

Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina

# CEDAR FALLS PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016



# INTRODUCTION

Town of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation Department in association with consultant WithersRavenel, is in the process of developing a master plan for an Inclusive Playground at Cedar Falls Park located at 501 Weaver Dairy Road. As part of the planning process, the department is seeking extensive public input from Chapel Hill residents. The two main avenues for public participation included a public open house and an online survey. The online survey was open to public for three weeks and the open house meeting was conducted on September 28, 2016 at Chapel Hill Public Library. In addition, residents were also encouraged to provide their input via emails. Public input process was advertised by the town through newsletters and email blasts.

The two goals of the public input process were to provide information and generate awareness regarding the project and to seek input from the residents on the design program for the new inclusive playground.

# PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The public meeting was formatted as an “open house” and people were invited to come in any time between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm to share their knowledge and thoughts on the project. A total of 34 people participated. They were given several opportunities to contribute their opinion. There were eight stations organized, including a kids

participation station.

The public meeting process has been documented with photographs and scans of the display boards and comments cards. This documentation is provided on the following pages. Preliminary analysis of the online survey results has also been provided.

## Station 1:

The purpose of station one was to welcome participants, sign-in and provide general meeting information. The associated exhibits included Seven Principles of Universal Design to inform participants briefly about inclusive design in playground settings. Participants were asked to use sticky notes to add any comments. Illustrations of display boards are located in the appendices.



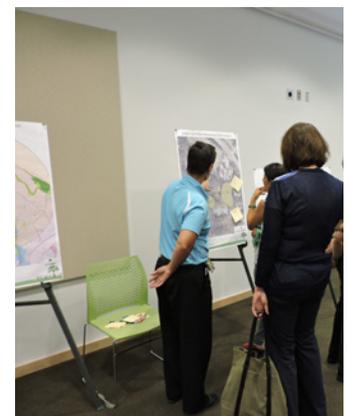
Public Meeting Set up



Public Meeting Welcome & Sign-In



Project Information Boards



### Station 2:

Station 2 included a map of Chapel Hill Parks system, a map of Cedar Falls Park, and an overall site inventory map showing site survey data, topography, hydrology and vegetation. A board showing sensory experiences in a park setting with illustrative images was displayed to generate awareness regarding design programming. Participants were asked to use sticky notes to add any comments.

The display boards used for this station are located in the appendices.



Display Boards with Precedent Images of Parks Settings



Display Boards with Site Inventory Information



Display Boards with Precedent Images of Parks Settings

### Station 3:

Station 3 displayed various park settings illustrating precedent images that could be incorporated in the programming for Cedar Falls Inclusive Playground. The purpose of this station was to help attendees envision and prioritize typical park facilities and features that could be incorporated at Cedar Falls Park. Each participant was given three colored stickers to show their top three preferences for certain settings.

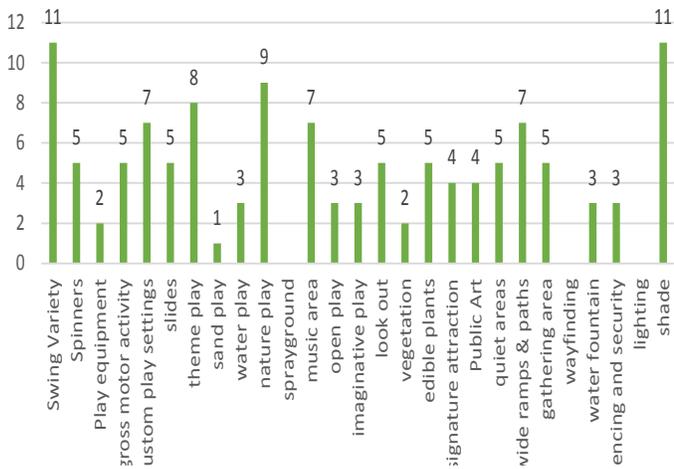
The following graphs show the breakdown of votes.

Per adults votes, shade and swings variety are top priority followed by nature play and theme play.

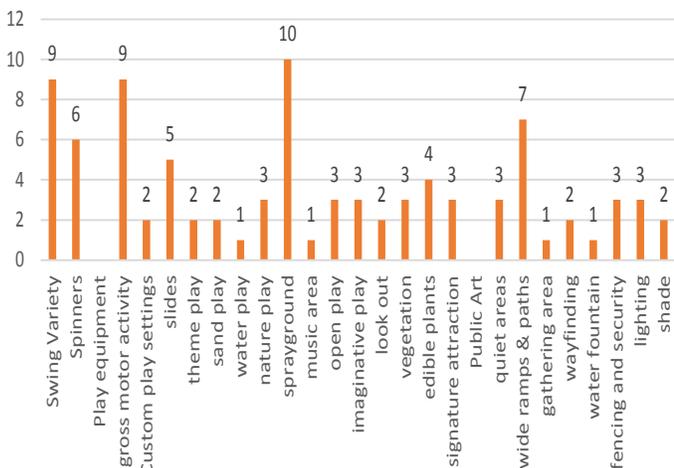
Children participated in the same activity as part of station 8 - Kids Corner. As shown in the graph, they voted for a sprayground, gross motor activities, and swings variety. Other activities for children are mentioned as part of station 8.



## Adult Votes



## Kids Votes



Votes breakdown for vision board

### Station 4:

Station 4 included flip charts with the following questions for attendees to complete:

- What would be the most important element?
- What would you like to avoid?

The purpose of this station was to find out what things parents and caregivers consider important for their ease and comfort in using the park more frequently.



Flip Chart Questions

Participants were provided markers and sticky notes to answer these questions.

The comments from this station are documented below. Variety of sensory settings and opportunities for physical activity are seen as important things by parents and care-givers whereas absence of shade, fence, and appropriate surface material would be the top characteristics parents would to avoid on a new playground.

### What would you like to avoid?

- **Sand:**
  - » Makes huge mess because it does not stay contained anywhere.
  - » Requires frequent maintenance (blowing, sweeping etc.) by parks staff
  - » Grainy sand gets into the wheel bearings on wheelchairs rolling walkers, scooters and tears up wheels
  - » Grainy sand gets into kids' leg braces and special shoes and creates another cleaning and maintenance chore for caregivers.
  - » Creates a very slippery surface when it migrates onto concrete.
  - » It tears up "fall protection surface" that protect kids
- **Mulch:**
  - » You can't move most wheeled devices on mulch (wheelchairs, rolling walkers)
  - » Kids and adults who have balance problems are less stable on mulch
- **No lighting as playground closes at night.**



- Too much unshaded space.
- Smoking
- Not enough parking or lots that are unsafe for small children
- Plastic or less natural materials
- No fighting
- Lack of benches or shade
- Avoid two entrances
- Wooden railings (blind person needs to run hand along railings – no splinters please)
- Slides that are put together in segments and have raised edges where two pieces meet- kids who cannot sit up get their heads bumped multiple times while descending those slides
- Roots and bumps
- No glass or sharp things
- Prefab metal/ plastic playground equipment like what we already have all over town

- Safety, fenced area is a big plus, variety of areas to play

### Station 5:

The purpose of station 5 was to set the goals for the playground design project from parents' and caregivers' perspective. Large index cards were provided for participants to write up to three words that describe the goals.

