

1. Is the playground structure designed for ages 2-5, 5-12, or 2-12?
2. Are there signs indicating for what group the equipment is intended?
3. Do platforms provide enough room for a child to change direction?
4. Are moving pieces of equipment (such as swings, rockers and merry-go-rounds) located at the edges of the playground?
5. Are equipment pieces designed to prevent children from climbing outside of structures?
6. Are equipment pieces designed to discourage children from climbing on supporting structures?

Fall Surfacing Materials

The third risk factor is adequate fall surfacing. Providing proper surfacing under and around the playground equipment is a crucial element in providing a safe play environment and, as stated previously, one of Alaska's biggest challenges. How do you determine proper surfacing? There are four questions to ask regarding the provision of a safe surface on a playground. They include:

1. Is there a suitable surfacing material being used?

2. What is the height of the highest piece of equipment?
3. What is the depth of any loose fill surfacing material?
4. Is there coverage in the equipment use zones?

Suitable materials include loose fill products such as sand, pea gravel, wood chips, and chopped rubber; and unitary materials such as poured in place rubber and rubber tiles. Inappropriate surfaces are asphalt, concrete, dirt, grass, rocks, and construction debris.

Equipment Maintenance

Without routine inspection and repair, any equipment will deteriorate and pose a hazard to children using the equipment. There are eight general questions that a risk manager can ask when assessing the maintenance of playground equipment:

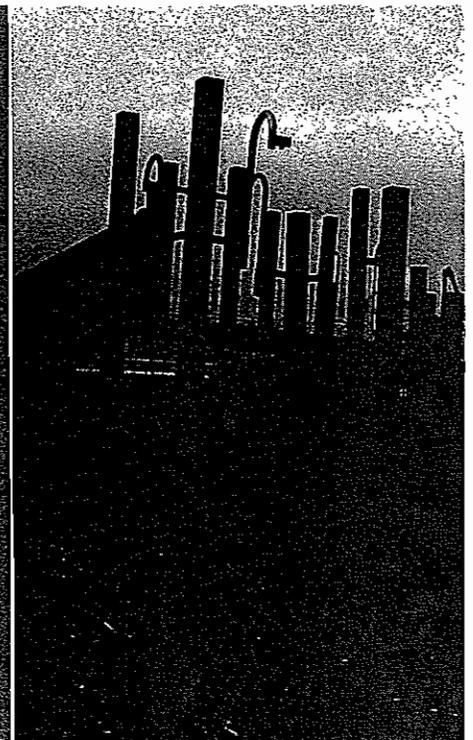
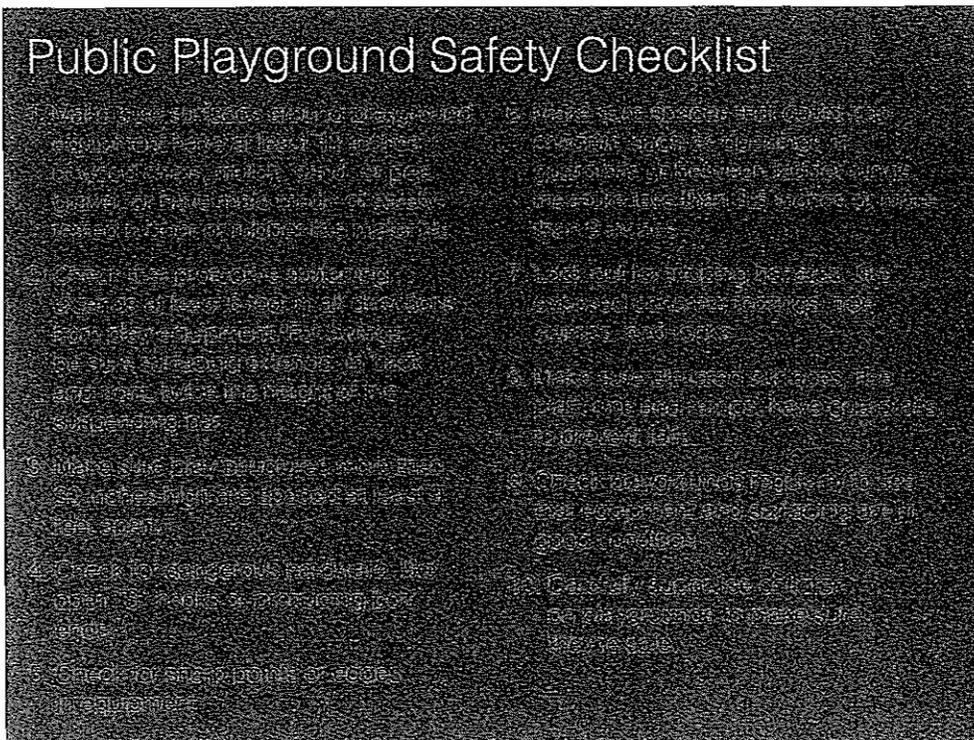
1. Is the equipment free of broken parts?
2. Is the equipment free of missing parts?
3. Is the equipment free of protruding bolts?
4. Is the equipment free of noticeable gaps?
5. Is the equipment free of head entrapments?

