

# A Playground Slide on the Green

A report and proposal by the Town of  
Arden Playground Committee

Dela Bryan, Mick Fitzharris, Jim Laurino,  
David Nordheimer, and Jeff Politis

# The Playground Committee

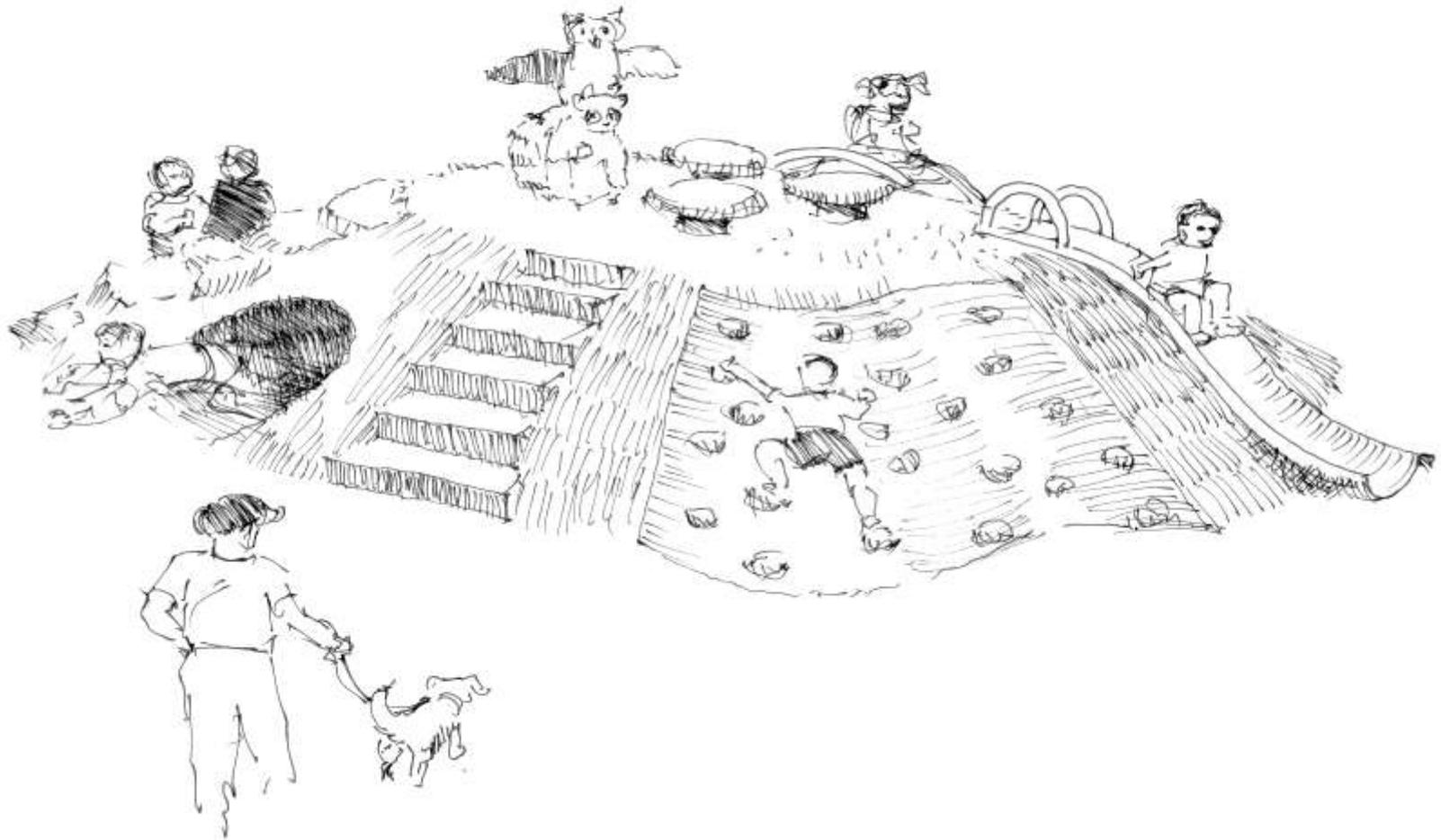
- From the Arden Book:
- The Playground Committee makes sure that playground equipment on the Arden and Sherwood greens is kept in good repair and safe condition.
- The group tours the greens every other month in the winter and every month in the summer, inspecting each piece of equipment.
- When needed, they replenish mulch around the swings, slides, and other installations in play areas
- **and they recommend purchase of new equipment for Town Assembly consideration and approval.**

