



**MADISON  
PARKS**

# James Madison Park Playground Replacement

# JAMES MADISON PARK – PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

## Discussion Items

- PIM #1 Recap
- Proposed Location
- Playground Surfacing
- Playground Design – Option A
- Playground Design – Option B
- Poll
- Next Steps



## PIM #1 RECAP

- Will receive both a 2-5 and 5-12 play structure due to being a community park.
- Location should adhere to masterplan
- Preference for variety of play options
- Preference for challenges for 5-12 year old users
- Preference for 2-5 year old users to have some independence but also allow for some parental interaction
- Preference for natural wood mulch
- Preference for removing feature from play structure to fund some type of nature play element; potentially reusing wood from nearby tree removal
- Preference for some sort of physical separation (berm, fence, landscaping) from E. Gorham St.
- Decided on two playground structure options for PIM#2



# PROPOSED LOCATION



# PROPOSED LOCATION IN RELATION TO MASTER PLAN



# City of Madison Playground Options Surfacing

## City of Madison Playground Surfacing Options Comparison



### Recycled Shredded Rubber

- Meets U.S. Access Board's ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas
- Meets CPSC fall height requirements
- Softer play surface material
- Provides alternative use for recycled tires
- Sandalwood/brown color-coated to reduce heat impact compared to non-coated black recycled rubber
- Higher initial cost, lower maintenance cost
- Needs to be topped off every 5 years depending on site conditions and use
- Non-biodegradable
- Thaws fast, playgrounds available throughout the year

### Engineered Wood Fiber Mulch

- Meets U.S. Access Board's ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas
- Meets CPSC fall height requirements
- Not as soft as recycled shredded rubber
- Created by the City from fallen trees and limbs that would otherwise be chipped for mulch
- More likely to get mold and mildew spores
- Lower initial cost, higher maintenance cost
- Needs to be topped off every 1 to 3 years depending on site conditions and use
- Biodegrades
- Thaws slowly, playground use limited during winter conditions



