



CITY of CALABASAS

BRANDON'S VILLAGE @ GATES CANYON PARK

All-Inclusive Playground Project

IMPROVEMENTS

| *The Team*



Unlimited Play, Inc.

Natalie Mackay, Executive Director
Jim Vollmer, Project Manager



CITY *of* CALABASAS

City of Calabasas

Erica Green, Community Services Director
Aimee Haber, Facility Supervisor



Little Tikes Commercial

Greg Sippel, Little Tikes Regional
Sales Director
Guy Donahoe, Local Little Tikes
Representative

The Kaplan's

Michael and Dina Kaplan, Brandon's Parents

Brandon's Village *History & Need for Replacement*



- 2002 – Staff and the Kaplan's (Brandon's parents) identified need for all-inclusive play space
- 2005 – The Kaplan's conducted fundraising - \$1M raised
- 2006 – Playground constructed for \$875,000
- 2021 – Received Prop 68 Grant funding for replacement of pour in place rubberized surfacing
- 2022 – Elements of playground removed/closed for safety
 - Substrate issues
 - Playground equipment compromised
 - Consistent monitoring for safety
- 2022 – Playground replacement, fencing and signage included in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list. CIP approved by City Council.

What has Happened



September 2022

City Council approved project for \$1.1M.

\$800K ARPA Funds

\$192,473 Prop 68 Grant Funds

\$125K Gates Canyon Maintenance Fund



Oct. 2022 - ongoing

Project sponsorship and donation campaign.

\$8,600 raised.



Oct. – Dec. 2022

Public engagement workshops and surveys conducted.

2 virtual workshops, 1 on-site workshop. 2 city-wide online surveys.



January 2023

Project presented to the Parks, Recreation and Education Commission. Approval to move forward with enhanced design.

| *Engagement Process – what we heard*



ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS & SURVEY 1 RESULTS

- IMAGINATIVE PLAY
- SAFETY & ACCESS
- CHALLENGE LEVELS
- ACTIVE MOTION
- SENSORY PLAY
- CREATIVE PLAY

SURVEY 2 RESULTS

- NATURE THEME
“Treehouse,
Above the clouds”

About the *Design*

- 14,000 square feet of play areas
- Higher access levels
- Fully inclusive playground – Unlimited Play, Inc. will certify Brandon’s Village as a fully inclusive playground meeting their Platinum standard.
- Sandbox movement
- Increased tot area
- Additional inclusive elements – spinner, merry go round, swing, quiet grove, play panels



Standard Design

Standard means prefabricated amenities, not custom designed.



Standard Design *5-12 year old structure*



Standard Design ***2-5 year old structure***



Standard Design



| **Importance of themed dramatic play**

Play is a powerful and critical tool that children use to learn and develop in many different areas including social-emotional intelligence, mental and physical health, and relationship building (Movahedazarhouligh, 2018). Play is even more essential for children with disabilities as they often struggle in these areas already. Dramatic play specifically is invaluable when it comes to helping children with disabilities develop social skills and confidence. Western Governors University says, "Dramatic play benefits are numerous. In addition to supporting creativity and self-expression, dramatic play can help children learn real-life skills and social skills that can serve them throughout their lives" ("Dramatic Play," 2021). All children need to be given the opportunity to develop these strengths through experiencing dramatic play without constraints.

Movahedazarhouligh, S. Teaching Play Skills to Children with Disabilities: Research-Based Interventions and Practices. *Early Childhood Educ J* **46**, 587–599 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-018-0917-7>

Western Governors University. (2021, November 5). *Dramatic play: What it is and why it's important*. Western Governors University. Retrieved March 14, 2023, from <https://www.wgu.edu/blog/dramatic-play-what-is-why-important2111.html#close>

Importance of theme and enhancements

- Promotes learning development
- Encourages and sparks creativity
- Immerses youth in an imaginary world
- Sensory experience
- Develops social skills



Custom products are shown as conceptual.

