



CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE

DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICES

LEIF ERIK DAHLIN

To: City Manager, William Bridgeo, Mayor Katz and City Council
Re: Childcare contribution to Hussey Elementary School Playground project
From: Leif Dahlin, Director of Community Services
Date: July 1, 2010

Preamble:

The Hussey Elementary School PTO set a goal of upgrading the Hussey school's playground equipment. To that end the Hussey PTO have been raising funds for a number of years. The goal is based upon the fact the equipment is old, outdated and numerous pieces are broken and do pose a safety concern. Additionally, the existing structure does not have the utility to meet the needs of the PK-6 grades due to the fact a few years ago the school grades were reconfigured moving the 6th grade from the Middle School to the elementary school buildings. The new playground program and equipment has been designed to accommodate grades PK-6. There are some playground elements that are still usable and will be kept and incorporated into new playground program/equipment.

Children of the Childcare Bureau Benefit:

Presently the City's Summer Childcare program is housed at Hussey Elementary School. The children involved with the childcare program would get the benefit of the new playground equipment. During the school year if Hussey is used as a childcare site there will be additional benefit. Presently the Childcare Bureau does not pay for the use of the school space at any of the school childcare sites. It is worthy to note 99% of the children in the childcare program are Augusta children.

Lowes Grant Application:

A grant application to Lowes in the amount of \$5,000.00 was submitted for funding consideration. Unfortunately the grant request was not awarded and Hussey did not receive the funds requested.

Plan B - For when Lowe's Grant award did not come thru.

Whereas the children of the City's Childcare Bureau will truly benefit from this investment, it made sense to seek approval to use \$5,000.00 from the Childcare Bureau's fund balance to help with this investment and make this project a reality. These funds will allow this project to happen now after many years of hard work by the Hussey PTO.

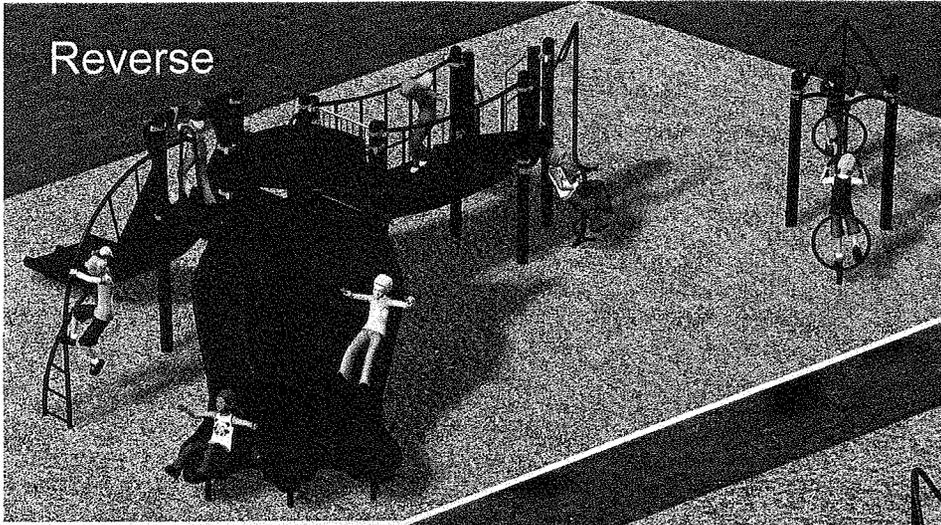
Hussey Elementary School Playground Budget:

Equipment Cost:	\$20,000.00
Fund Sources: Hussey Elementary PTO	\$12,500.00
Augusta Public Schools	\$ 2,500.00
Childcare Bureau (Proposed)	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$20,000.00

Request:

To ask City Council to allocate and authorize the City Manager to transfer Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from the Childcare Bureau fund balance to Augusta Public Schools for the purchase of playground equipment for Hussey Elementary School.

