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Page: 1 of 36

Subject: Maple Leaf Play Area Online Survey Comments and Summary



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1. What do you think of when you imagine ADVENTURE PLAY? What elements would be in it and what activities do you envision happening here?

Creative, open play spaces with natural elements and opportunity to climb, explore, and challenge physical limits safely

To me adventure play conjures up images of kids digging in the dirt, sitting/rolling in mud puddles, jumping off/balancing on logs and rocks, catching frogs or turtles in a pond, discovering and exploring nature. I'd love to see things in this area that highlight the Northwest. We live in a wonderful area full of great nature and if we can give kids a spot in their city neighborhood to learn and explore this corner of the world we'd be doing a great service for them. I think it'd be great to have a somewhat wild, unkept natural area that kids know they can explore and play in--no signs telling them not to climb or jump.

I think of the play area at the zoo, hidden back in the woods, that has rock/turtle shell type structures that the kids can hide in and run through and run on top of.

Plenty of big things to climb on. More than just 5 vertical feet of 45° sloped fake rockwall but legit big stuff for kids to really play on. A big rope swing is always fun or even an old tire ties to a rope and swinging from a tall fulcrum. Could include fun little paved track for toddlers to ride their tricycles or small bikes though since the city doesn't provide much area for little kids to pedal tricycles or bikes.

Tree houses, Lookout platforms and Forts. Space with minimal material objects. A timeless setting where children of all ages can participate in imaginative play. (potential for various local businesses to donate material for the forts) .

Adventure play suggests role playing or imaginary play suggested in part by the design of playground equipment. For instance, a covered tree house with a sled off of it is normally just a tree house with a sled, but it becomes "adventure play" if it is combined with medieval castle turrets and a climbable sculpture of a dragon breathing fire onto the tree house. Adventure play also suggests features that you are unlikely to find in a back yard play area, such as like caves and what not (e.g. in the play area at Woodland Park Zoo). Adventure play also suggests faster types of playground equipment for older kids: higher slides, higher swings, pulley lines, rock climbing walls, etc.

My first bit of feedback, before I answer the survey questions, is that the flooding problem of the play space needs to be addressed in the planning. Every winter, this area floods terribly and the space is totally useless, even on a



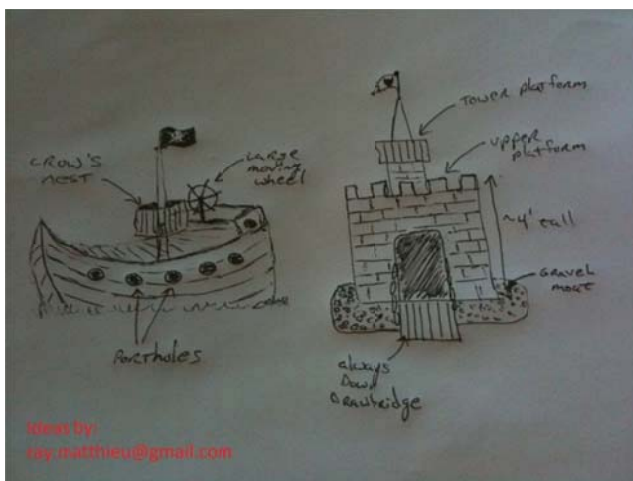
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nice day. That said, here are my answers to your survey. Thanks! I think of 3 or 4 bold and uncommon elements that inspire creativity and roleplay. My personal vision for these elements are: A pirate ship, sailing in a sea of grass. Including a large steering wheel, a brass bell that can be rung, portholes through which children can look, a low crow's nest, a masthead (?) and even a jolly roger to flap in the wind. A nearby castle which the ship would be attacking. It would include a small drawbridge over a gravel moat, several flags flying a coat of arms, A brightly colored sea serpent, taunting the pirate ship, completely climbable, right up to a gaping open mouth which the children can enter and slide down a hidden slide and exit the tail of the beast.

-- See attached drawing I made for ideas.



I had some concerns regarding the current schematic design for the Maple Leaf Reservoir Park that I wished to address. Immediately apparent is the lack of access to the only restroom, located in the Southwest corner of the park. For those who will be using the Tennis and Basketball courts for reasonably long periods of time, the restrooms are a considerable distance away. In most other parks I can think of with sport courts, there are nearby water fountains and restrooms for users. While playing sports there is a lot of hydration and subsequent required urination... I can guarantee in the current design that there will be a lot of folks "peeing behind trees" taking place around those courts, and I'm not embarrassed to say I'll probably be one of them. =) Construction of a new restroom in the North section is probably beyond the budget... so the accessibility of the South restroom should be addressed by adding an additional stairway in that area. Between numbered areas 22 and 10 there is a prime spot to have a large staircase constructed. Presumably be a large portion of the park users will be on this North section and it seems counterintuitive to make them take a roundabout route to use the restrooms by leaving the park entirely at the



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West entrance, or by going all the way to area 22 to climb down to a small unused/unattractive pathway. With the current design there will be a lot of users simply making their "own trail" from the view point at area 20 down to the restrooms. I'm not sure if that's a reasonable alternative or not, but it seems like it could pose a number of safety/landscaping issues. Also...For the basketball courts specifically... adding a nearby water fountain and some benches with eventual tree shade would go a -long- way to increasing use. It's hard to tell from the current schematics if the nearby "white boxes" are meant to show that or not. The play area should be sure to have plentiful benches, some in the middle of the area for parents to have maximum visibility of children... perhaps with access to shade of some sort. I have a young son and sheltered areas/play houses always tend to be a gathering point with him and his friends. The best parks I've been at have had natural play features which I think would fit in wonderfully at this location. An example of this can be found at: <http://www.playdale.co.uk/products/natural-play/boulders-tree-trunks-mounds/> This is a site from the UK, but it shows what I mean. Simple tunnels through hills, slides on hills, rocks to jump on/over, logs to sit on. Limitless fun and very aesthetically pleasing. When I hear talk of an "adventure zone" I am worried that this will be interpreted as another mass of ugly "spider web" ropes that goes unused and is very restrictive to younger populations. I know a massive wall of text which wasn't my original intention... but I guess I just got going a bit. I'm happy to answer any questions if needed. Second email with link to article on natural playgrounds that I happened to dig up. I think we already have some playgrounds in the area with natural designs, but I figured I'd pass it along anyway. <http://playgrounddesigns.blogspot.com/2008/03/are-natural-playgrounds-better.html>

"When provided with a natural landscape in which to play, children showed a statistically significant increase in motor fitness. There were also significant differences between the two groups in balance and coordination in favor of the experimental group. The findings indicate that landscape features influence physical activity play and motor development in children "

Tons of links surrounding natural playgrounds... costs.. etc..

<http://www.naturalplaygrounds.com/articles.php>

My husband and I spoke with our children, aged 5 and 8, and this is our family input re: Maple Leaf Park - New Play Area Planning. I tried to fill out the questionnaire but the link didn't go anywhere, and my time was limited for finding it on the site myself. We are unable to attend the meetings coming up but are very passionate about this park - we live across the street on the east side on 14th and we spend lots of time there! Will you send me a quick note to let me know you received this input, or that it has been forwarded to the appropriate person. I want to make sure it gets to the right place. We are

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hopeful the following things will be incorporated into the new park, or that infrastructure can be put in place for future development**:

balance beam

teeter totter

swings for all ages

monkey bars

corkscrew metal bar to slide down (viewridge park) slides free standing rope net structures to climb (laurelhurst park) different height logs to climb, from the side looks like a skyline (viewridge park) little sitting areas within that provide shade when it's hot - and can be lunching spots (meadowbrook park) art that doubles as play structure features **splash pad **skateboard ramp picnic tables

IMPORTANT NOTE: please leave the recessed maple leafs that are all around the current playpark, or incorporate them into the new space.

