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

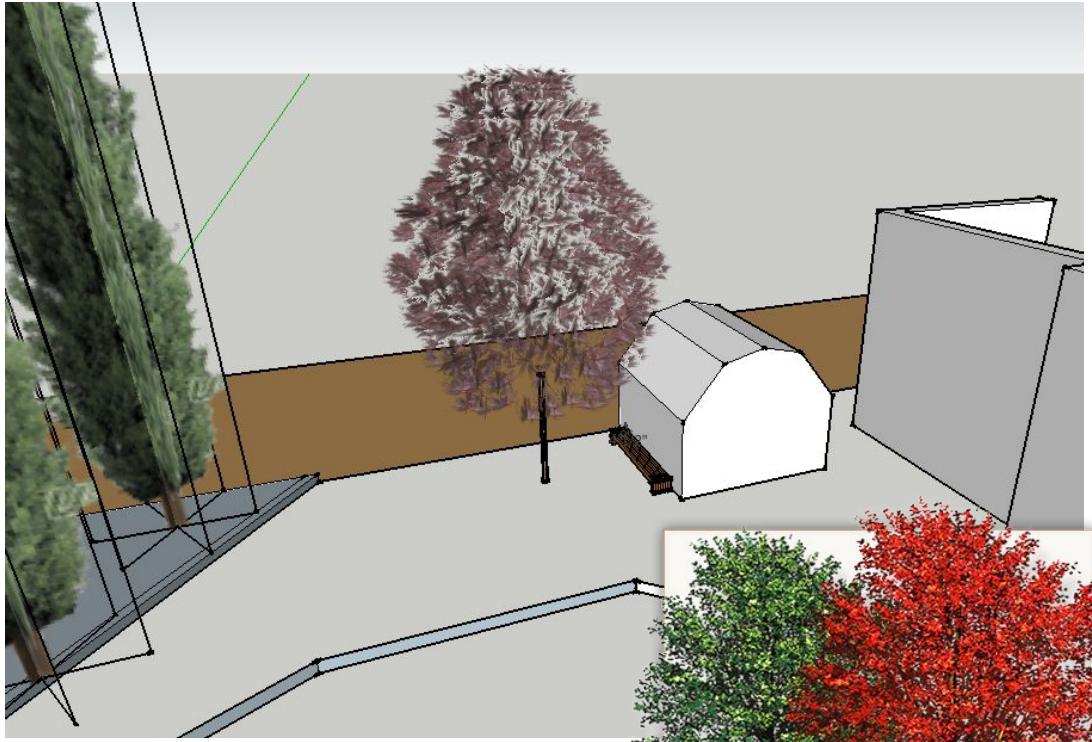
Blue Jay Whirligig ~$80

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

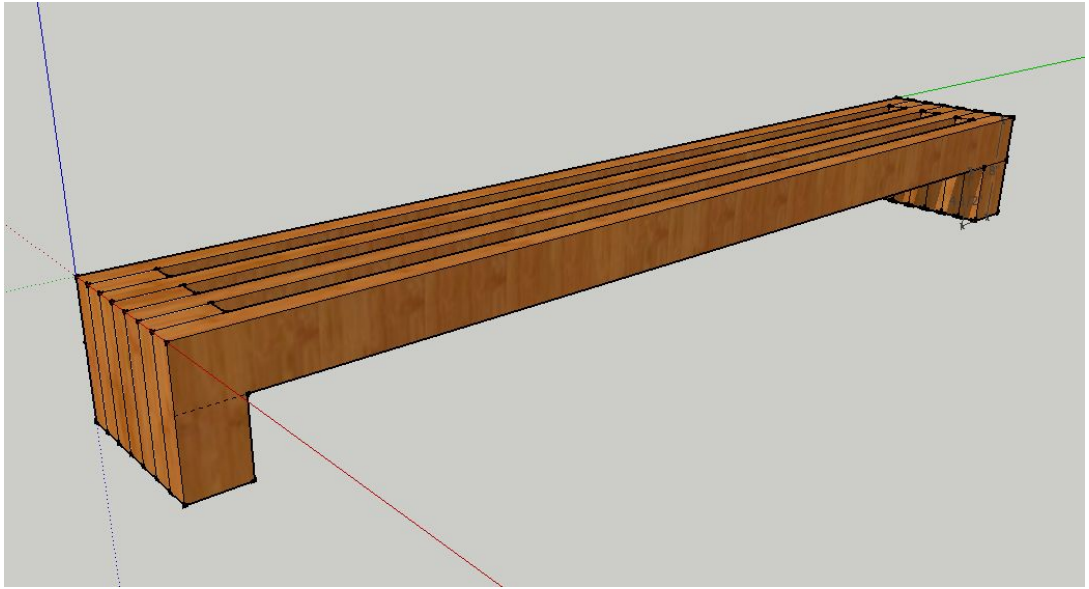
- Keep sticks of various lengths in an under-used corner of the playground
- Great for free play, building, dramatic play

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

Next Steps

Estimated costs are only for materials

Work would be done by parents wherever possible. (Great way for parents to get to know each other as well.)

We hope to organize a "playground refresh" weekend as soon as we have board approval