# Our Motion

- Moved that the town approves installing an embankment slide on the South end of the Arden Green as shown in the drawings presented at this meeting.
- Approval is contingent on obtaining funding for the project without using land rent.



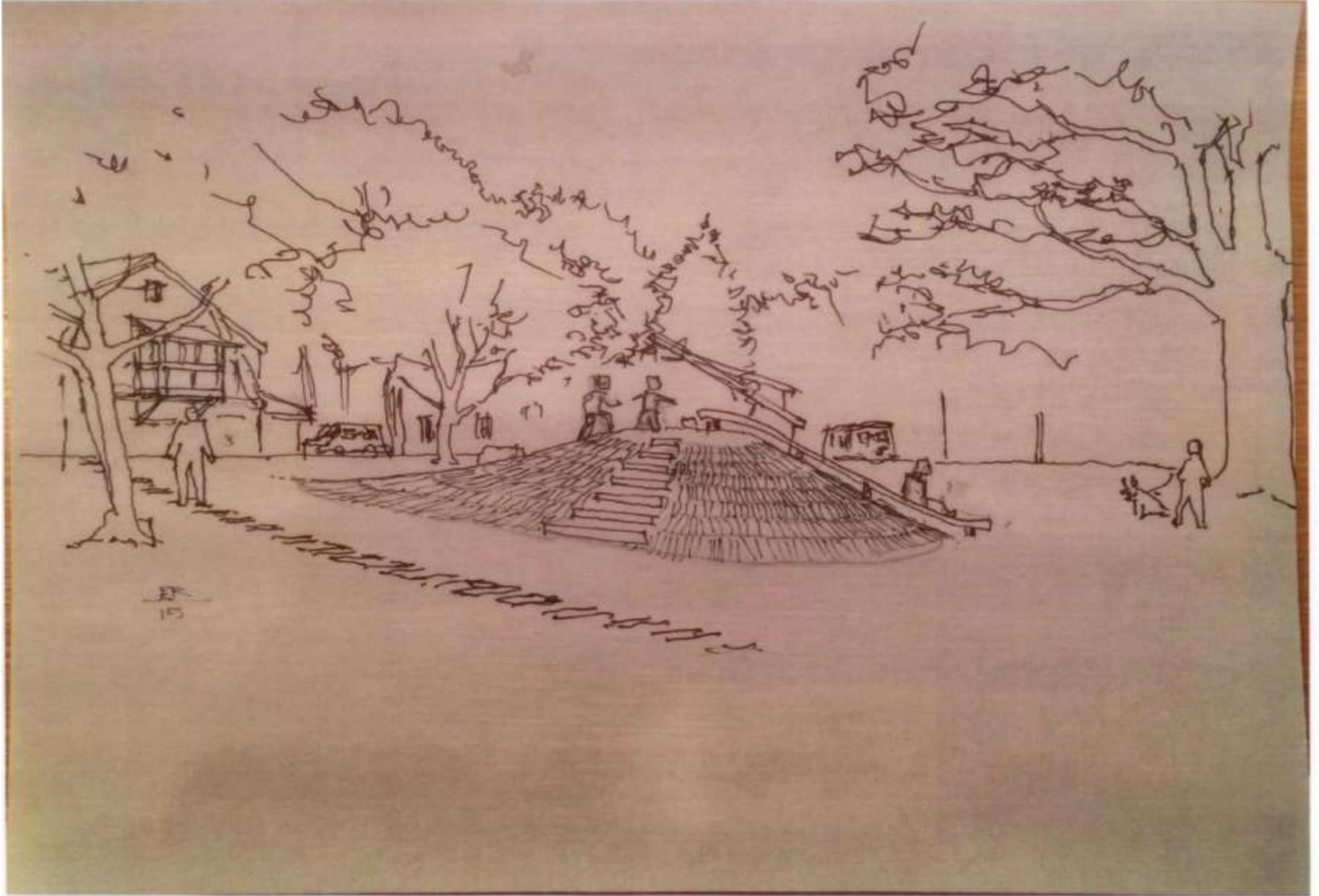
An early view of the Green.  
It has changed many times over the years.