They identify our neighborhood and are fun to play in when filled with water from the rain.

----- End forwarded message -----

An area for children to run, play, hide, let there imaginations take them to another world/time. The area at Dahl park with the rocks to jump from, hide behind, create stories around, always interests my children. I've also seen some areas with bridges and slides made from natural materials that look very intriguing.

Oh yes, and even though I hear it's not on the table I still want to put in a plug for a splash pad! The one in front of the Ballard Library is so well done and the kids and families love it so. Unfortunately it's quite a haul to get there, especially on public transport!

Fairy tale adventures...quests...maze? Child sized statues of gremlins or Northwest animals.

We envision Adventure Play as open-ended activities where the children are guided by prompts or items in the play area that stimulate creative play, such as interesting shaped rocks, different plants and trees and incongruous shapes that would not be seen every day.



NOISE ABATEMENT

As I expressed at the meeting, I'm disappointed in the placement of the playground. We have a huge new park, and the area that is the closest to noisy and polluted Roosevelt is where we stick our young kids (other related thoughts deleted....) Given the playground seems to be fixed in place, I would suggest the following be done to negate the noise, cars, and pollution. (1) place some fun kids' stuff in a few other places throughout the rest of the park so the entire park becomes a destination for the kids and the playground is just one stop; (2) Increase the space along the Roosevelt Edge; (3) heavily vegetate the area along the Roosevelt Edge; (4) spend the money for the Adventure Play somewhere besides point #33; (4) connect the upper and lower park near number #20.

ADVENTURE PLAY

Climbing up and down the stairs between the upper and lower park could be great. Add a slide there and it would be wonderful. Our kids like hide and seek in the trees and bushes. They like imagining there are ferries in the trees and sneaking around. The play area in the trees at Woodland Park zoo is pretty cool with the web and tunnel but I can't see that working at #33. Why not stick something cool for them to go find somewhere else in the park? Place some cast bronze animal statues (rabbit, turtle, squirrel) around the rest of the park, and let them race to go find them. Or some big rocks to climb on up near 23. Or make sure the Rain Garden can be trampled through. A big part of the adventure will be just getting there. (Thus, the stairs are the #1 enabler for the adventure) I wouldn't invest any money in space #33 except for some plants.

I like tunnels and bridges.

Ziplines! Go across a bridge you can stomp on and it rattles. Stumps to jump on (that have springs underneath them)

Things like Pirate ships, castles or sea scapes etc. where kids can play act.

I imagine a lot of climbing and trails in an adventure area. I also envision that children could get a sense of being self directed and autonomous from their caretakers in this area. I think of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey beginning here in the adventure play area.

Open-ended play, maybe involving natural elements. It makes me think of some of the play areas at Woodland Park Zoo. I like the play area they've got near the family farm and the flamingos; it has a spider web to



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climb on and the little burrow-type area that kids can climb on top of or run under through little tunnels. I would imagine an adventure play area being geared toward elementary-school-age kids more than toddlers/preschoolers. There would be lots of things to climb on.

I think of things like ropes courses, zip lines, pirate ships and hardy physical challenges for active kids.

- a. leverage the unique topography. real not plastic.
- b. Boulders, Balance Logs, Stepping stumps, vines to aid in climbing
- c. Tunnels, Bridges, made of logs
- d. Hill slide
- e. Sand/Gravel play with "buried" items to uncover
- f. Dry Stream Bed (possibly part of a rain garden)

Elements would be NATURAL items that are real and not plastic that leverage the unique land of this beautiful area. I love the idea of a hill slide, of a dry stream bed, and a sand or gravel area for kids to discover real things.

Open ended, creative space with non commercial elements, natural appearing surfaces, etc.

Some kind of a structure that helps children engage in imaginative play. The Valley School has a rocket ship, but also a boat or castle type structure. It could be toadstools or something. My 4 year old granddaughter is really into fairy tales, so some structures or spaces that kids could use for their imaginative/adventurous play.

- a. Sand/Gravel play with "buried" items to uncover. A place for our child to do discovery.

Our kids already love playing in the trees (on the North end of the playground, Roosevelt side) and they love picking up sticks, stones etc and playing under the canopy of the trees. A great Adventure Play place and wild zone is the Children's Playgarden in South Seattle. www.childrensplaygarden.org

This is a place where kids can climb trees, dig etc and it is encouraged instead of "hey...don't dig there or climb that tree, this is a park" How



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about the spray dot? This was originally in some of the designs and I know there is a huge need and desire for it.

I imagine children doing lots of character-based imaginary play, like playing princess and knight in a castle, or superheroes like spiderman and bad guys, monsters, playing "house" or "parents", or "cooking" with stuff from the woods, or playing "hot lava". Hide and seek is a big one, kids really like to play in shrubberies that are currently there. We should have more of that – with plants that are open and airy so that parents can see where the kids are at all times.

I think that the redesigned Dahl Playfield is an excellent example of what "adventure play" means to both me and my child. Lots of natural elements, but also a traditional play structure to help them get the climbing urges (safely) out.

Creative inspirational elements for imagination games like a ship's steering wheel, interactive play art like pieces that can be moved to make sound and change color patterns, exciting rides like a zipline.

I think of something that is unlike most of the "normal" playground stuff that stretches the imagination as well as being a little physically challenging/thrilling.

Here's a park in Richmond, BC that looks cool:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7565429@N03/2612285096/in/photostream/>

Slides in Yerba Buena park (San Fran) and Riverside NY:

http://www.momsandtotsmag.com/feature_parks.php

I would love to see my kids get to play in/on more natural areas. They love to climb on rocks, logs, stepping stones, and in tunnels and creeks. It would be nice to have natural play areas to compliment the metal and plastic structures. My kids actually prefer the logs, rocks etc... to the usual playground activities.



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Because children are so imaginative and like to pretend they are pirates, jungle explorors, and animals, I like them to have access to an environment that is not all pre-planned. When there are trees, logs and stumps, boulders, ditches, bamboo

thickets, meandering paths, and small hills for example, they can romp and make all kinds of things up. A digging area- perhaps with a dinosaur skeleton embedded on the bottom. Dig and find things, hunt for things. Attached is a picture of my kid in a "living play house" (from a playground in Zurich Switzerland), these living plants were woven together into small houses.

I wanted to send my thoughts on the design of the Maple Leaf Reservoir Family Terrace. I have a two and a half year old son who is an avid park-goer and an infant daughter, who is sure to become one as well. We live in Wallingford and regularly visit parks in neighboring areas. As wonderful as these parks are, they are pretty traditional, and we are very excited by the prospects of a new, unique play area.

When I think of Adventure Play, I think of the movie, Swiss Family Robinson. In it, the family lives in an awesome tree house. Their home was built right into the natural surroundings. The juxtaposition of living with some material possessions and some ingeniously created from things they found in their environment (who could forget the water wheel that delivered cups of water on a pulley system throughout the house?) really provoked my imagination. I guess it's no wonder that the tree house continues to be a beloved part of many of the Disney parks. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our children could have a taste of that amazing Swiss Family tree house in their own backyard? For the Family Terrace, I envision an adventure play area that – like the tree house - is integrated into the unique surroundings. As such, it would feel natural - not comprised of your traditional, plastic park toys. And the elements would enable kids to explore – to run, jump and traverse - the area in unique ways, such as via a hill slide, tunnels and bridges, balance logs / stepping stumps , a dry stream bed, etc. Such a place is surely one we'd visit as a family.



