



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Parks & Recreation Department

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630

P.O. Box 196650

Anchorage, AK 99519

Tel 907-343-4355

URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 8, 2020

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Maeve Nevins, Senior Park Planner

Subject: PRC 20-18 - Elderberry Park Upgrades (Amendment to PRC 20-04)

Overview

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has updated the site plan for Elderberry Park and is resubmitting the plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission as an amendment to PRC 20-04, originally presented to the Commission on May 14th, 2020. The Department is revising the site plan to include new ADA access to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, traditional swings, and a permanent restroom.

Background and Purpose

On May 14th, the Parks and Recreation Department presented the Elderberry Park project to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Action Item 20-04). The site plan identified a new access point to the Coastal Trail from M Street near the current location of the Oscar Anderson House. This new alignment was identified in the 2015 Elderberry Park Master Plan. The intent was to separate park and trail activities to reduce conflicts between fast moving cyclists cutting through the park and families and visitors enjoying more passive recreation.

At the time of the PRC meeting, the Department anticipated that the new access to the Coastal Trail would be constructed as part of upgrades proposed for M Street in coordination with the Municipality's Project Management and Engineering Department.

Following the PRC meeting, the Department conducted further design and engineering efforts that revealed that ADA access to the Coastal Trail from M Street could not be achieved without significant disturbance to the park, due to existing elevation and grade changes. The Department revised the site plan and presented it to the South Addition Community Council in September 2020. At that time, the SACC requested that the department include traditional swings to the design.

Proposed Site Plan Changes

The Department has revised the site plan to provide for new ADA access to the Coastal Trail from within the park and will be resubmitting the site plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Department and UDC for review.

The updated site plan re-aligns the access to the Coastal Trail from the 5th Avenue parking lot. This trail alignment utilizes grade changes that meet ADA accessibility standards and provides for separation of park and trail facilities. To accommodate this, the updated site plan shifts the playground and plaza area 10-15' to the northeast.

The Department has evaluated a range of options through the site design process and believes that the proposed trail alignment and updated site plan, meets the intent of the 2015 master plan.

Additionally, the Department has added a traditional swing set to the design at the request of the South Additional Community Council.

The Department also plans on removing the existing restroom structure and is currently reviewing designs for new permanent restrooms at the park.

Next Steps

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to engaging Anchorage residents in the development of their parks and trails. The Department anticipates the following schedule for approvals and construction.

1. September 2020: South Addition Community Council presentation/public meeting
2. October 2020: Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing; Major Site Plan Review submittal to MOA Planning Department
3. December 2020: Urban Design Commission public hearing
4. Summer 2021: Anticipated Construction

RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ADDITION COMMUNITY COUNCIL 20 - XX

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO ELDERBERRY PARK

WHEREAS, Elderberry Park is a destination park for Anchorage residents and visitors alike, a neighborhood park for many residents, used often by families with children and grandchildren, and one of only two access points North of Westchester Lagoon for the Tony Knowles Coastal trail;

WHEREAS, an improvement plan (the Plan) approved in March of this year by the South Addition Community Council had eliminated the cross-park sidewalk access to the Coastal Trail from the corner of 5th and N Street;

WHEREAS, the Plan eliminates conventional swing-sets at the Park;

WHEREAS, that sidewalk is a very common access point for residents of the neighborhood, those bringing bicycles, skis, skateboards or ambulatory aids such as walkers and wheelchairs by car or foot to the Park, and those coming from other neighborhoods via N Street;

WHEREAS, there is not sufficient parking at the park for the number of residents and visitors using the Park for either recreation at the Park or for access to the Coastal Trail, and there is sufficient reason to have several access points to the Park and Coastal Trail from N Street, M Street and Fifth Avenue;

WHEREAS, the Plan approved would have required almost two blocks of walking from handicapped parking and rest room facilities at 5th and N Street to the access to the Coastal Trail, with some of that walking uphill on slopes that are unlikely to meet ADA standards, and the park Plan approved was highly inconvenient for families needing to park, use rest room facilities, unload bicycles, strollers and wheelchairs; and

