MEETING NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

DATE: November 17, 2011, 2011
LOCATION: Como Street Car Station
ATTENDING: Kelly Mitchell, Dan Marckel, Mark Ross, Paul Kolias, Jim Henricksen, Triesta Brown, Randy Quale, Tom Dapper, Kathy Baron, Karin Misiewicz, Kathy Korum, and Alice Messer

NOTES BY: Alice Messer *Al Messer*

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Alice Messer briefly recapped overall play area concept plan:

- provide separate play area for younger children
- provide infant swings as part of play area
- provide additional swings located south of play area
- create defined entrance into play area
- protect existing oak trees
- create unique play area to Como Regional Park

Goal of meeting was to reach consensus on the final design in order to begin construction documents for the project.

Alice Messer presented final concept plan, site furnishings, surfacing materials, swings, 2-5 play area options, and three slide options for 5-12 play piece.

Final concept plan incorporates a rope climbing structure (18' high) into the surrounding landforms. Play area will utilize surface materials and berms to direct children into the play area and up the large mounds where they can access an 8' high embankment slide.

A separate play area for younger children is set off to the side allowing for a safe, protected play space. A small sand area is incorporated as well as infant/toddler swings.

Existing benches will be reused and refinished to match play area. Benches are to be located along the edges and in existing shade areas to offer views into the play area.

Presented two other slide options. These included an 18' high tube slide and 5' high slide attached to climbing structure. These slide options allow for more visibility through play area, but are not visually appealing.

Low ornamental fence installed at entrance to define play area.

Three toddler play pieces were presented with explanation of different elements.

Community comments/questions included:

1. Option C selected for 2-5 play element.
    - Concern with plastic slide and will contact manufacturer to see if stainless steel is an option
    - Question about ability to modify color of panels. Will explore color modifications to see if reds and yellows can be modified.

2. Embankment slide was selected as preferred slide treatment.
    - Slide to be set into hill and provide a fun/fast sliding option. Insure slope great enough to achieve.

3. Color scheme of black and stainless steel (grey) to be used on rope climbing structure as visually fades into landscape.

4. Swinging bay overlooking fire pits to be traditional galvanized swings. Will provide highest swinging potential available at 10' height.

5. Agreement on installation of low ornamental fence at entrance.

6. Add rocks and diggers to sand area.

7. Add benches by 2-5 play area.

8. Kelly Mitchell sent out concept plans to her community and received overwhelming feedback for Option 3 play element for 2-5 play as well as preference for embankment slide option.

9. Preference for natural surfacing colors utilizing greens/blues/browns. No vibrant colors.

10. Explore including spinning element into play area.

    - Budget very tight, but will look at spinning or carrousel option

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Actions:

- Alice to proceed with construction documents based on comments received.
- Alice will forward along final plan once design details flushed out.
- Play area construction to begin late spring 2012.
- Presentation materials posted on project website at:

http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4618

Overall Design Concept

- To provide separate play areas for 2-5 and 5-12 age groups
- To provide infant and handicap swings into overall play area
- To provide additional swings located south of play area overlooking fire pits
- To create two defined entrances into play area
- To protect existing oak trees and utilize shade provided by mature trees
- To provide play area unique to Como Park