Reverse



HUSSEY SCHOOL

AUGUSTA, ME

14541817-1-1

3/11/2010



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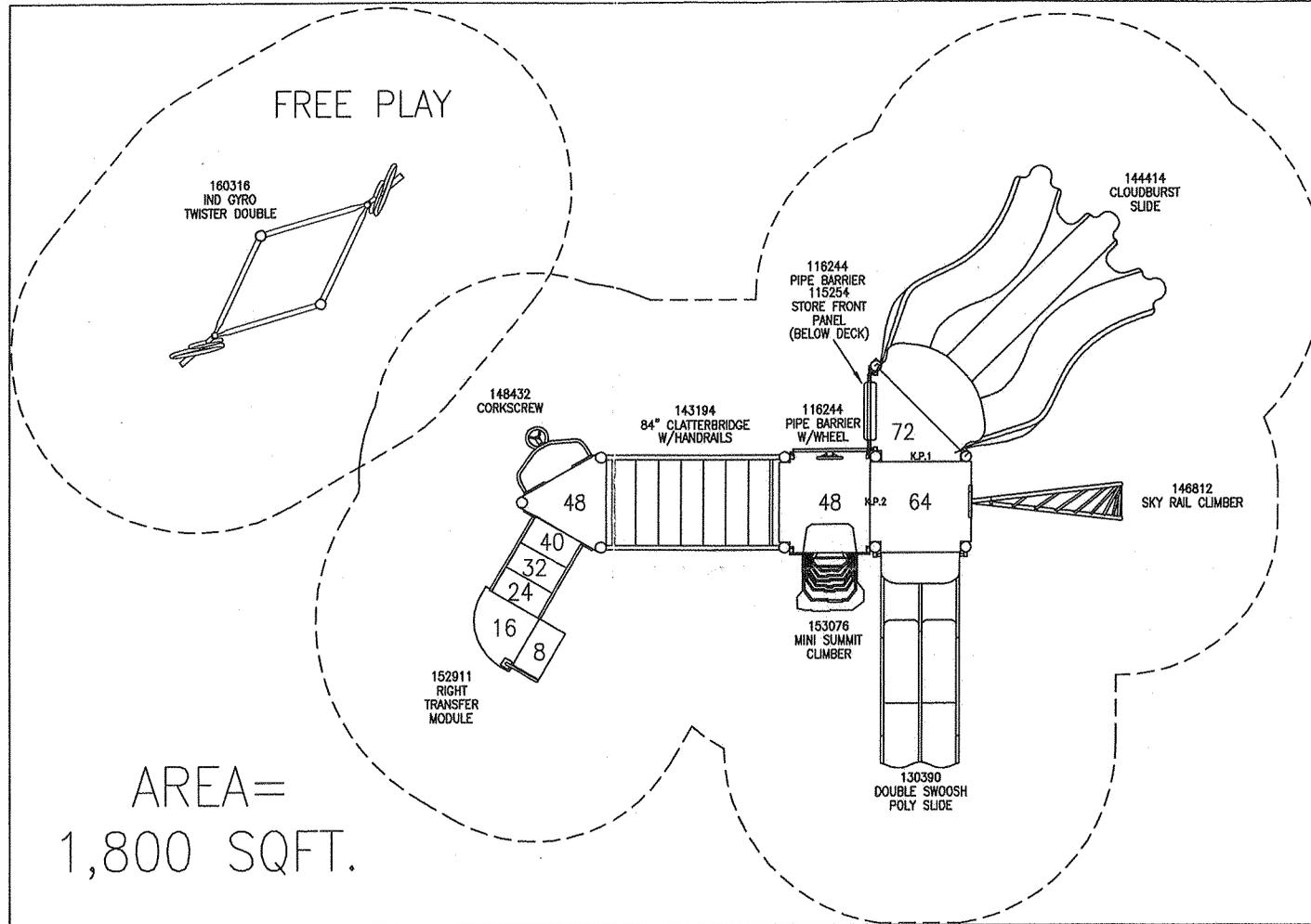


The play components identified on this plan are IPEMA certified. The use and layout of these components conform to the requirements of ASTM F1487.