WHEREAS, no other parks in the neighborhood have swing sets as swings were removed from Nulbay Park during the 1990's.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that with appreciation for the re-work of the Plan now offered by the Anchorage Parks Department, the South Addition Community Council puts forward its revised guidance on improvements to Elderberry Park, and asks city officials and the Urban Design Commission to:

- a) Ensure that access across the Park to the Coastal trail from N Street and Fifth Avenue is added to the Plan, improved as needed to be consistent with the Plan, and maintained.
- b) Move the playground equipment to better ensure that bicyclists entering the trail are not a hazard to children using the playground equipment.
- c) Move if necessary but maintain a regular swing set in the Park.

ADOPTED THIS 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020 BY A VOTE OF _____ to _____



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Commission

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PRC RES NO. 2020-14
ELDERBERRY PARK 2020 IMPROVEMENTS
(Amendment to PRC Res No. 2020-04)

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the Elderberry Park 2020 Improvements project was first presented to the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission on May 14th where PRC Resolution 2020-04 was provided by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, following the May 14th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Parks and Recreation Department received additional feedback from the community and incorporated those changes into a revised the site plan; and

WHEREAS, the updated site plan aligns access to the Coastal Trail from the 5th Avenue parking lot for improved ADA access, includes a traditional swing set, and identifies a new permanent restroom; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements were presented to the South Addition Community Council at the September 24, 2020 meeting and a resolution of support was provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements for Elderberry Park as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 8th day of October, 2020.

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department



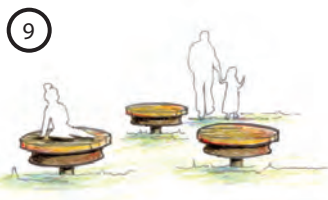
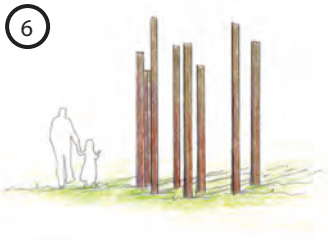
ELDERBERRY PARK



SCALE OF FEET



- ① THE GLOBE NET CLIMBER
- ② TIPI SPINNER
- ③ PENDULUM ROPE SWING
- ④ CLIMBING WALL
- ⑤ PARK ENTRY
- ⑥ FOREST OF RAILS
- ⑦ TRAIL RAIL BENCHES
- ⑧ WALKWAYS
- ⑨ TRAIN WHEEL BENCHES
- ⑩ SAND DESK
- ⑪ DOUBLE BAY SWINGSET



ELDERBERRY PARK EQUIPMENT SELECTION

The Design Team for Elderberry chose equipment that unifies the vernacular of the neighborhood's architecture through material selection, while incorporating the park's overarching "welcome" theme to include custom-designed play equipment symbolic of Alaska's unique adventures and distinctive geology. Each piece of equipment meets or exceeds the Park Department's inclusive playground design goals. Visitors and neighbors alike will be left with an authentic Alaskan memorable experience.

Manufacturer: IDS SCULPTURE Custom Climbing Wall with KOMPAN Custom Stainless Steel Slide & Climbing Rope.

The climbing wall engages all age-groups by incorporating challenging climbing routes and sensory relief along the wall. Visually, the wall will have similar character and features to the cliff faces along Turnagain Arm and including the waterfall/ice flow elements reference Alaska's dynamic seasonal shifts.

The stainless steel slide includes an ADA transfer platform at the top of the slide. The climbing rope is built into the embankment. This one of a kind sculpture offers further exploration into detailed story-telling within the relief itself.



Manufacturer: KOMPAN Sand Desk

This sand desk invites hours of explorative and imaginative play with its sand wheel, sand scoop and little sand holders in the counter.