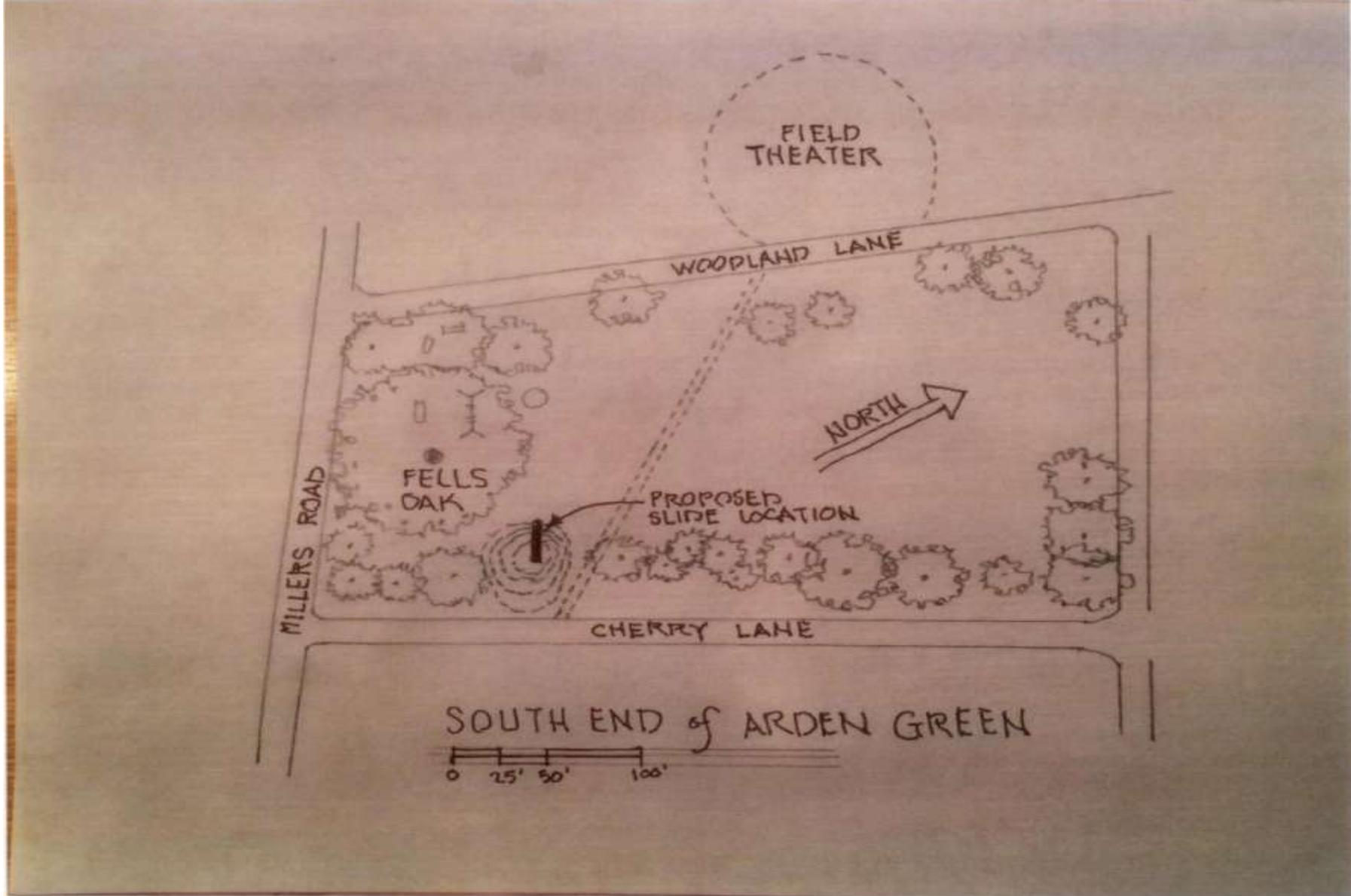
**Last year's concept of a terrain or embankment slide**