Inclusive, Fun and Nature come as the top three words to describe the goals of this project.

### Station 6:

Participants also had the opportunity to mention

### What would be the most important element?

- A spray ground! We drive a long way to get to the spray grounds in the Triangle because none are close to CH. Would love to see one in CH. It could be made to be inclusive for all and natural water features.
- Flexible use of space/ equipment
- Gathering area- would be perfect for community events, activities, as well as birthday parties and private events
- Shaded space that provides opportunities for a variety of sensory experiences
- Meandering pathways with sensory exploration
- Hand rails
- Brightly colored sections
- Tactile things- parent who is visually impaired, sand etc.
- Sand in paint for shapes of interest in playground
- Shaded areas via trees and awnings/ other coverings throughout the playground
- Opportunity for open ended, creative, and free play
- Slides and climbing, elevated equipment, big/ wide enough to accommodate an adult helping a child/ for a wheelchair/ rolling walker to travel along
- Consideration of non-physical related issues in ASD (sensory overload, elopement)
- Themed play areas for social interaction
- Inclusive! Ramps and paths! Including people with disabilities. Open spaces + inclusive environment
- Climbing structures
- Activities/ structures that kids can use in imaginative/ different / varied ways
- Shade
- Integration with the natural environment
- Safety
- Shade is so critical (hard to find in play parks) for everyone's enjoyment of our outdoor spaces, especially with young kids



Wordle showing hierarchy of choice words for goals of Cedar Falls Inclusive Playground

additional comments or concerns regarding the project on index cards provided at station 6.

As noted in previous comments, shade, sensory play, and natural areas are consistently mentioned. The comments are summarized below:

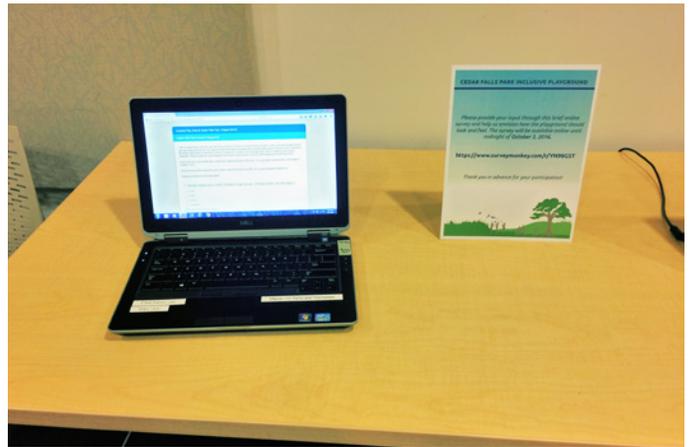
- Lots of sensory experience including plantings
- Inclusive of racial + economic differences too
- Signage in many languages including Spanish/ Korean/ Burmese



- *I am a pediatric physical therapist x 40 years and also had a career in pediatric nursing for (nearly) 13 years. I currently work as a PT in the Wake Co. Public School System serving children aged 3-22 at 21 schools. The students with whom I work fill the "bell shaped curve" re: degree of mobility and cognitive challenges. I am also a Board member of Kids Together- accessible park in Cary x 20 years. I am happy to help out in this process for this great project! Janie Mac Neela (Cell: 919-259-1025, janiemac53@aol.com)*
- *Merry-go-round, swing with seatbelt, sandpit with diggers, wheelchair basketball, volunteer to help and pick up trash and help water plants*
- *Tunnels for sensory downtime/ recovery*
- *Music!! Drums and other instruments are a great way for people to add voice to the environment even if they cannot speak words*
- *Wheelchair accessible basketball court*
- *Maybe not seeing it on the proposed site-parking seems to be an issue as far as distance and accessibility.. Do plans/\$ take this into consideration? I'd hate for all the \$ to be used up on equipment only then folks not want to use it because it's difficult to park and access. Think of downtown and how it's not easy to always access.*
- *Spider web, soft ground, wheelchair swings, shady area, climbing wall, tic-tac-toe, bouncy house, water table, hop scotch, hill with slide, sculpture in driving area, family bathroom, clean space for imaginary games, mound, wheelchair swings*
- *No lighting so that park closes when it is dark (kids shouldn't be there after dark)*
- *Neighbor: concerned about more noise. No curfew enforced at soccer fields. Late night noise- have called police.*
- *Save long leaf pines.*
- *Taller buffer-better sound proofing and appearance (landscaping) Pines aren't useful for noise buffer.*
- *Larger buffer?*
- *Integrate trees, rocks, landscape features into the playground*

### Station 7:

A computer work station was set up at the public meeting for participants to fill out the online survey. A flyer with link to survey was also displayed. The details of online survey and results are included as a separate section.



Computer Station for Online Survey

### Station 8:

A kids corner station was set up for children to participate and voice their opinions on the design program. The station included display boards with precedent images (same images used at station 3). Children were provided with three star stickers to vote for their top three park setting priorities. Marian Kaslovsky, the Inclusion Program Specialist from Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation department had a brief questionnaire for older children to fill out. There were markers and crayons for children to draw their favorite things on a playground or what they would like to be included on this new playground. In addition, there were building blocks and tinker toys for children to build a creative play structure and keep the younger ones engaged.

A class from Glenwood Elementary School had conducted a drawing activity showing their favorite park settings. Grade teacher had in class guests speak with the students about special needs and the students worked in teams to "design" the playground. These drawings were displayed at the public open house. Many of these children attended the open house with their parents and they explained their playground design drawings to staff.





Kids Corner Station



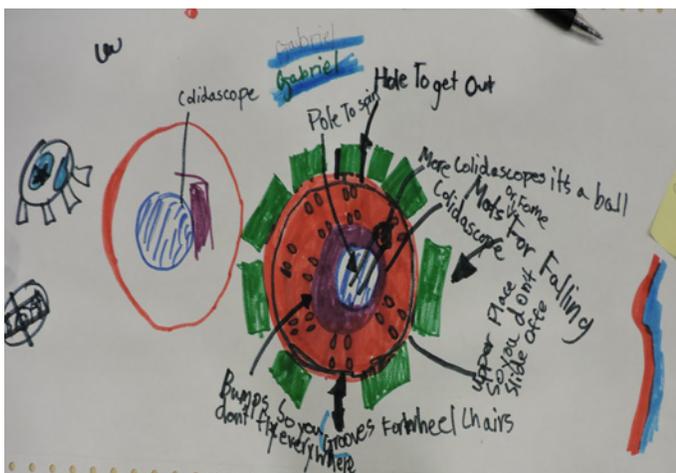
Kids explained their drawings to staff & consultants



Drawing from Glenwood Elementary School Student



Kids used blocks and tinker toys for building creative play setting



Play setting drawing by public meeting participant



Kids Corner Station



## ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY

Project consultant WithersRavenel conducted an online survey using SurveyMonkey as an additional avenue for public input. The survey was open from September 12, 2016 to October 7, 2016.

The goal of online survey was to gather data on following questions to get better understanding of residents' needs.

