



Meeting Date: 12/20/2023 12:15-1 pm

Location: Montopolis Recreation Center

## Montopolis Playground Improvements

### Staff Questionnaire

#### Attendees:

- Megan Daniel, Alejandro Hernandez-Gonzalez
  - Program Specialist: Create programming for the community to get involved with and oversee the staff who run these programs.
  - Program Coordinator: Facilitates and manages the facility.
  - Temp Staff: Work primarily with the children, they carry out program tasks.
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Which Rec Center programs currently utilize the playground?:

- After school programs?
  - When: Year round, after 4pm; morning in the summer
  - Ages/number: All ages; teens don't use it (use courts)
  - Notes: Pavilion not used
- Day camps?
  - When:
    - (School Holidays) - October 9; November 13, 20, 21, 22; December 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; January 2, 3, 4, 5, 8; March 11-15; March 29 April 10 between 7:30am-6:00pm
  - Ages/number: All ages, teens don't use playground much
  - Notes: Use the rec center, gym, and playground. Max 48-60 kids on playground at once
- Sports? (Soccer, basketball, cheer, boxing)
  - When:
  - Ages/number:



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- Notes: Only use the field, sometimes kids play on play equipment afterwards
- Tiny tots?
  - When: Mondays and Wednesdays 9am-1pm
  - Ages/number: 2-5 year olds
  - Notes: Don't use toddler playground; boring and too close to the road
- Special events?
  - When: Not used specifically, but gets usage after event; national night out hosted at rec center
  - Ages/number: All ages / families
  - Notes: Tables and booths set up
- Gym?
  - When:
  - Ages/number:
  - Notes:
- Rentals?
  - When: Only the field is rentable
  - Ages/number:
  - Notes: People do have birthday parties occasionally

Are there any other programs you would like to see utilize an outdoor space or play area?

- Would like it to be more usable in the summertime by pool-goers
- Schools

Are there certain times of the year, week, day when the playground is most popular / least popular?

- Too hot in the summer during the day
- Used for after-school programs the most



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How popular is the playground with the surrounding neighborhood?

- Not very popular, mostly used by the rec center

Does the size of the playground meet the current needs of the Rec Center and the neighborhood?

- No, it is too small for programming
- Max 48 kids total at one time (not including teens)

Does the current playground suit all ages?

- Not safe for toddlers
- Not used much by teens; they would use an outdoor basketball court

Is there anything you feel like the playground is currently lacking that you would like to see?

- Water fountain doesn't work
- Toddler playground is boring and unsafe
- Want cooler swings
- More benches for seating

What is the most popular / least popular play feature?

- The closer to the pavilion, the less the equipment is used because there are typically people living in the pavilion
- Don't like the mulch
  - Children throw the mulch at each other
  - Floods
  - Not accessible
  - Needles in mulch
- Don't want sand
- Popular features (and proposed features):
  - Swings
  - Monkey bars
  - Climbing features
  - Spinning wheel
  - Mini-rockwall
  - Rubber surfacing
  - Musical feature

What are your top safety concerns for the park / playground?

- People living in the pavilion
- BBQ Pits



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- Proposed location of pavilion is likely to cause issues since it will attract people to live
- Stray animals- people walk through with dogs off-leash

What are your top maintenance concerns for the park / playground?

- Mulch
- More fencing would be nice

Any complaints about the play area you frequently hear?

- People living there

Anything else you would like us to know?

- Would appreciate musical features, more accessible features
- Another loop to the trail around the playground would be nice

## Montopolis Playground Improvements

### Staff Questionnaire (passed out to all present staff members)

Do you have any other hopes or concerns about the playground? Is there anything else you would like us to know?

#	Comment	Additional Notes
4	No mulch	Safety and maintenance concerns
4	Hydration Station	Current fountains don't work well
3	Larger playscape	Currently not enough play options
3	Shade	Equipment too hot in summer
3	Rock climber	
3	See saw	
3	More light	For safety and nighttime use (for summer heat and after-school in winter)
3	Zipline	
2	More swings	
2	Walking area / trail	
2	Vibrant colors	



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2	More interactive equipment	
2	Climbing areas	
	Rubber guards on the swings	Prevent turning them inside out
	Jump area	Like the one at Zilker
	Outdoor basketball courts	Used to be a popular half-court that got removed during the remodel of the rec center
	Toddler play equipment	Not enough options
	Monkey bars	
	Seating	Wary of picnic tables, want more benches
	No tunnels	For safety
	Softer mulch	
	Level play area	For free play
	Covered blacktop	
	Soft ground cover	
	No BBQ pit	Attracts people to live at the playground
	Merry-go-round	Especially accessible kind
	Fencing	More fencing around playground, possibly fully fenced
	Music features	For more play variety / accessible options
	Dog area	Emancipet comes to the parking lot to provide services
	Picnic tables	For outdoor activities
	Concerned about people experiencing homelessness	
	Accessibility	Not many equipment option, mulch not very accessible