

People's Playground Project (PPP)

April 20, 2026

Central Park Playground Design & Plan

Guiding Document Synopsis

Note: The full guiding document is 44 pages long and is available over email or in the Borough Office. It contains a detailed narrative, maps, renderings, an implementation plan, preliminary budget, fundraising plan, community feedback, and 7 letters of support. If you have questions or concerns, please review the relevant piece of the full guiding document. The PPP is happy to answer anything not covered there.

1. Project Background

The PPP has created a design and plan for a new playground in Honesdale's historic Central Park. The project aims to transform the north quadrant of the park into an inclusive, accessible, and natural play environment that serves children of all ages and abilities, while fostering wider community connection and local economic resilience.

2. Local Considerations

- Needs Assessment: Current facilities lack inclusive features, with local families traveling as far as Dunmore or Scranton to play. Central Park serves around 2,240 residents within a ten-minute walk (approx. 380 children aged 2–18), making it the borough's key place for socializing and recreating.
- Community Engagement: Creating the playground design took 700+ volunteer hours and 1,600+ community inputs gathered through a rigorous 4-Step "Placemaking" process (People-powered Public Space Design) involving surveys, workshops, and drafting sessions.

2. Key Features

The design prioritizes social interaction, multi-use equipment, and a "local nature" aesthetic. Our guiding principal is that *"Central Park's playground should be inclusive, accessible, and natural where possible; a place that has something for everyone, is in harmony with its surroundings, and encourages connection as well as creativity."*

Age Zones & Inclusivity Highlights

- Swing Bank: Located outside the main fence for broader access. Includes 6 swings: 2 belt, 1 flat, 1 co-swing, 1 bench swing, and 1 accessible nest swing.
- Toddler Area: Separated by a low wall for safety, visibility, and seating. Designed for intergenerational play.

- 13+ Zone: Designed for anyone over the age of 12 but especially with teens in mind to reduce their use of equipment that is geared towards 2-12 year old's. It meets their social and exercise needs with a curved bench, log climber, tether ball, and fitness equipment.

Signature Feature: "Irving Hill"

Modeled after "Irving Cliff" with a clockwise trail to its starry summit, it's where all paths into the playground converge. The paths themselves mimic the confluence of the Dyberry and Lackawaxen rivers, further reinforcing the "local nature" theme.

- Accessibility: Multiple ways up including a winding handicapped-accessible path and a variety of fun ways to get back down.
- Environmental Considerations: Designed to replenish surrounding soil health and prevent erosion, the native plantings (viburnum, serviceberry, redbud, etc) outside the fenced-in play area will also keep the playground cooler with shade, and be a habitat for butterflies.

Safety & Infrastructure

- Fencing: A secure perimeter around the main play area with two swing-closed gates (near roads) and one main gate. Essential for safety and caregiver peace of mind.
- High-traffic/Accessible Zone Surfacing: Poured-in-place rubber or engineered wood fiber
- General Zone Surfacing: Wood mulch (preferred for environmental health).
- Restroom: While permanent construction would need to be thoughtfully considered to meet 1884 deed requirements, the plan recommends renting a Handicapped Accessible Portable Toilet during the warm seasons to fill this key community need.

3. Phased Implementation Plan

The project is structured into four phases to manage funding and construction logistics, with the first phase broken into three parts to ensure that there's something for everyone as soon as funding makes it possible.

Phase	Timeline	Key Components	Estimated Cost
Phase 1	Summer 2026	Part 1: Main Swing Bank (4 Swings)	\$15,060
	Summer 2026	Part 2: Bench Swing	\$6,499
	Fall 2026	Part 3: Accessible Nest Swing	\$21,699-\$29,199
Phase 2	Spring 2027	Irving Hill (construction & landscaping), Stourbridge Lion (train), Exercise Equipment, Tether Ball.	~\$31.4k (excl. surfacing)
Phase 3	Summer/Fall 2027	Accessible Unity Whirl, Bear Playground, Log Climbers, Fence, Shade Structures, Teen Bench.	~\$199.3k
Phase 4	2028	Permanent Bathroom, Stroller/Bike Parking.	Pending Quotes

Total Project Estimate: ~400,000

4. Financial Overview & Fundraising Strategy

The Friends of the Honesdale Parks: Central Park Playground Fund held by the Wayne County Community Foundation had a balance of \$6,070 as of 3/29/26. To grow that into an amount that can make this playground possible, the PPP has developed a multi-pronged fundraising approach targeting local donations, grants, and events.

Fundraising Goals & Tactics

- Basket Raffle: Goal of \$5,000 (500tickets@10).
- NEPA Gives: Goal of \$25,000 (Event scheduled June 4–5, 2026).
- Community Events: Sing-along brunch (5k goal) and Holiday Appeal Letter(15k goal).
- In-Kind Donations: Seeking construction, installation, and landscaping labor/materials.
- Grants: Targeting the “big ticket” items (Wayne County Community Foundation, DCNR, inclusive equipment grants).

