

# TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

## Hillsborough Heights Park Master Plan



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Hillsborough Heights Park (June 2006)

Adopted March 2019

## **Background**

Located in Hillsborough at 510 Terrell Road, Hillsborough Heights Park is a 0.15 acre neighborhood park owned and maintained by the Town of Hillsborough. It is open to the public during daylight hours. Amenities include playground equipment for ages 2-5 years old, picnic tables and a grill.

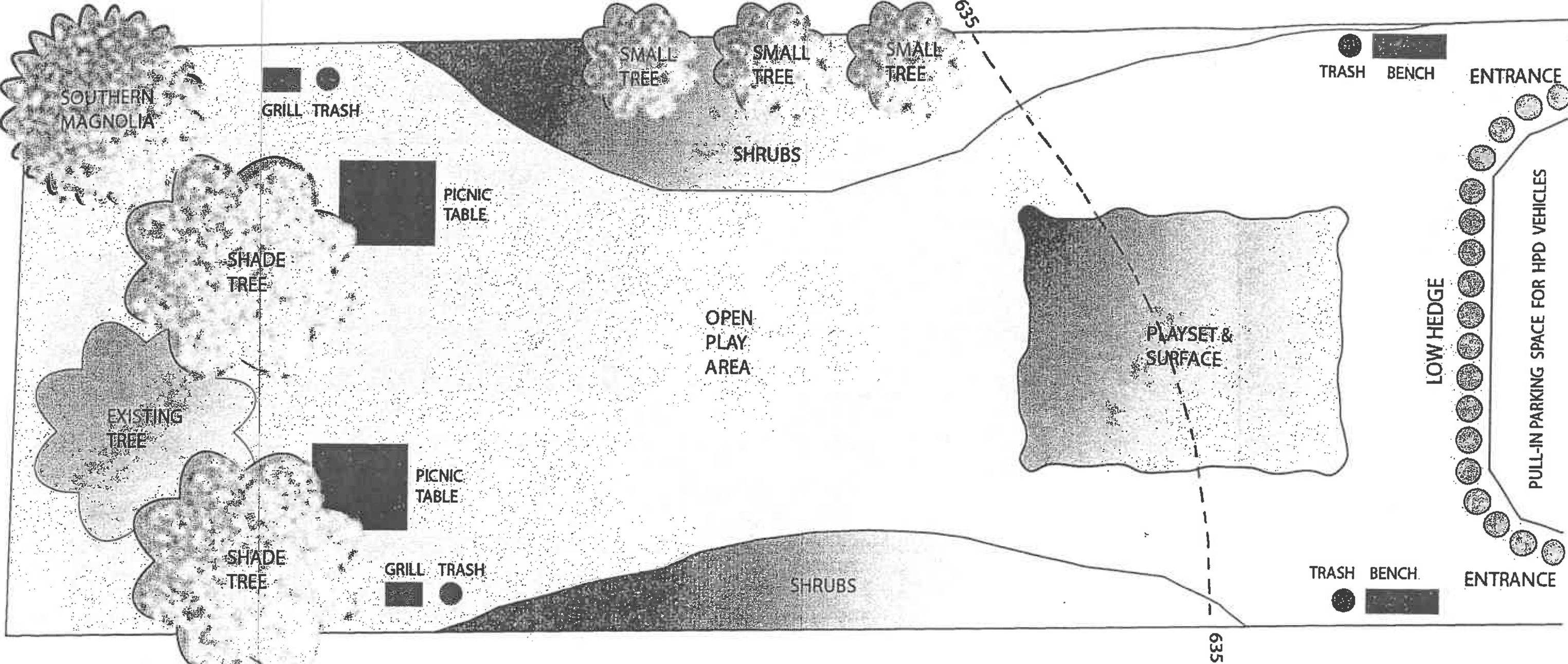
Hillsborough Heights Park was constructed in 2006. At that time the town had only one park; Murray Street Park in West Hillsborough. Planning Director Margaret Hauth owned a parcel in the Hillsborough Heights neighborhood and offered to subdivide the parcel for a park. In May 2005, Parks and Recreation Board members and neighbors met to develop a plan. The plan was presented to the Hillsborough Board of Commissioners in October 2005. The board adopted the plan, accepted the land donation and developed a budget for the park. Play equipment and amenities were installed and the park was opened to the public at a ribbon cutting ceremony in June 2006. In 2007, a fence was installed around the park and a garden area was planted with funding provided by Abundant Life Church in Hillsborough.

