

HVL Playground Project

Vision: HVL children, and those of our visitors and guests, playing on new, safe, equipment in all four of our playgrounds.

Goal: Replacement of all current wooden playsets with non-toxic, weather resistant equipment in compliance with latest safety guidelines, thereby maximizing play value, minimizing maintenance and providing improved amenities for the community.

Premise:

- HVL's wooden play equipment is aged, deteriorating and has safety issues. In some areas (beach and ball fields), play value for the amount of space occupied could be improved. Replacement of all four playgrounds – ball fields, beach, pool (inside and outside fence) and Paradise Lake (Matterhorn Drive) – is recommended. Photos are available documenting existing problems.
- New, non-toxic materials requiring less maintenance than wood should be used - steel, aluminum, plastic. All supports should be set in concrete, and the latest safety guidelines (appendix A) should be followed.
- First priority for replacement is the ball field playground since it is used more months of the year by more children and is in the worst shape. Second is the beach, third the pool and fourth Paradise Lake. (The latter two playgrounds are smaller, less-heavily used and generally in better shape.)

Proposed plan of action:

1. Plan the play areas:

- Research (visit other local playgrounds for ideas; internet search/manufacturers' catalogs)
- Site selection (specify dimensions of playground areas; safety guidelines proscribe distances between and around elements)
- Capacity, how many children will be using the playset at one time (Angie estimates current usage at 20-35 at the beach, 10-12 at the pool)
- Age group (playsets are usually separated by ages 2-5 and 5-12 yrs.; swingsets are separate structures)
- Time frame (propose to have design and cost estimates by fall budget-planning meeting)
- Approx. budget (initial estimates* approx. \$59,000 to \$78,000 total: Ball fields = \$23-30,000; beach = \$20-25,000; pool = \$10-15,000; Paradise Lake = \$6-8,000)
- Funding - need to be 501c3 to apply for grants; investigate fund-raising, POA-funding, lease-to-own, corporate sponsor-ship, resident donations.

*Cost estimates from Angie's preliminary report

2. Design the play areas:

- Contact playground equipment companies (appendix C); invite reps to come for free site-inspection and consultation in designing ideal playgrounds for HVL.
- Layout/design (decide preferences on play elements and surfaces; involve kids in process)
- Research play surface/containment system (appendix B): sand, engineered wood mulch, rubber mats, etc.
- Decide on colors
- Consider extra features (bench swings, free-standing climbers, shade covers, etc.)
- Prepare timeline for installation

3. Execute the plan:

- Site preparation (all locations appear to be level and have ample space; no extensive site-prep anticipated.)
- Shipping/storage of equipment and play surface
- Installation (compare options - assembly by HVL Maintenance Team, equipment company installers, independent contractors, community volunteers? Need to purchase/rent tools and equipment?)
- Location of underground utilities in play areas
- Fencing
- Signage (designating appropriate age group, safety rules)
- Landscaping
- Disposal of existing equipment (can some components be sold?)
- Warranty/availability of replacement parts
- Develop on-going maintenance plan

