

THE FOLLOWING MINTUES RE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, February 5, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center. First Selectman Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and opened the meeting with salute to the flag.

PRESENT: First Selectman A. Jeffrey Capeci, Selectman Michelle Embree Ku and Selectman Dan Cruson

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Robert Tait and Newtown Community Center Director Matt Ariniello, Matt Mihalcik, Erica Sullivan, Keith Alexander, Jordana Bloom

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

COMMUNICATIONS: A lawsuit has been filed against the town, by Covered Bridge/Scalzo, after the first case that came before the Fair Rent Commission. The Town Attorney has a conflict; a separate attorney will need to be used. Capital Tax Recovery withdrew their proposal in a letter dated February 2, 2024 (att.), in part due to the Legislative Council concerns, the low population density and their experience with similar towns. The Board of Selectmen endorsed the proposal; the Council had concerns. Selectman Embree Ku asked if there were other options for mv tax recovery. The Tax Assessor thinks Capital Tax Recovery Company was the better of the two choices. The search for a Finance Director has been advertised. Resumes will be reviewed and interviews will be conducted. A search committee will get involved once the candidates are vetted.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Selectman Embree Ku moved to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 29, 2024. Selectman Cruson seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: Mr. Tait went over the ARP worksheet (att). The total expended is as of February 5. Some projects that were not on the last report have become active. The next year budget has two items that will be reconsidered by the ARP Ad Hoc Committee for additional funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Ad Hoc Presentation:** Matt Mihalcik, Erica Sullivan and Selectman Embree Ku were present as prior members of the ARP Ad Hoc Committee. Matt Mihalcik said Bob Tait has been doing a great job tracking projects. The tutoring program funding is being accessed; there is an uptick in tutoring. Dan Cruson asked when funding will sunset. Mr. Tait reported the money is obligated at end of 2024. The Town reports every April. The expectation is funds will be used by end of 2025 however, funds can be spent into 2026. Encumbered funds need to reviewed to be sure they are being spent. Ms. Sullivan had question about the commitment and approval process. Board representatives would report back to their various boards/commissions. There is not much left to appropriate, Selectman Embree Ku does not think the committee will meet as much as last year. Ms. Sullivan noted the process was very efficient. Selectman Embree Ku doesn't want to rehash all that has already been done but recognizes there will be a loss of continuity with a new commission. After further discussion First Selectman Capeci said a hand-off from past the committee to current would be helpful. Ms. Sullivan suggested they can go over creative thinking, the scope of the committee and what may still need to be done. Selectman Embree Ku noticed duplication of three members on both ARP and Recycling and would like to see the composition be different representatives on each committee. Selectman Cruson said if there are not enough board members to step up to prevent an overlap on the committees, some prior Ad Hoc members can be considered and thinks at least one member from each board should make up the committee.

Rec'd. for Record 2-6 2024
Town Clerk of Newtown 4:00pm
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

2. **Newtown Community Center Playscape project update:** Matt Ariniello presented the final stages of the playscape project (att.). The feature will increase amenities on the campus and benefit the community as a whole; it will also expand programming space for the growing childcare programs. Currently, kids are brought to Reed to use the playscape; Wasserman Way can be problematic. A parcel of Town owned land was approved for the playscape. The Fairfield Hills Authority is involved and will have jurisdiction over this property and cover the cost to create a barrier from the road. The Newtown Community Center special revenue fund is covering the project. The playscape will have four handicap amenity features. There will be signage noting the playscape is unavailable to the public during the Community Center programming. There are musical amenities. The design is great for the space. Dan Cruson asked about any lighting and security to try to discourage vandalism. Mr. Ariniello said he will discuss with Parks & Recreation adding the playscape to the other park gate closings. There is a splash pad in the Community Center CIP. The playscape is scheduled to open in early June.
3. **Creation of the Recycling Ad Hoc Committee:** Selectman Embree Ku moved to create a Solid Waste and Recycling Ad Hoc Committee to be composed of 3 members from the Legislative Council, 2 members from the Board of Finance and 1 member of the Board of Selectmen, with the First Selectman additionally serving in an ex officio capacity and as Chair. Further, the purpose of the Recycling Ad Hoc Committee is to work with Town staff, school officials, and the Sustainable Energy Commission to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding recycling and solid waste management. This may include but is not limited to alternative means of waste management/waste reduction, cost analysis, and policy review. Selectman Cruson seconded. There was discussion on having solid waste part of the motion; it was decided recycling and solid waste are intertwined so both should be included in the short term; the Legislative Council can decide on long term wording. Selectman Cruson noted that the Director of School Facilities has worked with the Sustainable Energy and the partnership continues. The First Selectman being both an ex officio member and the Chair was discussed. Selectman Cruson agreed the First Selectman cannot be both. Selectman Cruson moved to amend the motion to remove 'ex officio member' from the motion. Selectman Embree Ku seconded. The motion, as amended, unanimously passed.

