PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

Stanford Recreation Park
Stanfordville, NY

Inspected
May 20, 2022
By Lee Archin, CPSI

The following report identifies elements of the playground and for each element, the report describes safety issues that should be addressed. Where relevant, references for these issues are provided, as follows:

ASTM = ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm

CPSC = Consumer Products Safety Commission Publication 325, "Public Playground Safety Handbook." See http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf

INSPECTION NOTE 2

Where appropriate, each safety issue has been given a priority rating 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

Priority 1: Identifies a safety concern that may result in permanent disability, loss of life or body part. Such a condition should be corrected immediately.

Priority 2: Identifies a safety concern that may result in temporary disability. Such a condition should be corrected as soon as possible.

Priority 3: Identifies a safety concern that is likely to cause a minor, non-disabling injury Such a condition should be corrected when time permits.

Priority 4: Identifies a safety concern whose potential to cause injury is very minimal. Such a condition should be corrected if it worsens.

Priority 5: Identifies a compliant condition. Ongoing preventive maintenance is recommended.

INSPECTION NOTE 3

Completing the recommendations will require some construction materials. Some will be available locally. Contact Play By Design for any other materials questions and sourcing.

General Structure:

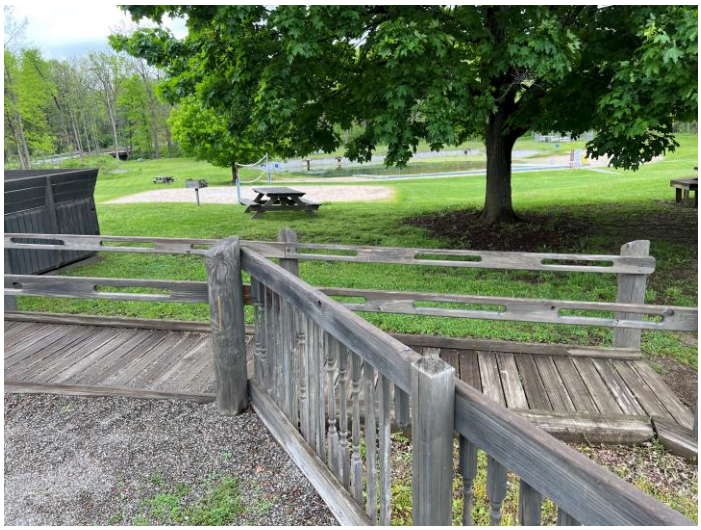
The Recreation Park playground was built by volunteers from the Stanfordville community. The structure was built using CCA-treated wood for the vertical poles, framing, guardrails and barriers. Posts are in fair condition; top of posts are showing early signs of cracking and splintering, should be sanded. Framing is also in fair condition. Handrails are in poor condition and are splintering and checking. Balusters are in poor condition; tops are showing signs of splintering and cracking. Trim caps are in poor condition, splintering. Roofs are in poor condition, all have splintering wood, and there are few are missing board pieces. Hardware is showing signs of rust. Nails and screws heads are protruding throughout the structure causing entanglements. There are multiple standing surfaces at vertical 2x4 posts and rails throughout the structure (flat surfaces greater than 2" wide). Safety surfacing is pea gravel, which is no longer ADA compliant or recommended for play spaces. There is also no ADA access throughout the structure, not complying with current standards. Entrance ramp is elevated about 6" from entry path making it not accessible and ADA compliant. Ramp rails do not meet ADA standards.

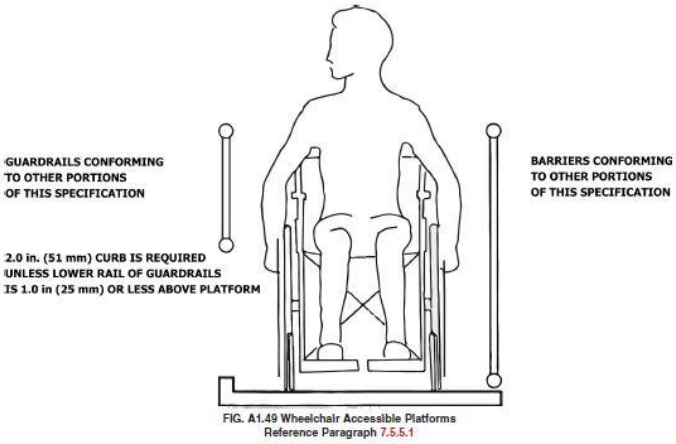
Many of the play apparatuses were built on-site utilizing materials such has hose and chains, tires, and some of the play equipment were manufactured and appears to be in fair condition.