Overall Concept Plan

COMO REGIONAL PARK PLAY GROUND RENOVATION - SAINT PAUL, MN

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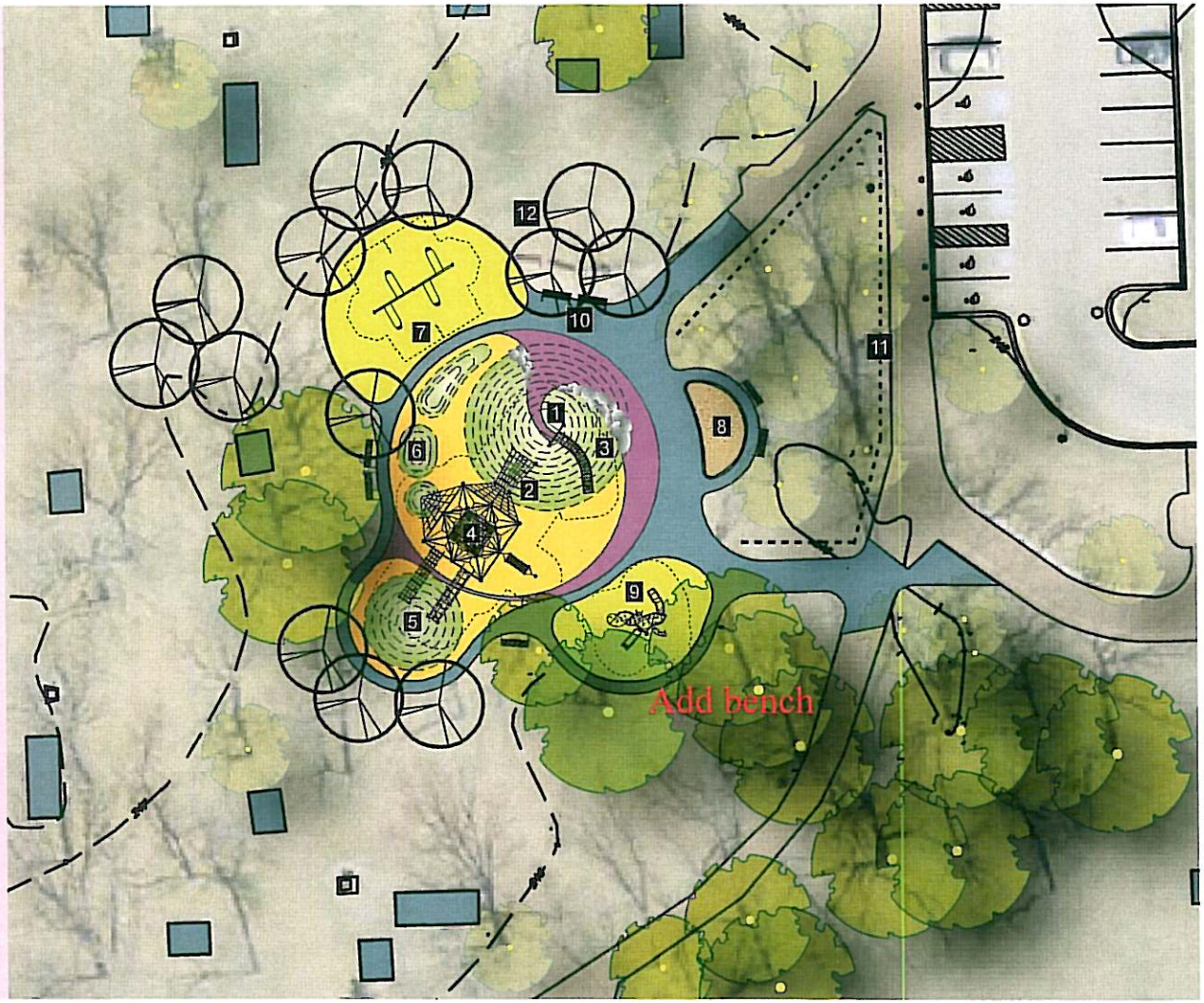
Key

1. Sliding mound (8')
2. Net web connection to Neptune climber
3. Rock scramble
4. Neptune Climber (5-12 play element)
5. Rope and suspension bridge connecting to Neptune Climber
6. Berms (3'-4')
7. Infant swings (3) and 1 handicap accessible swing
8. Sand play
9. 2-5 play area with more traditional play equipment
10. Benches
11. Low ornamental fence (4' high) to define entrance
12. Proposed trees



Design Concept

- Utilizes combination of play area surfacing creating variety and interest. Artificial turf to be used on edges under swings and 2-5 play area. Resilient surfacing installed under rope climber and sliding hill with ability to add color to play area surface.
- Berms are integrated into climbing structure and offer buffer along western edge of play area encouraging circular movement through play area
- 2-5 play separated from larger climbing structure while still allowing parents to view older children in 5-12 play area
- Small informal sand play area provided for digging. Surrounded by concrete sidewalk to deter tracking of sand through site
- Entrance area enlarged to allow for bicycles/strollers/informal gathering area
- Benches provided along edge of play area in shade to allow views of play area
- Additional trees planted around play area to define play area and offer more shade along northern edge

Concept Plan - embankment slide

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Benches / Bicycle Rack

- Reuse existing benches (7) and bicycle rack
- Add additional bicycle rack
- Refinish/paint steel black to match play equipment

Yes!