Selectman Embree Ku moved to appoint Dan Cruson, Chris Gardner, Laura Miller, John Zachos, Steve Goodridge and Bryce Chinault as member of the Solid Waste and Recycling Ad Hoc Committee. Selectman Cruson seconded. The motion unanimously passed.
4. **Resolution requesting the Legislative Council consider the need for an Ordinance creating a permanent Recycling Committee:** Selectman Embree Ku moved that the Board of Selectmen ask the Legislative Council to consider memorializing the Ad Hoc Recycling Committee through ordinance in a form best suited to meeting the growing demands being placed on the Town by the need to provide for the increased reuse of discarded materials and their diversion from the waste stream. The Legislative Council should consider all options including, but not limited to, the formation of a permanent committee or adding these duties to an existing committee such as the Sustainable Energy Commission. Selectman Cruson seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

RECURRING BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

1. **Appointments/Reappointments/Vacancies/Openings:** none.
2. **Driveway Bond Release/Extension:** none.
3. **Tax Refunds:** Selectman Embree Ku moved to approve Tax Refund #34 in the amount of \$10,584.48. Selectman Cruson seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Board of Selectmen
February 5, 2024

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: First Selectman Capeci reminded the board is the trip to the State Capitol is Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the regular Board of Selectmen meeting was adjourned at 8:31p.m.

Att: Capital Tax Recovery letter; 2/2/24; ARP worksheet, 2/5/24; NCC Playscape, 2024;

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, clerk

CAPITAL TAX RECOVERY

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February 2, 2024

Dear Newtown Town Leaders,

After careful consideration and further evaluation, I have determined that our proposed collaboration on the Motor Vehicle Compliance project is not warranted at this time.

My decision is based on the Legislative Council's concerns, the low population density, and my experience with similar towns.

I appreciate your consideration of Capital Tax Recovery and the Motor Vehicle Compliance project. I will be open to re-evaluating the project in the future.

