

HSIA Beach Committee Playground Vendor Comparison

Geoff Werner

HSIA General Meeting: 12 MAR 2026

Background

- The playground replacement effort began following a playground safety inspection, which identified aging components requiring repair.
- The Playground Subcommittee (formed Summer 2025) evaluated the long-term costs of continued maintenance and the feasibility of retrofitting the existing structure.
- The subcommittee determined that replacement would be more cost-effective over the long term than continuing to repair a structure nearing the end of its lifecycle.
- Community feedback and design ideas were gathered throughout Summer and Fall 2025, while the Beach Committee continued discussions at bi-monthly committee meetings and monthly Board meetings.
- During the winter, the Beach Committee solicited design concepts and proposals from multiple playground vendors to evaluate options for a replacement structure.

Key Considerations

- **Long-term durability and maintenance** – equipment should be built to last in a waterfront environment and supported with readily available replacement parts.
- **Vendor reliability and support** – preference for vendors with a proven track record, responsive service, and the ability to support installation and future maintenance.
- **Compatibility with the site** – designs must work within existing constraints, including the current pea gravel surfacing and permitting requirements.
- **Community appeal and usability** – the playground should feel welcoming for families, caregivers, and children of different ages.
- **Cost certainty and schedule confidence** – proposals that include installation and provide clear scope reduce project risk and increase the likelihood of successful delivery.

Permitting Requirements

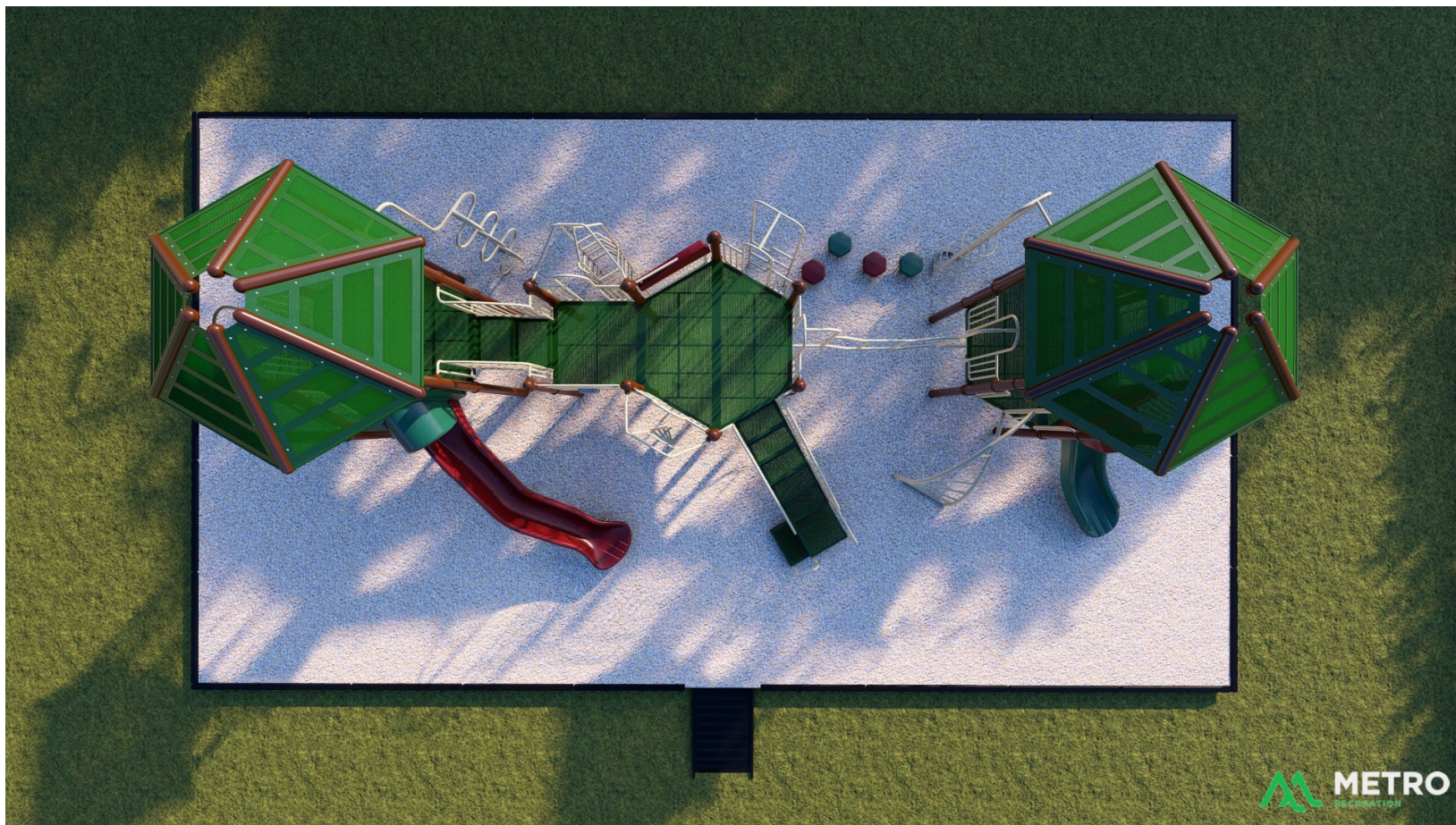
The replacement of the playground will require a **Non-Residential New Structure / Accessory Structure Permit** from Anne Arundel County Inspections and Permits.