Artificial Turf

- Provides required fall safety zones
- HC accessible
- Unknown life span as only recently used for playgrounds - field turf lasts 8- 10 years
- Surface can be raked or blown for maintenance

Use under infant swings and 2-5 play area

Trash

- Replace trash receptacle with park standard "toter".
- Allows for easy removal and required by Parks maintenance staff

Yes!

Resilient surfacing

- Provides required fall zone
- Comes in a variety of colors
- Able to form into any shape
- HC accessible
- Easy to maintain as smooth surface
- 8-10 year life span
- Expensive as requires concrete base

Like natural color scheme.

Fencing

- Install low ornamental railing (4' high) at entrance
- Defines play area and deters foot traffic directly into 2-5 play area
- Fence to be black aluminum with concrete mow strip

Yes!

Sand

- Allows for digging/sand plan
- Located in contained area to deter sand migration through site
- Not HC accessible surface, but installed under separate swing bay as HC swings not required

Add diggers and rocks.

Site Furnishings and Surfacing

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Infant/Accessible Swings

- Located within play area
- Providing 3 infant swings
- Providing 1 accessible swing
- Located on resilient surfacing for accessibility

YES!

Swing Bay

- Located outside play area overlooking fire rings
- Providing 6 traditional swings
- Surrounded in sand surfacing

Revise to reflect traditional swings with double leg support.

Swings

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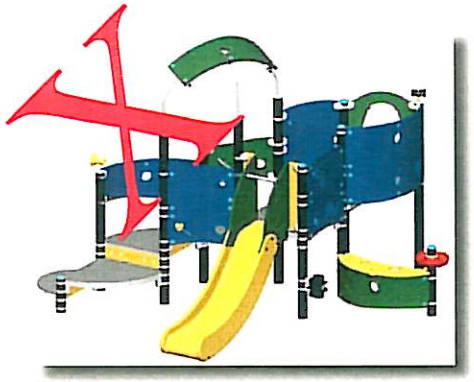
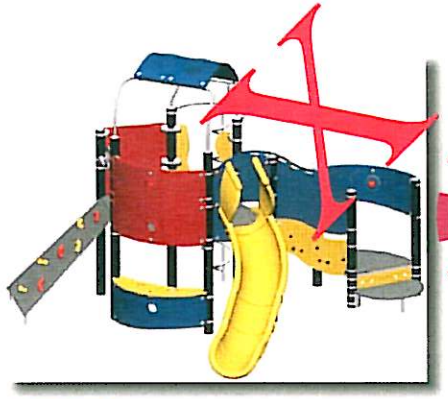


Option A

Play Events Include:

Straight Slide
Binoculars
Play Counter
Megaphone
Modular Slide
Boarding Net
Sand Bowl with Spout
Sand Transporter
Sand Wheel



Option B

Play Events Include:

Play Counter
Rock Climb
Modular Slide
Play Switcher
Curly Climber

Option C

YES!

Play Events Include:

Climb Thru
Bench
Climbing Wall
Rock Wall
Steering Wheel
Notched Play Panel
Curly Climber
Play Switcher
Modular Slide

Toddler Play Options (ages 2-5)