Boulders, Balance Logs, Stepping stumps. Tunnels, Bridges

Exercise equipment – pull up bars or anything that allows someone to (safely) burn up calories.

The tools for interactive play amongst children who do not know one another. A safe environment to explore and to burn off energy. How about adding a sheltered place for adults to watch the children to keep them out of the wind and rain?

2. What do you think of when you imagine a CHILDREN'S GARDEN? How can a garden be used for play and learning?

Include spaces for children to dig in the dirt, animal/bug statues, information about plants in kid-friendly writing/drawing. Some sort of water feature could be nicely included here, too.

A children's garden is a great idea. Things in the garden should have educational signs (for example: plants could be labeled with what they are and what they are used for if they have a non-garden use--like herbs that have medicinal purposes). Having some garden tools available for kids to try and use would be neat too.

Waste of space, boring, waste of resources. Plenty of other places in city for this type of thing. Use limited space and money for play related things. Kids need to play. I want max to be excited to head down to the park to run around and exercise. If he wants to plant a flower, we can do that at home.

Separate fenced in area. Various individual plots which allow for interactive gardening. Potting shed stocked with child friendly tools.

Stepping stones designed or made by children (potential fundraiser).

A children's garden in Seattle is tricky because our growing season is so short. One idea I had was to combine raised garden beds (that local Maple Leafers or school classes would need to volunteer to plant and maintain of nontoxic plants that kids can touch or smell, perhaps rosemary, mint, certain flowers) with large-scale sculptures of examples of those plants that kids can learn from and play on. Embracing Seattle's local plant life seems important here, too, e.g. a moss wall or a fern wall, for instance. A children's garden can also serve as more of a fantasy thing, with playground equipment that looks like trellises and arbors and jungle vines integrated with actual planting beds, etc. Slugs and

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snails are part and parcel with any Seattle garden, so elements that address harmful and desirable insects and small animals would also be fun.

I think of a space where children can begin to develop an appreciation for nature. I think some elements that would help achieve that would include:

- Create a traditional garden space with a small white picket fence and an arched sign over the entrance: "Children's Garden"
- A sunflower garden. Sunflowers are cool. They grow very large in a single season, and the children can watch them grow from seed.

Perhaps there's even a sunflower day where the garden is planted and children can plant sunflowers in a cup which they could take home, and later plant in their yard.

- Bird nesting boxes. We have some beautiful birds here in the northwest, and the kids would love to see some of these birds nesting-- Northern Flicker, for example.
- Fruit plantings -- strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries are all easy things to grow here and kids will love to find and eat.

A spigot should be nearby for easy rinsing.

Flowers, bird/bug habitats, mazes, shapes, hidden treasures to discover.

Children's Garden: Water element...pump to get a drink...planting to attract hummingbirds? butterflies?...aroma garden?...work with Seattle Library to create a garden from children's literature???a volunteer element focusing on inter-generational cooperation to maintain the garden. A fountain of a boy and girl with water running over an umbrella?

A Children's Garden should be accessible to all with large areas to wander between beds. It would contain a lot of different textures and heights to stimulate curiosity and it should have whimsical art that is bright and cheerful. It should also appeal to all the senses and have a variety of colors, textures, scents, even some edibles and lots of information about what is there for the inquisitive kid and their parent who doesn't have the answer right away. Appeal to birds and their songs to add an auditory appeal.

CHILDRENS GARDEN



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When you say children's garden, I think of stuff that's planted that will grow, but I've never seen anything like that in any of the parks. We go pick blueberries, strawberries, etc. throughout the summer, so the children's garden is not on my list of priorities for sticking in the park. But if someone thinks it can be well done and maintained, I'm not against it.

I think over by #9 would be a great place to locate the sandbox, which would be used a lot by my kids.

Why not plant a few fruit and nut trees throughout the park, like an apple tree, pear tree, cherry tree, walnut tree and plum tree in 21, 23, 27 and 7. We love picking fruit from the trees overhanging the sidewalks in the neighborhood as it seems the whole area used to be covered with orchards. Why not have that theme continued in the park?

It would be nice to walk through an Entry Trellis.

That the children learn to take care of the environment and to love it.

Maybe a pea patch where kids or families can grow food. Sandbox?

I think observation is an important element in a learning garden. I think providing spaces (sitting or stepping stones?) that invite children to view plants, birds and insects and their activities close up invited children to discover and interact with basic elements of the natural world. Plants could be selected to provide striking contrasts in color, seasonal states (deciduous vs. evergreen), and shapes (ferns vs. woody shrubs or trees). Too often I think we focus on kinetic play and ignore mental play. Providing an aesthetically rich and diverse living environment allows children to engage in naming, categorization, and observation of elements in endless variations. At times, some kids may prefer quiet, internal activity to more social or movement-based activity.

I think of a garden that's good for imaginative play. A maze would be great. It would also be neat to have a trellis that plants can climb up, such as ivy or sunflowers, to make little natural enclosures for kids to play in. Also plants that attract butterflies and other animals.

Honestly, I am not sure. I have a brown thumb and therefore really am not able to give a productive answer to this question.

- a. Entry Trellis planted with blooming vines

Subject: Maple Leaf Play Area Online Survey Comments and Summary

- b. Butterfly zone with plants that attract them, year round butterflies to look at made of ceramic or metal. Include life cycle stages of caterpillar and pupa figurines.
- c. Bird zone with fun birdhouses and nests with eggs (worms)
- d. Eco-zone gardens that represent different biomes of the northwest (e.g., rainforest, palouse, mountains, marine)
- e. Signage for the children to learn (Braille included)
- f. Outdoor learning area where classes could come with covered seating area (tables and water fountain).
- g. Rainwater recycling feature such as a rain garden and rain barrel or cistern.

It would be great to have an ENTRY TRELLIS but I feel very strongly that it would be great to have NOAH'S name included to brand the area a bit. It gives families a name to remember the play area by and in a city like Seattle where people like to have specific neighborhood names, parks should be the same. Having the children's garden named NOAHS would create this kind of appeal.

I really like the idea of an outdoor learning area that incorporates signage for learning and other eco zones and bird zones that really enhances the natural area of the park. This makes it so much more than just a playground but more of an outdoor learning center.

winding pathway, butterfly attracting/brightly colored flowers, birdbaths,

Gardens are such peaceful learning places. Tilth is such a huge resource for gardening. Maybe compost bins, places for planting, tools/ hoses/ shovels. Different garden sections, vegetables, a white garden, a trellis, a bean pole tent, etc.

- a. Eco-zone gardens that represent different areas of the northwest (e.g., rainforest, palouse, mountains, sound). Something that will catch their eyes so they want to play and discover.



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A place where different plants are growing but where children can walk in the beds, learn about conservation etc. Ravenna has a great community garden that my children love. Children's SPRAY garden would be fantastic too! This was originally on many of the designs but it was hard to see on the schematic if it still is.

Lots of plants that kids can taste, smell, or have parts that parents can talk about to help teach about plants, bugs, soil and food (herbs, violas, sunflowers, peas, hummingbird plants, seed plants, etc.)

Children's gardens should not contain any poisonous plants and, if possible, should be entirely edible. I think one of the best ways to teach kids about plant life cycles is in the context of food, something they use every single day.