Sand areas in playgrounds are used for all-ages play and all abilities. This design will include seat walls and offer opportunities for more passive play.



Please send comments to the below contact.
Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Park Planner
Municipality of Anchorage, Parks and Recreation
P 907-343-4135
E NevinsLavtarMV@muni.org

ELDERBERRY PARK
Proposed Playground Improvements



ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy People

Manufacturer: KOMPAN

Cocowave Pendulum Rope Swing

With its robust, oblong coconut rope, the Cocowave Pendulum Swing allows for swinging from a seated, lying or standing position. It takes teamwork to make the swing move, and this stimulates important social-motional skills, such as balance, coordination and sense of space.

Highlights:

- This swing is rated for 8 users while a standard 2-bay swing is rated for 4 users.
- Features two-directional movement of both lateral and forward/back as opposed to traditional swings which offer only forward/back motion.
- This is the most accessible swing type; allowing for easy access with a wheelchair.
- It easily accommodates multiple users of multiple age groups at the same time.
- Allows users access at the same time, making it universal and inclusive
- With a total height of 12-feet compared to the standard swing which is just over 8', this swing architectural, attractive and inclusive.



Manufacturer: LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES Double-Bay Swing Set

Swings have long been a playground staple and they continue to offer hours of fun and physical activity for children of all ages. This swing-set will update and replace the existing 4 bay swing set with 2 belt swings (ages 5-12), 1 bucket swing (ages 2-3) and 1 molded plastic harness swing (ages 2-5).

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ELDERBERRY PARK Proposed Playground Improvements



ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy People



Manufacturer: BERLINER
The Globe

Climbing in a three-dimensional net helps children to develop and improve their psychomotor skills.

The outer frame is made from glued laminated timber.

Manufacturer: KOMPAN
TIPI Spinner with Brace

The spinning movement trains the sense of space and balance. The sense of balance is fundamental to all other motor skills and is important for motor control, for instance being able to sit still or cycle securely, without falling. The TIPI Spinner facilitates universal, inclusive play.



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ELDERBERRY PARK
Proposed Playground Improvements



ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy People



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Parks & Recreation Commission

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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 14, 2020
To: Parks & Recreation Commission
Cc: Josh Durand, Director
From: Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Park Planner
Project: **PRC 20-04 Elderberry Park Upgrades**

OVERVIEW

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is proposing new improvements at Elderberry Park beginning in summer 2020. Improvements will include a new plaza, improved path circulation, new inclusive playground, landscaping, amenities and LED lighting. The proposed upgrades were outlined as priorities as identified in the 2016 Elderberry Park Master Plan and are consistent with community identified priorities.

BACKGROUND

Elderberry Park is a 1.46-acre neighborhood-use park located in the Bootlegger Cove neighborhood in downtown Anchorage. The park serves both the local neighborhood as well as the larger community and is a popular tourist destination and access point to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. The park features outstanding views of the Cook Inlet, a 2-5 and 5-12 play area, a small parking lot, walkways and a central plaza. Elderberry Park is also the home of the historic Oscar Anderson House.

Despite Elderberry Park's relatively small size, the park is one of Anchorage's busiest and most popular public spaces. The park's proximity to downtown combined with outstanding views of the Cook Inlet, the Oscar Anderson House Museum and access to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail draw many visitors to the park. The park also provides valuable greenspace for neighborhood residents who enjoy the play area and open space.

In 2015-16, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with the community to develop the Elderberry Park Master Plan. The master plan provides a 20-year vision for the management, maintenance, and development of Elderberry Park. The Elderberry Park Master Plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in December 2015 and by the Planning Department Administrative Review in August 2016.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing improvements at Elderberry Park intended to implement key priorities as identified through the master planning process. The first phase of implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns as well as the community's desire for investment at Elderberry Park located at 1297th W 5th Ave. and M St.