Required Submittals

- Completed Building Permit Application submitted through the County Land Use Navigator system
- Playground construction drawings showing structure dimensions, layout, materials, surfacing, and installation details (drawn to scale)
- Site plan showing the location of the playground within the property
- Critical Area Worksheet due to Chesapeake Bay Critical Area designation
- Grading plan if installation requires excavation or site modification
- Permit fee based on the estimated value of the project- ~\$992

	Metro Recreation	Infinite Recreation	PlaySpec
Concept	Miracle: Traditional playground layout	Hexatrex: Unstructured play	Playworld: Traditional playground layout
Equipment Cost	~\$105K (equipment included)	~\$70K (structure only)	~100-\$120K depending on design
Demo & Installation	Included in proposal	Not included – cost TBD	Included in proposal
Total Estimated Cost	~\$105K	~\$70K + demo/install (TBD)	~\$120K
Maintenance	Standard parts and service; using same vendor as small playground streamlines maintenance effort for volunteer led organization	Third-party service required	Standard parts and service
Community Appeal	Familiar playground feel, same vendor as small (East) playground. Consistent aesthetic throughout property	Unique centerpiece design; Some residents feel strongly for it or strongly against it	Familiar playground feel
Sustainability	Compatible with existing gravel surface and marine environment	Long term durability in marine environment unknown	Compatible with existing gravel surface and marine environment
Accessibility	Ramp access can be added later as funding allows	Limited accessibility	Ramp access can be added later as funding allows
Multigenerational Play	Structure allows caregivers to comfortably access and move through play elements with children	Primarily designed for children climbing; less conducive to caregiver participation	Structure allows caregivers to comfortably access and move through play elements with children
Vendor Model	Local full-service playground provider; ~30 years in business	Equipment supplier only; demo, installation, and maintenance outsourced; ~3 years in business	Local full-service playground provider; ~30 years in business
Vendor Responsiveness	Local and responsive w/ in person site support	Out of state and responsive w/o in person site support	Local and responsive w/ in person site support
Permitting Support	Local vendor familiar with AA County permitting and able to support process	Unfamiliar w/ local permit requirements; Third-party service required	Local vendor familiar with AA County permitting and able to support process
Shade	Yes	No	No

