

Librada “Lily” Cantú Inclusive Playground Master Plan

Committee on Persons with Disabilities
April 11, 2024



FOR ALL!



Agenda

- 1) Project Team
- 2) Project Information & Goals
- 3) Site Analysis
- 4) About Lily Cantú & Theme
- 5) Engagement & Project Timeline
- 6) Q/A

Meet Our Project Team

Focus Group

Denton County MHMR, UNT, TWU, Denton ISD, Lewisville ISD, Lake Dallas DISD, Cook's Children, Texas Health, United Way, Denton Park & Beautification Board Member, Denton Committee on Persons with Disabilities Board member, Occupational & Recreation Therapists

Librada "Lily Cantú Immediate Family (Siblings)



Project Consultant

in consultation with
STAR Institute for Sensory Processing



Parks & Recreation Staff

What is an Inclusive Playground?

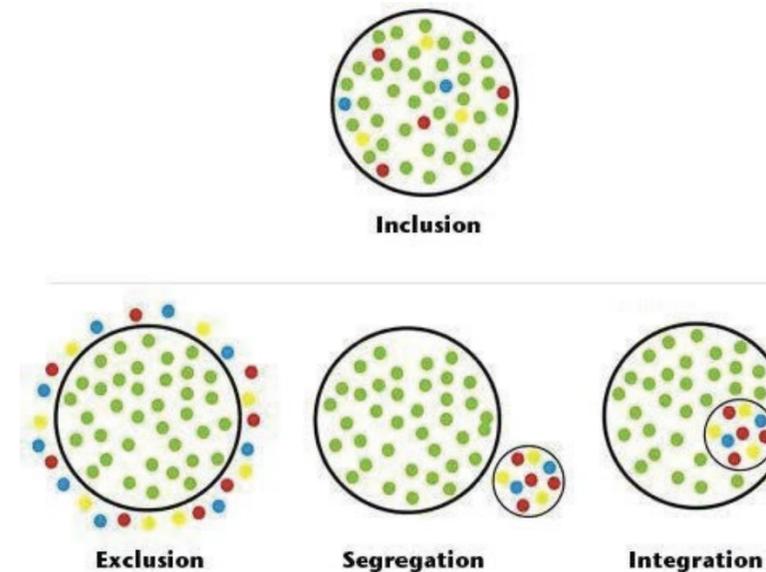
A UNIVERSALLY DESIGNED, SENSORY-RICH ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES ALL CHILDREN TO DEVELOP PHYSICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY IN THE SAME SPACE.

By law, all playgrounds must be ADA compliant, but they are all not necessarily Inclusive. An Inclusive playground takes into account physical, intellectual, and sensory disabilities.

1 in 6 children have one or more developmental disabilities (CDC)

1 in 4 adults live with a disability (CDC)

92% of disabilities are not visible (CDC)



