

Playground Campaign

***Rebuilding the Preschool Playground and
Improving the School Age Playground
at the Morristown Neighborhood House***

Case for Support



Overview:

Last year, following the discovery of structural cracks in the Morristown Neighborhood House building, we conducted extensive testing to assess the issue. Engineers determined that the steel near the preschool playground wall had deteriorated due to improper brick installation on that side of the building. After a seven-month remediation project, all necessary repairs have been successfully completed.

To maintain compliance with New Jersey state licensing requirements for preschool education, we must now clear the area of construction debris and rebuild the playground. This rebuild presents an opportunity to design a safer and more engaging space for both toddlers and older preschoolers. We also will be installing a specialized artificial turf that meets state safety recommendations. Additionally, researching the requirements for the new preschool playground led us to realize that our school-age playground needed some improvements, such as compliant surface materials and age-appropriate play structures.

The total cost of the preschool playground reconstruction and school-age playground improvements, including an endowment for ongoing maintenance, is just over \$350,000. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have already secured \$145,000.

Timeline and Objectives:

- Complete playground construction for 125 toddlers/older preschoolers to use by July 1, 2025
 - Launch Playground Campaign – February 2025
 - Order and put a deposit on equipment – March 2025
 - Break ground on Playground – April/May as weather permits
 - Complete construction before July 1, 2025
- Keep our preschool license in good standing with the state of New Jersey
- Complete school-age playground improvements for 140 school-age children to use by November 1, 2025
 - The school-age phase of the playground will begin after summer camp.

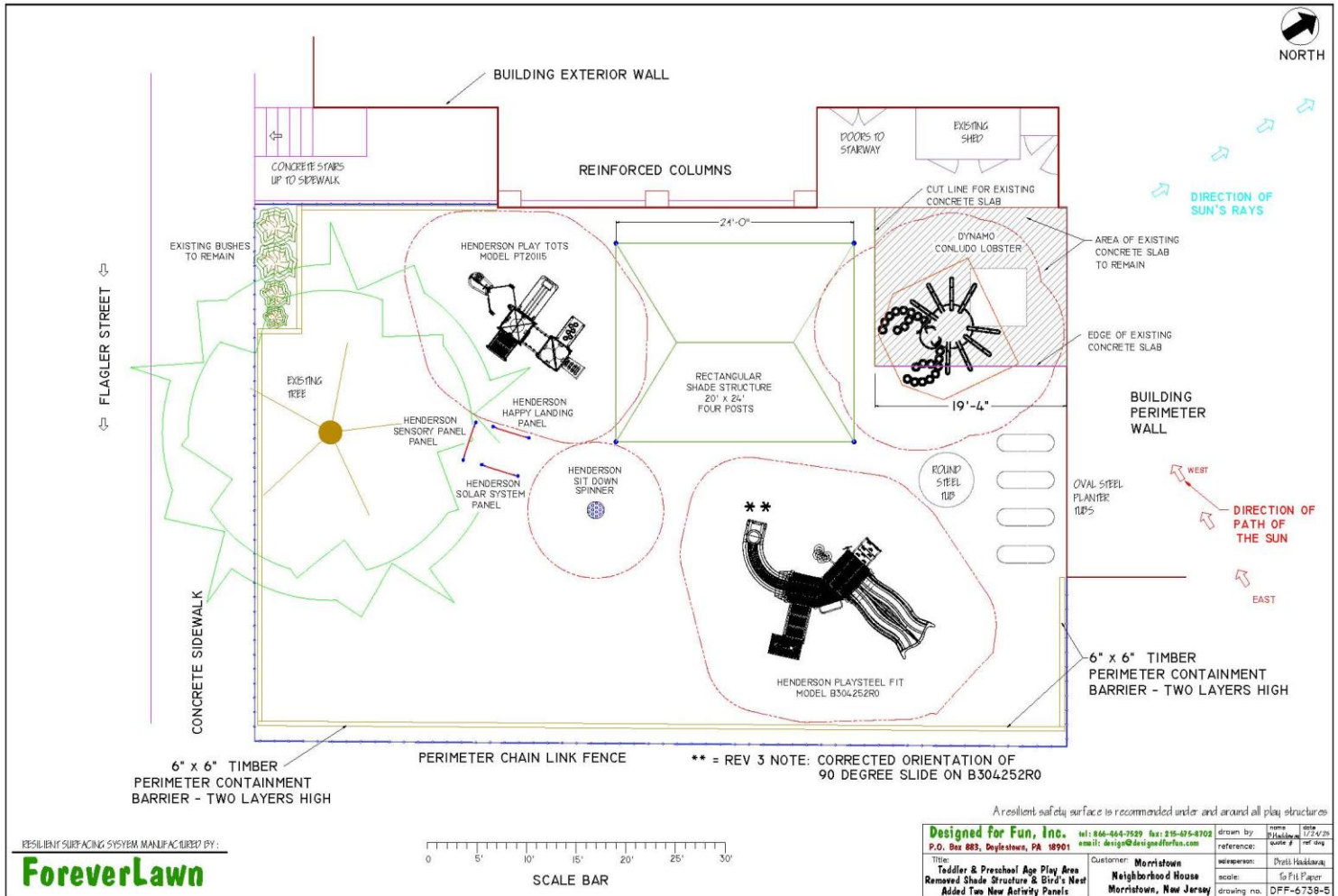
Action:

