

## Attachment 5 Wampanatuck School - Current Playground

Current play structure is nearly three decades old, is deteriorating, and does not meet current playground safety standards. We have explored the possibility of repairing this structure, but repairs would be costly, not be compliant with current safety regulations, and could create additional hazards and liability. We explored replacing components, but due to its age this equipment is no longer available (nor are its replacement parts).



Single low level / 'inclusive' tic-tac-toe element is minimal and also not ADA accessible. This as well as the accessory 'blue tube' piece are supported by outdated/cracking wooden post elements that do not meet current playground safety regulations.





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Metal mesh of the main deck of the structure is deteriorating/rusting and has holes (seen here exposed on the underside), which caused a severe safety issue as they have protruding metal pieces and were large enough for a child's foot/leg to go through. As this was a serious risk, it was addressed by covering with composite decking material after plywood patches (a previous fix) came loose and became a tripping hazard. Unfortunately, the decking is uneven/wavy as it is bolted to an uneven surface, and safety/tripping is still a concern.





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Equipment is deteriorating and structures are loose due to broken bolts and fasteners causing equipment to move/spin where they should be stationary, causing a significant safety issue. The Town has reviewed for possible repair, but can only remove these outward structures - they cannot be repaired or replaced (as parts are not available). This was not advised by playground experts as removing these outward structures could compromise the integrity of the main structure. Slides are cracking causing risk of injury especially in areas that are along the slide hold rails.





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Regular replenishment of wood-chip surfacing to the safe required 12" depth is a challenge (this is very costly for the Town and the chips biodegrade rapidly), and as such it has compacted to a low, unsafe depth that does not meet fall height safety requirements.



Wood chips should be 12" uncompressed per current playground safety codes. Current uncompressed area of wood chip surface is just a few inches deep, causing higher risk of fall injuries. We are recommending poured-in place surfacing to minimize this annual maintenance and cost to the Town and address fall safety issues.





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Monkey bar side supports are loose — these have been repeatedly tightened but continue to come loose with use of the equipment as the bolts no longer hold a tight connection.



Equipment coating is deteriorating causing exposed, rusted metal surfaces.

