

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. PARK

PLAYGROUND UPDATE WORKSHOP

Hosted by the City of Winter Park

February 20, 2025

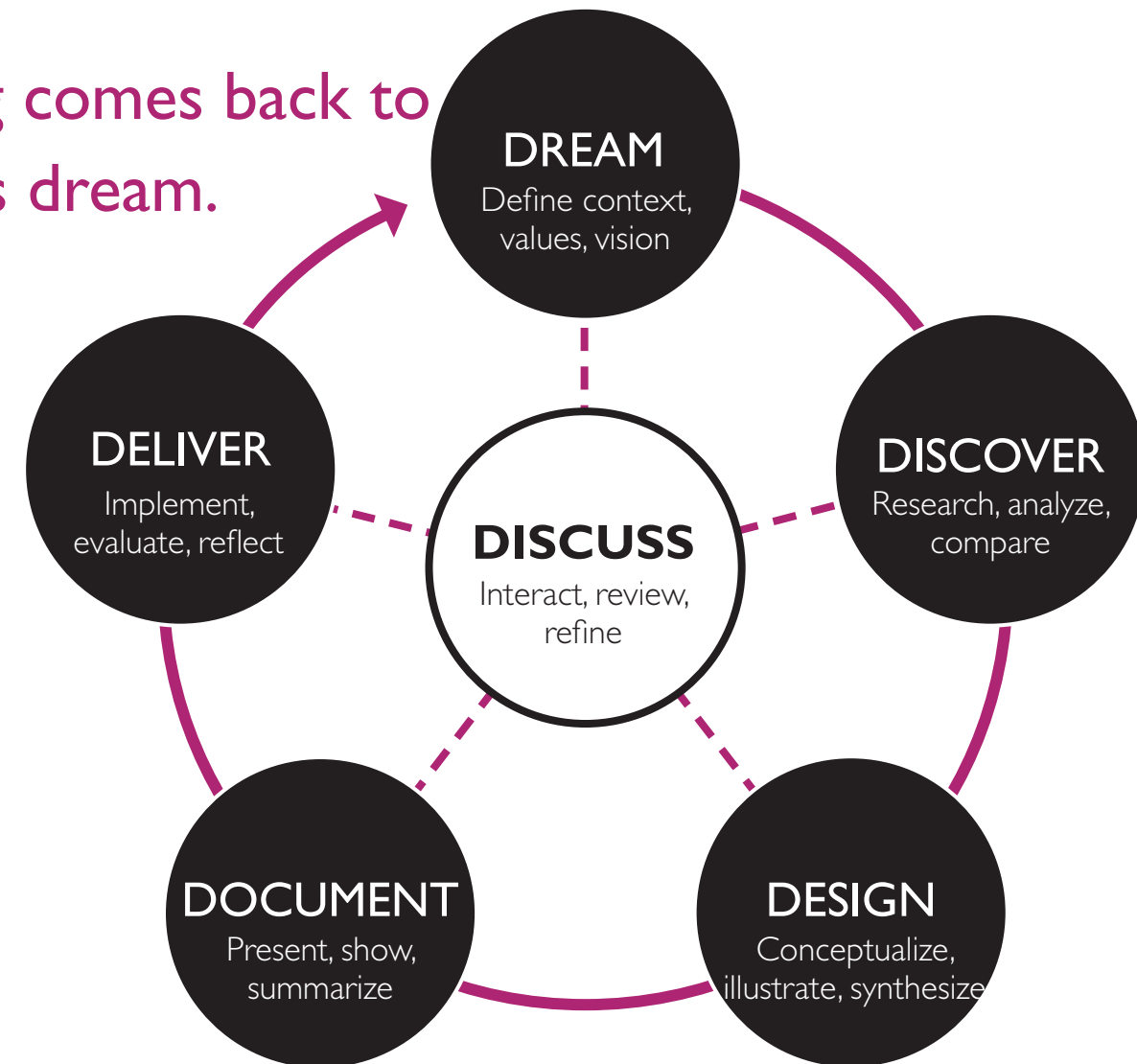


6D PROCESS

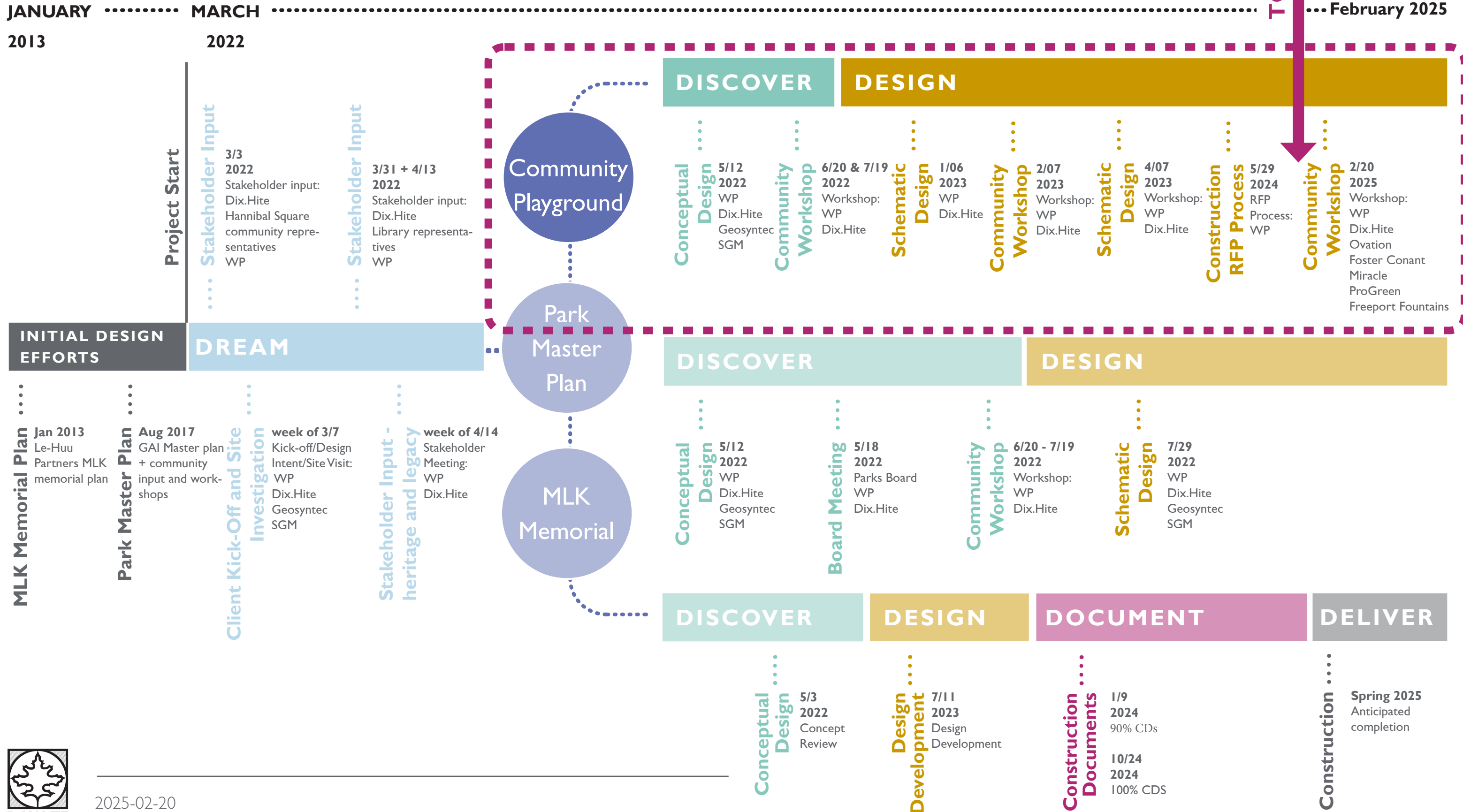
We're true believers in the power of the design process. To help clients meet their goals, we apply the "6D" approach: a transparent and scalable process that engages the entire design team in collectively identifying opportunities and constraints.

These steps provide a framework for project management, ensuring that outcome matches the intent and that the results fulfill the vision. As details of the project are uncovered, we adapt our approach to meet specific goals, deliverables and timeframes.

Everything comes back to the client's dream.



PROJECT SCHEDULE



