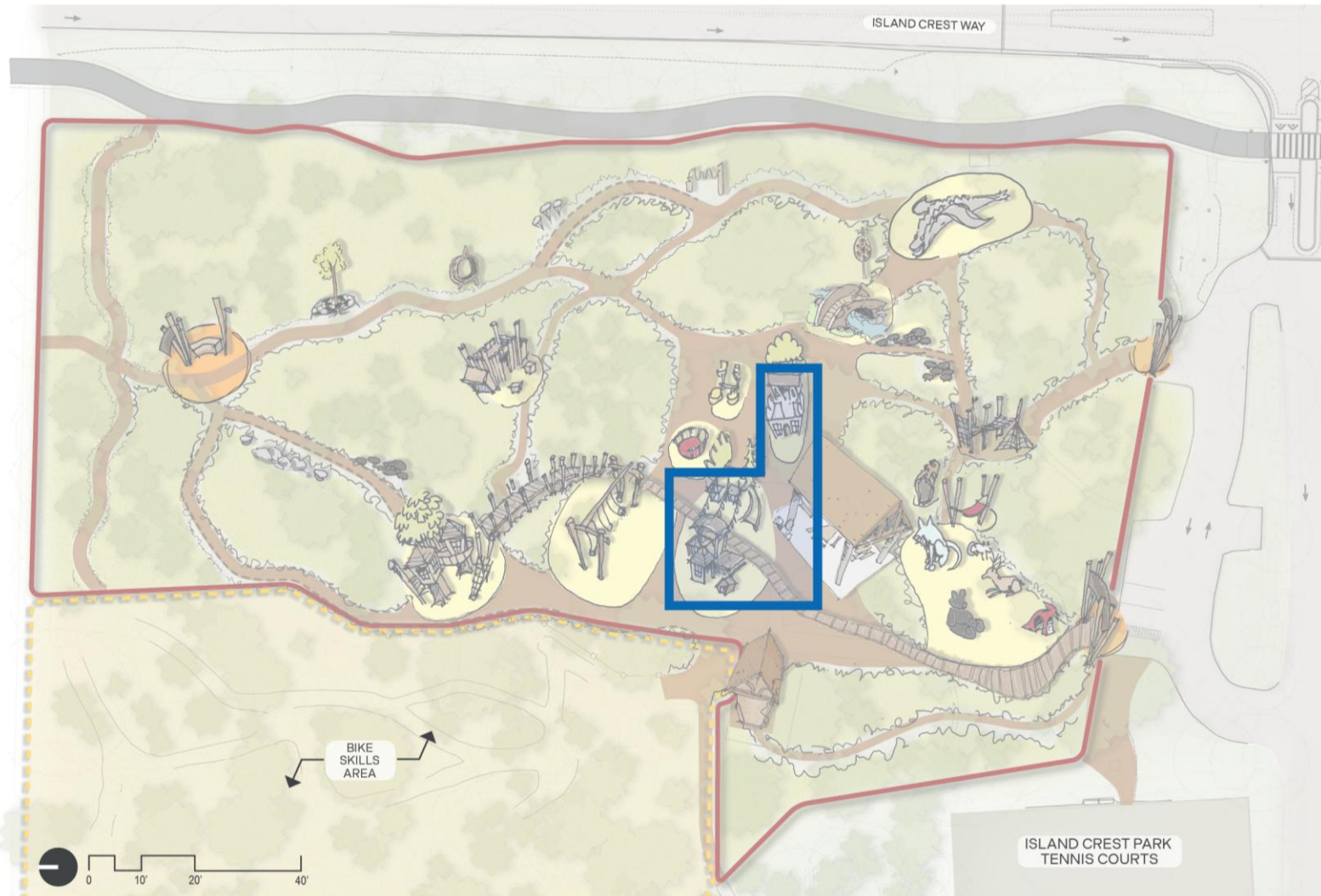


Overview

- Play elements integrated along forested trails
- Small-scale features with big impact for all ages
- Minimal surfacing to protect trees
- Designed for inclusive, varied play experiences

Intermediate Structures

Item 3.

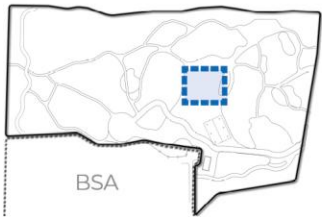


Overview

- Central play zone structures for wide range of ages and abilities
- Connects to Discovery Path and nearby amenities
- Hub for imaginative, sensory-rich, and parallel play
- Offers smaller-scale challenges with height and perceived risk

Intermediate Structures | Berliner

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS

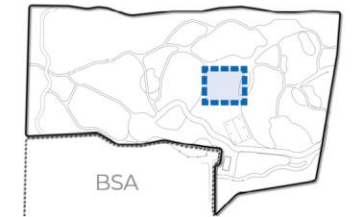


ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~50 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:
• 3 MONTH INSPECTIONS

Intermediate Structures | Kompan

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



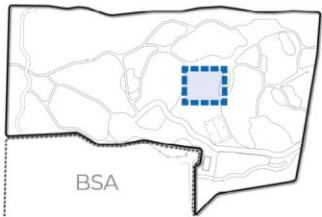
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

Intermediate Structures | Kompan

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

- KEY MAINTENANCE:**
- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
 - QUARTERLY CLEANING
 - WOOD CAN BE SANDED
 - PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

Various Components

Item 3.

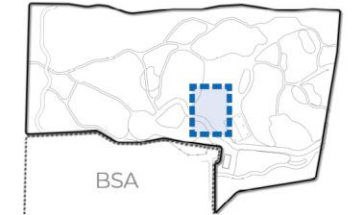


Overview

- Supplementary play elements guided by public feedback
- Includes swings, spinners, and rockers with adaptive features
- Supports individual and parallel play experiences
- Enhances overall play value and diversity

Components | Swings: Earthscape Collections

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



WOOD



RUBBER



ROPE



METAL

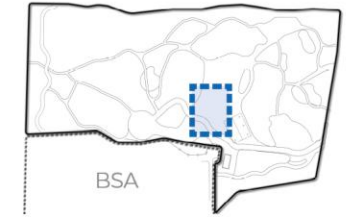
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~25 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- MONITOR FOR MAJOR WOOD SPLITTING FIRST 3 YEARS
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

Components | Swings: Kompan

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



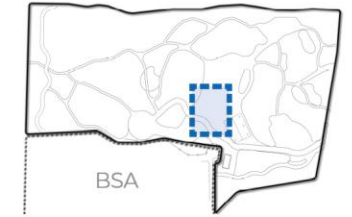
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION

Components | Swings: Landscape Structures

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



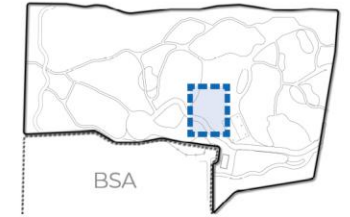
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:
• 6 MONTH INSPECTIONS



Components | Spinners/Rockers: Landscape Structures

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:
• 6 MONTH INSPECTIONS

5 – 12+ Structure

Item 3.