INCLUSIVE MEANS EVERYONE



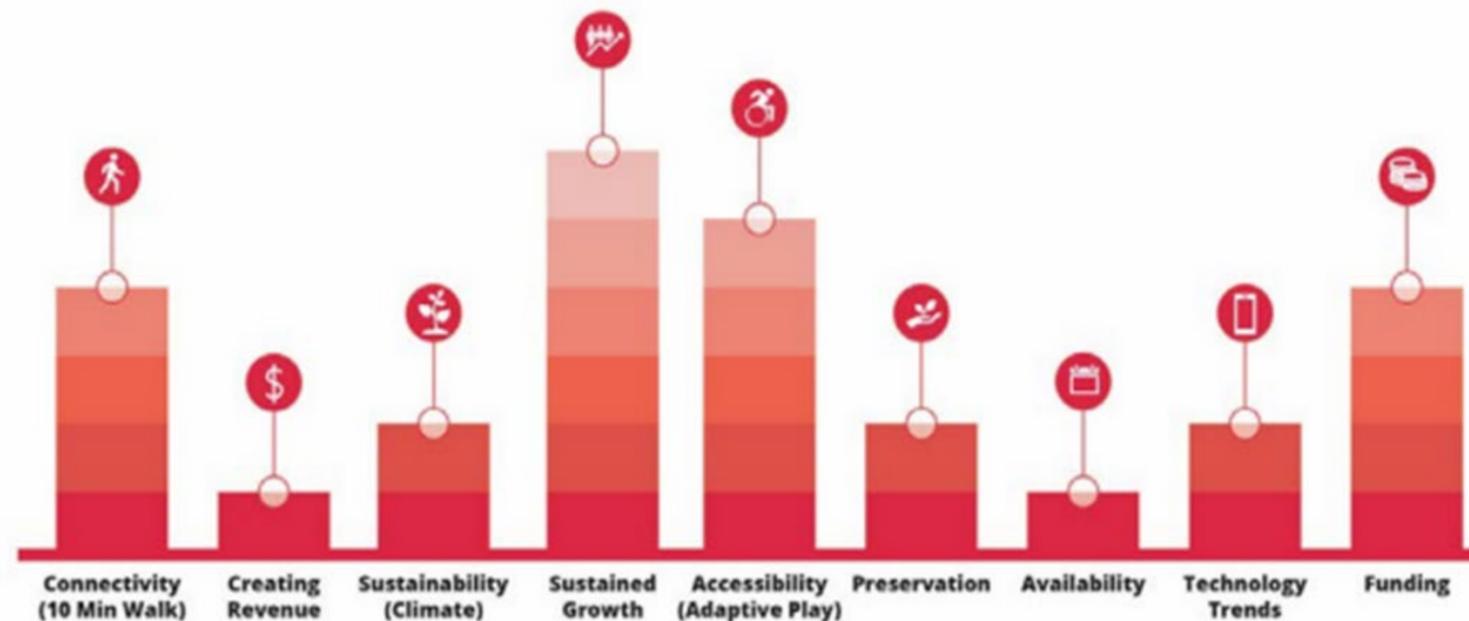
Community Engagement

- January 2022 Parks, Recreation, and Trails System Master Plan
- October 2022 Parks received funding to hire design consultant
- Spring 2023 Design Consultant hired
- November 2023 Bond Program Proposition C Passed
Issued 3.45M towards construction of Project

What is one word you would use to describe how you envision the parks system in the future?

Popular Unique Safe
 Growing Family-Friendly Holistic
 More activities for seniors
Accessible Enviable Walkable
 Cohesive Overlapping Larger
 Usability Innovative Native
 Plans for population growth Complete
 Connected Inclusive
 Sustainable Responsive
 Inviting Multi-Complex

What are the biggest challenges denton faces now and in the future for parks and recreation?



MULTI-SENSORY PLAY

GOAL: PROVIDE COMFORTABLE AND SUPPORTIVE SENSORY STIMULATION THROUGH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FACILITATION OF SELF-REGULATION AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION.

DESCRIPTION:

Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is a framework first described by occupational therapist A. Jean Ayres, PhD, in the 1970's. It is a term that refers to the way the nervous system receives messages from the senses and turns them into appropriate motor and behavioral responses.

Clinical studies of children *without* various disabilities have estimated SPD affects between 5% and 10% of children. However, for children with various disabilities, estimated rates of those affected by SPD have been reported to be as high as 40% to 88%. (Ahn, Miller, Milberger, McIntosh, American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2004).

Many children with autism also have some form of SPD. This is most often reflected in the hypo- or hyper-sensitivity to sensory stimuli including sound, sight, smells, tastes, and textures. This sensitivity to the senses, coupled with the inability to filter input from additional external stimuli, can become overwhelming and lead to tantrums and melt-downs. (Sachs, Vincenta, Implications, 2011).

In addition to the five far senses (auditory, visual, tactile, smell, and taste), Dr. Ayres identified three other senses commonly referred to as near senses. These internal senses include Vestibular, Proprioception, and Interoception and unlike the far senses, operate without conscious thought and can not be observed.

Consideration for sensory stimulation in playground design is imperative to developmental play and skill building in children. Through thoughtful sensory stimulation, nature-based play can assist in facilitating a satisfactory response to the natural environment and social settings for children with physical and cognitive disabilities.

NEAR SENSES

- OPERATE WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT -

- VESTIBULAR INPUT
SENSE OF POSITION AND MOVEMENT
- PROPRIOCEPTIVE INPUT
JOINT AND MUSCLE SENSE
- INTEROCEPTION INPUT
SENSE OF INTERNAL ORGANS