METRO RECREATION











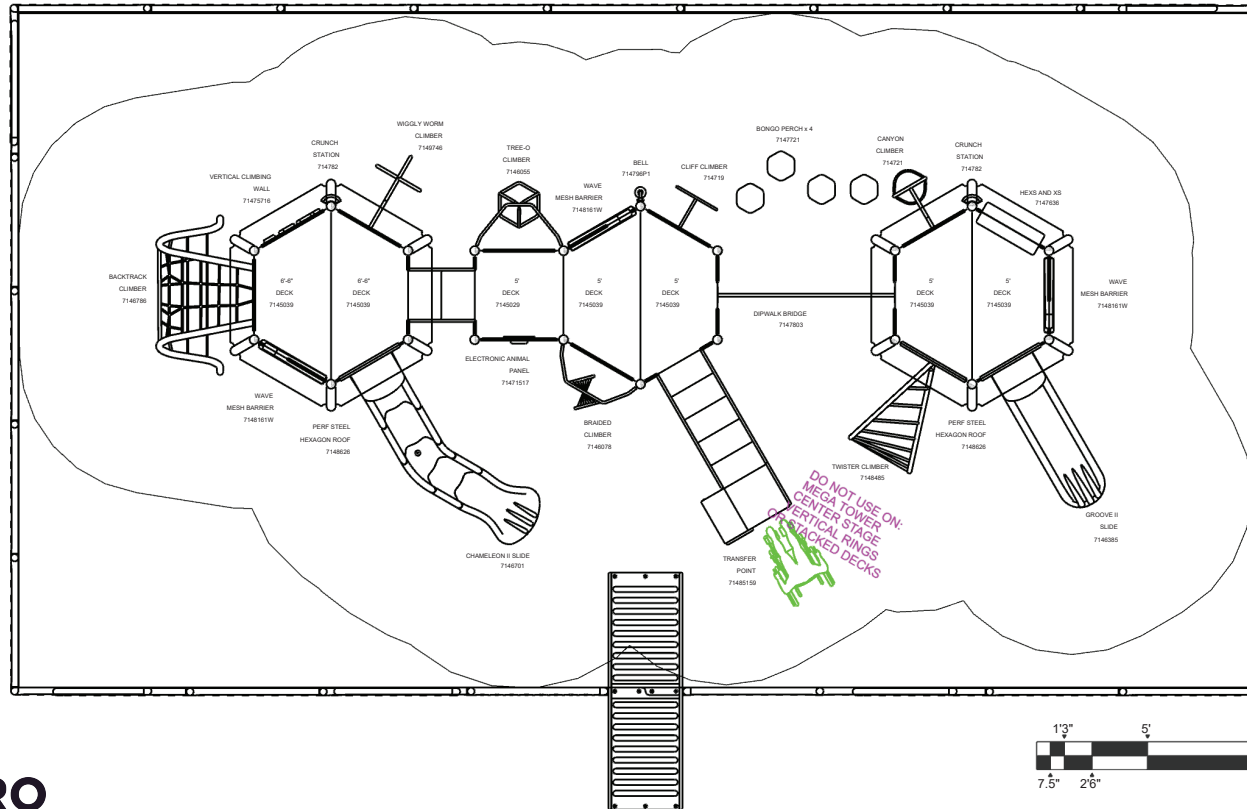


HSIA BEACH

ANNAPOLIS, MD

AGE GROUP:	5-12, ASTM	
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES - TOTAL:	14	
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE BY TRANSFER:	9	REQ'D 7
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP:	0	REQ'D 0
GROUND LEVEL ACTIVITY TYPE:	3	REQ'D 3
GROUND LEVEL QUANTITY:	4	REQ'D 5
PLAY AREA CAPACITY: 105		

FOR KIDS AGES
5-12
YEARS



METRO RECREATION INC

4907 Camden Place North
Jefferson, MD

PHONE NO: (240) 409-2870
FAX NO:

AREA: 1683.7 ft²

PERIMETER: 171 ft. 7 in.

DRAWN BY: Laura Mardesch

DATE: 03/03/2026

26003900

✓ COMPLIES TO ASTM/CPSC

✓ COMPLIES TO ADA

To promote safe and proper equipment use by children, Miracle recommends the installation of either a Miracle safety sign or other appropriate safety signage near each playsystem's main entry point(s) to inform parents and supervisors of the age appropriateness of the playsystem and general rules for safe play.