# The Committee Recommends a Terrain Slide for the Green

- A terrain slide is inherently safer
- A terrain slide will save money on maintenance
- A terrain slide is more fun



**The current proposal for a terrain or embankment slide**



Plan view of the proposed slide.  
It does not encroach on any trees.

# The replacement slide had to move

- We care a great deal about the health of the Fells Oak.
- The arborist's rule of thumb is that the roots spread as far as the branches.
- Padding on the ground and foot traffic under the branches of a tree affect the roots.
- You can see in Ed's plan how far the branches spread. We need the slide to stay out of there.



We made this picture in an attempt to show what a free standing slide would look like moved out on the Green.

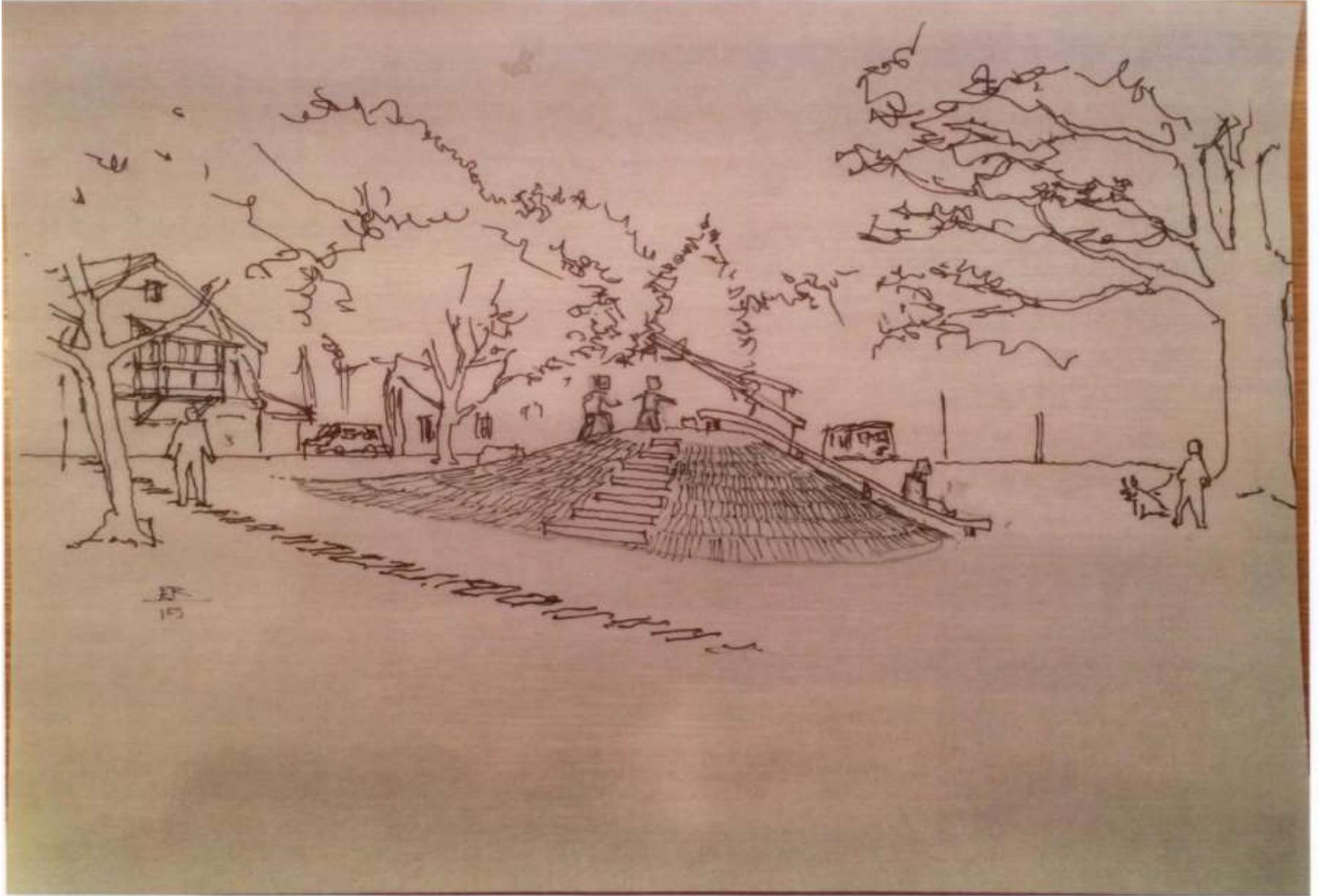
Note that in a real installation the slide would be surrounded by a roughly 14X28 foot bed of wood chips.

