



A VISION FOR LASALLE'S PLAYGROUND PROJECT

What is wrong with the LaSalle playground campus and why is anyone considering a change?

For years, residents and parents at LaSalle Language Academy have been concerned about the deteriorating asphalt surface at the school and the state of repair of the playground equipment. Since the playground sits directly on the asphalt with only a thin rubber underlayment, many children have broken bones at the site. Moreover, the larger asphalt surface is in a constant state of repairs and has not been conducive to the growing sports program at LaSalle.

Why now?

CPS is currently going through a infrastructure update throughout the entire city and the asphalt area was under consideration to be removed to fix the sub-structure and then resurface. The idea is for LaSalle to work with CPS to find a better solution for the children of the school and the ongoing PE programs. Additionally, an updated playground area will create a better experience for the surrounding neighbors and their children who use this area in the off hours.

What is even being considered at this time?

The initial conversations are about various options to repair the under structure of the all the asphalt and replace with a new multi-sport turf field. Also, there would be an opportunity to update the play equipment with two separate age appropriate areas. We will be seeking community input at an open forum on Thursday, October 4th at 6pm.

Will the trees be removed surrounding the area?

NO! In fact any design that is created will be done to protect the trees and actually secure them for greater longevity to the neighborhood. Currently there is need for root repair and a new development will allow for that needed procedure to occur.

Won't a field bring a lot more challenges to the area than we have now? Will there be late night organized sports or other things that will disturb the neighborhood?

The initial guidelines to any potential development for field usage would encompass the following - No organized adult sports leagues can rent the field, play equipment will always be accessible and not blocked off, and no night time field use lighting will be part of any plan to allow for late night activity. The school would also look to balance the amount of off hour usage to have limited impact to the neighbors to use the field.

What about the Old Town Art Fair Parking for the Artists?

The artists would still have the option to utilize the LaSalle lot in a manner to continue to park there. Any new surface would factor in the ability to accommodate it.

My children grew up in the neighborhood using this lot to learn to ride a bike on the asphalt, will that now be gone?

Actually the goal is to maintain a new and updated asphalt area to allow for a variety of activities, sports, and the option to park cars in that area when needed during special events at the school.