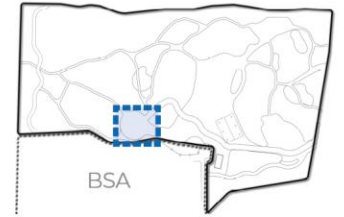


Overview

- Large treehouse-inspired adventure for ages 5 – 12+
- Combines height with unstructured play experiences
- Multiple levels of interaction for different comfort levels
- Prominent visual feature acts as a landmark

5-12+ Structures | Berliner Concept

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



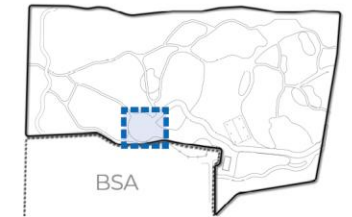
ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~50 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:
• 3 MONTH INSPECTIONS



5-12+ Structures | Kompan Concept

Item 3.



PRIMARY MATERIALS



ANTICIPATED LIFESPAN:
~30 YEARS

KEY MAINTENANCE:

- INSPECTIONS/REPAIRS OF WOOD IN FIRST FEW YEARS (INCLUDED)
- QUARTERLY CLEANING
- WOOD CAN BE SANDED
- PAINTED ELEMENTS WILL NEED REAPPLICATION





Parking Lot Improvements

Parking Studies | Existing Conditions

Item 3.



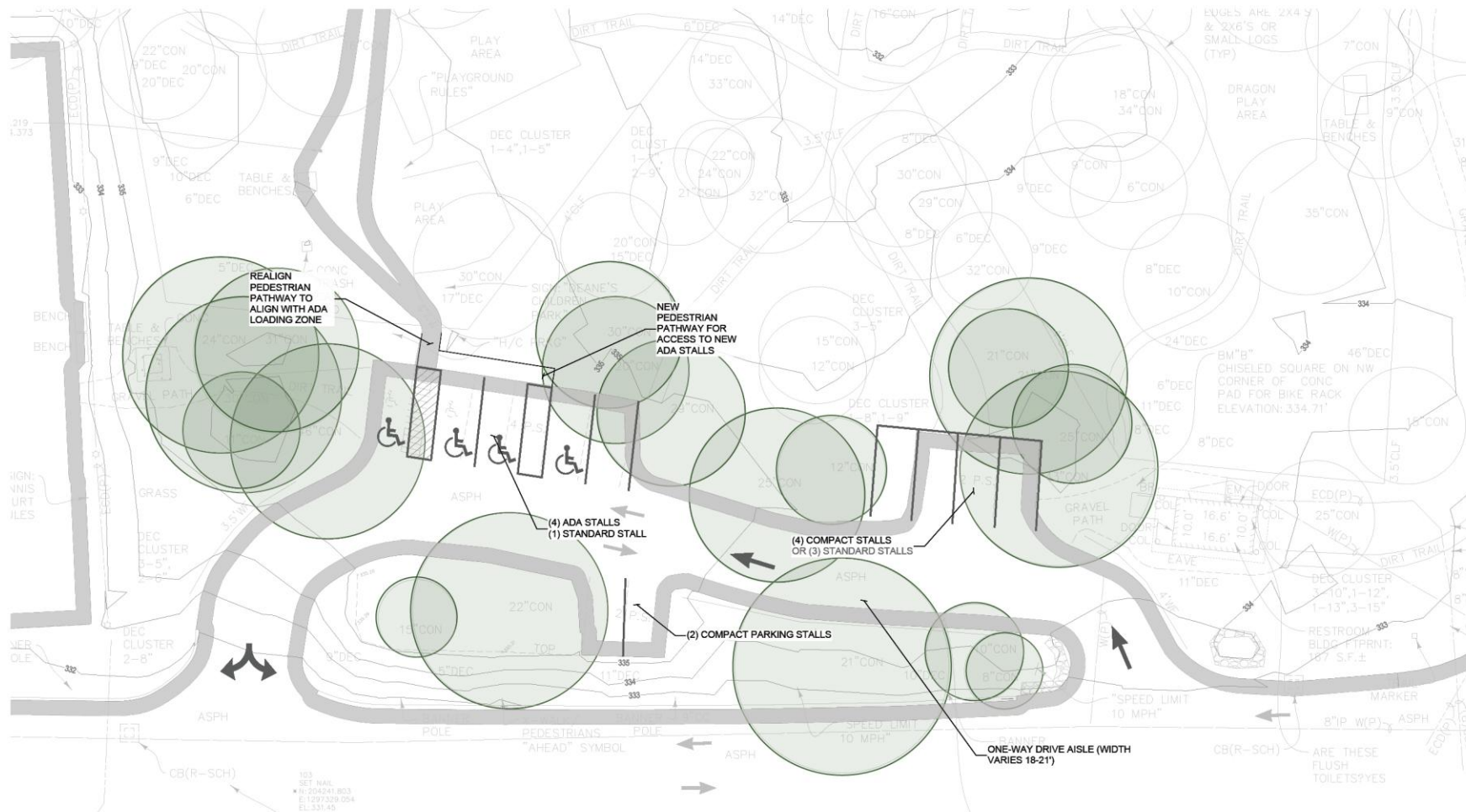
TREE LEGEND

-  EXISTING TREE
-  EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED

TOTAL PARKING COUNTS (7 COMPLIANT, 12 TOTAL)

-  COMPLIANT STANDARD STALL (9'X18.5' MIN) - 1 TOTAL
-  COMPLIANT COMPACT STALL (8.5'X16' MIN) - 6 TOTAL
-  NON- COMPLIANT STALL - 5 TOTAL

Parking Studies | Baseline Improvements



TREE LEGEND



EXISTING TREE



EXISTING TREE TO BE
REMOVED

TOTAL PARKING COUNTS
(11 TOTAL)