2025-02-20

MAY 2022
CONCEPTUAL
DESIGN

W FAIRBANKS AVE

HARPER ST

W MORSE BLVD

S DENNING DR



**MAY 2022
PLAYGROUND
EXPLORATION**



JULY 2022
FOUNDATION FOR
THE DREAM...



JULY 2022
HAVE FUN !
DREAM BIG !



**JULY 2022
COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP**



JULY 2022

RED DOT

GREEN DOT

ACTIVITY AND PLAY
Playground elements for active outdoor play

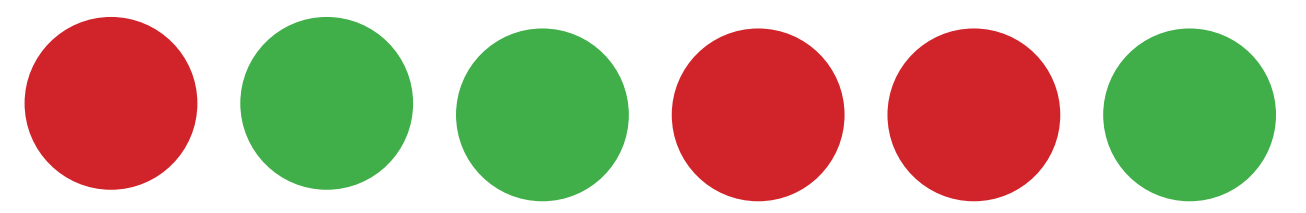
ACTIVITY AND PLAY
Playground elements for active outdoor play



ACCESSIBILITY
Playground elements that are inclusive to all ages and ability levels

STORY
Playground elements that show character and add sense of place

WATER PLAY
Splash pad elements for active water play



2025-02-20

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK | COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