1. Please select your child/ children's age group. (Please select all that apply.)
2. Please describe your child's special needs, if any. This information will help us guide our planning efforts.
3. Please name your favorite playgrounds in the area and why do you like to visit them?
4. What playground features are most important for you and your children?
5. What playground materials or elements are important for your children's comfort and maximum enjoyment? Please describe in the comment box.
6. Which activities do your children enjoy the most on a playground, for example – strolling, running, swinging, jumping, seating, observing other children, and socializing?
7. Please describe playground features that you think should be avoided for your child's safety and comfort?
8. What amenities would you think are important for caregivers, parents or grandparents that would make their stay comfortable while children play?
9. Please share any additional comments to make this playground a unique amenity for all children.

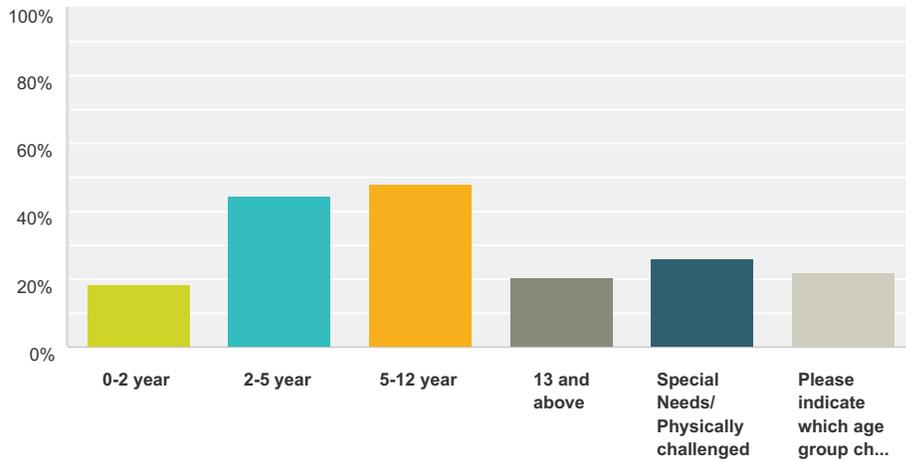
Total of fifty eight people completed the survey. Preliminary analysis of the survey results is provided on following pages.



# ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

## Q1 Please select your child/ children's age group. (Please select all that apply.)

Answered: 54 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
0-2 year	18.52% 10
2-5 year	44.44% 24
5-12 year	48.15% 26
13 and above	20.37% 11
Special Needs/ Physically challenged	25.93% 14
Please indicate which age group child is special needs/ physically challenged.	22.22% 12
<b>Total Respondents: 54</b>	

**SUMMARY:** Out of total 54 respondents, 26 selected 5-12 year age group. 14 of these respondents have a special needs child.



## Q2 Please describe your child's special needs, if any. This information will help us guide our planning efforts.

Answered: 24 Skipped: 34

#	Responses	Date
1	<b>Autism</b> Autism. Children with Autism often walk away and need constant supervision. Having a fence allows for a physical boundary for the child and for parent peace of mind that child can only go so far when they quietly walk away.	9/30/2016 9:31 AM
2	none	9/28/2016 4:22 PM
3	<b>Autism</b> Autism	9/27/2016 2:34 PM
4	<b>Autism</b> Autism	9/27/2016 2:33 PM
5	<b>Cerebral Palsy</b> CP (walks with a weaker), autism and partial sight	9/26/2016 8:58 AM
6	<b>Sensory</b> sensory seeking	9/25/2016 9:47 PM
7	<b>Miscellaneous</b> We need you maintain the existing tennis courts. Also please finish paving the parking lot.	9/22/2016 10:50 AM
8	<b>Miscellaneous</b> None	9/21/2016 12:44 PM
9	<b>Autism</b> <b>Cerebral Palsy</b> <b>Mobility</b> <b>Sensory</b> Hypotonic cerebral palsy (low muscle tone, motor delays, wears ankle-foot orthotics), sensory processing disorder, anxiety, autism	9/20/2016 9:30 PM
10	<b>Autism</b> autism	9/20/2016 12:10 PM
11	<b>Down Syndrome</b> <b>Mobility</b> Down syndrome (low muscle tone, late to crawl and walk, late to develop gross and fine motor skills)	9/19/2016 9:05 AM
12	<b>Mobility</b> my child is a young adult -- needs equipment (large swings, easy climbing, BIG slides) that fit adults. This would make it so fun for parents as well!	9/18/2016 10:03 PM
13	none	9/17/2016 8:02 PM
14	<b>Mobility</b> <b>Sensory</b> Sensory, balance and motor disabilities	9/16/2016 4:29 PM
15	<b>Mobility</b> <b>Sensory</b> Dyspraxia (motor planning challenges, lacks balance and centeredness), Combined type ADHD, sensory processing (sensory seeking)	9/16/2016 1:27 PM
16	<b>Miscellaneous</b> Feeling normal and equal to kids without disabilities. For kids without disabilities, being able to play with all kids, not just non-disabled.	9/16/2016 7:40 AM
17	<b>Mobility</b> <b>Visual Impairment</b> Blind or with visual impairment, some with other cognitive or physical disabilities.	9/15/2016 2:35 PM
18	<b>Autism</b> Severe autism non verbal	9/14/2016 11:12 PM
19	<b>Down Syndrome</b> Down syndrome	9/14/2016 7:54 PM
20	<b>Autism</b> <b>Intellectual Disability</b> Autism and intellectual disability	9/14/2016 3:06 PM
21	<b>Intellectual Disability</b> <b>Mobility</b> The needs of the children I know are cognitive and physical.	9/14/2016 8:23 AM
22	<b>Autism</b> <b>Intellectual Disability</b> Autism and cognitive delays and non verbal	9/13/2016 6:59 PM
23	<b>Autism</b> Autism	9/13/2016 12:12 PM
24	<b>Autism</b> autistic	9/13/2016 10:37 AM

SUMMARY: Out of total 24 respondents, 10 respondents have child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Seven respondents mentioned various levels of mobility impairment.



### Q3 Please name your favorite playgrounds in the area and why do you like to visit them?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 18