A children's garden should be full of robust plants that kids can touch, smell and taste.

Good perennial plants include strawberries, blueberries, apple trees and lavender. Plants should be labeled with information so kids can learn about them.

Depending upon budgets and available space, it would be cool to have a theme-focused garden, like this bee-centered garden that is super-cute and appears well-executed: <http://www.longwoodgardens.org/BeeAmazed.html>

Or it could just be a colorful group of raised beds with plantings that are well-marked and ideally child-participation in the planting. Toronto example: <http://www.tcgn.ca/wiki/wiki.php?n=JobPostings.ChildrenSGardenAndEcoPrograms-3>

My kids love flowers, bugs, and being outside in general. An area where they could learn about gardens/gardening and about the cycle of nature would be very beneficial

Having access to a garden that they are allowed to dig in, enjoy the smells and colors of plants, find bugs and butterflies. Eat sprigs of mint or chives. Pick some flowers.

Having lived in the Northwest for six years, we can't imagine living anywhere else, due largely to the culture of the outdoors: be it hiking, biking, gardening, etc.



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A Children's Garden is such a great way to expose our children to this wonderfully rich part of the Northwest culture – offering a fun, interactive way to educate them about the outdoors.

Specific items that we envision for the garden include both flora and fauna that represent the NW:

- Flora:
 - Gardens showcasing the various eco-zones of the NW
 - Possibly a mixture of edible and inedible plants
- Fauna
 - Butterfly zones
 - Bird zones
 - Etc.

Of course, no garden would be complete without educational signage, sharing relevant information about the surroundings.

Eco-zone gardens that represent different areas of the northwest (e.g., rainforest, palouse, mountains, sound). Signage for the children to learn.
Outdoor learning area where classes could come

Small animals because most children love them; and if they don't, they need to understand they exist and their value. While you can't have actual small animals in the proposed park, you could have animals made from paper mache. Fantasy creatures – think Alice in Wonderland – also might be useful (to teach literature in one case).

A children's garden should include a climbing place – like big rocks, sturdy, unstampable plants and flowers they can touch. If you have to police it, then it is no fun for the children. I recently visited the children's garden at the Huntington Library in Pasadena – look to it for ideas.

3. What do you like best about TRADITIONAL PLAY AREAS? (Traditional play equals what's there now such as slides, swings, climbers, bars, etc.)

opportunity to use equipment creatively, dramatic play & role-taking opportunities. Sand to dig in. A water play feature would be great!

I know a lot of people don't love the playground already available and I do admit it's dated, but I love how basic it is. My highest priority for the traditional play area is SWINGS!!! Baby and regular swings! I have not met a child under 8 who



doesn't love the swings! I've noticed too many playgrounds without swings and that worries me. All kids should get to experience that great tingly feeling when you jump off the swings! Other equipment I'd like to see include--things to climb on--monkey bars, climbing walls, netting, play structures, domes, etc. Something where kids can learn to climb and balance. Slides are also a fun thing, but also seem to be a staple of parks that I'm not worried about. We'd like the park to include a fireman's pole for climbing and sliding down. Diggers--where kids sit and control the digger are quite popular with kids I know. Balance beam type walk ways would be fun too. I will be very happy with the park as long as there are swings and a variety of other equipment that challenges kids to learn new skills without them realizing they are learning new skills--like balance and climbing! A spot for kids to make music--like chimes to hit or something would be a neat addition also.

My daughter is 2-1/2. She loves playgrounds that have play "houses". Often it's the area underneath the top of the slide that gets turned into a structure with walls and windows.

She also loves water fountains! Especially ones that are smaller and at her level. She likes to go play on something and then go back to the water fountain, over and over.

Big swings, monkey bars and cargo-nets integrated into the play structure forcing kids to develop some upper body muscles to get across to play features. Cat-walks where kids can chase each other.

Classics : Rope Swing/ Tire Swing, SeeSaw, Slides, MerryGoRound

Good things in traditional play areas are climbers, bars, etc. The swings designed for kids with disabilities are surprisingly popular with all kids, so the disability features are good not only for accessibility also for all kids.

My kids really love the new climbing structure at Olympic View Elementary. It involves rope wires, climbing walls and it's almost like an obstacle course. Also, hard to go wrong with slides -- particularly tall and fully enclosed ones, and swing sets.

A traditional play area gives children an outlet for physical activity and are an entry to physical challenges (how fast you can climb, go down a slide, high you can swing, etc...) . Kids have always created their own games out of a traditional play area. ***Please**** include monkey bars, also; developing upper body strength seems to be under-prioritized today, at all ages. A set of pull up bars would be great to have for teens and adults to use. It might be difficult to maintain, but a tetherball pole would also be appreciated.



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Lots of climbing structures (like Matthews beach, Graham Hill or OV Elementary), all kids love a good slide and swing for certain!

Activity and imagination rather than passive (swings)...climbing for all ages of children.

We love the swings and the climbing structure. My children love to climb and wander across the bridges as well as to swing, a lot. They also enjoy the sloped area up to the fences where they can hide, run in the bushes and have grand adventures under some cover/privacy.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Climbing Structure: Our kids like the one that is there. Same style, newer, and bigger would be great; for example the one at Green Lake Park is a bit bigger. It's nice to have monkey bars, big and small slides, and climbing. As we have two kids, it's preferable if both can play somewhere on the same structure at the same time as it's easier to watch them and they like to play together. The split between ages at Madison Park with separate structures is not as fun.

Swings: They love the swings. Any changes to what's there will have marginal value. Our two-year-old son's favorite is the red plastic Lightning McQueen seat we have at home, but besides that I haven't really seen much of difference between the various seat designs; accept that there needs to be the option for the small kids and for the big kids. Variety is always a hit, so put three different kinds of seats.

Merry-Go-Round: The traditional merry-go-round is still a hit. Just the other day, our two-year old was in the middle while our five-year old slowly turned it around and we were sitting watching across the park. The new models, like at Dahl, which are more like the outside of a wheel and open in the center have so far not appealed to our kids; maybe when they get older. The small spinner seats so far have not been much of a hit either as they spin too fast and are not very social, but I've seen older kids enjoy them. So far our kids have never played on the spinner seat or wheel thing by themselves, and so we will be disappointed if the re-design doesn't have a traditional merry-go-round, even if you just leave the old one.

Sand-Box: That's still always popular. For example the one at Magnuson or Ravenna. They seem best when they get the morning sun to dry things out, and the afternoon shade so they don't stay too hot. The one at Magnuson which is level to the ground is better than the one at Ravenna which has a tall enclosure. The sand area at Green Lake playground seems almost too central with kids running through it.



Bouncy Seats: There are some existing animal shaped springy/bouncy seats. The kids always like those at least for a few minutes.

Zip Lines: The ones at Madison Park are nice, but a big slide from the upper to Lower Park would be far cooler.

My most favorite thing is a zipline. And I like web climbers. Ropes to climb.

Merry go round and zip line

I love that my kids have the opportunity to climb etc. and push the boundaries of what they thought they could do, Watching them all of a sudden ready to go down the 'big slide' or to climb to the 'top'

Fun, indestructible, colorful, danger, social, thrilling, giddy, choices

Climbers, bouncy bridges, and swings. Some favorite structures at local parks: (1) The big shark teeter-totter at the Junior League playground at Magnuson Park (2) the swings at Woodland Park playground (3) the zip line at Salmon Bay park. I've also noticed kids enjoying the low-to-the-ground structures that have little windows cut out, sometimes with a little counter. They enjoy playing peek-a-boo and also pretending they are running a store. (There are structures like this at Magnuson and Meadowbrook. At Meadowbrook there's also a little picnic table inside the structure.)