PLAYGROUND RE-IMAGINED WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

JULY 2022

“WHAT WE HEARD”

TOP TAKE AWAYS

- Play:
 - Variety of equipment appealing to multiple ages
 - Naturalistic in material, aesthetic, form
 - Structure to be low maintenance
 - Multiple surfaces & textures
 - Safe
 - Simple
- Splash Pad:
 - Incorporate multiple depths
 - Mimic nature
- Inclusive / accessible
- Multi-generational
- Clear surveillance from multiple seating points
- Improve parking lighting
- Provide more color & interest among surrounding plant material

PLAY & SPLASH PAD

- Include composite material or alternative to wood
- Incorporate different materials & surfaces
- Keep elements of play connected
- Relate to nature & natural elements when possible
- Provide ample spaces to foster imagination & creativity
- Incorporate more colors
- Pay homage to original structure with a modern update
- Keep visibility of structures & tunnels clear
- Love vertical elements that allow for climbing
- Incorporate elements for multiple age groups & levels of play
- Provide ample seating around playground for parents
- Love rope swing options
- Density over spread is key for play structures
- Incorporate stepping & weaving motions
- Scale play equipment to accommodate popular features
- Include multiple bridge access points to castle structure
- Improve upon existing castle with additional viewing & clear areas
- Include a variety of difficulty levels on castle bridges
- Love swinging areas being located away from main castle structure
- Provide seating in direct view of playground elements
- Include shade over areas of water interaction
- Provide variety of water depth levels for varying levels of difficulty
- Be sure to include accessible water interaction opportunities
- Include safe water interactions for a variety of ages

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

- No proposed areas for dogs - should there be?
 - Dog run & water fountains
 - Keep existing dog bag stations
- Shade options need to be provided for all structures & amenities
- Reference other proposed and existing parks in the area for problems
- Provide enough trash receptacles to keep the park clean
- What type of fencing is used? How opaque should it be?
- Are there going to be auto-closing gates?
- Should a park attendant be hired to watch over the splash pad?
 - Summer months would be preferred to have a member on staff
 - Observation from watchtower building or office
- Ensure accessibility coming from the Memorial corner
- Incorporate ample lighting around edges of play & parking areas
- Questionable visibility with the longer tunnels - shorten?
- Is exercise equipment going to be incorporated anywhere?
 - Integrated on site or nearby?
- Are there designated areas for stroller parking? Bike parking?
- Is there a way to prevent / discourage people from sleeping in tunnels?
- How can sound be incorporated into equipment or plant material?
- Can we provide sensory elements along a designated trail?
 - Can these tie into the trail leading to the library?



FEBRUARY 2023 INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS



The center pathways of the castle are a unique and a key part of the playground.

Some areas of the castle are in need of substantial maintenance for safety and stability.



Children enjoy the various entry and exit points on the castle.



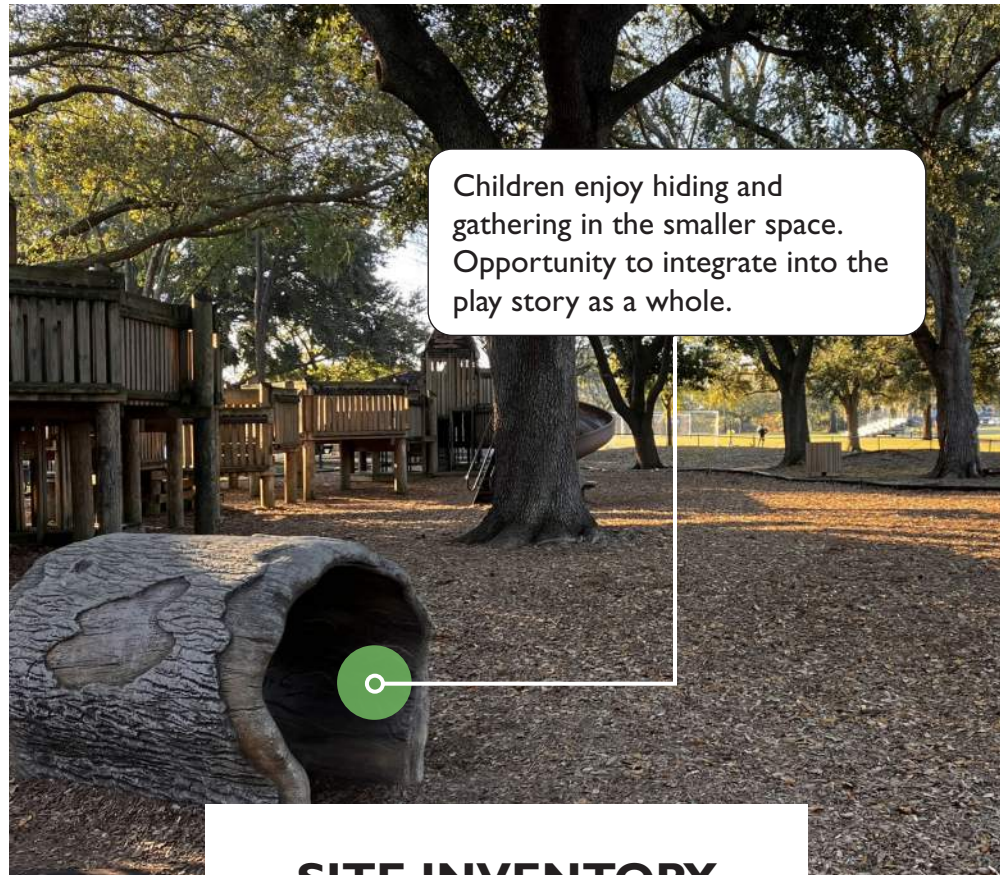
Overall transitions to the playground and play structures are not accessible to all abilities.





