

Nottingham Park Neighbors,

The comment period for the second playground concept closed 12/31/2011. Over the last week I've been reviewing all past comments and consulting with Park Staff regarding the ultimate playground design. I appreciate your comments and everyone's participation in this process. Here are the comments that were received:

Comments:

1. "The design is at a stage that seems to meet many of our requests AND accommodates different age groups. Please, please, please bring back the roofs because:

1. It is extremely hot on this playground during the day due to lack of trees near the equipment.

2. Newly planted trees will take years to grow and offer any significant/useful shade to the equipment.

3. As observers, we can always help influence behavior by telling offenders to stop - pointing out the rules.

* I've done this before and the kid actually complied with me!

You said in your last email - the roofs offer "...a valuable shade aspect of the equipment...The more shade that we have the better."

I hope we can go with this design recommendation to keep the roofs...it will be especially accommodating for family's of little kids that use this park smack in the middle of the day. Thank you for all your hard work on this." Denise Ruhoff

2. "I think this looks fabulous! Thank you for your time and effort in this! Can't wait for it to be built!" Melody Studer

3. "This looks like a fun park and my 5 year old grandson thinks so too! We love the spinner cups (2 would even be better) and the new slides and climber! Getting rid of the Monorail is smart. As far as the roofs ... having them really does help the kids when it's hot. I'm sure us adults can deal with the older kids who climb on them!! Thanks!" Jacq

4. "Thank you for all your work on this. I would like to support Denis Ruhoff's request to add back at least one of the removed roofs. I strongly support his recommendation since these are crucial as a barrier against the sun and heat which this playground receives a lot of. If everyone is opposed to both roofs being used, then maybe just one could be put back in the design to help with the sun? Thank you for listening and I look forward to the completed design and the next phase." Amanda Stewart

5. "I know that I am writing after the deadline on Saturday but hope that you will still consider my comments. I like the addition of the spinami, the teacup,

and the musical panels, thank you. I don't like the shrinking of the 108" platform. The whole goal in the previous park design was to provide elements for the older children because this is an older neighborhood and the majority of the kids are older. Yes, there are younger children who visit, but they visit. And they will grow and there is stuff for them. When you shrink the tall platform you remove an element of adventure and risk the older group needs. I know there is a great concern of the kids jumping, most of the jumping was done from the roof over the triple slide to the cabana. If this can't be done can we put in one of the slides from the 'Activo' line in the Playworld catalogue? the ones without sides? This will add an element of challenge for the older group which isn't present in any of the equipment in the current design aside from the spinning stuff.

I would also avoid using the 360degree slide if the fall zone will fit for the previous spiral slide. the curve is too tight for most people.

Thank you for your work." Janet Young

Staff Recommendations

The playground design is based on the following factors: site restraints, funding, public comments, staff comments, maintenance, health/safety and applicable laws. The original playground equipment dictated the pod shape. This in turn dictated the size of the equipment and what we could actually do on site. I can not stress this fact enough, small changes to one item effect what happens to other items because the pod shape was designed for specific equipment. The insurance funding for replacing the playground allowed us to make minor changes while keeping the same play values, but not significantly improving aspects of the playground. An example of this would be to change the bark surfacing to soft tiles, or poured in placed surfacing.

Public comments changed the orientation of slides and their color so that the equipment wasn't as hot. There were also earlier requests for a net wall, or climbing wall. The deck heights and fall zone requirements made this option unfeasible. Later comments asked for improved motion equipment that would be more challenging and useable to older kids. This change made the playground footprint shrink in order to fit the fall zones of the Spinami. On the maintenance side, the number one piece of equipment repaired or replaced because of vandalism is the tube slide. At the first meeting there was also a request for the tube slide to be open so that kids are not hidden. There was also a request for a spiral slide. When the Spinami was added the 108" deck needed to be lowered so that the motion equipment could fit. By lowering the deck a spiral slide was able to be added. When one aspect of equipment is changed it has a direct effect on the other pieces of equipment. This is reflected in the fall zones and the health/safety/law aspect of the design.

I realize that the design won't meet everyone's expectations 100%, but the second concept that was presented to you meets all of the above mentioned design factors. I recommend that the equipment be built as presented to you in the second concept with the exception that all roofs be installed on the equipment. The benefit of having cooler equipment out weighs the potential for another person to use the equipment improperly and to climb onto the roof. The equipment will also look visually balanced with all of the roofs.

This Staff Recommendation has been sent to the Superintendent of Parks and has been approved. The next step will be to order the equipment and put the construction of the playground out to bid. Work will begin by March and will be finished in April. I appreciate the opportunity to work with all of you and I look forward to getting the playground constructed.

Sincerely,
Kelly Burrows
Development Coordinator
Boise Parks and Recreation
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