Overview of Proposed Improvements

- The design of this park is intended to welcome both visitors from afar as well as long-time residents.
- Plazas and walkways: Circulation will be improved with a new railroad-themed walkway that connects from the existing parking lot through the park and playground. Plazas with picnic tables and custom railroad-themed benches will be interspersed to optimize viewing opportunities. The surface treatment of path will mimic a railroad bed with inset reclaimed steel rails and textured concrete, while improving ADA access. Strategically placed planter beds will slow speeds and serve to discourage bikers. Access will remain from the southeast corner of W 5th Ave. and M St., however the improved layout and surfacing treatments will discourage bikers from accessing the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail from this portion of the park. A future phase of construction will include a new northeast access path that will capture circulation from the improved M Street pathway.
- Inclusive Playground: the new 3,000 SF inclusive playground is intended to reflect the regional geography while blending with the interface of Anchorage's unique historical and contemporary Bootlegger Cove neighborhood architectural vernacular. The contemporary form of the "Globe" net structure melds well with the architecture of the neighborhood, while still paying homage to the historical gardens of the Oscar Andersen House by repeating the traditional use of wood. The net of the structure and unique corded swing set are reminiscent of Alaska's fishing culture. Everywhere one turns, Alaska's geography is evident. An ice & rock themed climbing wall stem from travels down the Seward highway, while functionally serves as a retaining wall for the split-level playground and upper plaza. Stainless steel materials found in the embankment slide, the swings set, and the spinner unify the site's composition with a gesture reflective of the contemporary buildings located just south of the playground. A sand pit, evoking the ocean, is home to a stainless-steel globe that will be embossed with a compass rose that emphasizes North. The equipment was selected to be an intergenerational artistic composition with features to specific for users aged 0-2, 2-5, 5-12 and adult, yet useable by all ages.
- The landscaping is inspired by the Alaska railroad (AKRR) train's journey's as it passes through glacier mountain passes, birch forests, fields of flowing native grasses and concludes at the ocean with more sand and the historical "whale" play feature.
- Art: AKRR themed, reclaimed steel parts are creatively incorporated into the park in partnership with the AKRR. As a community, Alaskans are resourceful and full of whimsey, reusing salvaged items in innovative ways. The "train wheel benches", made from something constantly in motion, provide a resting place. The "forest of rails" are an unexpected reuse of a familiar item that might remind people of the forest of drowned trees on the edge of the inlet near Girdwood. The rails also entice users to touch and weave through them, slowing down the usual

linear forward movement through a space, and providing an opportunity to be present in the moment.

- LED Lighting Upgrades: All existing lighting will be upgraded to LED light fixtures to improve safety, visual aesthetics, and energy efficiency.
- Wayfinding will be included to improve park user experience and guide visitors to the beloved Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Geographic landforms within view will be identified with creative interpretive signage that identifies geographic names translated from the indigenous Native Alaskan language Dena'ina (Tanaina), the Athabascan language of the Cook Inlet area.
- The existing restroom will be getting a makeover, as the team explores options that improve safety and maintenance feasibility.

Project Funding

- 2019 Park Bond \$500,000
- 2020 Park Bond \$250,000
- 2020 Rotary Club Donation \$21,000

PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Proposed improvements are based on priorities identified during the master planning process and reaffirmed through ongoing planning with the community. The following information outlines the planning and public involvement process to date.

2015-2016: Planning and public involvement for the development of the Elderberry Park Master Plan

October 2015: South Addition Community Council Resolution of Support for Elderberry Park Master Plan

December 2015: Parks and Recreation Commission Resolution of Support for Elderberry Park Master Plan

August 2016: Planning Department Administrative Site Plan Approval for Elderberry Park Master Plan

Summer 2017: Parks Department used \$91,000 of funds from Anchorage Park Foundation for safety improvements and access upgrades for Elderberry Park at the area from M Street at Oscar Anderson House, including construction of the heritage gardens to reflect early life in Anchorage.

