Short-term Playground Improvements

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Play structures are expensive. But many other elements of a natural playground can be simple and low-cost.

While we save and raise funds for new play structures, we can start today with smaller projects which will have a huge impact on the play area.

Sand Cones

- Plastic ice cream cones and scoops
- Holder (cedar 2x4 with 1" ø holes)

Cost: $20

Weather Station

Measure wind and temperature

Large Dial Thermometer ~$60

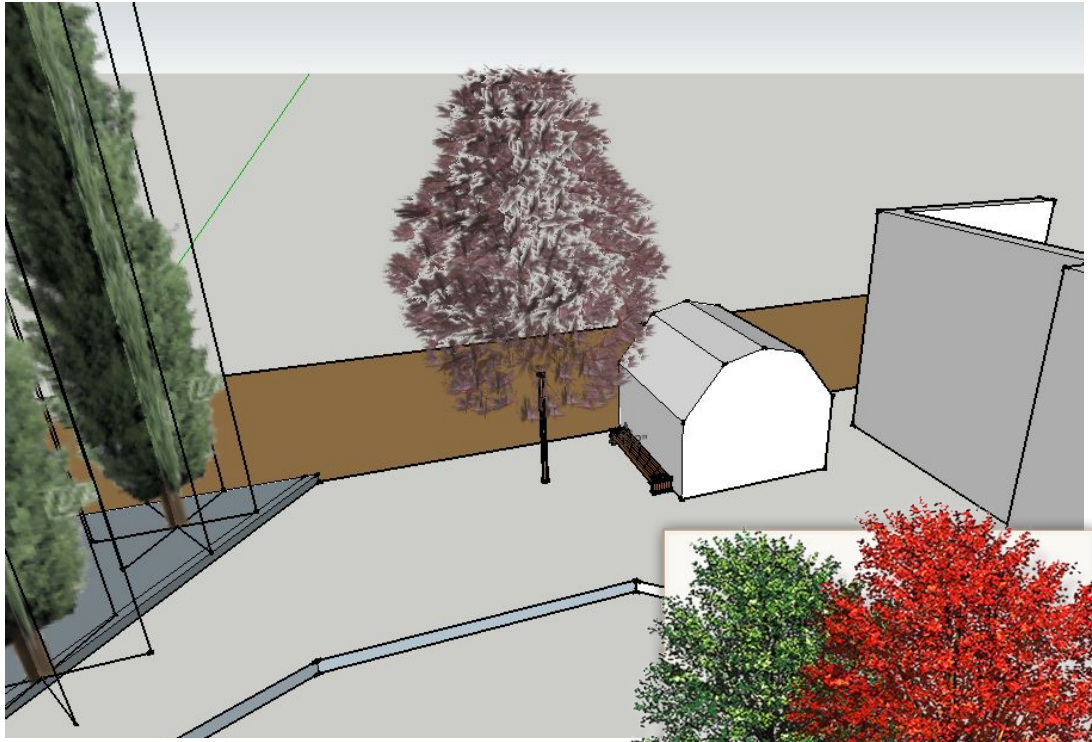
Blue Jay Whirligig ~$80

Tree

Add tree to west end of playground for shade

Autumn Blaze Maple: Hearty, fast-growing tree for urban environments. Bright red leaves in the fall.

Cost: ~$800 (50-80mm ø) (includes planting)



Covered Sandbox

Roof for shade, also creates a dry outdoor space if raining

- Corrugated metal roof with fiberglass panel to let natural light through
- Combine with a rain barrel to catch water - to be used for water play in the sand

Cost: ~$1000 (materials)

Sandbox Improvements

Moving sandbox 2 feet away from the wall gives a place for the cover = more usable play space

Replacing plastic retaining wall with cedar 6x6. Larger surface for playing on or for sitting

Replacing the broken 4x4 post with a 6x6 cedar post and re-adding the shade canopy

Cost: $120 (post) $480 (frame)

Stick Corner

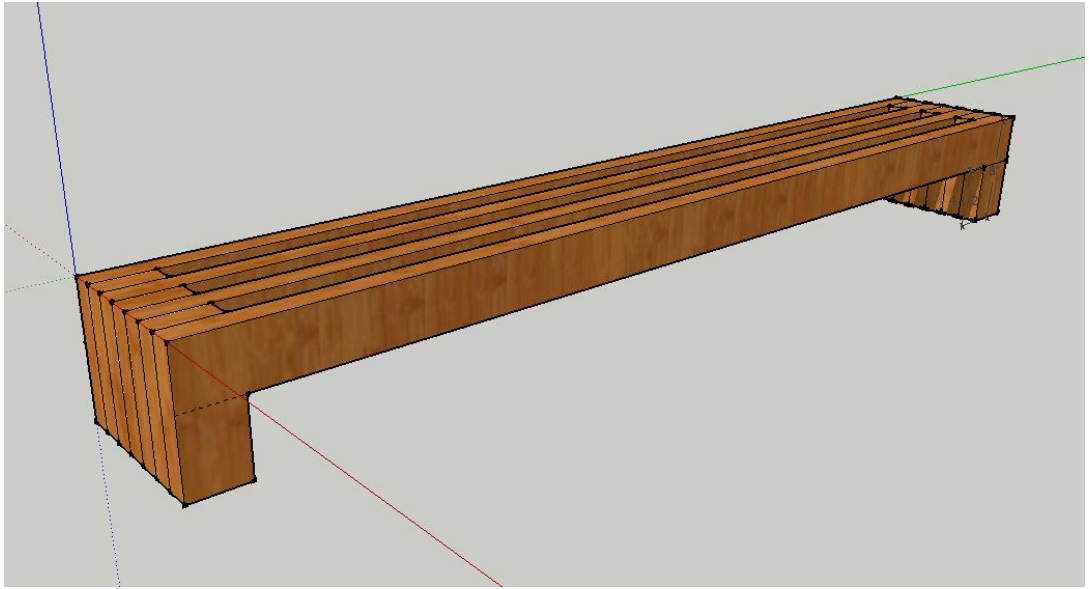
- Keep sticks of various lengths in an under-used corner of the playground
- Great for free play, building, dramatic play

Cost: $0

Benches

- Replace existing bench next to sandbox
- Add bench near storage shed or near entrance gate
- Built with cedar 2x4s

Cost: $50 / bench



Pallet Playhouse

Structure for dramatic play or a quiet space

- Could use new wood if suitable pallets are not available
- Roof could be corrugated fiberglass or plastic to let natural light in
- Combine with existing mud kitchen?

Cost: $100-200

Outdoor blocks

- Blocks for building, stacking, making ramps
- Use dimensional lumber (2x4, 1x4)
- Log slices (stacking, dramatic play, gross-motor skills)

Cost: $50-100

Close the Loop

Allow riding of tricycles around play structure

- Remove the inverted climber
- Close gap on platform
- Move woodchip wall away from fence ~50cm
- Play structure retains required 1.8m safety clearance area

Cost: $100