



## A group of children are playing on large, stacked stone blocks in a grassy field. The blocks are arranged in a way that allows children to climb and sit on them. The children are wearing various colorful clothing, and the background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

## MAPLE AVENUE

## Randall Curry, Mayor

## Ken Russell, Project Supervisor

**PO Box 326, Horse Cave, KY 42749**

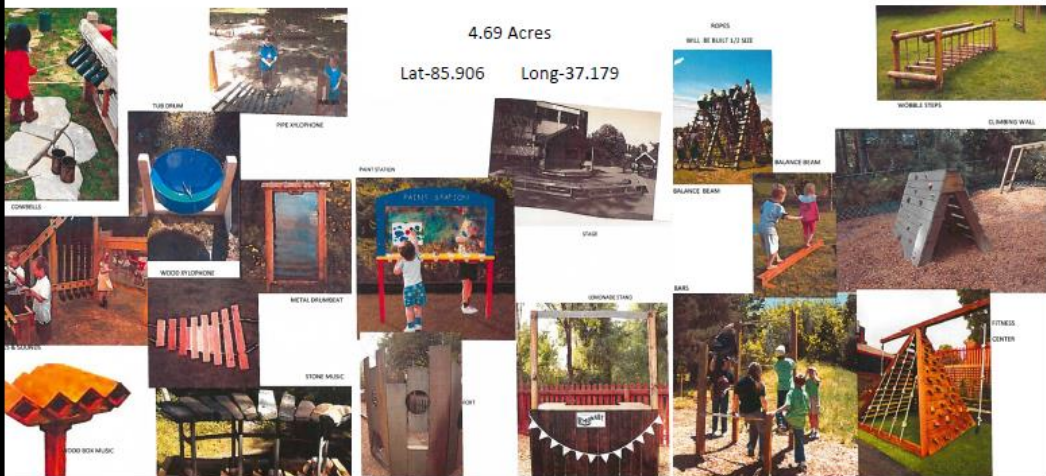
## Hart County, KY

**horsecave@hotmail.com**

**270-786-2680    270-774-1115**

4.69 Acres

Lat-85.906      Long-37.179



*Many Thanks To:*

# Park Committee

- ☐ **Brad Smith**
- ☐ **Dana Hill**
- ☐ **Jordon Forbes**
- ☐ **Vickie Rogers**

- David Foster**  
**LWC Consultant**

## **WHY HORSE CAVE NEEDS A PARK FOR RESIDENTS**

- **Horse Cave/Hart County qualifies as part of the Appalachian Region low income**
- **Horse Cave is the only city in Hart County that is listed as low/moderate income**
- **Horse Cave is the largest population center in Hart County-about 2400 residents in the city limits and more than 4000 with a Horse Cave postal address**
- **5 low income housing units in the city limits-4 family and 1 senior citizen**
- **Largest concentration of minorities in the county**
- **2002 loss of the 5<sup>th</sup> largest burley tobacco market in the world**
- **2013 loss of Kentucky Repertory Theater**
- **Horse Cave is part of the Caverna Independent School District along with the city of Cave City. There is no school building in town that children can walk to. The elementary school playground, track, and ball field are 4 miles away with no sidewalks, bike paths, or other access without driving 31-W.**
- **Due to the central location of the proposed area, a picnic area, restrooms, and creative playground will be within walking distance of every resident of Horse Cave, either walking or biking**

- **We have defined the creative play area with climbing, jumping, balancing, imagination, and sound plus trees, landscape hills and holes. We believe children should be allowed to create play rather than limit their imaginations with defined play equipment**
- **In imaginative play children will exercise without realizing it**
- **Our budget is stretched but the Mayor and Council have been putting back money each year to develop this area as a family park. The City is committed to this project in both construction and maintenance**
- **We have a history of local support to help the community in small donations. However, because of the current community economy, we not as optimistic. We have few local businesses, no locally owned banks, and financial support is limited from our few industries**

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The City of Horse Cave currently owns and maintains 4.69 acres bounded by Maple Avenue, Mary Thomas Avenue, and directly behind three residences and a church on Cave Street. The north is bounded by City owned property along Main Street and downtown Horse Cave. Public hearings show that all residents within the area have expressed their approval of developing a family oriented park in this space.

This area currently contains a parking area and a small pre-manufactured playground area. The City proposes to make improvements to the area including the construction of a walking trail, a picnic pavilion with restrooms, and a natural play area.

Horse Cave was one of the first communities in Kentucky to be declared a Certified Cultural District. A cultural district is a well-recognized, labeled, mixed-use area of a community featuring a high concentration of cultural amenities that attract local residents and visitors alike. Horse Cave's cultural district includes more than 50 buildings listed as a National Register of Historic Places Commercial District. The community is anchored by the Kentucky Repertory Theater (closed January 2013) and the renowned American Cave Museum/Hidden River Cave. The Horse Cave City Park is adjacent to both of these properties as well as the historic Thomas House, a city-owned property used to host events and meetings. These properties currently make use of the proposed area as an outdoor classroom and extended gathering space and would benefit greatly from an improved park area.