THE PLAY COMPONENTS IDENTIFIED IN THIS PLAN ARE IPEMA CERTIFIED. THE USE AND LAYOUT OF THESE COMPONENTS CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF ASTM F1487

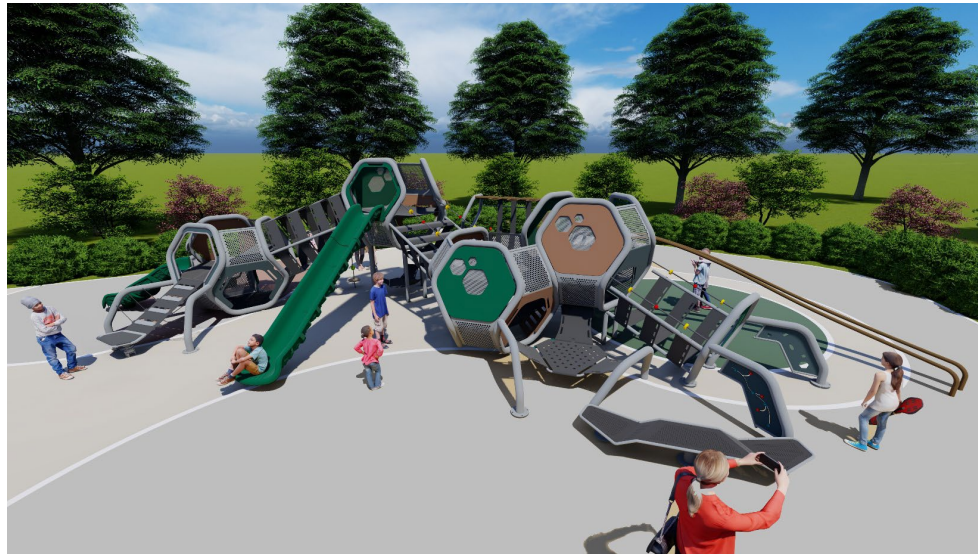
AN ENERGY ABSORBING PROTECTIVE SURFACE IS REQUIRED UNDER & AROUND ALL PLAY SYSTEMS



The background is a solid dark blue color. It features several overlapping geometric shapes: a large, semi-transparent circle on the right side, a vertical rectangular bar on the left side, and a horizontal rectangular bar at the bottom. These shapes create a layered, architectural feel.