Sincerely,

Bryan Fischer
Capital Tax Recovery

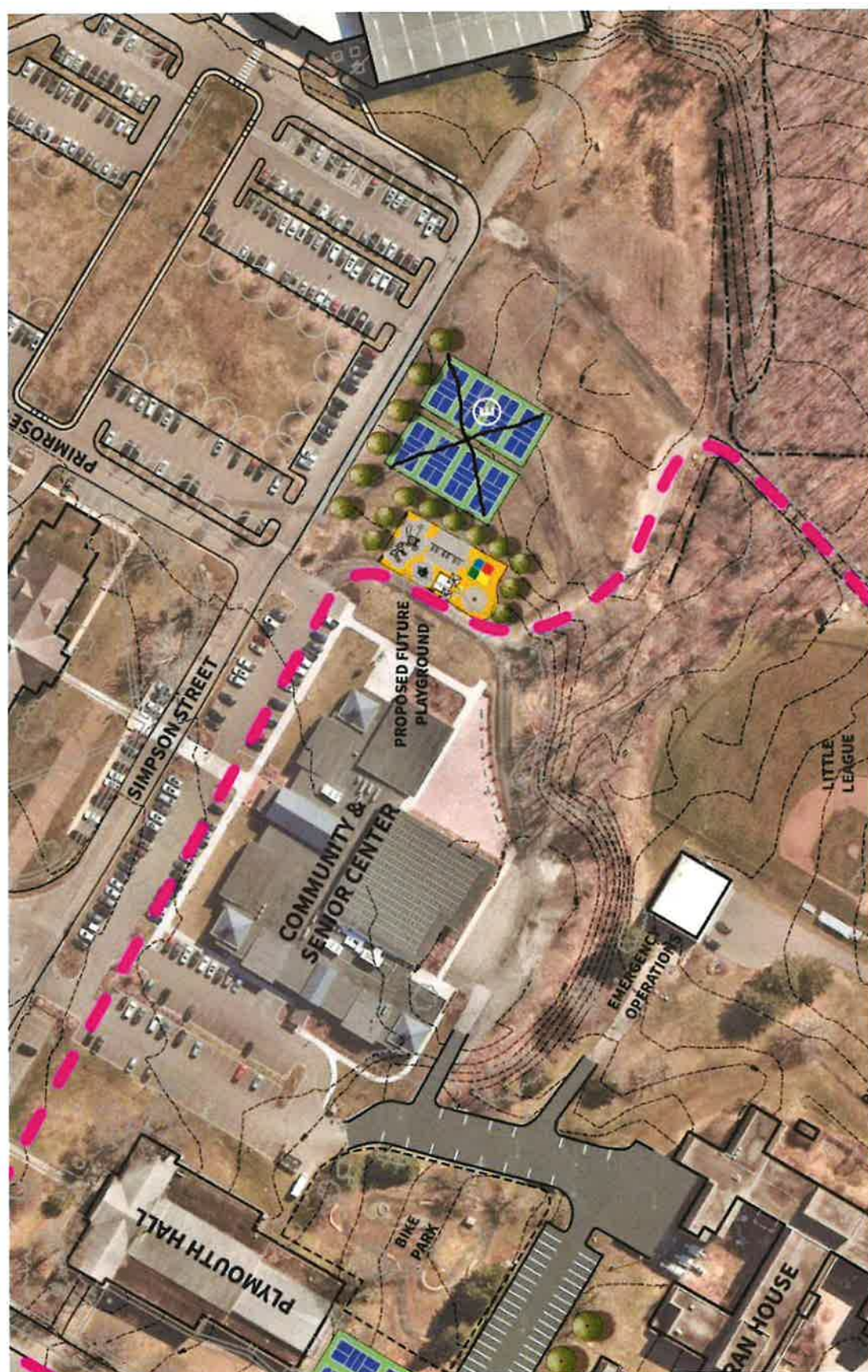
| Town of Newtown | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------------------------|
| the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) | | | | | | | | | |
| ARP Working Group Worksheet - Up Till January 01, 2024 | | | | | | | | | |
| ARP award amount | | | \$ 7,674,294 | | Total Expended | | | | |
| | | | | | Up Till | | | | |
| | | | | | 2/5/2024 | | Encumbered | | Balance |
| Possible Uses: | | | Recommended | | Approved | | | | |
| General Government: | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Fairfield Hills - Replace Water Distribution System | 1,500,000 | ✓ | 1/27/2022 | f | 116,264 | 1,218,025 | 165,711 | |
| 2 | Fairfield Hills Campus Safety Improvements | 20,000 | ✓ | 12/12/2022 | f | - | - | 20,000 | |
| 3 | Edmond Town Hall Building Improvements | 125,000 | ✓ | 9/22/2022 | f | - | 47,843 | 77,157 | In progress |
| Public Works: | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Multi-purpose Building Roof | 190,000 | ✓ | 1/27/2022 | f | 184,415 | - | 5,585 | |
| 6 | Public Works 6 Wheel 8 Ton Dump Truck | 240,000 | ✓ | 12/12/2022 | f | 240,000 | - | - | |
| 7 | Public Works Front & Bucket Loader | 300,000 | ✓ | 7/28/2022 | f | 298,635 | - | 1,365 | |
| 8 | Transfer Station Site Improvements | 200,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 200,000 | - | - | |
| 9 | Municipal Building Improvements | 100,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 14,400 | - | 85,600 | |
| 10 | Sandy Hook Side Walks | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | section #1 - Glen Road | 215,000 | ✓ | 9/22/2022 | f | - | 214,076 | 924 | |
| Public Safety: | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Fire Commission Fire Suppression Tank Repair | 50,000 | ✓ | 1/27/2022 | f | 33,153 | - | 16,847 | |
| 14 | Fire Company Grants (4 x \$15,000); NUSAR (\$15,000); | 90,000 | ✓ | 1/27/2022 | f | 84,623 | - | 5,377 | |
| 15 | Ambulance (\$15,000) | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Board of Fire Commissioners (5 x \$50,000) + \$50,000 (training) | 300,000 | ✓ | 1/9/2023 | f | 148,220 | - | 151,780 | |
| 17 | Police - New firearms, Equipment and Ammunition | 60,000 | ✓ | 4/27/2023 | f | 60,000 | - | - | |