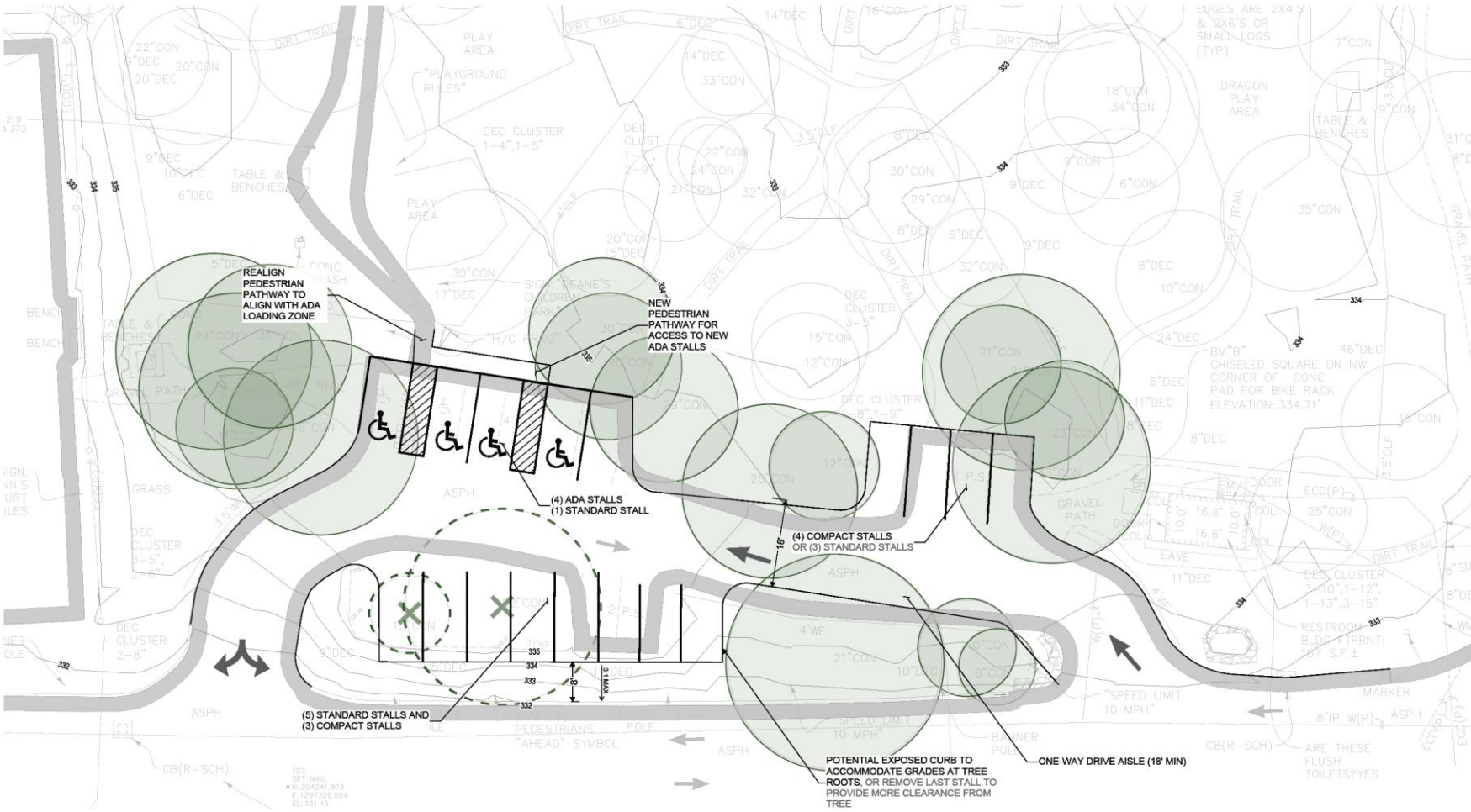
ADA STALL (9'X18.5' MIN) -
4 TOTAL

STANDARD STALL (9'X18.5' MIN) -
1 TOTAL

COMPACT STALL (8.5'X16' MIN) -
6 TOTAL



Parking Studies | Maximum Approach



TREE LEGEND

- EXISTING TREE
- EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED

TOTAL PARKING COUNTS (17 TOTAL)

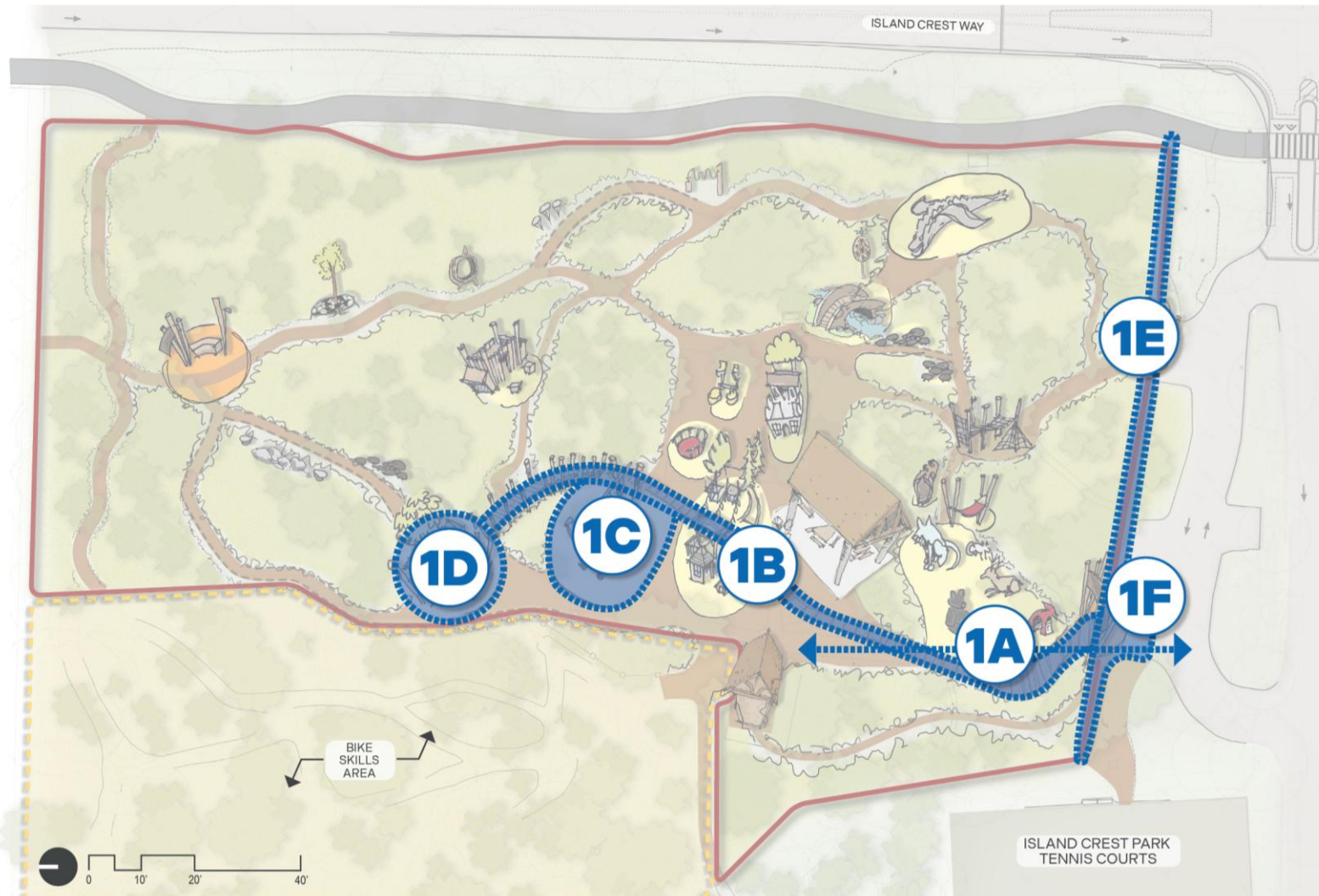
- ADA STALL (9'X18.5' MIN) - 4 TOTAL
- STANDARD STALL (9'X18.5' MIN) - 6 TOTAL
- COMPACT STALL (8.5'X16' MIN) - 7 TOTAL



