

Failing Playgrounds Task Force Meeting 1

Tuesday, April 27, 2014



Failing Playgrounds Task Force
sfrecpark.org/failing-playgrounds-2012-bond

In partnership with  **SAN FRANCISCO**
Parks
Alliance

Playground Improvement Highlights

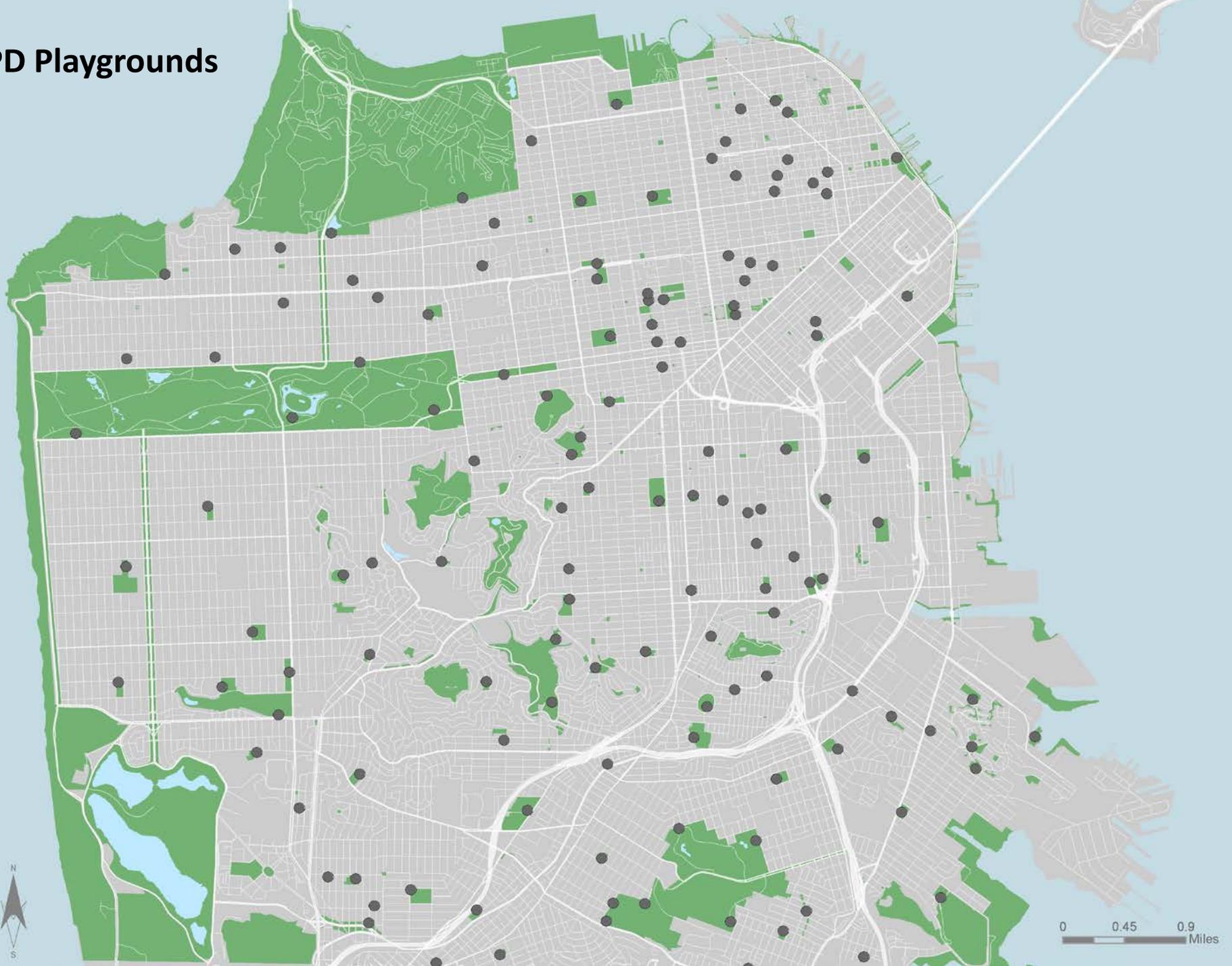
SAN FRANCISCO'S PLAYGROUNDS & RECENT IMPROVEMENTS EFFORTS



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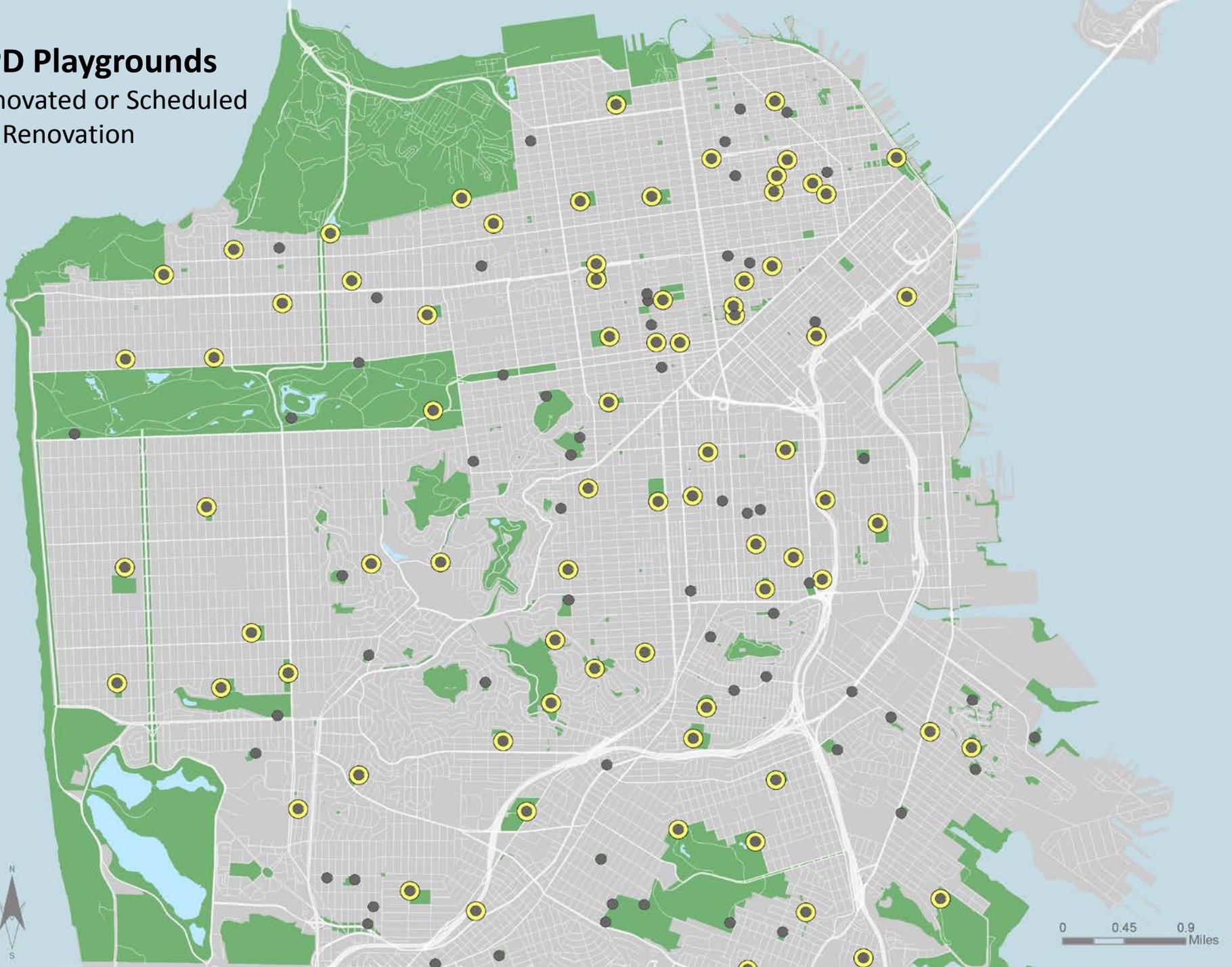
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RPD Playgrounds