| Recreation & Leisure: | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Parks & Recreation Truck with lift gate | 90,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 53,005 | 17,924 | 19,071 | |
| 20 | Dickinson Park New Pavilion (Refurbishment) | 150,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 150,000 | - | - | |
| 21 | Dickinson Park New Pavilion (Refurbishment) - add'l amount | 50,000 | ✓ | 9/22/2022 | f | 24,430 | - | 25,570 | |
| 22 | Bike Park at Fairfield Hills | 75,000 | ✓ | 9/22/2022 | f | 75,000 | - | - | |
| 23 | Pickleball Courts at Fairfield Hills | 100,000 | ✓ | 10/10/2023 | f | - | - | 100,000 | |
| Health & Welfare: | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Housing Stalization Fund | 20,000 | ✓ | 9/22/2022 | f | 14,522 | 750 | 4,728 | |
| 26 | Senior/Community Center 14 passenger bus | 90,000 | ✓ | 5/9/2022 | f | 90,000 | - | - | |
| 27 | Additional Amount Required (due to current quote) | 20,000 | ✓ | 2/13/2023 | f | 18,245 | - | 1,755 | |
| 28 | COVID supplies/expenses | 40,000 | ✓ | 1/27/2022 | f | 412 | - | 39,588 | Back to amount available |
| 29 | Child/Youth Enrichment Fund (Newtown Human Services Dept.) | 20,000 | ✓ | 7/28/2022 | f | 20,000 | - | - | |
| Community Center: | | | | | sent to united way for program | | | | |
| 31 | Community Center Outside Storage Building | 75,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 6,065 | - | 68,935 | Temp storage |
| 32 | Community Center Patio | 155,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 155,000 | - | - | |
| 33 | Community Center/Senior Center Handicap Doors | 16,000 | ✓ | 4/11/2022 | f | 16,000 | - | - | |
| Education: | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Hawley School HVAC/Ventilation project | 2,500,000 | ✓ | | f | 2,500,000 | - | - | |
| 36 | Student Tutoring Support Program (Newtown Human Services Dept.) | 100,000 | ✓ | 7/28/2022 | f | 19,372 | 4,420 | 76,208 | Becoming active |
| 37 | Middlegate School Playground | 33,000 | ✓ | 2/13/2023 | f | 32,389 | - | 611 | |
| 38 | Project Adventure Course Installation & Upgrade | 94,000 | ✓ | 2/13/2023 | f | 83,825 | - | 10,175 | |
| Borough: | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Sidewalk Construction and Related Safety Improvements | 200,000 | ✓ | 3/13/2023 | f | - | - | 200,000 | In planning process |
| Function Wide: | | | | | | | | | |