The below report outlines specific structure and play elements that need to be addressed. Please note that the structure is noncompliant to current ADA Guidelines.

ASTM 4.1.3 states, in part, "Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) … shall not be used for playground equipment." CPSC 2.5.5.1 further states, in part, for "Existing playgrounds with CCA-treated wood: Various groups have made suggestions concerning the application of surface coatings to CCA-treated wood (e.g., stains and sealants) to reduce a child's potential exposure to arsenic from the wood surface. Data from CPSC staff and EPA studies suggest that regular (at least once a year) use of an oil- or water-based, penetrating sealant or stain can reduce arsenic migration from CCA-treated wood."
ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm F1292 Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment
ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 6.4.5 Connecting Devices—Connecting devices such as, but not limited to, S-hooks and C-hooks, when properly closed, are not entanglement hazards. These connectors are considered closed when there is no gap or space greater than 0.04 in. (1.0 mm) when measured with a feeler gauge (see Fig. A1.19(1)).

Ramp Rails: *Fair condition*
Issues: Handrails do not comply with current ADA guidelines. All accessible ramps should have two handrails on both sides (ASTM 7.5.5.5) (Priority 3)
Recommendation: Install ADA compliant handrails 12”-16” and 26”-28” above the ramp on both sides where possible.





Fasteners: *Poor condition*
Issues: All fasteners throughout the playground are rusting which should lead to structural failure. (Priority 1) Nails and screws heads are protruding throughout the structure causing entanglements (Priority 1).
Recommendation: Replace failing, rusting fasteners with new hardware at all connections. Replace all hardware with fasteners that are corrosion-resistant or have a corrosion-resistant coating. Fasteners cannot be loosened without tools; nuts and bolts are self-locking or have a means to prevent detachment.

ADA Guidelines; https://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm, ASTM International F 1487-17, “Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.” See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm, 7.5.5.5 Wheelchair-accessible ramps less than or equal to 30 in. (760 mm) above the protective surface of the use zone, when designed for use by 2- through 5-year-olds, or less than or equal to 48 in. (1220 mm), when designed for use by 5- 12-year-olds, shall have two handrails on each side of the ramp that are 26 to 28 in. (660 to 710 mm) and 12 to 16 in. (300 to 410 mm) high and conform to 7.2.6.3 and 7.2.6.4. Ramp height shall be measured at the highest point (see Fig. A1.46).
ASTM International F 1487-17, “Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.” See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 4.2.1 All fasteners, connecting, and covering devices shall be inherently corrosion resistant or be provided with a corrosion-resistant coating. 4.2.2 When installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, fasteners, connecting, and covering devices shall not loosen or be removable without the use of tools. Lock washers, self-locking nuts, or other locking means shall be provided for all nuts and bolts to protect them from detachment. Hardware in moving joints shall also be secured against unintentional loosening.
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Framing: *Fair condition*
Issues: Exposed framing show slight signs of weathering and splitting (Priority 3)
Recommendation: Sand and seal all exposed framing. Rout edges with ¼" radius so the top of the boards is less than 2" of a flat surface.

Handrails & Balusters: *Poor Condition*
Issues: Exposed handrails and balusters show signs of weathering and splitting. (Priority 1)
Recommendation: Sand and seal all exposed framing. Rout edges with ¼" radius so the top of the boards is less than 2" of a flat surface. Some areas are too damaged to fix, consider replacing with a structural plastic lumber material. Balusters can be replaced with plastic lumber 2x2 that will remedy the issue and increase line of site .

ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 3.1.10 designated play surface, n—any elevated surface for standing, walking, sitting, or climbing, or a flat surface larger than 2.0 in. (51 mm) wide by 2.0 in. (51 mm) long having less than 30° angle from horizontal.