*NOTE: PLEASE VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS OF PLAY AREA, SIZE, ORIENTATION, AND LOCATIONS OF ALL EXISTING UTILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SITE FURNISHINGS PRIOR TO ORDERING. SLIDES SHOULD NOT FACE THE HOT AFTERNOON SUN.

35'-9"

AREA =
1,800 SQFT.



50'-5"

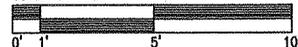


REQUIREMENTS FOR A GREAT OUTDOORS

OBRIEN & SONS, INC.

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Fax: (508) 359-2817
E-mail: mail@obrienandsons.com
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SCALE: IN FEET



ADA LIST FOR PLAYBOOSTER (AGES 5-12):

TOTAL ELEVATED PLAY COMPONENTS	7		
TOTAL ELEVATED COMPONENTS ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP	0	REQUIRED	0
TOTAL ELEVATED COMPONENTS ACCESSIBLE BY TRANSFER	4	REQUIRED	4
TOTAL ACCESSIBLE GROUND LEVEL COMPONENTS SHOWN	3	REQUIRED	2
TOTAL DIFFERENT TYPES OF GROUND LEVEL COMPONENTS	2	REQUIRED	2

THIS CONFORMS TO THE ADA ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES (ADAAG), ASSUMING THAT THE ENTIRE USE ZONE IS COVERED WITH AN ACCESSIBLE PROTECTIVE SURFACING.

**HUSSEY SCHOOL
OPTION 2
AUGUSTA, ME**

M.E. O'BRIEN AND SONS, INC.

JOEL ST.PIERRE

THIS PLAY AREA & EQUIPMENT IS DESIGNED FOR AGES 5-12 YEARS

IT IS THE MANUFACTURERS OPINION THAT THIS PLAY AREA DOES CONFORM TO THE A.D.A. ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES (ADAAG)

THIS CONCEPTUAL PLAN WAS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US. PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION, DETAILED SITE INFORMATION INCLUDING SITE DIMENSIONS, TOPOGRAPHY, EXISTING UTILITIES, SOIL CONDITIONS, AND DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS SHOULD BE OBTAINED, EVALUATED, & UTILIZED IN THE FINAL DESIGN.

CHOOSE A PROTECTIVE SURFACING MATERIAL THAT HAS A CRITICAL HEIGHT VALUE OF AT LEAST THE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST ACCESSIBLE PART/FALL HEIGHT OF THE ADJACENT EQUIPMENT. (REF. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC) GUIDELINES, SECTION 10: SURFACING.)

0
DRAWING #:

ME09814

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LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC.

DESIGNED BY: R. O'CONNOR



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MEMO TO: Augusta City Council
FROM: Barbara E. Wardwell, City Clerk & Treasurer
DATE: June 28, 2010
SUBJECT: Consolidation of Polling Places

Absentee Voting:

- Increase in absentee votes from 20% in 2005 to 42% in 2008 with no significant increase in total number of votes cast.

Election Workers:

- Difficulty in obtaining the number of workers needed to staff the polling places.
- A voter registrar (qualified with CVR) is now required for each polling place
- City staff time to set up and tear down 5 different polling places around the day to day operations of the facility.
- City staff time to set up signs at and around 4 polling places

Polling Place Accessibility:

- Additional signage is required at Buker Center and City Center to have available the required number of ADA parking spaces
- Asked Buker Center leasees to shut down on election day in order to have available parking.
- Asked City Center staff to park in another location away from the building.
- City Center entrance does not meet ADA requirements.
- Maintain and support the 5 sets of Accessible Voting System equipment and phone lines in 5 polling places.
- St. Andrews Hall may not be available for future elections.
- Consolidating or moving polling places based on anticipated voter turnout is confusing to the voters.

