



Town of Winchester

Peter Lawson, Facilities Manager
Department of Public Works

Department of Public Works
15 Lake Street
Winchester, MA 01890
Phone: 781-721-7100
Fax: 781-721-7119
plawson@winchester.us

3/23/2023

To: Beth Rudolph, Town Manager
Frank Hackett, School Superintendent

From: Peter Lawson, Facilities Manager

Regarding: Playground Safety Inspections Funding Request

There has been a growing concern about the condition of the playground equipment and some of the rubber playscape surfaces at the schools. School Operations Director Andrew Marron and I have put together the scope and getting pricing for their repair/replacement. Those items are; a broken slide at Lincoln School that will involve cutting out and replacing a section of the rubberized playscape surface, repairs to the rubber playscape at the Vinson Owen School and the replacement of the rubber playscape surface at Ambrose.

While working on these concerns it was clear that there was a need to create a comprehensive program to address all the playgrounds around town and outline responsibilities for maintaining the program. It seems that the COVID pandemic and changes in key staff over the last few years has created some disconnects. I pulled together a meeting with Andrew, Mike Wise, and Jim Ditullio of the DPW along with Nick Cacciolfi of the Rec. Dept. to kick this off.

Our direction is to get pricing for the immediate concerns and look at where they can be funded from. The next step is to have a safety assessment of all our playgrounds and create an inventory list with a condition assessment and manufacturer identification for the pieces of equipment. We would use this as our roadmap for continued upkeep. I reached out to a couple certified playground inspection firms and have received a quote for \$9,750 for this service. These companies are often booked out for an extended period, but this vendor has availability at the end of this month. I am comfortable with the cost being in line with other firms, so I am asking that we fast track this with ARPA funds or other means.

- Parkhurst School 40 Samoset Road – 1 playground
- Vinson Owen School -75 Johnson Road 2 playgrounds
- Lincoln Elementary School -161 Mystic Valley Parkway- 1 playground
- Ambrose Elementary-27 High Street-1 playground
- Muraco Elementary School 34 Bates Rd.- 2 playgrounds
- Recreation/ Mystic School Building 263 Main Street—1 playground
- Mullen Field – 54 Ridge Street
- McDonald Field- 76 Loring Ave
- Ginn Field-35 Waterfield Road
- Leonard Field-466 Washington Street

I am assuming that there will be immediate action that will be required on some pieces of equipment like loose or missing bolts, playground mulch etc. but we should be prepared for potential immediate equipment replacement recommendations as well.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and am happy to provide any further information you may require.

Thank you.

Peter Lawson

Cc; DPW Director Robert LaBossiere

Asst. Town Manager Mark Twogood

School Operations Director Andrew Marron

DPW Operations Manager Mike Wise

Recreation Dept. Director Mick Cacciolfi