Agenda

• Welcome, Introduction, Ground Rules and Objectives
• Let’sPlaySF Project Background
• Project Scope Schedule, Budget and Community Engagement
• Panhandle Playground Overview, Priorities and Site Analysis
• Program Preferences and Feedback
• Next Steps
Ground Rules

• Please sign-in
• Turn off cell phones
• Direct comments to the facilitator
• Raise your hand to speak
• Keep to the agenda
• Please hold all questions for the end of the presentation
The Vision

Let’sPlaySF! is a partnership between San Francisco’s Recreation and Parks Department and the San Francisco Parks Alliance to renovate the City’s worst playgrounds. These playgrounds serve 20,000 children and were selected for renovation by a Playgrounds Task Force because they contain unhealthy wood or are in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods dense with children.
The selected playgrounds span San Francisco, from the Excelsior and Visitacion Valley to North Beach and the Richmond.
The Transformative Power of Play

Wellness: Playgrounds encourage kids to get outside, away from screens. Outdoor play burns calories and helps develop muscle strength, and coordination and can foster a lifelong love of outdoor activities.

Creativity: Playgrounds nurture growing brains by promoting imaginative and cooperative play that can foster advanced cognitive skills in young brains.

Community: Playgrounds bring people together. They allow people to connect across social, economic and age groups divides.

*In San Francisco, playgrounds are everybody’s backyard.*
Power of Transformation

Cabrillo Playground: BEFORE

Cabrillo Playground: AFTER (completed in 2013)
Panhandle Playground

- The existing playground is 7,000 square feet and is the largest of the Let’s Play SF projects.

- In 2014 the Panhandle Playground got a “D” grade on the Parks Alliance “Playground Report Card” and the playground contains arsenic-treated wood in the play structure and round swing sets.

- Project Budget: $3,200,000

- Construction Budget: $2,000,000
Site Parameters and Opportunities

- Project extents shown in **BLACK**
- Neighborhood park flanked by busy streets and well-utilized pathways
- Existing urban forest provides shade
- Need for clear sightlines throughout park
- Limited tables and chairs options within playground
- Need for durable materials
- Balancing budget constraints
- Potential historic resource regulations
We are strong believers that the users must be part of the design process.
The Panhandle – Wider context
The Panhandle - Playground
Scale Comparison - Panhandle Playground and Cabrillo Playground
History of the Panhandle

1880 – Newly planted trees
1882 – The Panhandle with dunes in foreground
1938 Aerial
1943 – Dunes and housing in Sunset district
History of the Panhandle
The Panhandle Neighborhood – Golden Gate Park
The Panhandle Neighborhood – Western Addition/NoPa
We understand and consider how children play when we design. We have worked with child development specialists to study the types of play and the types of places children need at all ages.
Play – how children play

A STRUCTURE IS NOT ENOUGH

Solitary
Play alone

Parallel
Play side by side but not cooperative

Associative / Cooperative
Play side by side doing similar activities, beginning of cooperative play.

Constructive
Build things

Onlooker
Watch, make comments but doesn’t engage

Dramatic / Fantasy / Role Play
Make believe

Competitive
Games with rules

Physical
Testing the body
We also understand that play must be inclusive for everyone, regardless of your learning style, capabilities or developmental stage.
Play for everyone  inclusive play
Allow all children to play together and have fun!

Mobility impaired
  Fully accessible
  Accessible equipment

Visually impaired
  Detection at each entrance
  Braille signage
  Bright and contrasting colors

Auditory impaired
  Strong visual cues

Cognitively impaired
  Areas of retreat
  Quiet play zones
  Enclosure of areas
  Lines of sight
  Grouping of activities

Learning differences
  Many different types of activities

Socially challenged
  Places to sit and observe

Medical disabilities
  Similar to ADA for oxygen or assistants

Speech and language impaired
  Music and other forms of noise making

Allow all children to play together and have fun!
There are many design specific technical issues that we consider when designing a playground.
Other Considerations  multiple factors influencing design

Safety beyond equipment
- Separation of ages
- Observable spaces
- Fencing
- At least two entrances

Comfort
- Shade
- Seating

Surfacing
- Rubber matting
- Synthetic turf

Guidelines
- Consumer Safety
- US Accessibility
- Local Jurisdictions

Multiple factors influencing design include safety beyond equipment, comfort, surfacing, and guidelines such as consumer safety, US accessibility, and local jurisdictions.
Play Spaces  types of play spaces

Components of Play

Play Structures
Traditional active play

Theaters, Play Houses and Other Cool Structures
Solo and group performances and communities.

Game Courts and Boards
Large and small, four square and soccer fields.

Nature Based Play
Natural Materials – rocks, trees, sticks, dirt

Construction Zones
Blocks, gravel, sticks

Manipulative Zones
Sound and constructive play
Structures
Surfacing and Terrain
Performative and Imaginative Play
Nature Play
Sensory Play
Other Considerations  sustainability

- Shade Trees to reduce cooling energy requirements
- Sustainable materials
- Bioswale drainage systems
- Use of native and drought tolerant plants
- Minimize use of impervious paving
Next Steps

• Online survey (See project page link below)

• Focus groups: July (Contact Melinda by June 9th if interested)

• Community Workshop #2 to review design options: September

• Please send comments to:
  Email: Melinda.Stockmann@sfgov.org
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• For more information about the Panhandle Playground Project, please visit tinyurl.com/PanhandlePlayground

THANK YOU!!
Panhandle Playground
Community Workshop #1