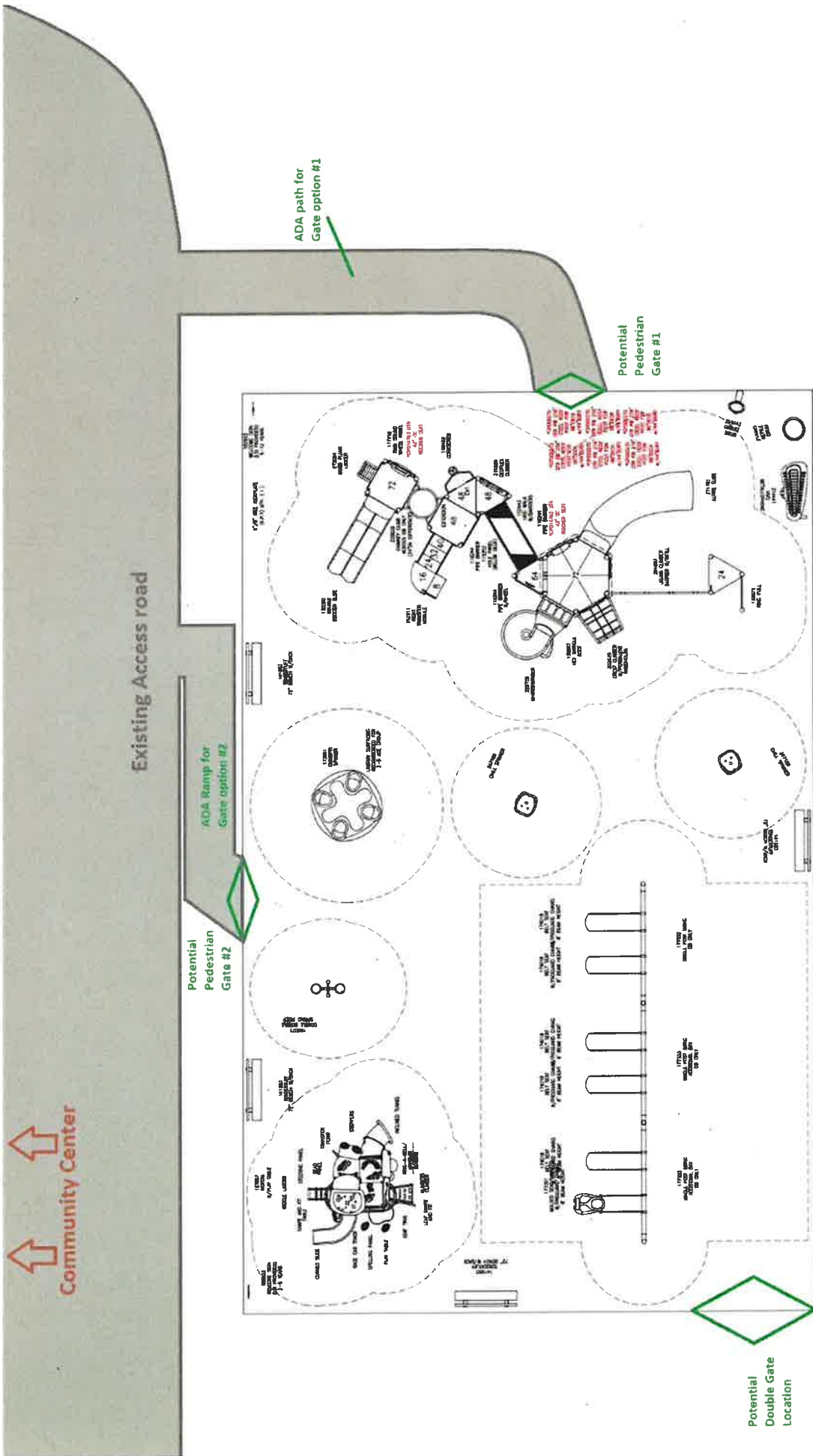


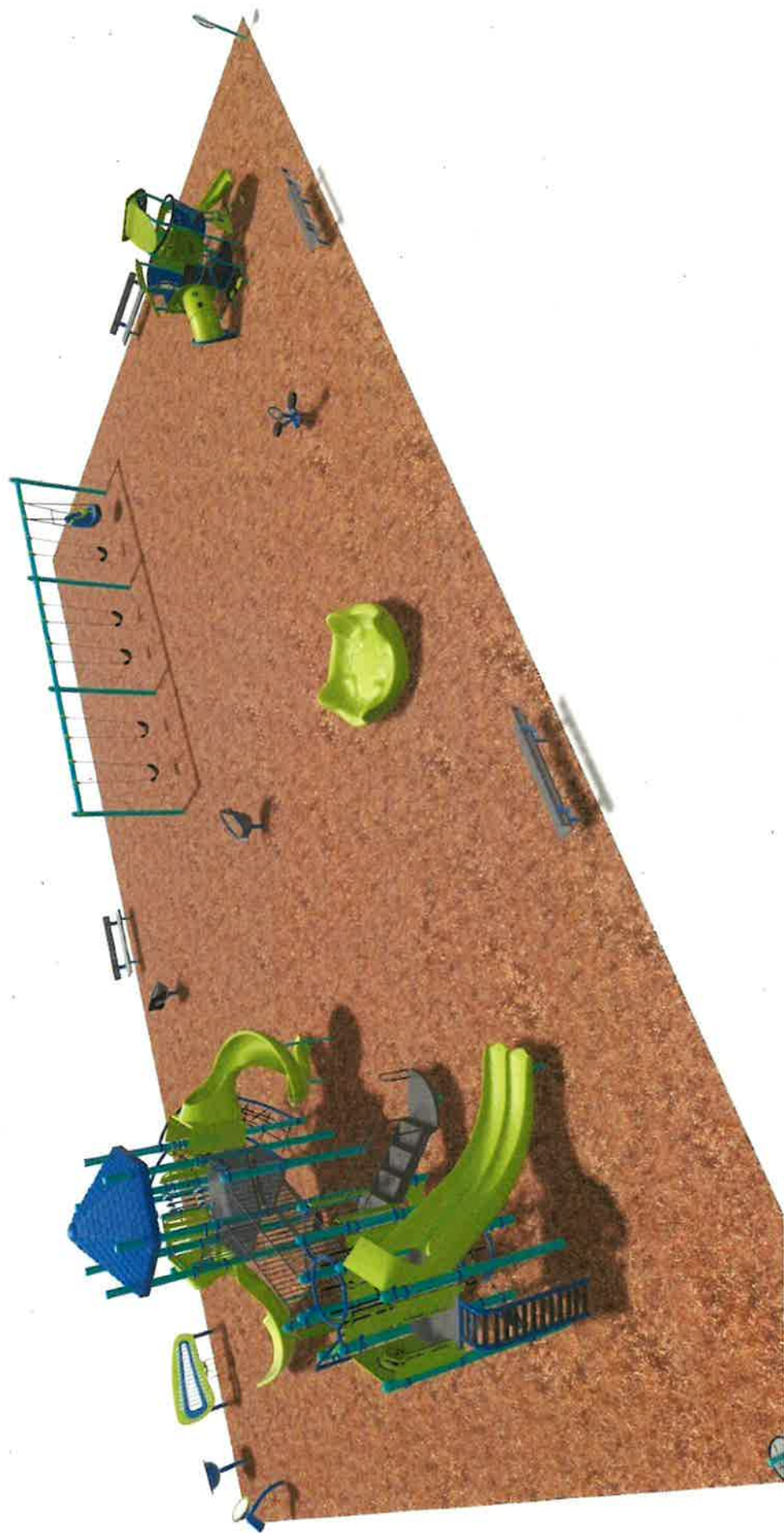