The tower has lost purpose and connection after years of modifications.

Children enjoy the various heights. Opportunity to expand this play element on site.



Children enjoy hiding and gathering in the smaller space. Opportunity to integrate into the play story as a whole.

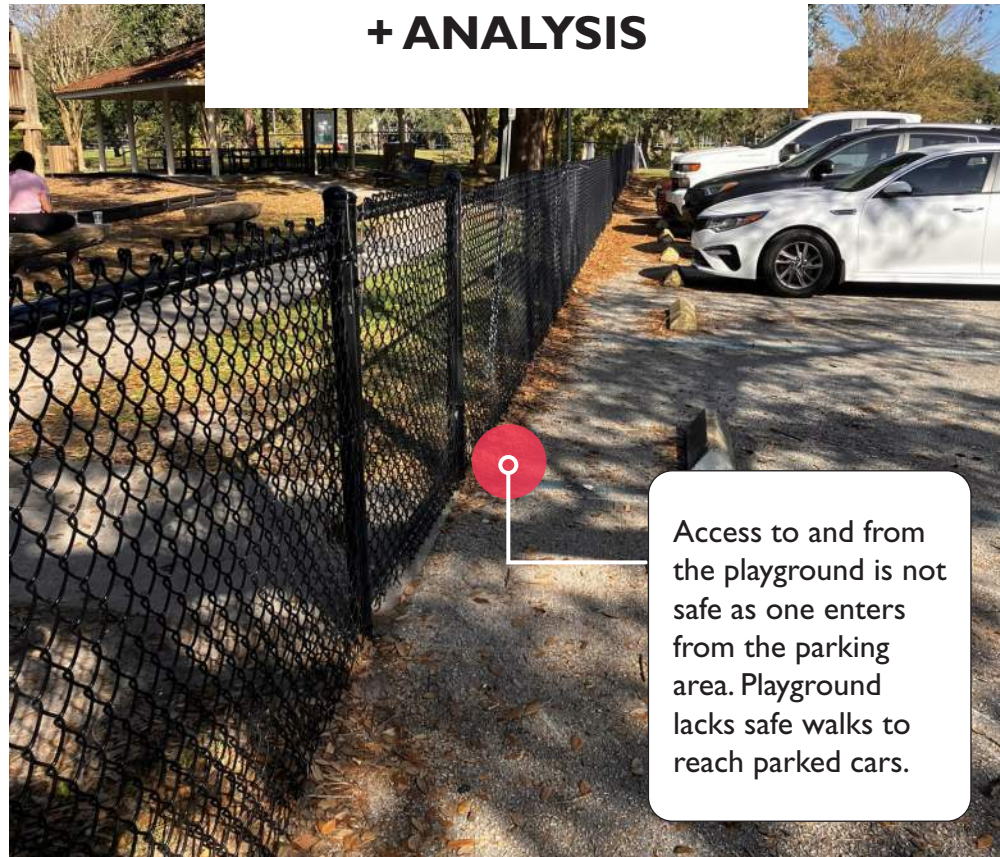


Existing benches are highly used and can be relocated along the playground for better visibility.

SITE INVENTORY + ANALYSIS



Children enjoy the spiral slide but it is not fully connected with the playground. Opportunity to better integrate the slide experience.