It is the goal of the City of Horse Cave to create a place in the community that melds with the cultural district to provide recreational opportunities for the citizens of Horse Cave and those that visit the area. Horse Cave has worked with Russell Clark of the National Park System's Rivers, Trails, and Lakes Conservation Assistance program to design a park area that includes meeting and gathering facilities, improved trails, and a natural play area. The City has budgeted funding and labor toward a playground area for children focused on natural and imaginative play. In order to create a complete and usable place, the City will build trail facilities around the perimeter linking areas of the park with the Thomas House, Museum, and downtown.

Proposed improvements to the Horse Cave City Park include the construction of a 1,000 square foot picnic pavilion including two handicapped accessible restroom facilities. The shelter will be constructed in a manner that blends with the natural environment of the park and enhances the historic and cultural nature of the community. The City will purchase picnic tables, trash receptacles, and a bike rack to be placed at the picnic shelter. The project also includes the addition of a natural play facility that will encourage imaginative play among children including a stage area for user-led productions. The park would also include a wooden train, tractor-shaped monkey bars, slatted climbing wall, post walk, rope climb, horizontal ladder, balance

beam, and pipe-based musical instruments. The project will be rounded out with landscaping including the planting of trees, construction of landscape timber, and the laying of mulch to enhance the safety of the play area.

This project will be unique to Horse Cave as it will continue the tradition of the City in blending cultural assets into local amenities. This project will promote knowledge of the cave system as done through other projects in the community. Horse Cave used aggregate throughout the downtown sidewalk system to show the passage of the cave and help citizens and visitors understand the lay of the cave system from above ground. This project will include the addition of aggregate in the proposed walking trail above cave areas. Hidden River Cave and the American Cave Museum's recent addition of a zip-line and rappelling area over the mouth of the cave will also be visible from the improved park, strengthening the connection between the Cave and park area. The American Cave Museum will have access to the park and visitors will be encouraged to use the picnic shelter for midday lunches or as a rest area while visiting the City. The stage and large musical instrument constructed within the natural play area will encourage creativity and imaginative play among users of the park, blending well into the cultural district. The remaining man-made items will be integrated to support creative play, encourage exploration, and help children develop a lasting affinity for the natural world. The natural play area also includes areas for running, climbing, jumping, rolling, and spontaneous adventures while exploring in a safe environment.

The Horse Cave community is excited to see this project brought into fruition. Several in the community have expressed support in the form of established donations and sponsorships. Others have agreed to sponsor trees and amenities. Fundraising efforts are underway to provide cash for additional projects within the park.