Newtown
COMMUNITY CENTER

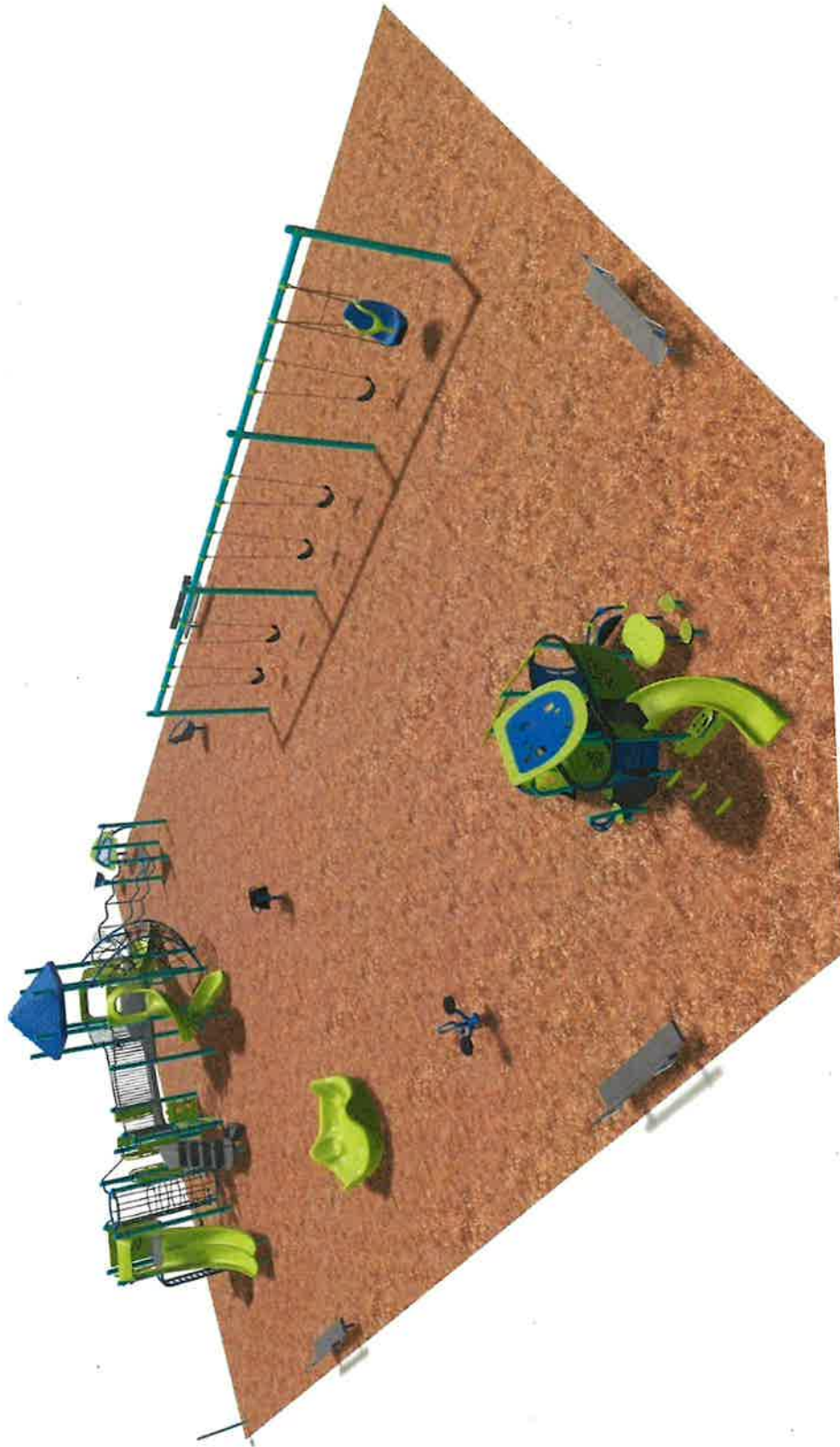