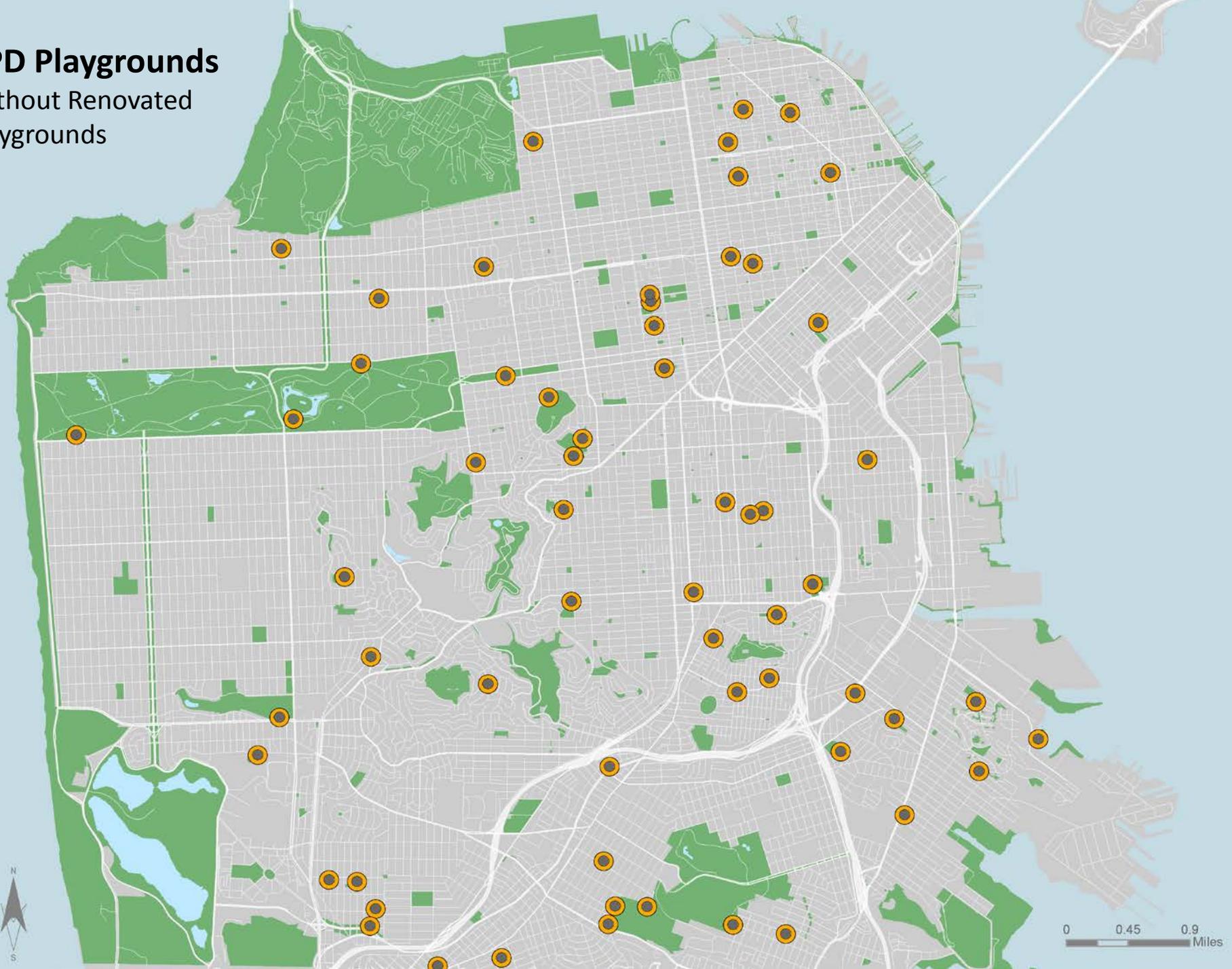
RPD Playgrounds

Renovated or Scheduled
for Renovation



RPD Playgrounds

Without Renovated
Playgrounds



Lafayette Park



Helen Diller Playground



Mission Playground

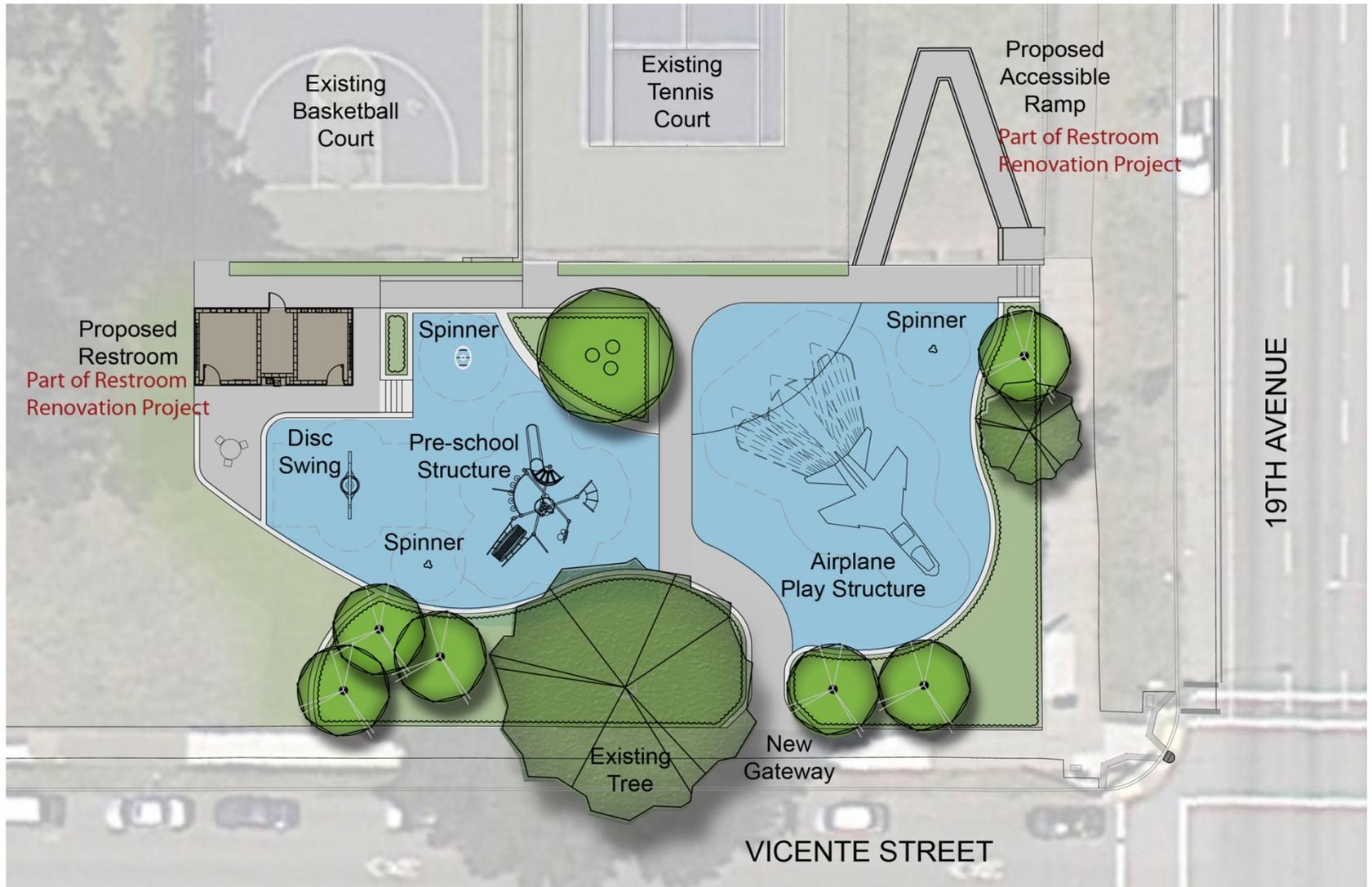




Sue Bierman Playground



Cabrillo Playground



Carl Larsen Playground Concept Plan



South Park Concept Plan

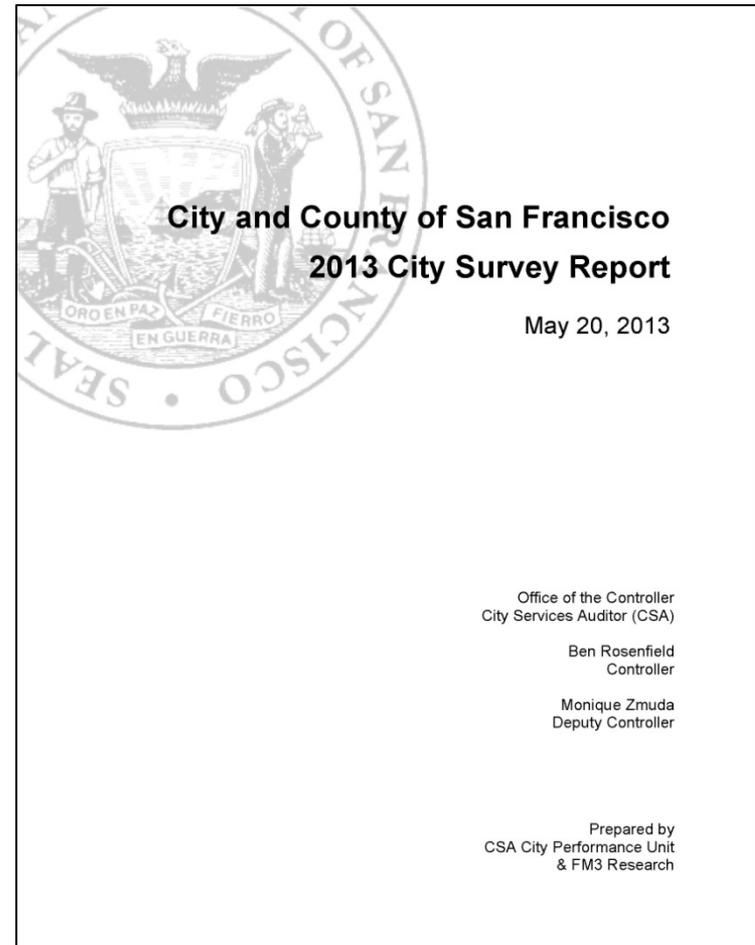
CURRENT PLAYGROUND CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT



Controller's City Survey

This survey

- Objectively addresses residents' use and satisfaction with various City services
- Helps determine community priorities as a part of San Francisco's ongoing planning process.
- Is available at <http://www.sfcontroller.org/citysurvey>.



PF-8 Children's Play Areas

What is evaluated: Areas with children's play equipment, whether independent play equipment (such as swings) or composite structures that include slides, decks, ladders, bridges, etc. All park types, not only those categorized as "playgrounds", may contain children's play areas ("CPAs").

Vegetation in CPAs should be evaluated under Ornamental Gardens, Shrubs, and Ground Covers.
 Hardscaped areas adjacent to, but not within, a CPA should be evaluated under Hardscapes and Trails.

(If this park feature is closed or cannot be found, check this box and make a note on the park Features List.)