6. Is the equipment free of rust?
7. Is the equipment free of splinters?
8. Is the equipment free of cracks/holes?

There is no maintenance-free material on the market. Steel rusts, wood splinters, and plastic cracks. Once one has designed a safe playground environment, equipment and surfacing must be maintained to ensure that the playground remains safe for children. Without routine inspections and care, even new playgrounds can contain safety hazards and potential liability for communities and schools.

Finally, it is very important to establish and document a maintenance schedule for your entity's playgrounds. If an incident occurs and you are able to demonstrate that your entity takes the safety of the community's children seriously, you are in a much better position to defend a case in court. As they say, if it isn't written down, it didn't happen!

If you would like to schedule a playground inspection, call AMLJIA at 800-337-3682. Your Risk Control Specialist is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector and can help you to properly inspect and maintain your playground.



From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:40 AM
To: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumpo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Illg; clakland; Deb Cox; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrald; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; Igrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: Field Notes and Follow-up from KH Playground

DEAR PLAYGROUND ADVOCATES,

First of all, thank-you to all of you who showed up at the KH Park Playground yesterday afternoon. I was really impressed with the turnout. It bodes well for success in achieving your goals.

I know there are a few of you on this list who did not get the original email announcing the meeting. My apologies. I will continue to add (or subtract) names based on input from others.

The purpose of this message is to follow up on the meeting yesterday and help sustain momentum toward a new/improved playground at Karen Hornaday Park.

WHAT I HEARD (correct me if you think I got it all wrong)--

- Other towns like Seward, Talkeetna, and Soldotna have built fabulous new playgrounds in the last few years. If they can do it, we should be able to do it.
- Volunteer involvement is key and it will not be hard to find volunteers in Homer.
- There is support for “natural play” features as well as more traditional playground elements. Maybe we could come up with a hybrid playground?
- It might be easier to incorporate a natural play area if we can use the proposed day use area (down slope from the existing playground) for some of those features.
- Regarding the existing playground, support was voiced from more than one participant that “it should all go away.”
- At the same time, there is recognition that some major planning and coordination and fundraising will be needed to develop a whole new playground. In the meantime, certain problems with the existing playground need to be fixed NOW.
- Those fixes include installing new support logs for the swing sets, installing a steering wheel on the [whatever it is!], addressing stability issues with the hanging walkway, and making the wall where the tile mural used to be into a climbing wall (Dave Brann volunteered to make the climbing wall).
- Our goal should be to complete major playground upgrades next summer (2012).
- Parent volunteers, the Parks and Rec Commission, and City staff can play important roles – but it would also be great to have a non-profit organization that can accept grant money, donations, etc. Currently there is no “Friends” organization of that nature.
- Deb Cox noted that one company—Leather and Associates of Ithaca, New York—built (with extensive community involvement) the new playgrounds in Talkeetna, Seward, and Soldotna. Anne Marie said she would try to find out more about how they operate, costs, etc.
- Next steps would include:
 - conduct a condition assessment of the existing playground (Mike Illg suggested using a certified parks inspector, through Alaska Municipal League)
 - better define the area we have to work with, and draw up maps

- o establish a steering committee for this project
- o hold one or more design charrettes to decide on the playground elements and where they might be placed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

