

Rich's Playground Upgrade



What We Heard Report



May 2021

Rich's Playground Upgrade What We Heard Report

Thank you for participating in the Rich's Playground Upgrade survey from April 14-28; your feedback is important to us!

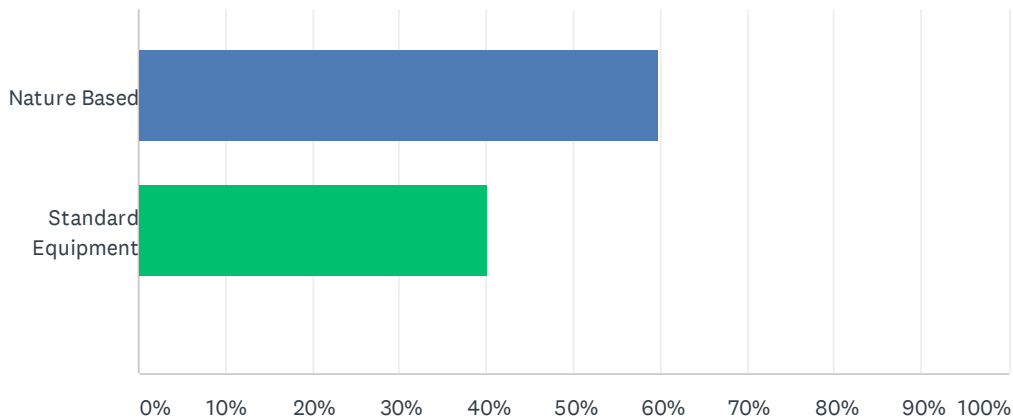
This report contains the survey results summary and responses. The results of the survey have indicated support for having nature based elements added to the existing standard play equipment as part of the upgrade.

With this direction confirmed, the Town now has the Request for Proposal for playground elements out for tender. We will be using input from a citizen panel to help evaluate submissions for Rich's Playground. Then, the design, including specific playground elements and components being considered, will be brought back to the public for input. As a result of the feedback, we will be considering providing additional seating options.

The entire playground surfacing will also be replaced with this project. The surfacing being considered is approved wood chip material, which is a more accessible surface than gravel and will help us work toward making the playground as inclusive as possible. Given the frequency of flooding in the area, rubber surfacing is not being considered.

Q1 What would you like to see as the predominant style of the new equipment? Standard Play Equipment - pieces of equipment similar to what is existing on-site; wide selection of colours & products with a great diversity & variety of play equipment. Nature Based - materials that have a natural theme & are predominantly made of natural materials such as wood or stone, or manufactured to resemble natural elements. Select your preference below.

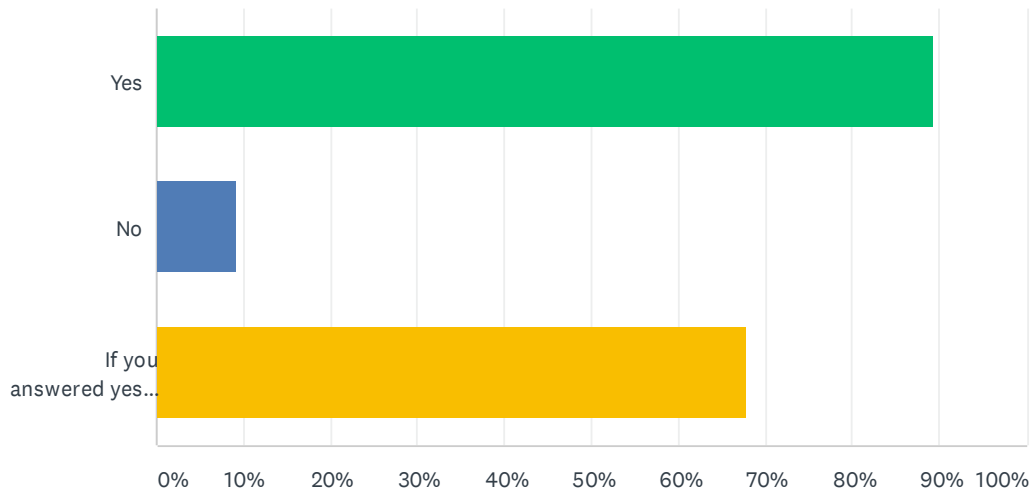
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Nature Based	59.92% 151
Standard Equipment	40.08% 101
Total Respondents: 252	

Q2 Would like to see additional elements such as benches and picnic tables?

Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	89.29%	225
No	9.13%	23
If you answered yes, please provide details on what you would like to see added.	67.86%	171
Total Respondents: 252		

Q3 What did we miss? Please let us know if you have additional feedback for us regarding this playground upgrade.

Answered: 133 Skipped: 119

Submission Evaluation Team

The Town is seeking 3-5 volunteers to be part a citizen panel made up of park users of varying ages and abilities. that will evaluate submissions the Town receives for the playground work. If you are interested in being part of the selection team, please click the link below to sign up.

[Sign Up Form](#)

The Town will notify you if you are selected.

Rich's Playground Survey Responses (Q 2 & 3)

Q 2. Would you like to see additional elements such as benches and picnic tables?
Benches
Both benches and tables
I'm not sure if it's possible but little fire grills would be a fun addition
Benches and picnic tables in the sun and maybe by the river
Picnic tables, fire pits
More benches and picnic tables
Rubber flooring! A toddler sized slide
Picnic tables, more benches.
A few surrounding the playground but not too many benches and picnic tables. This is a great playground where the kids spend a lot of time playing before getting bored and parents can visit
A few benches along the green rail that separates the playground from the parking lot would be a welcome addition.
Benches and picnic tables
Picnic/seating area
More benches for parents to observe their children playing would be beneficial. An extra picnic table or two would also be nice for families with young children to host B-day parties/family get togethers and want to stay close to the playground.
I don't think more picnic benches are needed but I don't remember the regular bench situation. It's always helpful to have benches for parents/guardians to sit.
More benches closer to the play structure
picnic tables, benches or seating for adults
Both benches and picnic tables...covered ones would also be great
Picnic tables
Benches
More benches and adult sized picknick tables
fire pits benches picnic tables
Picnic tables and park benches.
More picnic tables are needed for a park this size. Larger and smaller ones to accommodate large and small families alike
Picnic tables please
A shaded and covered eating area for families to reserve with the town for small gatherings e.g. birthdays or simply in case of rain.
A few benches to grandparents to sit at. Also picnic tables are also a must.
This park is a destination so additional seating and picnic tables is welcomed. Many people will pick up lunch or a snack and come here to enjoy it
More picnic tables please! Not some many of the little short ones for kids. Too hard for adults to sit at those.
I would love to see natural flat surfaces, not metal or plastic. Rocks, stumps etc. Natural picnic table might even be cheaper.
Picnic tables
picnic tables and benches. More picnic tables in shaded areas
Additional areas for caregivers to sit nearby, or for other activities to occur such as games or for kids to be able to play outside in other ways not directly related to the equipment.
Places for parents to visit and supervise
Places for parents/grandparents to have a seat is important!
Both. Parents and caregivers need a place to sit and enjoy
A few benches located in the shade would be very nice so the adults can keep an eye on the kids while keeping out of the sun.
Picnic tables are important here especially because of the location and benches for the parents/grandparents to sit and watch the kids play.
I spend a lot of time there, but I think there's only a need for a few more benches on the side closest to the basketball court. It's pretty great as is for seating.
Both!
Both benches and picnic tables
Benches and picnic tables. Pick if tables with umbrellas for rain and run would be ideal (Ive seen them at other playgrounds, they can be a metal umbrella/cover coloured different colours or some look like tree canopies.)
Benches and maybe a few tables
Picnic tables for family outings. And benches for caregivers to watch the children
Fun nature based benches would be great
picnic tables

