# ENHANCING THE PLAYGROUND

## THE PLAYGROUND

- Nurtures kids' social, verbal, and physical development
- Has been particularly important during the pandemic when kids have been increasingly isolated and pushed indoors
- Is a place where our community gathers and chats

### **Benefits All**

Playgrounds significantly improve the physical and mental health of a community's citizens of **all ages**, making them a cornerstone for improved quality of life.

Increased self-esteem, improved collaboration skills, enhanced critical thinking skills, and a strengthened immune system are just some of the high-level **benefits children** gain by being able to play.

### WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE

PRIVATE, SMALL COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND – GREAT FOR ALL NEIGHBORS. PEOPLE COME TOGETHER TO WATCH THEIR KIDS PLAY, WALK THEIR DOGS, AND SOCIALIZE IN THE COMMUNITY SPACE.

#### ALTHOUGH WHAT WE HAVE NOW IS GREAT, IT'S SOMEWHAT LIMITED WITH THE PLAY STRUCTURES FOCUSING ON KIDS AGES 5-8.

NEEDS MORE YOUNGER AGE ITEMS (BOUNCERS), AND MORE OLDER KID ITEMS (PARALLEL BARS) TO MAKE IT A PLACE WHERE FAMILIES USE IT FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

#### WE ARE WORKING WITH A PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR AND CONSULTANT

#### HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT FOCUS ON INCREASING THE SAFETY AND BENEFITS OF THE PLAYGROUND FOR BOTH YOUNGER AND OLDER CHILDREN