# A Stand-Alone slide needs Wood Chips for Fall Protection

- The cost of maintaining the mulch bed for a stand-alone slide, according to our financial projection.
- The projected total cost of the mulch is \$3400, for a conventional six foot slide for 26 years.
- The initial cost of \$600 for mulch will be split with the state, the maintenance cost will not be split with the state.
- Therefore, the mulch bed will cost the town \$3100.
- Not having a mulch bed will avoid \$3100 for mulch alone, in land rent, in today's dollars.

# Estimated Cost of a free standing slide

- \$4500 for the slide FOB manufacturer
- \$1000 shipping
- \$1500 installation of the slide
- \$2000 creating fall area protection
- \$3000 future wood chip replacement (no state aid)
- \$12,000 equivalent cost
- Cost to town \$7500 (after state match)



**The current proposal for a terrain or embankment slide**

# Estimated Cost of a terrain slide

- \$4500 for the slide FOB manufacturer
- \$1000 shipping (same as free standing slide)
- \$10,000 construction – using some volunteer labor, using low cost fill and dirt, volunteer planting, and donated rocks.
- \$15,500 equivalent cost
- Cost to town \$7700 (after state match)



### **The Mock-Up, Close up**

Following up on a suggestion from Bill Theis at the January meeting, the committee and some community volunteers worked on the green one afternoon to study a mock-up of our slide idea. Ed Rohrbach followed up, making two new drawings that reflect what we learned that day.



**The Mock-Up, From the Jungle Gym**

# Examples

- We collected pictures of some fun slides from around the world.
- Terrain Slides are increasingly popular.
- A Terrain Slide is part of a Natural Playground
- Here is a quick tour.





















