

Diment Park Rehabilitation Phase 1: Survey and Design

Project Summary

The Diment Park Subcommittee is applying for \$65,000 in CPA funding to conduct a land survey and hire a landscape design firm to design a vibrant, low-maintenance, fully-accessible toddler playground that fosters curiosity, creativity, and connection in our community. This will be a design process with many stops for review and feedback from the entire community to ensure the playground is meeting as many needs as possible.

The design goal is to preserve the park's original "Tot Lot" concept while updating its layout and structures to address safety, accessibility, and maintenance issues. Repairing the existing structures is not a viable option due to these issues, particularly the lack of accessibility for toddlers, children with disabilities, and caregivers with mobility challenges. The most recent safety inspection, completed in 2011, found numerous items that failed the safety standards of 14 years ago. The redesign will prioritize accessibility, safety, and inclusion, ensuring that the park meets current standards and serves children and caregivers of all abilities. The design of the playground will include accessible parking and ramps to provide access to the playground.

A 2024 community survey revealed strong support for updating the park, with 59% of respondents stating that action is needed immediately, and 22% within 3-5 years. The survey revealed that the community values a safe, well-maintained park that caters to toddlers and young children.

The recently redesigned Castle Playground is a wonderful space, but it is not fully accessible, particularly for caregivers with mobility concerns. Critically, this playground is also not available during school hours, leaving caregivers of children under 5 without a safe playground to use for most of the day.

While there are playground equipment companies who will do a playground design for free (using all of their own equipment), these can feel pedestrian and uninspired. The Subcommittee feels it is critical to keep this playground of a more natural and adventure style (see included inspiration photos), to fit with Carlisle's character and to cater best to the youngest children. The topography of the site, which includes hills and the surrounding woods, allows for a truly unique design incorporating these elements.

The Diment Park playground is currently unsafe and inaccessible to anyone with mobility challenges, and the funding for this project will allow us to design a safe play space for our youngest children that can be utilized by everyone in the Carlisle community. Once the design is completed, we also plan to apply for CPA funding for the construction of the park.

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Budget

	Estimated Cost
Topographic Survey (in CAD)	\$8,000
Pre-Design and Conceptual Design	\$15,000
Design Development /Construction Documents	\$25,000
Bid Administration	\$2,000
Construction Administration	\$10,000
Contingencies	\$5,000
Total:	\$65,000

Project Timeline

- H1 2025: Meet with and select a design firm, obtain estimates for their services, apply for CPA Funding to cover the cost. Coordinate with SEPAC on ADA accessibility needs.
- H2 2025: Receive and review design proposal. Solicit feedback from town boards, committees and citizens to finalize build design. Source bids for construction.
- H1 2026: Apply for CPA funding for the building phase of this project
- H2 2026: Project Build/Supervision, coordinate involvement with local committees, solidify annual maintenance budget
- 2027: Formal integration into the Recreation Budget

Problems with the current playground

Poorly maintained sandbox



Roof damage



Gazebo is not accessible



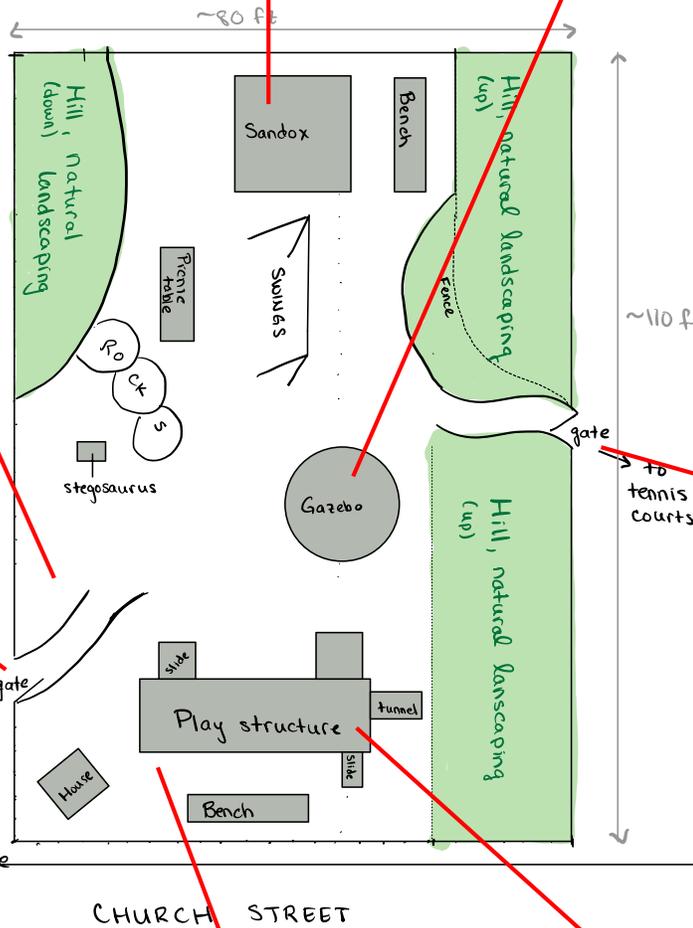
Path is steep, narrow, and uneven



Broken gate



Entrance at top has broken gate and is not accessible



Entrance is not accessible & difficult to navigate with a stroller



Broken equipment and tripping hazard



Broken equipment

A vision for the future of Diment Park



Encourage exploration



Incorporate the natural terrain



Safe, accessible structures

