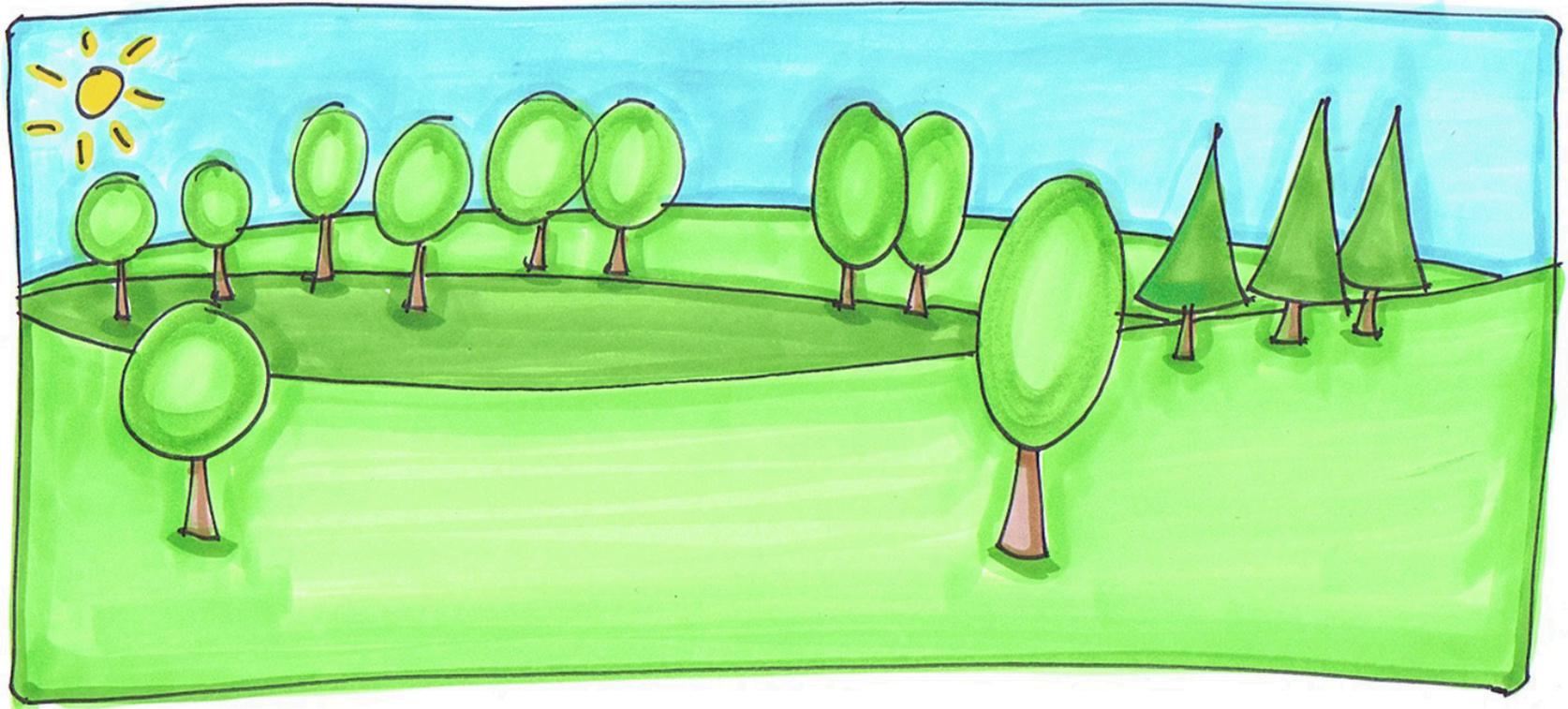


WASHINGTON PARK PLAYGROUND SURVEY FACILITATOR GUIDE





To return the survey booklets:

- (1) Scan and return copies to read.sarah@washingtonparkconservancy.org; OR
- (2) Drop them off at your nearest Albany Public Library branch; (all except North Albany Branch) OR
- (3) Arrange to have them picked up from your school by contacting Sarah at read.sarah@washingtonparkconservancy.org.

We are happy to make additional accommodations upon request. All surveys will be collected by the end of May 2021.



Visit Washington Park Conservancy's [Playground webpage](#) to learn more about the project and updates. An e-survey for adults and kids (with adult assistance) is also available online. Please take the e-survey and share it with your network!

Dear Educator or Youth Provider,

The Washington Park Conservancy in coordination with the City of Albany and community partners is leading the process to design and build a new playground in Albany's Washington Park. Our goal is to build a new playground that will offer a safe, engaging, and accessible space in which children of all abilities have the opportunity to enjoy inclusive play. As a centrally-located park in the City of Albany that serves all of the city's neighborhoods, we want to hear creative ideas from the city's children— what will make a fun playground?