April 2019: Parks Bond passes with funding \$500,000 for Elderberry Park Improvements

November 2020: Presentation to South Addition Community Council – Kickoff Design

December 2019: Open House Event for Elderberry Park Improvements

February 2020: Presentation to South Addition Community Council

April 2020: Parks Bond passes with \$250,000 identified for Elderberry Park Improvements

*May 2020: Presentation to Parks and Recreation Commission; pending approval

*June 2020: Presentation to Urban Design Commission; pending approval

**Note: these meeting are future scheduled public hearings.*

Summer 2020: Construction of proposed improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends the approval of the proposed improvements for Elderberry Park. These improvements will address issues identified in the master plan and will provide much need upgrades to support future use of this important park.



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Parks & Recreation Commission

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PRC RES NO. 2020-04

ELDERBERRY PARK 2020 IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the Elderberry Park Master Plan was completed in 2016 providing a 20-year vision for the management, maintenance, and development of the park; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns as well as the community's desire for investment at Elderberry Park at West 5th Ave. and M St.; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are consistent with community priorities outlined in the master plan and reaffirmed through the planning process and include improved ADA circulation, new paths and plazas, playground, landscaping, amenities, and LED lighting; and

WHEREAS, is proposed improvements are supported by the South Addition Community Council; and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements for Elderberry Park as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of May, 2020.

Kelly Chang
Digitally signed by Kelly Chang
Date: 2020.05.15 08:51:31
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Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:


Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Elderberry Park

FEB. 27, 2020
SOUTH ADDITION COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Concept Presentation: Phase 1 Improvements

MASTER PLAN

ELDERBERRY PARK

ANCHORAGE, AK
ALTERNATIVE 2



Figure 30: Alternative 2 showing access to the Coastal Trail inside the Park

PRIORITIES

- PLAYGROUND UPGRADED
- ADA COMPLIANT PATHS
- PLAZA/OVERLOOK
- TERRACED SEATING AREA
- NEW M ST. PATH TO COASTAL TRAIL
- IMPROVED VISIBILITY OF OSCAR ANDERSON HOUSE

TIMELINE

- PLANNING AND DESIGN: WINTER/SPRING 2020
- PARK COMMISSION HEARING: MARCH 12, 2020
- CONSTRUCTION PHASE 1: LATE AUGUST 2020-2021

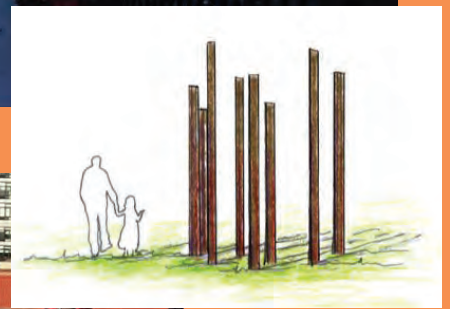
CONTACT: Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Sr. Park Planner
343-4135/ maeve.nevinslavtar@anchorageak.gov



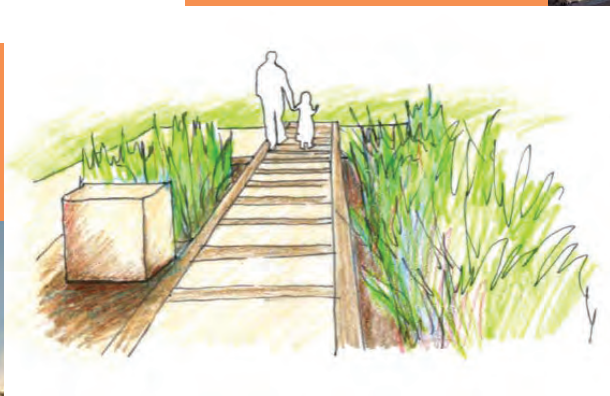
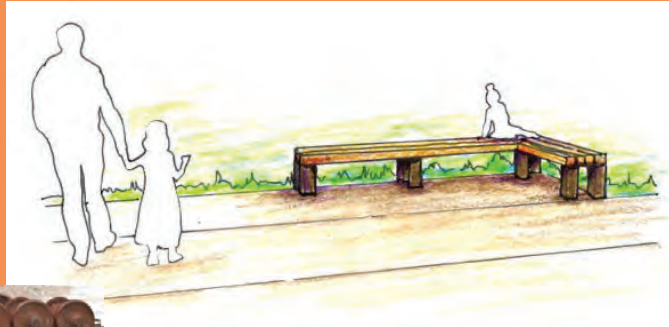
BETTISWORTH NORTH