Common voter complaints that are not accessibility related, but a voter could file suit against us (HAVA).

- Buker and City Center do not have enough parking spaces. Voter had to drive around the block several times.
- Buker – voters have to walk up hill and then through the entire building to get to the voting area (gym). Then walk back through the entering voters to exit.
- City Center – lines to incoming voter list move slowly
- Where do I go to vote? Why can't I vote in the same location for each election?

Advantages:

- The Central Voting System now used by the State of Maine allows me to gather ward by ward statistics regardless of where a ballot is cast.
- The Civic Center is the one location that everyone has access to; ample parking, spacious rooms, ADA accessible entrances and easy access hallways.
- No other polling place could support more than current registered voters in that ward.
- Space is always available; more options.
- Set up and tear down will be quicker and Civic Center staff may be utilized to assist Public Works
- Election Officials and workers are available, on site, to cover more than one ward upon short notice.
- Workers prefer the Civic Center over other polling places.
- Internet access is available so updates to the voter list are real time. In the past, this bureau had to input all changes in the days following the election.
- In the case of an emergency, the Civic Center has the space and electrical back up to allow the election to continue.

Additional duties (behind the scenes):

Additional duties required may not appear to impact consolidation or not, but the time allocated to these duties should be taken into consideration. These tasks are performed either during the day, interrupting the normal day to day operations and customer service or overtime in the evenings and/or the weekend before election day. Due to the increase in absentee ballot requests, most often some tasks are performed after business hours:

- conduct absentee voting in 6 qualified nursing homes within 30 days of election day. This is completed by 3 – 4 individuals depending on the anticipated voter turnout at each location.
- absentee voting no sooner than 45 days before election day; phone requests, email requests and voting in person.
- Verification of ballots as soon as received by two individuals; physical hand count and separation by ward into numbered boxes. In most cases, the ballots are received at four different times; state absentees, municipal absentees, state regular, then municipal regular.
- Sorting ballots, printing voter lists and packing supplies for 5 polling places is time consuming. June 8, 2010 approximately 5 man hours was allocated to prepare for only one polling place. The Accessible Voting System and all scanners must be tested prior to election day.
- AVS testing takes approximately 3 hours per machine and must be performed at each location by two staff members during business hours due to state support.
- Scanner testing takes about an hour per machine and is completed by bureau staff.

- all candidate requests for information, reports and other support during the entire election period.
- Order ballots; supply all information and verify proofs with printer
- Sending memory pacs for coding; tracking delivery and receipt
- Voter complaints, questions and comments....

Although the cost savings will not be significant for some larger elections, the voter convenience and adjustments to the changes in the election process is more flexible.

Waterville, Lewiston, Portland, Bangor and Auburn are some of the larger municipalities that have lowered the number of polling places. Although they have experienced some issues, many more were eliminated. I am waiting for responses from the City Clerks in these locations for more specific information.

Attachment A.

POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY
Completed August 2007

WARD 1 Buker Community Center –

Noncompliant accessibility findings were corrected or adjusted for election day:

- Signage to direct people to accessible entrance
- One set of entrance doors (side) do not meet the 32” width requirement

Noncompliant:

- no dedicated van parking location
- Handrail is not less than 2” in diameter
- Wall light protrudes (9”) from wall; s/b no less than 4”
- light fixture is 67” over pedestrian route; s/b no less than 80”
- Water fountain in hallway is 36” high and 18” deep (higher than 27”; protrudes from wall more than 4”)
- Parking lot is not entirely paved, gravel which may be uneven.

WARD 2 City Center -

Noncompliant accessibility findings were corrected or adjusted on election day:

- Minimum accessible spaces with access aisles provided
- Accessible route cross slope is not less than 2%
- ADA entrance sign is not located in a visible location.
- Threshold is greater than ¾”
- Elevator does not meet 54” x 54” standards for wheelchairs; questionable due to age of building.