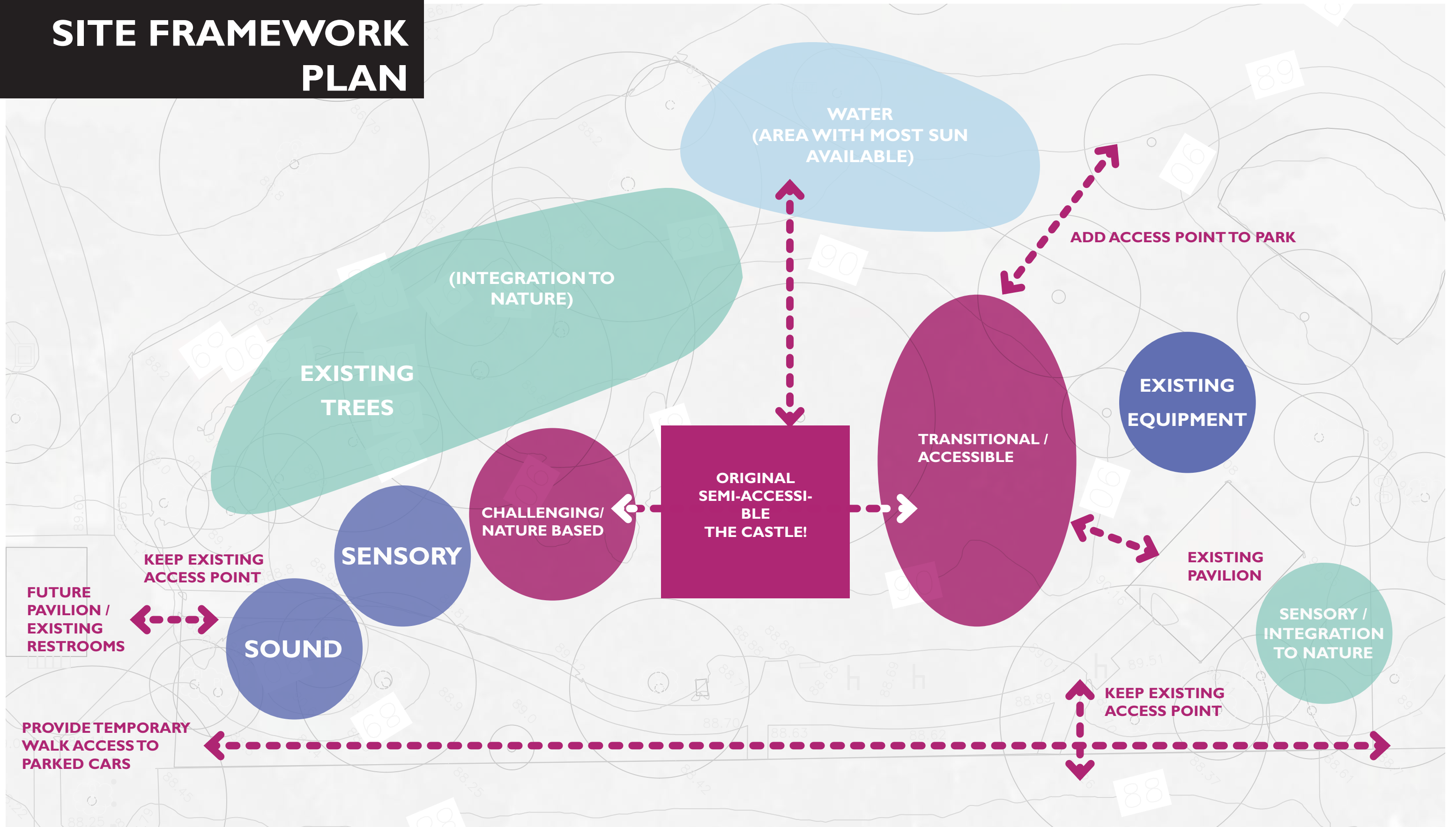
Access to and from the playground is not safe as one enters from the parking area. Playground lacks safe walks to reach parked cars.



Existing picnic tables throughout the playground are highly used. The shade from existing trees creates comfortable seating opportunities.



FEBRUARY 2023 SITE FRAMEWORK PLAN

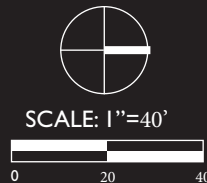


DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK: PLAYGROUND + SPLASH PAD

- ① ENTRY FROM PARKING LOT
- ② EXISTING PAVILION
- ③ NATURE SENSORY STATION
- ④ RELOCATED SINGLE AND GROUP SWINGS
- ⑤ CASTLE PLATFORM OVER 5' ARTIFICIAL TURF MOUND
- ⑥ CONCRETE WALK ACCESS TO CASTLE PLATFORM
- ⑦ ROLLER SLIDES OVER TURF MOUND
- ⑧ OPEN TUBE SLIDE OVER MOUND
- ⑨ CLIMBING ROCKS
- ⑩ BRIDGE CONNECTION TO EXISTING CASTLE
- ⑪ EXISTING CASTLE PORTION TO REMAIN
- ⑫ CLIMBING TOWER
- ⑬ TUNNEL ENTRIES ON SENSORY WALL
- ⑭ Poured in place rubber path
- ⑮ PLAYGROUND MULCH
- ⑯ ROPE SWING
- ⑰ TRUNK STEPS TO SODDED EXISTING MOUND
- ⑱ SPLASH PAD / RIVERINE
- ⑲ RELOCATED PICNIC TABLES OVER MULCH
- ⑳ RELOCATED TODDLER SWINGS
- ㉑ ARTIFICIAL TURF MOUND WITH SENSORY "ROOMS" AND TUNNEL
- ㉒ SOUND EQUIPMENT ON ARTIFICIAL TURF
- ㉓ ENTRY FROM EXISTING RESTROOM
- ㉔ ENTRY FROM NORTH OF PARK
- ㉕ PLAYGROUND FENCE
- ㉖ EXISTING TREES, TYP.
- ㉗ PLAYGROUND SEATING , TYP.
- ㉘ PROPOSED PALM TREES
- ㉙ SPLASH PAD EQUIPMENT



