

## **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

Nelson Avenue Park and Playground is comprised of 1.84 acres and provides a children's playground as well as an open ball field and six frequently used pickleball courts. A permanent restroom building is also available for public use at the southwest corner of the site. This park area encompasses nearly the entire block and is located within a predominately residential area yet is within short walking distance of the Borough's southern-most Business District. The lot topography is flat and primarily pervious except for the pickleball court area and small areas of concrete for access. According to NJDEP Digital GIS Data, the site is not located within a designated historical area nor impacted by any archeological resources. The entire parcel is used for only recreational activities and there are no known pre-existing or planned rights-of-way, easements, reversionary interests, or other legal rights or restrictions that may impact the property. Like nearly the entire barrier island, this parcel lies within a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area and is subject to flooding, however, the proposed project playground project is not regulated by FEMA requirements and the existing restroom facility is above the base flood elevation (8).

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

The Borough proposes to demolish the existing playground, which is nearing the end of its useful life, and construct an inclusive playground space with areas dedicated to quiet play and shade as well as renovate the existing restroom building to provide a family/assisted-use toilet room. The existing swing set at the south side of the park will be relocated to a new borough park and the area will be used as a picnic area with two (2) universal use picnic tables set on a concrete courtyard with a 20'x20' shade sail for canopy cover.

Jake's Law encourages the construction of inclusive playgrounds designed with standards exceeding those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act which will be accomplished by constructing the new playground within the existing playground footprint. The proposed park improvements will include:

- **Site Demolition and Disposal** to include the existing playground equipment and associated improvements such as the mulch bedding area, clamshell area. Minor site grading, as needed, to ensure stabilization. The existing swing set feature will be disassembled and relocated off-site.
  - *This task is necessary for the proposed improvements to be completed and to ensure no stormwater runoff, erosion or ponding issues occur between the time of demolition and new construction.*
- **Installation of Inclusive Playground Equipment and associated inclusive spaces**
  - *Proposed Improvements = Additions to the park.*

- *The existing playground equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and resident feedback to the Borough suggests that an Inclusive Playground structure would be the ideal design for the future.*
- *The new quiet play area will be a designated space that ensures people of all intellectual abilities can enjoy their recreational time.*
- *The proposed picnic area will be accessible to all and shaded to ensure enjoyment for park-goers who choose to rest or nourish while at the park area.*
- **Installation of Poured in Place Rubber Recycle Surface**
  - *Proposed Improvement = Addition to the park*
  - *This rubber surfacing will replace the existing mulch bedding that is used under the play equipment. Poured in place rubber safety surfacing is an ideal solution for a playground as this space requires a level, smooth and seamless safety surface that remains consistent and resilient for many years. Also, the thickness can be modified to meet critical fall height requirements to provide maximum safety.*
- **Installation of Accessible Routes specifically:**
  - *Remove clam shell surface, provide site grading as needed and replace with concrete sidewalk*
  - *Remove and replace concrete entrance sidewalk with site grading as needed*
  - *Install depressed curb and sidewalk ramp along West Avenue with pavement restoration*
  - *Install ADA compliant parking stall striping with signage*
  - *Proposed Improvements = Additions to the park*
  - *The addition of new accessible routes within the playground and picnic areas will ensure inclusivity and independence for all abilities including any child that may utilize a wheelchair, walker or other mobility aid. These sidewalks also provide a safe and stable path for users to move around the playground as well as provide easy access and navigability for caregivers. Lastly, the Borough has a legal and ethical responsibility to require that public spaces, including playgrounds, be accessible to individuals with disabilities and these sidewalks ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and upholds standards for equal access.*

- **Installation of a picnic area with associated shade sail**
  - *Proposed Improvements = Additions to the park*
  - *The creation of a shaded picnic area within the park will allow for comfort, as compared to sitting on the ground, making it easier for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy outdoor meals or social interaction. These picnic tables will also promote cleanliness and versatility since these tables can be used for other activities like playing games or doing work and are designed to be accessible to people with disabilities making them a valuable park addition to ensure inclusivity.*
- **Renovation of existing bathroom facility to provide a Family/Assisted-Use Bathroom that will comply with all applicable code regulations**
  - *Proposed Improvement = Renovation to an existing facility*
  - *The bathroom building currently provides two separate restrooms, one each for men and women, which include handicapped accessible stalls and a changing room within the women's side. As part of this project, the bathroom will be renovated to create one (1) family/assisted-use bathroom and one (1) gender neutral bathroom which will allow accommodations for families with special needs and also offer more privacy than a traditional public restroom. Regardless of your age or ability, family bathrooms are known to be a more flexible and inclusive choice for users.*
- **Landscape restoration and installation of new shade tree species**
  - *Proposed Improvement = Renovation to an existing facility*
  - *Landscape restoration is required along the northerly side of the playground as the existing playground mulch bedding will be removed and therefore needs to be stabilized and returned to pervious grass surface.*
  - *The planting of four (4) new shade trees around the playground perimeter will add visual appeal to enhance the park's overall atmosphere and provide shade and promote colling of the park areas especially during the hot summer months. Additional shade encourages outdoor activity, even on warm days.*
- **Installation of Site Fencing**
  - *Proposed Improvement = Renovation to an existing facility*
  - *The expansion of the existing fence will create a boundary to help to protect children and others from wandering beyond the playground area and will also protect park*

*goers from unwanted animals entering the playground thereby ensuring a safe environment. This fencing will also create a controlled space within the park and allow playground users to remain contained without being impacted by other activities that may be occurring elsewhere in the park.*