- Take a look at the Leather and Associates website: <http://www.leathersassociates.com/>
The “Step-by-Step” part is particularly informative. Look at the photo gallery also. There are photos from Seward and Talkeetna in there; I don’t see that any from Soldotna have been posted yet.
Note: I sent an email inquiry to Leather and Associates. I haven’t heard back yet but will let you know when I do.
- Take a look also at the Soldotna playground website: <http://soldotnacommunityplayground.com/>
There’s a lot of information (and inspiration) on there about how they did it. I will also try to contact them by phone and report back to you.
- Google “natural play areas” and learn more about this concept. Carmen might want to provide her favorite links. Here’s an article from USA today: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2010-04-22-EARTH_GreenPlaygrounds22_ST_N.htm

BIG QUESTION THAT WILL NEED TO BE DECIDED SOON

- It appears that Soldotna, Seward, and Talkeetna all had a great experience working with Leather and Associates. L&A emphasize community involvement (including kids’ involvement) and provide advice every step of the way, even though it’s mostly community people doing the work. We will need to decide if we want to use Leather and Associates for our project.

I will try to reach the Soldotna folks now. Stay tuned...

ONE FINAL CAUTIONARY NOTE

The Alaska Open Meetings Act has been interpreted to mean that even two members of a government advisory body (like the Parks and Rec Commission) should not meet to discuss matters before the commission unless the meeting is advertised. A paper written about the Open Meetings Act puts it this way: *“A gathering of two or more members of an advisory-only body will be a meeting under the OMA when it is prearranged for the purpose of considering the business of the body... Chance encounters by members of the body do not constitute meetings, even if the members discuss a matter about which the body has authority to give advice or make recommendations. Gatherings for some purpose other than the business of the body are likewise not meetings as defined by the OMA, even if substantive discussions take place.”*

It should be noted that a phone discussion or discussion by email could be considered a “meeting.” All KH Playground meetings that include Parks and Rec Commission members must be publicly advertised as per City code to meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. This does not preclude any of you talking to City staff as much as you want, and of course community members who are not Parks and Rec Commission members have nothing to worry about.

Anne Marie Holen
907-435-3101

Renee Krause

From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 11:28 AM
To: Deb Cox
Cc: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumppo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Ilig; clakland; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrauld; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; lgrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: Information from Talkeetna

Thank you, Deb!

I hope it's OK that I just pass this straight on to others on the list. I will leave out Charlie's contact info in case he doesn't want that widely disseminated.

That's interesting that Charlie says that "working with the [Mat-Su] Borough produced about 50% of the stress." !!! Gosh, I hope that won't be your experience working with the City.

The fundraising information is very helpful. The City can apply for a Rasmuson grant and has received them in the past, including for the library and skate park. Hopefully I will be able to do the grantwriting.

The information about the "landscape play features" is also interesting.

I am confused that Charlie says that a drawback of working with Leathers & Associates is that "you have to build out of wood," which requires more maintenance. The Leathers website says "Our projects are built with a combination of a plastic composite (handrails, balusters, and decking) and either structural plastic or environmentally safe pressure treated lumber for support." Maybe he's just talking about the supports-?

NOTE to individual playground advocates: Charlie says that "the most important thing is to have a core group of about 6 individuals who are totally committed and can give the project a lot of time" Do you see yourself as one of those people? (Don't feel bad if you can't make that commitment. There will be roles for LOTS of people.) I think Deb has volunteered for the steering committee already. :)

Anne Marie Holen
907-435-3101

From: Deb Cox [mailto:debdcox@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 9:37 AM
To: Anne Marie Holen
Subject: Karen Hornaday Park

Hello Anne Marie,

Thank you so much for putting together the first KHP meeting. I really appreciate everyone taking the time to come and share thoughts/ideas. I just wanted to forward a few things to you. Recently I began my own research into the playgrounds that are being built in locations like Girdwood, Talkeetna and Seward. I have been in contact with one of the main organizers of the Talkeetna Playground. I have attached (below) one of his very informative letters regarding their community build playground project. (He gave the ok for me to pass his letter on). The letter also has a link to Leathers & Associates, as well as a link to a website Talkeetna Playground, which shows the project from beginning to completion. This concept came up at the meeting yesterday, and I just wanted to pass on the information. Charlie breaks down the fund sources and gives a great

overview of the project. Note: The Leathers and Associates website has a link w/ photos of many of the playgrounds done in Alaska).