Tables benches
Comfortable wooden benches and picnic tables that are sized for adults.
Benches only
Bench's, tables and cook shacks
Benches and tables
Just places to sit - but nothing cutsey, just simple seating where rain water will run off
Both benches and a small group area
Picnic tables would be nice !
More benches
Why not
Picnic tables in more random places for more privacy
Picnic tables
Benches
Benches & picnic tables would be great.
Picnic areas and benches
Benches Picnic tables with shade cover
Picnic tables with bbq stands, benches around the whole perimeter.
Both, as it would be nice to have the option to have picnics to make a longer day of it. Benches for shorter stay times
Shade and a place for parents and kids to rest and snack please
I think that we need areas where families can spend time in the open air together so picnic benches, seating and washroom facilities should be a must. Possibly some barbeque pits or stands would be a great addition also .
Benches & picnic tables
covered tables, benches for large group not kid sized, resurface basketball court, better washrooms, zip line
It is a family gathering area and it would be nice for families to have seating options, tables and benches are great ideas.
Places for parents to sit
Spaced out benches.
Cement round tables and benches so cannot be removed. Also lower maintenance. Benches for parents/guardians.
fire pits for small fires and cooking, an area adjacent to the river where a sandy beach could be created. A retaining wall would be needed to contain the sand. Likely needing an annual top up. A bargain considering the fun kids would have "at the beach".
fenced in play area with benches. outside the fenced area some picnic tables / fire area's similar to the play ground across from the dogs stadium
benches and picnic tables must be of material that can withstand weather/water.
Picnic area
More regular picnic tables and benches.
Accessible places for all abilities to gather.
More picnic tables
Tables and a shelter
Picnic tables
Benches Inclusive play structure items
Both benches and picnic tables
Several picnic tables child sized. It's very popular picnic spot
Would be nice to see more picnic tables and maybe firepits. A buddy bench would be a great addition
We love to come for lunch. It's great to have the child height tables!
Picnic tables, the circle/ hexagonal shaped ones.
Benches Tables
Heck yes! Benches and tables would be awesome! We need places where we can be TOGETHER. Community is everything and we have been forced to be apart for so long. I want to see families out having picnics and people young and old watching the river and colors of the season on benches. I want memorial plaques so we can read them and appreciate how lucky we are to be in such a magnificent place. So add anything you can to create community spaces. I can't wait!
Benches and/or stumps for sitting. Picnic tables for small family breaks.
Benches and a couple of tables
more picnic tables to be able to sit and enjoy a snack while my kids play

Picnic tables and benches
More benches to sit and watch kids.
Covered picnic tables
More benches and a few picnic tables.
Benches
Gazebos for large parties
Benches to watch the kids and tables to have a snack
Picnic tables would be great. That's what we love about that park already.
Umbrellas for the picnic tables
A cluster of tables off to one side, with a few benches closer to the park itself, sounds like a solid option.
Little fire pits would also be nice to go with the picnic tables
There are a few picnic tables and benches nearby but a few more would be nice.
Benches and tables
Picnic tables
Picnic tables with barbecues
Diverse seating options would be great. Seniors and people with disabilities find typical picnic tables hard to get into in. It would be nice to have a covered area as well . With Covid, outside seating have become so important and busy in our community.
benches and tables would be great, as long as they add to the natural trees and don't remove them.
Places for adults to sit
Picnic tables and bench seating, maybe even more covered areas.
Picnic tables, benches,
A few more places for parents to sit around the edge of the playground would b3 nice.
Picnic tables. Fire pit. Water fountain!
Seperate tables with overhead shade for each
Have some picnic tables under shade shelters for hot days and some in the sun for cooler spring and fall days
Both benches and picnic tables! Tree stumps also to sit on besides the play ones.
More child height picnic tables
Picnic tables for eating, and sitting.
Picnic benches with shade.
Benches
More picnic tables
There are plenty of picnic tables and benches.
Spaced out, some smaller tables in the mix of the big tables
Benches
Benches, picnic tables, would also love a structure for shade and fire pits/wood grills like in blue park (cimarron)
Picnic tables
Firepits
Both
Tables, benches and fire pits.
Benches for parents to sit on and tables for picnics
More benches and picnic benches for lunches with friends and family once covid is the over
Picnic tables and bbqs
Both.
Picnic tables
Seating for parents and places for sitting and eating snacks and picnics
Bbq, fire pit, picnic tables
Closer picnic tables. More benches. If it's possible for it to be gated off, that would be good too.
The ones there are well used but more would be great. Maybe something that would give watching adults a bit of exercise/ balancing while they watch the kids? I think the existing playground structures have some more life left in them- why the need to replace? Add in a few natural elements and call it done.

