



Appendix D
Environmental Audits Item 'iii'
Playground Review

Riverside Building

900 Albion Avenue

A review of the playground at Riverside Building, St. Paul Schools, was conducted by Julee Quarve-Peterson and Mara Peterson of JQP, Inc. on June 15, 2013. The purpose of the review was to identify issues of safety and accessibility at the current play equipment areas.

There are 3 defined playground area:

Location A

A1. An approximate 7-event composite by Landscape Structures, which includes the following events:

- Play Panel – Bubble (2)
- Spiral Slide
- Chain Climber
- Clatter Bridge
- Short Fire Pole
- Tube Slide

A2. Merry-Go-Round

A3. Geo Dome

Location B

B1. 6 Position To-Fro Swings (4 Strap, 2 Bucket) / Tire Climber

B2. Spring Bouncers (2)

Location C

C1. Diggers (2)

The defined play area A, B and C are located to the northwest of the school building. There is not an accessible route provided from the school into defined play areas. Sand is used throughout the defined play areas, bordered by concrete edging.



The following are photographs with comments and/or recommendations regarding concerns of safety and accessibility at the Riverside Building:

Defined Play Area A

Location A1: Composite

View of composite. There are multiple features of the composite structure that do not comply with ASTM or CPSC requirements.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 1- Remove this composite structure.



Area of entrapment.



Area of entrapment.



Area of entrapment.



Area of entrapment. Chain climber above deck.



Area of entrapment.



Area of entrapment.



Burn hole. Graffiti.



Deteriorating wood at clatter bridge.



Location A2: Merry-Go-Round

View of merry-go-round.

There are no recommendations at this time.

Location A3: Geodesic Dome

View of geodesic dome.



Geodesic Dome

The concrete footing of the geodesic dome is currently exposed.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 2- Add surface material to cover the exposed concrete footing.



1

Defined Play Area B



Location B1: Swings

View of swing structure. The swings include 4 strap swings, 2 bucket/tot swings, a missing event (possibly a tire swing) and a tire climber. As per ASTM 8.6.1.1 to-fro swings should be located away from other play structures and not attached to a composite play structure. The strap swings currently provide a use zone of 141". Based on ASTM Figure A1.34 the use zone should be a minimum of 230".

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 1- Remove the swing structure.



Location B2: Spring Rockers

View of spring rockers. The spring rockers are currently located within the use zone of the swing structure. The handles are a style that is a protruding hazard.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 2- Remove the spring rockers.



2

Defined Play Area C



Location C1: Diggers

View of diggers. There is not currently an accessible digger.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 3- Add an accessible digger at an accessible location.

Defined Play Areas

Surface Material- Accessibility

While sand can comply with the impact attenuation requirements when installed and maintained correctly, it does not meet the accessibility requirements of ASTM 1951.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 3- Replace the existing surface material with a type that meets the requirements of ASTM 1951 and 1292.



Surface Material- Depth

The depth of the loose fill surface material is currently less than 1" in some locations and in many areas there is no loose fill material (only plant materials).

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 1- Add loose fill surface material to a depth that complies with ASTM 1292 requirements for impact attenuation.



Defined Play Areas

There is currently plant materials growing within the defined play areas.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 1- Frequently inspect the playground and remove trash, debris and any foreign objects from within the defined play area.



Accessibility

This composite structure currently provides no features of accessibility such as a transfer system and the defined play area does not provide any accessible ground level events.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 3- Add ground level play components at an accessible location.



Defined Play Area

There is not currently a sign indicating the age of intended user or recommending supervision.

JQP, Inc. Recommends

Priority 3- Post a sign indicating the age of intended user and recommending supervision.

Summary- Riverside Building

The following is a summary of the recommendations provided by JQP, inc. to improve and enhance the play equipment at Riverside Building. It is suggested that the school district and PTA use this report as a guide for decision making.

Priority 1

- Frequently inspect the playground and remove trash, debris, plant materials and any foreign objects from within the defined play area
- Add surface material that complies with the ASTM 1292 requirements for impact attenuation
- Remove the composite structure at location A1
- Remove the swing structure and tire climber at location B1

Priority 2

- Add surface material to cover the exposed concrete footing at the geodesic dome at location A3
- Remove the spring rockers at location B2

Priority 3

- Replace surface material with a type that complies with ASTM 1292 requirements for impact attenuation and ASTM 1951 requirements for accessibility
- Add ground level play components on an accessible route
- Post a sign indicating age of intended user and recommending supervision
- Add an accessible digger at an accessible location in area C

This review is respectfully submitted by Julee Quarve-Peterson (CPSI 181830514) and Mara Peterson (CPSI 181810514), of Julee Quarve-Peterson, Inc. If there are any questions regarding this report, please contact me directly at 612-374-3031.