

Full Site Plan

A full site plan showing the project boundaries enclosed by Elm, Cherry, and Sartwell roads. The plan highlights a parking lot on the right side and an expanded playground, made possible by reconfigured parking and a new bus drop-off area.

Plan A

Plan A prioritizes imaginative and exploratory play over athletic uses. The playground is organized around a large, flexible central play area, with athletic elements placed along the perimeter. Features include a half basketball court, varied landforms, swings, ramps, a hillside slide, a multi-level play structure, and integrated seating. Shade is primarily provided by trees, with an additional shade structure where needed.

Entering from the main playground entrance, the Kennedy School is on the right and a wide asphalt corridor extends straight ahead, marked with ground graphics counting from 0 to 100. A curving pathway separates sports elements and swings near the entrance from the main play structures. As the path gradually rises in elevation, it leads to a poured-in-place rubber hillside that connects to the second level of the central play structure. Slides, climbing elements, and ramps return users to the lower play areas.

Plan B

Plan B balances athletic activity with play-based experiences. The layout features a full basketball court and a large central play area, with open space located near the school building and along the left side of the site. Seating is distributed throughout the playground, with shade provided primarily by formal shade structures rather than trees. Custom concrete and wood seating elements also function as informal play features for climbing, sitting, and gathering. Multiple large play structures are linked by ramps, pathways, and bridges, along with an obstacle course that supports active play and exploration.

From the main entrance, the Kennedy School is on the right and a wide asphalt corridor extends straight ahead, marked with painted ground games such as four square and hopscotch. An angled pathway loops through the playground, connecting all play areas. In the back corner nearest Sartwell Street are the basketball court and wall ball area. The

mostly flat site accommodates a variety of large play structures and ground-based play elements.

Plan C

Plan C emphasizes active sports and movement. The playground includes one full basketball court and one half court, with a large swing area and a dedicated wall-ball zone nearby. Additional features include a smaller play structure, an obstacle course, and a large open area for free play and running. Seating and an outdoor classroom are located beneath trees, creating shaded gathering spaces. Pathways loop through the site, connecting all courts and play elements for continuous movement and access.

From the main entrance, the Kennedy School is on the right and a wide asphalt corridor extends straight ahead. A large basketball court sits at the center of the playground, with swings, play structures, and the outdoor classroom arranged around it.

Round Table Summary Text

Feedback emphasized the importance of designing playgrounds that prioritize accessibility, inclusivity, and sensory engagement for users of all abilities. Key recommendations include wider, smoothly curving pathways; clear signage with braille; and thoughtful consideration of caregivers. Ramps should be standard for all multi-level structures, with sensory and interactive elements integrated throughout and accessible at multiple heights. High-contrast colors, varied textures, braille, and non-verbal communication boards support visually impaired and non-verbal users. Fitness and balance elements benefit from handrails and multi-level options, while companion and nest swings, spinning ground-level elements, and a variety of swing types were strongly favored. Slides should include transfer platforms and avoid swirling or enclosed designs that may limit accessibility.