

The playground was a fresh new idea introduced in Plantation Estates, but will NOT move forward due to many homeowners concerns

Thanks to so many for taking the time to express your opinions on the playground idea. It was great to hear from many of you expressing your thoughts about the playground idea being discussed, but it was only up for discussion.

At the Easter Social, numerous homeowners asked about the idea of a playground with the boundaries of Plantation Estates. We first asked homeowners directly next to the lot and they were excited about the idea. We then emailed everyone in the association database to get feedback on how they felt about the idea and asked to spread the word on the discussion. We only publish quarterly newsletters and this idea was suggested in March at our Easter Social, so there was no way we could release it in our February issue.

If the responses were encouraging, we were planning to hold a meeting at the lot to survey all homeowners. We've received over 250 emails or phone calls, some in favor and some opposed, but a vast majority brought up concerns that are convincing reasons to not move forward with the idea. Security was everyone's major concern. Colonel John Fortunato, our VP of Security, expressed his thoughts to us and he, too, felt that security and usage issues were of the utmost importance.

I think most people initially liked the idea of a Plantation Estates playground, but there were many issues that were brought up as listed below:

- The playground would be built using Parish funds, which would make it "public". We could certainly restrict the hours, but not the people who can use it.
- We are experiencing a high rate of crime related issues in our Parish and thankfully Plantation Estates is still one of the safest places to live. Giving any reasons to invite outsiders is probably not a good idea.
- Some suggested we can have our police patrols to help monitor the playground, but this still would not limit the use to only our homeowners
- Plantation Estates established the program of PE stickers to identify vehicles belonging to our homeowners. A playground has the potential to bring outside traffic that would work against this effort. Most of us are pretty familiar with vehicles that belong in our neighborhood right now, which helps us identify vehicles that do not belong here.
- Some comments supported the idea if the association funded such a project. Even if we could raise enough money to purchase the lot, accepting the liability and maintenance for this would be expensive.

Again, thanks for all of the feedback. We love to hear from association members. If you have an idea, please let us know.

We make a huge effort to keep all association members informed on Plantation Estates related news and the things that we are doing for the neighborhood. If you would like to be added on the email list, please send an email to president@plantationestates.org.