After interviewing several vendors, we selected a Certified Playground Consultant Firm, *Designed for Fun*.

Designed for Fun flew drones over the space to get the best vantage point and proposed building spaces for both toddlers and older preschoolers so each would have structures and abilities for appropriate play. They created renderings to visualize our future playground which includes slide/play structure, sensory panels, and a lobster climbing center. The designs also incorporate a shade structure, which is important in the heat of the day and taking cover during light rain and three picnic tables for the students to eat snacks and do arts and crafts and have outdoor school lessons. *Designed for Fun* also proposed that we replace the current wooden mulch with age-appropriate artificial turf, which is safer for our preschoolers and more cost efficient over several years of playground use.

Design for Fun also provided initial recommendations for the school-age playground including the artificial turf and 3 climbing structures. (renderings to be developed).

Morristown Neighborhood House - Conceptual Design



Impact:

Creating a customized playground can have a significant impact on their development, learning, and social skills, as follows:

- **Physical Development**
 - **Motor Skills:** Age-appropriate equipment can enhance gross and fine motor skills. Activities like climbing, sliding, and balancing help improve coordination and strength.
 - **Active Play:** A playground encourages physical activity, combating sedentary behavior and promoting a healthy lifestyle from an early age.
- **Cognitive Development**
 - **Problem-Solving:** Playgrounds can include features that challenge children's reasoning and problem-solving abilities, such as mazes or climbing structures.
 - **Imaginative Play:** Custom elements can inspire creative play, allowing children to engage in role-playing and storytelling.
- **Social Skills**
 - **Cooperation and Teamwork:** Shared play spaces foster social interaction, teaching children how to negotiate, share, and work together.
 - **Conflict Resolution:** Opportunities for play can lead to conflicts, which help children learn to resolve disputes and develop empathy.
- **Emotional Development**
 - **Confidence Building:** Mastering playground equipment can boost self-esteem and encourage risk-taking in a safe environment.
 - **Stress Relief:** Outdoor play provides a natural outlet for emotions, helping children manage stress and anxiety.
- **Sensory Experiences**
 - **Multisensory Learning:** A customized playground can include various textures, colors, and sounds, enhancing sensory exploration and awareness.
- **Structured vs. Free Play**
 - **Balance:** A well-designed playground allows for both structured activities and free play, catering to different play styles and developmental needs.

**CORNERSTONE FAMILY PROGRAMS
PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECT
QUOTES AND ESTIMATED COSTS**

DATE: 02.11.25 Revised

Pre-k Playground facing 12 Flagler St						Approx 4,400 sq ft		
Total Playground Prep, Equipment and Installation							\$	108,153
Total Forever Lawn Playground Ultra Grass Cost							\$	100,245
Other Costs							\$	27,162
Grand Total PreK Playground Project							\$	235,560
School Age Playground behind Gym						Approx 2,300 sq Ft		
Total Playground Prep, Equipment and Installation							\$	41,468
Total Forever Lawn Playground Ultra Grass Cost							\$	49,723
Contingency @ 10%							\$	9,119
Total costs one-time							\$	100,309
Annual Maintenance								
Endowment funded recurring maintenance costs							\$	15,000
Grand Total- PreK Playground & School Age Playground							\$	350,869

Campaign:

The vision for the campaign is outlined below.

NUMBER OF GIFTS	AMOUNT OF GIFT	TOTAL AMOUNT AT LEVEL	TOTAL # OF GIFTS RECEIVED
1	\$100,000	\$100,000	1
1	\$75,000	\$75,000	
1	\$50,000	\$50,000	
2	\$25,000	\$50,000	1
1	\$20,000	\$20,000	1
2	\$10,000	\$20,000	
3	\$5,000	\$15,000	
*Brick Campaign (Unlimited)	<\$5,000	\$20,000	

*The Brick Campaign will encourage smaller donations, especially by members of the local community. We may decide to substitute a similar material to bricks as the design takes shape.