Preliminary Phasing

Phase 1

Item 3.



PHASE 1 FOCUS

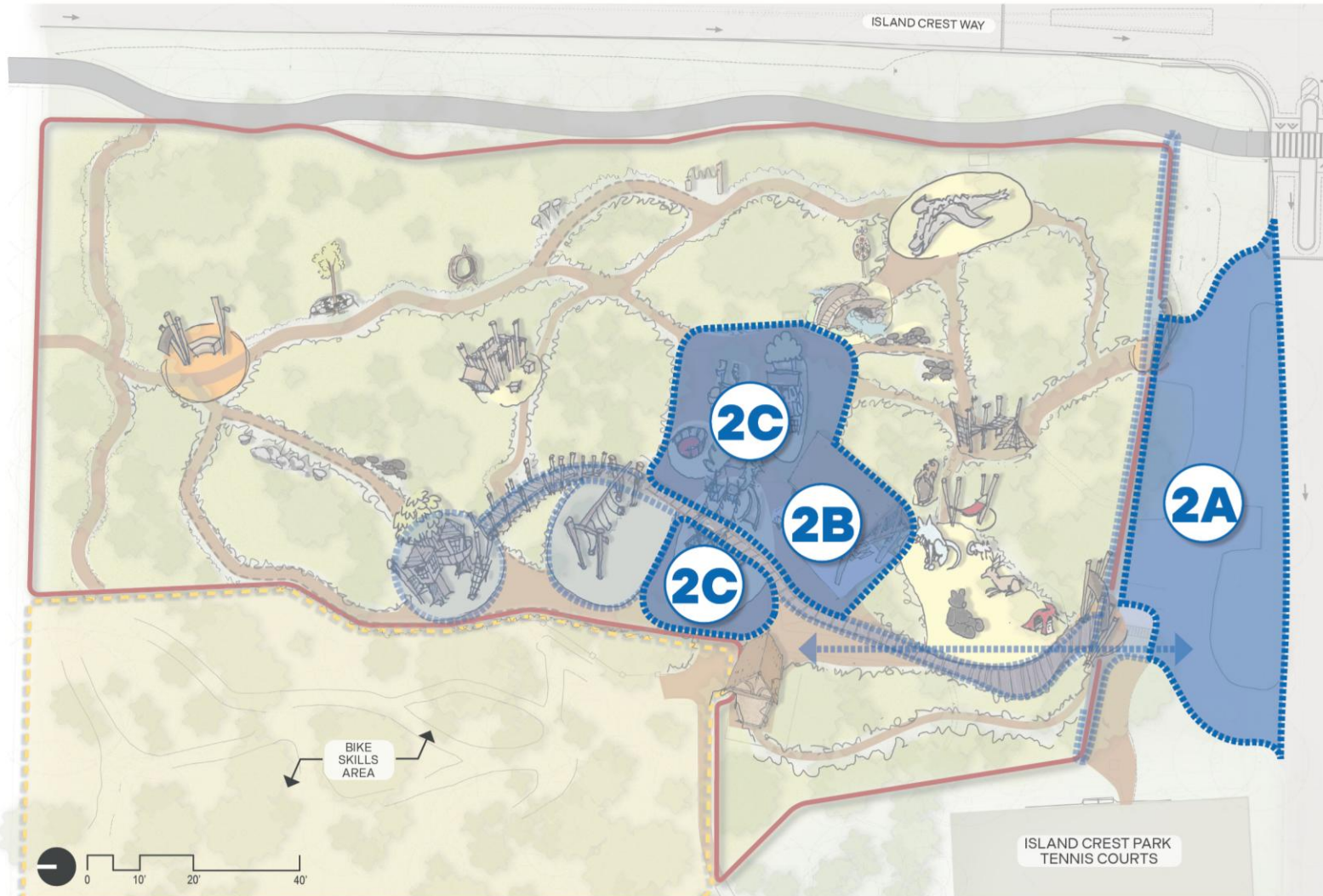
Budget: \$1.2M - \$1.7M

- 1A** Underground utility work for shelter/restroom
- 1B** Forest Path paving and bridge connection
- 1C** Swings
- 1D** 5-12 Big Treehouse Structure
- 1E** Park boundary fencing upgrade with self-latching gates
- 1F** Existing ADA Parking upgrade

+ Phase 2 Items as Funding Allows

Phase 2

Item 3.