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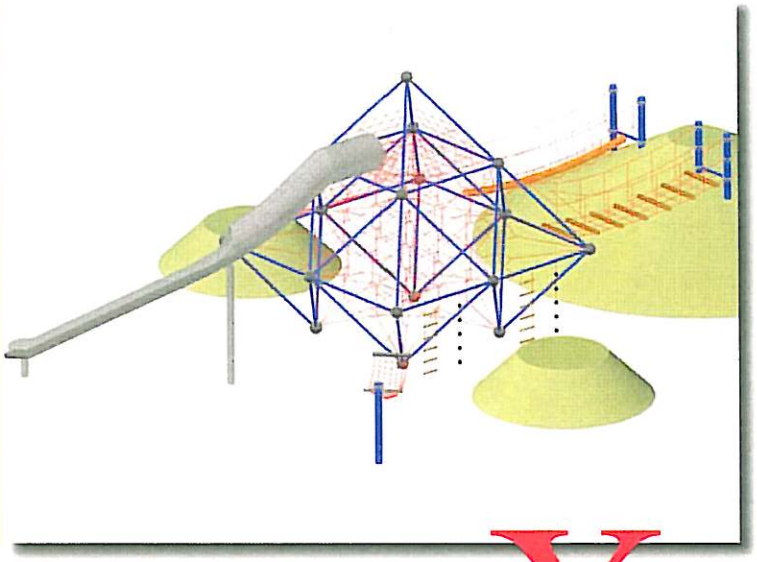
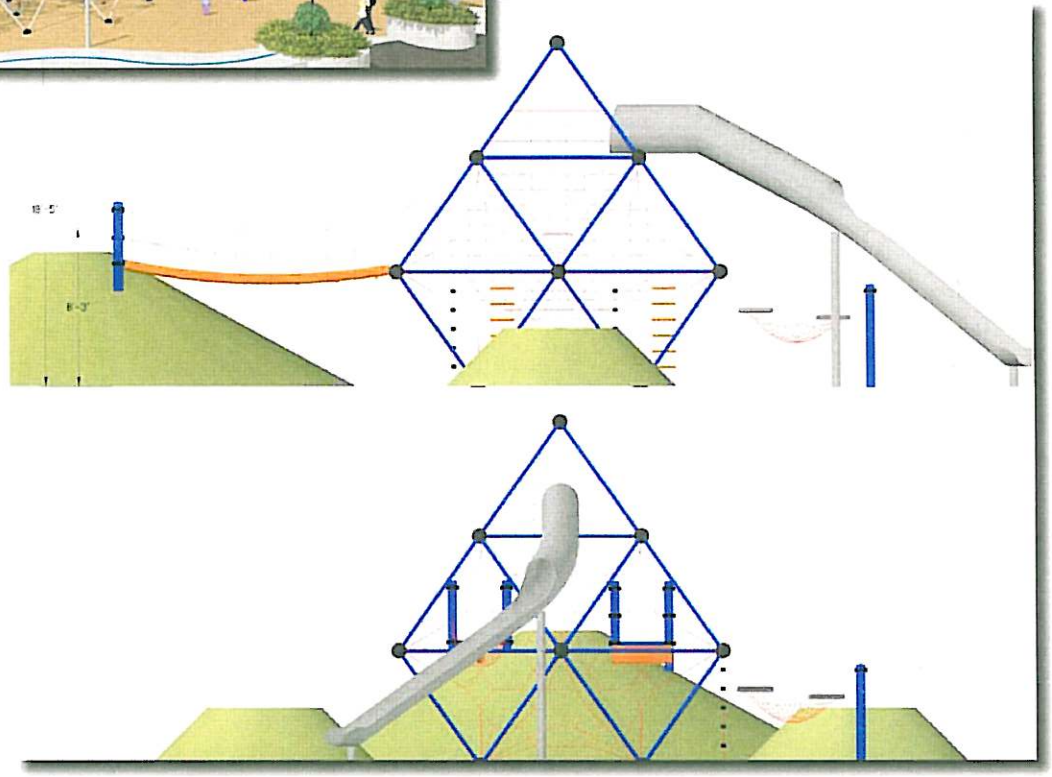
Option 1

- High thrill value with large slide connecting off climbing structure
- Challenge to reach slide and may be intimidating for all children
- Climbing structure connects to adjacent landforms via bridges, ropes and nets
- Hammock swing provided
- Slide is dominate focal point to play area - option to have sides and platform accessing slide
- Slide attached to climbing structure allows for views through play area