WARD 3 Augusta Civic Center –

Noncompliant accessibility findings were corrected:

- Parking lot was paved; partially paid for by HAVA funds of \$3500.
- North Wing entrance did not have the proper handles; automatic pedestrian doors (poppers) have been installed. Inside doors are propped open.

WARD 4 St Andrews Parish Hall –

No noncompliant accessibility findings

ELECTIONS VOTER TURNOUT

DATE	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	TOTAL	ABSENTEE	TOTAL	% Voters
June 14, 2005 *	964	1078	971	1349	4362	1108	5470	36
November 8, 2005	1100	1152	1089	1244	4585	1156	5741	38
June 13, 2006	360	331	321	369	1381	285	1666	12
November 7, 2006	1278	1459	1438	1625	5800	1916	7716	50
June 12, 2007	REFERENDUM SPECIAL ELECTION - HAND TALLY				951	144	1095	8
November 6, 2007	779	854	826	984	3443	779	4222	29
June 10, 2008	429	504	417	515	1865	270	2135	15
November 4, 2008	1201	1367	1522	1581	5671	4025	9696	64
June 9, 2009	SCHOOL BUDGET VALIDATION - HAND TALLY				247	13	260	1.76
November 3, 2009	860	932	1257	1151	4200	3018	7218	49
June 8, 2010	681	707	772	855	3081	866	3947	27

* Municipal referendum (Cony & Rezoning)

Consolidated - City Ctr

Consolidated - Civic Ctr

	Salaries	Coding	Set Up / ACC	Total Cost	
June 14, 2005 *	\$ 7,089.05	\$ 441.11	\$ 740.05	\$ 8,270.21	5 polling places
November 8, 2005	\$ 8,046.49	\$ 1,584.03	\$ 971.37	\$ 10,601.89	5 polling places
June 13, 2006	\$ 6,345.61	\$ 1,192.87	\$ 723.04	\$ 8,261.52	5 polling places
November 7, 2006	\$ 10,512.61	\$ 1,564.17	\$ 994.49	\$ 13,071.27	5 polling places
June 12, 2007	\$ 3,112.16	\$ -	\$ 24.78	\$ 3,136.94	consolidated
November 6, 2007	\$ 9,801.07	\$ 1,494.56	\$ 992.53	\$ 12,288.16	5 polling places
June 10, 2008	\$ 3,460.18	\$ 1,692.88	\$ 68.04	\$ 5,221.10	consolidated
November 4, 2008	\$ 19,366.92	\$ 1,494.56	\$ 1,085.02	\$ 21,946.50	5 polling places
June 9, 2009	\$ 2,067.98	\$ -	\$ 108.32	\$ 2,176.30	consolidated
November 3, 2009	\$ 6,057.61	\$ 1,497.91	\$ 951.73	\$ 8,507.25	consolidated
June 8, 2010	\$ 5,487.99	\$ 2,103.00	\$ 1,336.39	\$ 8,927.38	consolidated

* Municipal referendum (Cony)

Jun-06	\$6.55 / hr	5 packs	coffee & donuts/gas/vehicle/ACC rent
Jun-07	\$6.80 / hr	0 packs	coffee & donuts only
Jun-08	\$7.43 / hr	3 packs	coffee & donuts/gas/vehicle/ACC rent
Jun-09	\$7.43 / hr	0 packs	coffee & donuts only
Nov-09	\$7.43 / hr	5 packs	coffee & donuts/gas/vehicle/ACC rent
Jun-10	\$7.50 / hr	4 packs	coffee & donuts/gas/vehicle/ACC rent

Salaries: Prior reports did not reflect the overtime (comp time could not be determined) earned by staff, both my own bureau and others assisting in preparing for election day.