PHASE 2 FOCUS

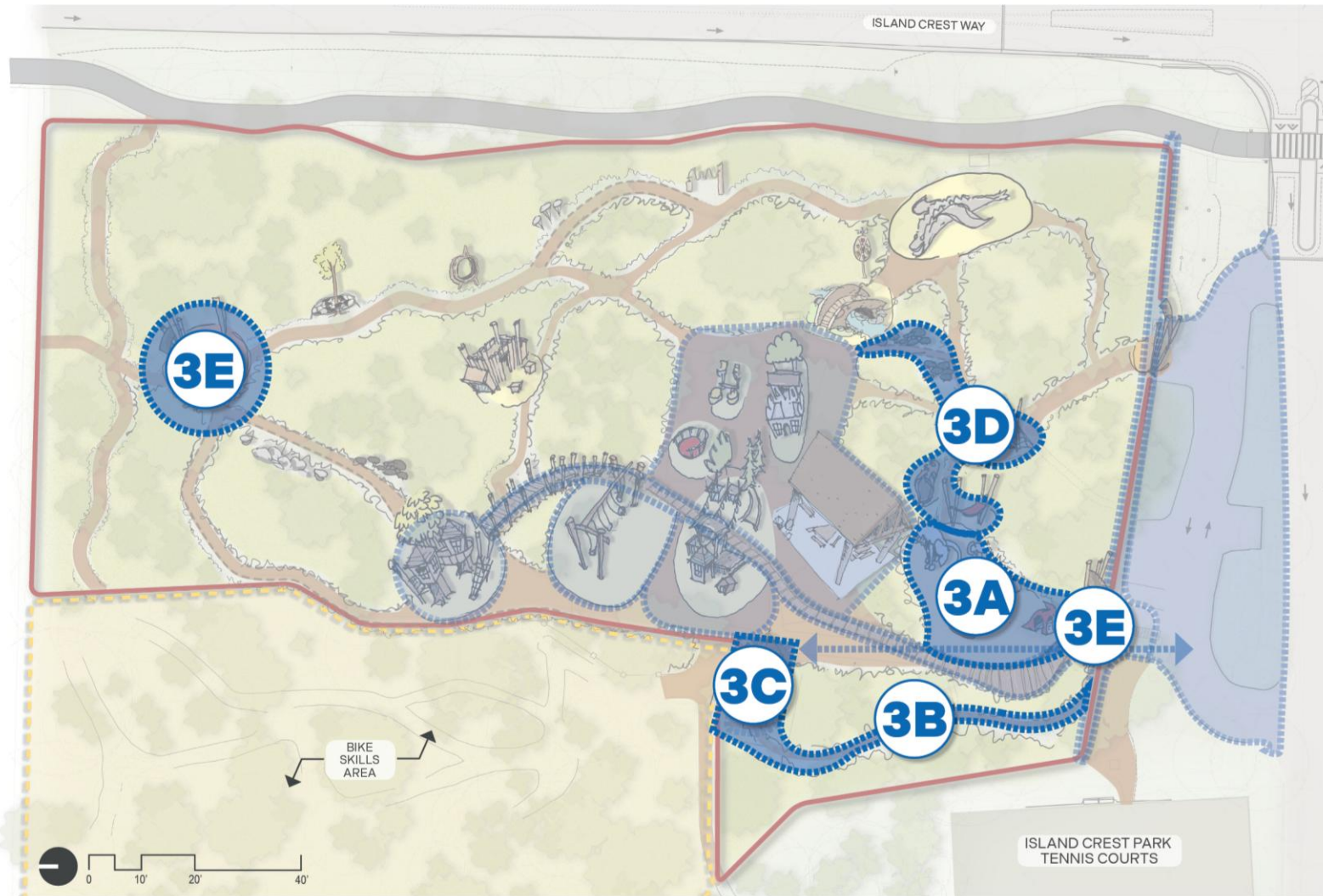
Budget: \$3M-\$3.5M

- 2A** Parking Lot upgrades
- 2B** New Shelter
- 2C** Central play area 2-12 Play Structure and adjacent component(s)*
*to be confirmed in final layout

+ Phase 3 Items as Funding Allows

Phase 3

Item 3.