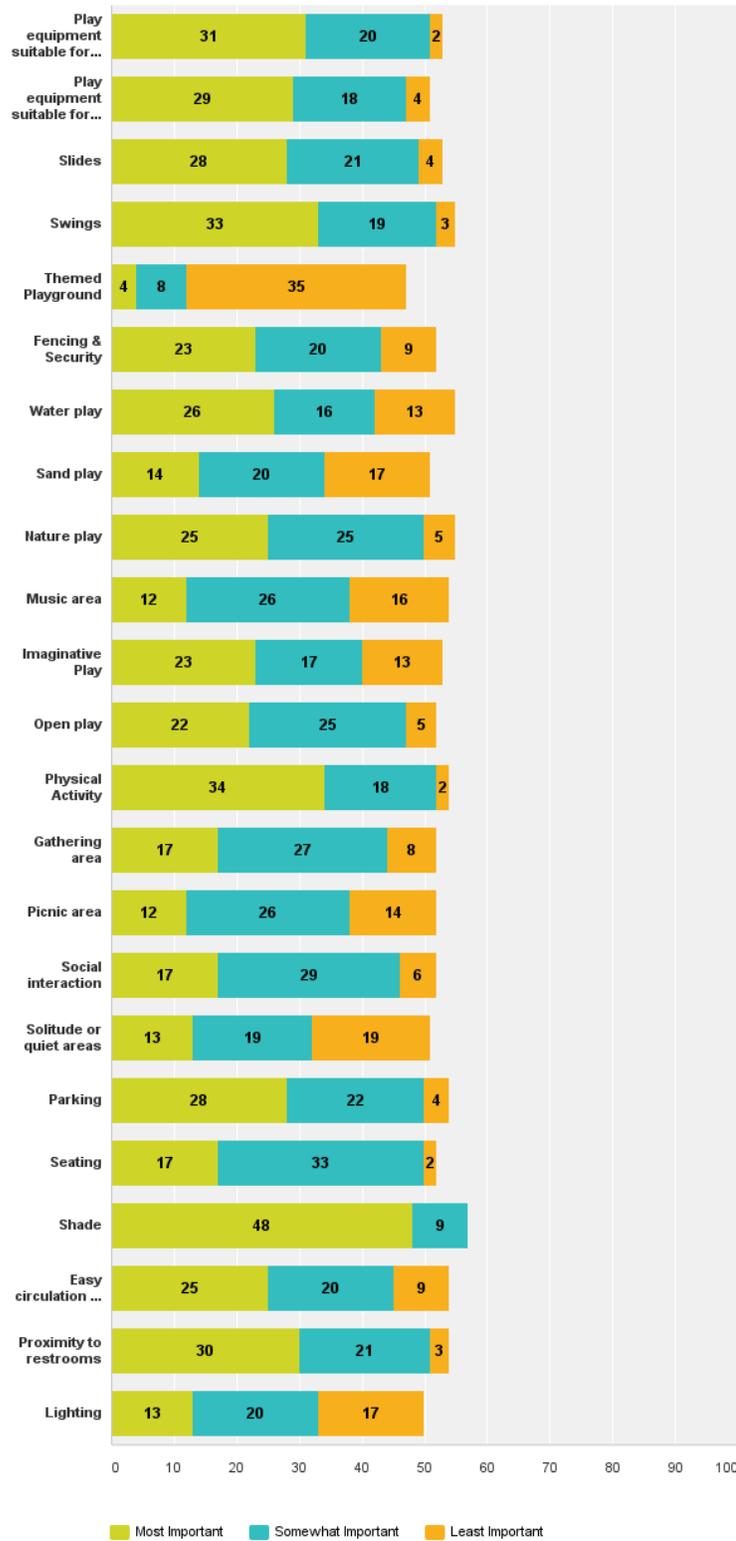
#	Responses	Date
1	<b>Fence</b> My child is older. We always went to the park in Glen Lennox because it had a fence.	9/30/2016 9:31 AM
2	<b>Nature Play</b> Eno and other natural creeks and landscapes	9/28/2016 4:54 PM
3	<b>Location</b> <b>Nature Play</b> <b>Unique Features</b> <b>Walking &amp; Biking</b> <b>Water Play</b> Burlington splash pad - so many awesome water features, especially the dumping bucket; Community Center Park (Chapel Hill) - very conveniently located and close access to walking/biking trail; Kelly Road Park (Apex) - very unique and so fun!	9/28/2016 4:32 PM
4	<b>Location</b> Playgrounds closer to my house in Carrboro, mainly out of convenience.	9/28/2016 4:22 PM
5	<b>Unique Features</b> Pullen Park in Raleigh because of the unique features and large, open playground spaces	9/27/2016 6:42 PM
6	<b>Nature Play</b> Cedar Falls- he likes the woods	9/27/2016 2:34 PM
7	<b>Unique Features</b> <b>Walking &amp; Biking</b> Community Center on Estes Drive, near the rose garden, clean bathrooms in the building with water fountains, various activities with a walking/bike path	9/27/2016 2:33 PM
8	<b>Nature Play</b> <b>Walking &amp; Biking</b> We love the organic, natural materials used at many of the Pittsboro parks (Mary Holmes, River Rock). Plastic parks all seem the same these days. We also love parks like Southern Community or Gold Park that blend a walking/rolling/biking path with the playground. It gives the children and adults lots of options for staying active while others play.	9/27/2016 12:47 PM
9	<b>Accessible</b> <b>Unique Features</b> Community Center. We go because it is near but it also has very good access for the walker. Our daughter loves the bridge and tunnel.	9/26/2016 8:58 AM
10	<b>Location</b> <b>Nature Play</b> <b>Shade</b> umstead - close to our house. Southern Village - like the bike path adjacent. Homestead - when we play soccer there Cedar Falls - like the trees and shade	9/25/2016 9:47 PM
11	Cedar falls, for the tennis	9/22/2016 10:50 AM
12	<b>Unique Features</b> Community Center because it is close, and the availability of the rec center and Bolin Creek Trail. Cedar Falls for the shade in the summer. Oakwood Park for interesting equipment. Southern Village for its play structure.	9/21/2016 1:33 PM
13	<b>Shade</b> <b>Unique Features</b> I really like wilson park and Cedar falls. Wilson for its Younger and Middle age kid play structures, swings, and especially the sandbox. Cedar falls is great for the same reasons, minus the sandbox...but it has SHADE!	9/21/2016 1:00 PM
14	<b>Shade</b> <b>Unique Features</b> Cedar Falls for shade and variety of activities available. Community Center park and Wilson Park are favorites as well.	9/21/2016 12:20 PM
15	<b>Shade</b> <b>Walking &amp; Biking</b> Rockwood park in durham... shady and bike loop for kids. Brier Creek Community Center toddler park... low and safe equipment specifically for toddler.	9/21/2016 12:08 PM
16	Anderson for the pond and wildlife as well as the smaller and larger play structures Umstead park for the openness Rock Ridge Park for the creative and adventurous play equipment and design.	9/21/2016 11:50 AM
17	<b>Nature Play</b> <b>Shade</b> Cedar Falls is our favorite because of the shade and the trails. Community Center Park comes in second because of the size and things to do.	9/21/2016 11:24 AM
18	<b>Location</b> <b>Nature Play</b> <b>Shade</b> <b>Unique Features</b> Homestead - easily accessible by foot, partial shade, mix of playground equipment and nature	9/20/2016 9:30 PM
19	<b>Accessible</b> <b>Unique Features</b> special needs in Cary	9/18/2016 10:03 PM
20	<b>Unique Features</b> Wilson Park, Homestead Park, Community Center Park- all three have great facilities! Love the skate park at Homestead but I wish the batting cages were up and running! Why is it taking so long to make them operational?	9/17/2016 8:02 PM

SUMMARY: Out of total 40 respondents, 10 respondents mention variety of unique features in other parks. Shade and Nature Play are mentioned by at least seven respondents.



## Q4 What playground features are most important for you and your children?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 1



SUMMARY: Shade, Physical Activity, and Variety of Swings are voted top three playground features.