Preference from PIM 1

**Option A** ★

**Age Range: 2-5 & 5-12**



**Age Range: 2-5**



**Three-bay swing**



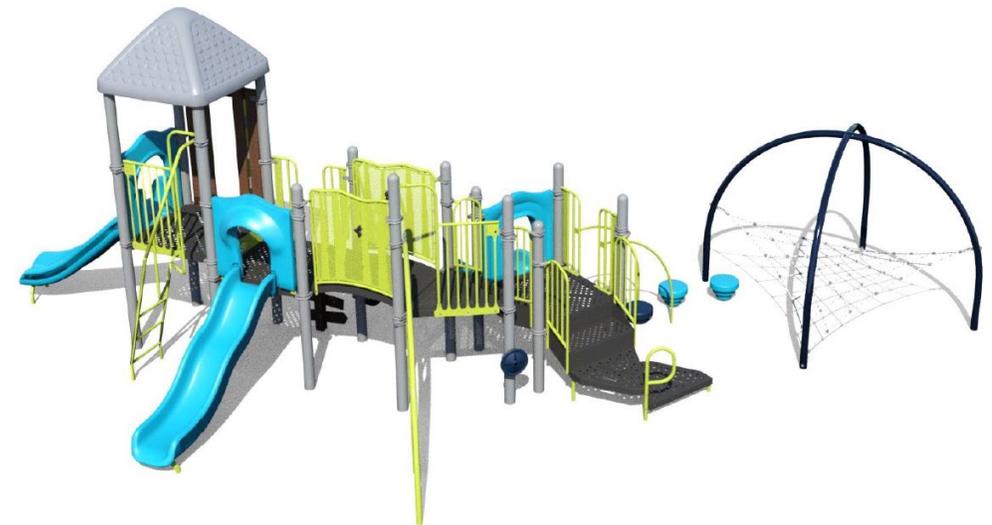
**Age Range: 5-12**

# Option A

Age Range: 2-5



View 1



View 2

# Option A

Age Range: 5-12

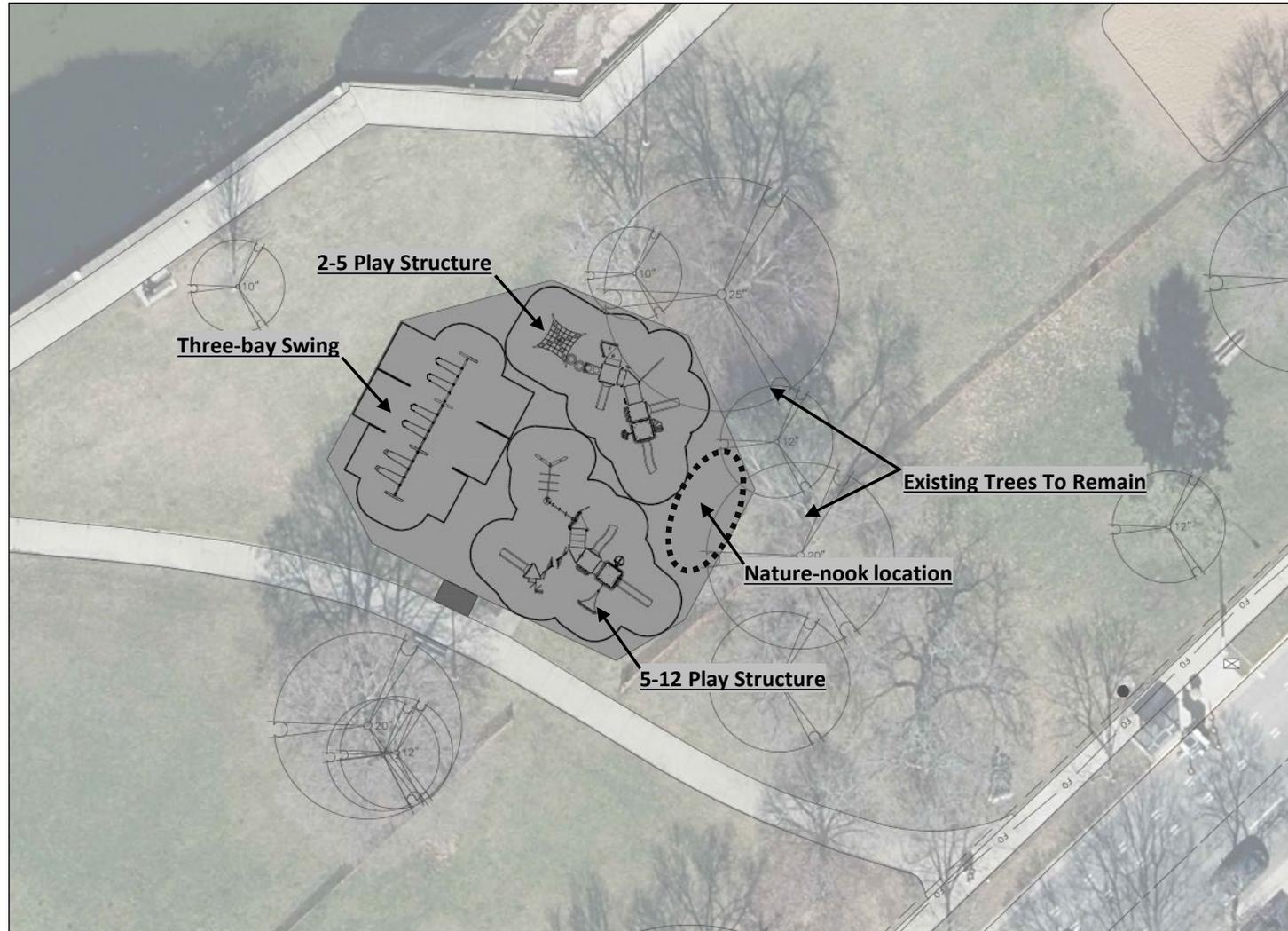


View 1



View 2

# Option A



# Option B

Age Range: 2-5 & 5-12



Age Range: 2-5



Age Range: 5-12



Three-bay swing

# Option B

Age Range: 2-5



View 1



View 2

# Option B

Age Range: 5-12

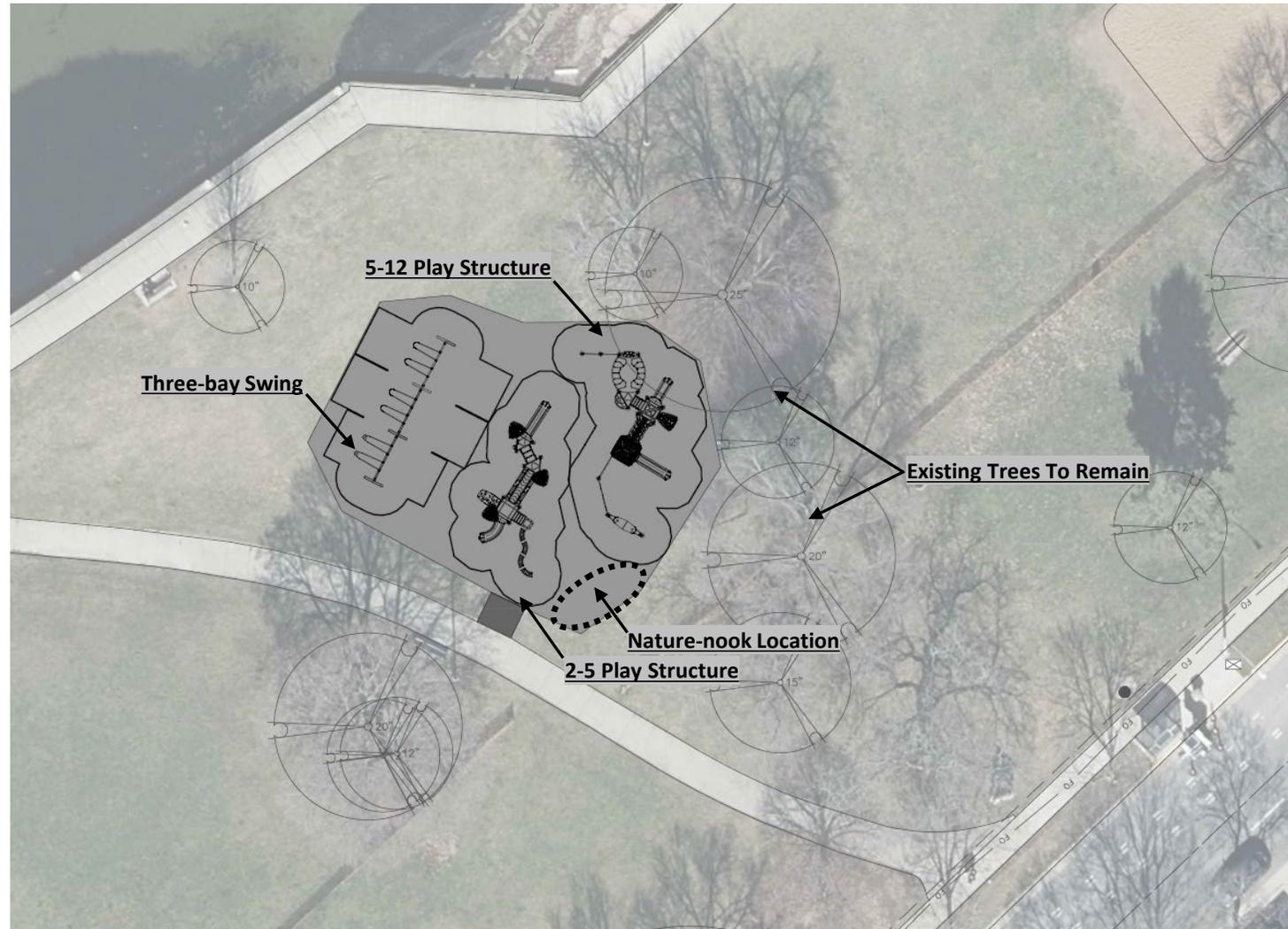


View 1



View 2

# Option B



# Poll time!

Please cast a vote for the playground replacement option that you prefer.

Option A



Option B



## Next Steps

**If additional input is needed, staff will reach out to meeting attendees via email.**

**Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2026. Specific dates will be posted on the project page when they are available.**

**Additional information related to this project is posted on the Parks Project Portal, here:**

**<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/james-madison-park-playground-improvements>**

**Contact Brian Kowalski - Project Manager, with additional questions or comments.  
(608) 243-2848 or [bkowalski@cityofmadison.com](mailto:bkowalski@cityofmadison.com)**

