



**Town of Sudbury
Capital Improvement Budget Request
FY2018 Form A**

Department/Committee: Facilities
Department , Sudbury Public Schools

Item/Project Name: Playground
Modernization for Sudbury Public Schools

<p>Initial Year of Request: FY 18</p>	<p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1.7M Summer 2018 - \$725k - Haynes and Noyes Summer 2019 - \$725k - Nixon and Loring Summer 2020 - \$250k - Curtis</p>	<p>Estimated Future Savings:¹ Modern playground construction materials are expected to keep maintenance costs level or less than the current situation.</p>
<p>Estimated Incremental Costs:² None</p>	<p>Staffing Changes:³ No staffing changes will be required</p>	
<p>Justification Code: A - This is an essential project to provide safe and accessible public playgrounds to Sudbury residents.</p>	<p>R or NR: R</p>	<p>Priority: Very High</p>
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The public playground is, by far, one of the most important settings for child development. It is one of the few environments where a child has the freedom to run and jump, climb, swing and leap, yell, reign, conjure, create, dream or meditate. In this complicated world that we live in, the playground is a safe and common place for children to come together, to discover the value of play, to learn about each other, to recognize their similarities and differences, to meet physical and social challenges, to leave comfort zones and evolve into the little young people they are meant to be. It is a microcosm for life lessons, from challenge and risk to conflict resolution and cooperation.¹</p> <p>The Sudbury School playgrounds are outdated. The surfaces are not up to ADA standards, and the equipment is nearing end-of-life. In order to provide a safe, accessible play environment for our children to grow and thrive, we need to do some updating. And because of</p>		

the nature of playgrounds as a place for congregating, exploring, and exercising, we have a unique opportunity to make these playgrounds appealing to not just students, but to a wider community of all ages. Accessible surfaces for someone with a mobility device are also impact-friendly surfaces for an older person with knee and hip issues. Shade and tables can not only provide respite for children at play, but can also serve as a congregation point for caregivers and an outdoor meeting place for all citizens.

This project aims to update all 4 elementary school playgrounds and to develop a new outdoor area at the middle school. Our proposal is to spread the project out over 3 years. We would complete 2 schools (Haynes and Noyes) in FY 2018, 2 schools (Nixon and Loring) in FY 2019, and 1 school (Curtis) in FY 2020. We are seeking CPA funds under the Recreation category.

1 Designing for Inclusive Play: Applying the Principles of Universal Design to the Playground, October 1, 2007, Jennifer K. Skulski, CPSINational Center on Accessibility, Indiana University - Bloomington

Justification and Need: The elementary school playgrounds are nominally 16 or more years old. Typical life of playground equipment is 10-15 years. Furthermore, new federal regulations now require (as of 2014) compliance to accessibility standards as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The current playgrounds do not meet these requirements.

Benefit:

Students of all abilities will be able to play and learn in a safe, accessible environment. And, by applying concepts of Universal Design, some of the playground elements will also serve dual purpose and this will create a multigenerational recreation and gathering place for the entire community.

Last time this was replaced (i.e., year roof was previously replaced or year vehicle): There are many elements to each playground. The major structures at Loring, Noyes, and Haynes were erected in 2001. Although we don't know the installation date of one of the structures at Nixon, the wear-and-tear evidence leads us to believe that it is 2001 or older.

Typical Replacement Cycle:
15 Years

In the more recent past, gifts have been given to the playgrounds (tables, shades, structures, etc.). These newer structures are in good condition will be preserved in this proposal.

Alternatives Considered/Reasons for Rejecting Alternatives:

We are exploring various cost mitigation strategies. We are developing a general fundraising program to do peer-to-peer fundraising and solicit donations from businesses in town. Discussions are starting for possible in-kind donations such as unique play equipment from the Boy Scouts and relevant services like materials and labor from construction businesses. And, finally, we are applying to various grant opportunities.

Over the next year (FY 2018) we will start to see the results of our strategies. And with a better understanding of how much money we can raise, we will be able to adjust the CPA funds request for subsequent years (FY 2019 and FY 2020).

Consequences of Not Implementing/Delaying Implementation:

As of March 2011, play areas need to be compliant with ADA standards. Our current elementary school playgrounds are not ADA compliant for access. As a result, some students are being denied their right to an equal opportunity to play, learn, and thrive on the playgrounds.

Furthermore, as the cost of standard material prices increases approximately 4-7% per year, we do pay a price for delaying implementation.

- **If we do 2 playgrounds per year (instead of all 5 at once), the additional cost ranges from \$46K to \$82K.**
- **If we do 1 playground per year, the additional cost ranges from \$127K to \$230K**

Other Pertinent Background Information (e.g., Quotes, Brochures, Pictures, etc.):

See attached detailed project presentation.

Other Considerations:

PlaySudbury is a volunteer group consisting of parents, grandparents, educators, and community members who share the goal of bringing the Sudbury Public School playgrounds up to ADA compliance and using the concepts of Universal Design to benefit the entire community. Of particular note, the leadership team of SMILE Mass is on PlaySudbury's advisory board and brings extensive expertise in accessibility as well as playground design and construction. SMILE Mass brought the first fully accessible playground to the MetroWest region, and PlaySudbury hopes to extend that vision to the Sudbury Public School playgrounds.

PlaySudbury and SMILE Mass are both dedicated to bettering the Sudbury community through accessibility and play. This synergy brought the teams together for this Playground Modernization Project. As a result, SMILE Mass, a registered 501(3)(c) organization, is acting as the fiscal sponsor of PlaySudbury. This enables PlaySudbury to collect tax-deductible donations and apply for grants under the SMILE Mass umbrella.