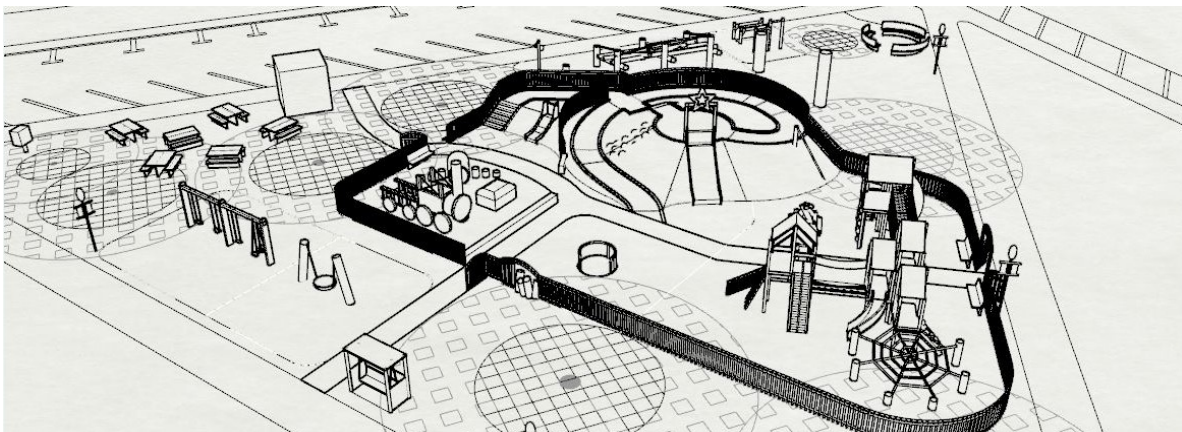
5. Next Steps

The PPP recommends the following steps to keep the playground project moving forward, highlighting the group that is key to coordinating those actions:

Borough Council: Formal Approval and Partnership Continuation- Adopt a motion to accept the PPP’s Design & Plan as the *guiding document* for the Central Park playground, and extend their partnership with the PPP into the professional review, fundraising, and installation phases.

The PPP: Professional Review and NEPA Gives- Seek a professional review of the playground design (funded via the Friends of Honesdale Parks account); proceed with fundraising through NEPA Gives

DPW: Installation Action Pending Funding- Coordinate Phase 1 (Swings) installation as soon as funds allow (target of Summer-Fall 2026) and arrange for a temporary accessible restroom.

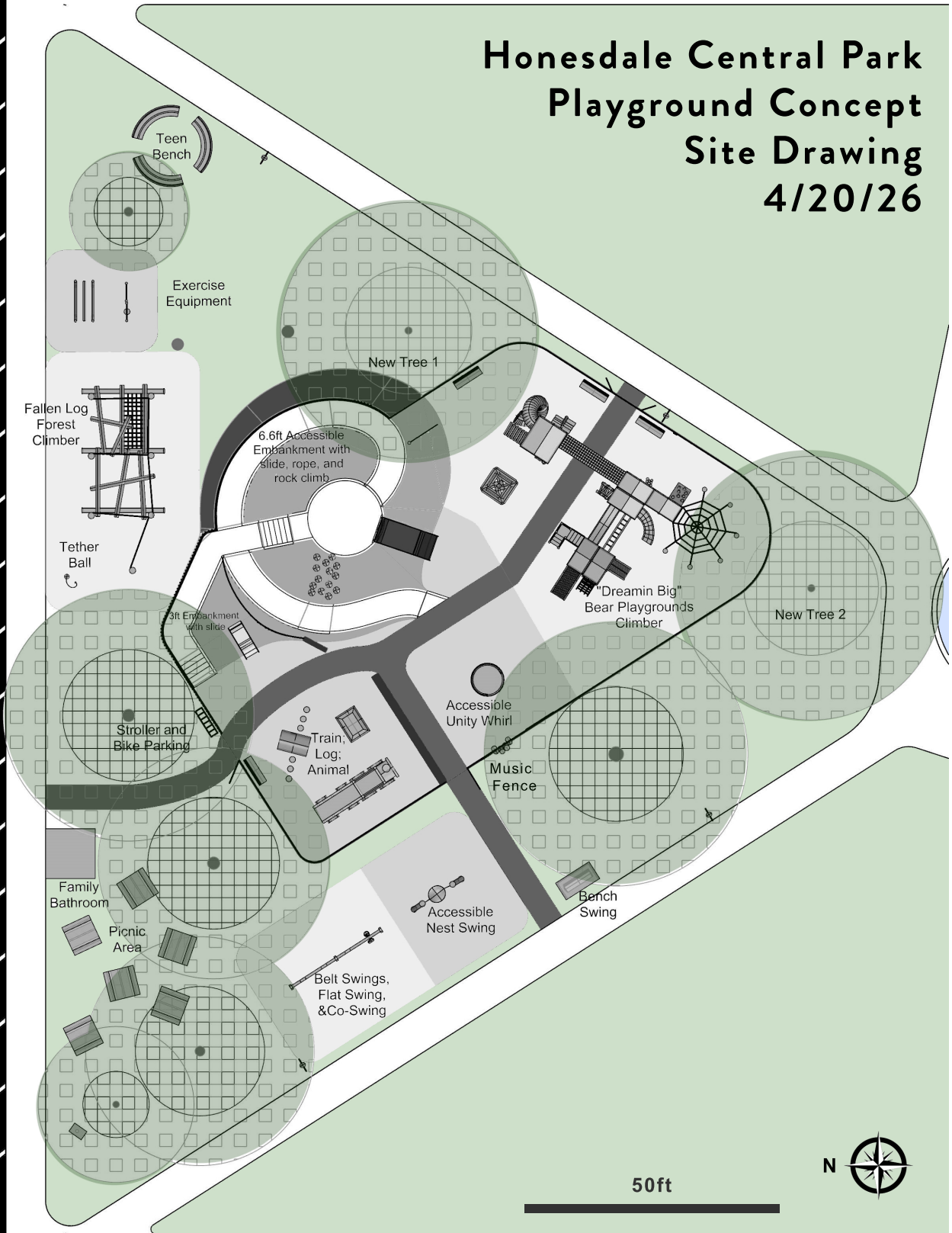


Birds eye rendering of the PPP’s Playground Concept, looking northeast with tree layer hidden

Court Street

Honesdale Central Park Playground Concept Site Drawing 4/20/26

10th Street



Church Street