I love the merry-go-round. There are so few left in public parks due to insurance company regulations and our ridiculous litigious society. I would love to see the merry-go-round stay. Also, I love long slides, I am thinking about the one at Lake City Park, built into a hill.

- a. Web climber/Rope Pyramid
- b. Lots of platforms/slides, boat like pitch with steering wheel for adventure play
- c. Merry go round (spiny thing), teeter totter, springed animals to ride on.
- d. Zip line



I love zip lines, merry go rounds, fire poles and LOTS OF PLATFORMS and slides. The more we encourage our kids to move their bodies, the better our city's youth will be.

when they can be used for more than one age group (even if for different purposes) and there is room for some imagination. I think the ground cover should be "forgiving" for the adventurers and new walkers but also nontoxic and eco friendly.

My grandkids love the slides and the structures. The more aspects to explore and discover, the happier they are.

a. Web climber/Rope Pyramid. Our daughter loves this type of an item when she goes to parks.

Anything that calls for imaginative play. We were disappointed when the "boat" was removed from the current ML playground (though agreed, it had seen better days). The playground at Twin Ponds Park in Shoreline is a family favorite because it is challenging for older kids yet safe for my toddler. Sand box with some shade (like ViewRidge) would be great!

I like the traditional play areas that incorporate rope webs, rock climbing, towers to climb, ropes to climb, different types of slides and swings. Everyone likes monkey bars and "hang" bars for upside-down time.

We are a big fan of the merry go round at the current Maple Leaf Park. There are so few left, but they're endless fun for the kids. I also think Salmon Bay Park has a great mix of elements in its play structure.

Traditional play areas should include lots of structures that challenge kids' limits like heights, speed, climbing strength, and balance. Structures with tight spaces to squeeze through, small spaces for hiding in, and lots of connected structures for making obstacle course races/hot lava monster games are important.

Swings are universally loved and should be a definite. Beyond that, most other traditional stuff is great for toddlers, but can seem boring for older kids. Is it possible to have some small traditional stuff for babies & toddlers, and some larger, more adventurous equipment for older kids?



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Ropes and webs, merry-go-rounds, slides for younger and older kids, and swings for both younger and older kids too. Sand play areas are also a favorite and it is even more fun when there are things there to play with (as some parks do). I prefer when parks have different climbing structures for younger kids and older kids, making it safer for the little guys.

My children adore ziplines and things that spin. Climbing up and sliding down poles or slides. Going through tunnels and across bridges. To run or chase through a climbing structure with paths and different levels. They loved the climb-able spider web made of rope (at the Seattle zoo) and the mole tunnels next to it: these took traditional playground elements and morphed them into a nature theme suitable for the zoo. Something like that would be ideal for the Mapleleaf family terrace.

Our son is a climber and a slider, so we're big fans of these playground items (e.g. web climbers, structures that have slides of various heights with platforms to traverse, etc.).

Lots of platforms/slides

Children are getting exercise and, in some cases, learning cooperation. Think merry go round for example of cooperation.

Kids like the challenge of the huge swings, and climbing things. I have lived in this community since 1947. I played there when I was a child, so did our own children, and often our grandchildren. The park has special meaning to me and I see no need to change the play area, only to add to it.

**4. What overall character do you envision for Maple Leaf Family Terrace?
Colors? Materials?**

more natural colors and elements (than bright, bold colors)

I'd prefer basic design and colors. Natural wood over the plastic equipment but if we have to use the plastic bright, primary colors would be best

No tiles (like everywhere else in the city). Classic solid wood truss design is timeless. If there is a solid wall, configure it so kids can practice kicking soccer balls off of it. somehow configure it to not be a great hangout for homeless folks looking for shelter from the rain or for the stoner high-school kids to smoke weed in after high-school.



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Space to sit and spread out a game or activity. Features that work together to create community within the area. Simple ageless materials and soft colors. Relaxed and Calm.

> It's so grey here most of the year that I think the brightest possible, even fluorescent, colors are a good idea, and not just in the equipment but also in the paving and in the gravel choice. Imagine bright yellow gravel or fluorescent brick. One thing I would like to see is the use of transparent roofs or gazebos to some extent so that there are some dry or drier areas in the family terrace even on wet days. The fact is, Maple Leafers use the park rain or shine, but some rain-mitigating features would be extremely helpful. Grafitti is a problem in the current park, so designs that minimize grafitti potential would be desirable.

High quality playground materials that don't rust or deteriorate quickly Natural cedar woodchips Very colorful

No opinion, other than the typical primary color scheme (red, yellow, blue) has always worked well.

Greens and purples make me think of Maple Leaf.

Maple Leaf reminds me of a fairy tale village...working class bungalows...I envision "cottage" look as fitting in to the surrounding neighborhood.

Keep it natural without too much plastic. Draw from natural shapes and surfaces found in the woods, mountains and lakeshores around us.

COLORS

I think that that greens and browns for the playground equipment is in keeping with the Maple Leaf theme.

I would prefer that the materials used reflect what they are- plastic metal wood rubber concrete should all look like what they are.

I'd like to see as many recycled materials as possible.

- a. The sections should "compliment" each other and tie together well while adding a sense of adventure and curiosity about what might be around each corner and a respect for nature.
- b. A "network of paths" that kids can follow and wander on that connects the areas (on foot or small trike/bike). Paths can be part of the dry stream bed, tunnels, bridges. Encourage off the path exploration.



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c. A “search and find” component (e.g., find the 13 butterflies that are hidden throughout the area)

I like the idea of colorful, natural materials that blend with the natural landscape. Also a network of paths that kids can follow and discover nature on their own...by foot or by bike.

open, bright, casual, inviting informal meetings with ecofriendly/sustainable materials which require little or no maintenance.

Not garish. I really like the rainbow fence. It’s understated but beautiful. I’m excited about the sculptures going in. More is not necessarily better. In your face is not necessarily better.

a. The sections should “compliment” each other and tie together well and should have an area for the parents to be able to watch their children from not too far away.

Natural, not overly landscaped

Differently colored reflective metals would be great- steel, copper, etc. Reflective and bright colors would be good since we have so many grey days. I would love to see design that also incorporates more ways for parents to get involved...parents can get a little exercise through showing the kids how to do pull ups – use the monkey bars, climb stuff, use ropes. It would be nice to in some way encourage parents to do a little work and get more involved.

Emphasis on Nature and soft colors. Not the traditional bright playground colors.

Nothing should be off limits for touching and climbing on. Using a lot of natural materials like stone and wood are good, interspersed with eye-catching bright colors (like with colored glass).

Casual hang out space for families. A place to picnic.

Natural materials (i.e. stones, rocks, logs etc...), lots of flowers offering a variety of colors. It would be nice if all the sections of the park connect and compliment each other with paths that kids can follow on foot or wheels.



I like the idea of separate play areas tied together by paths, (not too far from each other) so that you can bring children of different ages and they can explore on their own but you can still find them. Also you can come back often and they don't get bored because they can go to a different area each time. If the paths were colored, it would function on several levels. A toddler could learn colors, and also could tell their mom they were off to ride their trike on the Blue Path or Yellow Path. If you are able to make a path with two colors (say half orange and half blue), the kids could learn to regulate their traffic directions without having a line down the middle. Or colors could also indicate areas, for example the red path traverses all the sections of the family terrace, but the green paths only travel within the Children's Garden area. Kids like to hunt and find things, that could be bugs or hidden elements. I also would like a place that groups of kids from school-classes or day-camp could visit for educational purposes. Like a circle of logs/boulders where they could sit together. When there was no class visiting, kids could jump on the logs.