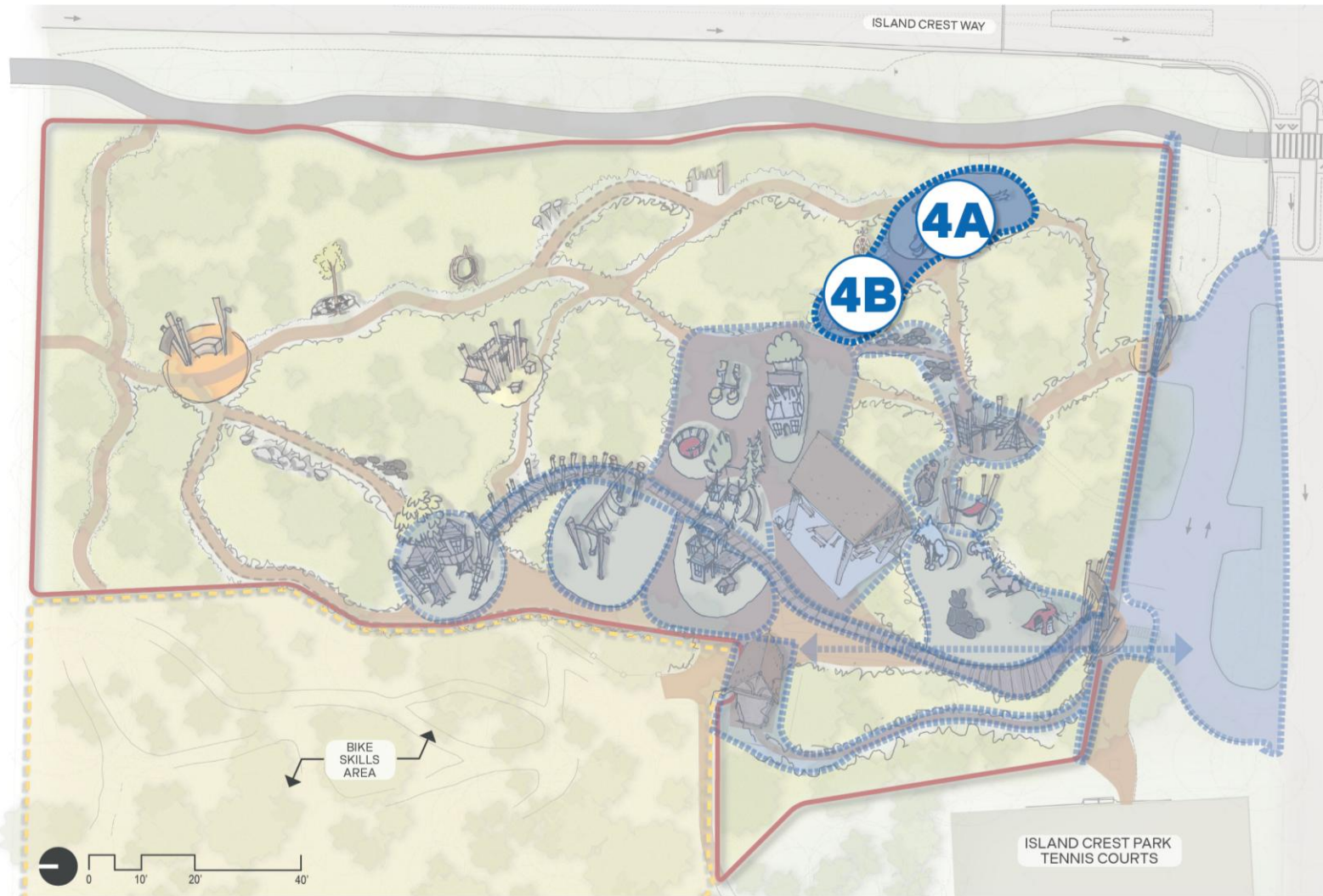
PHASE 3 FOCUS

Budget: \$2M - \$2.5M

- 3A** 2-5 Entry Zone Structures
- 3B** Separate bike skills entrance pathway
- 3C** Restroom
- 3D** Discovery Path components
- 3E** Entry point sitework & wayfinding

Phase 4

Item 3.



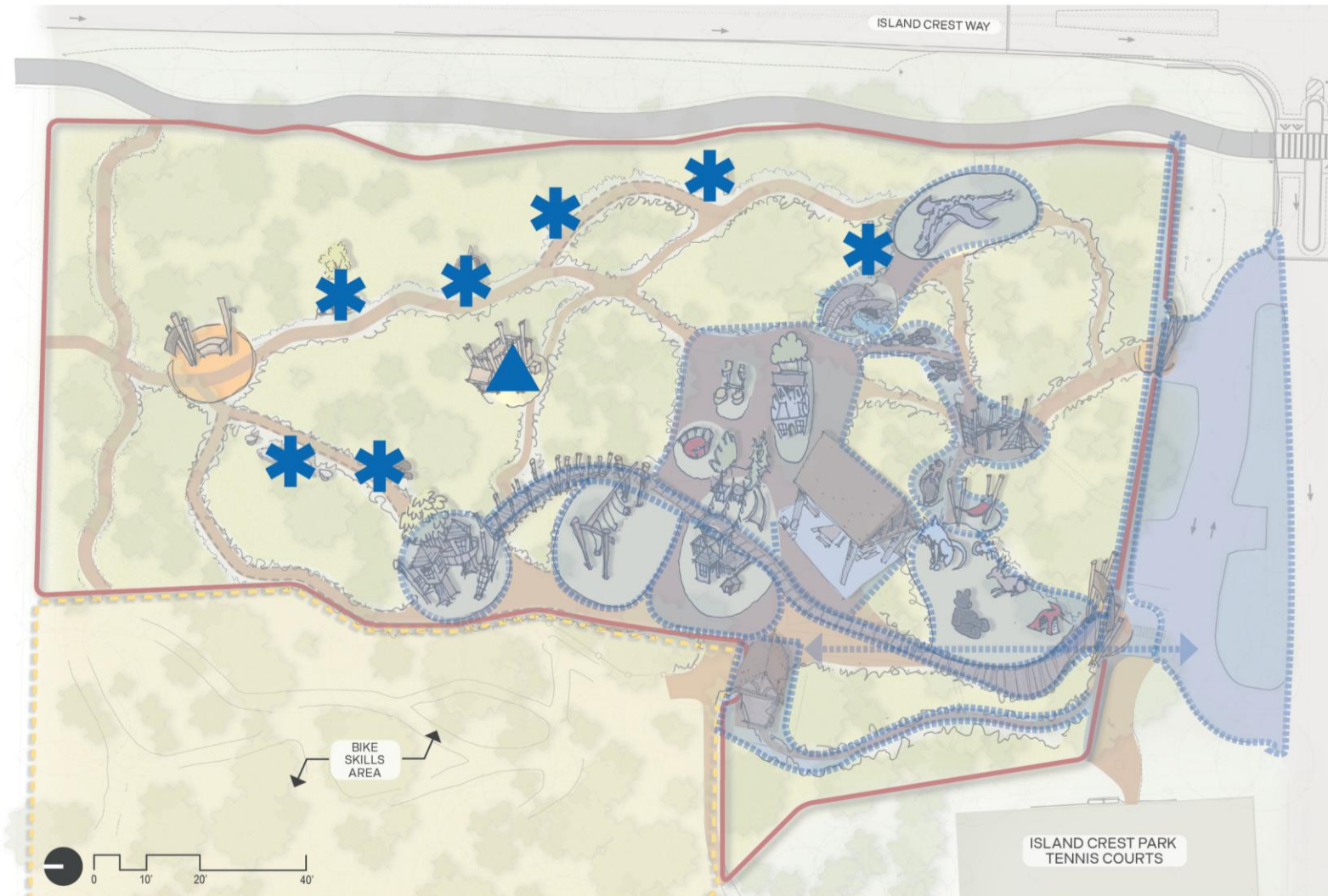
PHASE 4 FOCUS

Allowance of \$100k

- 4A** Kenton's Dragon Improvements
- 4B** Play connection to the Dragon

Extra Opportunities

Item 3.



Play nodes throughout the forest are additional opportunities for donors and/or as budget allows (on a per phase basis).



Play equipment nodes along forest trails



Play structure within the glen



Discussion

Discussion

1. Does the preferred plan reflect the types of play identified through community input? Are there any gaps or adjustments needed?
2. Does the plan provide a thoughtful balance between formal play, active elements, and open spaces that support informal play?
3. Does the plan provide clear, inclusive access for a range of ages and abilities, including pathways, surfacing, and play elements?
4. Are the park's character, themes, and signature elements appropriately incorporated?



Next Steps

Next Steps

1. Refine the preferred plan and return to the PRC for further direction in January 2026 (tentative).
2. Present final site plan and report for review at the February 5, 2026, Regular Meeting.
 - Commission will be asked to provide a recommendation to City Council for adoption of the Site Plan.



Thank You!





PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-16
November 6, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-16: Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy	☒ Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Provide input on the draft <i>Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy</i> .	☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager	
EXHIBITS:	1. draft Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to review the draft Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy (Exhibit 1) and to solicit input from the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) to inform further development.

- The Recreation Division's 2025-2026 Workplan identifies "*Develop(ing) and implement(ing) a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy.*"
- The Recreation Division currently provides public access and limited reservations to Sport Court facilities absent a formal policy.
- On October 20, staff sought initial input from the PRC for the development of a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy.
- Staff developed the draft policy based on operational experience, community and PRC input.
- It is anticipated the policy will be endorsed at a future PRC meeting with implementation in late Q1 of 2026.