FAR SENSES

- RESPOND TO EXTERNAL STIMULI FROM THE ENVIRONMENT -

- AUDITORY
- VISUAL
- TACTILE
- SMELL
- TASTE

SENSORY INTEGRATION

MANIPULATION OF INPUT INFORMATION FOR AN OUTPUT RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY

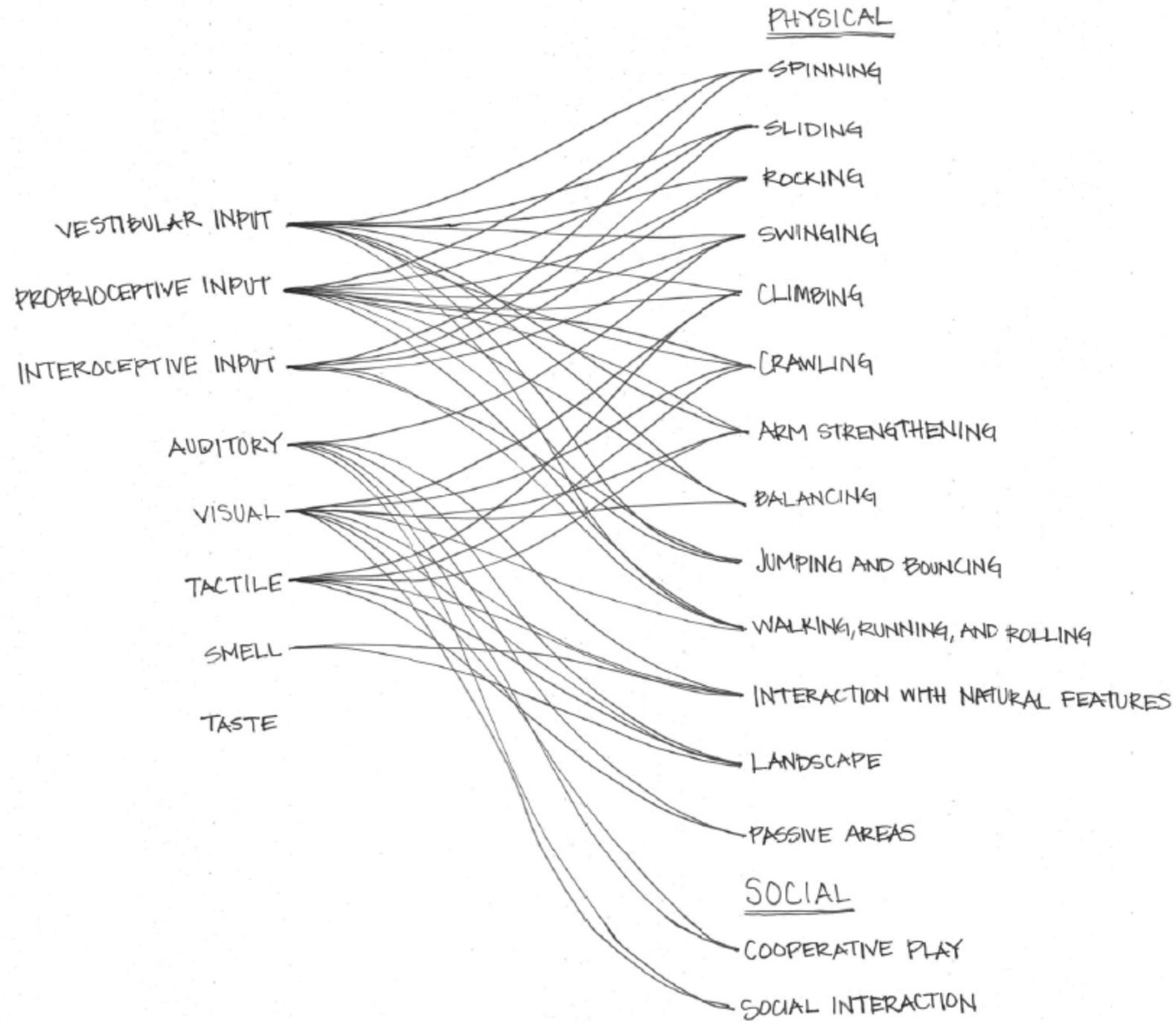
- ENCOURAGEMENT OF SKILL BUILDING -

- MOTOR PLANNING
· ALLOWS CHILDREN TO CONCEIVE, ORGANIZE, AND CARRY OUT UNFAMILIAR SEQUENCES OF MOVEMENT IN A COORDINATED MANNER.
- SOCIAL & COOPERATIVE PLAY
· OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMAGINATIVE PLAY, TAKING TURNS, AND CONVERSATION ARE VITAL TO A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS ASSISTING THEM IN NURTURING THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.

