

Reger Playground Improvements  
Public Input Meeting #1  
November 20, 2018, 6:30 pm

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Introductions:  
Mike Sturm with the City of Madison Parks Division is the project manager for the playground replacement.
- City of Madison Playgrounds:
  - a. Over 174 playgrounds
  - b. Highest number of playgrounds per capita in the United States
  - c. Guidelines for playground development
    - i. Develop an operationally sustainable system
    - ii. Prequalification of playground equipment suppliers that meet the City of Madison's standards for durability
    - iii. One playground area per neighborhood size park
- Playground Design Process:
  - a. Public Input Meeting #1 - Discuss project location, timeframe, budget, general equipment selection, surfacing
  - b. Playground Meeting #2 – Two playground concepts for each play area will be presented based on input from previous meeting, select one concept, identify any changes needed
  - c. Playground Design Confirmation – Via email and website posting
- Playground Equipment Standards:
  - a. National Standards based on data-driven research to ensure playgrounds are safe
    - i. US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
    - ii. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
    - iii. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
  - b. Madison's Playground Standards:
    - i. Ensure high play value
    - ii. Manage long term maintenance costs
    - iii. Provide quality equipment – preselected top manufacturers' most durable product line
  - c. Colors:
    - i. Natural colors
      - 1. Tend to fade less
      - 2. Blend in better with their surroundings
      - 3. Color options include blue and purple for upright posts, and bright green for the handrail.
  - d. Edging:
    - i. Plastic timbers
  - e. Equipment:
    - i. The type and scale of playground equipment is determined by the Parks Division's Park and Open Space Plan (POSP), which is the guiding document for park development.

- ii. The POSP classifies parks by their size in accordance with the National Parks System recommendations.
    - iii. Based on the POSP, Reger Park is a neighborhood size park.
    - iv. Neighborhood parks include a single, large play structure, which is designed to meet one of the CPSC specified age ranges. There are older playgrounds in the system that do not meet this standard, but as the older equipment is replaced, each park is brought up to this guideline.
    - v. All neighborhood size parks will have a double bay swing structure with two belt swings and two tot swings
  - f. Surfacing:
    - i. Must meet ASTM F1292 – Critical Fall Heights
    - ii. Must meet ASTM F1951 – ADA Accessibility
    - iii. Only engineered wood fiber mulch and recycled shredded rubber meet these requirements.
    - iv. Recycled shredded rubber material is colored and poly coated
- Project Budget
  - a. The playground equipment budget for neighborhood sized parks is \$30,000 for 2018.
  - b. Area residents have the option to divert 25% (\$7,500 for 2018) of the equipment budget to natural play features.
  - c. Area residents have the option to fundraise up to 25% of the equipment budget.
- Natural Play Features
  - a. The Parks Division approved natural play features includes logs and boulders.
  - b. Natural play features must be within the CPSC approved playground surfacing.
  - c. Natural play features cannot be stacked, bridged or arranged in a manner that creates entrapment, protrusion or pinch point violations according the CPSC playground guidelines.
- Project Location & Site Constraints
  - a. Consumer Product Safety Commission Standards
    - i. Playgrounds designed for either 0-2 age group, 2-5 age group or 5-12 age group
    - ii. Existing Reger Park playground is designed for the 5-12 age group
    - iii. Age range design standards are for the supervising adult’s information; they do not prohibit smaller or older children from playing on the equipment
  - b. Site Access and Constraints
    - i. Existing trees- One existing ash tree adjacent to the playground has been adopted and will not be removed as part of the City of Madison emerald ash borer abatement effort.
    - ii. Existing underground utilities – There are no significant underground utility conflicts at Reger Park.
    - iii. Playground access – If preferred by the neighborhood, the playground could be relocated to improvement visual access to the equipment from Oak Street. Based on further discussion by meeting attendees, the existing location is preferred with the understanding the equipment will need to be slightly closer to the path than the existing playground.

- iv. Parks will investigate the eroding slope condition south of the existing playground area.
- Park Lighting Improvements
  - a. As separate project from the playground replacement, the Parks Division has funding available to improve the path lighting in the park.
  - b. The preliminary design intent is to supplement the existing area light with shorter, pedestrian light poles along the path.
  - c. Given adjacent property owner concerns regarding light trespass from the existing area light, Parks will investigate other lighting options with the assistance of City Engineering staff.
  - d. Parks will provide an update on the potential lighting improvements at the second playground meeting.
- Project Timetable
  - a. Neighborhood funding goals need to be provided to the Parks project manager by December 30, 2017.
  - b. Any additional funding needs to be deposited with the Parks Foundation prior to the construction contract being released for bids. For Reger Park, the funding deadline is February 15, 2017.
- Equipment and Play Surfacing Selection
  - a. Age Group
    - i. For Reger Park: neighborhood representatives reached a consensus for a 5-12 age play structure.
  - b. Surfacing
    - i. Discussed pro's and con's of each product
    - ii. For Reger Park: a majority of attendees preferred wood mulch surfacing for the playground
  - c. Playline
    - i. For Reger Park: The playground equipment manufacturer that had the most number of votes for the 5-12 play structures was Playcraft Systems.
    - ii. Play equipment features attendees were interested in included:
      - 1. Potentially 30% of the equipment budget to be used for natural material play features.
- Next Steps
  - a. Parks staff will follow-up with additional cost information for the optional natural material play features.
  - b. Neighborhood representatives need to provide their fund raising goal to Parks staff by December 30, 2017, so preliminary designs can be prepared for the second public meeting.
  - c. Parks will notice the second meeting at the park and via email (postcards will not be sent). The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2018.
  - d. At the second meeting attendees will be asked to vote on the presented concepts for the final design.

