

Committee of the Whole:

Playground Surfacing

4/26/16

Playground Surfacing

- The safety and health of our students is the highest priority.
- We appreciate hearing from parents and share their desire that our playgrounds be safe and healthy places to play.
- Online petition and parent group expressing concern for potential toxicity and other issues regarding rubber mulch.
- Many studies, with results ranging from low or no risk to some potential risk of exposure to contaminants. As yet inconclusive.
- Recent news reports and comments from the public continue to raise questions.
- Two major studies underway: EPA and California Office of Health Hazard Assessment.

Playground Surfacing

Minnesota Department of Health:

James Kelly, M.S.

Manager, Environmental Surveillance &
Assessment Section
Environmental Health Division

Playground Surfacing

Kerry Leider:

ISD 709 Property and Risk Manager

- Recent Injury Background
- History for Surfacing on Playgrounds
- Construction Details

Playground Injuries Reported

2015

- Total **54**
- Slip/Fall **31**
- Slip/Fall - Injury to Head **14**

2014

- Total **84**
- Slip/Fall **41**
- Slip/Fall - Injury to Head **20**

Playground Surfacing

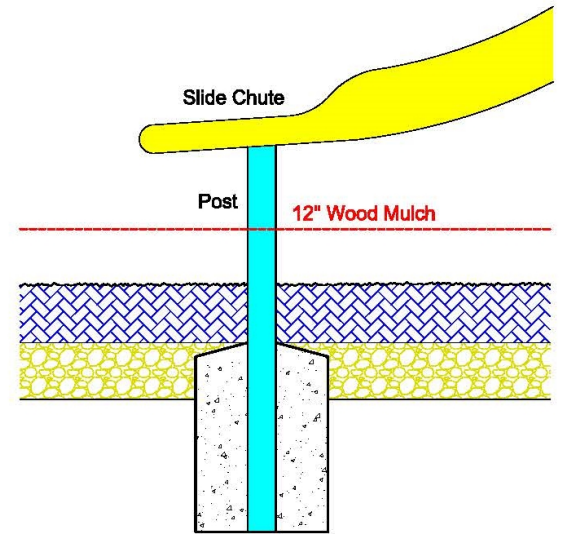
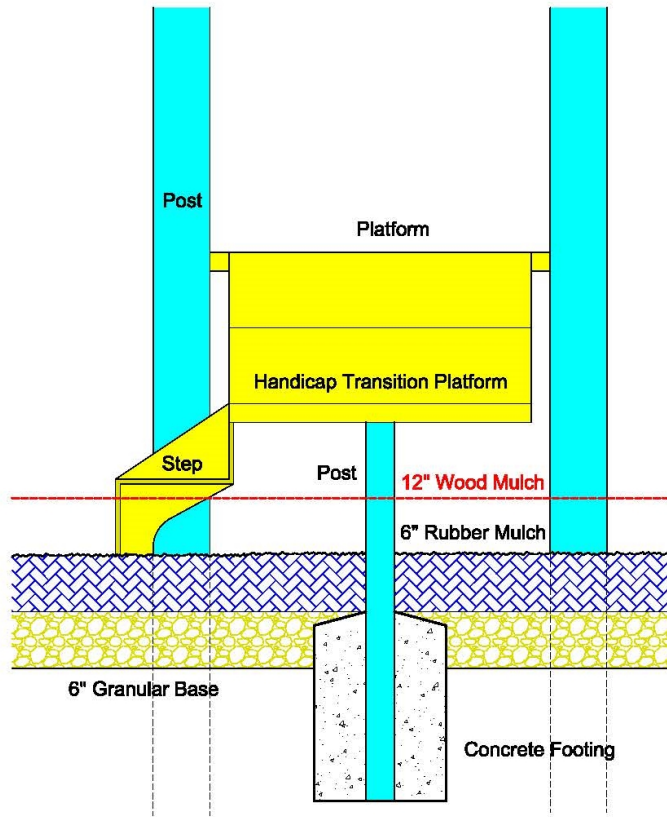
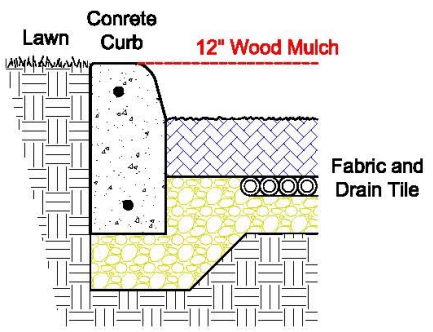
Shredded Wood – Beginning 1997 – 2007

2006

- LRFP Identified Needs District-wide
- Rubber Surfacing (Tradeshows and Barkers Island)
- Engineered shredded wood approaching 10 years installed
 - Composting
 - Microbial growth concerns (mushrooms)
 - Compaction and reduced attenuation
 - Replacement and Lifecycle Cost

2007-2013

- Lakewood and Stowe 2008 rubber nugget (Accessibility ?)
- Stowe, Lowell, Homecroft shredded rubber (Rubberific)
- Piedmont, Lester Park, Laura MacArthur (Rubberific)
- Congdon Park Expansion (Expanded wood vs. replace with rubber)



PLAY STRUCTURE INFORMATION

<i>site</i>	<i>supplier/installer</i>	<i>manufacturer</i>	<i>installed</i>	<i>comments</i>
Congdon Park	Minnesota Playground	Gametime (Phase 1)	2002	(Duluth-Superior general contractor)
	Minnesota Playground	Gametime (Phase 2)	2003	installed by ISD 709 Utility
Homecroft	MN WI Playground	Gametime	2009	
Lakewood	Earl F. Anderson	Landscape Structures	2008	
Laura MacArthur	Flagship Recreation	Landscape Structures	2010	
Lester Park	Flagship Recreation	Landscape Structures	2010	2011 new structure (fire)
Lowell	Earl F. Anderson	Landscape Structures	2009	
Myers-Wilkins	Flagship Recreation	Landscape Structures	2013	
Piedmont	Flagship Recreation	Landscape Structures	2010	
Stowe	Value Recreation	Playworld	1994	
	MN WI Playground	GameTime	2008	

Table 2. Minimum compressed loose-fill surfacing depths

Inches	Of	(Loose-Fill Material)	Protects to	Fall Height (feet)
6*		Shredded/recycled rubber		10
9		Sand		4
9		Pea Gravel		5
9		Wood mulch (non-CCA)		7
9		Wood chips		10

* Shredded/recycled rubber loose-fill surfacing does not compress in the same manner as other loose-fill materials. However, care should be taken to maintain a constant depth as displacement may still occur.

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Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds

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Kerry Leider:
ISD 709 Property and Risk Manager

- Surface Options and Cost Estimates

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Discussion