



Onion Creek Metropolitan Park

All Abilities Playground

Virtual Community Meeting #3

June 20, 2024

6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

austintexas.gov/Onion-Creek-All-Abilities

welcome

meeting agenda and guidelines

1. Project Team & Timeline
2. Community Engagement & Project Goals
3. Onion Creek Metro Park - Site Discussion
 - Site Background
 - What is an all abilities playground?
4. Design Concept Community Input Summary
5. Design Updates
 - Concept Site Plan
 - Inclusive Features
 - Sustainable Features
 - Nature Connection
 - Amenity Features
 - Restrooms
6. Experience
7. Comments

This session is being recorded.
Esta sesión está siendo grabada.



Interpretación en Español

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Closed Captioning

In the meeting controls toolbar at the bottom of your screen, click the “Show Captions” icon.

Two ways to participate in today's meeting:



Q&A - (Preferred) Type your question into the Q&A feature located at the bottom of your Zoom screen.



Chat - Add comments or responses using the Chat box in a pop-out window.

In partnership with



**AUSTIN
PARKS
FOUNDATION**





AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION

Here's how we make parks healthier, safer and more accessible for every Austinite:



ACTIVATING

We create programs to encourage positive use of public spaces in neighborhoods across Austin.



ENGAGING

We empower community leaders and connect people to education and resources to promote change.



INVESTING

We finance projects large and small to help develop and improve Austin's parks, trails, and green spaces.

with support from:



project team



**AUSTIN
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**AUSTIN
PARKS
RECREATION**

landscape architect



TBG

community engagement



**Cultural
Strategies**

architect



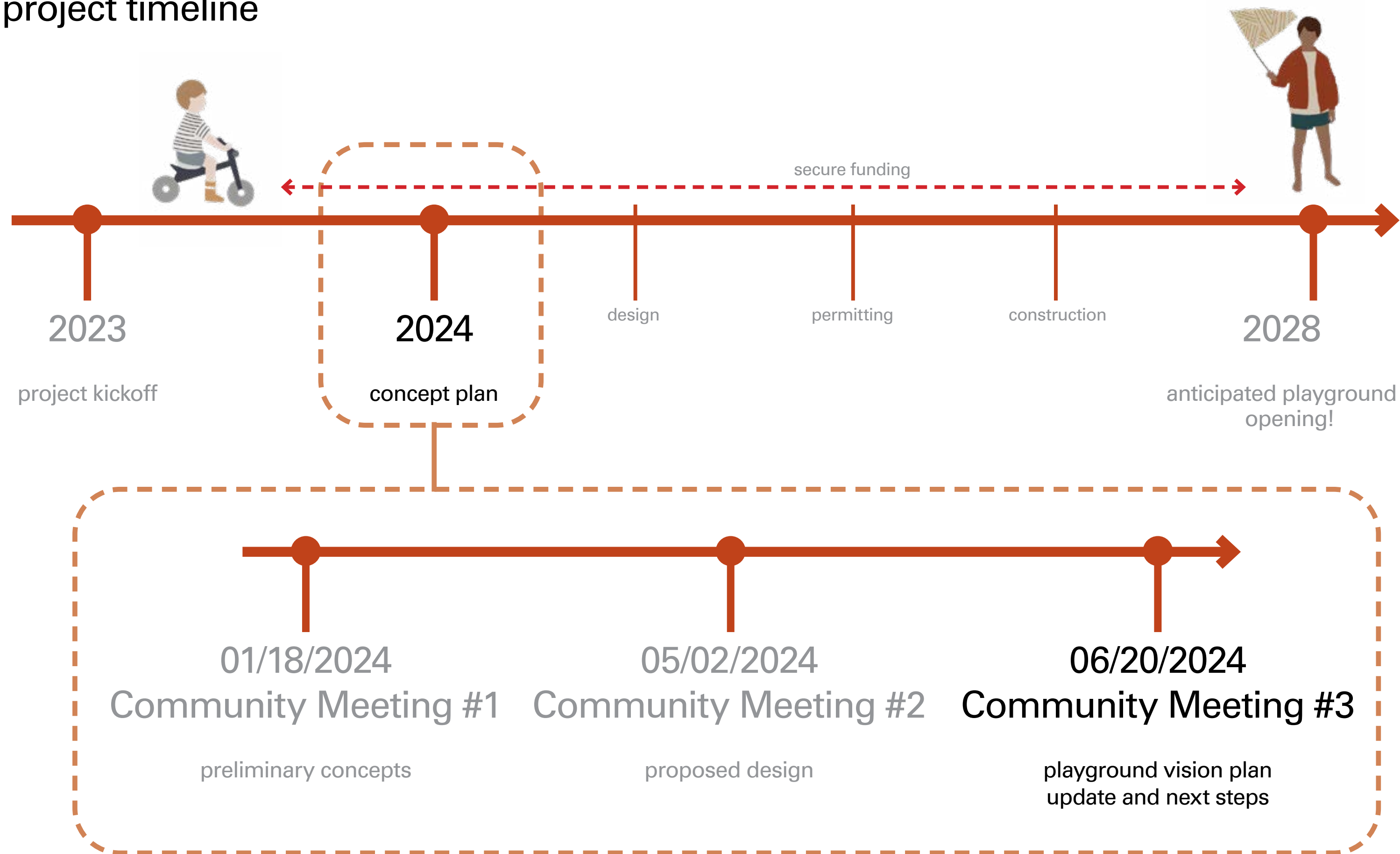
**Jobe Corral
Architects**

civil engineer



***Our Mission is to create a welcoming, accessible and inclusive All Abilities Playground
where everyone can enjoy the magic of play!***

project timeline



community engagement



Community Outreach: January 2024 - June 2024

- **5** Engagements with Subject Matter Expert/Advisory Group
- **12** Small Group Discussion Meetings (January - April)
Phase 1 - 26 Participants
Phase 2 - 15 Participants
- **77** Attendees January 18 Virtual Community Meeting
184 Registrations
- **36** Attendees May 2 Virtual Community Meeting
86 Registrations
- **6** Tabling/Presentations
- **211** Phase 1 Survey Responses
- **206** Phase 2 Questionnaire Responses (800+ Comments)
- **12** Emails to 500+ Stakeholder List
- **8,126** Postcard Delivered to Adjacent Neighborhoods
- News media and social media coverage

project goals

community engagement

- Respond directly to the community's desires and needs
- Design based on community engagement outcomes

sustainability

- Achieve Sustainable SITES Certification playground
- Incorporate innovative stormwater solutions and methods of maintenance

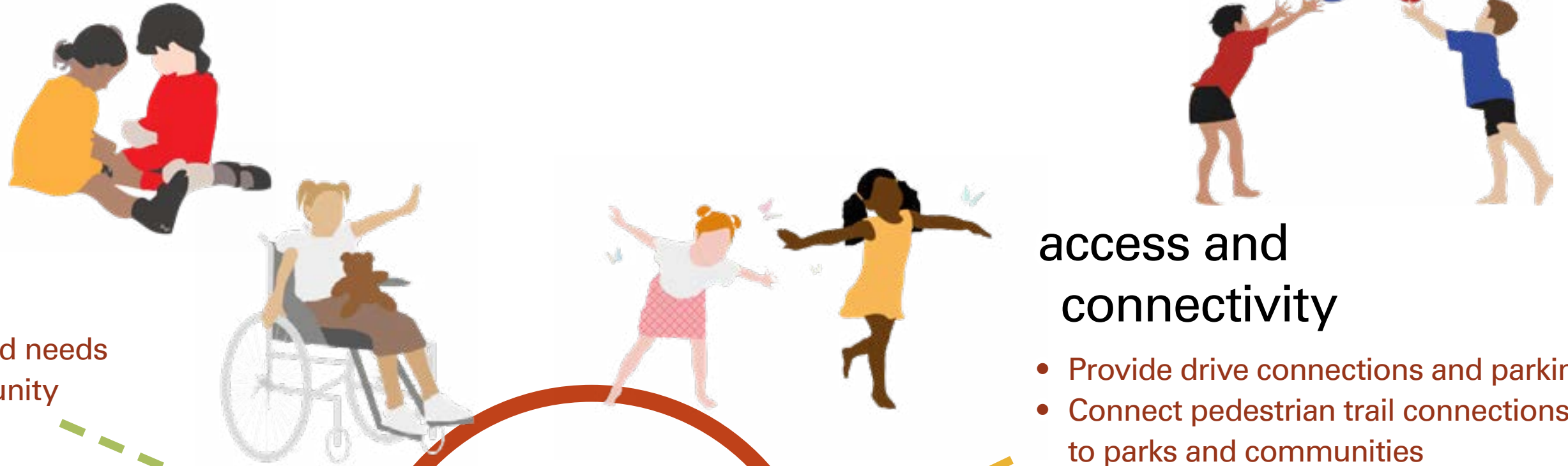
inclusivity and flexibility

access and connectivity

- Provide drive connections and parking
- Connect pedestrian trail connections to parks and communities
- Provide an inclusive play area with an accessible and inclusive restroom facility and picnic pavilions

