

CONCEPT FOR WENZLER PARK PLAYGROUND

THEME: TREE HOUSE

Wenzler Park has architectural appeal with its dense canopy of trees throughout the park, as well as, interesting topography.

SCHOOL AGE PLAY AREA

The topography presents opportunities for creative play events on the hillside by taking advantage of the elevation changes. The playground equipment will fit within the existing canopy of trees adding to the quality of the natural setting. A tree house play structure would provide a unique opportunity to take full advantage of the hillside area. Wood and/or recycled wood will be utilized to create a more natural tree house look. A "universal design" tree house will be accessed by a system of ramps at the top of the hill near the existing shelter. The tree house will be perched at the top of the hill providing an opportunity for people using mobility devices to look out and over the lower play environment. The larger tree house will be designed to meet the needs of children ages 5 to 12. This play structure will have a long slide that starts in the tree house and moves down the slope of the hill creating a long sliding opportunity. The hillside will be covered with rubber to prevent erosion, protect children from falls and to provide an easy surface for children with mobility impairments to gain access back to the tree house. A ground level hill side slide will also be provided. An assortment of climbers, including natural rocks and boulders will be set into the rubber hill side surface to provide a variety of climbing opportunities. A swing set with open swings for older children as well as a therapeutic swing will be placed on the lower portion of the school age play area.

PRE-SCHOOL AGE PLAY AREA

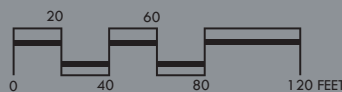
The toddler area will be designed to reflect the tree house theme but on a smaller level. This area will be designed to meet the developmental needs of children ages 2 to 5. A small slide, age appropriate climbing and balancing opportunities, as well as a series of crawl tunnels, will provide a good variety of play for the younger child. This area will be on the top side of the hill closer to the shelter area. A swing set for the toddlers will be adjacent to the toddler area.

The system of pathways have been laid out to provide good access to all areas of the park without cutting into the open field areas that are used for ball play. A series of loops allow a person to either take a short walk, or a longer walk which can utilize the entire system of pathways and sidewalks. A new entrance into the park will be created off of Sharewood Court adjacent to the intersection of Benfield Drive and will provide ADA access into the park and to the shelter. Nature trails will meander throughout the wooded area along Ackerman Blvd. Some of the dense undergrowth will be removed providing visibility into the wooded area. This area will have a "rocks and ropes" course that provides climbing, strength building and balancing opportunities for children as well as adults.



LEGEND

- ① SCHOOL AGE PLAY AREA
- ② PRE-SCHOOL AGE PLAY AREA
- ③ EXISTING SHELTER
- ④ PROPOSED WALKING TRAIL
- ⑤ PROPOSED NATURE TRAIL
- ⑥ EXISTING SIDEWALK
- ⑦ OPEN SPACE
- ⑧ EXISTING TENNIS COURTS



**WENZLER PARK - KETTERING OHIO
PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