As with our desire that the Adventure Play area feel incorporated into the natural surroundings, so too do we envision the entire Family Terrace as being a cohesive experience that fits in its surroundings. To achieve this, we feel that:

- The different areas of the park should be interconnected by a network of paths, so that they feel as one
- The overall design of each element should complement one another
- There could be scavenger hunt / search and find signage throughout each area, encouraging exploration of the neighboring area

A "network of paths" that kids can follow and wander on that connects the areas (on foot or small trike/bike)

If you mean character in the figurative sense, it's hard to say. In the literal sense, a cat figurine would suit the Maple Leaf Family Terrace; and it might suit it, figuratively: independent and detached. Colors: green and yellow. Materials: wood, treated to withstand moisture.



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Please, a covered place for a picnic, with sides to protect from the wind – we are on the top of the hill. Big enough for a few kids to celebrate a birthday, but not so big to attract huge events on a regular basis – about 2 or 3 tables. Don't overdo the maple leaf motif – it is a relatively new concept in this neighborhood, and, frankly overdone and boring – simple, basic designs with tough surfaces.

5. How might we reflect the essence of the Maple Leaf community in the design? Are there any identifying factors? People? Activities? Icons? Stories? Other?

Would be nice to include some local art and honoring history through stories

I've only lived in the neighborhood a few years but I love how walkable and accessible the neighborhood is to so many great things. I think just having the park here will reflect a lot of what I like in this area.

It would be cool to make some connections with some of the local businesses around there. Tiles from art tile, perhaps some native art from Snow Goose? Something from Between Cultures?

We moved to the neighborhood 4 years ago and live within view of the park. We appreciate the open space. Personally, I would love to see a Large Maple Tree in the park surrounded by a path. (Potential fundraiser could be in the path by selling bricks that community members can have engraved with quote, memory of, honor of, etc.)

Maple Leaf is dog country. Family dogs often join parents and kids to the playground, but there aren't a lot of dog-friendly features for "parking" the dog while you wait. Maybe give some thought to innovative ways to park a leashed dog while kids are playing. One Maple Leaf icon is the "Dog Oasis" (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dog-Oasis/363926145984?sk=wall>). The image of a maple leaf on the water tower in the park is the most iconic symbol of the neighborhood. The current playground uses some maple leaf themes; it'd be fun to see that continue (and not just literal maple leaves but abstract riffs on a maple leaf theme). Like a lot of Seattle, Maple Leaf has a lot of people of Scandinavian and Asian descent. It would be unique in Seattle to find Scandinavian or Asian design elements, which actually play well off each other, incorporated into a playground-that would be a nice thing to see in Maple Leaf.

Honestly, it's only a playground we're talking about, right? It doesn't have to be anything more sophisticated than a place for kids to play. I can't imagine kids



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and parents will refuse to go the playground because it doesn't match their aesthetic expectations for Maple Leaf.

Maple Leaf, Maple Leaf, Maple Leaf, The Olympic Mountains

Today at the Wallingford Senior Center I heard people in their 70's laughing about the times they had on "power house hill"...especially when it snowed...though snow isn't common it is memorable. Important to have a sled hill somewhere in the park.

Just keep in mind it is still a community and try to keep it cohesive, rather than separated or segregated into different areas. Retain blending of the spaces so they are easily meshed together and are walkable by families.

SHELTER

I would vote for this to be placed where #34 is, and take the existing art work, which is nice but hardly used by the kids, and place it up by #7 or somewhere else. Please don't jamb the shelter right next to the bathrooms between #8 and #32 as it seems cramped and why put a place to eat next to the toilets. Or put it between #8 and #9 if #34 must stay.

ROOSEVELT EDGE

Besides widening the landscaped area for noise abatement, I've heard that the exiting poll art work will stay and the fence will come down. I'm sure some people have a vested interest in the art, but not knowing the history, I think it might look odd without the fence, or especially if there is a low fence. Either via a low fence, or very heavy landscaping, the edge needs to be impregnable for the kids' safety.

BENCHES AND TABLES

In the spring and summer we frequently picnic in the park for dinner after work. I think our favorite is Ravenna, as there are some nice tables overlooking a very safe play area and it's peaceful. We sit and eat, and the kids come and go. It would be great if there were picnic tables by 7, 20, 21, 18, 32, and 9. If there were a table at #20, we could sit and eat and watch the kids below.

Make sure that existing Parks Foundation equipment and donations are returned/replaced when the park is finished

The reason why I bought a house in this neighborhood of Seattle is the character of modesty I find throughout the neighborhood- from the



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average size of the houses and lots, the cars, and the people's friendliness and lack of pretense here. There are some amazing people living in this neighborhood, but not many concerned with drawing attention to themselves (or their possessions). It's very old-timey!

It is very important to me that the bench dedicated to Dylan Church remain as part of the new Maple Leaf Park. The Churchs are an amazing family and love the park. It would be a travesty if that bench were lost in the shuffle.

- a. Include all 3 zones: Traditional, Adventure and Children's garden to deliver on the community vision for the "family terrace". Add signs for trails that are named after maple leaf streets or institutions.
- b. Reinforce the value of "more than one way to play" and advocate that they park should have all 3 sections
- c. Colorful, Unique, Distinct – not cookie cutter
- d. Water feature to reinforce the tie to the underground reservoir/drain into the garden.

I think there should be ALL 3 ZONES to this park: a traditional play area, a Noah's adventure area, and a Noah's garden...this shows that there is more than 1 way to play and will make this park a distinctive addition to this wonderful neighborhood. We have a chance with this park to do something special that people will want to visit from all over Seattle to experience the family terrace.

Well, the Maple leaf of course. We're just so lucky to have this space. I think of Queen Anne and how the parks are such an organic part of their neighborhoods and I'd like to see that in Maple Leaf. Maple Leaf is so busy with traffic on Roosevelt and the freeway nearby. It's so nice to create a peaceful playful organic environment. When my kids were little they loved to play kick the can at night at the park and run in and out of the bushes. They loved the open spaces and room to move that the tight neighborhood grid doesn't allow.

- a. Colorful, Unique, Distinct – not cookie cutter. A place that when you mention Maple Leaf Park, people know it...just like Volunteer Park or Magnuson Park or Starbucks Park.



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We have a park bench dedicated there for our firstborn child who passed away in 2006. This is through the Seattle Parks Foundation. We have been told this will be included in the new design as well but I was encouraged to keep "reminding" people so here goes. Also, if it is possible to be there when/if the plaque is removed and/or replaced, we would appreciate that opportunity. We go there each year on his birthday to celebrate his life with our friends and 2 children and our family visits nearly every month (rain, snow or sun) on the 16th to celebrate and remember our little buddy! My 4 year old calls this park Dylan's park! Any opportunity to honor and remember him in this remodel (especially since it will likely be a while that there is no bench etc there) would be greatly appreciated

I would really love to see the memorial bench for Dylan Knox Church remain a piece of the park. We have gone to Maple Leaf Park every Friday for nearly 4 years with Dylan's mom and little brother (and now his little sister, too). We have had birthday parties there and yearly remembrances for Dylan. The Churches are a fixture of Maple Leaf life and to see that important memorial get lost in the shuffle would be a shame.