vision and identity

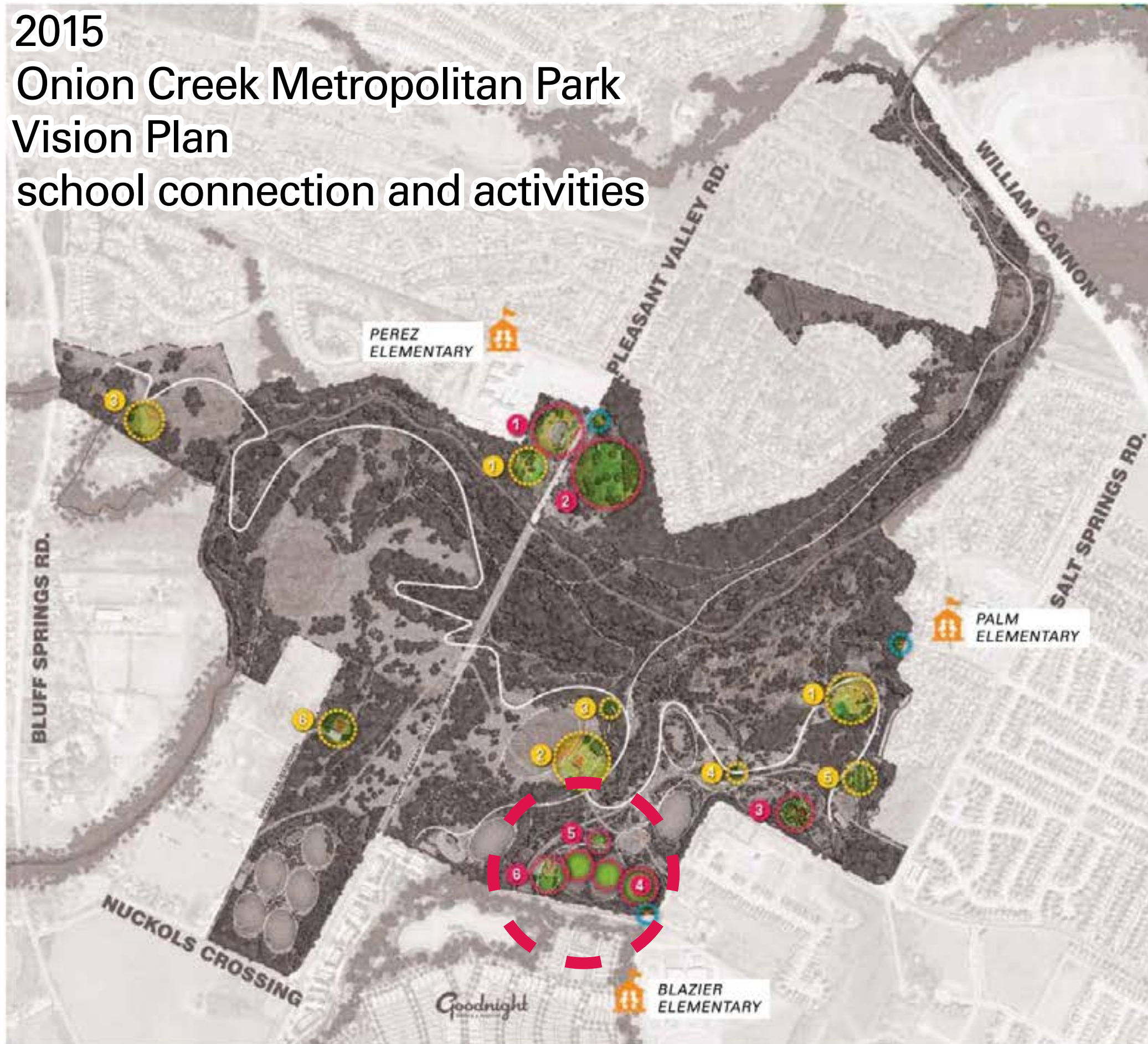
- Integrate characteristics defined in the adopted vision plan
- Reflect the natural landscape of Onion Creek



2015 Onion Creek Metropolitan Park Vision Plan



2015 Onion Creek Metropolitan Park Vision Plan school connection and activities



Onion Creek Metropolitan Park Amenities for Local Schools

CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL

- 1 Outdoor Classroom
- 2 Nature Center with Library
- 3 Interpretive Learning Stations
- 4 Observation Tower
- 5 Community Garden
- 6 Equestrian Center

ACTIVE/RECREATIONAL

- 1 Skate Park + Parkour
- 2 Disc Golf
- 3 Nature Based Playground/ Adventure Forest
- 4 Playfields
- 5 Multi-Age Fitness Stations
- 6 Traditional Playground



site location

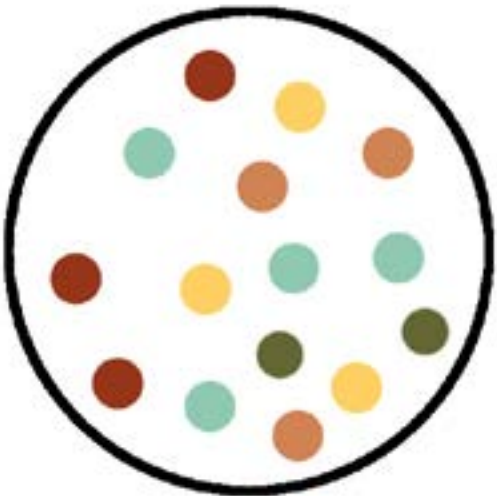


site location

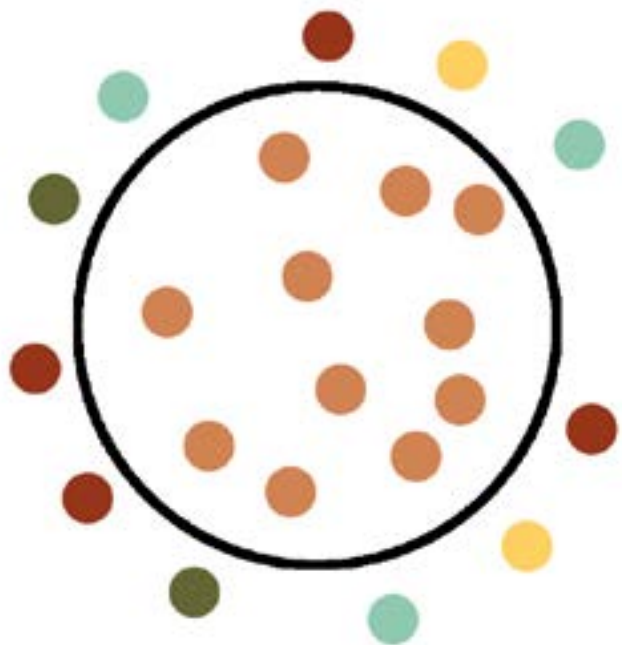


inclusion

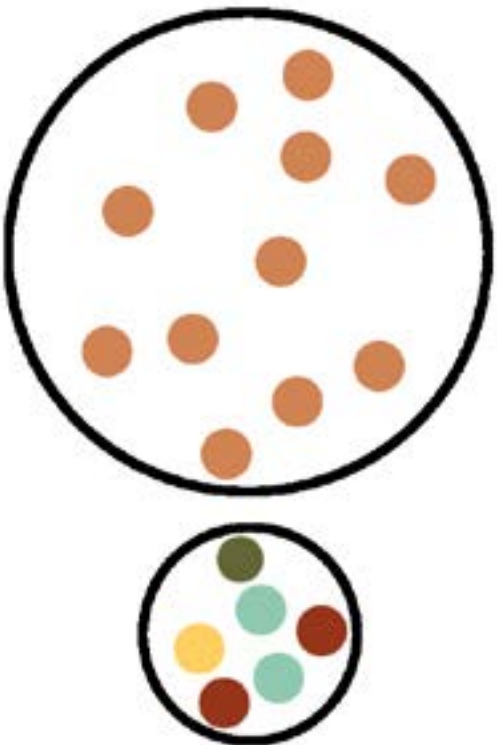
inclusion



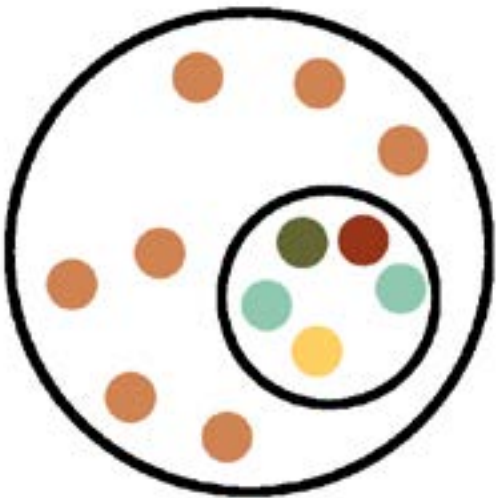
exclusion



segregation



integration



5 tenets of play



leave space for the unexpected

authentic nature



apprehension to accomplishment

responsible risk-taking



connect people to nature and people to people

inclusivity + connection



increasing focus and stimulating imagination

productive engagement



encourage independent exploration

exploration + curiosity

discussion topics:

**community
engagement
summary**

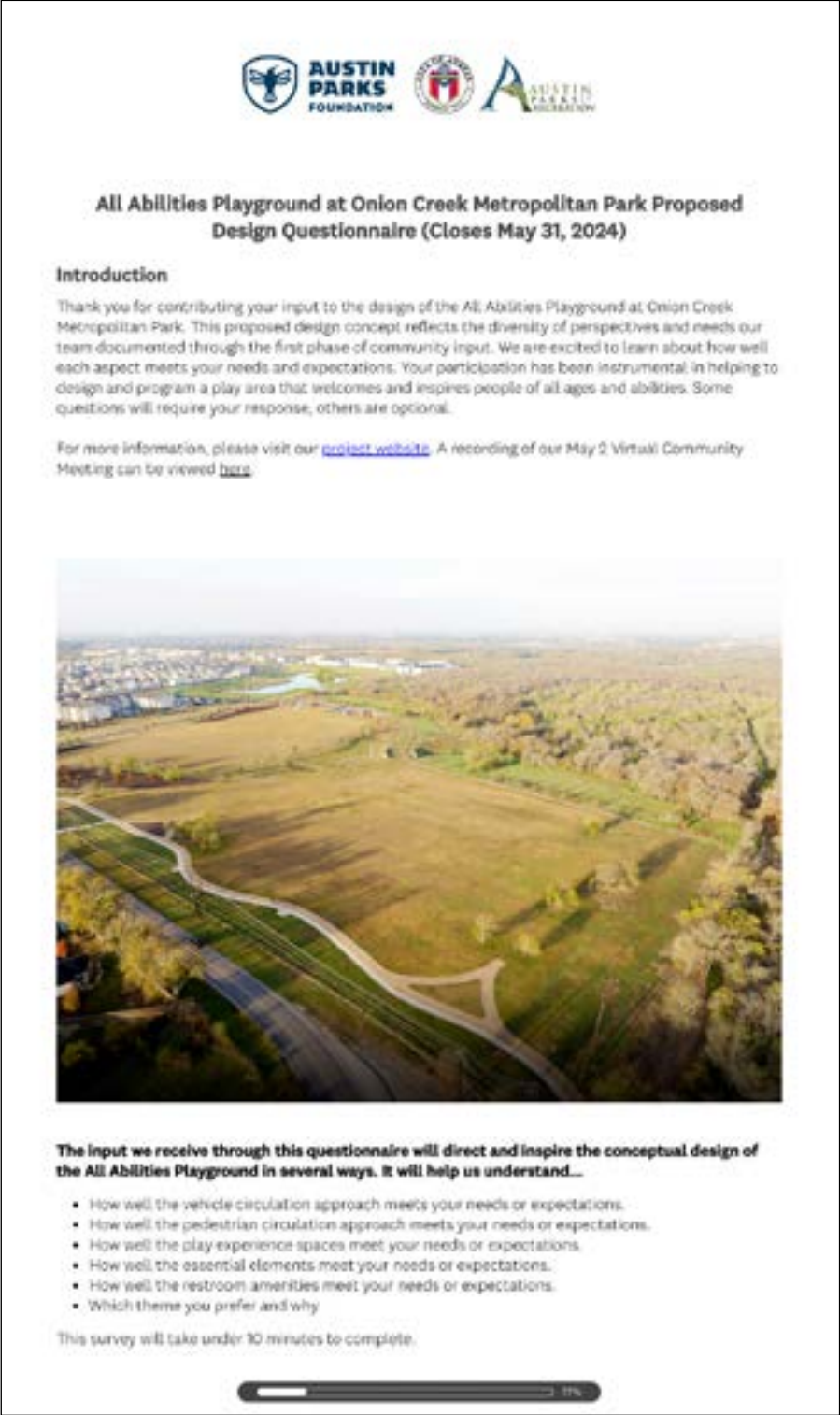
**design
updates**

experiences



community engagement summary

community engagement



Phase 2 - Proposed Design Questionnaire

- May 2 through May 31, 2024
- 206 Responses
- 800+ Comments Received

38% Self-Identified as racial/ethnic minority

- Hispanic/Latino - 21%
- Black - 7%
- Asian - 7%
- Native/Indigenous - 3%
- Another/Prefer Not - 9%

63% Had children under the age of 18 at home

44% Indicated that they or someone at home had a disability

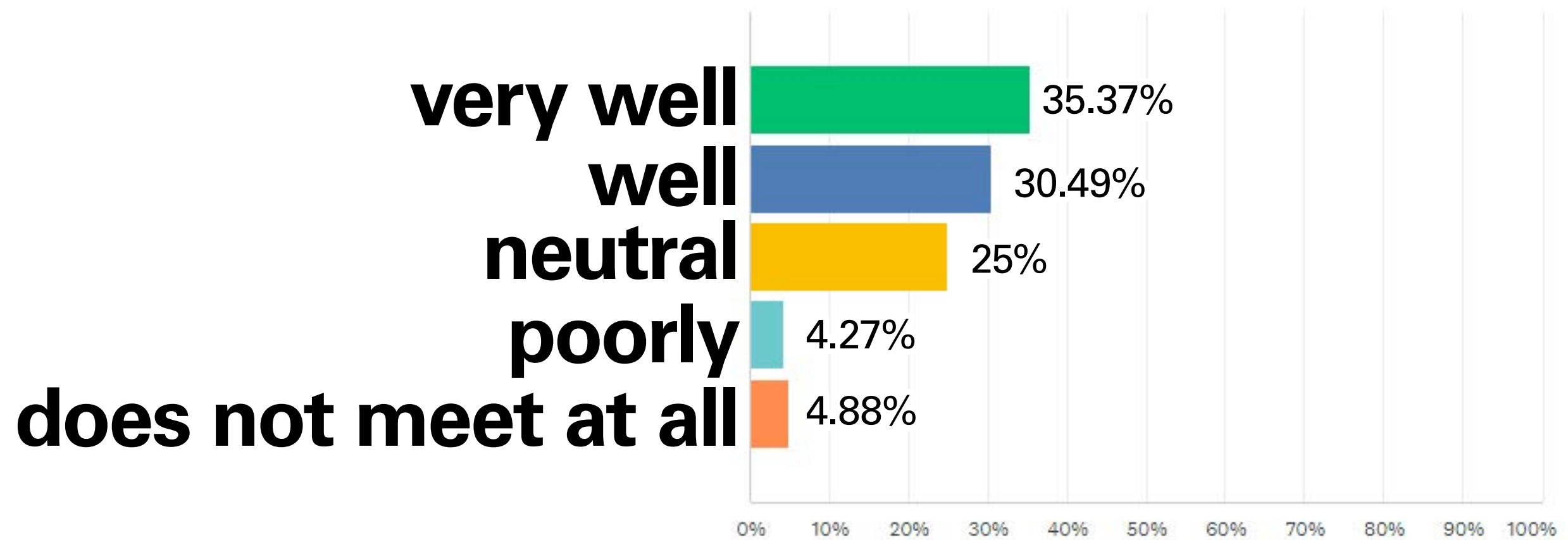
Top 5 ZIP Codes: 54%

- 78747 - 25%
- 78744 - 13%
- 78745 - 6%
- 78704 - 5%
- 78748 - 5%

27% Spoke a language other than English at home, 19% selected Spanish

vehicular circulation

how well does the vehicle circulation approach meet your needs or expectations?



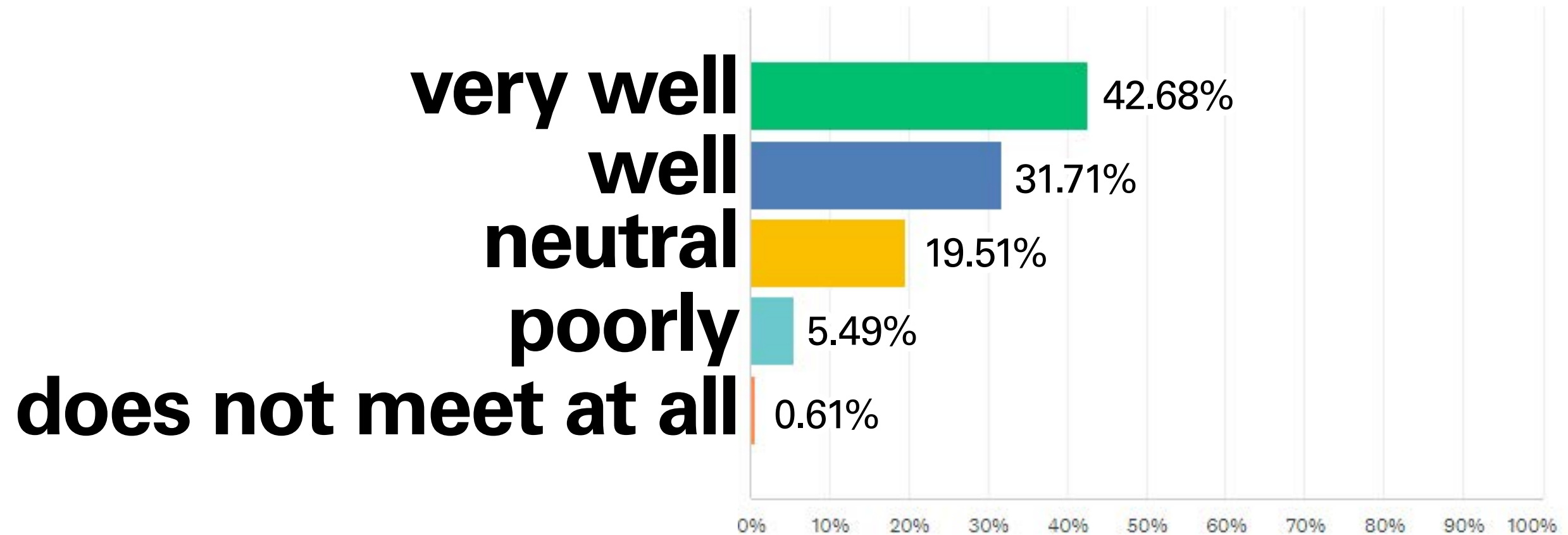
“we like all parking closer to the entrance”

“2 smaller parking lots are easier to walk through”

“parking should be off of Nuckols Crossing”

pedestrian circulation

how well does the pedestrian circulation approach meet your needs or expectations?