Again, thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you. (feel free to share Charlie's information, and/or he has welcomed phone calls and more contact w/ any questions)

Sincerely,
Deb Cox

Letter from Charlie

April 7, 2011

Deb,

At least temporarily, you can get photos and some of your answers by browsing the playground website at <http://www.talkeetnaplayground.org/>. This site is probably going to disappear in this form soon - check it out right away. I think you should be able to download photos from the linked Picasa album - click around and explore Anita's albums to find all the photos, they aren't all in the first album that comes up.

All of the playgrounds you mention as models were constructed within a 3-year period using the same design firm, Leathers & Associates, out of Ithaca, NY (<http://www.leathersassociates.com/>). The Wasilla and Palmer playgrounds are older versions from this same company. They did a huge one in Juneau. Very used to working in Alaska.

A big portion of the Leathers strategy is a "community-build" process. They provide a step-by-step manual of how to organize for design, fundraising, and construction, and provide periodic expert consultations as well as professional architects to oversee design and construction. They are very experienced, very good, but you are looking at a big operation to replicate. We raised over \$200,000 to construct the Talkeetna playground, I think a bit more than Girdwood and a bit less than Seward. I believe everyone found the "community-build" process to be rewarding, but not without considerable stress on the part of the organizers. At the end of a long fundraising and organizational process, the whole community turns out for a barnraising-type event and erects the whole playground over 5 days, with community members pounding all the nails, running the saws, etc..

We constructed on land owned by the Mat-Su Borough. Working with the Borough produced about 50% of the stress, although in the end they always came through when absolutely needed. The playground is now the property of the Borough, and the Borough provides routine upkeep although the community still turns out for larger maintenance projects.

The breakdown of fund sources is as follows:

Grants	\$85,000.00
Major Donations	\$85,577.00
Indiv. Donations	\$26,662.61
Events	\$11,365.51
Interest	\$245.02
Total	\$208,850.14

Leathers' plan includes a maintenance fund, so not all of the funds were spent on construction.

We did not hire a grantwriter, but had volunteers with professional grantwriting experience working on grants. Almost all the grant funds came from Rasmuson Foundation and the Mat-Su Health Foundation (the latter of

which serves our Borough only; Rasmuson funds statewide).

Major Donations were generally donations of more than \$100, mostly from getting businesses and individuals to sponsor components of the playground; they are recognized with plaques on the pieces of equipment they sponsored.

Individual Donations are generally less than \$100, the bulk of which were "fence picket" sales - pickets inscribed with the names of the donors (or with whatever message the donor wanted).

Events (e.g., a wine tasting and dessert event, barn dance, magic show) were undertaken both for publicity and volunteer recruitment as well as fundraising.

If I remember correctly, the main portion of the playground was completed in 384 days from the first general meeting to the conclusion of the barn-raising. We did a second portion with a different firm later - by happenstance there is another playground design firm in Ithaca, one of whose principals grew up in Talkeetna, and we hired him to do some of the landscape play features at the front and side of the playground -- the willow hut, the labyrinth, the climbing stones, grassy mounds, etc. (<http://www.planetearthplayscapes.com/>). That happened about 3 months after the Leathers portion of the playground was completed, and involved much less effort. Full implementation of that part has actually dragged out to the present -- we are still working at getting one last component finished.

The Leathers model is great for getting a customized, creative playground designed by the community and which actively builds a sense of community cohesion in the process. In my mind the main trade-off is that you have to build out of wood, and wood takes more ongoing maintenance than other materials.

Feel free to give me a call to ask more detailed questions (733-6300). If you want to get into a big project like this, the most important thing is to have a core group of about 6 individuals who are totally committed and can give the project a lot of time. This is not a process that one or two people will be able to organize on their own. We had two general coordinators who definitely gave more than anyone else, but they were backstopped by at least 4 others who were prepared to pull out the stops whenever it was necessary to push.

Charlie

Renee Krause

From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:23 PM
To: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumppo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Illg; clakland; Deb Cox; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrald; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; Igrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: Playground advice from Soldotna

Hi Again,

I just spoke with Dana McDonald, who was the lead coordinator for the Soldotna Community Playground (SCP) effort. I'll share with you some of what she shared with me.

