

2025-04-10

BACA Subcommittee Meeting

645 Pine Street Front Conference Room and Zoom

In Attendance:

Nate Besio
Karen Downey
John Thomas
Shelby Glass
Scottie Taylor
Sophie Sauvé

Members of the subcommittee introduced themselves and their role on the Burlington Advisory Committee on Accessibility.

Sophie provided an overview of Universal Design (UD) Principles, which BPRW is adhering to for the replacement of all city playgrounds going forward. While the City is required to adhere to ADA guidelines, UD goes above and beyond ADA and targets making spaces more inclusive and accessible on multiple layers.

A summary of the Seven Universal Design Principles can be found here: [Universal Design Principles | Disability Access & Compliance](#)

Sophie reviewed the Pomeroy Park Playground Project history to date, site analysis, public engagement and proposed concept design. The Pomeroy Park Playground Project evolved out of the removal of the playground's Tot Lot in 2021 due to safety concerns and strong support for its replacement. BPRW bid out the project in 2022, however, no bids were received. Upon evaluating the playground as a whole and the timeline for all of its replacement against other playground replacement needs in the city, the BPRW team decided that combining the full replacement with the tot lot would likely generate competitive bids, be more efficient and less disruptive to the park/playground as a whole.

The proposed concept plan for the playground includes adding in unitary surfacing throughout the playground, but retaining the surrounding vegetation/trees that provide a great deal of shade to the playground. Sophie is working with the City Arborist on identifying any care needed to preserve the trees and any work that could be done under the trees to offer more natural interest in the playground area. Interplanting was also discussed to stagger the tree stand's age and to meet future needs.

The team discussed ways to improve accessibility for the visually impaired, especially children, at the playground. There was discussion around tactile feedback, such as a sandpaper tape or texture surfaces, to warn of drop-offs and provide additional warning. Exploring the use of bumps or cane guides, such as those used in Japan, were also discussed. As was the potential for an area (maybe not at Pomeroy, but at a larger playground like Leddy) where a rope guide could be set up for children who are visually impaired to run, guided by the rope.

Other parts of the design were also discussed, including moving the fence to create more space for all the different conceptual areas of the playground, elevation changes and intentional use of the surface to add another layer of play to the playground. Discussion of a track around the perimeter of the playground for kids who are learning to ride on balance bikes or for anyone to follow around the playground, including kids who use mobility devices. Benches will include space next to them for a mobility device, a person using a mobility device or a stroller. The need for an ADA parking spot and the required space was also discussed.

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