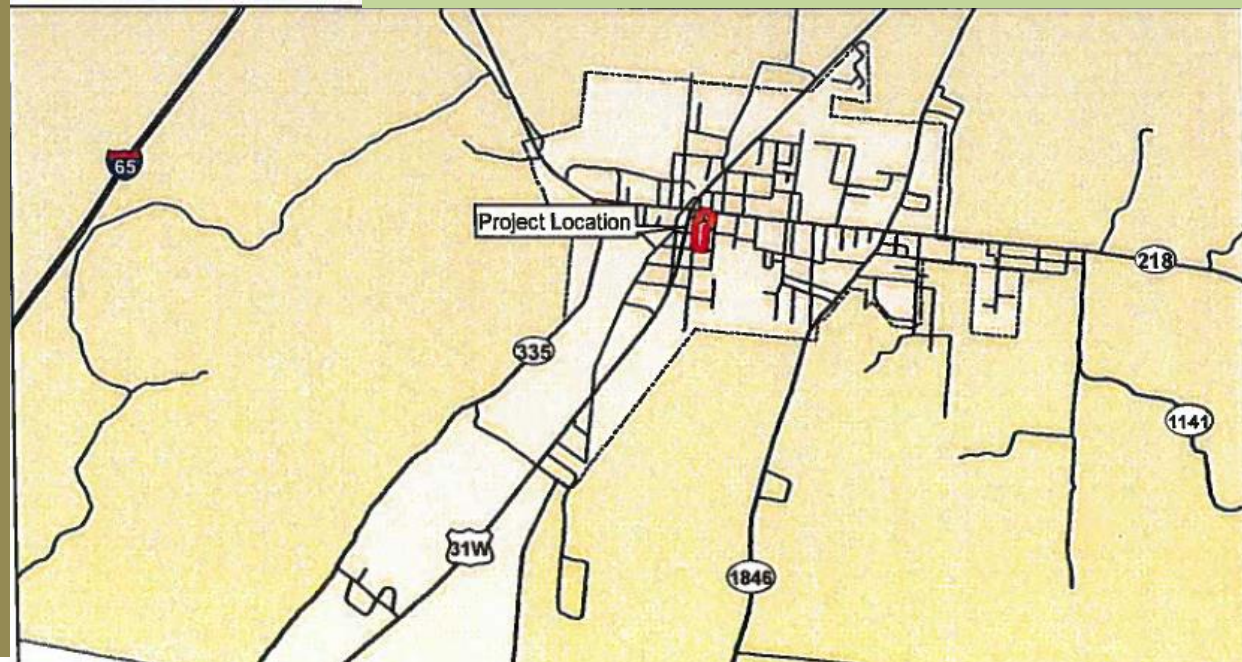
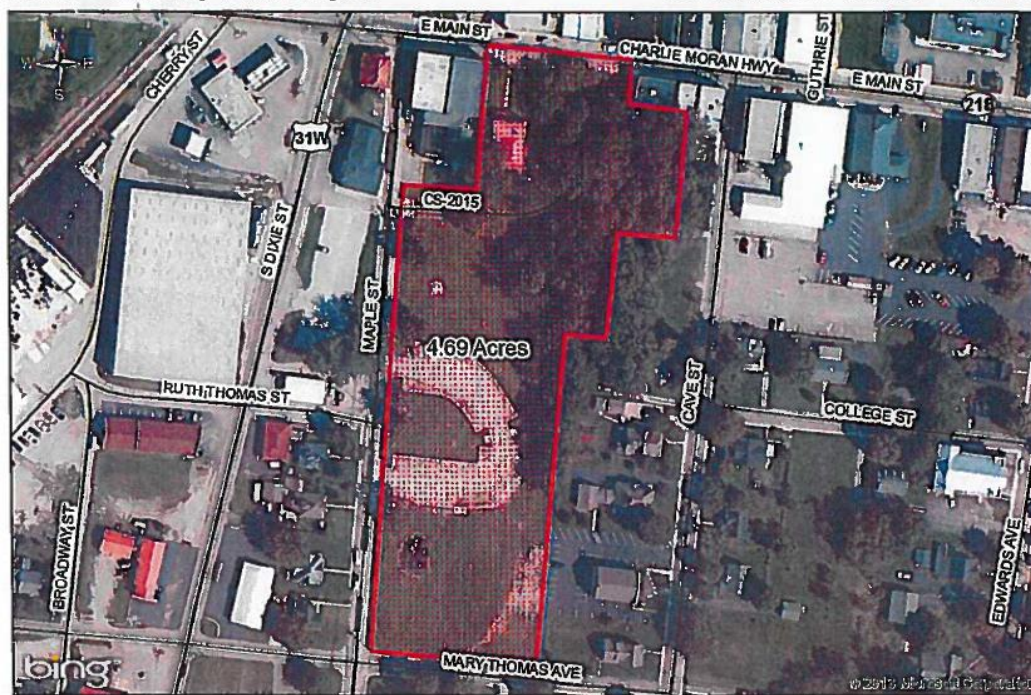
## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The City of Horse Cave is dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the Horse Cave City Park, and agrees to make the park open and available to the public in perpetuity. The City of Horse Cave has dedicated a project manager to oversee the improvements of the Park, and plans to dedicate staff to maintaining a schedule of events for the improved park facilities after the completion of the proposed project.

## **ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED**

The City of Horse Cave has made every effort to ensure that current park facilities are accessible to those who are handicapped or disabled and will continue to make those efforts in the future. Initial ground work for the park completed nearly a decade ago included the addition of handicapped accessible concrete ramps from the parking area allowing access to all park grounds. These ramps will allow access to new sidewalk areas that will create accessibility to and from the pavilion area. Restroom facilities constructed within the pavilion have been designed to allow access to those who are handicapped or disabled. The naturally constructed play areas will offer many opportunities for play to all children of varying abilities as each area focuses on imaginative play.





# MAPLE AVENUE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

## BUDGET

PICNIC SHELTER/BATHROOMS	Material/Labor-\$25,000
WALKING TRAIL	Material/Labor-\$25,000
BENCHES, TRASH RECEPTACLES, BIKE RACK, PICNIC TABLES	Material/Labor-\$15,000 (Benches/Tables built from treated lumber)
TREES	Purchase/Labor-\$10,000
PLAY or EXERCISE AREAS	Material/Labor-\$13,000
MULCH, GRAVEL, BORDERS, ETC	\$7000
TOTAL	\$95,000
UNANTICIPATED	\$5,000
	<b>TOTAL-\$100,000</b>

Donation support:

**\$50,000**

- Naming Rights of Park
- Picnic shelter
- Walking Trail
- Play Areas
- Bench or Picnic Table
- Play Equipment
- Bike Rack
- Small Tree or Large Tree
- Donor Listing