No.	Element	Description -- with standard of measurement	Meets standard? <i>(circle one answer)</i>	Comments
8.1	Cleanliness	<p>CPA is free of litter, debris and weeds.</p> <p>The standard is <u>not</u> met if any of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than 10 pieces of litter or debris are visible across any 25' by 25' area or along a 100' line, • any sandbox has any litter or debris, • any rubber surface has sand spilled on to it, or • a needle, condom, broken glass or feces is present. <p>Litter/debris may include cigarette butts, paper, food wrappings, dumped items, limbs and rocks. Leaves should not be rated.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.2	Fencing	<p>All CPA fencing is functional and in good condition.</p> <p>The standard is <u>not</u> met if there is a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protrusion, • hole in any location, or • passage along the base. 	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.3	Functionality of equipment	At least 80% of play equipment is present and functional.	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.4	Graffiti	The CPA and its equipment are free of graffiti.	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.5	Integrity of equipment	<p>CPA equipment is structurally sound.</p> <p>The standard is <u>not</u> met if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% or more of equipment has rust, rot, splinters or dents, • there is a sharp edge or protrusion, or • any bolt, screw or other fastener is missing or loose. 	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.6	Painting	Play apparatus is free of peeling or chipped paint.	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.7	Signage	All RPD signs are legible, free of graffiti, properly installed, and appropriately visible.	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
8.8	Surface quality	8.8.a Sand is loose (not compacted) and at least 12 inches deep.	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
		<i>Circle "n/a" if the sand is wet from rain.</i>	n/a	
		8.8.b All rubber surfacing is smooth and consistent.	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
		The standard is <u>not</u> met if any rubber surfacing:		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is missing, or • has a vertical drop greater than 1/4 inch. 	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>	
Potential Work Order Items				
1				

Children's Play Areas



2013 Parks Survey – Key Findings

- San Francisco residents continue to use parks frequently
- On average, park visitors give city parks a grade of “B” (Good)
- A majority of residents express satisfaction with RPD programs, and ratings are higher than in 2011. Also “B” (Good).



PARKS ALLIANCE SECTION



Failing Playgrounds Task Force



SF Parks Alliance: Our mission is to inspire and promote civic engagement and philanthropy to protect, sustain and enrich San Francisco parks and open green spaces.

San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department: Our mission is to provide enriching recreational activities, maintain beautiful parks and preserve the environment for the well-being of our diverse community.



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The Playground Initiative is a partnership between SF Parks Alliance and the SF Recreation & Parks Department. The Initiative works towards ensuring that all children in San Francisco have access to a safe and engaging play space in their own neighborhood.

The Playground Report Card is a project of the Playground Initiative.

First playground survey tool was developed in 2006, based on the work of the National Program for Playground Safety.

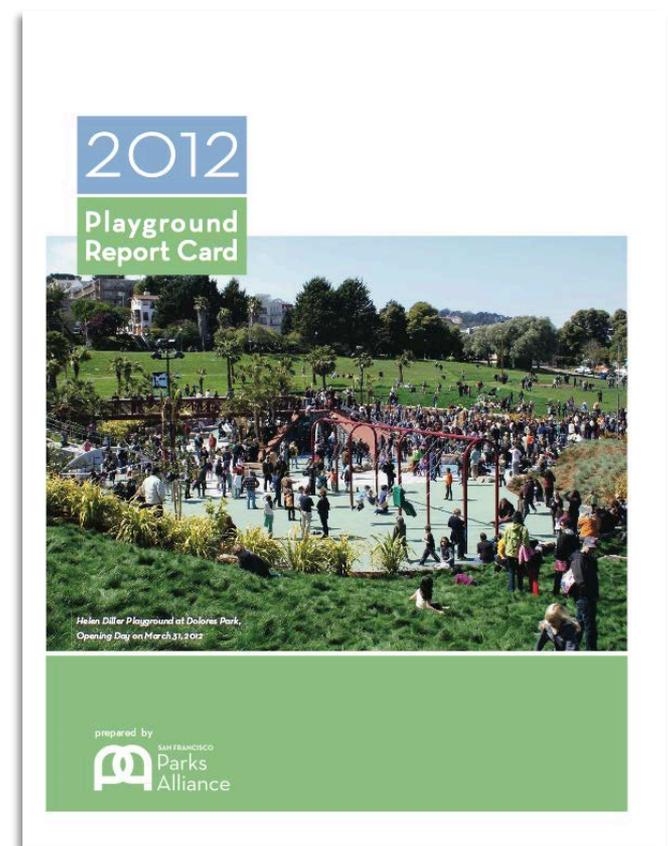
- Every 2 years SFPA and RPD survey all RPD playgrounds (125+) to determine the condition & quality of individual playgrounds.
- The grades that result from the surveys are published in the Playground Report Card.
- Report Cards published in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012.



How is the Playground Report Card Used ?

* IDENTIFY NEED * FUNDRAISING * COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

- Distributed to Mayor's Office, Rec & Parks Department, Board of Supervisors, Recreation and Parks Commission, and other City leaders to inform and foster support for the city's most needy playgrounds.
- Used as data source by SFPA and RPD to identify which playgrounds are most in need of renovations.
- Used by "Friends of" playground groups to bolster fundraising efforts.
- Used as a catalyst for volunteer activation with end goal of improving conditions at select playgrounds.
(Volunteer work days at C & D graded sites)



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Report Card Results

- Since the first Report Card in 2006, grades of playgrounds have consistently improved, with more “A” playground each time and less failing playgrounds. The results show positive, upward momentum in the overall state of San Francisco’s playgrounds.
- Recent improvements due in large part to:
 - * Investments from the 2008 Clean & Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond
 - * RPD’s Community Opportunity Fund
 - * Contributions via “Friends of” playground groups



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Playground Survey Instrument

2012 Playground Survey



Playground Name: _____

Location: _____

Surveyed By: _____

Survey Date: _____

Signage	Yes	No
Are signs posted regarding age limits of children that are allowed on play structures?		
Are signs posted regarding adults needing to be accompanied by a child?		
Are "No Smoking" signs posted in the playground area?		
Are "No dogs" signs posted in the playground area?		
Are signs legible, free of graffiti, and properly installed in visible locations?		