Play Option 1 - tube slide

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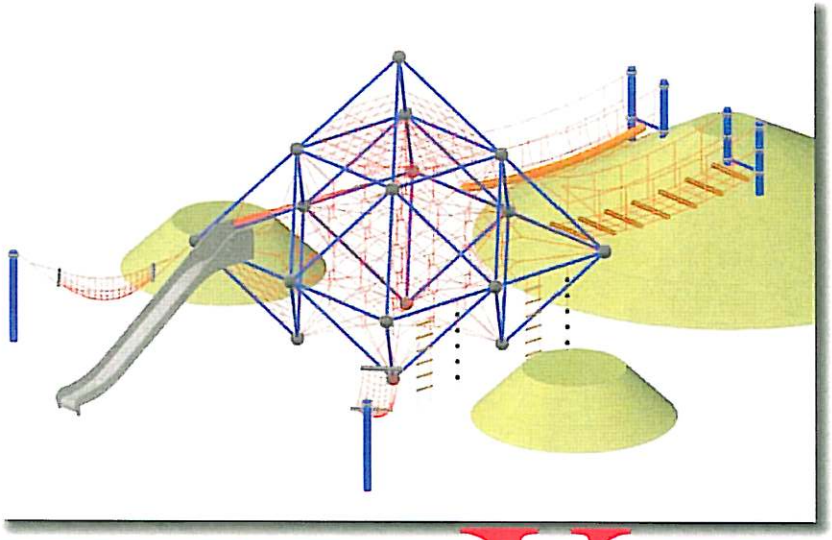
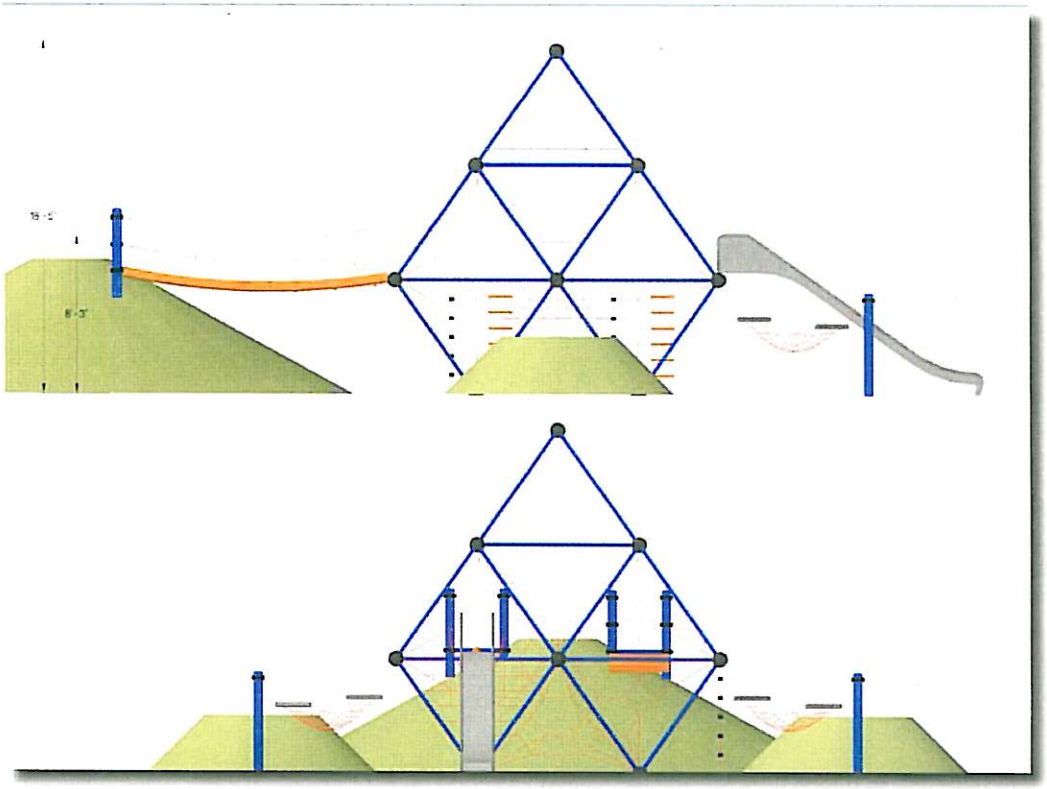
Option 2

- Provides slide at lower level to allow for less intimidating slide option
- Climbing structure connects to adjacent landforms via bridges, ropes and nets
- Two hammock swings provided
- Slide is less dominate focal point to play area
- Slide attached to structure allows for more visability through play area





