PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Marshall Park Playground Assessment

As part of Portland Parks & Recreation's commitment to complete the abatement of unsafe levels of lead paint on our play equipment, we have conducted a thorough review of all affected sites throughout the city, and developed recommendations based on findings and available funds.

As part of the analysis, PP&R's playground mechanic identified a number of issues that weren't apparent through the more frequent daily or weekly inspections. Findings from this analysis led to the recommendation that the play equipment at Marshall Park be removed. ***This recommendation was based on an assessment of the equipment condition and its poorly sited location within the park.***

This recommendation reflects the views of Phil Bender, PP&R's Certified Playground Mechanic, and Don McTaggart, the West Service Zone Park Maintenance Supervisor, following their inspection on Wednesday, November 24. Their joint findings are listed below and support the immediate removal of the play equipment at Marshall Park due to the compounding deficiencies and deterioration of the equipment and the subsequent safety risk.

Inspection Findings

Marshall Park play equipment is in need of removal. There are a number of issues that deem this equipment hazardous for usage.

1. The amount of lead paint on this equipment is above the allowable standard and cannot only be transferred to humans, but can also be transferred to the surrounding ground water and stream near this equipment.
2. The metal on this equipment is very rusty and can no longer be trusted to have the necessary strength to withstand rigorous usage without failure. The clamping system on the top rail of the swing set holding the swings in place has bolts that are so rusted they can no longer be tightened to insure the top rail is snug without movement.
3. The clamps on the swing set are such that to grind off the rust and try to weld them in place would remove a significant amount of the outer metal, weakening the equipment to a point of potential failure.
4. The swing set has settled into the ground due to wash-outs and flooding that have occurred over the years. As a result, the foundation has shifted and the framing is contorted.
5. The slide itself has number of safety concerns. The amount of space between the rungs and handholds can cause entrapment of small fingers and hands. The slide has no platform at the top to enter the ramp, making it difficult to sit in place and use the slide. The slide exit is too close to the ground surface for a safe dismount. Lastly, the attachment of the bedway and ladder is very rusty and in danger of breakage under too much weight.

Future Replacement

At this time, PP&R does not have funding identified to replace this equipment. Replacement of this play equipment would include relocation from where the equipment in now sited. The play area site will need excavation, new curbing, new equipment, and engineered wood fiber chips with a drainage system. For more information, contact Don McTaggart at 503-823-3641.