The Conservancy has engaged Trowbridge Wolf Michaels Landscape Architects (TWMLA) and play-space designer Rusty Keeler (Earthplay) to develop a community engagement strategy that will be used to inform the design of the future playground. Although personal interactions in the context of COVID-19 are challenging, the Conservancy and consultants are committed to a comprehensive community engagement strategy to ensure an inclusive and transparent planning process that represents our diverse communities.

Enclosed is a Facilitator Guide that accompanies a four-page youth survey and activity book. This guide provides an overview of the types of play activities children engage in as you introduce students to the survey activity book. **We kindly ask you to either distribute these surveys in your classroom or program for completion in-class or after school, or to distribute virtually. This survey is most appropriate for grades PK-6, and may require some adult assistance.** We hope the following prompts lead to creative classroom discussion!

- What is play?
- How do you like to play?
- Do you play differently indoors and outdoors?
- Can you think of a time you learned something new while playing?
- How does time on a playground help us learn to cooperate?
- Take a quiet moment to think about what the most amazing playground in the world looks like.

We so appreciate your collaboration in this effort to hear from youth. Thank you for your cooperation, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
Sarah Read and Michaela Sweeney, Washington Park Playground Committee Co-Chairs

WASHINGTON PARK PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Justin Atlas, Dept of Recreation, City of Albany
Druis Beasley, Community member
John DeBois, President, Hudson/Park Neighborhood Association
Elisabeth Draper, Buckingham Pond Conservancy
Kerry Gribbon, Girls, Inc.
Andrew Harvey, President, Park South Neighborhood Association
Amelia Hershberger, Center Square resident & parent
Shadi Khadivi, President, Washington Park Neighborhood Association

Ta-Sean Murdock, Mission Accomplished Transition Services, Grand St. Community Arts
Sarah Read, Washington Park Conservancy
Jackie Ring, President, Center Square Neighborhood Association
Princess Smith, Arbor Hill/West Hill resident and parent
Sam Shipherd, Washington Park Conservancy
Stacey Stump, Center Square resident & parent
Michaela Sweeney, Open Space Institute, Washington Park Conservancy



WASHINGTON PARK PLAYGROUND SURVEY: MANY WAYS TO PLAY

Large Motor Play:



Activities that develop whole body movements along with larger muscles in the arms, legs and torso.

Examples: Running, Jumping, Climbing and Sliding.

Fine Motor Play:



Activities that develop dexterity and hand - eye coordination, like grasping, holding and manipulating small objects.

Examples: Sorting objects, Drawing, Writing, Painting and Puzzles.

Constructive Play:



Building, shaping and manipulating things to create something new.

Examples: Building Houses, Ships, Forts.

Dramatic Play:



Assigning, accepting roles and acting them out. Pretending to be someone or something else, 'make believe'.

Examples: Role Play, Fantastical Ideas, Dragons, Pirates, Mermaids

Sensory Play:



Any activity that stimulates sense of touch, smell, taste, site, hearing, as well as anything that engages balance.

Examples: Sand Castles, Digging, Balance, Water, and Creating Music.

Mastery Play:



Learning new skills and repeating actions until mastery.

Examples: Jumping, Rolling, Swinging, and Traversing.

Rough & Tumble Play:



Social play that involves physical contact and positive emotions.

Examples: Chasing, Wrestling and Obstacles.

Risk Taking Play:



Testing abilities and learning to master challenging environments.

Examples: Obstacles, Speed, Jumping from High Places, High Speed and Playing with Tools



WASHINGTON PARK PLAYGROUND SURVEY: MANY WAYS TO PLAY

Expressive Play:



Activities that facilitate immersion in an imaginary world.

Examples: Story Telling, Artistic Media and Visual Arts.

Onlooker Play:



Spaces that offer the ability for a child to watch others play.

Examples: Adjacent Seating, Overlooks, Approachable Spaces.

Associative Play:



Activities where children socialize with each other, occurs when a child is interested in the people playing as well as the activity.

Examples: Cooperation, Problem Solving and Meeting Goals

Competitive Play:



Activities organized around group goals and established rules.

Examples: Simon Says, Follow The Leader and Team Sports.

Virtual / Digital Play:



Activities that occur on digital devices or games consoles.

Examples: Online Gaming and Computer Based Learning Programs

Symbolic Play:



Using objects, actions or ideas to represent other actions, objects or ideas.

Examples: Cardboard Tube as Telescopes

Recapitulative Play:



Activities that allow for the exploration of ancestry, history, rituals and folklore

Examples: Rhymes, Poems, and Darkness

Socio - Dramatic Play:



Activities where children act out social experiences.

Examples: Playing House, Mud Kitchen, Going to the Shops.