Play Option 2 - short slide

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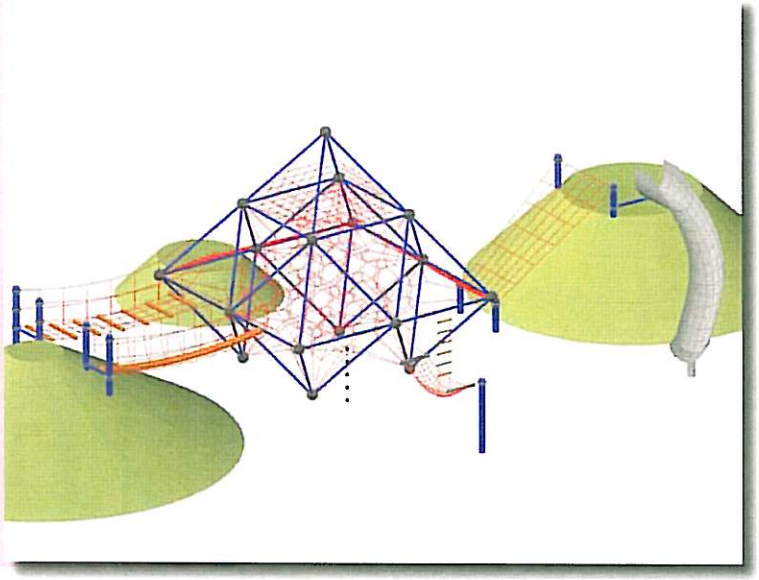
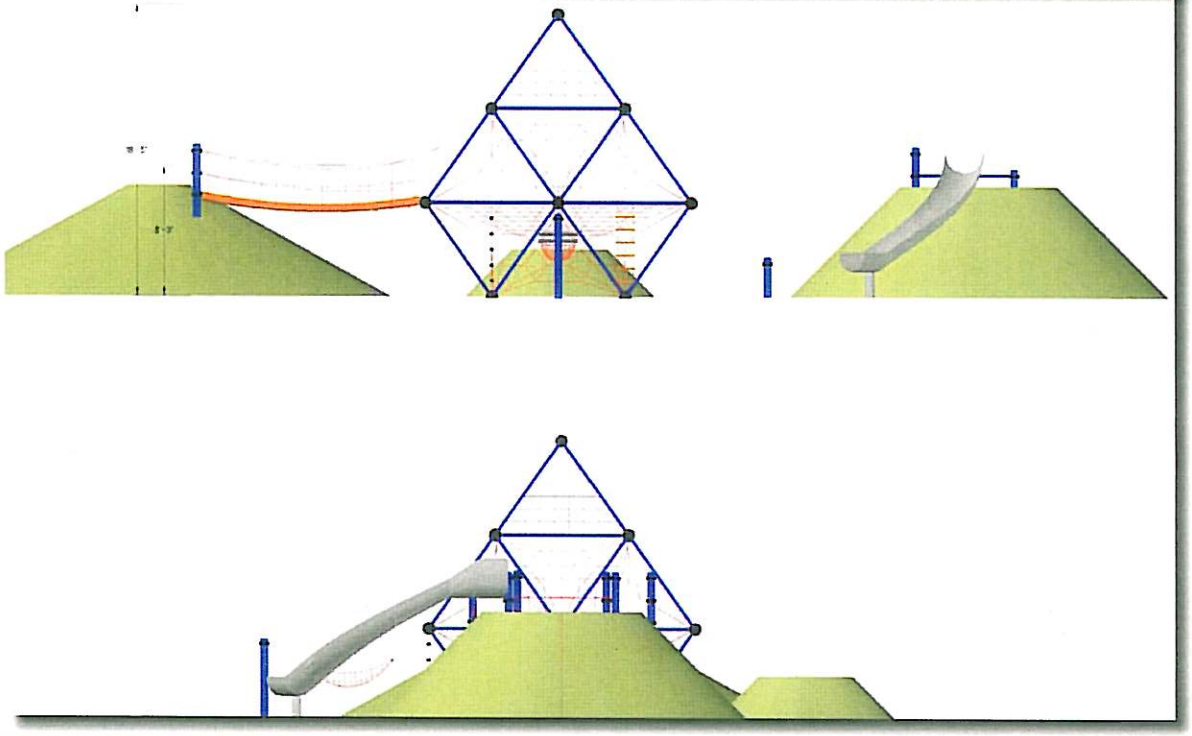
Option 3

- Slide incorporated into landform and more integrated into overall play area
- Landform is 8' high and provides rock scramble to access
- Climbing structure connects to adjacent landforms via bridges, ropes and nets
- Hammock swing provided
- Sliding mound blocks views through play area

YES!





Play Option 3 - embankment slide

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Yes, like black and grey color scheme

Cross Section of Proposed Play Area

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