Concept

- In the the Clouds
- Birds eye view
- Above the trees
- Representation of Calabasas
- Unique and one-of-a-kind, continuing its reputation as a destination park

Enhancements & Benefits

Accelerator Swing: Allows youth who don't have the strength to sit in the high back swing to still swing by laying down on the dish.

Elevated sand and water table: Allows youth with mobility devices to play in the sand without leaving their wheelchair or walker

Friendly Fence Activity Panel: Activities often used to help with OT development (Occupational therapy)

Hawk Climber w/ ADA access: Provides graduating complexity, a different level of challenge to make sure everyone is given the opportunity to develop new skills

Nu Edge Tree Climb: Provides graduating complexity, a different level of challenge and enhances creative/imaginative play

Nu-Edge Tree stumps: Allows youth to increase balance and enhances creative/imaginative play

NuEdge Treehouse Panels: Enhances creative/imaginative play

NuEdge window Panel: Enhances creative/imaginative play

Nutty the Squirrel Activity Panel: Activities often used to help with OT development (Occupational therapy)

Roller Slide: Allows kids with cochlear implants to go down without worrying about static electricity

Sensory Safety Rails: These bridge rails provide engaging play instead of just typical rails. Gives children in mobility devices who do not want to leave their device to go down a slide the opportunity to stay engaged and play.

Single pole 12' umbrella shade over sandbox: Often individuals with disabilities have a hard time regulating their body temperature. This shade is vitally important to allows individuals to stay out longer and play.

Tree Branch Rails: Enhances creative/imaginative play

Tree Toppers (leaf): Enhances creative/imaginative play

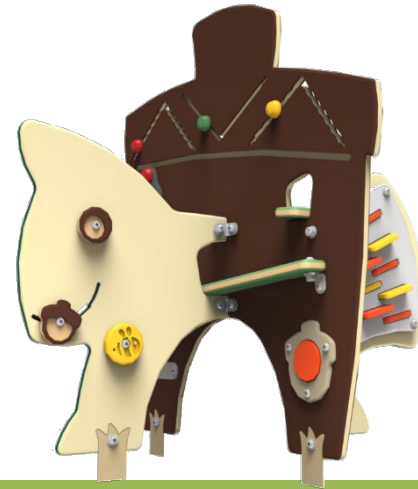
V-Rope Bridge: Creates a great parallel play opportunity and a different level of challenge

Wood Gabled Tree House: Enhances creative/imaginative play

Zoom twist w/Floor: Youth with autism often like to climb and spin. This piece allows the sensory feedback for individuals with autism along with a deck for individuals with a mobility device to sit or lie down and enjoy being part of the activity.

Enhancements

Accelerator Swing



Nutty the Squirrel Activity Panel

Friendly Fence Activity Panel



Elevated sand table & single pole shade



Sensory Safety Rails



Enhancements

Rollerslide



Tree Stumps



Treehouse Window Panel



Tree Climb & Treehouse Panel

Zoom Twist w/Floor



Enhancements

Tree Branch Safety Rails



Tree Toppers



V-Rope Bridge



Enhancements

Hawk Climber with ADA Access



Wood Gabled Tree House



Enhanced Design

Enhanced design means additional standard and custom elements.



Enhanced Design

5-12 year old structure



is conceptual.

Enhanced Design

5-12 year old structure



products are shown as conceptual.

Custom products are shown as conceptual.

Enhanced Design

2-5 year old structure



Enhanced Design

Sandbox area



Funding

SUBTOTAL (W/O ENHANCEMENTS)	\$1,231,141.09
Little Tikes standard equipment discount and free freight	-\$200,341.65
TOTAL WITH DISCOUNT (\$86,943.56 under budget)	\$1,030,799.44
Enhancement equipment cost (includes standard & custom – discount, tax, and freight)	\$242,330.16
Unlimited Play, Inc. fee	\$10,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST (WITH ENHANCEMENTS)	\$1,283,129.14
APPROVED BUDGET	\$1,117,743.00
DONATIONS	\$8,600.08
TOTAL BUDGET	\$1,126,343.08
ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST	\$156,786.52