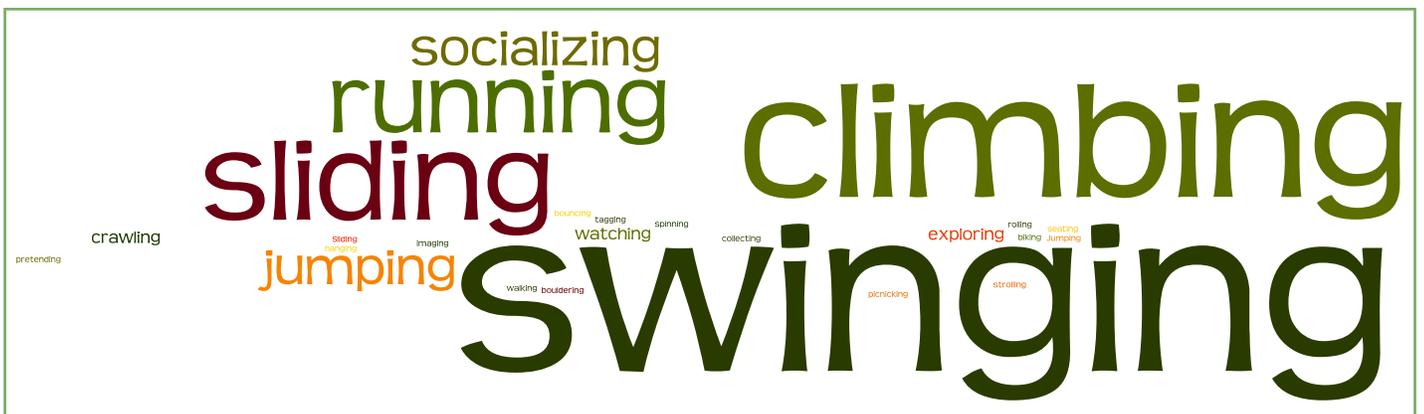
## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM QUESTION # 4:

- *Fence is #1. Open to be able to see where children are when they move around, even flat walking surfaces.*
- *Pretty landscaping, climbing equipment*
- *Our daughter loves tunnels and anything that makes noise/music. In terms of imaginative play, anything kids can pretend to be a vehicle (airplane, car,etc) wild be great*
- *Shade shade shade. Shade is lacking in many of the otherwise great parks in our community, which makes them unusable during the summer days at times.*
- *Shade is too hard to find in our parks.*
- *Suitable for adult-sized bodies*
- **WATER FOUNTAINS!**
- *Please have a separate play structure for toddlers. Please do not cut the trees that provide shade for the park.*
- *Having a shaded playground area is the most important criteria as much of the time you can be outside in CH the heat is unbearable in the sun. This project is fantastic but please don't cut down the trees.*
- *Water spray ground*
- *Please consider making signs visible from the road telling that the playground is designed with handicapped/disabled children in mind.*
- *We need another outdoor city pool*



## Q5 What activities your children enjoy most on a playground, for example – strolling, running, swinging, jumping, Seating, observing other children, and socializing?

Slide, swing, easy steps	Swinging, music, climbing
strolling and collecting natural objects; water play; swings and climbing structures-- hide outs	They love playgrounds with small rolling hills like that mound at Southern Village. Swings at all playgrounds have kids line up. It would be nice to have a variety of swinging contraptions. My kids love zip lines at the height of an adult, ones they can access themselves.
Slides, water features (either man-made or natural), swings	Running, climbing, socializing, slides
slides and swinging.	A playground should provide safe opportunities to express in all domains - physical, social, cognitive, and emotional
Running, climbing	swinging, climbing, running
swinging	jumping, sliding, walking across bridges
swinging, jumping, challenge low ropes,	Jumping, seating, running
Climbing, bouldering, collaborative/pretend play. My kids love the creative bungee, teeter totter, and zip line features at the Pittsboro parks.	swinging, climbing, hanging, slides, running/tag
She loves tunnels and swings and moving bridges. She loves music so she loves anything she can make a sound with (a music wall would be great)	Swinging, jumping, spinning, sensory play
playing in nature / the creek at Umstead is great. Always love swings and slides, kids like to climb on the structures	Running, swinging, climbing, tunnels, sand box
Swinging	Swinging, climbing
Socializing and tennis	swinging, climbing, running and biking.
Socializing, climbing, slides	Swinging
swinging, running, climbing, sliding, playing with balls, nature walks	swinging
Socializing and transitioning between elements.	Would love water! Sand box, climbing, tunnels and bridges, things that allow chase/hide and seek with other kids.
Climbing, sliding	Slides/water and stairs
Climbing, socializing, swinging.	Swinging, observing other children and adults
climbing, making music, swinging, sliding, ziplines, jumping and bouncing.	socializing
Swinging and climbing	
Exploring	
watching others, swinging, jumping	
Sliding, play with water, play with sand	
Climbing structures, tether ball, obstacle course-style structures	
Climbing and sliding (10 year old) Swinging/Imagination/exploring (2.5 year old)	
Swinging. Please have more than two of each.	
Running, swinging, climbing, picnic eating, sliding	
Running, climbing, sliding, watching other children	
Running around and playing of the play set.	
socializing swinging and climbing	
Swings and slides	



**SUMMARY:** Swinging, climbing, and sliding are mentioned as the most favorite activities for children.



**Q6 What playground materials or elements are important for your children's comfort and maximum enjoyment? Please describe in the comment box.**

Answered: 52 Skipped: 6



	Most Important	Somewhat Important	Least Important	Total
Ramps	19% 9	46% 22	35% 17	48
Safety surface	46% 23	42% 21	12% 6	50
Diverse vegetation	16% 8	46% 23	38% 19	50
Tactile materials	33% 16	39% 19	29% 14	49
Colors	22% 11	35% 17	43% 21	49
Noise Level	17% 8	40% 19	44% 21	48

**SUMMARY:** Out of total 52 respondents, 50 respondents mention safety surface is most important playground element, followed by tactile materials and colors.



## Q7 Please describe playground features that you think should be avoided for your child's safety and comfort?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 33