Roofs: *Poor Condition*
Issues: The spaces created by the diagonal bracing creates a head entrapment. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9".
Recommendation: Remove

Fish Tunnel: *Poor Condition*
Issues: The space between the post and baluster at the fish tunnel creates a head entrapment. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9".
Recommendation: Add filler pieces so spacing is less than 3-1/2".

ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm, 6.1 Head and Neck Entrapment—Public playground equipment shall be designed and constructed or assembled so that any accessible opening shall meet the following performance requirements to reduce the risk of accidental head or neck entrapment by either a head-first or feet-first entry into the opening. Openings between the protective surfacing and the bottom edge of the equipment (that is, rails, platforms, steps, and so forth) are exempt from this requirement as indicated by Fig. A1.1.

Play Element Suspension Bridge: *Poor Condition*
Issues: Head entrapment created by balusters at suspension bridge. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9".
Recommendation: Add filler pieces so spacing is less than 3-1/2".

Play Element Chain Climber: *Poor Condition*
Issues: Angle of entrapment at top of chain climber. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9".
Recommendation: Add filler pieces so spacing is less than 3-1/2" or remove.

Play Element Tire Cube Climber: *Poor Condition*
Issues: Entrapment at top at both ends of tire cube climber, between vertical 2x4s and posts. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9".
Recommendation: Add filler pieces so spacing is less than 3-1/2" or remove.

Play Element Tunnel Slide: *Poor Condition*
Issues: Angle of entrapment between vertical 2x4s and post at tunnel slide. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9". Wood is splitting due to age. No grab bar at top of slide entry. Walking surface, greater that 2".
Recommendation: Remove and replace with manufactured slide.

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Fence: *Fair Condition*
Issues: Missing some pickets or has broken pickets. Some movement from years of frost. Posts and 2x6 rails are in fair condition. Fence shows some signs of splitting.
Recommendation: Repair and replace broken and missing pieces. Sand areas that are splitting and seal.

Play Element Frog : *Fair condition*
Issues: NA
Recommendation: NA

Play Element Steering Wheel : *Poor condition*
Issues: The space between handles of the steering wheel creates a head entrapment. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9".
Recommendation: Remove

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Play Element Tot Slide and Structure: *Poor condition*
Issues: Structure is in poor condition, showing signs of sever splitting and protruding screws causing entanglement issues. (Priority 1) **Recommendation:** Remove

Play Element 2-5 Swings: *Poor condition*
Issues: S-Hook opening is an entanglement hazard (>0.04”) . (Priority 1). More than 2 threads at swing hanger causing a protrusion (Priority 1). Swing are too close to fence, must be 6’ or more away from any objects. Too many swings in one bay
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new manufactured swings

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Play Element Swinging Bench: *Poor condition*
Issues: Not suitable for playground use. (Priority 3)
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new manufactured swings

Play Element Low Rings: *Poor condition*
Issues: S-Hook opening is an entanglement hazard (>0.04") . (Priority 1). Head entrapment between 2x6 header and monkey bar header. (Priority 1)
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new manufactured equipment

Play Element Low Monkey Bars: *Poor condition*
Issues: Head entrapment between low ring 2x6 header and monkey bar header. (Priority 1) 2x6 beam is separating
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new manufactured equipment

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Play Element Chain Bridge: *Poor condition*
Issues: Chains are very loose and allowing it to turn on each other which creates a head entrapment. (Priority 1) (space over 3-1/2” and less than 9”). Quick links are open, will not close properly. Some signs of rusting. Vertical and 2x6 bracing is showing signs of cracking and splitting. Missing chain cap at entrance. There are multiple 15” openings causing entrapments (space over 3-1/2” and less than 9”), should not be able to create a loop > 5" inside perimeter (Priority 1)
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new compliant net that’s made of newer material.

Play Element High Rings: *Poor condition*
Issues: S-Hook opening is an entanglement hazard (>0.04”) . (Priority 1). 2x10 header splitting. 2x6 ring beam splitting.
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new compliant net that’s made of newer material.

Play Element High Monkey Bars: *Fair condition*
Issues: Head traps at both ends of ladder, between last rungs and 2x4.
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new compliant net that’s made of newer material.