Fencing & Gates	Yes	No	n/a
Are fencing & gates functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages?			

Ground Surface	Yes	No	n/a
Is sand loose (not compacted)?			
Is sand at least 12 inches deep?			
Is 100% of the rubber surface present and adjacent rubber surfaces do not exceed 1/4 inch of vertical elevation difference, creating a tripping hazard?			
Is rubber surface free of holes, worn down areas, and uplifted edges?			
Is rubber surface free of mold and moss?			
Does ground surfacing materials cover concrete footings, anchoring devices, roots, and other protrusions from the ground to avoid a tripping hazard?			

Cleanliness	Yes	No	n/a
Is play area free of litter, debris, and weeds and is sandbox free of all foreign debris? (No if more than 10 pieces of litter/debris, lightly scattered are visible in a 25 x 25 foot area or along a 100 foot line. Leaves do not count as debris. Standard is not met if needles, condoms, broken glass, or feces are present.)			
Is rubber surface free of sand?			

2012 Playground Survey

Equipment	Yes	No	n/a
Does all equipment have a fall zone that extends at least 6 feet in all directions from the perimeter of the equipment?			
Is all play equipment (excluding swing seats) free of broken or damaged parts?			
Are swing seats in good condition, free of wear, sharp edges, cracking or splitting?			
Are all swing chain "S" hooks closed?			
Are equipment chains and cables secure and not worn more than 75%?			
Is the play equipment free of corrosion, rotting, or metal fatigue? <i>points.</i>			
Is the play equipment free of any sharp or rough points, corners, or edges?			
Are all pipe ends covered with undamaged protective caps or plugs that cannot be removed without the use of additional tools?			
Is the play equipment free of any exposed moving parts or other junctures that create dangerous pinch or crush points?			
Is the play equipment free of any gaps greater than 3.5 inches and less than 9 inches wide (which would be head entrapment hazards)?			
Is all play equipment securely anchored to the ground?			
Are all play equipment and climbing apparatus posts, platforms, and steps level and upright, without any signs of tilting or sinking?			
Are all handles and rungs on play equipment securely fastened or welded and not worn more than 75%?			
Are all raised platforms surrounded by a secure guardrail or protective barrier?			
Are all nuts, bolts, fastening devices, welds, clamps, & connections secure?			
Is all play equipment generally smooth and free of large splinters?			
Are painted structures free of peeling or chipped paint?			

Additional Information	Yes
Are there any parts missing from equipment? <i>If yes, list missing parts in the "Other" section</i>	
Does the layout of the play equipment allow for easy supervision of children from outside or around the equipment?	
Is the play area and its equipment free of graffiti?	
Other (list any additional information that you feel wasn't captured in this survey):	