## WE ARE PROPOSING

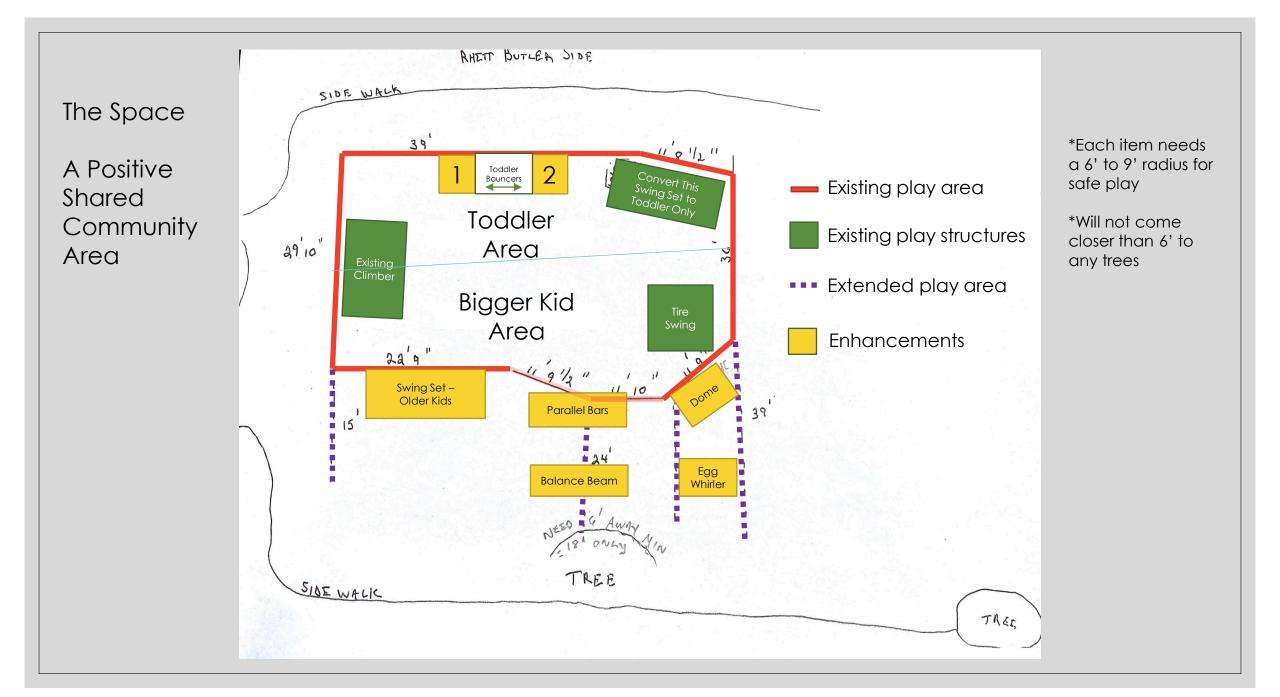






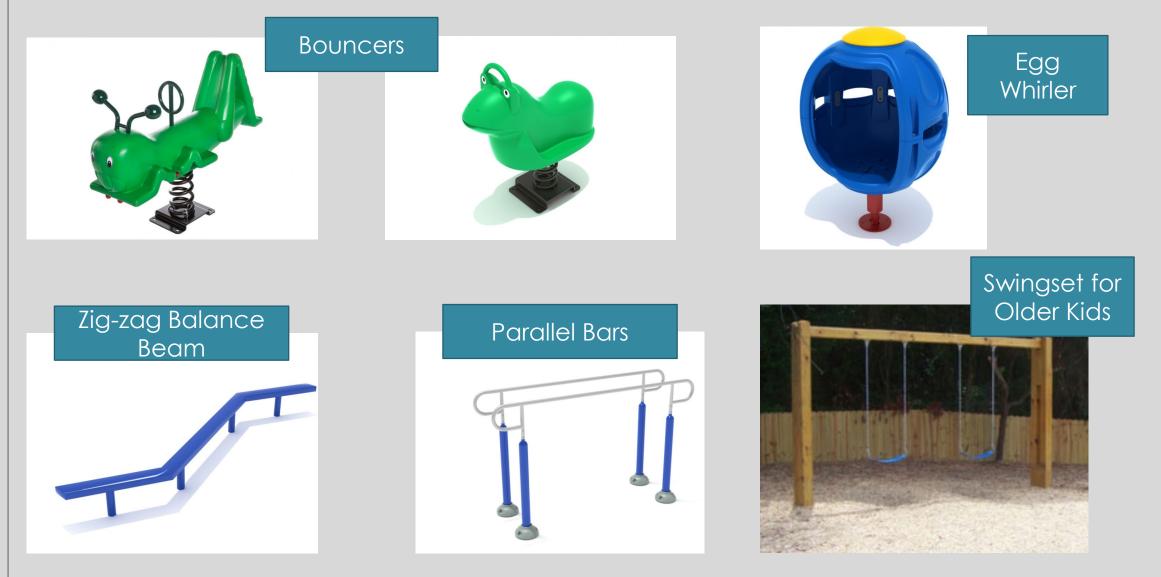
ENHANCING THE CURRENT STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT. ADDING MORE PLAY STRUCTURES THAT BENEFIT TODDLERS + KIDS 1-4 DIVIDING PLAY AREAS INTO AGE RANGES, RATHER THAN HAVING BIG KID AND BABY SWINGS SIDE-BY-SIDE WHICH IS UNSAFE

ADDING BALANCE AND PLAY STRUCTURES THAT ALSO BENEFIT CHILDREN UP TO AGE 14 AND EVEN ADULTS (FITNESS)



#### **Recommended Enhancements**

Note: the 'natural colors' comment was taken and applied here. Colors are more subtle.



#### Will Positively Add to Our Home Values It's a Shared Amenity and is a Draw for Families

West Ashley Neighborhoods considered 'comps' to ours with newer / enhanced amenities (playgrounds) have higher price per square footage than our neighborhood.

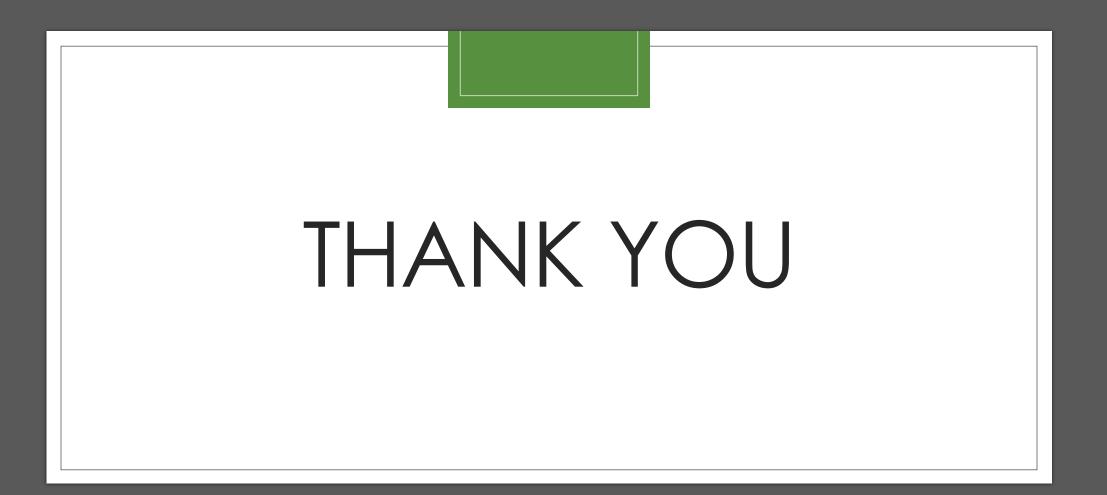
- Hunt Club price per square foot has gotten up to \$193
- Carolina Bay price per square foot has gotten up to \$181
- The highest our neighborhood price per square foot has been \$176

## Funding + Insurance

- 1. We already have funds in the HOA reserves that currently go toward playground maintenance. These will be used for 'fixes' needed for current structures
- 2. Yearly dues \*will not\* be increased for enhancements and there will be no special assessment as there was with the Pool a few years ago
- 3. We are proposing the recommended enhancements (beyond maintenance) be funded by voluntary donations made by the community, similar to fundraisers for neighborhood school playgrounds
- 4. We have confirmed that because we have an existing playground structure, enhancing the playground area by making it slightly larger and with more structures \*will not\* increase the monthly cost of liability insurance on the community in anyway

### Next Steps

- 1. VOTING on the enhancements will take place IN PERSON on May 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday between 7-7:30pm). One member of each household must be present IN PERSON to vote on behalf of their household.
- 2. If VOTED YES we will begin next steps of voluntary fundraising for the project
- 3. If VOTED NO all discussion on project will end



## Questions?