BACKGROUND

The City of Mercer Island provides public access to sport courts located throughout multiple parks, supporting a diverse and growing community of pickleball and tennis players, absent a formal policy. The management, maintenance, and reservation of these facilities are administered by Parks and Recreation staff to ensure equitable access and quality recreational opportunities for all users.

The Recreation Division's Workplan, as approved by the City Council within the 2025–2026 Biennial Budget, includes the following item:

1.1.4 – Develop and implement a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy to address the priority use of pickleball and tennis courts, for endorsement by the Parks and Recreation Commission by Q2 2025.

On [October 20, 2025](#), staff presented an informational update to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) regarding the current use of City-managed tennis and pickleball courts (Sport Courts) and the identified need for a comprehensive Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy. The presentation highlighted existing patterns of court usage, emerging community needs, and opportunities to balance various types of play. During the discussion, Commissioners were invited to provide feedback on several policy considerations to inform the development of a draft policy:

- Should courts be available for hourly rental by the public or private instructors?
 - Should certain court facilities (or portions of) be dedicated for rentals and others for drop-in use only?

- Should court reservations be limited to certain times?
- Should tennis or pickleball courts be used for commercial purposes or to conduct fundraising?
- Should reservations and events be restricted during certain seasonal periods?
- Should City coordinated uses be exempt from the policy?

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Following the [October 20, 2025](#) PRC Meeting, staff utilized PRC input, community feedback, and operational experience to develop a draft *Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy*.

The draft policy seeks to guide the purposeful allocation of access to Sports Courts through the following principles:

- **Support community benefit by:**
 - Actively encouraging participation in activities related to health, wellness, and social connectivity.
 - Protecting equitable public access, especially during high-demand times.
 - Permitting limited reservation-based use to serve the broader Mercer Island community (e.g., non-profit tournaments, community leagues, public clinics, and individual play).
- **Support diverse use by:**
 - Preserving drop-in play as the primary use of City courts.
 - Enabling opportunities for varying skill levels and age demographics.
 - Providing opportunities for varied types of play.
- **Ensure Responsible Use and Stewardship through**
 - Managing facility access in a manner which considers quality, safety, and the need for maintenance and renovation.
 - Minimizing impacts to patrons, parks, and adjacent facilities.
 - Maintaining high standards for facility care, safety, and equitable access.

Tonight, staff will engage the PRC and seek input to inform further refinement of the draft policy for additional review and endorsement at a future PRC Meeting.

Key questions to contemplate when reviewing the draft policy include:

- Does the policy maintain the character of the various parks and align with the community's values for use of these park spaces where Sport Courts are located?
- Does the policy protect current uses of park spaces and adjacent facilities?
- Does the policy enable a variety of Sport Court user opportunities?
- Does the policy support a balance of future facility usage by both Sport Court patrons and general park patrons?

NEXT STEPS

Following tonight's meeting staff will:

- Update the draft policy based on PRC input and continue to accept community feedback.
- Perform a legal review and format the policy into the standard template.
- Return to the PRC at a future meeting for additional review and endorsement.

After PRC endorsement of the policy, staff will establish operational procedures which will define availability and the process for reserving Sport Courts. Staff anticipate implementing this policy and accepting court reservations in late Q1 of 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide input on the draft *Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy*.

Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy

City of Mercer Island

Purpose

The City of Mercer Island uses the following allocation and use policy for all City of Mercer Island managed Sport Courts. This policy describes principles guiding the appropriate use and reservation of Sport Court facilities.

Scope / Background

Tennis and pickleball court space are a finite resource, but the range of potential users and uses are expansive. This policy guides the purposeful allocation of access to ensure that the facilities are used to achieve City of Mercer Island, Recreation Division, and community goals, with consistency to stated principles.

Definitions

1. **Sport Court:** Tennis or pickleball court.
2. **Drop-in Use:** Informal, first-come, first-served use of courts- guided by established and posted court rules.
3. **Private Reservation:** Scheduled, short-term court use (e.g., for play or instruction), limited to designated courts and timeframes.
4. **Programs:** Scheduled use or exclusive access for a duration of 2 or more days for less than 4 hours per day. (e.g., leagues, ongoing formal classes/lessons, and recurring clinics)
5. **Special Event:** Scheduled use or exclusive access for a duration of 1-4 consecutive days and which exceed 4 hours in duration per day. (e.g., which may include tournaments or clinics)
6. **Director:** director of the public works department, or designee.

Policy Principles

Sport Court facility use will be guided by the following principles:

- **Support community benefit by:**
 - Actively encouraging participation in activities related to health, wellness, and social connectivity.
 - Protecting equitable public access, especially during high-demand times.
 - Permitting limited reservation-based use to serve the broader Mercer Island community (e.g., non-profit tournaments, community leagues, public clinics, and individual play).
- **Support diverse use by:**
 - Preserving Drop-in Use as the primary usage of City courts.
 - Enabling opportunities for varying skill levels and age demographics.
 - Providing opportunities for varied types of play.

- **Ensure Responsible Use and Stewardship through**

- Managing facility access in a manner which considers quality, safety, and the need for maintenance and renovation.
- Minimizing impacts to patrons, parks, and adjacent facilities.
- Maintaining high standards for facility care and equitable access.

1. Facility Allocation

- a) The Recreation Division will make the final decision on Sport Court allocation and use for Private Reservations, Special Events, and Programs. The process may allow users to request preferences such as dates, locations, times, etc.
- b) Prior use does not guarantee any aspect of future allocation or use.
- c) The City encourages respectful court sharing and adherence to posted rules.

2. Policy:

- a) Drop-in Use will be the predominant usage type for all Mercer Island Sport Courts.
- b) Sport Courts may only be reserved and used for their designated activity type (e.g., tennis courts for tennis, pickleball courts for pickleball). Reservation of a court for a non-designated activity is prohibited.
- c) Private Reservations, Special Events, and Programs are not permitted at Island Crest Park and Roanoke Park.
- d) Sport Court scheduling availability is determined by the Director.
- e) Special Events, Private Reservations, and Programs require a Facility Use Permit and must comply with all City guidelines and conditions of use.
- f) Repeating or standing Special Events, Private Reservations, and Programs may be limited to ensure fair and equitable access.
- g) Mercer Island School District (MISD) requests for use by sports recognized by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) will be exempt from this policy and reviewed separately by the Director. Other uses will be evaluated in accordance with this policy.
- h) City coordinated uses are exempt from this policy and are permitted as directed by the Director.