**City Cash-\$35,000**

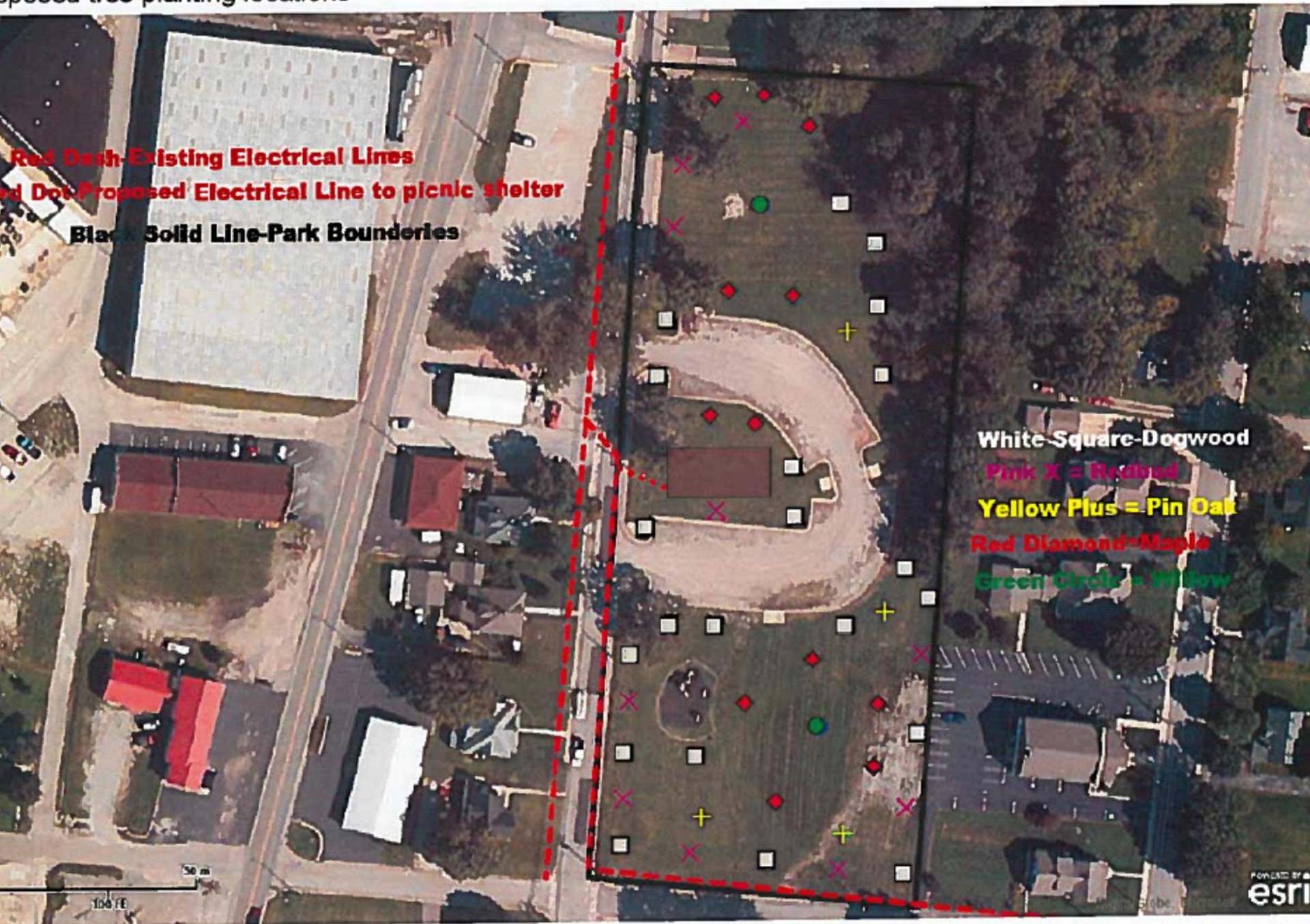
**City In-Kind/Labor-\$10,000**

**Lowes Community Volunteers-\$5000**



# PROPOSED TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS

Proposed tree planting locations