Playground Survey Instrument

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	<SAMPLE PLAYGROUND>	Community Survey (NAME)			RPD Survey (NAME)				
2	Signage	Yes	No	n/a	Value	Yes	No	n/a	Value
3	Are signs posted regarding age limits of children allowed on play structures?		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25
4	Are signs posted regarding adults needing to be accompanied by a child?		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25
5	Are "No Smoking" signs posted in the playground area?	0.25			0.25	0.25			0.25
6	Are "No dogs" signs posted in the playground area?	0.25			0.25	0.25			0.25
7	Are signs legible, free of graffiti, and properly installed in visible locations?		0.25		0.25		0.25		0.25
8									
9	Fencing & Gates	Yes	No	n/a		Yes	No	n/a	
10	Are fencing & gates functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages?	1			1	1			1
11									
12	Ground Surface	Yes	No	n/a		Yes	No	n/a	
13	Is sand loose (not compacted)?	0.5			0.5	0.5			0.5
14	Is sand at least 12" in depth?		1		1		1		1
15	Is 100% of rubber surface present and adjacent rubber surfaces do not exceed 1/4 inch of vertical elevation difference creating a tripping hazard?			1	1			1	1
16	Is rubber surface free of holes, worn down areas, and uplifted edges?			1	1			1	1
17	Is rubber surface free of mold and moss?			0.5	0.5			0.5	0.5
18	Does ground surfacing materials cover concrete footings, anchoring devices, roots, and other protrusions from the ground to avoid a tripping hazard?		1		1	1			1
19									
20	Cleanliness	Yes	No	n/a		Yes	No	n/a	
21	Is play area free of litter, debris, and weeds and is sandbox free of all foreign debris? (No if more than 10 pieces of litter/debris, lightly scattered are visible in a 25' x 25' area or along a 100' line. Leaves do not count as debris. Standard is not)	0.5			0.5		0.5		0.5
22	Is rubber surface free of sand?			0.25	0.25			0.25	0.25
23	Equipment	Yes	No	n/a		Yes	No	n/a	
24	Does all equipment have a fall zone that extends at least 6' in all directions from the perimeter of the equipment?	1			1	1			1
25	Is all play equipment (excluding swing seats) free of broken or damaged parts?	1.5			1.5	1.5			1.5
26	Are swing seats in good condition, free of wear, sharp edges, cracking or spitting?	0.5			0.5	0.5			0.5
27	Are all swing chain "S" hooks closed?		0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5
28	Are equipment chains and cables secure and not worn more than 75%?	1			1	1			1
29	Is the play equipment free of corrosion, rotting, or metal fatigue? Look especially at connecting, fastening, and pivot points.	1			1	1			1
30	Is the play equipment free of any sharp or rough points, corners, or edges?	1			1		1		1
31	Are all pipe ends covered with undamaged protective caps or plugs that cannot be removed without the use of additional tools?	1			1	1			1
32	Is the play equipment free of any exposed moving parts or other junctures which create dangerous pinch or crush points?		1		1		1		1
33	Is the play equipment free of any gaps greater than 3.5 inches and less than 9 inches wide (which would be head entrapment hazards)?	1			1	1			1
34	Is all play equipment securely anchored to the ground?	1			1	1			1
35	Are all play equipment and climbing apparatus posts, platforms, and steps level and upright, without any signs of tilting or sinking?	1			1	1			1
36	Are all handles and rungs on play equipment securely fastened or welded and not worn more than 75%?	1			1	1			1
37	Are all raised platforms surrounded by a secure guardrail or protective barrier?	1			1	1			1
38	Are all nuts, bolts, fastening devices, welds, clamps, & connections secure?		1		1	1			1
39	Is all play equipment generally smooth and free of large splinters?	1			1		1		1
40	Are painted structures free of peeling or chipped paint?		1		1		1		1
41		YES	NO	N/A		YES	NO	N/A	
42	Total	15.5	6.25			16	5.75		
43	Grade	0.71	C			0.74	C		
44	Final Grade (average of all surveys taken)	0.72	C						



Ground Surface

A playground's ground surface is vital to protecting children from injury when falling or jumping off of equipment.

In San Francisco, the 3 types of ground surface you will see in public playgrounds are:

Sand



Rubber Tile



Poured-in-place rubber



Sand should be at least 12 inches deep and not compacted.

Rubber surfacing should be undamaged and free of tripping hazards.

All ground surfaces should cover concrete footings and anchoring devices.



Cleanliness

All playgrounds should be free of dangerous debris such as needles and broken glass.

Rubber surfaces should be kept free of sand as sand wears the surface down over time.

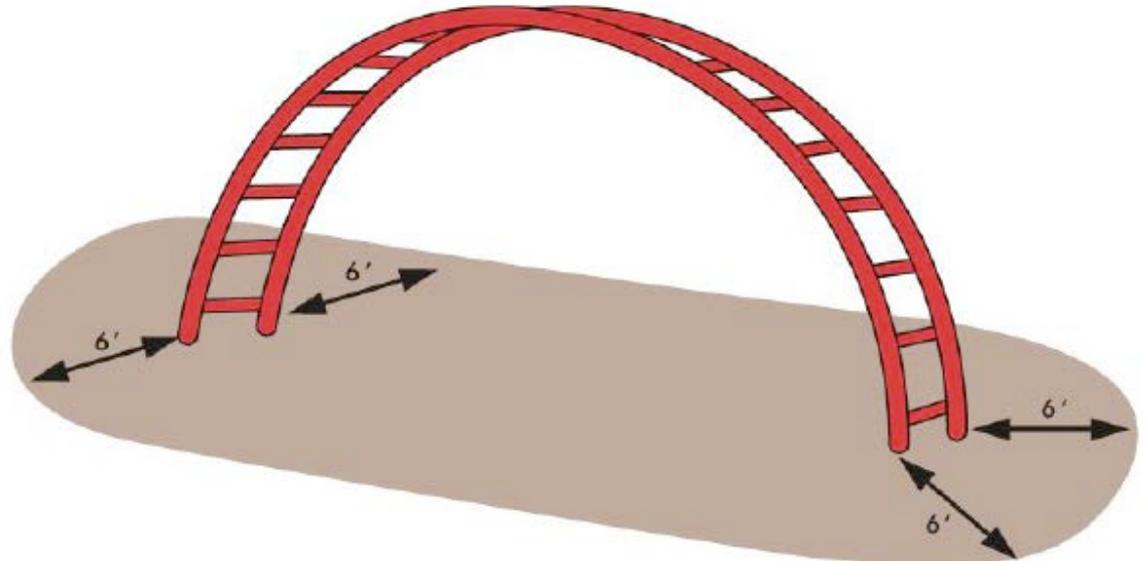
Ground surface should have no more than 10 pieces of visible litter or debris in a 25 x 25 foot area or along a 100 foot line.