- Their effort took two years from start to finish. That included forming a 501-C-3 non-profit organization and then doing the fundraising/community organizing.
- The total cost has been \$225,000 NOT including enormous volunteer time and in-kind donations of food, lodging, etc.
- SCP worked with Leather and Associates, but would recommend Play by Design (also based in Ithaca) not because they had any problem with L&A, but because the two L&A people they worked with, Lee Archin and Dave Iannello, left to start their own firm, Play by Design. They were so great to work with that Dana suggests we do the same. Lee and Dave were also the main consultants for the Talkeetna and Juneau playgrounds. See <http://playbydesignonline.com/> for more info.
- Lots of wood (yellow pine) is used in the Soldotna playground, along with some plastic. SCP would have preferred more plastic components, but they are more expensive.
- SCP did not try to include natural play features in their playground.
- The main key to success was volunteerism/community involvement. SCP had a volunteer coordinator and several other specialized positions and committees (all volunteers themselves).
- The City of Soldotna was not really involved except to donate the land. The town was divided at first about where to build the playground, so things got off to a somewhat rocky start. People were reluctant at first to donate money. They were not sure the volunteers could really "pull it off." But in the end, it was "so well organized." More than 800 people showed up for Build Week and everything went smoothly. "Toward the end, everyone wanted to be involved."
- Fundraising was the hardest part. No one in SCP had any experience. They did not have help from City staff in preparing grant applications.

I will write tomorrow with the idea of setting up the next organizing meeting. What do we want to call this group/campaign?

Happy Play,
amh

Anne Marie Holen
907-435-3101

Renee Krause

From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 10:03 AM
To: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumpo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Illg; clakland; Deb Cox; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrald; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; lgrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: Please note your availability for 2nd KH Playground meeting

Dear Playground Advocates:

Miranda let me know about this great Internet service for scheduling meetings. Hopefully I've done everything right and the link below will work. Please use it to show when you are available to meet in the May 16-27 timeframe. I liked Mike's idea about meeting at the high school, so I set a 3:30 time for each day – we just need to decide which day.

Likely agenda items will be

- Decide on an organizational structure
- Decide what kind of playground we want to create (e.g., traditional, natural, or hybrid)
- Decide whether we want to work with professional playground consultants
- Next steps

This can be changed! Your input is appreciated!

Thanks much,
amh

Please follow the link in order to participate in the poll:
<http://www.doodle.com/evixttg5smvim9e5>

Renee Krause

From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:13 AM
To: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumpo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Illg; clakland; Deb Cox; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; Erik Niebuhr; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrald; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; lgrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: Next Playground meeting Tuesday, May 24 3:30 p.m. at the High School !

Dear Playground Advocates:

Many thanks to all those who responded to the Doodle scheduling poll. For those who responded, there is one day that works for almost everyone: **Tuesday, May 24**. The time is 3:30 and the location will be the high school – although it's not clear to me exactly where in the high school. I'm sure Mike can let us know in advance.

Thanks for the input regarding the agenda. Suggested topics are:

1. **Overarching goal of the group**
What is the vision to be achieved? Completely new playground? Traditional? Natural? Both?
2. **Organizational structure**
What are the different roles of the parent volunteers, City, Parks & Rec Commission? Who will chair the next meeting? (not amh!)
3. **Models for success**
Does it make sense to work with a playground consulting firm? What are the alternatives?
4. **Timeline and tasks**
When should the group meet again? What should we try to accomplish before the next meeting?

Have a great weekend!
/amh

Anne Marie Holen
907-435-3101

Renee Krause

From: Mike Illg
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:27 AM
To: Anne Marie Holen; 'amanda'; Angie Otteson; 'bekahgpearson'; 'Beth Cumming'; 'Bonnie Betley'; brann@alaska.net; Bumpo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; 'cewilmeth'; 'Cheryl Illg'; 'clakland'; 'Deb Cox'; 'dkshealy'; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; 'Erik Niebuhr'; 'homermum'; 'ikammi'; 'ilp'; Ingrid Harrauld; Jackie McDonough; 'Jane Nollar'; Jenny Martin; 'jforster'; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; 'katiek'; 'kshemet'; Laura Pomeroy; 'lgrfamily'; Lolita Brache; Mike Illg; miranda weiss; 'rebekahas'; 'redasselin'; 'Renee Krause'; 'Robert Archibald'; 'T CarlinSchauer'; Tolya Stonorov; 'Tricia Lillibridge'; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: RE: Next Playground meeting Tuesday, May 24 3:30 p.m. at the High School !