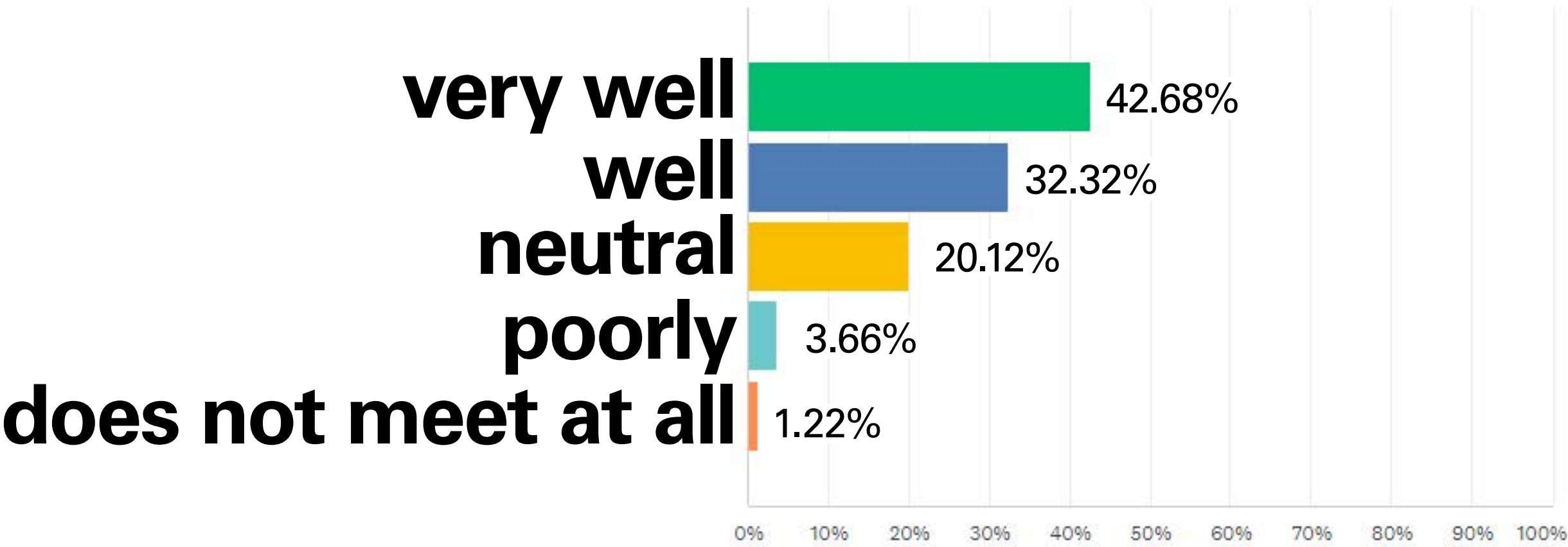
“fence around playground is really great for kids with autism”

“I like different route options and easy to cut off and change course”

“fence doesn’t seem inclusive”

play experience

how well do these play experience spaces meet your needs or expectations?



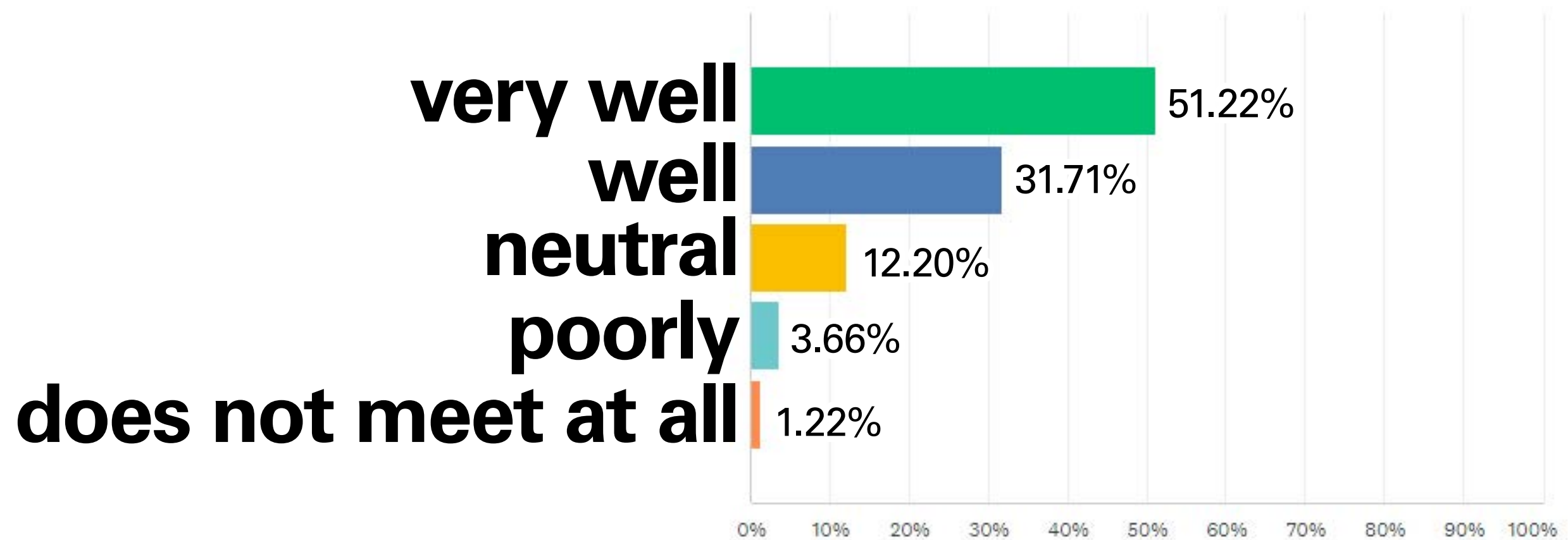
“love the variety”

“kids with sensory needs enjoy lots of swings”

“please don’t use rubber surface. they get too hot in the summer”

essential elements

how well do these essential elements meet your needs or expectations?



“it takes decades for trees to be big enough to provide shade. There needs to be a lot of shade from the beginning”

“plant enough large shade trees. shade sails are good near term option”

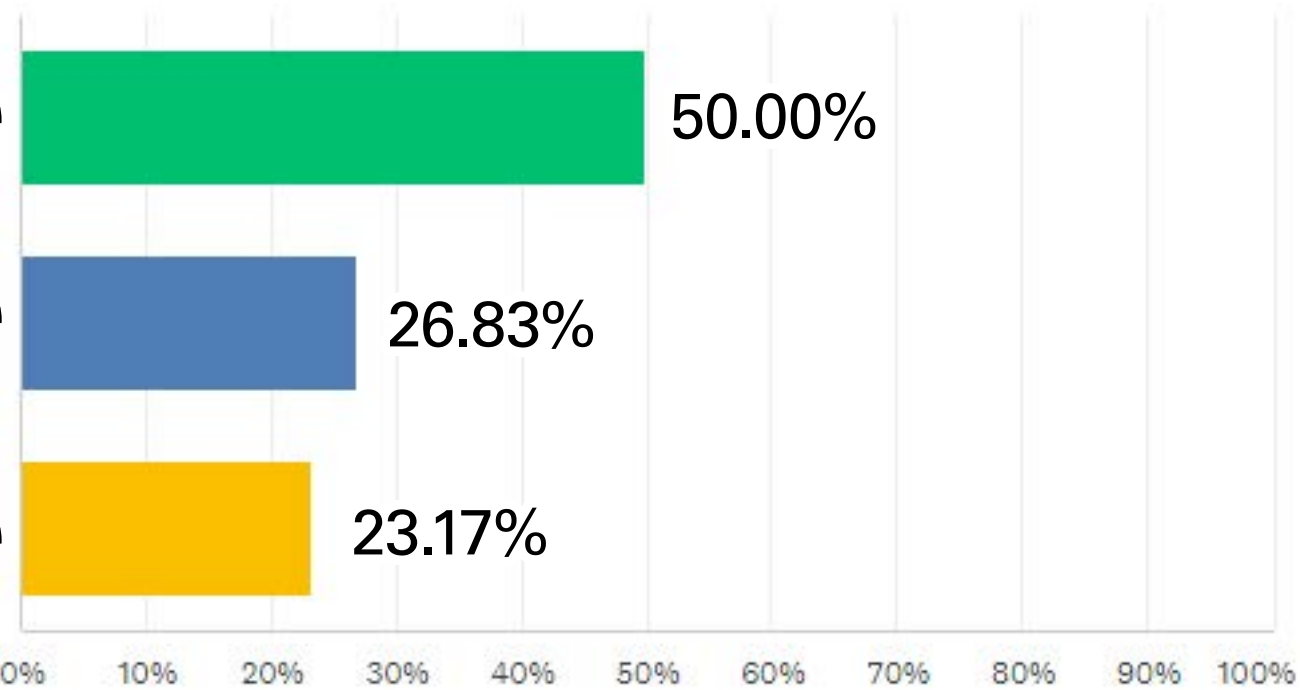
theme

which design theme do you prefer?

larger than life

adventure through time

life cycle



- “fun for all ages!”
- “appreciate the natural elements”
- “provide educational opportunity”



concept site plan



community feedback: concern for accessibility and inclusivity

“accessible parking spaces”

“handicap parking spaces and ramps”

“walking distance should be manageable”

“there should be entrance from Nuckols Crossing Rd”

“wide paths would be helpful for wheelchair”

**“reduce potential conflict points between
pedestrian and vehicular users”**

“sensory and quiet spaces balance under and over stimulation ”

“there needs to be a direct entrance to wheel play”

inclusive features



- 19% accessible parking
- raised pedestrian connection across parking lots
- pedestrian access on Nuckols Crossing Rd
- cozy/escape spaces spread out in play areas
- accessible pathways integrated into play experience
- accessible surface materials including rubberized surface
- limit use of play mulch
- inclusive restroom including adult changing table

community feedback: concern for increasing runoff

“too much impervious covers may increase flood issue”

“does the amount of parking worth the added impervious cover?”

“wonder if that’s enough parking for busy spring and summer weekends”

sustainable features

- proposed and existing detention pond for water quality
- using rain gardens and bio-swales
- using pervious materials
- planting trees to hold rain water
- using reclaimed water for irrigation
- limit disturbance in the existing wooded areas
- potential rainwater collection and reuse



community feedback: want more connection to nature

“the playground should have a connection to the wood area to the west”

“don’t want the existing trail to be broken up”

“adding connections to the existing trail is an added bonus”

“the more wild and native planting the better”

“hoping for more natural/organic aesthetic”

nature connection

- proposed new connection to the trail
- restored wildflower meadow
- planting berms with native plants



community feedback: amenity

“hopefully pavilions for large gathering.”

