

West Somerville Schoolyard Design Community Meeting No 1

December 10, 2018

Feedback:

Climbing Structures

- Play Structures appropriate for PreK- 1 and 2-4+ older kids currently are relegated to the blacktop where they basically play dodge ball.
- Parkour-style climbing structure on wall leading up to parking lot.
- Climbing wall
- Integrate the wall via climbing, stadium seating, stepped levels to create “rooms”
- Climbing wall priority/design use of double height concrete wall
- Consider Large Climbing structure like North Street Playground with big slide.
- Climbing wall on existing retaining wall
- A rock wall
- Something you can climb on
- Mini parkour bars and setup

Greenery

- More trees, previous surface.
- Trees
- Rocks and logs
- Love woodchips

Parking

- Remove some parking – amount of parking is egregious compared to schoolyard.
- Move to parking lot

Flexibility for Others

- Be able to accommodate practices for youth sports like softball, soccer, etc.
- Outdoor classroom

Weather Considerations

- Please consult DPW- Snow Removal
- Consider snow removal

Age Considerations

- Important to focus on 5-14 year olds.
- Needs- other neighborhood playgrounds have equipment for under 5 year olds.
- Play area for younger kids
- New play structure- possibly different age ranges?
- Expansive play structure for 5-12 age range.

Seating

- Possible gathering/seating area (for community and older kids?)_
- Benches to sit and eat outside
- Amphitheater seating on slope
- Tables
- Benches to sit
- Benches additional places for parents and community members to congregate/talk to each other.

Swings:

- Swings
- A swing set.
- Swings

Slides:

- A big slide
- A big slide
- At least two slides
- Slide for upper lot to Basketball court, lower yard.

Basketball

- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Half-court basketball
- At least ½ Courts basketball again (North Street Design is good)

Other.....

- Big Playing space
- Sand walls
- More balls
- Pavilion
- A fire pole
- A “rubbery thing on school yard”
- Pull-up bars that teachers and adults can use
- Bars for gymnastics practice- the kind you hang from and hoist yourself onto with arms.

No Dumpster

- No Dumpster in the playing spot
- Dumpster moved/hidden
- Remove dumpster- kids come first not ease of access to a dumpster.
- Remove dumpster

Artificial turf field

- Have a surface soft enough for ball sports like soccer
- Turf?
- Lined soccer area? (Surface)
- Space for kickball or other games kids play
- A playing field for soccer and other run around sports. I don't have strong preference of turf versus natural. I prefer the latter but would support the most cost effective long term solution.
- Soft soccer place

No pavement

- No pavement

Safety

- No metal burns for slides and too cold
- No metal on climbing structure because burn
- Need safe walking path to access Raymond Ave (It's not really safe with ball play on that end of blacktop).
- Major pedestrian safety issue on Raymond- Speedbump & Crosswalk
- Appropriate fence/entrance height for bounding balls

Logistics:

- Partnership with Brown application to minimum \$- same landscape architect.
- RFP-Spring 19, Design 1 year.

Tot Lot Issues:

- Tot-lot currently suffering from wind tunnel effect.
- Expand tot lot (too cramped and location not ideal in the midst of pathway to street)

Technical:

- Good grading and drainage so no puddles in basketball area
- Connectivity between upper parking area and lower play area
- Extend the total lot area to sidewalk cantilever with a desk so kids can lookout over powerhouse Blvd.
- Connecting upper level with park/cove area on right side of school building with front of school.
- Alleyway – use it for something constructive
- The canopies to provide shade.
- No meter
- Lights designed for the space without too much light/bleed noise
- Design with moving line up in mind

No wood chips, no sand

Please expedite. West Somerville is so underserved and we feel forgotten.

A rubber waste mat in the ground

Include art/murals

Extended playground forward to powder house Blvd. absorbed wasted grass area.

Remove curbs