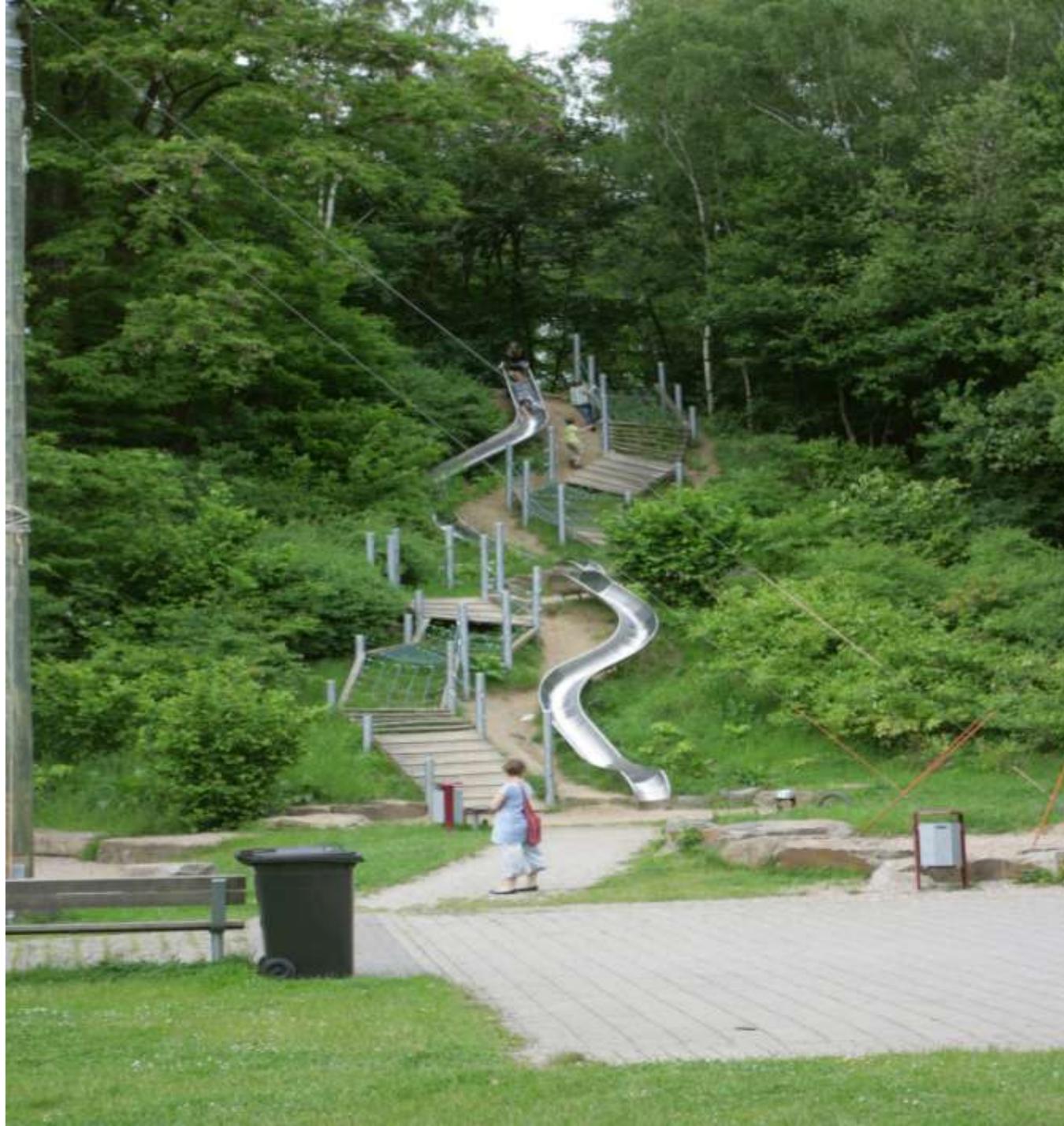






















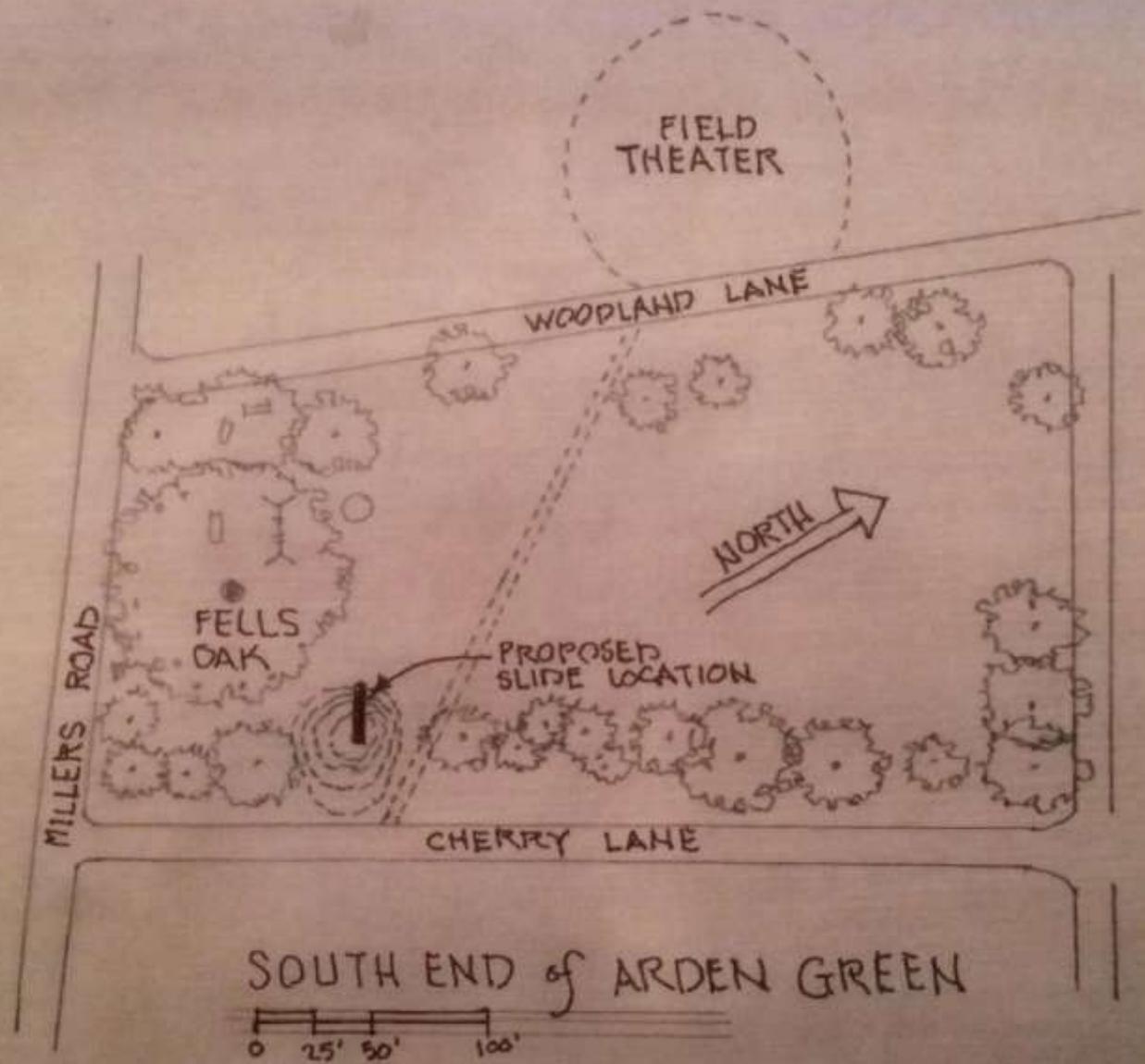




Fun for kids.



Fun for all



FIELD THEATER

WOODLAND LANE

MILLERS ROAD

FELLS OAK

NORTH

PROPOSED SLIDE LOCATION

CHERRY LANE

SOUTH END of ARDEN GREEN

0 25' 50' 100'



5/27

# Main Conclusions

- A terrain slide is inherently safer
- A terrain slide will save money on maintenance
- A terrain slide is more fun

# Thank You

We hope you approve

# A Motion

- Moved that the town approves installing an embankment slide on the South end of the Arden Green as shown in the drawings presented at this meeting.
- Approval is contingent on obtaining funding for the project without using land rent.

# Respectfully submitted by your playground committee

- Dela Bryan, Mick Fitzharris, Jim Laurino, David Nordheimer, and Jeff Politis
- With help from many others, including Walt Borders, Ed Rohrbach, Bill Theis, Katrina Streiff, Carol Larson, and Al Marks. With our apologies to those whose names we forgot.