#	Responses	Date
1	Even surfaces due to gross motor delays.	9/30/2016 9:31 AM
2	<b>Un-natural Material</b> sand commercial/un natural materials avoid making it look like other school playgrounds-- provide diverse experiences	9/28/2016 4:54 PM
3	<b>Openings in Equipment</b> Openings on very high playground equipment. Even if equipment is intended for ages 5-12 younger children want to and will use it!	9/28/2016 4:32 PM
4	<b>Hot areas</b> Good recycling areas, soft surfaces, shaded areas so the equipment and sitting areas don't get too hot.	9/27/2016 2:33 PM
5	None	9/26/2016 8:58 AM
6	<b>Unsafe Drop-off</b> dangerous drop offs	9/25/2016 9:47 PM
7	Any features that attract older children or teenagers	9/23/2016 9:23 AM
8	Tall structures, hidden holes in structures (like at Harry Anderson in Carrboro) Play areas for older children that by design allow easy access for under 5 years. SHADE SHADE SHADE. I can't tell you how inaccessible and useless a playground in the full summer sun is. We simply don't go. Things that encourage Parkour. With 5 and under, when the big kids come and get all parkour on the playground it is very unsafe for the little ones. I am not sure how to achieve this, but it is something we come across.	9/21/2016 1:33 PM
9	<b>safety zones</b> Swings near other equipment - does not anticipate path of swings in motion when exploring.	9/20/2016 9:30 PM
10	<b>Toxic</b> Recycled rubber tire ground cover- ewww that stuff causes cancer. No thanks.	9/17/2016 8:02 PM
11	Avoid cramming too much into a small space	9/17/2016 10:53 AM
12	<b>slippery surfaces</b> Slides that are too slippery. Surfaces that get slippery when wet.	9/16/2016 10:29 PM
13	<b>Hot areas</b> Large unshaded areas, being too close to the parking lot/higher traffic paths	9/16/2016 9:26 PM
14	<b>Wood Mulch</b> I'm not fond of wood chips. The bouncy rubber material cushions blows so much better.	9/16/2016 8:49 PM
15	<b>safety zones</b> swing area away from other or fenced to reduce accidents	9/16/2016 4:29 PM
16	<b>safety zones</b> Swings, Slides and Climbing apparatus	9/16/2016 2:45 PM
17	<b>Not maintained</b> Cement and wooden curbs on the playground pose a constant tripping hazard to little feet. A small, very flat open grassy area would be great but only useable if the grass is regularly mowed and it is well shaded. Additionally, play equipment most suitable for older kids that is located very close to the toddler play area is much too tempting for my little ones!	9/16/2016 1:22 PM
18	Elements that are competitive. Elements that indirectly distinguish abilities from each other.	9/16/2016 7:40 AM
19	<b>Openings in Equipment</b> ladders/steps spaced far apart	9/15/2016 12:31 PM
20	<b>sharp edges</b> Sharp edged features and wooded items	9/14/2016 11:12 PM
21	fire poles!	9/14/2016 7:54 PM
22	Shade	9/14/2016 1:11 PM
23	<b>Openings in Equipment</b> Areas that are up high and have drop offs. Very unsafe for a kid that doesn't know the danger.	9/13/2016 6:59 PM
24	None	9/13/2016 12:12 PM
25	<b>Toxic</b> non toxic	9/13/2016 10:37 AM

**SUMMARY:** Out of total 25 respondents, three respondents mention providing appropriate safety zones around play equipment, followed by design and choice of materials, and up keep of play areas.



## Q8 What amenities would you think are important for caregivers, parents or grandparents that would make their stay comfortable while children play?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 13

#	Responses	Date
1	<b>Restroom</b> Bathroom.	9/30/2016 9:31 AM
2	<b>Fence</b> A playground that is surrounded by a fence or wall that has only one entrance in or out.	9/29/2016 5:02 PM
3	<b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> shade and seating	9/28/2016 4:54 PM
4	<b>Parking</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> Comfortable seating, shade, and adequate/convenient parking!	9/28/2016 4:32 PM
5	<b>Seating</b> seating available in many areas	9/28/2016 4:22 PM
6	<b>Supervision</b> Places where it's easy to see all parts of playground equipment	9/27/2016 6:42 PM
7	<b>Seating</b> <b>Supervision</b> a place in the shade to sit where you can still see everything	9/27/2016 2:34 PM
8	<b>Picnic</b> <b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> CLEAN bathroom and changing stations; shaded sitting areas, picnic tables	9/27/2016 2:33 PM
9	<b>Fitness stations</b> <b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> <b>Water</b> Shade, seating, water, restrooms, walking/strolling paths within sight of playground. Was in Spain over the summer. Many parks there have stationary bikes or exercise circuits for the adults to use while the children are playing. Great idea!	9/27/2016 12:47 PM
10	<b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Water</b> Seating, water fountain and accessible restrooms	9/26/2016 8:58 AM
11	<b>Picnic</b> <b>Shade</b> benches and shade! picnic areas.	9/25/2016 9:47 PM
12	<b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> Heavy shade and seating	9/23/2016 9:23 AM
13	<b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> Benches and shade	9/22/2016 10:50 AM
14	<b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> <b>WiFi</b> Shade. WIFI, not that we are messing around on phones, but Facebook and other apps are used for coordinating meet ups in real time. Encouraging lunch vendors or other food carts could be a nice idea. A "buddy bench" for adults to use, where sitting there invites conversation. Improved access to drinking water.	9/21/2016 1:33 PM
15	<b>Seating</b> <b>Water</b> Access to clean and cold water, ample seating, and SHADE.	9/21/2016 1:00 PM
16	<b>Restroom</b> <b>Shade</b> <b>Water</b> Bathrooms, water, and shaded areas for sitting.	9/21/2016 12:20 PM
17	<b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> <b>Water</b> shade, benches, fountains, restrooms	9/21/2016 11:50 AM
18	<b>Parking</b> <b>Restroom</b> <b>Shade</b> clean restrooms, easy parking and access, SHADE, no mosquitoes	9/18/2016 10:03 PM
19	<b>Restroom</b> <b>Shade</b> Shaded siting areas and restrooms with air conditioning	9/17/2016 9:33 PM
20	<b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> <b>Water</b> Water fountains!, benches, shade	9/17/2016 8:02 PM
21	<b>Restroom</b> <b>trash &amp; recycling</b> Bathrooms Water fountains Trash cans Recycling	9/17/2016 10:53 AM
22	<b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> Benches and picnic tables. Large umbrellas for shade.	9/16/2016 10:29 PM
23	<b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> Seating and shade! Restrooms. Vending (at least water)	9/16/2016 9:26 PM
24	<b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> Shade and seating	9/16/2016 9:01 PM
25	<b>Fence</b> <b>Restroom</b> <b>Water</b> Bathrooms, water fountains, fenced areas or separated areas for younger children.	9/16/2016 8:49 PM
26	<b>Fence</b> <b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> comfortable seating, wifi and bathrooms with sahde	9/16/2016 4:29 PM
27	<b>Seating</b> Seating close to play areas so children can be supervised and not be allowed on equipment that is above their capabilities.	9/16/2016 2:45 PM
28	<b>Picnic</b> <b>Restroom</b> <b>Seating</b> <b>Shade</b> 1) Bathrooms 2) Benches at all angles of the playground 3) Shade 4) Covered picnic area is special but not as important as play structures themselves	9/16/2016 1:27 PM

**SUMMARY:** Out of total 45 respondents, 18 respondents mention shade, 19 mention seating, followed by restrooms mentioned by 14 people.