DESIGNING FOR MULTI-SENSORY PLAY

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

EIGHT SENSES



PLAY EXPERIENCES

MULTI-SENSORY PLAY WEB DIAGRAM

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

04/11/2024

CPD24-014

Project Goals



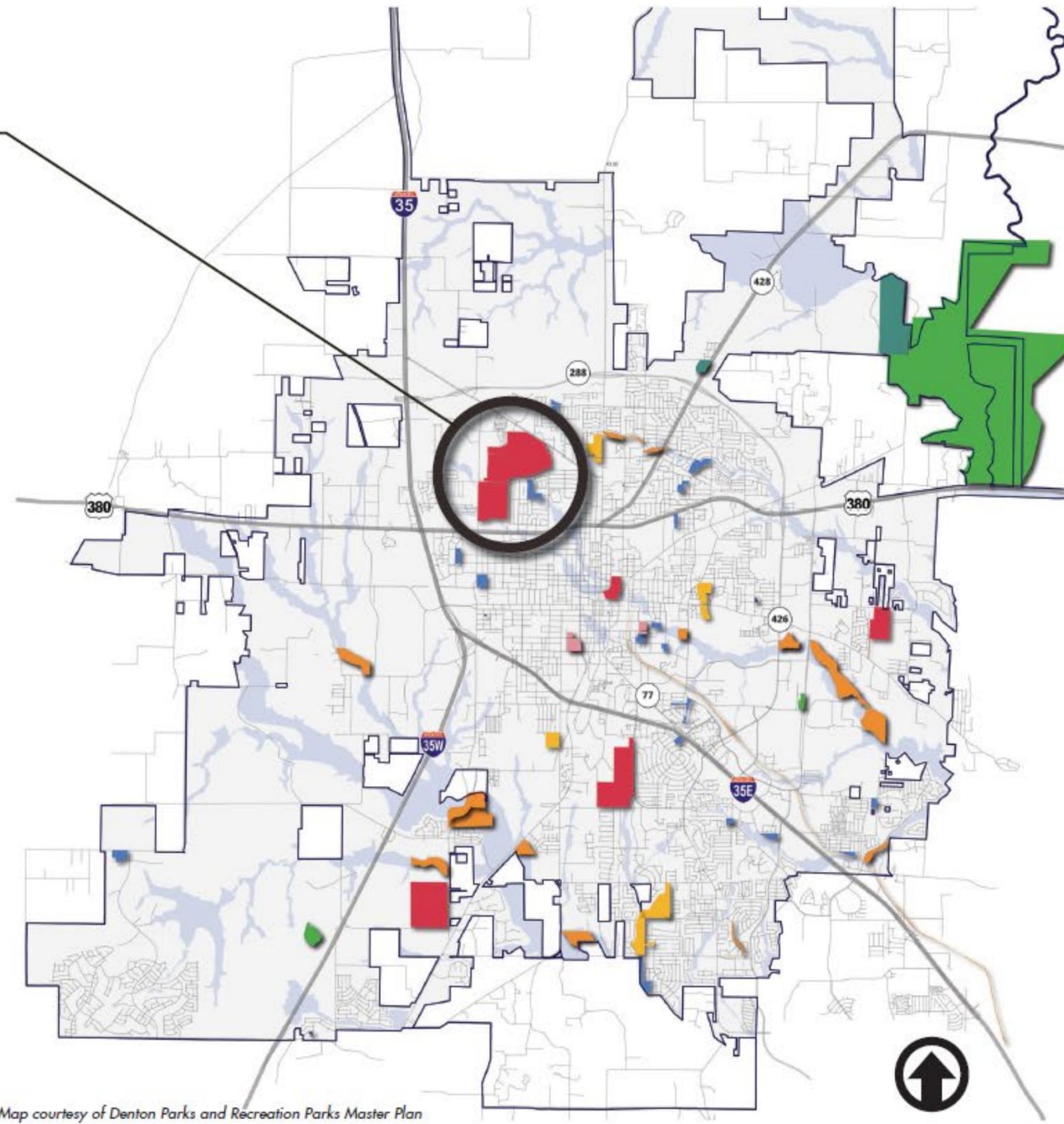
1. Design for a **wide range of ages and abilities** allowing all visitors to participate in play
2. Incorporate **sensory-rich** play elements while remaining mindful of potentially overstimulating stimuli
3. Provide close proximity to **comforts and conveniences** (i.e. shade, bathrooms, drinking fountains)
4. Provide **sufficient accessible parking and pathway circulation**
5. **Engage local resources** to inform playground design decisions
6. Design with **project phasing** in mind
7. Craft a plan for adequate **site maintenance** and staffing

PROJECT LOCATION

NORTH LAKES PARK

LEGEND

- **CITY PARKS**
Larger parks that draws residents from across the city and is often used to host citywide events. 300-500 acres in size. Service area 0-10 miles.
- **PRESERVE**
Protected area of land with varying size. Service area is city wide.
- **COMMUNITY PARKS**
Larger park that serves multiple surrounding neighborhoods 20-50 acres in size. Service area 0-5 miles.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**
Small to medium sized parks within walking distance of the immediate service population. 3-20 acres in size. Service area 0-1 miles.
- **POCKET PARKS**
Small park accessible to the public that often fills gaps in park coverage. 0-3 acres in size. Service area 0-0.5 miles.
- **SPECIAL USE PARKS**
Has a dedicated or unique use with varying size. Service area is city wide.
- **CEMETERY**
- **LINEAR PARKS**
A greenway or stretch of open space that can vary in size but is typically longer than wide. Service area is city wide.



