



## **Seattle Parks & Recreation**

### **Survey and Open House Feedback**

Of the three play equipment options, Woodland Explorer was the preferred proposal with over 50% of participants selecting this option. Participants also noted a preference for the variety of swings in Forest Lookout and the age 2-5 equipment in Trail Top Trail. The quality and uniqueness of the age 5-12 equipment was noted as a high priority. As the design develops, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) will balance keeping the variety of activities and play value in the preferred equipment option while accommodating the desire for swings and a whirl. The configuration of the preferred play equipment, offsets to meet safety standards, and existing size of the play area will factor into the height and number of swing bays we can fit into the project.

Many participants are interested in more seating, preferring more benches over picnic tables. We will look at accommodating these requests as we advance the design. Bike parking has been a common request in all the survey and open house comments to date. SPR and SDOT are studying options for a "bike corral" adjacent to the play area which will fit cargo bikes and trailers. We anticipate that new bike racks will be installed concurrent with the play area renovation. SPR and SDOT are discussing options to improve sightlines and safety at the 19th Ave NW and NW Sloop Pl intersection.

### **Sand Play and Expanded Play Equipment Area**

More than half of respondents preferred increasing the amount play equipment and play events rather than retaining the sand play area. Given this feedback, the preferred concept plan will replace the sand play area with more play equipment for ages 2-5 and a greater variety of play events.

### **Zipline Safety and Cargo Net Platform**

We received a few comments in the survey regarding the existing zipline, cargo net platform and safety. Seattle Parks and Recreation is committed to safety at all our facilities, especially children's play areas. Our play equipment is certified by the International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) and tested for compliance with the American Society for Testing of Materials ASTM F-1487 playground safety standards. The zipline was installed in 2019 and meets all current safety standards.

Ziplines are intended for older children (aged 5-12), whose bodies are more developed. Small children (aged 2-5 years) often lack the coordination and the upper-body strength to use ziplines and other play equipment designed for older children. The Salmon Bay Park zipline's T-seat and cargo net platform are meant to discourage use by younger children and discourage adults from standing on the net to help children who haven't yet developed the coordination for this equipment. Navigating the net gives children a challenge and sense of accomplishment once they are coordinated enough to use the platform and zipline.

The national play area safety guidelines used by SPR recognize that there is inherent risk in all play and sets standards that minimize risk in every reasonably possible way. Beyond the standards, SPR must rely on caregiver supervision to determine if their child is able to handle play elements on larger, more complex equipment, and to ensure that the child uses the play equipment appropriately. This reasoning is how Seattle Parks addresses the issue of providing challenging equipment for older children and keeping neighborhood children safe and engaged while they move from younger childhood into their teen years.

We hope this information helps support safe and engaging play on and around the Salmon Bay Park zipline!