SCALE:  $\text{Fe}^{2+} = 2 \text{ mol}$

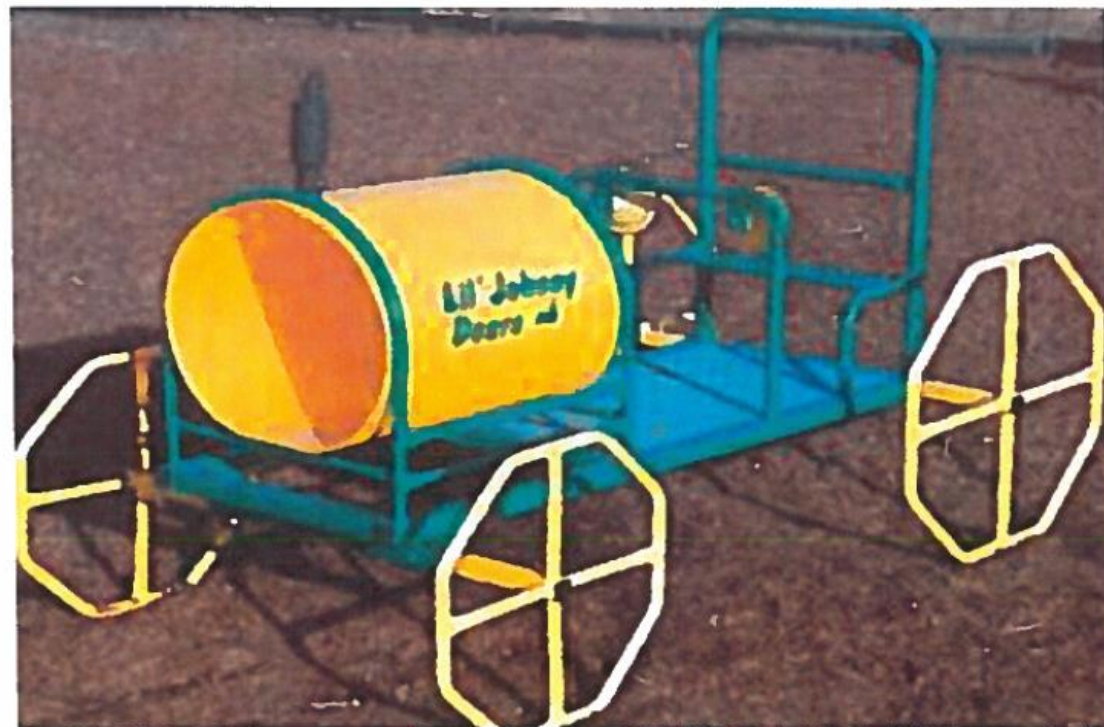
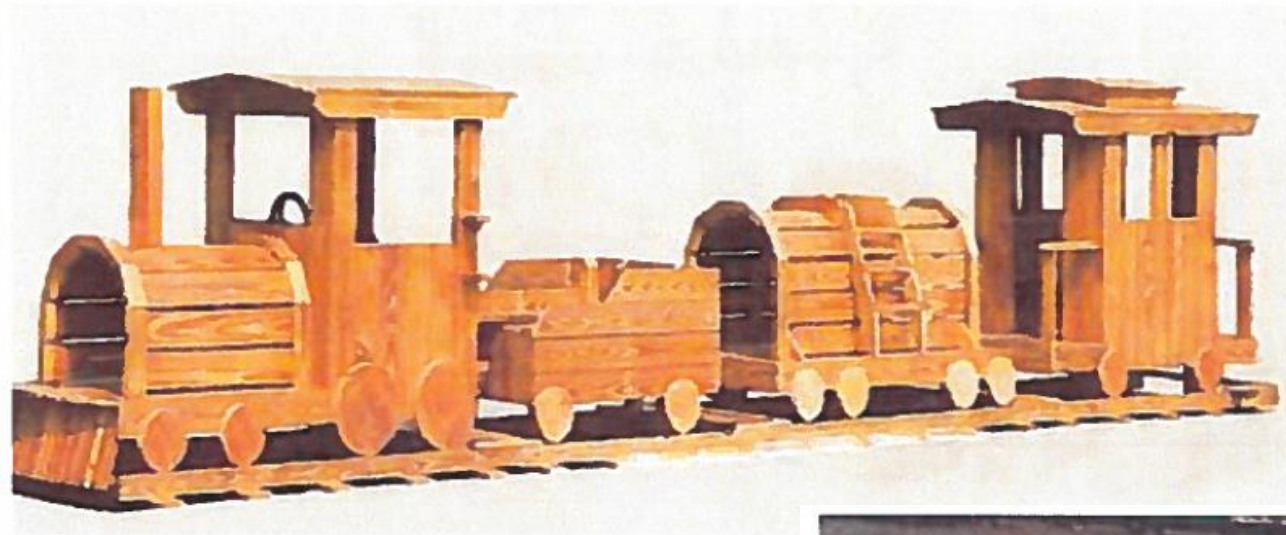
HORSE CAYE PARK

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## IMAGINATIVE PLAY AREA IDEAS