Map courtesy of Denton Parks and Recreation Parks Master Plan



EXISTING 5-12 AGE ZONE CONDITIONS



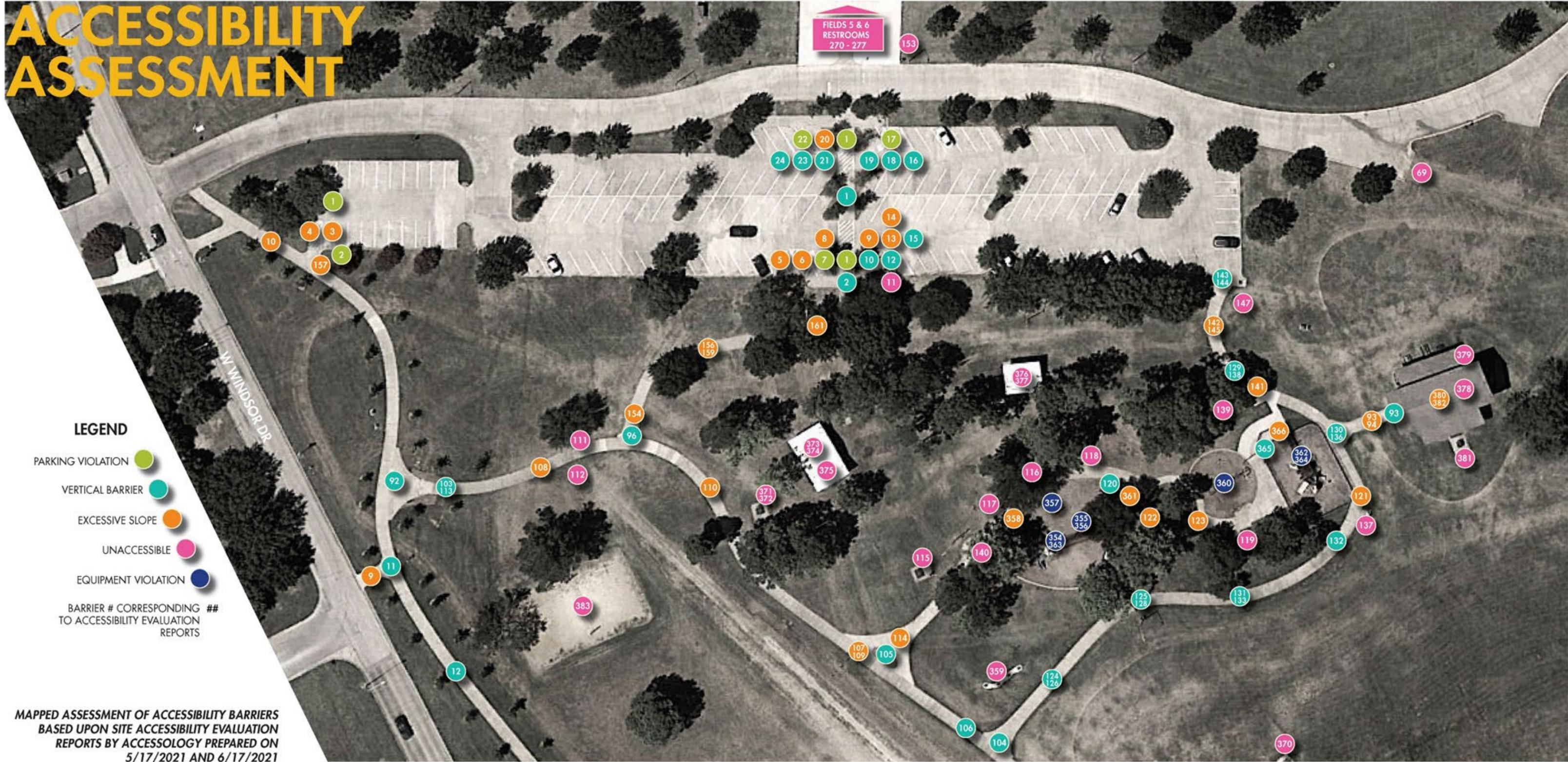
EXISTING 2-5 AGE ZONE CONDITIONS WITH MAIN PAVILION BEYOND



EXISTING PARKING LOT CONDITIONS

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

FIELDS 5 & 6
RESTROOMS
270 - 277



LEGEND

- PARKING VIOLATION
- VERTICAL BARRIER
- EXCESSIVE SLOPE
- UNACCESSIBLE
- EQUIPMENT VIOLATION
- BARRIER # CORRESPONDING ## TO ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION REPORTS

MAPPED ASSESSMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS
BASED UPON SITE ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION
REPORTS BY ACCESSOLOGY PREPARED ON
5/17/2021 AND 6/17/2021



ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

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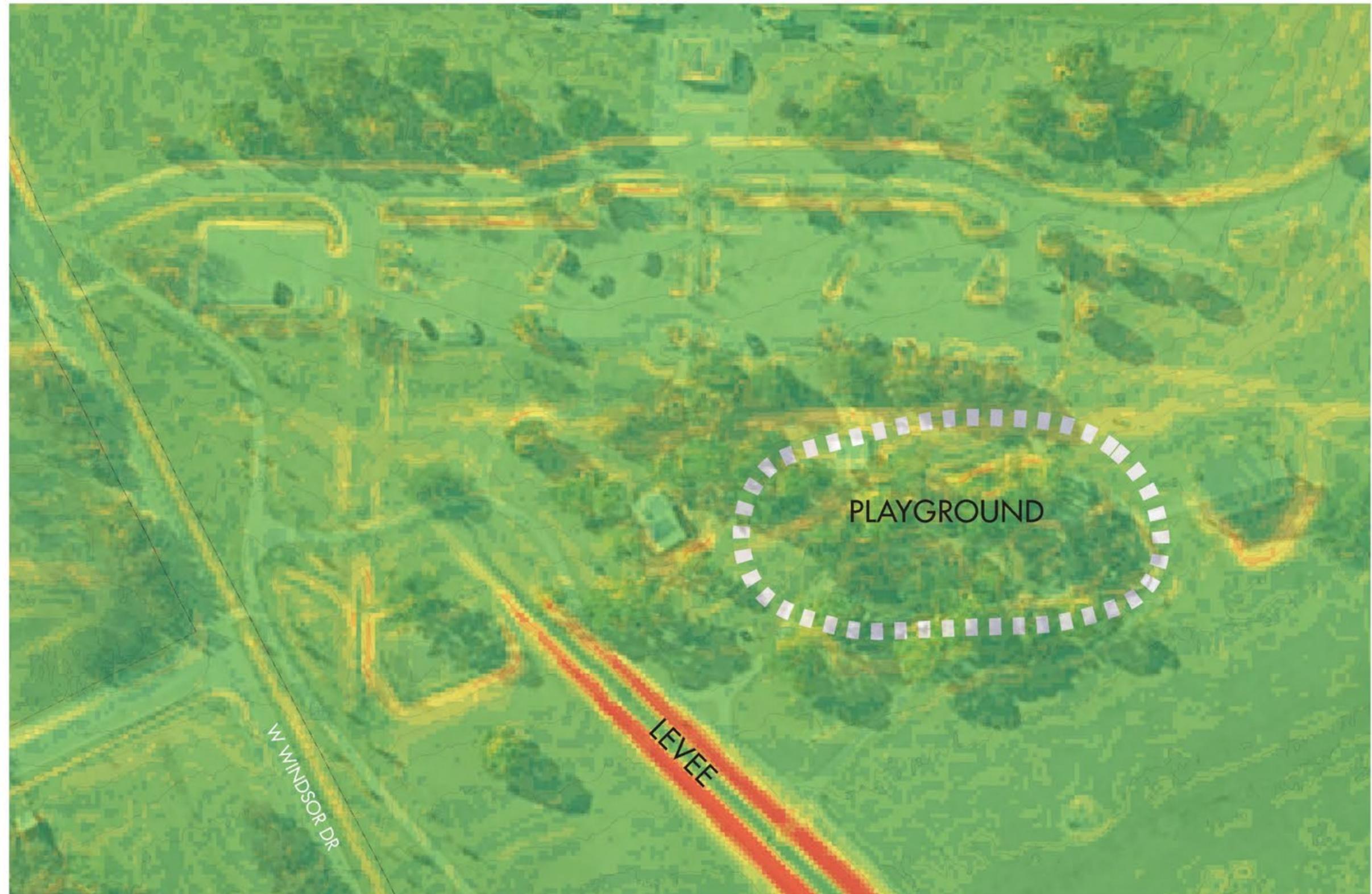
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PLAYGROUND SLOPE ANALYSIS

Future Librada "Lily" Cantú Playground shall not exceed 2% slope in all directions. Accessible routes to and from existing pavilions, restroom, and parking lot shall not exceed 5% running slope and 2% cross slope.

LEGEND



LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

DENTON, TX

04/11/2024

CPD24-014

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MESA



PLAYGROUND SLOPE & DRAINAGE



This image shows some of the major erosion directly off of the parking lot.



This image shows some erosion on the site due to the slope and the unmitigated water flow.



Exposed tree roots due to erosion from unmanaged water flow.



LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

DENTON, TX

04/11/2024

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About Librada “Lily” Rose Cantú

- The renaming of the playground was adopted by City Council in 2022
- Lily grew up in Denton, and spent much time out at the North Lakes Playground with her family
- Lily grew a passion for helping kids from all backgrounds, which led her to volunteer at a home for medically fragile children in Peru
- Lily’s family remembers her as someone with humility, open mind, and always willing to help



“Lily always walked with bravery, kindness, and love” - Mari Cantú

In Summer 2023, Mesa Design and Parks and Recreation met with the family to learn more about her story and ways to honor her legacy on the playground.

In Winter 2024, based on feedback received, Mesa Design & Parks and Recreation met with the family to introduce conceptual illustrations and feedback on a design. Ultimately, the family supported and felt the following theme represented Lily the best.