“needs more trees for shade.”

“shade is super important.”

“mist feels like a waste of water. prefer shade for cooling”

shade features

- shade structures
- shade trees



community feedback: restroom

“please make sure there are family restrooms”

“paper towels will end up everywhere”

“hand dryers are too loud for kids”

“restroom should be in the fenced area”

“like the restroom to be centrally located”

“restroom should be close to the entrance”

“kid size sink and toilet would be great additions”

“avoid automatic flushing toilets for those with sensory impairments”



restroom

- centrally located and highly visible from all play spaces
- provide direct access to the restroom from all play spaces
- 100 ft from main entrance
- combination of family and single user restrooms with adult and infant changing tables



50%



larger than life

27%



**adventure
through time**

23%



life cycle



larger than life

“love bugs!” “engaging” “educational”

“colorful” “adventurous”

“change perspective” “imaginative”



adventure through time

“sand and digging” “fossils”

“grand adventure” “story time”



life cycle

“natural element” “shade”

“calming”

overall theme



adventure



**natural
element**



scorpions

I don't talk,
but I dance to show love

tree frogs

I'm slimy,
but I have a beautiful voice

armadillos

I'm shy,
but I build great homes

carpenter bees

I'm not sweet,
but I work hard

ants

I'm small, but team
work makes me strong

salamanders

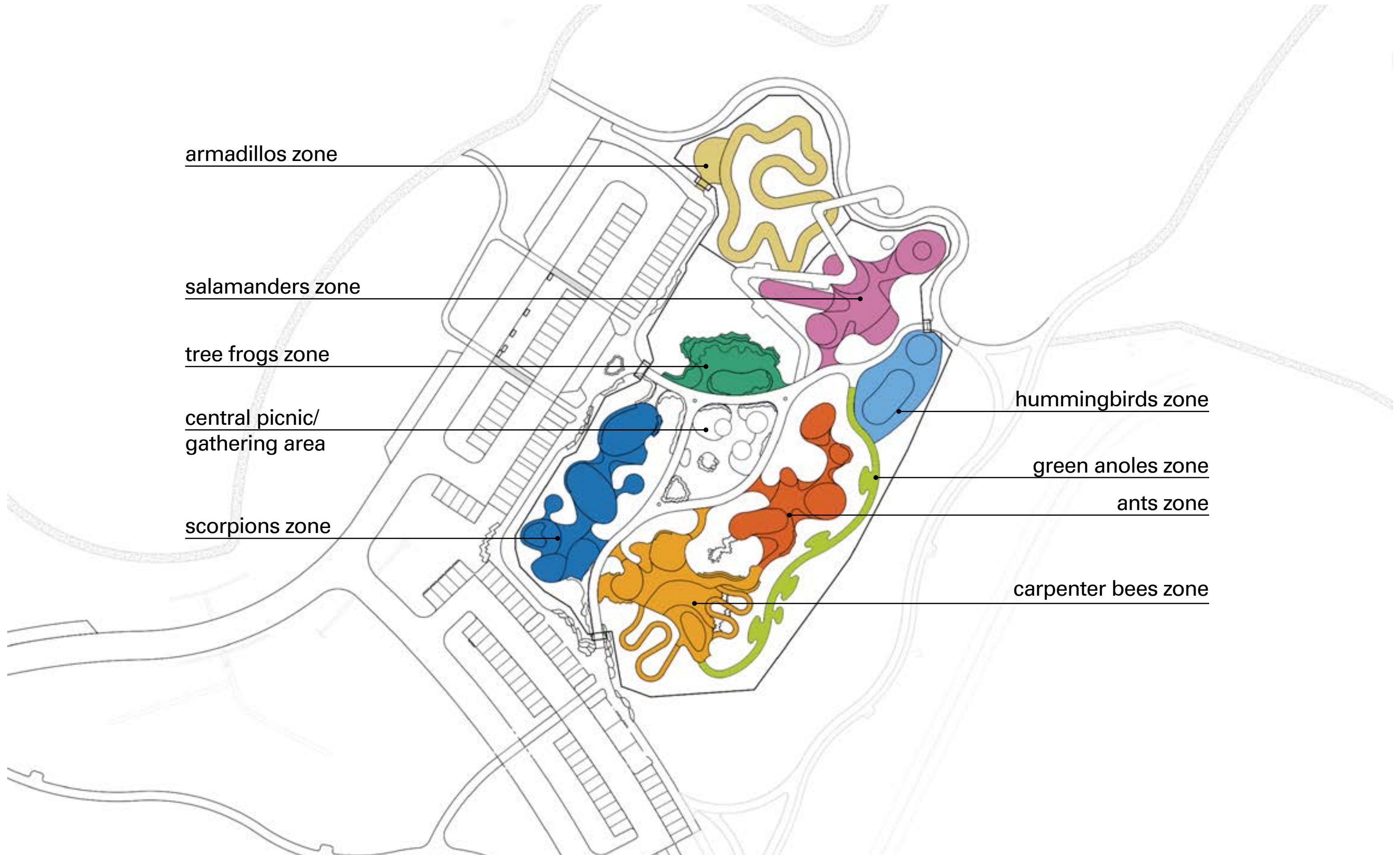
I can't see,
but I'm always smiling

green anoles

I can't control my temperature,