Excellent.

The meeting will be held in room B103. As you enter HHS, take a right on to the B-Wing. Go down B-Wing Hall, first class room on the left. Signs will be posted.

Thanks,

Mike Illg

From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:13 AM
To: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumpo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Illg; clakland; Deb Cox; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; Erik Niebuhr; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrauld; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; lgrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
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3. **Models for success**
Does it make sense to work with a playground consulting firm? What are the alternatives?
4. **Timeline and tasks**
When should the group meet again? What should we try to accomplish before the next meeting?

Have a great weekend!

/amh

Renee Krause

From: Anne Marie Holen
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2011 9:59 AM
To: amanda; Angie Otteson; bekahgpearson; Beth Cumming; Bonnie Betley; brann@alaska.net; Bumppo; carmen.field@alaska.gov; cewilmeth; Cheryl Ilg; clakland; Deb Cox; dkshealy; Emilie Otis; Erica Marley; Erik Niebuhr; homermum; ikammi; ilp; Ingrid Harrald; Jackie McDonough; Jane Nollar; Jenny Martin; jforster; Julie Engebretsen; Kate Crowley; katiek; kshemet; Laura Pomeroy; lgrfamily; Lolita Brache; millg; miranda weiss; rebekahas; redasselin; Renee Krause; 'Robert Archibald'; T CarlinSchauer; Tolya Stonorov; Tricia Lillibridge; Vivian Finlay; wilesmichaud@msn.com
Subject: Talkeetna's playground and success story

Hi Folks,

FYI, I just spoke in person with Charlie Loeb in Talkeetna, partly to ask about their "hybrid" approach. Talkeetna worked with two different firms – Leathers and Assoc. and Planet Earth Playscapes. Their playground incorporates landscape play features as well as the traditional/customized Leathers playground elements. I would recommend visiting their website at <http://www.talkeetnaplayground.org/info.html> . See also a bio for Leon Smith of Planet Earth Playscapes at <http://socialenvironmentalarchitects.wordpress.com/playscapes/> and more about the company at <http://planetearthplayscapes.com/>. Charlie said the mixture of features "works well for us." However, he is concerned about long-term maintenance on the Leathers parts, which are constructed mainly of wood.

(Charlie recommended visiting the Palmer and Wasilla playgrounds, both built by Leathers with community involvement, to see what playgrounds look like when they are not maintained. He said the Palmer playground "looks like it's falling apart." He wasn't sure how old it is.)

I also asked him about the Talkeetna group's organizational structure. He said that rather than form a separate non-profit, their group approached the local Community Council which is a 501(c)(3) organization. The CC was amenable to establishing a Playground committee which consisted of the parent volunteers. The Playground folks did all the work and the CC just served as fiscal agent. They did not charge a fee.

The playground was built on Mat-Su Borough land, but the Borough wasn't involved in building it. Instead, the Playground group had a written agreement with the Borough whereby the Community Playground folks would build the playground and then turn it over to the Borough, which now owns it (but won't necessarily maintain it). Charlie stressed again the need to have at least six committed volunteers to pull off an effort such as theirs.

More later...

Anne Marie Holen
907-435-3101

SECOND KH PARK PLAYGROUND MEETING AGENDA

May 24, 2011

Homer High School, Room B-103. (As you enter HHS, take a right into the B-Wing. Go down B-Wing Hall, look for first classroom on the left. Signs will be posted.)

1. **Overarching goal of the group**

What is the vision to be achieved?

- a. Presentation by Carmen Field on natural playgrounds.

2. **Organizational structure**

- a. What does the group want to call itself?
- b. Selection of chair or co-chairs
- c. What are the other key roles?
- d. Who will serve as fiscal agent?

3. **Paid consultants – or not?**

Does it make sense to work with a playground consulting firm? What are the alternatives?

4. **Timeline and tasks**

- a. When should the group meet again?
- b. Tasks to accomplish before the next meeting