Fire pits/cookers and picnic tables
Large picnic area with benches that provide shade
Benches, teator otters, picnic table
Picnic, benches, firepits would be amazing!
Please consider adding a ramp instead of stair onto the new structure to include all children, especially those with mobility issues.
- Shaded seating - A paved path through the playground from the parking lot to the bike path - need more swings - a water tap for filling water bottles - ropes course within the natural structure (need things to hang off of) - more picnic tables - sandbox area - keep the spinners, slides, and glider - add zip line - grassy hills - stumps to sit on in groups Check out the Ralph Klein park area for a starting point
So nice to have a picnic area, and smaller sized tables for the little ones
Both benches and picnic tables
Bike rack
Picnic tables with some shade (maybe under trees) please
A couple picnic tables and maybe a concrete wall to sit on or lean against as an adult.
Picnic tables
A covered picnic area and some benches would be great
Need places for families to sit and eat at or mom/dad groups to be able to meet and have somewhere to relax while kids play
Picnic tables like the ones at riverside park
Shaded areas to eat packed lunches during the hot summer days would be wonderful
Keep benches, picnic tables, washrooms, add in full basketball court
Benches and picnic tables. Is it possible to have little fire pits for cooking food?
A bench or two please. Nowhere currently for parents to sit
Yes
Picnic tables but for little kids too. It's nice to be able to reach a seat when you're little
Yes
Both picnic tables and benches are nice to see. Especially in this area so close to the trails and water. Quick bite to eat and then back to playing.
Benches for adults to supervise
Yes
Kids benches, picnic tables, fun style lamps/lighting, small sand box.
More room for parents to sit and watch kids
Kids benches, picnic tables, lights, sand box
No
Picnic tables are a great addition as many people use them in spring and summer while going for picnics etc and having more would be a good addition.
Yes
No
Yes
Benches picnic table
Yes
Yes
Yes
Benches
Yes
Benches & picnic tables.
More picnic tables
Yes
Benches and picnic tables
Yes
Yes
No
The current children picnic tables are great

Q. 3 What did we miss? Please let us know if you have additional feedback for us regarding this playground upgrade.

Change the gravel to the rubber
The reason I voted for standard equipment is that the area surrounding the river has a lot of natural elements that kids can already play on. I feel it would be redundant
Equipment suitable for older kids. Elements that could be used or spaced for parkour.
Rubber flooring ! A toddler sized slide
More equipment for older children (7-13). Most playgrounds in Okotoks only cater to toddlers
According to our 6 year old, a slide, swings and monkey bars are most important.
Remove the gravel to increase accessibility for all. Even nature based items can be created in an accessible fashion and if not, there can be a combination of accessible and nature based equipment.
Make not that it must also be handicap accessible and understanding that this is a park that is used also by the campsite. Make it bigger with room for the kids to run and please don't fence it in.
A new glider - for older kids!! Saucer swings. Climbing wall. Don't forget inclusive swings, etc for our special needs kiddos!
Accessibility for EVERYBODY is essential (including those with disabilities). Also a large enough structure that residents and campers can enjoy it without it feeling crowded.
This is a popular playground and I'd like to see equipment that can be enjoyed by all ages starting from when a child can walk. Many playgrounds are not very suitable for very little children which can be difficult, especially if you have a young toddler and older children too.
Stuff for special needs kids the one park is always way ti busy
Small children elements
Something geared towards bigger kids as well
Another water park
Leave lots of the old stuff the kids love it
Inclusion is a large part of Okotoks and the surrounding communities. There needs to be structures and play for all ages as well as all developmental stages and or developmental struggles. My daughter has Down Syndrome and I would love if there was more for her to do at these parks. Key word is inclusion
A sensory wall for children with special needs e.g. https://www.coastrecreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NM-Marie-HughesElementary-24-700x270.jpg Could be made with natural elements or not.
This is a farming area. It might be fun to have some farm-type equipment for children to play on. I am happy to hear that you will be getting rid of the gravel. I spend half my time at the park taking rocks out of my grandchildren's shoes and my shoes/sandals.
There is a busy parking lot and driving area nearby - put up some additional measures to keep kids out of traffic.
Add more interactive elements, check out this musical park in Mississippi. https://www.facebook.com/leontynepricemusicalpark/
Make playgrounds more accessible for kids in wheel chairs, or accessible for little walkers. Get rid of the gravel. Make sure playground equipment is also accessible for ages 1 to 3. And also add dome fun challenging equipment for kids aged 8+
Accessibility is important and cannot be truly achieved with natural materials, in my opinion. Truly accessibly play equipment such as slides with transfer stations or tandem swings, or wheelchair accessible merry-go-rounds. I think the Town would do well to be ahead of the curve and develop this park with true accessibility on mind, for consideration and inclusion of all families. Thank you for considering my comments.
Nothing
Love the nature theme as long as elements are still able to be inclusive in design. A combo of little kid and big kid pieces. And we would love to see a "ninja warrior"/agility park area in Okotoks...even if this project may not be the right fit.
More shade structures over picnic tables.
Thank you for considering accessibility and inclusion in the new design.
Why not a blend of natural and standard play equipment?
I would say both natural and regular play elements would be welcomed. The swings are a must have at this location. I also LOVE the idea of the logs that kids can climb on. My kids love that stuff. The other thing I'd note is there's a bit of a gap in terms of age-specific stuff at this playground. One bit is for teeny tiny kids and the rest, for the most part, seems to be 6ish+ (swings excluded). It would be nice if there were some features that covered the preschooler age better. I love it though. Thanks for giving it a tune up
Nothing to add
A mix of natural and metal would be neat. Another playground inspiration is the big new playground in Belmont, Calgary. So many parents are purposefully driving their kids to that playground because it is so unique and diverse for kids of all ages, That playground always has kids on it from sunrise to sunset guaranteed. Another idea is a side workout playground for older kids and adults so everyone of all ages can benefit and enjoy the park, get exercise and have fun.
A natural structure would ideally be my first choice but I worry about how natural structures would be made inclusive. If it is possible to have some natural and some standard equipment that would be a compromise.
Playground with the recycled rubber chips would be awesome.
Sensory play additions?
Water play & shade!
No
How are you going to keep deer feces out of the wood chips where the children will be playing? Needs to be considered.
Nothing