Play Equipment

Checking for adequate fall zones.

A fall zone is the space under and around playground equipment. It should be covered with protective surfacing and extend a minimum of six (6) feet in all directions from the edge of stationary play equipment.



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Play Equipment

Head entrapment: Is the play equipment free of any gaps greater than 3.5 inches and less than 9 inches wide (which would be head entrapment hazards)?

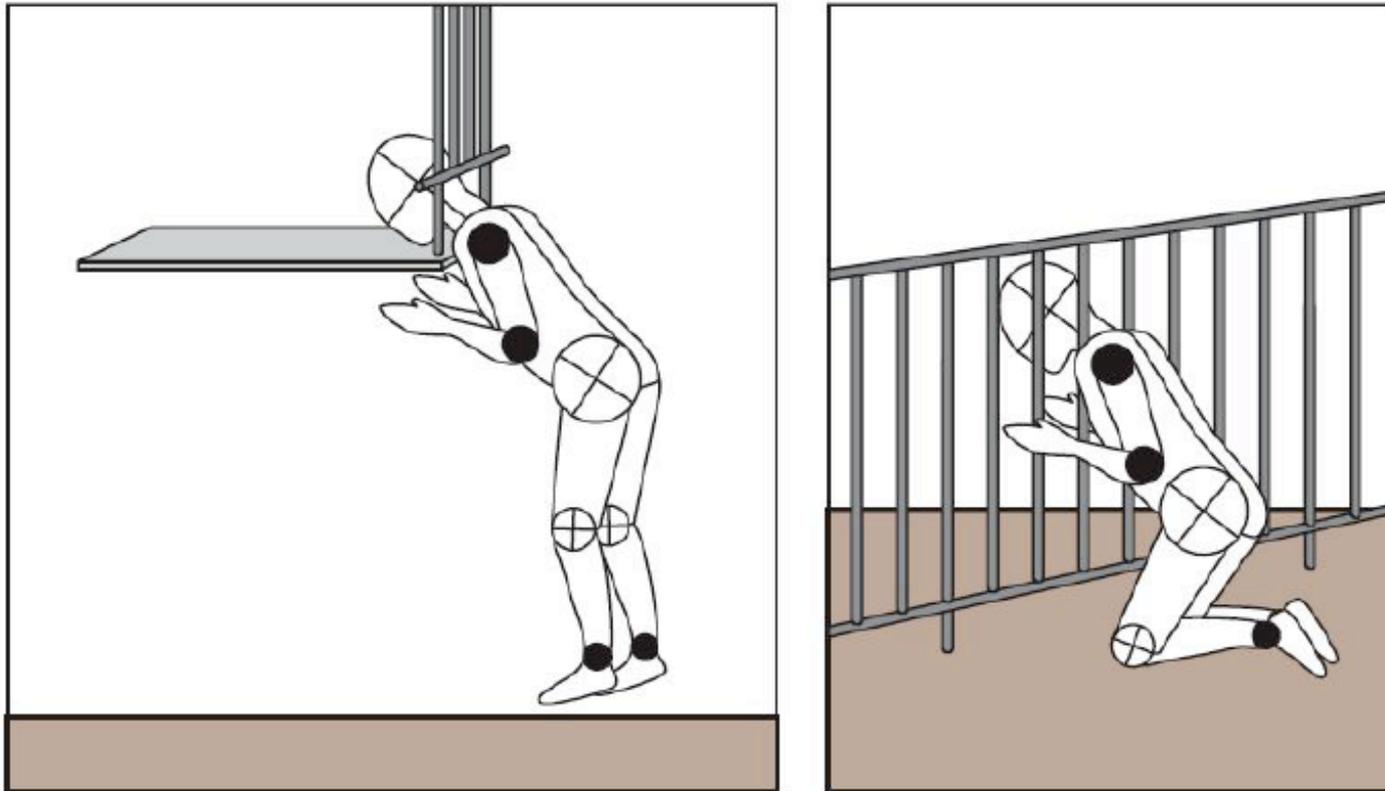


Figure 4. Examples of entrapment below a barrier and between the vertical bars of a barrier.





2014 Reassessment Survey

Sites surveyed between October 2013 and March 2014

Same survey instrument used as in previous Playground Report Cards

Each playground surveyed by:

- RPD staff person and
- SFPA staff person or community volunteer

Two survey scores averaged to make the final grade.

Reassessment Report published in 2014 & will provide data point for Failing Playground Task Force.



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SF Playground Report Card Recap



The Playground Report Card provides an objective basis for raising and allocating resources, and for fostering community organizing around playground needs and improvements.

The ultimate goal of the Playground Initiative is to so greatly improve the overall condition of all our city's playgrounds that no "failing" playgrounds remain.



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