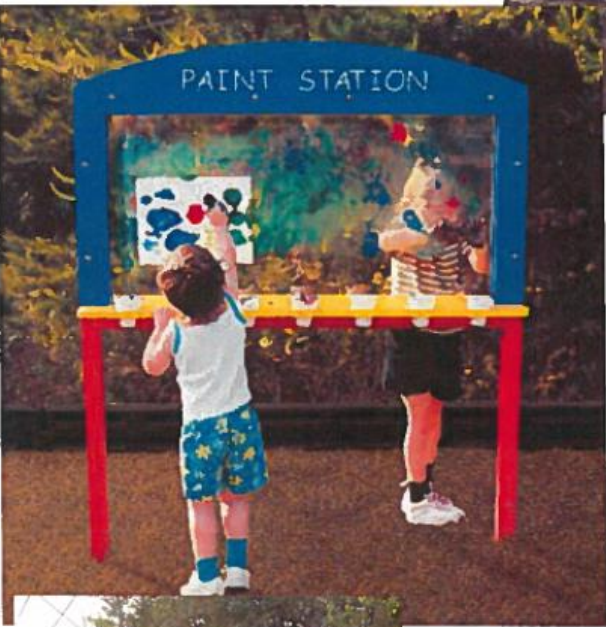


# ROCK PLAY AREA





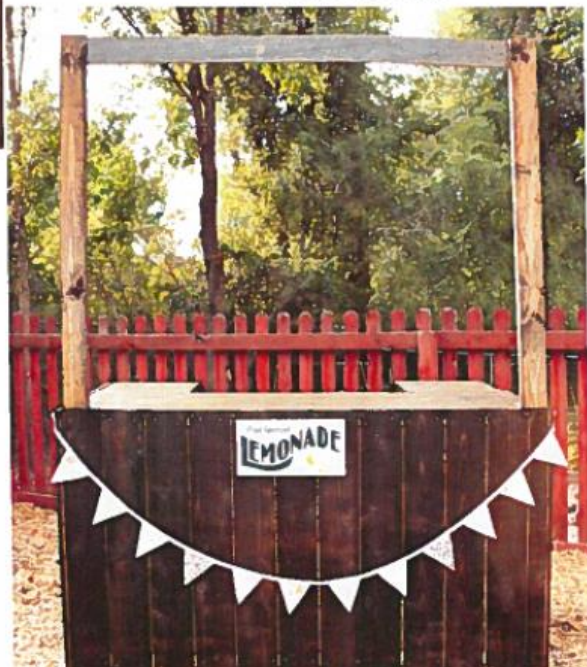
PAINT STATION



STAGE

# IMAGINATIVE PLAY

LEMONADE STAND



FORT





# PARK MUSIC



COWBELLS



TUB DRUM



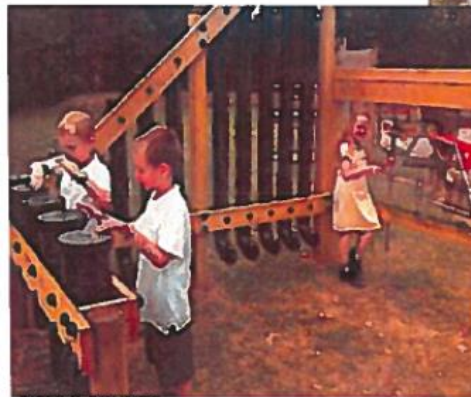
WOOD XYLOPHONE



PIPE XYLOPHONE



METAL DRUMBEAT



PIPES & SOUNDS



STONE MUSIC



WOOD BOX MUSIC



ROPES