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Play Element Bouncer: *Poor condition*
Issues: Wood is splitting and cracking. Head trap at steering wheel. (Priority 1) Head trap between tire and chains. (Priority 1) Protrusions from bolts connections to tire to chains. (Priority 1)
Recommendation: Remove and replace with new compliant net that's made of newer material.

Play Element Rubber Bridge: *Poor condition*
Issues: Rubber bridge has protruding nails. (Priority 1) Rails are splitting and cracking. 2x8 headers are splitting and cracking. Standing surfacing, created by 2" or greater walkable surface at top of 2x4 corner posts. (Priority 3)
Recommendation: Remove and replace.

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ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 3.1.10 designated play surface, n—any elevated surface for standing, walking, sitting, or climbing, or a flat surface larger than 2.0 in. (51 mm) wide by 2.0 in. (51 mm) long having less than 30° angle from horizontal.

Play Element Low Decks: *Poor condition*
Issues: Low decks in playgrounds create tripping hazards. Some decks are missing deck boards. (Priority 3)
Recommendation: Remove and replace.

Play Element Tire Ladder: *Poor condition*
Issues: Wood is in poor condition. Missing balusters. (Priority 3) Head trap between balusters. Tires are cracking and showing signs of aging. Head trap between tires and 2x6 stringer (Priority 1). Opening at top is over 15", causing entrapments (space over 3-1/2" and less than 9"), should not be able to create a loop > 5" inside perimeter (Priority 1). No hand grasping component at top.
Recommendation: Remove and replace.

Play Element Tire Net: *Poor condition*
Issues: Head trap between tires and chains. (Priority 1). Opening at top is over 15", causing entrapments (space over 3-1/2" and less than 9"), should not be able to create a loop > 5" inside perimeter (Priority 1). No hand grasping component at top.
Recommendation: Remove and replace.

Play Element Tire Cube Climber: *Poor condition*
Issues: Head trap between tires connections. Head trap between posts and tires and ends. (Priority 1). Opening at top is over 15", causing entrapments (space over 3-1/2" and less than 9"), should not be able to create a loop > 5" inside perimeter (Priority 1). No hand grasping component at top.
Recommendation: Remove and replace.

ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm, (6.1,6.1.4,6.1.4.7(3))
ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 8.1 Balance Beams: 8.1 Balance Beams: 8.1.1 The top surface of balance beams shall be no greater than 12 in. (300 mm) above the protective surfacing when intended for use by 2 through 5-year-olds, and no greater than 16 in. (410 mm) above the protective surfacing when intended for use by 5 through 12-year-olds. 8.1.2 Support posts for balance beams shall not pose a tripping hazard.
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Play Element Wave Slide: *Fair condition*
Issues: Wood is showing some signs of age and splitting. Entanglement is present at top of slide (Priority 1). Header is over 38" clear. No grab bar above the slide. **Recommendation:** Remove and replace with manufactured slide and slide hood entry.

Play Element Chin Bar: *Fair condition*
Issues: Good condition, dark colored which makes it difficult to see.
Recommendation: Paint the bar with a bright color for better visibility.

Play Element Trolley: *Poor condition*
Issues: There is no braking system in place. (Priority 1) Hardware is protruding and showing signs of rust. (Priority 1) 2x6 header in fair condition, 2x6 cap is splitting and aging.
Recommendation: Remove track ride.

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Play Element 5-12 Swings: *Poor condition*
Issues: S-Hook opening is an entanglement hazard (>0.04”) . (Priority 1). More than 2 threads at swing hanger causing a protrusion (Priority 1). Swing are too close to fence, must be 6’ or more away from any objects. Too many swings in one bay. Different swing types share the bay. Top beam is showing signs of splitting and aging. 2x6 cap is splitting. **Recommendation:** Remove and replace with new manufactured swings.

Play Element Tire Swing: *Poor condition*
Issues: S-Hook opening is an entanglement hazard (>0.04”) . (Priority 1). More than 2 threads at nut connection causing a protrusion (Priority 1). Swing seat is too low, required 12” clearance from finish grade. **Recommendation:** Remove and replace with new manufactured swings.