Incorporate art depicting native wildlife of the area using stone and glass mosaics in the walkways. Brass insets of animal footprint shapes are also good. Create some sitting benches in the shape of maple leaves.

Maple Leafs!!! Also, would be great if the design encouraged community-building- good place for events (children's garden planting festival? something to celebrate the leaves in the fall? ability to reserve picnic spaces maybe etc.)

Include 3 parts, traditional, adventure and garden areas to offer many ways to play. My kids love to play on natural items (i.e. rocks and logs), enjoy traditional activities and would really enjoy a garden where they could see flowers and bugs. I think the park should be unique, colorful and distinct like no other park out there.



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A community is diverse elements tied together, and people with differing interests able to pursue them. A play-area on the family terrace with different zones would function as a community. Children's interests and focus change as they go through ages and phases, so I like the idea of designing a traditional playground, a garden, and a nature adventure-play area with open space nearby: they will grow and explore through the facets of the community. The children of the community, through school classes and groups, could do something like make ceramic tiles that would be set into parts of the play area. They would add an artistic element but also a legacy. The tiles could use themes such as butterflies/bugs that tie into the children's garden.

Above all else, the park should be unique – not like all of the other, lovely - but standard - neighborhood play areas. To achieve this vision, we believe that all three areas should be built. This would encourage kids that there's more than one way to play. The family terrace vision can also be met if the park is visually appealing: colorful and well-integrated (i.e. all three sections interconnected, as described above). And, it would be great if there were distinct areas that would enable the community to gather, i.e. for different learning series, nature talks, etc.

Include all 3 zones: Traditional, Adventure and Children's garden to deliver on the community vision for the "family terrace"

The Maple Leaf neighborhood is at a high elevation; only Queen Anne's hilltop is higher (if memory serves). So, perhaps icons and people related to that fact – clouds, mountains, even mountain climbers. The climbers would also reflect that people in Maple Leaf are (generally) physically active.

PLEASE DON'T! This community is diverse – the homes, the people, and the uses have changed and evolved over time. Don't put pictures that will become hackneyed and outdated. Keep design basic and allow for people to add as they need. No stories, icons, only interactive designs that are not age restrictive. Ways to see the view, places to sit and rest, a path to walk on. No Junk! I would like to serve on this review board.

6. What are your favorite elements of a playground? What park do you currently feel has the most fun and engaging environment for kids and why?



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A water feature is REALLY important! This is essential for the community in summer. Not a wading pool but perhaps a sprinkler of some sort or a water table for experimentation. Saint Edwards has a great play equipment to support motor skills but also imaginary play and therefore really engages the children at many levels. The new Sandel Park equipment is nice for this reason, too. Also, Magnuson Park.

Locally I think Green Lake and Carkeek park both have good play areas for kids. One of my favorite playgrounds is actually in Coeur d'Alene Idaho (my hometown). It is a big wooden structure with all sorts of great elements. In a world of plastic playgrounds it really stands out. It was also community built--which I think is a great way to go. Playgrounds with room for kids to run and play, jump and fall, laugh and explore are best. Any playground should be near a field where kids can run without parents worrying too much about traffic or boundaries. I think the best play areas are ones where kids feel free to play in anyway they want.

We want our son to be able to walk or ride his bike to the local park, meet other kids playing there, and come home covered in dirt with scrapped knees and elbows and a big smile on his face! That'd be a successful park!

Matthews Beach is great, it has a little of everything.

Hi, there. I wasn't able to attend this meeting, but my kids and many of their friends wanted me to request a zipline and anything else that would be appropriate for older children (ages 8-14). There's a part in Bellevue that has all kinds of cool stuff for older kids—I think it's called Crossroads Park. For example they have a structure that spins around like a merry-go-round, but rather than sitting on it, kids hold on while the feet swing out. It can accommodate a ton of kids of all ages, and they all seem to love it.

I've also heard a ton of requests for an outdoor pool in north seattle, which I know is probably not an option at this point, but just wanted to pass along that feedback.

Big swings, stuff to climb on, stuff where kids can actually play on. Sides are fine but they get old, if they can play tag and have slides and rope swings to escape, they will have fun with it. a little racetrack for tri-cycles with some banked turns and little hills to go up and down, and other fun features would be fun for the little guys. Rope-swing tires are fun for the bigger kids to play a little more dangerously. Big sandbox to play it would be nice. a covered area where kids can run around and play a bit even in the rain would also be pretty nice. Add skate park to attract the older kids to that area. Instead of garden, add dog park. Kids love watching dogs grow.



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Meeting new people. Parks with space for performing arts – outdoor stage.

Magnusson has the overall best park for kids because there is a large variety of playground options combined with proximity for dog and sports activities. Ravenna is another great park. The best playgrounds have things for little kids, elementary school age kids, and maybe even a few things that junior high schoolers might try (pulley lines, etc.). They also are proximate to dog-friendly activities or areas. And plenty of places for parents to sit. Playgrounds often focus on mothers and young children; they often forget about *DADS* (e.g. dads are taller and heavier and don't fit as well on swings or slides). So, some swings should be strong enough for large adults to ride on next to their children (integrating parent/child play). Some slides should be big enough for large adults to use with their kids, too. The best playgrounds are dad-friendly places, too. Thematically, I would recommend steering away from literal representations of things like cars and princesses and animals and whatever other kid-related things in favor of themes that are more subtle/suggestive to encourage imaginative play and to keep the park from quickly looking stylistically outdated. I would also encourage you to look at innovative approaches to playground design from Scandinavia, Finland in particular (e.g. http://www.nordicwellbeing.com/web/outdoor/more_outdoors/rethinking_playgrounds.php). I would personally prefer Maple Leaf Park be distinctive in its playground approach over both Magnusson and Ravenna and other good local parks.

Roxhill Park is a great space that inspires roleplay:

http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=464

I 'showed' you the Catalog on "Water Features"; and referred the architect to two 'preexisting' parks: one private (AT Temple Beth Am), and the other a 'Public Pocket Park': 'Greenwood Park' on North 87th Street (BOTH) in Seattle.

Large open space just next to the playground for kids to choose between. And of course the trees and shrubs bordering the playground make a great area for imagination play

I like the fanciful nature of Meridian Park for children...little statues on the fence surrounding the play area...the rock walls and entrance with little stone seating built in to the wall etc...fits with the "cottage/fairy tale" idea above.

We love the equipment, be it the swings, big toy, slides, etc. and we also love the open spaces to kick a ball or run and throw a frisbee.



Some areas to commune and eat are nice, too, like tables or benches.

In addition, we would like to request that parks foundation items, in particular a bench donated in Dylan Church's memory be preserved or replaced in the new park design. We realize these things can be overlooked and we would love some particular attention drawn to that donation and any others that are present in the park, currently.

Since I am 12 now, I want to have a big place to run around where I don't knock over the little kids. I would like a long fast zipline for big kids. I like parks that have big play areas.

I like to hang around with my friends. To have a nice place to sit together (with a candy store nearby).

We like to sit on the rocks in front of the Greenwood Library and hang out there.

The traditional play areas are my favorite elements. Esp the swings. The Ravenna-Eckstein area is currently great for my kiddos because there is an area that is appropriate for toddlers and for bigger kids. The climbing wall is also a fun addition to the traditional play equipment.

It would be very nice to be able to do a little exercise while watching the kids play, so why not provide steps at various heights, for mom or dad to step on and off while the children play. Could be concrete or stone, 12-28 inches high. big enough for two people to sit on, but useful for exercising, too. The key would be to place them close enough and facing the play area.