but I can change color

hummingbirds

I don't walk,
but one day I'll fly



armadillos zone

salamanders zone

tree frogs zone

central picnic/
gathering area

scorpions zone

hummingbirds zone

green anoles zone

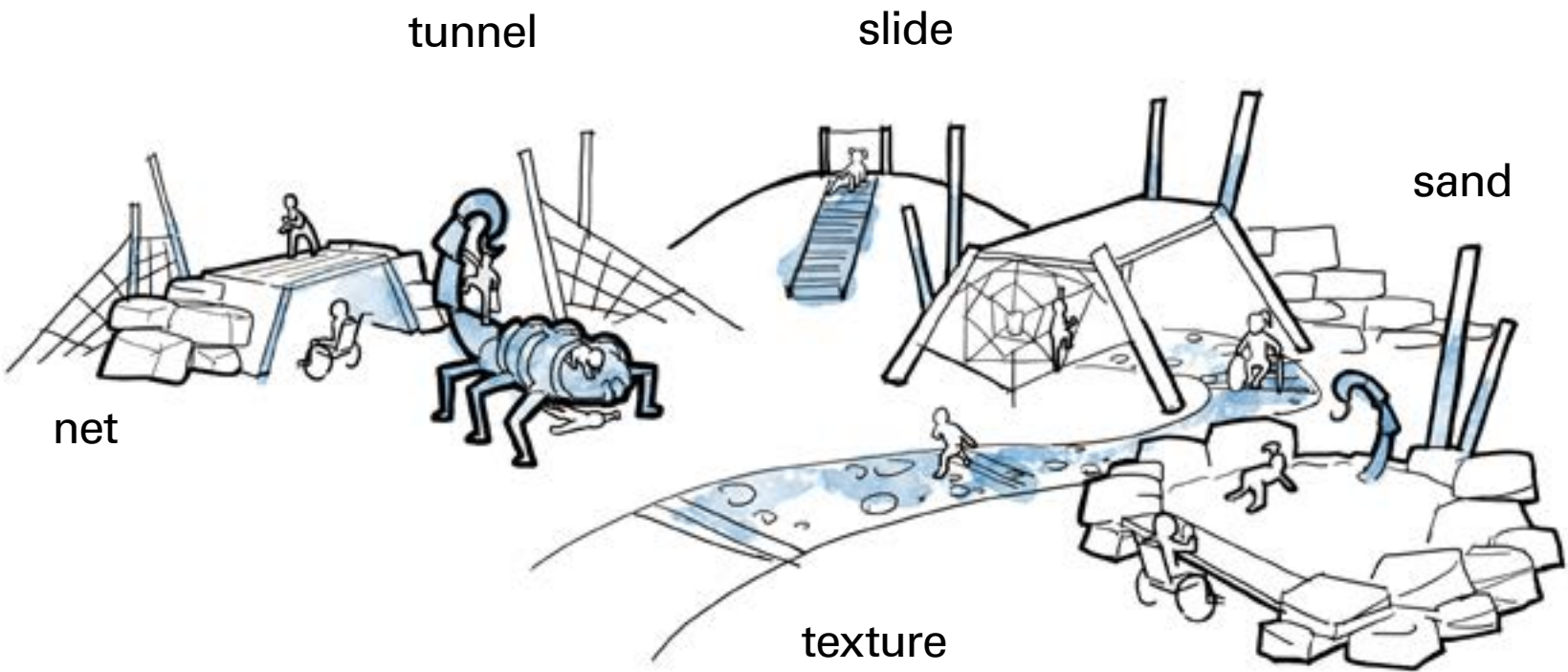
ants zone

carpenter bees zone

scorpions



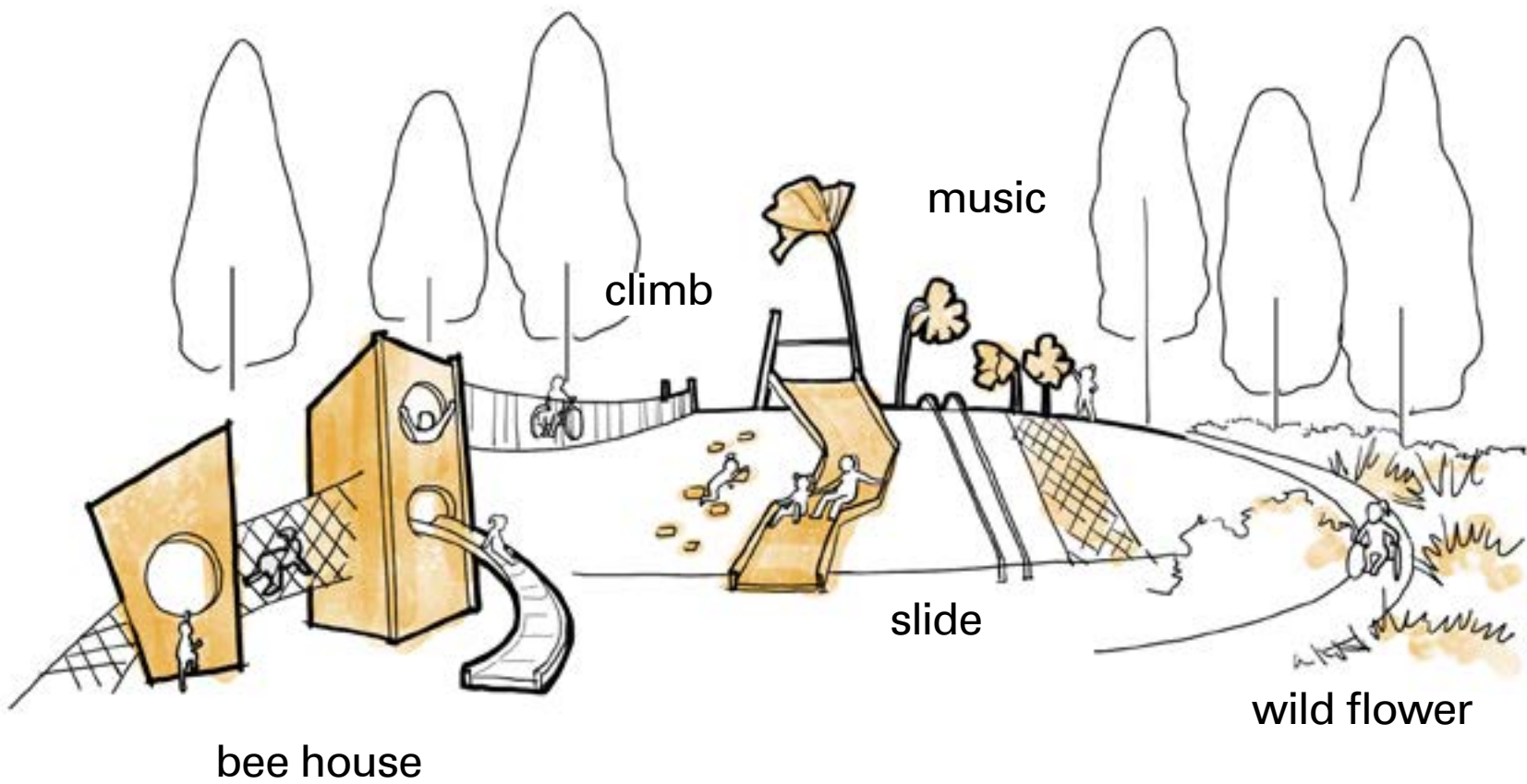
I don't talk,
but I dance to show love



carpenter bees



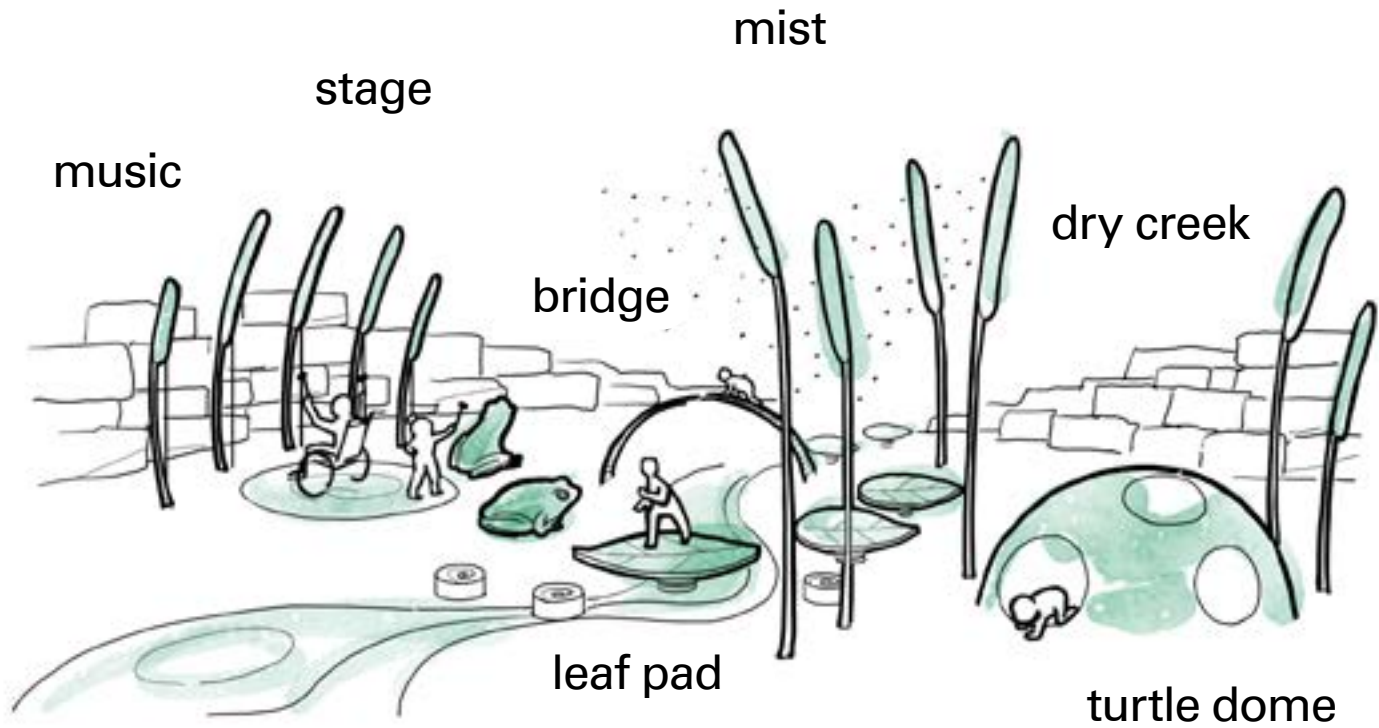
I'm not sweet,
but I work hard



tree frogs



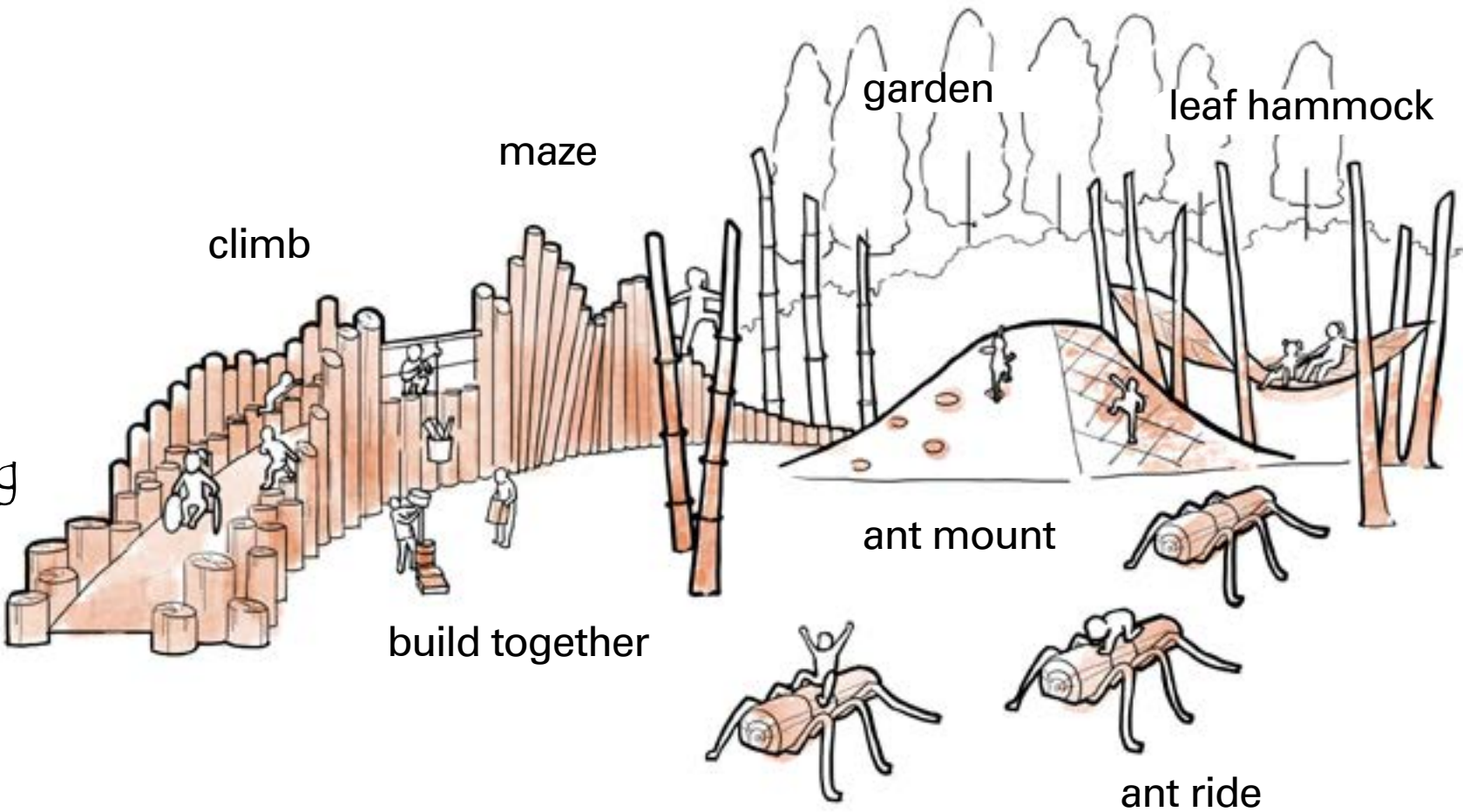
I'm slimy,
but I have a beautiful voice



ants



I'm small,
but teamwork makes me strong

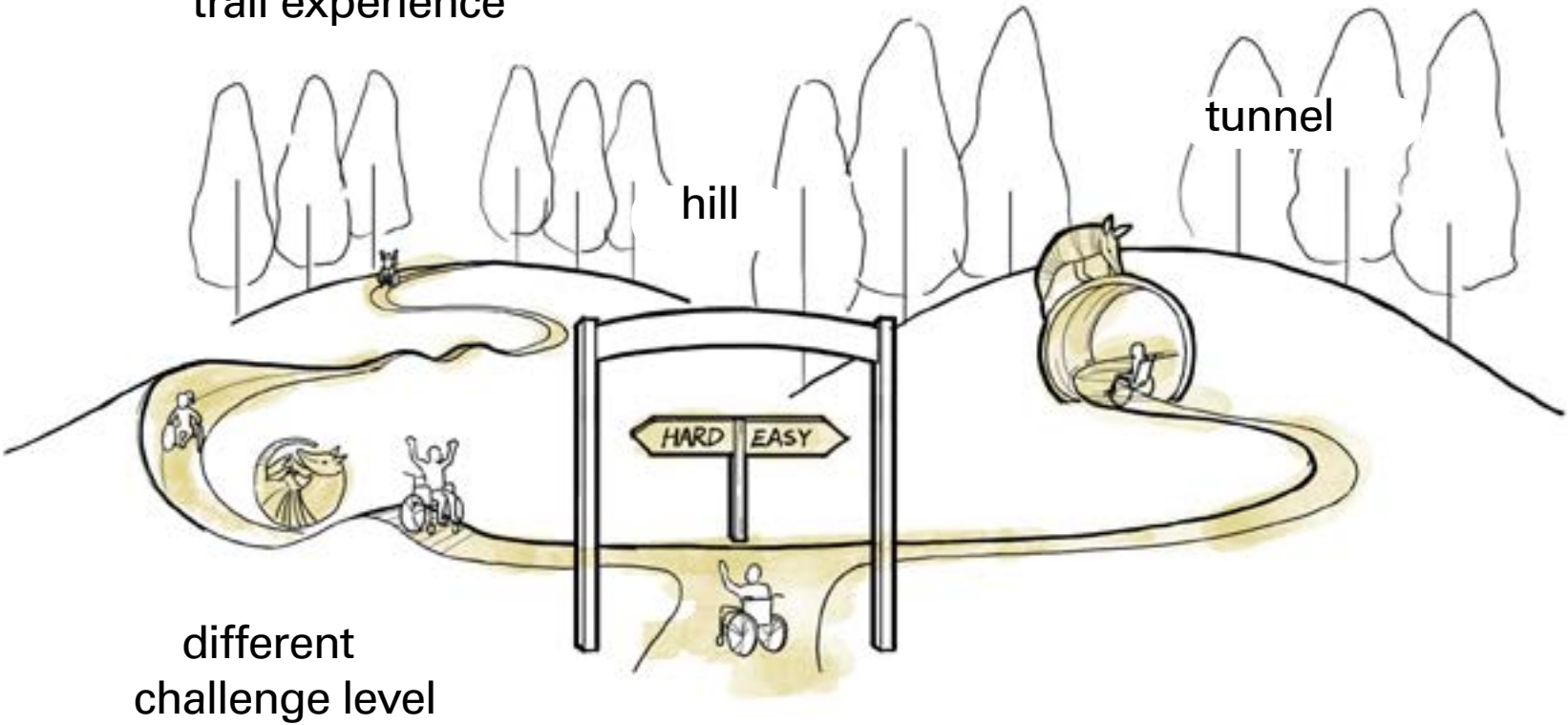


armadillos



I'm shy,
but I build great homes

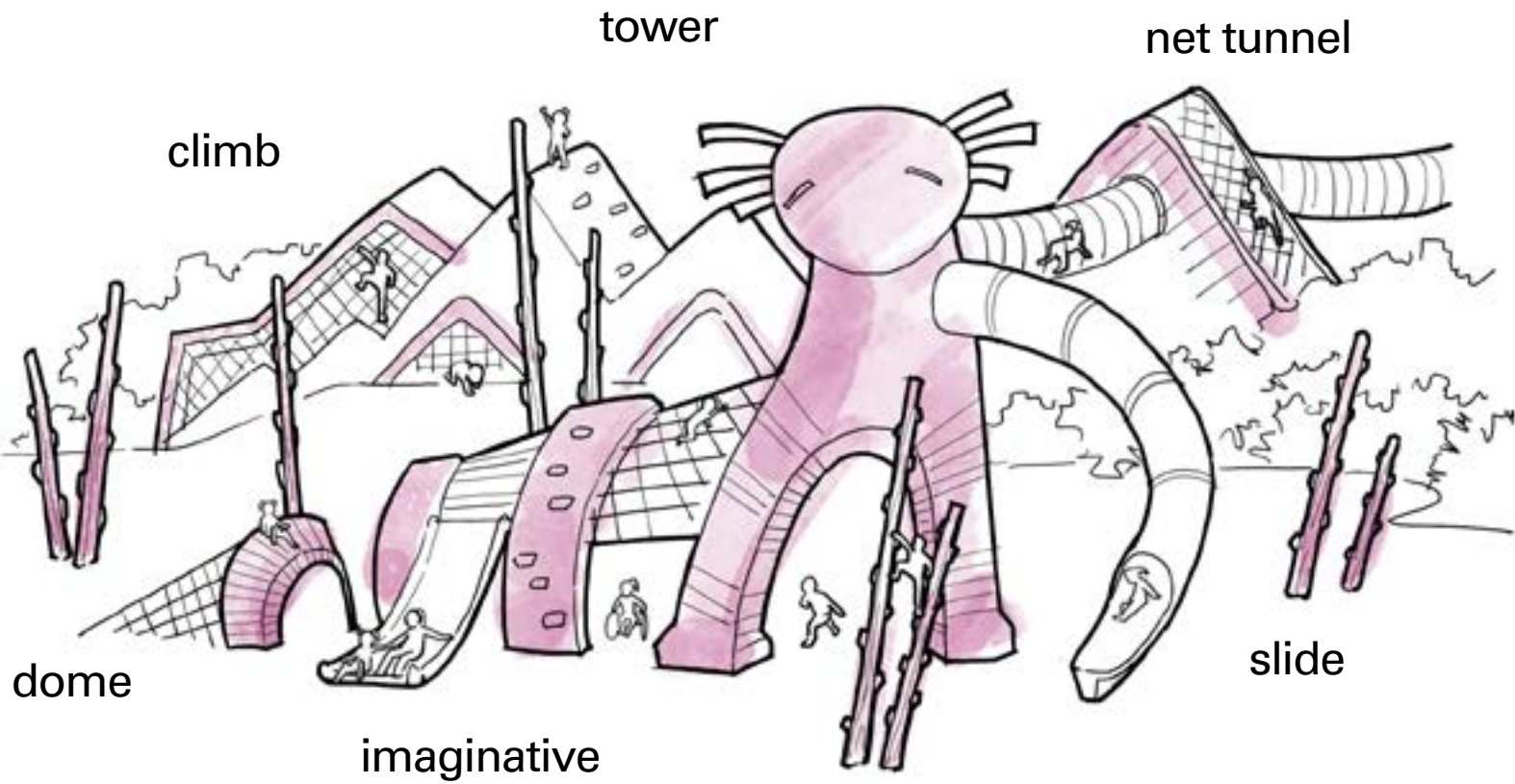
trail experience



