

Mary Moss Playground Design Concept

Corner of John and Lytle Streets, Princeton, NJ
Block 15.02, Lots 36-38 & 72

Summary

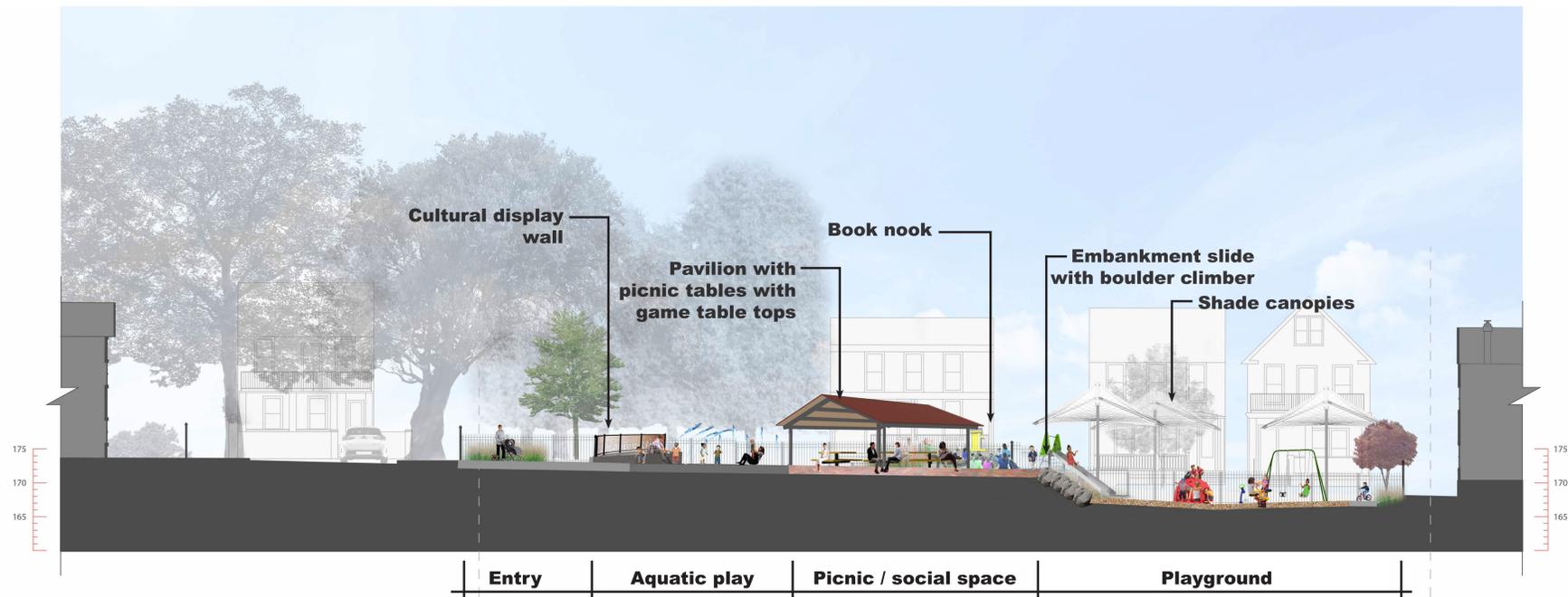
This conceptual design divides the playground property into upper and lower terraces similar to the existing site condition. The upper terrace includes the aquatic play area and a mix of seating opportunities, including a central pavilion area with picnic/game tables, benches, and seasonal lounge chairs. These seating opportunities provide a place where parents can relax while children are engaged in aquatic play. They also contribute to an active plaza feel for the upper terrace when the aquatic play area is not in use or is out of season.

The upper terrace also incorporates a Book Nook, where children can gather and share books through a free book exchange.

The lower terrace incorporates a playground designed with younger children in mind. Within the playground, sun exposure is moderated by three free-standing shade canopies. An embankment slide along with boulders for free play and climbing have been incorporated into the existing terrace taking advantage of the grade change. This play concept reinforces a 'natural play' theme. The stepdown feature between the upper and lower terraces is

intended for basic access and/or sitting and additionally to create a fun, amphitheater-like atmosphere on which children can play or perform.

This conceptual design includes a third entrance at the corner of John and Lytle Streets. The third entrance contributes to an open, accessible feel and provides immediate access to the aquatic play area. To buffer this entrance, a seat-wall within the aquatic area in combination with decorative, laser-cut steel panels mounted on top provides separation from the corner intersection. The decorative metal fence panels can be a canvas on which to incorporate an entrance sign and/or cultural, interpretive art for the neighborhood. A 5' wide perimeter walkway around the entire playground is also provided for convenient access within the site. The existing wall along John Street is rebuilt in place (to minimize site excavation) with a new perimeter, decorative metal fence (4' ht.) installed behind the wall. A perimeter landscape buffer provides a sense of enclosure and adds plant life to the site. Edges on the north and east sides include a taller fence (6' ht.) and compact evergreen plantings.



A The water play area is a “splash pad” that can provide a cooling, fun play experience for children of all physical abilities.



B The book nook is an outdoor reading space for children with tables, chairs, and a book exchange.



C The steps that transition between the upper and lower terraces are an opportunity to create a feature that is engaging and amphitheater-like for children to enjoy.



D An embankment slide with boulder climber highlights the fun of the slide as a playground feature. These elements have grown in popularity in recent years.