WILL BE BUILT 1/2 SIZE



BALANCE BEAM

BALANCE BEAM



BARS



WOBBLE STEPS

CLIMBING WALL



FITNESS-INTERACTIVE

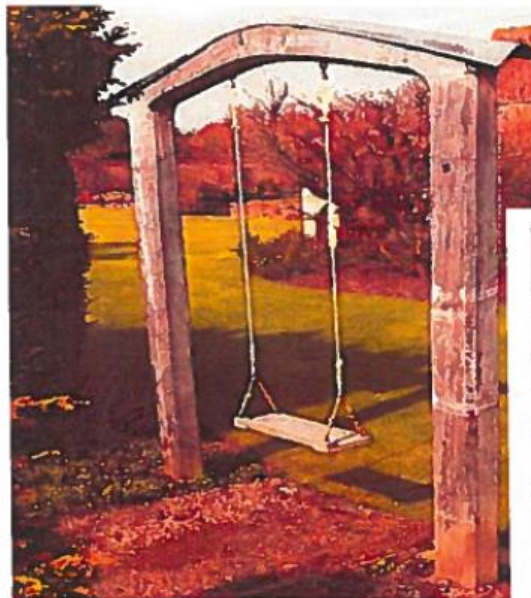


# FAMILY TIME

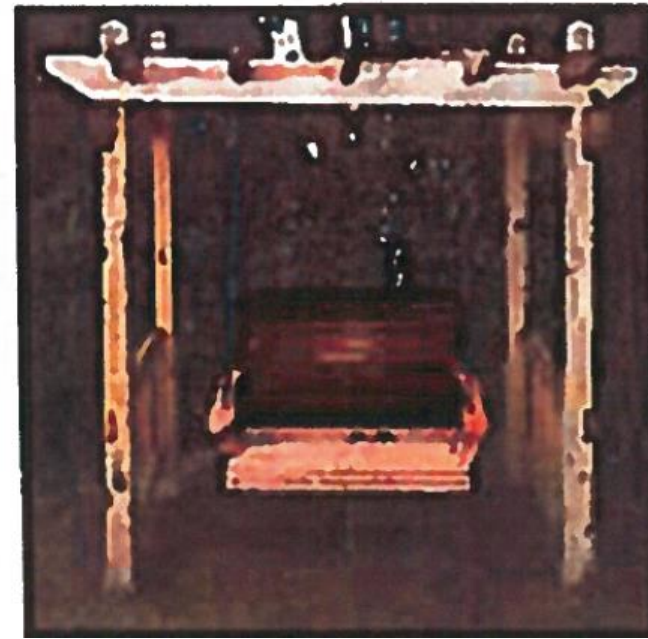


FAMILY TIME

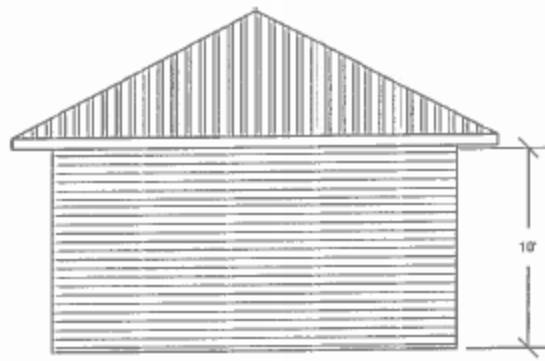
SINGLE SWING



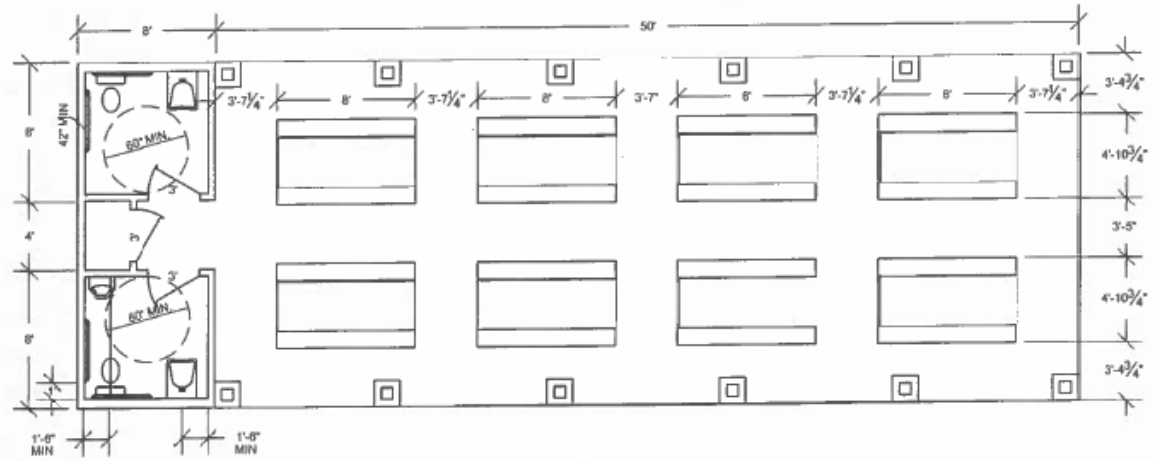
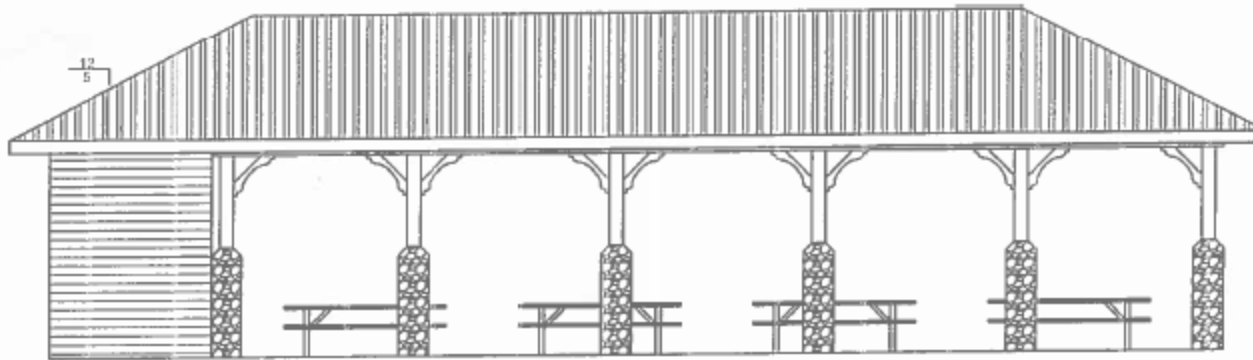
FAMILY SWING







END ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

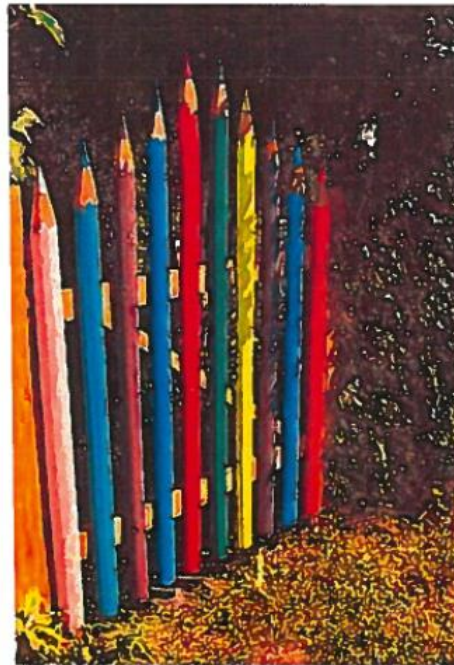




PARK BENCH

# PARK AMENITIES

"PENCIL" FENCE



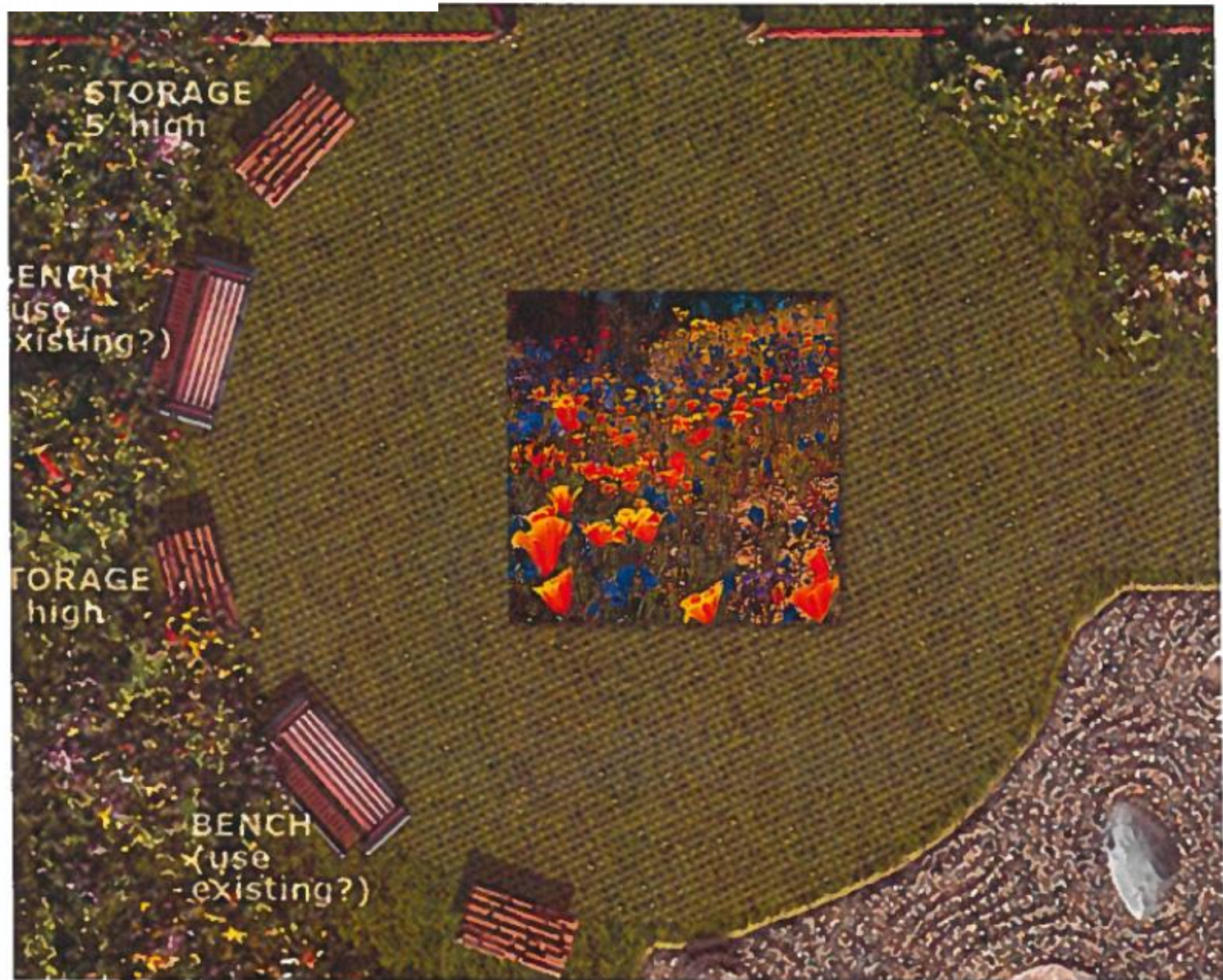
PICNIC TABLE





# ADULT READING AREA

SINKHOLE AREA WITH WILD FLOWERS





## MAPLE STREET PARK IMPROVEMENTS

# LEVELS OF SUPPORT

### Negotiable Park Naming Rights

On Entrance Sign Name

### \$10,000 Prominent Sign on Picnic Shelter-ONE ONLY

Individual Sign-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor

### \$5,000 Prominent Sign on Walking Trail-TWO ONLY

Individual Sign-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor

### \$1,000 Prominent Sign in Play Area(3), Train, or Tractor

Individual Sign-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor

If you would like to support the Maple Street Park Improvements, you can download a support form on the Park Committee page of the City website

### \$300 Individual Plaque on Bench or Picnic Table (10)

Plaque-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor

### \$300 Individual Plaque on Play Area Equipment (10)

Plaque-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor

### \$200 Individual Plaque on Large Tree-Maple/Pin Oak (16)

Plaque-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor

### \$100 Individual Plaque on Small Tree-Dogwood/Redbud(32)

Plaque-Supported By, In Honor Of/By Donor, In Memory Of/By Donor  
Or-Name listed on Group Support Sign as Supporter