## Q9 Please share any additional comments to make this playground a unique amenity for all children.

Answered: 23 Skipped: 35

#	Responses	Date
1	Thanks for asking for input.	9/30/2016 9:31 AM
2	Sometimes parents want to let their children play on their own. Other times parents want to play with their children. Making play areas big enough to follow a child or to reach them when necessary is a benefit. Often play structures are crowded and it is difficult to get to your child if they are hurt or misbehaving.	9/29/2016 5:02 PM
3	make it fit into the natural landscape	9/28/2016 4:54 PM
4	Would LOVE to see a sprayground! We have a relative with special needs who is in a wheelchair and he loves spraygrounds!	9/28/2016 4:32 PM
5	Having a playground accessible to all abled people ONLY enhances the lives of the people who come to the playground. Its WIN/WIN for the town and people of Chapel Hill.	9/27/2016 2:33 PM
6	I am emailing some more ideas.	9/25/2016 9:47 PM
7	The playground should be located adjacent to the current playground. This would be near the restrooms and easier for families who have special needs children and other siblings using the current playground.	9/24/2016 8:56 PM
8	A small, compact play area (similar to the existing playground) that is closest to restrooms and close to parking.	9/23/2016 9:23 AM
9	Working water fountains	9/22/2016 10:50 AM
10	We always have signs that explain the rules. How about a sign or link to a webpage (if WIFI is there) that talks about how to best engage those with disabilities, physical or developmental. I want to encourage the inclusion of interactive elements...like the whisper bench that used to be on the trail at community center park. Anything built in that has kids and adults interacting together by design is cool. This could also be great for inclusion, because you don't have to be physically active to engage in some easy access interactive objects that are at wheel chair level. Did I mention shade?	9/21/2016 1:33 PM
11	make it for adults with disabilities!	9/18/2016 10:03 PM
12	Accessible splash pad Accessible swings Accessible ground covering and nature paths Accessible bathrooms Accessible parking (near park entrance).	9/17/2016 10:53 AM
13	Make sure there is shade so it can be enjoyed on really hot days. Keep the tall trees untouched. Put up more trash cans or dog waste receptacles. There's always dog poop around cedar falls park.	9/16/2016 10:29 PM
14	Not as many off the shelf, "sterile" play features. Should have some opportunities for risk, engagement of all senses, etc	9/16/2016 9:26 PM
15	Professional supervision of the playground by Town Staff to reduce the hazards inherent in a facility designed for children of varying capabilities. It should be closed by early evening so it doesn't become a teen-age hangout. It should not be lighted.	9/16/2016 2:45 PM
16	Water spray grounds are excellent for children with special needs and very young children. The hot/muggy months in NC are very difficult to manage with only large swimming pools as an outside option.	9/16/2016 1:27 PM
17	I suggest that the planners look at "best practices"/model playgrounds around the country. There are so many unique and incredible examples that could give CHPRD planners some ideas. Thank you for doing this!!!	9/16/2016 7:40 AM
18	Please contact me if there are any more questions or concerns regarding accessibility for children who are blind or have a visual impairment. Thanks. Ivan Weiskott, iweiskott@chccs.k12.nc.us	9/15/2016 2:35 PM
19	Love a softer, bouncier play surface and enclosed fencing for safety issues and provide a safer barrier and less stressful surrounding for caregiver and special needs child	9/14/2016 11:12 PM
20	Would be really great, if we can incorporated a tree house and slide from the tree house in the woods area that we already have. They are fun, just like the museum of life and science. The parking is bad, so if we can expand or make another way to get out. It gets really crowded when soccer season starts.	9/14/2016 11:55 AM



# APPENDICES



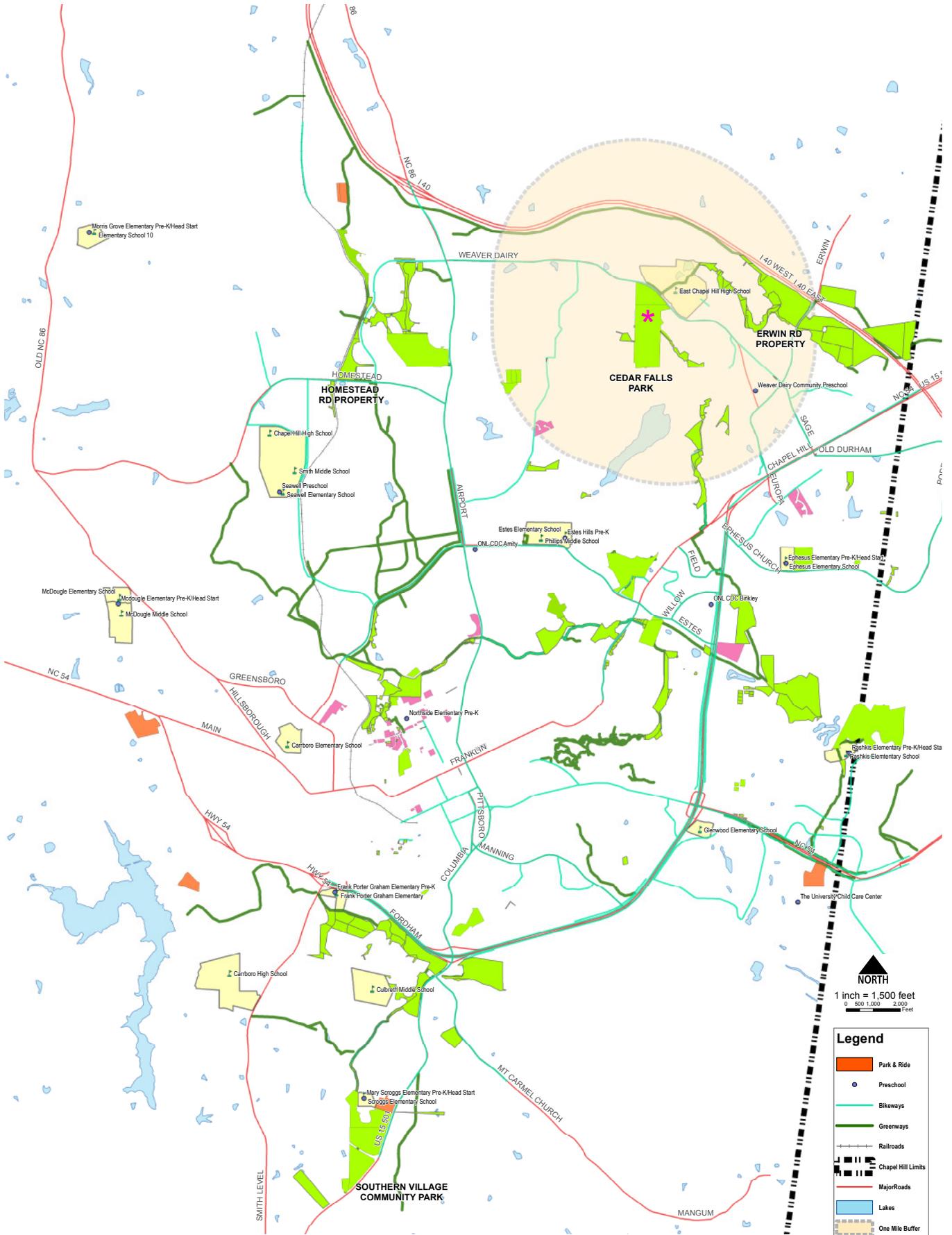
# Seven Principles of Universal Design

\*The Center for Universal Design (1997). [The Principles of Universal Design](#). Version 2.0. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University

