



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: December 11, 2024
TO: Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager
FROM: Nathan Ullyot, Director
DEPT: Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Park Slide Replacement Update

Below is brief update of replaced slides that have been mentioned at public comment over the past several months.

Pickett Park – The replacement slide for Pickett Park was installed last week. A picture of the installed slide is below.

Wilkinson Park – As a reminder there is a significant investment being made at Wilkinson Park through the allocation of Community Development Block Grant and Residential Construction Tax funding. This investment includes a full playground replacement and a dog park. Because of this impending improvement, the slide replacement will not occur prior to the full playground replacement. Staff evaluated the current playground structure and modified it by taking off the broken slides and platforms and repurposing the platform walls to close of any drops.

The modification will allow us to keep the remainder of the structure open, including two slides that are operational. There is a picture below showing the modification. You will not see the removed slides that were the concerning factors.

Jamaica Park – We replaced the large slide at Jamaica Park due to vandalism. A picture of this slide replacement is below.

Challenges of Slide Replacements

Ideally, failing slides would be identified and replaced prior to needing to be closed off. When staff identifies a failing slide, staff places an order. The slides are fabricated over approximately 6 months. Due to the older age of our play structures, each replacement slide must be fabricated rather than purchased “off the shelf.”

Another challenge of slide replacement is the manufacturer's recommended environmental condition for replacement. Slides should be replaced in warmer temperatures when the nighttime lows are above 50 degrees. The materials are generally a plastic that could become brittle and crack as they are forced into position. This can cause an additional delay even if the replacement is received.

Deferred Maintenance

Staff estimate an additional 30 play structures will reach the end of their useful life in the next decade. Our most recent playground replacements have exceeded \$1 million. At \$700k for capital maintenance Parks can replace, at some level, no more than one playground per year if the decision to do nothing else with capital maintenance. Parks Maintenance was provided \$700k in FY25 for capital maintenance and repairs. This is the primary funding available for repairs in our park system. This includes repairs/replacement of things like hardscape, irrigation, bathrooms, and park amenities including play structures/slides. Staff estimate that 15 of 65 play structures in our park system are past useful life and need to be replaced.



From Left to Right: Jamaica Park Slide Replacement, Wilkinson Park Modification, and Pickett Park Slide Replacement