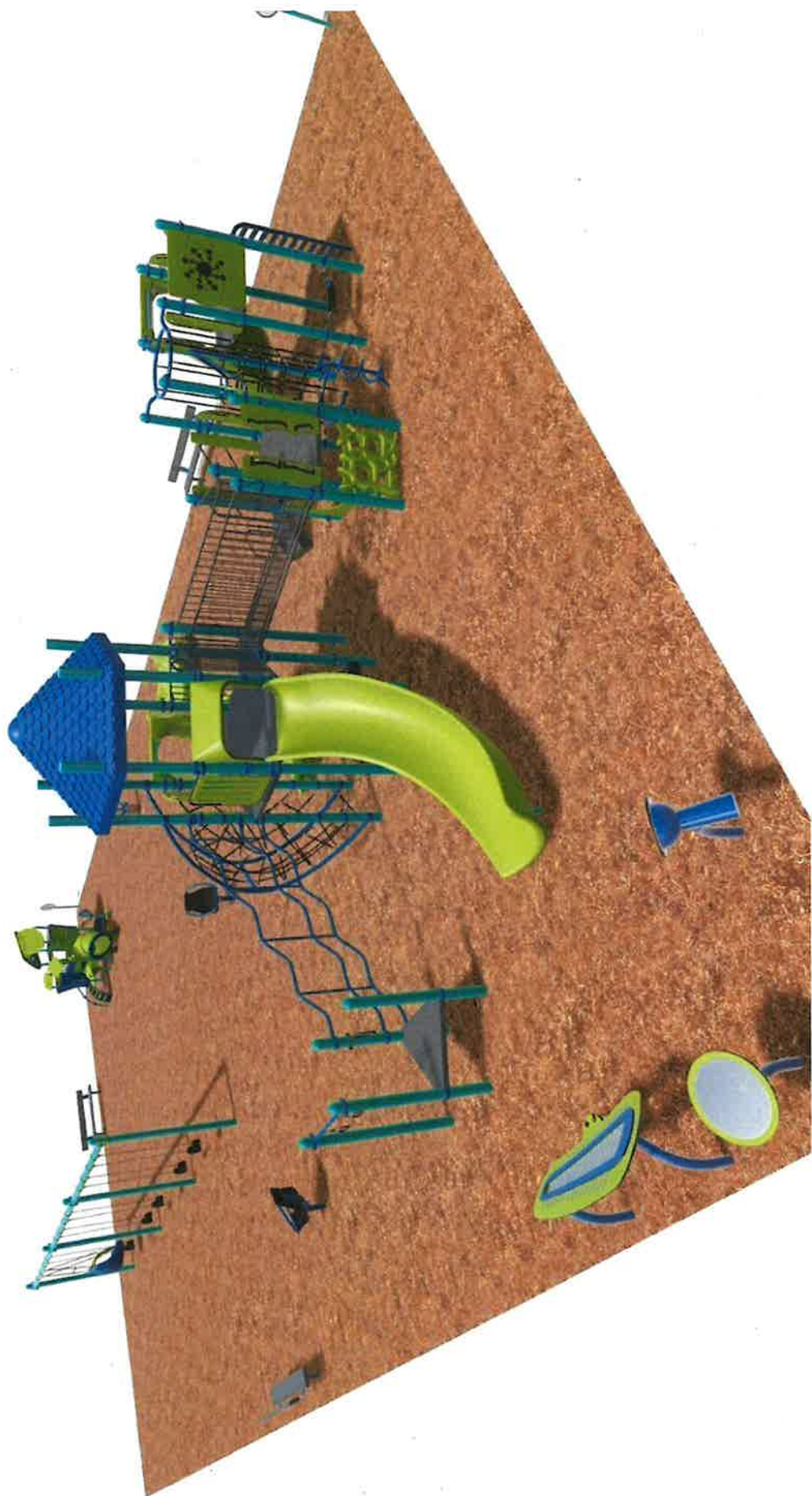
Newtown Community Center
Outdoor Playscape
2024