Busy area, so lots of different play structures
Sun shade area?
A mix of toddler and 5-12 playground activities are good similar to the Belmont playground in calgary
What a wast of taskpayer dough. But...as usual this Council is nuts.
N/a
N/A
As a parent with 5 kids, over the years this was the least used park specifically because of the hot equipment, and gravel. Although a rubber mat is not being considered, there must be something better than wood chips...
The key to putting in a natural structure for play is to maybe ensure it would not wash away should the area flood again. It seems a complete wash of money with the continued cleanup and repair every time it flooded and in these trying times we certainly don't need to have a constant money pit eating into an already high tax base.
Ensuring equipment not only for toddlers but also for kids 12 and over. My daughters loved the old Dr Morris Gibson playground til they were 17 as it was bigger and higher for older kids. They are still wanting to be kids at that age!
Water play for summer is always great. The river can be risky for younger children so a water area would be a great addition to the natural play structures
Playgrounds should have a wide variety of activities for all ages, lets not forget our early teens as well, where can they go to hang out? what would be things they might like to see? if we give them somewhere they can hang out and have fun you never know maybe they will come out their rooms and go there!
Diversity of structural equipment so children of a wide age and ability range can participate and enjoy the experience.
Nothing
We think it's currently a lovely park.
Water element for kids to enjoy on a hot day
Could and should be a focal point for family summer fun. Get service clubs involved, as well as construction businesses(rocks, concrete, and sand)
a river theme to the play structures would be awesome. for example a slide that looks like a waterfall, some 'stepping stones' crossing a pretend river, or a zip line across a pretend river etc.
Nothing
A tap or a fountain that allows children to wash hands and feet after play. Or to just fill up water bottles.
Things to climb on as well as a natural slide would be awesome!
Mixed equipment standard and natural would be nice
Please make it like Ralph Klein park in Calgary
Can there be a combination of nature based and standard equipment? Does it need to be 1 or the other?
Great to have nature based with a combination so there are still swings and slides but more natural climbing elements.
SERIOUSLY... Turf. perhaps you could use recycled rubber for the turf areas?
Out house would be great
I love the nature park in D'Arcy ranch. Simple, old fashioned fun. My kids love it and it's unique and just as fun plus beautiful esthetically. Please consider lots of garbage and recycling locations so people are inclined to the the right thing with their garbage :)
Make a mini Okotoks Erratic as the climbing rock
Shade covering or partial shade covering for areas that get hot that are in direct sun
Shade!!! Equipment that is assessable by all Rubber flooring / no gravel!!! Swings. Please swings.
More swings
Zip lines are popular
A zip line is always a crowd favorite!
More swings
More swings would be great and less monkey bars. It would be great to have a greater variety of play equipment.
Make it accessible for the younger children too
It would be great if the playground was able to cater to all ages.
Glider swing for mom and baby
Make the play ground accessible by all
Love that you are asking for public input on this upgrade! Thank you for all you do!
None
include Bike/scooter racks; wondering also if you can include some natural elements in a traditional playground; its such a beautiful spot, so it is important to try to make it accessible, useful and fun for all ages and abilities
I prefer rocks over mulch. Mulch attracts wasps and those allergic to the pine/spruce/cedar trees are often allergic to the mulch.
The kids like the slides and climbing the ladders. They also like the swing chair. They call it a rocket ship. It's nice that the park is in nature and near the river too. Love it!
Treehouses! More then one.