2022-05-10





Existing structure to be refurbished: new roofs, wood replacement, bringing to current safety standards

Netted bridge to original castle piece allows visual clarity

Platform to rolling slides can be accessed by the sloped walk, climbing elements, the old castle and by the surrounding mound

Artificial turf mound as a flexible and accessible point of access to the classic castle

Relocated swings near existing pavilion



KEY MAP



All elements connect with the story of the castle including tunnels, climbing walls and ground material

Climbing tree trunks integrated into the natural mound by the existing Oak trees

Climbing tower connects to the south point of the castle, with sensory elements at various levels



KEY MAP



Raised artificial turf by caprock walls allow spaces for children and babies to sunbathe and rest

Splash pad is in riverine form, allowing for children's imagination to continue the castle and fort story throughout the playground

Various water experiences provided for different ages and preferences



2025-02-20

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK | SCHEMATIC DESIGN

SITE FURNISHINGS

PICNIC TABLE



EXISTING TABLES TO BE RELOCATED IF IN GOOD CONDITION



IF TABLES ARE TO BE REPLACED, USE MONOLINE CAROUSEL TABLE
MANUFACTURER: SITE PIECES
COLOR: TBD

SEATING



EXISTING LOG BENCHES TO BE RELOCATED IF IN GOOD CONDITION



ALL OTHER BENCHES TO FOLLOW EXISTING CITY STANDARD

TRASH RECEPTACLE



EXISTING TRASH RECEPTACLES TO BE RELOCATED IF IN GOOD CONDITION

BIKE RACK

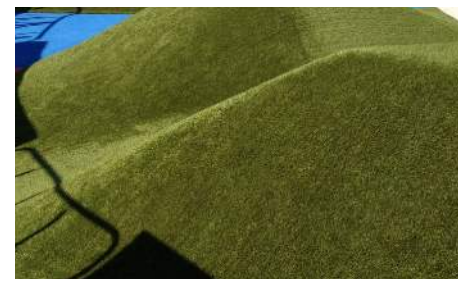


ROUND RACK
MANUFACTURER: DERO
COLOR: TBD

MATERIALS PALETTE



POURED IN PLACE RUBBER



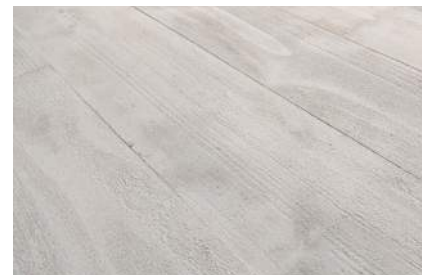
ARTIFICIAL TURF



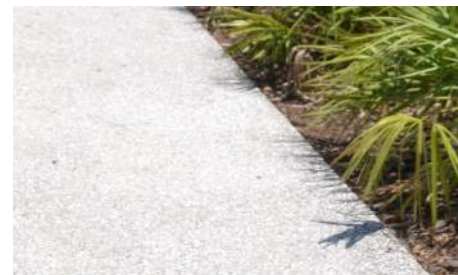
FLORIDA STONE WALLS



CONCRETE ROCK FORMATION



BOARD FORMED / STAMPED CONCRETE



EXPOSED AGGREGATE CONCRETE



SHREDDED HARDWOOD MULCH

LANDSCAPE MATERIAL



SABAL MINOR
DWARF PALMETTO



MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS
MUHLY GRASS



NEPHROLEPIS BISERRATA
MACHO FERN



VIBURNUM OBOVATUM DENS
DWARF WALTER'S VIBURNUM



ILEX VOMITORIA
DWARF YAUPON



TRIPSACUM DACTYLOIDES
FAKAHATCHEE GRASS



HAMELIA PATENS
FIREBUSH



**FEBRUARY 2023
COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP**



**FEBRUARY 2025
...IT TAKES
A VILLAGE...**



...DREAM BIG! THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

“I played on this playground as a kid, and my kids now play on this playground. What will be provided for the next generation?”

“There are so many large existing Oak trees which provide great shade to playground visitors, will they be saved?”

“Will the new playground be safe and up to current playground standards?”

“What will the splash pad be like?”

“But we love this playground, why does this need to be updated?”

“What will happen to the existing play structure, will the new playground be designed to complement the old wooden structure?”

“Will the new playground have more inclusive play opportunities for children of all capabilities?”

“Will the new playground have mulch or rubber play surfacing?”

“Has the design team considered input from the residents to create the new playground plan?”