PLAZA THEME

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SWa/Balsley Projects About News Contact

Featured Parks Waterfront Parks Plazas Urban Design and Planning

Institutional Commercial Residential Competitions



Gantry Plaza State Park

QUEENS, NY



PLAY THEMES

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POTENTIAL "ICE" COLOR THEMES

FROZEN WATERFALL ON CLIFF



TURNAGAIN ARM GEOLOGY SAMPLE

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PLAY CONCEPT



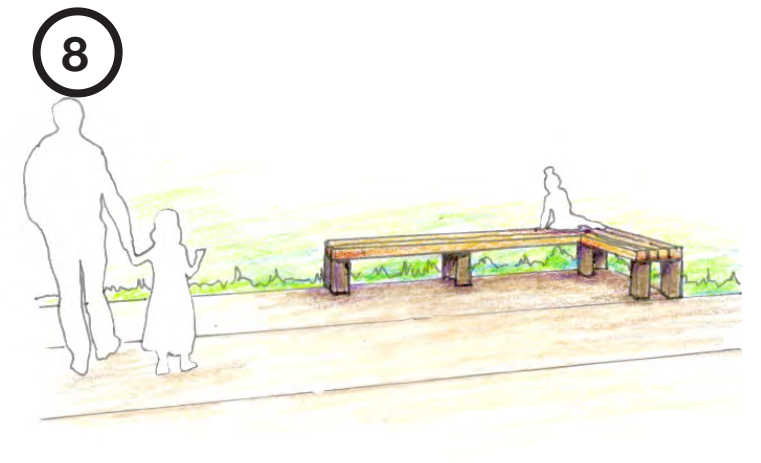
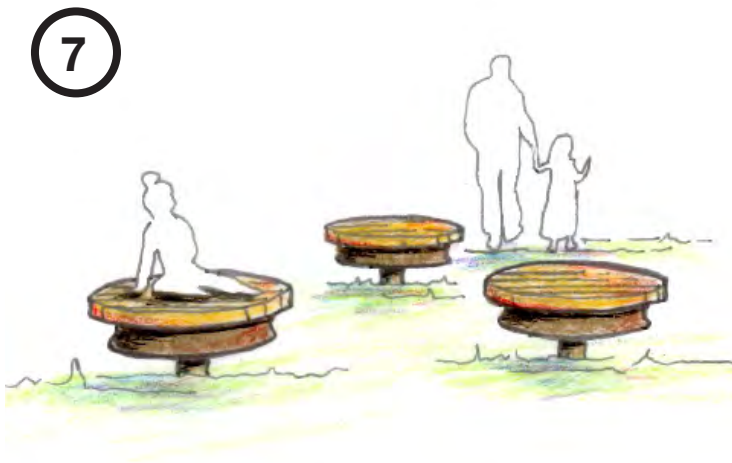
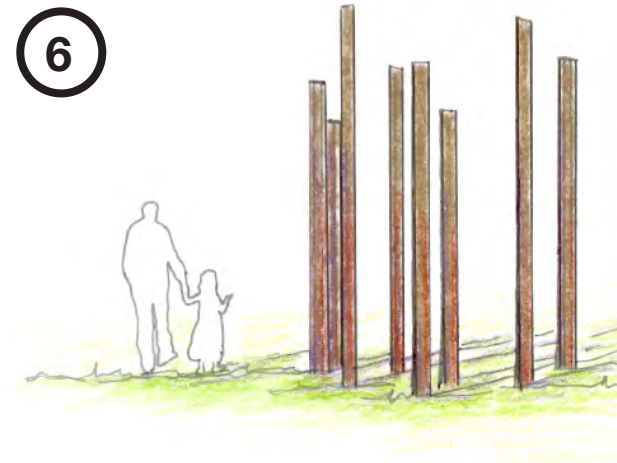
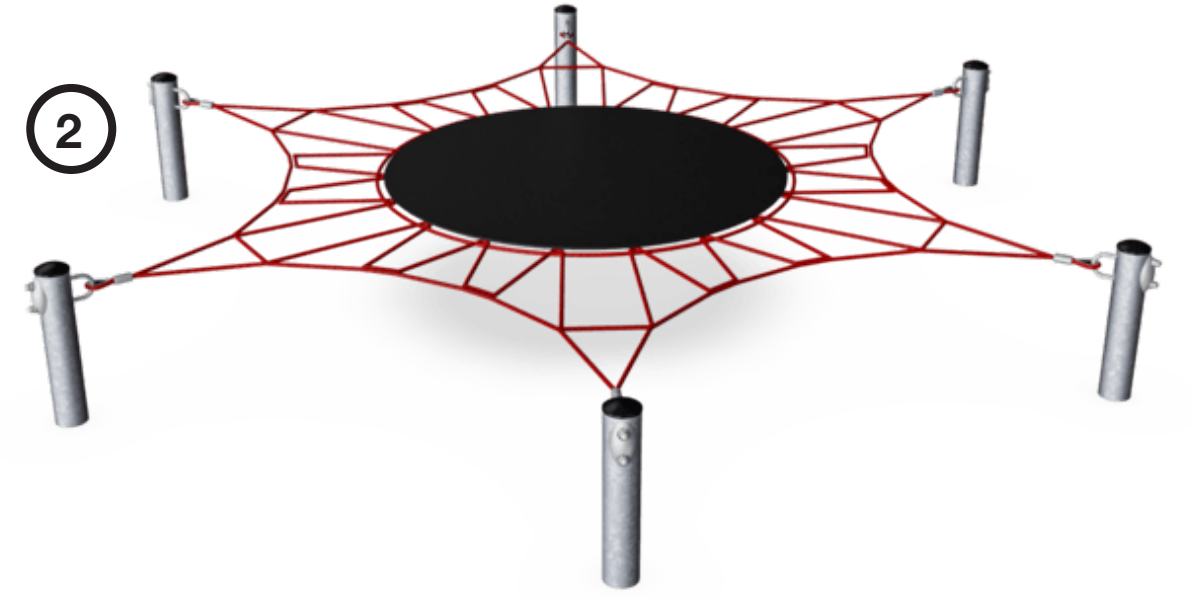
PLAY SELECTION