The original plan from 2005 is included for reference on the following page.

## **Existing Conditions**

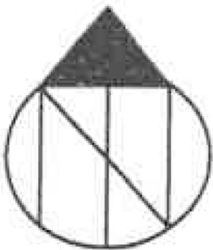
Hillsborough Heights Park is owned and maintained by the Town of Hillsborough. It is primarily used by neighborhood children and families. The Parks and Recreation Board hosted a public meeting to discuss the conditions of the park and develop recommendations for the Master Plan. Comments from the discussion included the following:

- The majority of park users are parents and young children
- Sometimes the park is used by school-age kids and teenagers
- Community Watch used to host cookouts at the park but are not using it now
- The park would benefit from more landscaping
- The trees in the back of the park are congested and needs to be pruned or some removed
- Natural play equipment like a kitchen or playhouse would get used
- The gate needs to be replaced
- Kids would use swings if they were available
- Some kids use the park for ball play
- It would be nice to have a contemplative part of the park
- It's a sweet park but needs some new features that encourage more use



# Hillsborough Heights Park Plan

SCALE:



HILLSBOROUGH HEIGHTS PARK VICINITY MAP



Below are a few pictures of existing conditions at Hillsborough Heights Park in 2018.



View looking west into the park



Front entrance to the park



View of front entrance to park adjacent to Terrell Road



Play Equipment (ages 2-5)



View of play equipment and front fence



View of front fence and Terrell Road





View of picnic area at rear of the park



Picnic area



Shaded area at rear of the park



Gate at rear of the park



View looking east toward Terrell Road



Picnic area





Fence on north property line



Landscaping near entrance



Park bench



Landscaping and park bench



Trash receptacle and grill



Base of maple tree in center of park



## Master Plan Priorities

In 2018, the Parks and Recreation Board and Hillsborough Tree Board, in coordination with the town public space and stormwater divisions, developed a list of recommended improvements for Hillsborough Heights Park. The recommendations are detailed in this master plan and are intended to guide future spending decisions. It is advised that these plans are updated every three to five years.

## Recommendations

- Maintain the existing playground equipment and park amenities in safe and working order
- Relocate picnic tables and grills to north fence line in the center of the park
- Remove any dead, diseased or undesired plant material
- Limb up existing trees for safety and sight lines
- Plant non-invasive vines along the fence lines (ex: Crossvine, Coral Honeysuckle)
- Plant native pollinator-friendly shrubs and perennials along fence lines (ex: Callicarpa, Itea, Leucothoe, Fothergilla, Clethra, Calycanthus, Oak Leaf Hydrangea, Osmanthus)
- Plant trees in front corners of the park (Ex: Magnolia Stellata)
- Plant native grasses in front of fence at entrance to park (ex: Switchgrass, Little Blue Stem)
- Add native shade plants to the wooded section of the park (Flame Azalea, Aquilegia)
- As existing amenities deteriorate replace with amenities in the approved styles (Butler Bench by Urbanscape, Arbor Form picnic tables)
- Add trash and recycling containers in approved style (Victor Stanley receptacles)
- As existing play equipment deteriorates replace with swings
- Add artistic and interactive site amenities (Example: little library)
- Provide interactive and natural play features (Example: beehive play house, low balance beams)
- Create a contemplative or quiet area in the north-west corner of the park (suncatchers, garden beads)
- Add moveable play items like building blocks and games (ex: giant Jenga, natural wood blocks)

## Priorities

The implementation priorities are as follows:

1. Relocate picnic tables and grills.
2. Prune existing landscaping and add new landscaping at entrance, along fence lines and in wooded section of the park.
3. Replace site amenities with approved styles (picnic tables, benches, trash/recycling containers)
4. Add natural play features and contemplative garden amenities.

The following pages include examples of natural play and garden features and a Master Plan Rendering showing the recommended layout for the park.

Examples of potential site amenities:



Beehive Play House



Low Balance Beams



Little Library



Natural Wood Blocks



Suncatcher



Garden Art



Glass Bead Screen



Beaded Garden Orbs





TERRELL

