The Playground at Aldersgate Gardens  
A Pictorial History of Construction  
December 2019

**July 17 and 18, 2019:** Excavation began after several months’ delay due to wet weather. Soil removed from the preschool playground area helped enhance the slope for the hill slide. Specifications for the hill called for a 7’ drop and a 35° slope. 14 cubic yards of topsoil augmented soil borrowed from the preschool area.
July 21 to August 19, 2019: More rains, but enough dry weather for installing the 2x10 perimeter for the safe surface of the preschool playground area.
August 20 to September 5, 2019. Building the sandpit was the next project. It measures 6’ x 10’ and 18” deep. The ‘dotted line’ using stakes represents the future fence that will surround the preschool playground area.
September 6 to 11, 20 and 21, 2019: Construction of the fort took about 25 hours. It includes two levels, with the upper level within reach of overhanging branches from a nearby tree.
September 12 to 19, 2019: The wooden platform adjacent to the sandpit provides a solid play surface for different types of activities. Construction utilized a unique type of low-profile floating footings called TuffBlocks. From start to finish took a little more than 25 hours.
**September 23 – 30, 2019.** Installation of the toddler swing and hill slide equipment involved a crew of six people and took a total of 60 hours. Footings required nearly 70 bags of concrete mix. A downpour at the end of the workday on September 28 soaked everyone.
October 23, 2019: Two people moved 5 tons of sand from the parking lot in 2.5 hours using wheelbarrows. The large sandpit and smaller sandbox under the fort are ready for play.
October 23 – November 7, 2019: The first effort at building steps fell short of safety standards, because the safe zone at the bottom of the slide requires a 7’ clearance on either side. Enlarging the safe zone involved completely redoing the steps.
November 5: Delivery and installation of the log for climbing. The oak log is 11’ long and probably weighs about 3,000 pounds.
November 8 and 9: A truck from Des Moines, Iowa delivered 54 cubic yards of certified engineered wood fiber (EWF) for the safe surface. Drainage strips and landscape fabric preceded the EWF. A total of 13 people helped some or both days. When compacted the EWF will be 9” to 10” deep. With the EWF in place, playground equipment is ready to use.
November 15 – December 10, 2019: Final steps included delivery and installation of rocks (12 hours), additional topsoil to build an ADA-compliant approach to the slide entrance, building the path to the slide entrance, and a rope railing.
November 25 and December 3, 2019. A total of 7 volunteers worked one and a half days to install the fence fabric. Posts had been installed during the week of November 19 – 23, and the gate went in on November 30.
Remaining Tasks: Six boulders weighing 3 tons await final placement. A landscaping plan for the playground is under development for next spring.