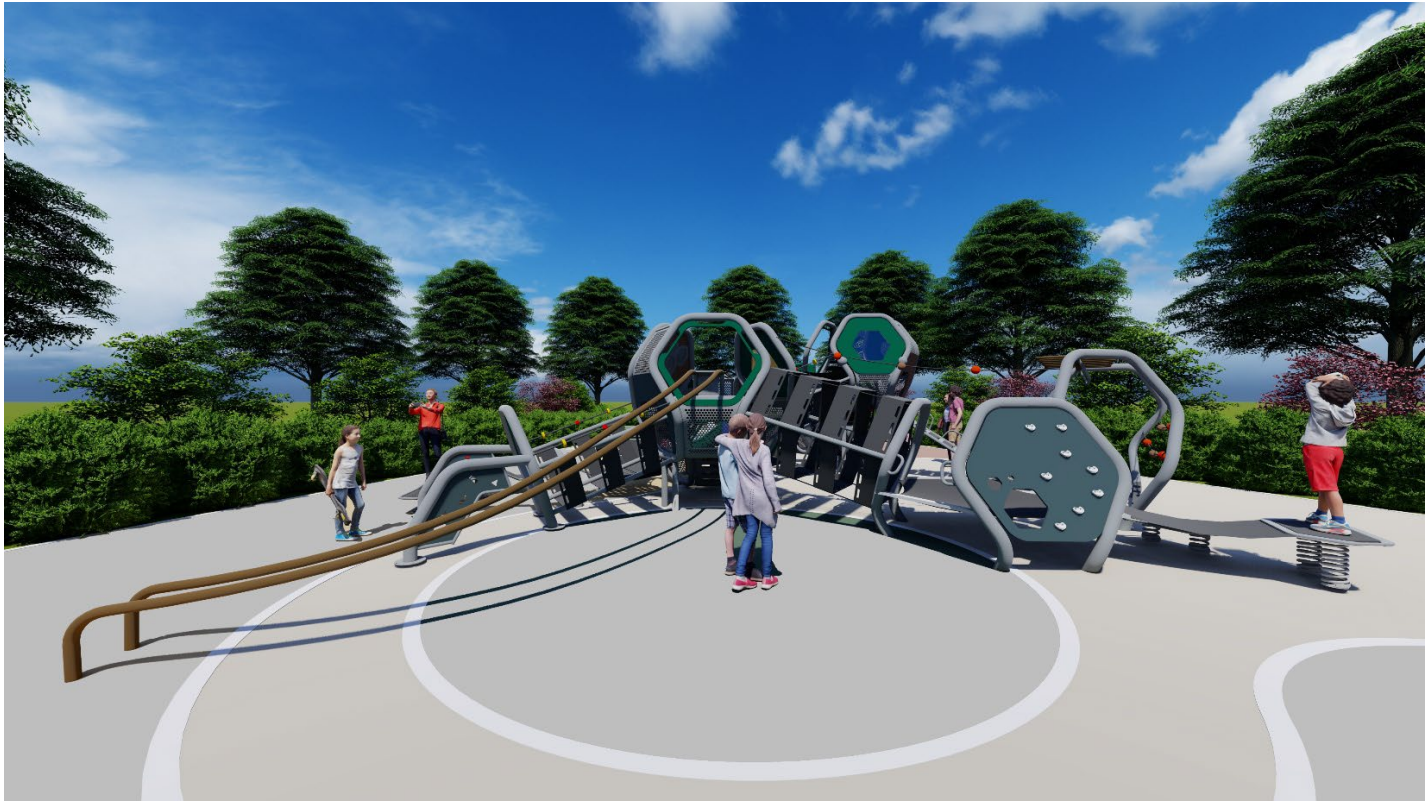
INFINITE

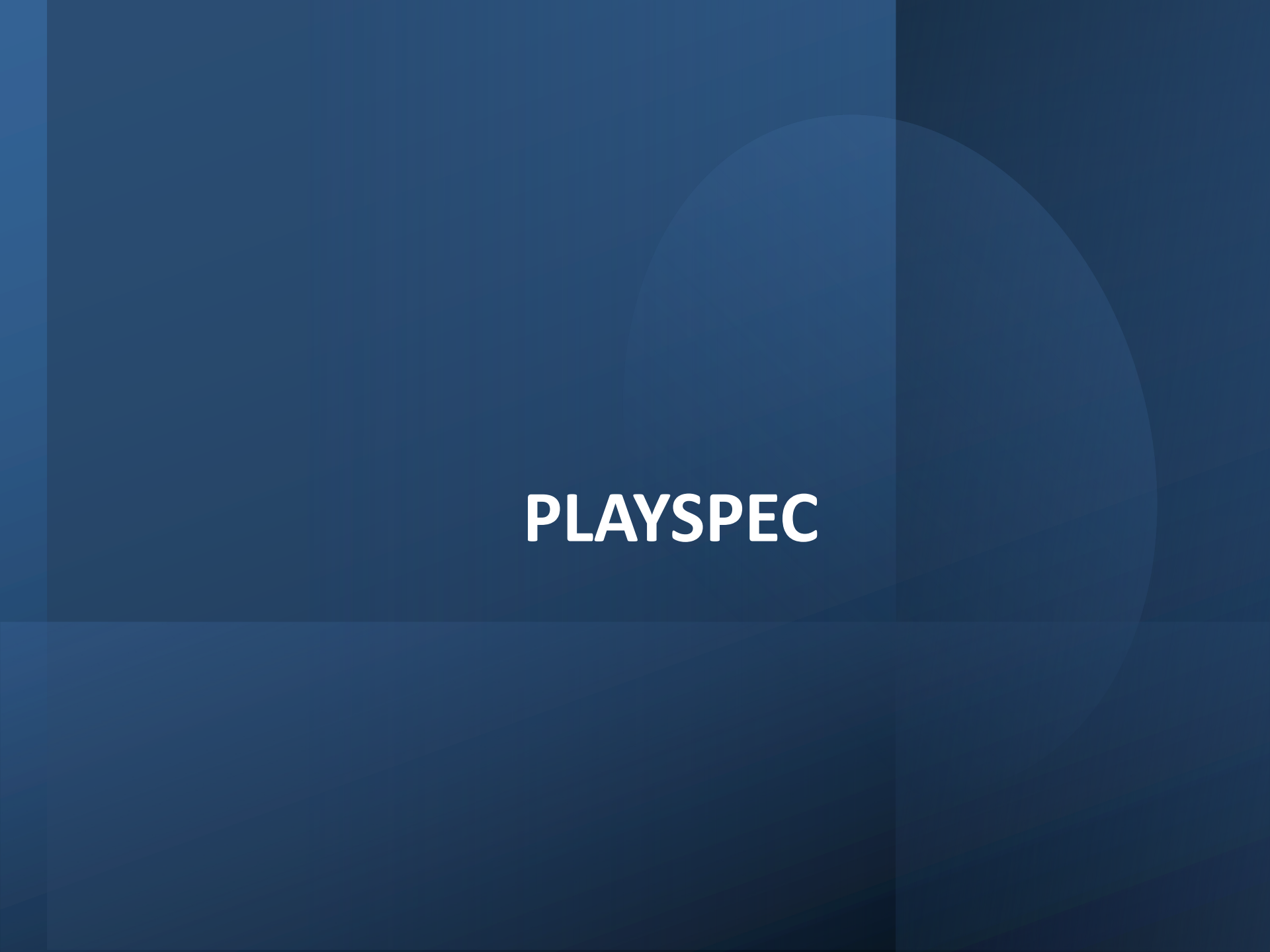
Custom Design #4









The background is a dark blue gradient. A large, light blue semi-circle is positioned on the right side, with its flat edge facing left. Two vertical lines of different shades of blue run from the top to the bottom of the image, one on the left and one on the right, intersecting the semi-circle.

PLAYSPEC



Hillsmere Shores Opt.7

Annapolis, MD

playground
Specialists Inc.

800.385.0075 | www.playspec.com

Beige

Green

Brown

Beige-FRG

Approved by: _____



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- Green
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Approved by: _____

EQUIPMENT SIZE:
X' x Y' x Z'

USE ZONE:
X' x Y'

AREA: 3827 SqFt. PERIMETER: 282 Ft.

FALL HEIGHT:
8 Ft.

USER CAPACITY: 73 AGE GROUP: 5-12

- ✓ ASTM F1487-21
- ✓ CPSC #325



PROJECT NO:
P111825-20C

SCALE:
3/32"=1'-0"