Mt Rainier National Park is pretty great place for kids, it has BEARS, and foxes and squirrels, and glaciers, and altitude, and giant trees! As a mountain it is what it is, it's uncontrived and doesn't try to please everyone. It's not just engaging it's compelling.

Donald Winnicott (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Winnicott) articulated the concept of the "good enough mother." In his construct, or that of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, if the basic necessities are met, then the children thrive at making their own experience and reality. Perhaps the park can provide the basics and let children apply their own imagination and vision in the space we call "park." It is their innate nature to do so.

The enclosed photo shows a play area divided into older and younger play areas, but close enough for one caretaker of children of different ages to attend to both children in two areas! Beautiful, no? I'm afraid I didn't get both areas in one photo. I also like the size and distinction of the space.



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My two favorite local parks to visit with my 3-year-old are the Junior League Playground at Magnuson, and the playground at St. Edwards State park.

Magnuson is great because there is just a lot to do -- lots of different play structures, some geared towards toddlers and some towards older kids. (A local park that I think DOESN'T cover different ages well is the lower Ravenna playfield, where the climbers all seem way too big/high for toddlers.) The big sandbox is fun, too. St. Edwards park has a really fantastic big play structure. It feels a bit like a castle -- seems great for pretend play. I like that you can climb high and have great views, but the walkways are contained with low walls so it feels safe. It's so much fun to run around the structure and explore all the little hidey-holes, ladders, slides, etc.

- a. Jefferson Park, Powell Barnett Park, Bayview Park, salmon bay,
- b. Exploratory pathways.

As an avid Seattle Parks user, I am excited to hear about the upcoming changes to the Maple Leaf Neighborhood. We are really hoping to see an all encompassing park with a feel of adventure and discovery, and maintaining as natural a look as possible. Children are now relegated to



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parks to do almost all of their discovery play because of the changes in our culture and society. While many of us were allowed to have adventures in our own back yard, these opportunities for growth and discovery are now in a more “conditioned environment” which is not served as well by the stereotypical playground of a super traditional play structure that is found everywhere.

I am hoping, when you are making decisions and considerations, that you think of using the lesser used items that are not as readily available throughout the city such as zip lines, and web climbers. Other types of intriguing items for kids that hinge on discovery would be many items that would develop the adventurous play of children. Since they can't run around like they used to, it would be great to have discovery features, a natural and inviting look, with boulders, hills and areas to “get down and get dirty”. Please consider this type of format for Maple Leaf. Let's have something past the cookie cutter, and more towards discovery, adventure and a love and fondness for the outdoors.

I love Jefferson Park, Powell Barnett Park, and Saint Edward State Park for the ADVENTURE and uniqueness of these parks.

favorites are open ended play areas. i'll leave the specifics to those with more exposure (our little guy is on the young side and we haven't yet explored enough to have a favorite.)

I think of Queen Anne and how the parks are such an organic part of their neighborhoods and I'd like to see that in Maple Leaf.

a. Starbucks Park and Volunteer Park

We are very much looking forward to having a park that is completed in the Maple Leaf Reservoir area. We hope that not only is it approved to be completed but that it is done fairly quickly so we can enjoy it while our child is young.

As mentioned above, Twin Ponds and Viewridge are great models. We also would really LOVE to see a spray park or water feature included in some capacity. These are the places we currently drive to from our home and it would be so great to walk to one as a family.



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I love the new rubber surfacing material and “catwalk” rope designs (St. Catherine’s has something like this.) A pretend “cabin” might be a nice addition, pads for jumping over hot lava. Ideally we would have a splash pad too – or some kind of water feature for warm days. Kids really like to play all kinds of ways with water. (random squirters, “rain” curtain, fountain, splash pad) Climbing walls are awesome, everybody loves them, including the parents. Stuff that requires parental involvement and encourages whole-family fitness would be wonderful.

My favorite parks are the Ravenna Ravine (walks through the leafy cool forest near the stream are a highlight for our family), and Dahl Playfield and Salmon Bay Park for their play structures.

High firepoles, swingsets with long swings, long tubes to hide in with natural cave-like entrances (like at Carkeek park), ziplines (like the one at Cohen Park), climbable trees, built-in puzzle-type game structures, integrated climbing wall, merry-go-round, large climbing structures that many kids can explore at once.

I’m not really qualified to answer this one- my daughter seems to like them all at this point.

We love Magnusen, Jefferson, Powell Barnett, Bayview and Sculpture Park(s)

We’re big fans of Jefferson and Powell Barnett Parks.

Jefferson Park, Powell Barnett Park, Bayview Park

Open spaces for use by all people, of all ages. Cowen Park has that aspect along with the best design(s) for children’s playground equipment and use of materials, for the equipment and surrounding areas.

I have been on the Greenlake Advisory Committee for 36 years and was on the Northgate Project Advisory Team and formed the Advisory Committee there. Both of those parks are done well. Functional and popular. Please remember this is a neighborhood park, not a regional attraction – it should be a place to walk, watch the children and visit with neighbors. Some structures for the 7-16 crowd would be the best for us to add. A place for the kids using the ball fields to interact.



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Summary of Comments:

1. What do you think of when you imagine ADVENTURE PLAY? What elements would be in it and what activities do you envision happening here?

- a. Platforms to climb and hide under
- b. Themed play for role playing
- c. Discovery
- d. Character of maple leaf
- e. Social play
- f. Natural landscape elements
- g. Balancing/climbing/hiding with tunnels and bridges
- h. Zip lines, ropes courses, hillside slides
- i. Sand or gravel with items to discover
- j. Dahl play area mentioned positively in quite a few

2. What do you think of when you imagine a CHILDREN'S GARDEN? How can a garden be used for play and learning?

- a. Educational signage
- b. A theme- possible bees, butterflies, or bugs
- c. Sunflowers, blueberries, strawberries
- d. A maze
- e. Entry gateway
- f. Wheelchair accessible around raised planters
- g. Bird houses and nests



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- h. Rainwater harvesting, spigot or pump
- i. Use this area for a sandbox
- j. Eco zones representing WA
- k.** No poisonous plants

**3. What do you like best about TRADITIONAL PLAY AREAS?
(Traditional play equals what's there now such as slides, swings,
climbers, bars, etc.)**

- a. Swings of all kinds- High swings, disabled swings, tire swings
- b. Hillside slide or climbing wall. Connection from upper reservoir to lower family terrace
- c. Can we keep the Merry-Go-Round?
- d. Ropes, nets, climbing
- e. Several ways to exit- Ropes, firepole, slides
- f. Monkey bars, upper body exercise
- g. Ziplines
- h. Platforms with linkages-sequential play
- i. Sandbox
- j. Natural play materials

**4. What overall character do you envision for Maple Leaf Family
Terrace? Colors? Materials?**



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5. How might we reflect the essence of the Maple Leaf community in the design? Are there any identifying factors? People? Activities? Icons? Stories? Other?

- a. Keep maple leaves already in concrete at the park
- b. Have a large maple tree
- c. Keep the bench dedicated to Dylan Church
- d. Connection to the sky being one of the highest points in the city

6. What are your favorite elements of a playground? What park do you currently feel has the most fun and engaging environment for kids and why?

- a. Areas where parents can exercise as well
- b. Good sight lines to play areas
- c. Many places to sit
- d. Whole play area is visible
- e. Variety of opportunities for kids of all ages.