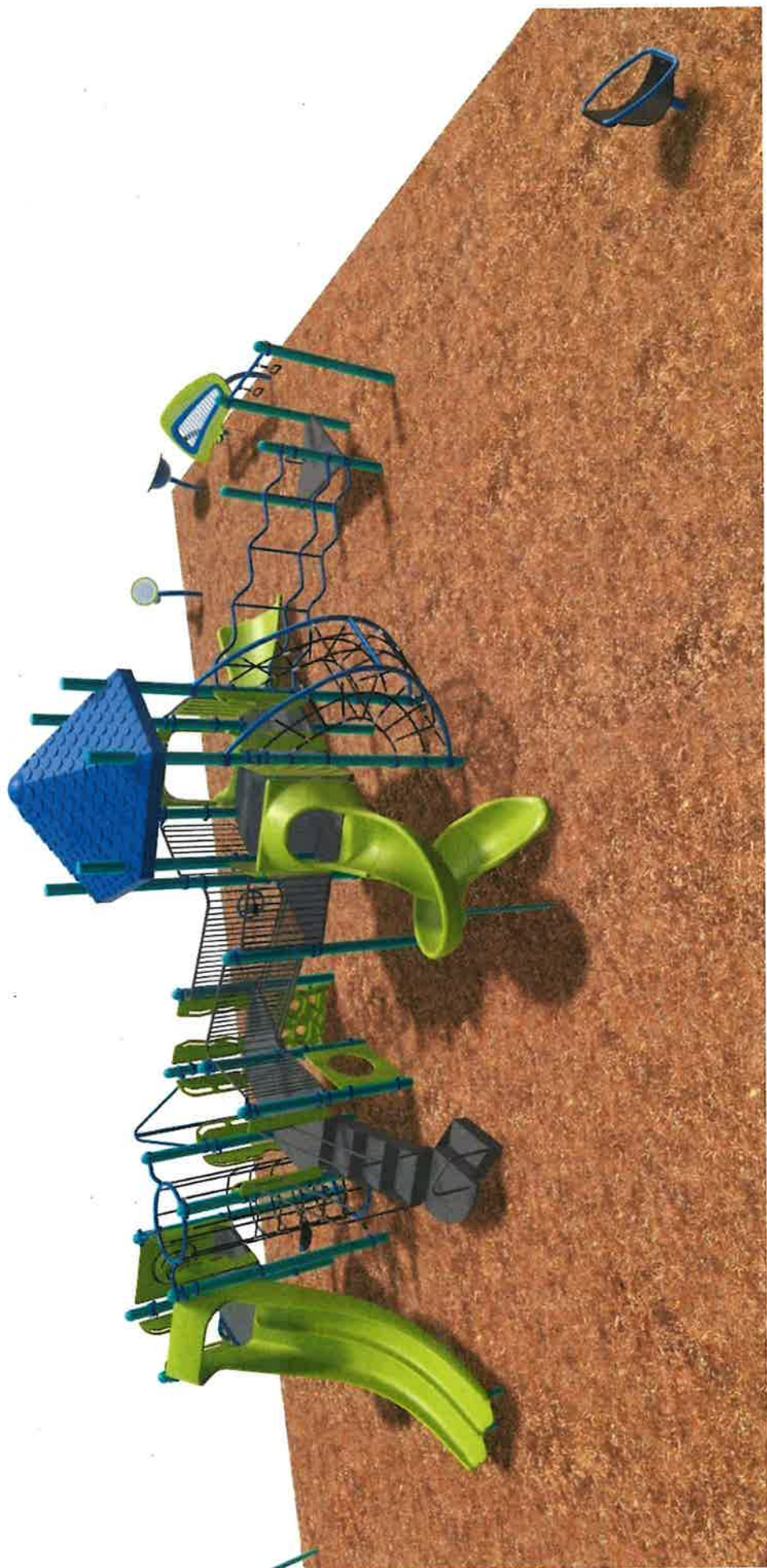












- Current space is used for outdoor programming, summer camp and other childcare activities
 - Total Space will be around 3,500 square feet
- Property will be fenced in per OEC standards. Funding is being provided by the Friends of the Newtown Community Center
 - Increase amenities on the campus and benefits the Community as a whole
 - Expanded programming space for our growing childcare programs
- The playscape will have signage that it is unavailable during hours of Community Center programming
- This will serve as the first phase of a two phase project to utilize and enhance the adjacent space on the campus . Phase II of this project is an outdoor shade structure (CIP Year 2027)
- The attached map dictates the location of the playscape after reviewing utilities and handicap accessibility (pickleball courts are not an option at this location)



Funding is provided by the Newtown Community Center Special Revenue Fund