OPTI
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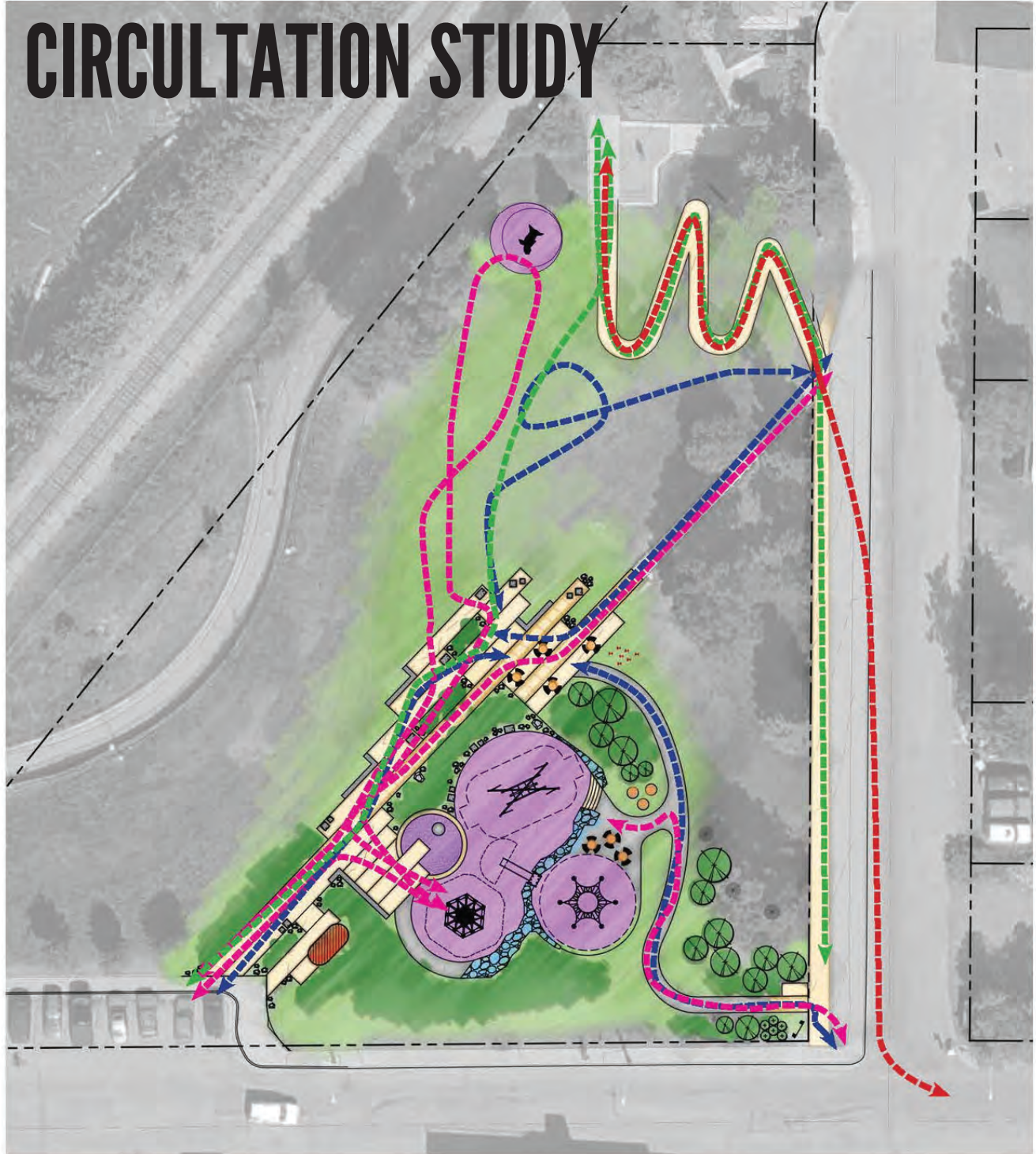


- ① THE GLOBE NET CLIMBER
- ② BLANKET TOSS HEX JUMPER
- ③ ROPE SWING
- ④ PARK ENTRY
- ⑤ WALKWAYS
- ⑥ FOREST OF RAILS
- ⑦ TRAIN WHEEL BENCHES
- ⑧ TRAIN RAIL BENCHES
- ⑨ SAND PIT WITH STEEL DOME COMPASS ROSE
- ⑩ BIKE RACK



5TH AVE. & M STREET

CIRCULATION STUDY



GOALS:

- REDIRECT BIKE TRAFFIC AWAY FROM PLAZA/PLAY AREAS
- OPTIMIZE VIEWS
- IMPROVE SAFETY

User Destination:

- ←→ Playground
- ←→ Picnic Tables, View of Inlet
- ←→ Coastal Trail (Bikes and Pedestrians)
- ←→ Coastal Trail (Pedestrians)

5TH AVE. ACCESS