PLAN KEY

1. PARK ENTRY GATE WITH FAUX DRAW BRIDGE AND 'CASTLE' TOWERS
2. EXISTING PAVILION
3. NATURE SENSORY STATION
4. RELOCATED SINGLE AND GROUP SWINGS
5. CASTLE PLATFORM OVER 5' ARTIFICIAL TURF MOUND
6. ROLLER SLIDES OVER TURF MOUND
7. OPEN TUBE SLIDE OVER MOUND
8. ROCKS WITH REPELLING ROPES
9. RETAINING WALL AT EXISTING TREE
10. CONCRETE ACCESS WALK
11. CONCRETE ACCESS STEPS
12. BRIDGE CONNECTION TO EXISTING CASTLE
13. EXISTING CASTLE PORTION TO REMAIN AND BE REFURBISHED
14. TOWER FEATURE WITH SLIDE
15. CLIMBING NET
16. TRAVERSING CARGO NET
17. CLIMBING WALLS
18. SENSORY WALL
19. 'DRAGON TAIL' CLIMBING FEATURE WITH TUNNELS
20. 'DRAGON HEAD' PLAY AREA ENTRY
21. POURED IN PLACE RUBBER PLAY SURFACING
22. PLAYGROUND MULCH
23. ROPE SWING
24. SPLASH PAD / RIVERINE WITH INTERACTIVE POP-JETS
25. RELOCATED PICNIC TABLES OVER MULCH
26. RELOCATED TODDLER SWING
27. ARTIFICIAL TURF MOUND WITH SENSORY 'ROOMS'
28. SOUND EQUIPMENT ON ARTIFICIAL TURF
29. ENTRY GATE FROM EXISTING RESTROOM
30. ENTRY GATE FROM PARK LAWN
31. PLAYGROUND FENCE
32. PLAYGROUND SEATING, TYP.
33. SPLASH PAD EQUIPMENT
34. SPLASH PAD SHOWER
35. BIKE RACKS WITH TRASH RECEPTACLE
36. LOW SCREEN WALL WITH LANDSCAPE

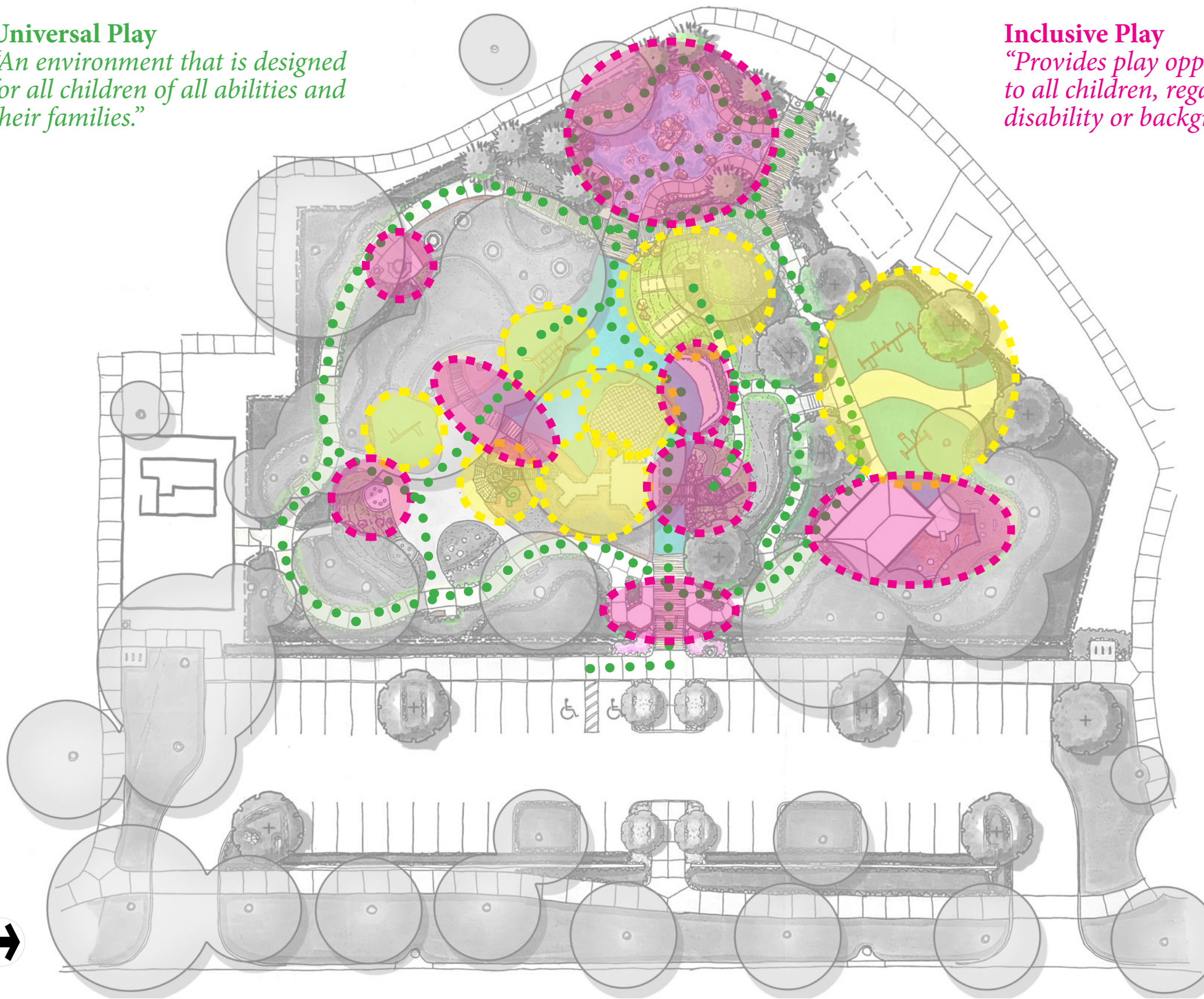
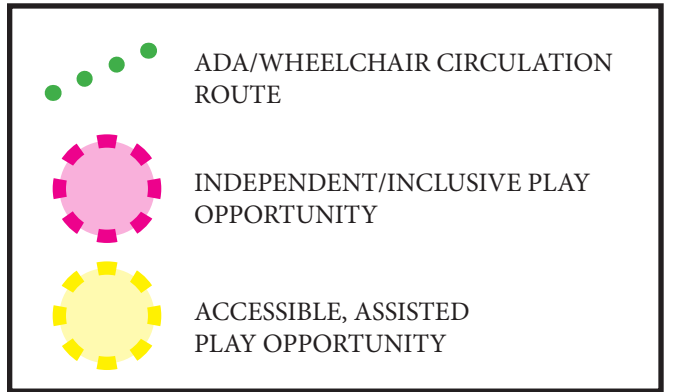