Private Reservations:

- i) May be permitted for individual and group play, private lessons, or informal gatherings.
- j) Are limited to a maximum of 2 hours per group instructor per day.
- k) Instructors are not permitted to exceed 2 hours of instruction per day- regardless of changing clientele.

Programs:

- l) Are not permitted July 1 through August 31 at the Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts (Luther Burbank Park).
- m) Must demonstrate clear community benefit and alignment with parks and recreation goals as determined by the Director.
- n) Must be open for registration or participation by the general public. Exclusive or private use of courts for closed-group events (e.g., private clubs, members-only activities, company functions, reunions, or similar gatherings) is not permitted.
- o) Are limited to:
 - 1 provider per week
 - 2 or less days per week
 - A maximum of 16 weeks per calendar year
- p) Requests must be submitted at least 45 days in advance.

Special Events:

- q) Are not permitted July 1 through August 31 at the Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts (Luther Burbank Park).
- r) Must demonstrate clear community benefit and alignment with parks and recreation goals as determined by the Director.
- s) Must be open for registration or participation by the general public. Exclusive or private use of courts for closed-group events (e.g., private clubs, members-only activities, company functions, reunions, or similar gatherings) is not permitted.
- t) Are limited to:
 - 3 or less per calendar year
 - 1 per four-week period
 - A maximum of 4 consecutive days per event.
- u) Requests must be submitted at least 45 days in advance.

3. Disqualifying Criteria

Requests or reservations may be declined or canceled if:

- a) The request is not compatible with the facility requested.
- b) Facilities are unavailable, not in suitable condition, or if adjacent facilities have incompatible uses.
- c) Request impacts access or operation of the park, other scheduled activities, or adjacent facilities or residences.
- d) Permit holder fails to follow payment deadlines or permit terms
- e) The requestor previously failed to comply with permit terms, regulations, park rules, and/or applicable policies.
- f) The usage does not seek to advance the sense of community, health, wellness or safety of the public, or that is inconsistent with the Recreation Division's mission to enhance livability for all Mercer Island residents.

DRAFT



Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy

PRC 25-16

Parks and Recreation Commission
November 6, 2025



Agenda

- What is a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy
- Background
- Draft Policy Review
- Next Steps



What is a *Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy*?

- Establishes fair, consistent, and transparent guidelines for how sport courts are scheduled and used.
- Defines priorities of use, criteria, and restrictions on reservations or permits.
- Provides clear framework for staff decision making and community understanding.
- Reduces user conflict, over crowding, and adverse impacts to other amenities/facilities.

Background

- **The City's existing Sport Court facilities include:**

- Luther Burbank Park – 8 Pickleball Courts
 - *Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts*
- Aubrey Davis Park – 4 Tennis Courts*
- Homestead Park – 4 Tennis Courts*
- Island Crest Park – 2 Tennis Courts
- Roanoke Park – 1 Tennis Court

*Currently- Homestead and Aubrey Davis Park are the only locations we currently permit hourly reservations.

Background

- Currently the City manages court access absent a formal policy.
- General rules are posted at each facility to help users understand acceptable conduct, rotation expectations, and time limits.
- The courts host a variety of different users.
- Development of a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy was included in the 2025-2026 Recreation Division Work Plan.
- On October 20- The PRC provided initial input toward the development of a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy

Draft Policy Review- Key Aspects

- **Guiding Principles:** Community Benefit, Diverse Use, and Responsible Stewardship
- **General Policy Highlights:**
 - Drop-in Use as the primary use for all courts.
 - Courts may only be reserved for their designated activity type.
 - Director determines scheduling availability.
 - No reservations or events allowed at Island Crest Park or Roanoke Park.
 - City and MISD (WIAA-recognized sports) uses are exempt from this policy.

Draft Policy Review- Key Aspects

Private Reservations- (Group play, private lessons, informal gatherings)

- Limit of 2 hours per group/instructor per day.
- Instructors may not exceed 2 hours per day- regardless of changing clientele.
- Reservation availability/time would be decided by Director.
 - Staff intends to primarily establish and limit reservation opportunities to be during non-peak usage hours.

Draft Policy Review- Key Aspects

Programs- (ongoing formal classes/leagues)

- Are not permitted July 1 through August 31 at the Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts (Luther Burbank Park).
- Must demonstrate clear community benefit and alignment with parks and recreation goals as determined by the Director.
- Must be open for registration or participation by the general public. Are limited to:
 - 1 provider per week
 - 2 or less days per week
 - A maximum of 16 weeks per calendar year
- Requests must be submitted at least 45 days in advance.

Draft Policy Review- Key Aspects

Special Events- (Tournaments/ Clinics- consecutive days- extended duration)

- Are not permitted July 1 through August 31 at the Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts (Luther Burbank Park).
- Must demonstrate clear community benefit and alignment with parks and recreation goals as determined by the Director.
- Must be open for registration or participation by the general public. Are limited to:
 - 3 or less per calendar year
 - 1 per four-week period
 - A maximum of 4 consecutive days per event.
- Requests must be submitted at least 45 days in advance.

Draft Policy Review- Key Aspects

Sports Court Permitted Usage Table					
Park Location					
	Luther Burbank	Aubrey Davis	Homested	Island Crest	Roanoke
Designated Use	Pickleball	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis
# of Courts	8	4	4	2	1
Reservations Allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Programs Allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Special Events Allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Drop-in Allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Draft Policy Review- Key Aspects

Disqualifying Criteria-

Requests or reservations may be declined or canceled if:

- The request is not compatible with the facility requested.
- Facilities are unavailable, not in suitable condition, or if adjacent facilities have incompatible uses.
- Request impacts access or operation of the park, other scheduled activities, or adjacent facilities or residences.
- Permit holder fails to follow payment deadlines or permit terms.
- The requestor previously failed to comply with permit terms, regulations, park rules, and/or applicable policies.
- The usage does not seek to advance the sense of community, health, wellness or safety of the public, or that is inconsistent with the Recreation Division's mission to enhance livability for all Mercer Island residents.

Next Steps

- Staff will update draft policy based on tonights input and will return to a future PRC meeting to review and seek endorsement of the draft policy.
- Staff seek to have this policy in place before the end of Q1 2026



Who's using the Courts Currently

Tennis:

- Staff estimate 60-70% of users are Mercer Island residents
- Less engaged user group
- Demographics tend to skew to a younger age population.
- Unauthorized instructors
- Limited rentals have included:
 - Mercer Island High School Tennis Team
 - City-coordinated summer camps
 - Third-Party Instructors (private lessons)
 - Individual patrons (very rare)

