

Meeting Minutes

Project: Chandler Tot Lot Renovations

Meeting Date: May 08, 2025, 6 pm

Meeting Location: Chandler-Newberger Community Center

Meeting Purpose: Neighborhood kickoff meeting to discuss tot lot conditions and renovation possibilities.

Attendees: Eleanor Revelle, Former Councilmember
Audrey Thompson, Director of Parks & Recreation
Michael Callahan, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Tim Carter, Recreation Manager
Stefanie Levine, Senior Project Manager
Kenon Boehm, Landscape Designer II
Parks and Recreation Board Members
Community Members

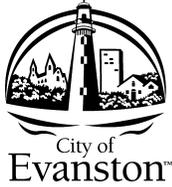
PRESENTATION:

Public Engagement meeting #1 was held at the Chandler-Newberger Community Center.

Staff went through the planned presentation, detailing project timelines, anticipated scope, and existing conditions.

Following this presentation, Staff opened the conversation to allow for discussion and general questions/answers. Attendees discussed how they currently utilize the park and how they visualize the future design of the space. Attendees brought up a multitude of items from the drainage space to basketball to fencing. Common items discussed are below:

- Activating drainage space with a rain garden was well received
- Appreciation of space for tot lot, but found kids quickly outgrew. Maybe include a few more items to accompany tot lot for older kids?
- Raised planters are very sad and would like them revitalized. Enjoy their use as seats and makeshift balance beams for the kids
- Basketball space should stay but needs one goal at a more appropriate height for younger children
- Need to keep fencing, but some spaces need to be reset/repared
- Concerns with sand pit attracting wasps, but stated it's a heavily used item
- Would love to see sensory tables or anything with object play



Meeting Minutes

- General discussion around playground surfacing, some voiced wanting to make sure it's wood chips
- Stated additional use of space for 0-2 age groups

The meeting then moved into the breakout activities where residents could provide additional feedback. Attendees were given post it notes and stickers to be utilized on (4) boards. These boards asked questions regarding site use, general demographics, and provoking topics to help the attendees fine tune their wants into their top four use categories. Each of the categories allowed for the opportunity to provide additional information around their wants. Additional information during this time included the following:

- Themes to instigate the imagination as this better connected some older groups, but allowed to keep playground appropriate for 2-5 age range
- Would love (1) tall element
- Swings are a must, especially if newer styles can be utilized that allow multiple swingers on the same item
- Potential addition of a bridge in the drainage area
- Love for a merry-go-round as they're not many Evanston parks
- Restating that basketball is heavily used after school and on weekends

The meeting concluded with staff indicating that the next meeting would hopefully be held in June/July and all attendees were encouraged to attend future meetings to provide additional public input. Public meeting #2 will have multiple concepts for review and input.



WHAT'S GREAT or NOT SO GREAT?

MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT CHANDLER TOT LOT IS _____ BECAUSE _____
 I'D VISIT CHANDLER TOT LOT MORE IF IT HAD _____ BECAUSE _____

Woodchips! ☺
 No rubber floor
 please

Love convenience to Chandler Hate safety concerns from old equipment	Keep this for tots! Keep the fence! Great spot while big kids are in programming ☺	Love the current double seat see saw			Like basketball, fence, swings Seating Needs more picnic tables, shade, plants
the fence because of safety + equipment © NIT				Things crawling friendly, hills, bridges tunnels etc. any stairs need vertical bars on sides to prevent fall of the side of stairs.	Needs more shade * See-saw is unique, attraction for various ages - double seater! * "spring" chairs are not that fun *
				tots eat wood chips + sand No wood chips/sand!	* bridges as part of play structure * tunnel! * basketball court ↳ diff. heights * preform play component
				no sand	fire swing I agree!
				No sand	great - Proximity to Chandler - fenced in - seating - needs updated equipment - wider range of equipment



WHAT CAN IT BE?

TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES

REVIEW THE IMAGES BELOW TO PRIORITIZE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS

Provide interaction with nature

Native plants, Pollinators, Raingarden, etc.

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Bridge in rain garden?
Signs to explain plants?

Provide

Playground, Nature, Free space, Updated Basketball, etc.

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Wide slide for caregivers to go with or help

Cool Slide (not too big)

2-seated swing for big + little kid at the same time
yes!

Race car track

Install equipment that can be used with others.
ex: - baby swing attached to strap swing
- seesaw

*merry go round!!!
Evanston is lacking in merry-go-rounds
*monkey bars!!!
*Keep see saw

- Slides
- See saw
- Climbing structure
- merry go round
- jr. basketball or ADA basketball
- Zip line

monkey bars → shorter monkey bars like tot lot @ area of fireman's park
multiple slides

Make a theme



- spiderweb climb
tunnel

Zip Line with baby swing

Evanston theme? Golf theme? Chicago theme? Shops?

Stepping/balance stones



CHANDLER TOT LOT | RESP

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING #1 | 05-08-2025

pirate/lava/ some type of theme great for pretend play

Climbing Dirt/sand box Swings + Slides Blowing bubbles playing chase

Spinning features

ADD merry go round

WHAT CAN IT BE?

TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES

REVIEW THE IMAGES BELOW TO PRIORITIZE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS

Provide gathering areas

Patio, Flexible seating, Picnic tables, Seatwall, etc.

Color-coded circles: 1 orange, 1 pink, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 red, 1 white, 1 white.

Grid of 24 empty circles (4 rows by 6 columns).

Picnic Tables *
Places to eat lunch, enjoy music @ Post 42?



Provide relaxation spaces

Benches, Open Space, Shade, etc.

Color-coded circles: 1 yellow, 1 yellow, 1 red, 1 white, 1 white, 1 white.

Grid of 24 empty circles (4 rows by 6 columns).

Grid of 12 empty rectangular boxes (4 rows by 3 columns).



Provide enhanced safety

Fencing, etc.

Color-coded circles: 1 yellow, 1 red, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 pink, 1 red, 1 pink.

Grid of 24 empty circles (4 rows by 6 columns).

Handwritten notes on sticky notes:

- Road / intersection is very dangerous! Keep the fence!
- the Fence is a priority for us
- Safety: current padding is slippery.
- Fence is way

Grid of 12 empty rectangular boxes (4 rows by 3 columns).



About yourself

TELL US MORE

FILL OUT THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS BELOW

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT?

DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
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WHO VISITS WITH YOU?

SOLO	PARTNER	FAMILY
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WHAT TIME OF DAY?

MORNING	AFTERNOON	ALL DAY
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HOW LONG DO YOU STAY?

30 MIN.	1-3 HOURS	3+ HOURS
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HOW DO YOU UTILIZE THE PARK?

PLAY	SOCIALIZE	RELAXATION	PASSING THROUGH	EXERCISE	EVENTS	CLASSES
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TELL US MORE! ADD POST-IT NOTES TO SQUARES!!

Destination for playdates after classes/gymnastics

Used for generalizing play skills and exercise. Also love the vending machines + water fountains

For tots who big kids e gym

Camp/ CoE groups

Lots of use by the neighborhood but also st. A's

Pre-School group of 10-15 kids



CHANDLER TOT-LOT | RESPONSE #4

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