



## Schools' Outdoor Play Space

To: Jeannine Durkin, Superintendent  
From: Billie Jo Turner, Assistant Superintendent  
RE: Response to Motion on Schools' Outdoor Play Space  
Date: February 7, 2019 (2-13-19 Meeting)

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This is in response to the motion made by Jackie Doherty at the April 4, 2018 meeting: ***“Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a report that describes each elementary and middle school’s outdoor play space, including whether they have play structures available for students during recess.”***

In response to this motion, a survey was sent to the schools. Of the twenty responses, please see the following summary:

- Of the 20 responses, one school had access to two parks so there are 21 responses.
- Of the 20 schools, 9 had “on premise” parks and 9 had “nearby” parks. Two had no park access.
- Of the nine schools that did not have a park on premises, 4 used the park daily, 3 went occasionally and 2 stated infrequent use. On the contrary, all nine schools that had a park on premise used it daily.
- Of the 20 schools, 11 were described as well-maintained while 7 were not. Those that were not well maintained were described as littered with glass, animal feces and unemptied trash.
- Of the 20 schools, five described the parks as not in disrepair whereas 11 stated the park had chipped paint, chain ladders with S hooks, broken safety panels, no latches on fence, holes in asphalt and holes in stairs.
- Of the 20 schools, four had no safety concerns while eight had concerns with the equipment, witness to illicit activity or too many outside users.
- Of the 20 schools, the following summarize the number of play structures:
  - Four had zero play structures.
  - Three had one play structure.
  - Three had two play structures.
  - Three had three play structures.
  - Two had four play structures.
  - Two had five play structures.
  - Zero had six play structures.
  - One had seven play structures.

Please note that if the responses don’t sum to the number of schools that responded, it is because of unanswered questions on the survey.

# Schools' Outdoor Play Space

Summary of Survey

	Location	Use Frequency	Access to Bathroom	Well Maintained	Play Structures	Protective Surfacing	Disrepair?	Safety Concerns	Dangerous Equip
McAniff	Nearby	Daily	No	yes	5 bench/picnic table/slides/monkey bar/swings	hardwood chips	no	no	5 of 6 are no
Stoklosa	On Premises	Daily	No	yes	asphalt		no		no
Bailey	On Premises	Daily	no	yes	4 benches, ladders, bridges, rockers, slides, monkey bars, raised platform and climbing walls	hardwood and soil	yes	Yes chipped metal, chain ladder with S hooks	Yes chipped metal, chain ladder with S hooks
Pyne Arts	On Premises	Daily	yes	yes	2 3rd set of adaptive structures to implemented on 10/18 has ladders, slides, monkey bars, raised platform	rubber or synthetic	yes	equipment is not safe has broken rail/safety panel on middle school playground	equipment is not safe has broken rail/safety panel on middle school playground
Sullivan	On Premises	Daily	yes	yes	1 guard rails and bb net	asphalt	yes	yes	broken rails/holes in asphalt/g
Morey	Nearby	Occasionally	no	yes but littered	5 benches, ladders, rockers, monkey bars, swings, climbing walls	Hardwood chips	Yes	yes	
Sullivan	On Premises	Daily	yes	litter, glass, animal feces yes but littered	1 bb net	asphalt	yes	witness to illicit activity, too many users yes	no
Daley	None	N/A					potholes	Broken guard rails uneven steps	
Bréige	None	N/A						holes in asphalt	
Wang	Nearby	Occasionally	no	yes	7 hardwood chips		yes		
Shaughnessy	On Premises	Daily	no	yes to playground no - play yard not	3 bridges/slides/monkey bars/raised platforms	soil/hardwood	not bad yes	no	equip is ok but no latches on fence, missing gates,

## Summary of School Playgrounds by Director of Facilities

1) Of the 29 school buildings, 20 have their own playground or near an existing City of Lowell park

2) Several schools do not have access to a playground:

- Molloy's Career Academy
- Laura Lee
- LeBlanc
- Riverside's Bridge
- Sullivan
- Wang
- Rogers

3) Rogers is next to the South Common but not close to the playground area

4) Wang is next to the Pavtrickett but not close to the playground area

5) Sullivan is next to the Reilly but not close to the playground area