Principle*	The Design	Examples for Play Spaces
Equitable Use	Is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities	Motion-operated automatic doors
Flexibility in Use	Accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities	Equipment, benches, chairs, etc. of different heights and sizes
Simple and Intuitive Use	Easy to understand, regardless of users experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level interpret	Simple signage easy for all people to interpret
Perceptible Information	Communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities	Wall, floor, and sidewalk art communicates location
Tolerance for Error	Minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions	Paint splatters on the art room wall allows for children's mistakes
Low Physical Effort	Used effectively and comfortably with a minimum of fatigue	Seamless transition in flooring and playground surfacing
Size and Space for Approach and Use	Provides appropriate size and space for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of users body size, posture, or mobility	Extra-wide doorways and entries to equipment



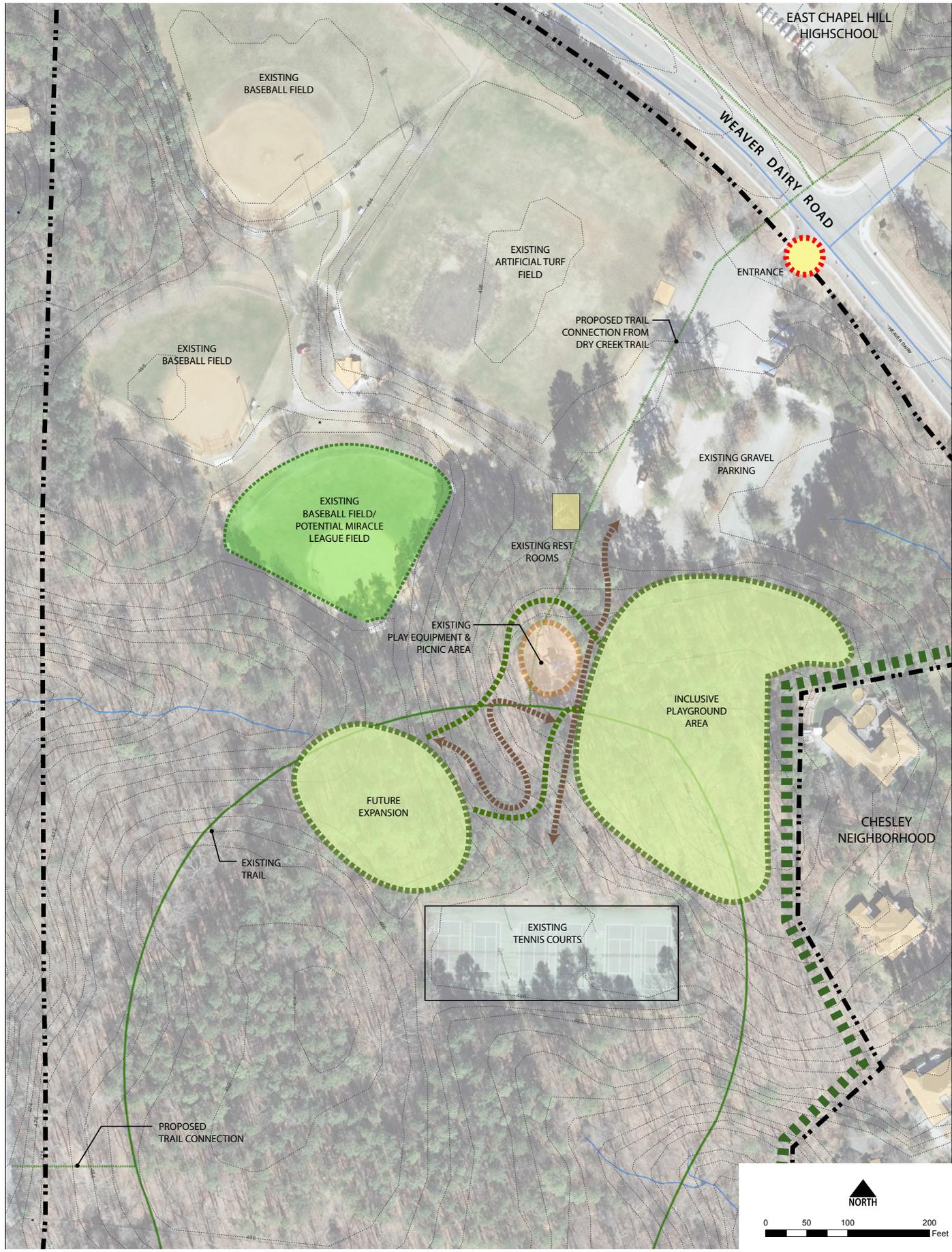
# Chapel Hill Parks System



**NORTH**  
 1 inch = 1,500 feet  
 0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Legend	
	Park & Ride
	Preschool
	Bikeways
	Greenways
	Railroads
	Chapel Hill Limits
	Major Roads
	Lakes
	One Mile Buffer





# Sensory Experiences in a Park Setting

AUDITORY (HEARING)



VISION (SIGHT)



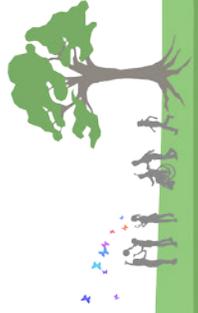
OLFACTORY (SMELL)



TACTILE (TOUCH)



GUSTATORY (TASTE)



# Inclusive Playground Vision Board

SWING VARIETY



PLACE DOT HERE

PLAY EQUIPMENT



PLACE DOT HERE

CUSTOM PLAY SETTINGS



PLACE DOT HERE

SLIDES



PLACE DOT HERE



SPINNERS



PLACE DOT HERE

GROSS MOTOR ACTIVITY



PLACE DOT HERE

GROSS MOTOR ACTIVITY



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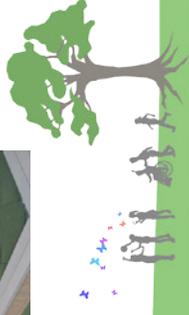
THEME PLAY



PLACE DOT HERE



CEDAR FALLS PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND



# Inclusive Playground Vision Board

PLACE DOT HERE

IMAGINATIVE PLAY



PLACE DOT HERE

LOOK OUT



PLACE DOT HERE

MUSIC AREA



PLACE DOT HERE

OPEN PLAY



PLACE DOT HERE

NATURE PLAY



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SPRAYGROUND



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SAND PLAY



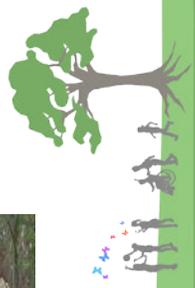
PLACE DOT HERE

WATER PLAY



CEDAR FALLS PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

WithersRavenel  
By People, For People



# Inclusive Playground Vision Board

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## GATHERING AREA



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## QUIET AREAS



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## EDIBLE PLANTS



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## DIVERSE VEGETATION



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## EASY WAYFINDING



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## WIDE RAMPS & PATHS



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## PUBLIC ART

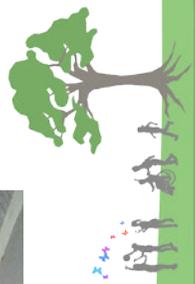


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## SIGNATURE ATTRACTION



CEDAR FALLS PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND



# Inclusive Playground Vision Board

WATER FOUNTAIN

PLACE DOT HERE



FENCING & SECURITY

PLACE DOT HERE



LIGHTING

PLACE DOT HERE



SHADE

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