Playground Proposals SY25-26

Maury Playground Working Group

A few members of the Playground Committee met on November 13th after school and did a walkthrough to see the issues and get an idea of feasibility for the improvements suggested. Here are our suggestions for next steps:

1. Create a pea gravel digging pit under the overhang by the windows to Mr. A's classroom. Pea gravel provides sensory play for younger kids without the drawbacks of a sandbox (like attracting burrowing rodents or stray cats using it as a litter box). To contain the gravel, we would need a parent volunteer or handyman to build out some low wooden barriers on either side of the concrete bench. Inspo pic:



*Next steps: solicit a volunteer handyman, measure the space and price out the amount of pea gravel needed. Alternatively, see if a local Boy Scout Troop would be interested in doing it as a service project.

2. Paint visual cues for games like hopscotch, bean bag toss, Twister, or mazes on the annex across the bridge. This is an easy, cheap way to encourage kids to use the space more intentionally with activities that don't require balls that could end up in the rain garden pit. Inspo pics:










*Next steps: Solicit parent volunteers/artists who would like to paint some of these (most likely in the spring?)

3. Replace the current trash cans with bins that have lids that close. This will discourage rats, birds, squirrels, and bees and keep the trash better contained. There are currently 3 trash bins and 3 recycling bins in and right outside the playground. Recycling is not currently happening due to the inability to ensure proper sorting when the playground is open to the public, so we might consider just replacing them with 3 large trash bins. Inspo pic:



*Next steps: Find and price out the cost of replacement bins.

4. Put up vertical netting around the playground annex to stop balls and other equipment from falling into the rain garden pit. This has been a frequent request

from staff. Challenges are that there are multiple types of fencing around that area, and we would need a solution that works with each type of fencing. Inspo pics:




*Next steps: Measure the fencing and price out a workable netting system.

5. Create additional shaded areas for the hot months. Eventually the trees on the playground should be big enough to provide adequate shade, but in the meantime an affordable option could be sun sails. Inspo pics:



*Next steps: Find and price out sun sails that can be attached to the current playground light poles or sheds.