

CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Agenda Item Number: 4  
Meeting Date: October 13, 2015  
Attachments:  Yes No

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Date: October 19, 2015

- Approved  Denied  
 Amended  Tabled  
 Other

Originating Department: Public Works

Agenda Item: Playground Priority 2 Hazard Analysis

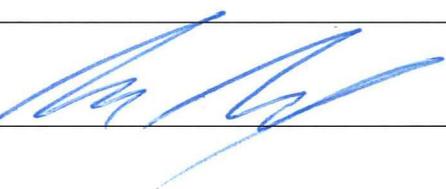
Recommended Action: Approve the recommendations for the Priority 2 equipment as prepared by staff.

**Background/Summary:** The Public Works Department's Certified Playground Safety Inspector Justin DeLeeuw recently performed a detailed inspection of 230 individual pieces of playground equipment in the City's 28 parks. Each piece of equipment has a Priority rating of 1 through 5, with 1 indicating a potential life threatening issue and recommendations to remove immediately and 5 signifying no issues. The Priority 2 equipment has been analyzed with detailed recommendations prepared for the units to either be removed, repaired or remain as is.

Alternatives: N/A

Financial Considerations: N/A

Preparer: Sean E. Christensen, P.E.  
Public Works Director

Signature: 

Comments:

# PLAYGROUND PRIORITY 2 HAZARD ANALYSIS

## CITY OF WILLMAR

Inspected by Rob Baumgarn & Justin DeLeeuw

Certified Playground Safety Inspectors

Inspections Occurred Between September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>

**Unit:** Exerglide Swings

**Locations:** Cardinal, Hilltop, Miller, Northside, Pleasantview, Rice, Swanson, Vos, Valleyside

**Recommendation:** These swings are all of similar design. They all have entrapment, crush, and protrusion hazards. **The swings should be removed because of these hazards.** The frames could be used for another single swing or should be removed completely if other swings are present in the playground.

**Unit:** Buck A Bout

**Location:** Southfield Park

**Recommendation:** The original Priority 2 rating was due to a possible head entrapment hazard. The risk of injury due to entrapment is extremely minimal because of the location of the handles and footrests. **This unit should remain until the rubber mechanism in the center fails and at that point should be removed.**

**Unit:** T-Swings

**Locations:** Miller, Sunrise

**Recommendation:** Both units can be made compliant by making a few adjustments. The chains and s-hooks at Miller should be replaced along with sand being added. The bolts on the top rail of sunrise should be replaced with shorter bolts in order to eliminate the entanglement hazards. **Has this been done or when will it be done?**

**Unit:** Jack N Jill

**Location:** Welshire

**Recommendation:** **This unit should be removed.** There are 8 protrusion hazards throughout the unit and it has already been modified at least once. Also, one of the side arch climber has been removed and access is limited.

**Unit:** Swing Set

**Locations:** Northside, Sperry, Robbins Island

**Recommendation:** All three of these swing sets are of similar design. The frames are all made of angle iron rather than the typical round posts. This creates very distinct edges and greater potential for head and body injury. The Northside unit should be removed as there are 2 other swing sets already in the park.

Both the Sperry and Robbins Island units should have sand added and the center swings should be removed. The chains and s-hooks should also be replaced and staff should keep a close watch on injuries due to the angle iron frame. Has this been done, if not what is the timeline?

**Unit:** Slides

**Locations:** Miller, Northside, Rice

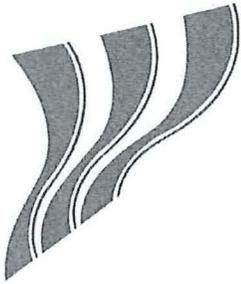
**Recommendation:** These slides were all rated as Priority 2 because of the entrapment potential. The slides at Miller and Rice have a minimal risk of entrapment but should be closely monitored by staff in order to ensure safety. Who is monitoring it?

The slide at Northside should be removed as the entrapment hazard is greater and there is another slide in the park.

**Unit:** Play Unit

**Locations:** Gesch, Northside, Rainbow, Welshire

**Recommendation:** These units should all be removed. The units at Northside and Welshire are both wooden units similar in age to the units that are being pulled at the other parks. The wooden posts and platforms are beginning to splinter and there is no reasonable fix to them aside from total replacement. The units at Gesch and Rainbow have both been altered in the past and both are still non-compliant. Barriers are needed for all the platforms and both have slides that need to be replaced.



**CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA  
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION**

**Agenda Item Number:** 5  
**Meeting Date:** October 13, 2015  
**Attachments:** Yes  No

**CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

**Date: October 19, 2015**

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Denied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other    |                                 |

**Originating Department:** Public Works

**Agenda Item:** Public Works Update

**Recommended Action:** For information only

**Background/Summary:** Updates on activities of the Public Works Department

**Alternatives:** N/A

**Financial Considerations:** N/A

**Preparer:** Sean E. Christensen, P.E.  
Public Works Director

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sean E. Christensen', written over a horizontal line.

**Comments:**

# Public Works Department Staff Activities

10-6-2015

Tree removals - 190 trees

Seasonal staff - 2 - mowing

Shingle and siding Lincoln shelter

Sign repairs and installations

Brush site - pile ground on October 26 - Close for season November 21

Street patching - 675 tons

Ball field maintenance

Spraying for weeds

Hockey boards

Cleaning sanitary sewers

Mowing

Cleaning stormceptors

Clean storm outfalls

Fire hydrant repairs

Play equipment removals - Cat. 1

Haul sweepings and winter sand

Winterize park buildings and irrigation systems

## **Future Schedule**

Play equipment removals - Cat. 2

Haul winter sand

Sweeping - leaves

Hockey boards

Selig Park

Winterize park buildings and irrigation systems