DRAWN BY:
JBAKER

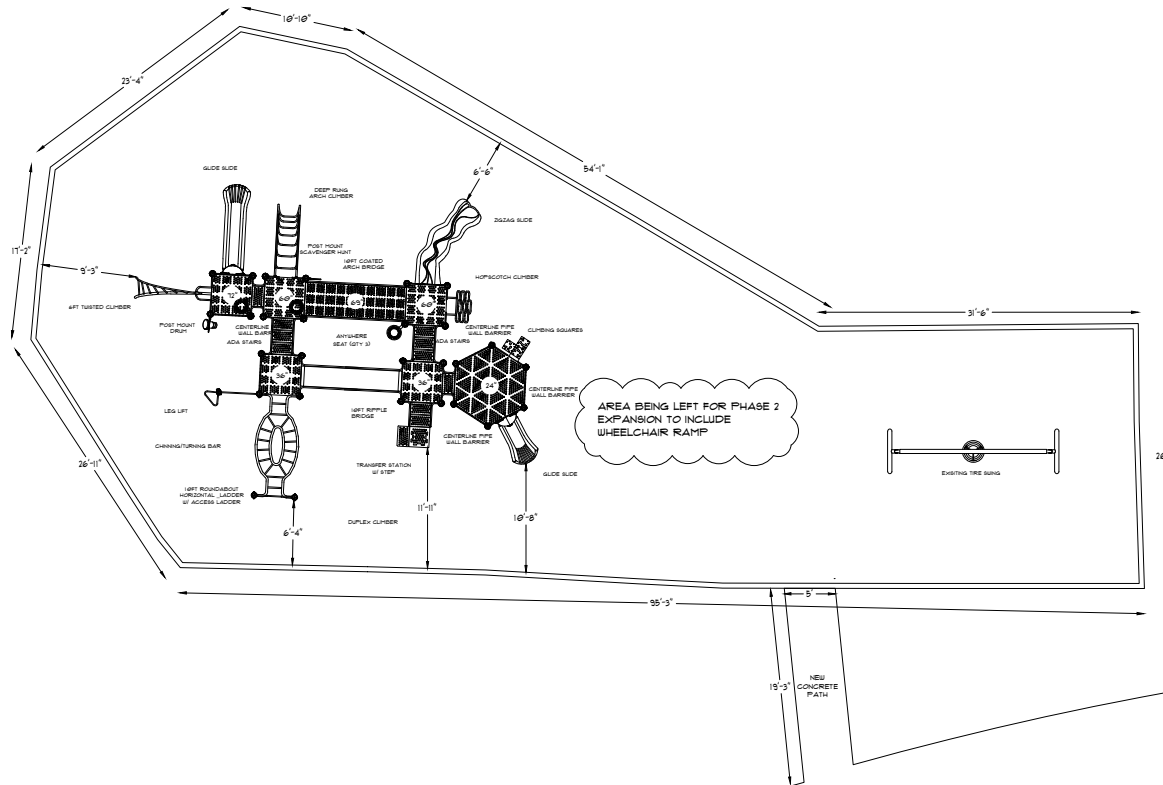
Paper Size

DATE:
13-FEB-26

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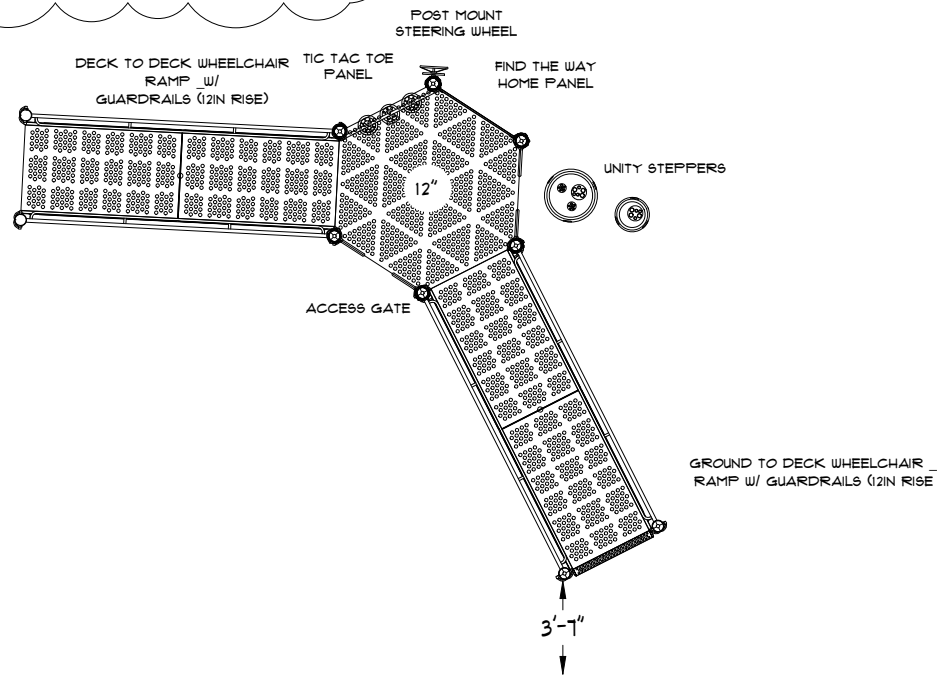
Hillsmere Shores Opt.7

Annapolis, MD



*PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION REQUIRED

PHASE 2 ADDITION WHEELCHAIRS ACCESSIBLE



*PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION REQUIRED

playground
Specialists Inc.

29 APPLES CHURCH ROAD
THURMONT MD 21788
800-365-0075
WWW.PLAYSPEC.COM

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