salamanders



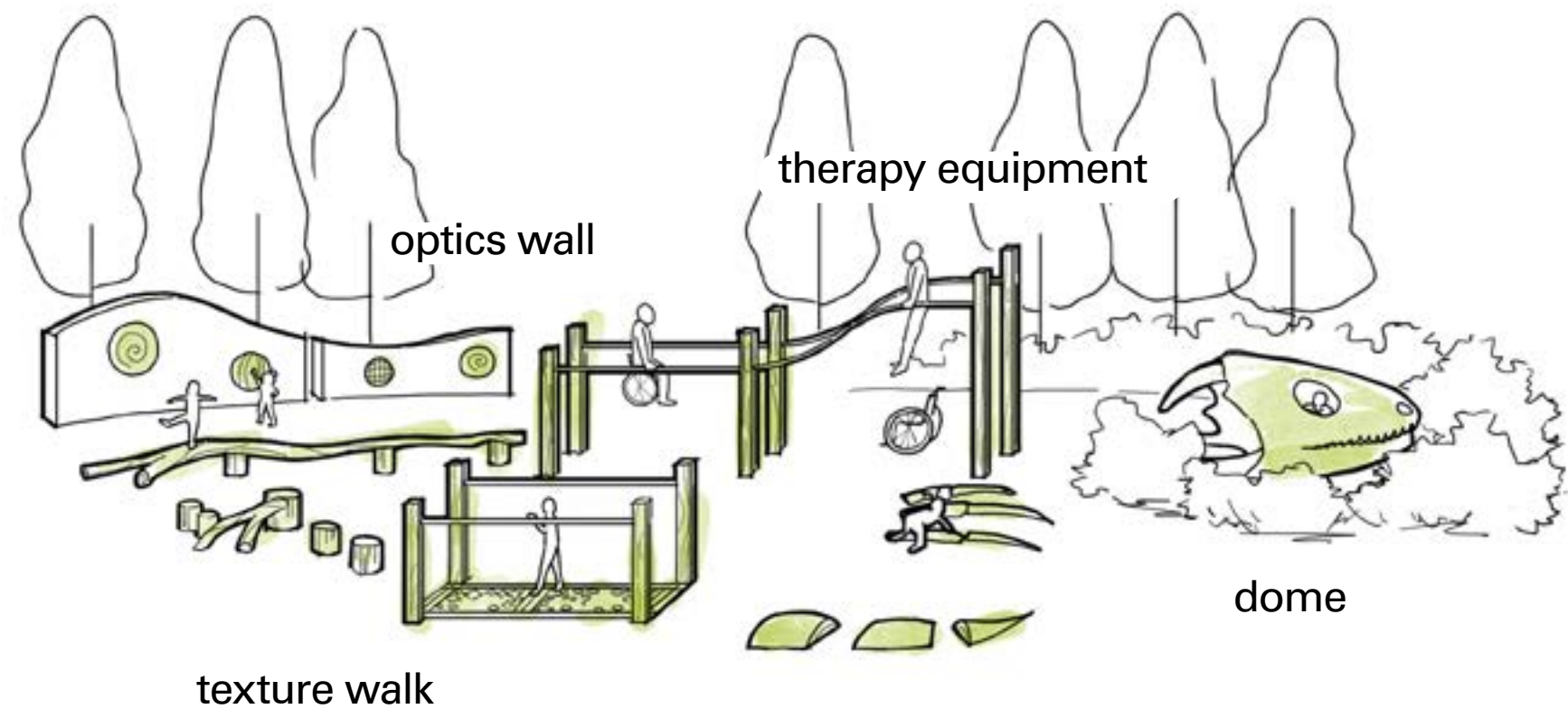
I can't see,
but I'm always smiling



green anoles



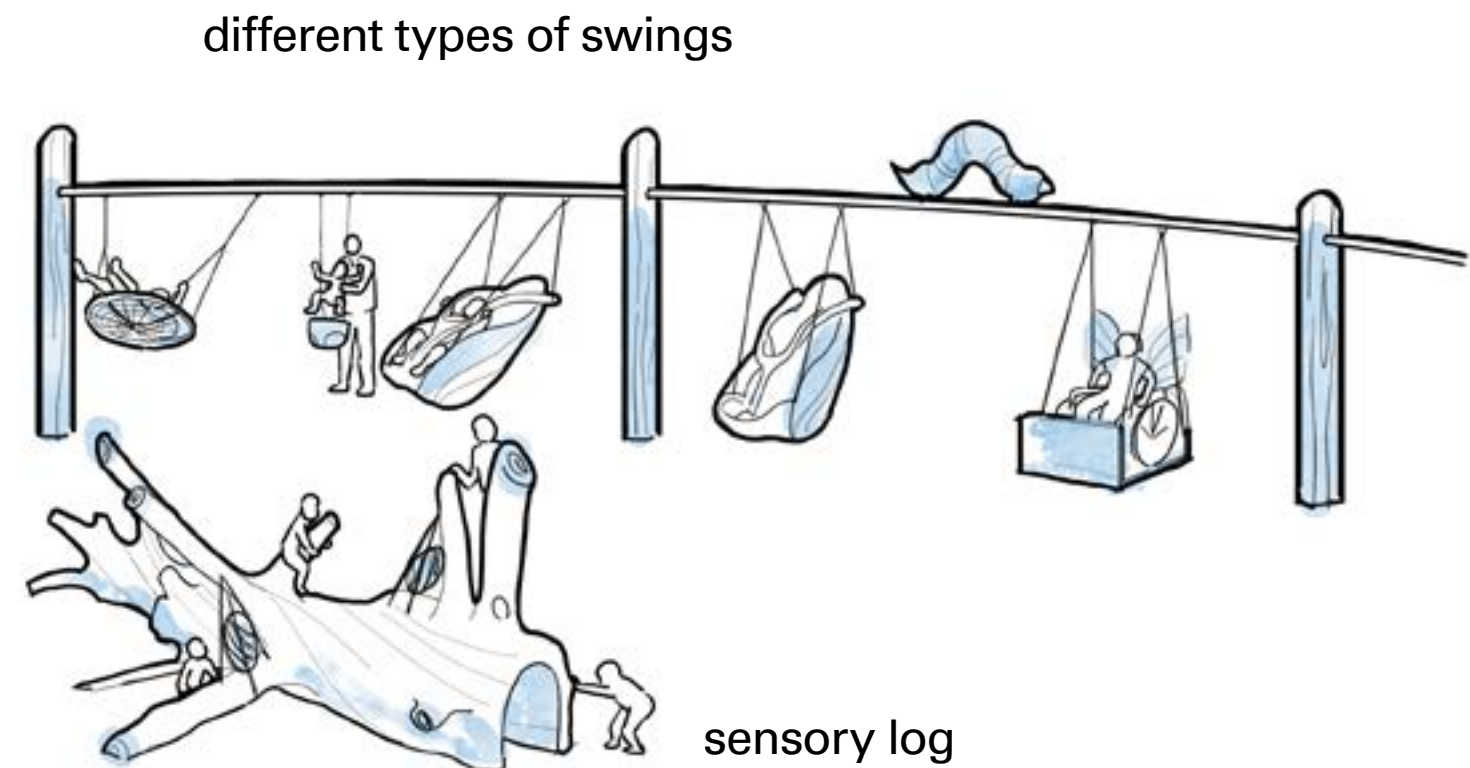
I can't control my temperature, but I can change color



hummingbirds



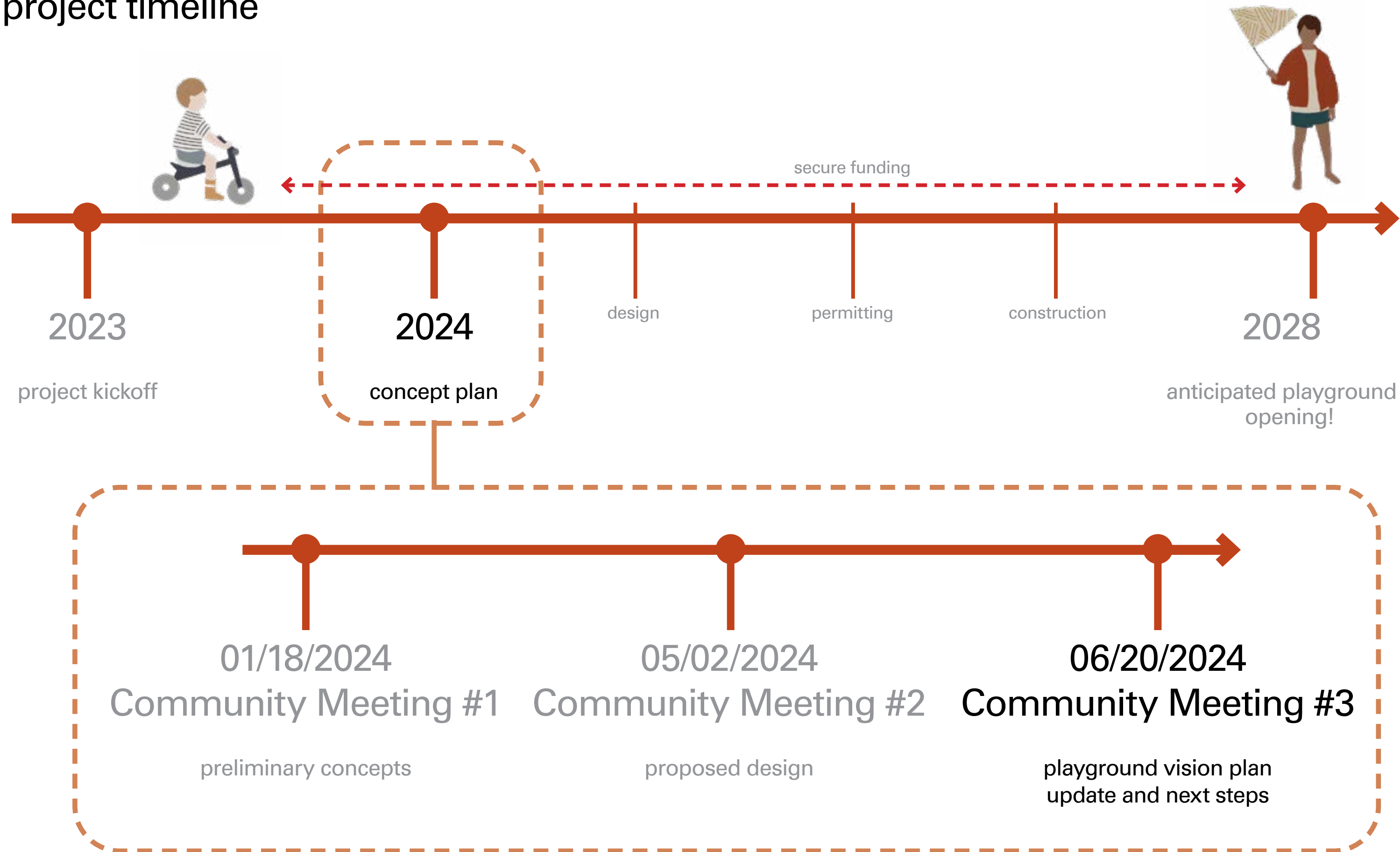
I don't walk, but one day I'll fly







project timeline



community engagement comments

Your creativity and ideas over the last six months have helped develop a super cool and inclusive playground plan designed to be a safe, fun space where people of all abilities can play together.
THANK YOU!



Please share any additional comments in the Chat or email them to **aap@austinparks.org**.





thank you

Virtual Community Meeting #3

austintexas.gov/Onion-Creek-All-Abilities

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