



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

1

ENHANCING THE CURRENT STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT. ADDING MORE PLAY STRUCTURES THAT BENEFIT TODDLERS + KIDS 1-4

2

DIVIDING PLAY AREAS INTO AGE RANGES, RATHER THAN HAVING BIG KID AND BABY SWINGS SIDE-BY-SIDE WHICH IS UNSAFE

3

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

The Space

A Positive Shared Community Area



*Each item needs a 6' to 9' radius for safe play

*Will not come closer than 6' to any trees

Recommended Enhancements

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

Bouncers



Egg Whirler



Zig-zag Balance Beam



Parallel Bars



Swingset for Older Kids



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 13th (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



THANK YOU

Questions?