



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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### Highland Community Center Play Area – Pop-Up Meeting

Pop-up meetings are an alternative way to conduct outreach with the community and to obtain input for the renovation of the play area. The purpose of this type of meeting is to communicate directly with the park users on-site and observe how the play area is being used. The Pop-Up meeting was held on a Wednesday afternoon with the intention of meeting the kids visiting the play area after school. We encountered around 40 kids, 4 teenagers and 10 parents. They provided their preferences through two input boards and one “tie the ribbon” activity. The input and observations of this event have been summarized as followed:

#### Input Board: How would you improve Highland Park Community Center Play Area?

##### Preserve:

- Visibility to Ballfields
- Existing trees
- Bridge in the play area

##### Add:

- Updated equipment with natural and cooperative elements
- Water feature if possible
- More trees and plants (2 times)
- Use of natural structure
- Path that makes a loop for scooter/stroller, etc.
- Resilient surface
- Half basketball court or hoop
- More swings
- Higher Zip-line
- Spongy surface

##### Remove:

- Sand (2 times)

##### Keep in mind:

- High volume play area
- Younger kid play area is unique in the neighborhood/ available even when school is using the park
- Older kids use the park too
- Walking path to school
- A theme would make it visually appealing
- A unique play area will draw more visitors.



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## Input Board: GIVE US IDEAS FOR YOUR FAVORITE PLAY ACTIVITY

We asked the kids to vote for their favorite play activity at a playground and to give us suggestions on how they would like to perform those activities.

**Balancing:** 12 votes

**Sliding:** 11 votes

- Built into a hill
- Higher slide

**Strength:** 10 votes

- Zip-line (2 times)
- Love Monkey bars
- Monkey bars with movable loops are easier than the fixed bars.

**Climbing:** 9 votes

- Free-standing ropes( challenging but not too high)

**Spinning:** 8 votes

- Cooperative play

**Swinging:** 7 votes

- Tire swing
- Cooperative play
- Separate area for swings

**Activity: “Tie the Ribbon on your favorite play element”**

Play Element	# of Ribbons
Zip-line	9
Monkey bar (movable loops)	6
Swings	6
Double slide	4
Chinning bar	3
Belt bridge	3
Plank bridge	2
Spiral climber	1
Ring climber	1
Digger	1
Fireman’s pole	1
Ship Ladder (2-5)	1

**Observations:**

- The Zip-line, plank bridge, and sand were some of the more popular play elements in the play area. Several kids were clustered in a shady area playing with sticks and rocks in the sand
- Kids expressed interest in the upper body strength activities like zip-line, monkey bars, and chin-up bar. They like to talk about their ability to complete these challenging activities.
- A few moms were seated next to the wall close to the swings. This space is shaded and close to the play area.
- Some parents come to the play area by bike with a trailer or with small bikes attached to theirs. Even though parking the bikes around the play area is not currently an issue, it would be good to consider a space designated for bike parking, although not necessarily with bike racks.

**Other activities:**

- Sensory
- Music instruments (3 times)
- Zip line (3 times)
- Treehouse
- Sprinklers
- Treasure hunting
- Trampoline
- Tunnels
- Benches for adults