Universal Play

“An environment that is designed for all children of all abilities and their families.”

Inclusive Play

“Provides play opportunities to all children, regardless of disability or background.”







2025-02-20

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK | PLAY FEATURES



'CASTLE TOWERS' ENTRY GATE - FRONT ELEVATION



'CASTLE TOWER' ENTRY GATE - SIDE ELEVATION



PLAYGROUND 'CENTER PIECE' - FRONT ELEVATION FACING EAST



PLAYGROUND 'CENTER PIECE' - REAR ELEVATION FACING WEST

“I played on this playground as a kid, and my kids now play on this playground. What will be provided for the next generation?”

The new playground will be an **enhancement** and **improvement** of the existing playground, offering the latest play opportunities in the industry and **new experiences** to residents. Upgrades include safer structures, advanced play features designed to appeal to **children and families of all capabilities** with the quality to serve several **generations to come**.

“But we love this playground, why does this need to be updated?”

We love this playground too! The playground is in **dire need of refreshment**. The existing wood structure needs repair from a structural standpoint. The current playground, while enjoyed by many, is one-dimensional and does not appeal to children and families of all capabilities. We are **NOT** tearing the playground down and replacing it with a plastic tot lot. Thoughtful design and collaboration has been taken to **preserve the legacy** of the existing playground, **expand its features** and provide **new and exciting opportunities** to the residents.

“There are so many large existing Oak trees which provide great shade to playground visitors, will they be saved?”

The playground has been designed to **salvage all existing Oak trees on site**, maintaining the shade that the playground offers today. All Oak trees will be preserved unless they are determined to be diseased or pose a safety hazard to visitors.

“Will the new playground be safe and up to current playground standards?”

The team has partnered with Miracle Recreation, a leader in the playground industry, who will work to provide the **highest standards for play equipment, technology and safety**.

“What will the splash pad be like?”

The splash pad will be a **naturally-themed** wet play area for children and visitors of all ages and capabilities. The wet play will include **pop jets** and **spray features** within a Florida setting with Limestone boulders and native Sabal palms and grasses. **Dry seating** will surround the wet play area so that parents can keep a close eye on their children, while staying dry. The water will be filtered and treated, staying **clean** for visitors to enjoy.

“What will happen to the existing play structure, will the new playground be designed to complement the old wooden structure?”

The playground has been designed so that **the core (middle) of the existing play structure will remain as the legacy of the existing playground**.

The new play structure will be constructed to **complement** the existing structure in both **architectural style** and materials. **Improvements** to the existing structure will be made to ensure the **safety of the residents**.

“Will the new playground have more inclusive play opportunities for children of all capabilities?”

Yes! The new playground offers countless play opportunities for visitors of **all capabilities**. The design team made it a priority to improve the playground to appeal to all residents. The playground has been thoughtfully designed **to encourage inclusive and universal play**, with independent play features as well as opportunities for assisted play. **All children and families** will be able to enjoy the new playground and park.

“Will the new playground have mulch or rubber play surfacing?”

Both. The new playground will utilize **engineered playground mulch, rubber play surfacing** in the play area fall zones, as well as poured concrete in the most appropriate locations to enhance the play experience, provide **accessible routes** and play opportunities, and prolong the lifespan of the new park.

“Has the design team considered input from the residents to create the new playground plan?”

Yes, of course! The design of this playground has been **a collective and collaborative effort** with the City, residents and design team. Dix-Hite created the Design Program and Schematic Plan for this playground **based on workshops and design inputs from the residents** over the course of several community meetings. Foster Conant and the entire Ovation team have taken on the task of bringing this **dream to reality**, and will continue to consider all aspects of how we got to where we are throughout construction to ensure the playground is a success and **a treasured amenity for the community for years to come**.





Breakout tables Q&A Session

THANK YOU!