N/A
A combination of nature based and traditional would be nice! The current equipment still works great - maybe adding some additional nature based play could be fun for adults and kids!
More swings
Ralph Klien Park has a nature based park that is fantastic if you want to look at going that way. The zip line is a huge hit with all kids. That would be my vote for any addition.
Don't really understand why it needs replacing... it seems like it's still in excellent condition and my kids still love it. Would like to see a return of the 3 sided bouncy totter thing that was removed recently. That was my kids favorite.
Recycled tires instead of rocks for the ground!
A separate play structure with a slide geared towards smaller kids that are 5 and under!
Honestly, I don't think renos should be done to this park, and instead, upgrade or expand other parks. Rich's park is great as is but others in town are in need of expansion or variety. If you continue with the remodel, I love the style of park that they have at the Calgary Zoo
Maybe a zip line
How about the equipment itself being accessible for wheelchair, etc.? Not just the woodchip ground.
A cohesive mash up of Nature Based with some standard features would be great. I think standard offers more inclusion but the nature based is more thought provoking.
Playground is still in good condition- not sure if it really requires an update at this time. Where would that equipment go?
Even if it's nature based slides are essential! Don't forget a couple slides
The spinny park features are the worst. Large swings that go high would be nice.
The playground is still in good shape. Some firepits with adult sized tables or benches would be great.
Making playground more accessible. Ramps, accessible equipment and surfaces
Additional swings would be great. Because the river is so close, I would love to see the playground area fenced in similar the the park across from the Dawgs stadium.
Solid surface, like recycled rubber (no rocks, wood chips etc)for playing so it's inclusive for all children to access and use.
A nature based playground by the river would be awesome
Fun things for toddlers
Please don't do gravel for the ground. Make it similar to the park by the seaman stadium, soft. Thanks
In keeping with sustainability, prolong the life of the existing structures there.
I am a resident of Sheep River Cove. We have the most embarrassing kids play park in the entire town. How do we acquire the old equipment and have it installed in our common play area in Sheep River Cove?
Something that is good for little ones too (toddlers and up)
A mixture of toddler and big kid climbing stuff would be cool.
Please consider children of all abilities in your new design to create an accessible and inclusive playground. Thank you.
Is it possible to use the soft rubber type pavement rather than gravel?
Lights to play a little longer in the fall. Lights in the bathrooms. Lower basketball net for youngers. Natural materials to move around and use as part of imaginative play.
Excited for a new play ground!
I don't see why it needs changing
Can you please put in those swings where the adult and child swing together like at the park across Seaman Stadium
Make it a park for all ages this park is well used in town something like the park near dawgs stadium would be great in this location
Glad something new is being thought about and in place!
Remove the rocks please
Due to the heavy volume of traffic, an enclosure of the playground would help ease a lot of stress of kids running to the parking lot
I would like to see ways for a one year old to get on play structures. (Ramp or small stairs) Big climbing nets are big hit with my 4 year old. (Like at meadow ridge school park)
Please consider a fence around the playground, as it has a busy parking lot and bike path surrounding it
Love the initiative. Hope to see open-ended play and risk incorporated. Also would recommend a water fountain for kids near the playground.
Kids love the free fall of a slide and a swinging dish allows big siblings to swing with littles at the same time. My children loved to include each other in both of these activities Structures that are unmoving tend to become boring. Movement, swings, slides, etc. help develop the brain, gross motor skills and core stability.
Like the idea of the people getting to have a say in what is developed here.
Friendly for all ages
Using recycled materials
Nothing
Sanitizing stations at the park
A variety of nature based activities/structures.
Wood chip material will increase risk of splinters in hands, legs and possible eyes. I also feel it will attract more insects causing more bites