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Play Element Spiral Slide: *Poor condition*
Issues: Bolts and nuts are protruding causing entanglement issues (Priority 1). Clearance between slide and the bottom of the deck are too close. (Priority 1). Slide is showing stress crack at bottom. Wood deck is splitting and cracking (Priority 1). Exposed screws and nuts. Board are pulling away. **Recommendation:** Remove and close off.

Play Element Fire Pole: *Poor condition*
Issues: Pole is too close: 15-1/2" away from another play components, must be 18-25" (Priority 1). Opening is over 15" causing a head trap (Priority 1). 2x4 vertical posts are splitting and twisting (Priority 1). **Recommendation:** Remove and close off.

Play Element Climbing Chain: *Poor condition*
Issues: Missing. Opening is over 15" causing a head trap (Priority 1). **Recommendation:** Close off opening.

Play Element Vertical Tire Tunnel: *Poor condition*
Issues: Opening is over 15" causing a head trap (Priority 1). **Recommendation:** Add filler pieces to reduce opening to less than 15".

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Play Element 5-12 Train: *Poor condition*
Issues: The space between handles of the steering wheel creates a head entrapment. (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9". Greater than 2" walkable surfacing, surface at top of 2x6 (Priority 2). Wood is splitting. Protruding screws.
Recommendation: Remove steering wheel, replace with new. Route edges with ¼" radius so the top of the boards is less than 2" of a flat surface.

Play Element Suspension Bridge: Fair condition
Issues: Suspension bridge chains are very loose. (Priority 5) Boards are splitting and cracking. Head entrapment between diagonal balusters (Priority 1). Space is over 3-1/2" and less than 9". Exterior wood is poor condition, showing signs of rot and splitting. Pinch points between planks and side structure.
Recommendation: Tighten chains under the bridge, new suspension bridge hardware kit is available, contact PBD for replacement recommendation. Replace old boards. Close head tr

ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 3.1.10 designated play surface, n—any elevated surface for standing, walking, sitting, or climbing, or a flat surface larger than 2.0 in. (51 mm) wide by 2.0 in. (51 mm) long having less than 30° angle from horizontal.
ASTM International F 1487-17, "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." See http://www.astm.org/Standards/F1487.htm 6.4.5 Connecting Devices—Connecting devices such as, but not limited to, S-hooks and C-hooks, when properly closed, are not entanglement hazards. These connectors are considered closed when there is no gap or space greater than 0.04 in. (1.0 mm) when measured with a feeler gauge (see Fig. A1.19(1)).

Summary of Report:

The playground's current state will require extensive work, the framing and posts are in fair condition, but the decking, balusters, and handrails have all aged and are cracking and splintering. The playground is not ADA compliant which is required by ASTM and CPSC guidelines for public playgrounds. Due to the amount of work required to bring the playground up to current standards and to replace the damaged lumber, it is my assessment that making the repairs would not be cost effective. I suggest replacing and redesigning a new playground structure that would meet and exceed current ADA guidelines and comply with ASTM and CPSC to provide the community of Stanfordville a new playground that would be reflective of the community's current needs.

Construction Options:

The community-built process is a proud tradition that Play By Design continues to practice with communities across the country. Our process is one that unifies communities and empowers their members by bringing them together to design and construct a one-of-a-kind playground that uniquely reflects the surrounding area. Play By Design also works with contractors and city workers and has been able to implement a combination of both hired workers and volunteers, when the community-built process isn't suitable. Play By Design evaluates each community and helps them find the best solution for their project.

Next Steps:

Play By Design recommends that the Town of Stanfordville begins planning a course of action to replace the playground.

Please Note:

Play By Design provides the above program information in order to reduce the risk of insurance loss and claims. The information provided is not intended to include all potential controls or address any insured specifically. Play By Design also does not warrant that all loss and/or claims will be avoided if the program information is followed. By providing this information, Play By Design in no way intends to relieve the insured of its own duties and obligations, nor is Play By Design undertaking, on behalf of or for the benefit of the insured or others, that the insured's property or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with any law, rule or regulation. Insureds remain responsible for their own efforts to reduce risks and should consult their own legal counsel for appropriate guidance.