

# Appendix 5- Focus Group #2 Comments, Children's Facilities

2015

## Q1:

- No dogs allowed in/near playscape
- Move train to Mopac to create loop, do not pass maintenance yard or playground
- Upgrade/redo
- Rosedale park example-geodesic dome with ropes, ramsey park
- Agree in updating train for double function
- Salamander sculpture at playscape to scale and larger
- Nature playscape
- Rock climbing
- Heard complaints of xylophone
- Connectivity/circulations don't align, conflicts with train kids
- Carry theme throughout

## Q2 Sheffield Center:

- Kinda cool
- Too small for intended use
- Takes up space from staff- aquatic
- Like exhibit for what it has been, educational aspect can be better- bigger/better space would be important
- Technological improvement, dated
- Space is needed in structure/aquatic/Sheffield
- Enhanced educational opportunity- communicate it- a hidden gem
- Visitor experience important educationally
- 90 thousand visitors

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### Topic 1 Playground and other Amenities:

- Layout is difficult to watch and observe all kids
- Not sufficient restrooms in proximity to playground
- In favor of natural play elements- could improve impervious cover
- Separate play areas for different age groups
- Playground should stay close to Zepher and concessions and bike
- Congestion with pedestrians and play area could be separated
- Favor of natural design
- Long term investment is important with playscape elements
- Challenge- too many elements in one location- could route circulation around
- No enough bathrooms or seating
- Water bottle refilling station
- Could move canoe rental to alleviate congestion in area

### Topic 2 Sheffield Center:

- Not currently sufficient, ceiling height is low, no windows
- Splash exhibit is old- could be improved and made better
- We could aspire to educate about more, ex: climate education
- Aspire for a state of the art exhibit
- What could be done to serve users if exhibit is moved/improved?
  - Mobile exhibit
  - Staging of phases
  - Transition plan
- Solutions

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- New facility- build upon staff expertise
- Close to parking up hill, close to parking lot
- View of Barton Springs and Eliza
- Build a trail
- Top of bluff, across from rotunda, ponds and rock wall- could be center piece of area of new "educational facility"

### Sheffield Center:

- Classrooms are too small
- Exhibit is too small for whole classroom
- Does not meet all the latest environmental issues
- Splash exhibit is not large enough for more hands on
- No- not up to date with latest technology
- Flood plain with children program not good idea

### • Priorities

- More sophisticated technology
- More space
- More staff
- Better paid staff
- Expanded on water quality
- Water education
- Possible career opportunity

### • Solution

- Find large partners to assist with funding

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- Expand information to better educate kids and adult on development in recharge zone
  - Build a new bigger and better exhibit outside flood plain
  - Space for community event related to environmental issues
  - Build in place to better engage with public

## Playscape:

- Do not feel playscape is safe too many concrete ups and downs
- Not big enough
- Does not provide accessibility to all
- Fences are not visibly pleasing
- Provide fencing of all playscape area
- Does physical/ sensory and behavior

## • Priority

- Have a complete ADA accessible
- Safety
- Decrease impervious cover
- Provide better shade

## • Solution

- All abilities playscape with shade
- Move playscape have own restroom
- Restroom for playscape
- Enlarge playscape in area not developed
- More challenging amenities in playscape