POLLINATOR'S PATCH



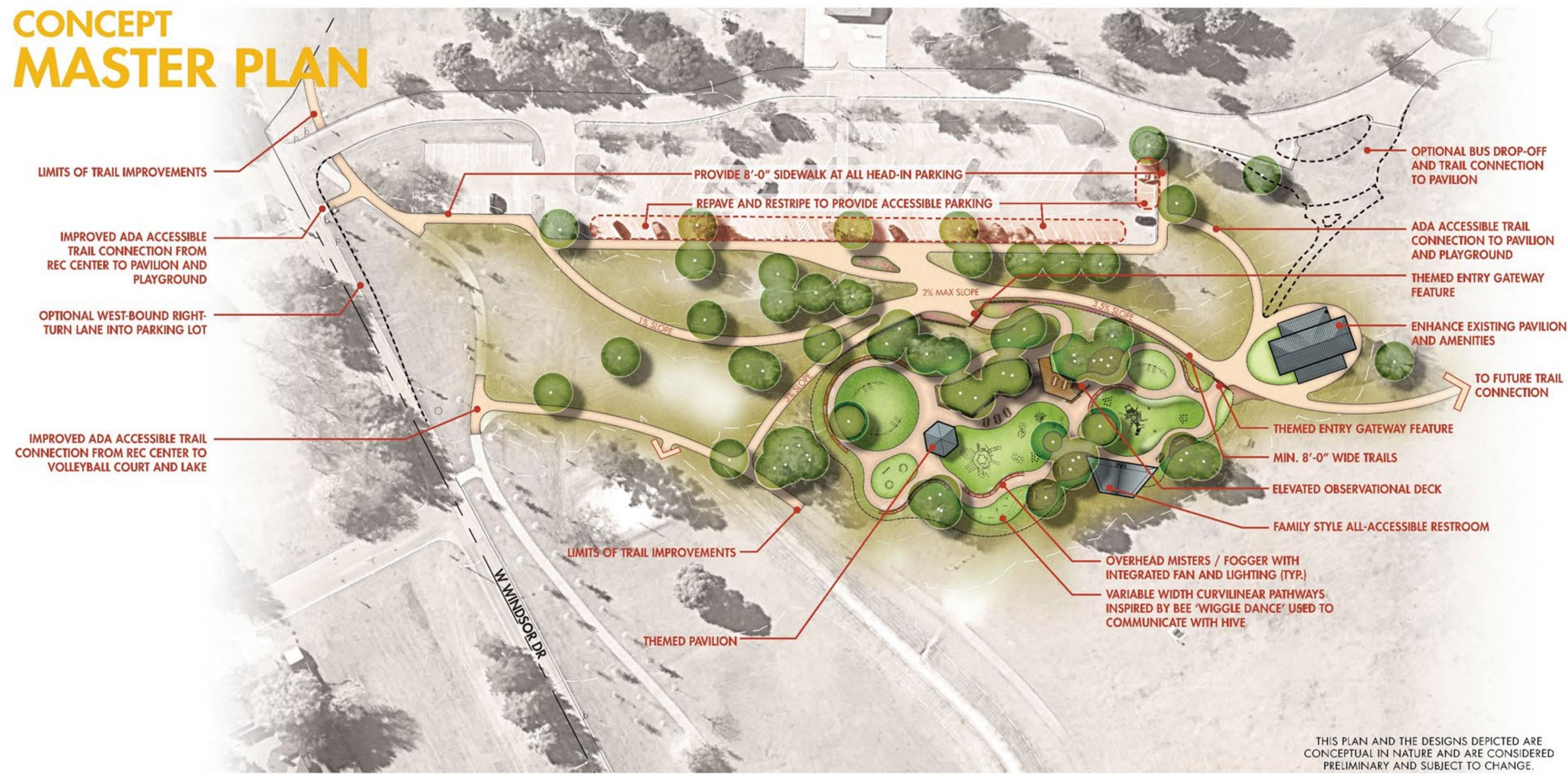
PROPOSED THEME APPROVED BY CANTÚ FAMILY

Lily's middle name and her love for flowers inspired this bumble bee themed concept which integrates environmental education elements into a themed play experience.

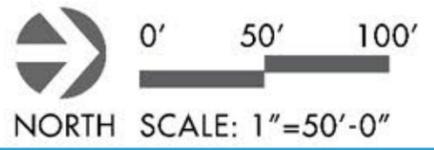
The different play zones, or "hives", incorporate various play experiences including an active 'worker bee' hive, a collaborative play 'social bee' hive, an educational passive play hive, and a 'young bee' hive which encourages imaginative play.

Lily's love for flowers and her commitment to a better world for children are celebrated in this themed concept.

CONCEPT MASTER PLAN



THIS PLAN AND THE DESIGNS DEPICTED ARE CONCEPTUAL IN NATURE AND ARE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



PLAYGROUND AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

04/11/2024

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HIVE-INSPIRED PLAY TOWER (MODIFIED FOR ACCESSIBILITY AND SITE CONDITIONS)



INSPIRATIONAL IMAGERY - PLAYGROUND

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

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MESA



THEMED ENTRY GATEWAY FEATURE



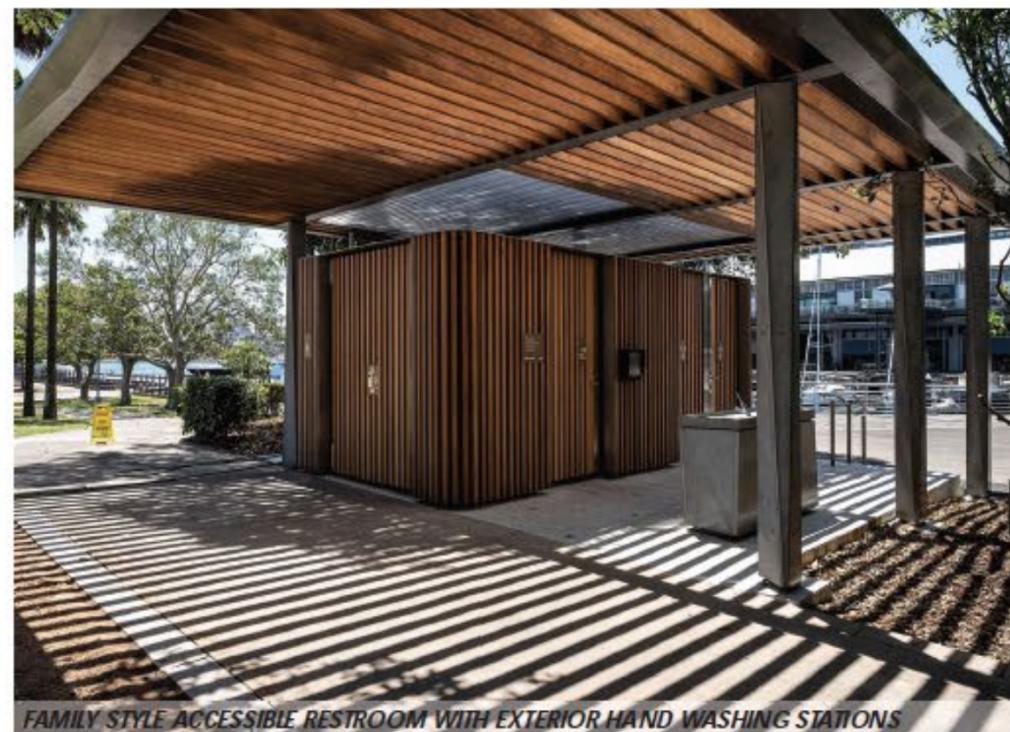
SPACIOUS AND FULLY ACCESSIBLE THEMED SHADE STRUCTURE



THEMED ENTRY GATEWAY FEATURE



THEMED ENTRY GATEWAY FEATURE



FAMILY STYLE ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM WITH EXTERIOR HAND WASHING STATIONS



INCORPORATION OF AMBIENT LIGHTING



MISTERS/FOGGER WITH INTEGRATED LIGHTING AND FANS



INSPIRATIONAL IMAGERY - ARCHITECTURE

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND

04/11/2024

CPD24-014

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Project Timeline & Next Steps



Public Engagement
Spring - Summer 2024

Seek Final Adoption
Fall 2024

Start Construction
Documentation
Fall 2024

Bid Project & Start
Construction
Spring/Summer 2025

Grand Opening
Summer 2026

March 28 – Virtual Community Meeting

April 1 – Park Board Meeting

April 11 – Committee on Persons w/ Disabilities

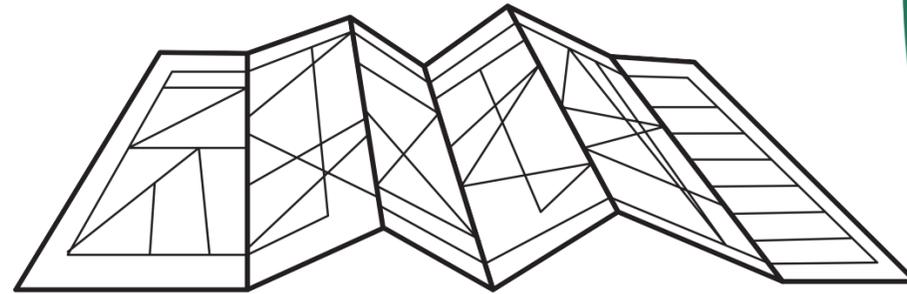
May ? – Council Session

Attend Events & Issue Survey

Subject to change pending weather, or any other related design or construction delays

YOUR
INPUT IS
NEEDED

**YOUR
Opinion
Matters**



HELP US BRING **PLAY** FOR ALL!

Please take our survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/DentonInclusivePlayground

Follow this project on Discuss Denton:

www.discussdenton.com/lily-cantu-inclusive-playground-master-plan



Thank You!

For Your Time!

Questions?



FOR ALL!



PLAYGROUND AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

LIBRADA "LILY" CANTÚ PLAYGROUND