

K-12 School Playground Plan Review Application



Before adding a K-12 school playground or moving/modifying equipment, you must submit your plans to Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for review (see Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 246-366-040).

Process

Step 1—Submit plan review application packet by mail or in person to Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

We recommend you submit your plans before ordering equipment. Payment for a minimum of 1 hour is required at submittal.

Step 2—We review for compliance and safety. We may ask you for additional materials.

Step 3—We email an approval letter to you.

Step 4—Install equipment. Before the playground is used, call (253) 798-4430 to schedule a final inspection.

Step 5—We complete final inspection.

Step 6—Open the playground.

We will bill you for plan review, site visits and final inspection at the current hourly rate listed in our fee schedule (www.tpchd.org/fees). If you begin construction before we approve your plans or open the playground before we complete your final inspection, you will be billed at double the hourly rate.

Questions? Call (253) 798-4430 or email communitysafety@tpchd.org.

Application Packet

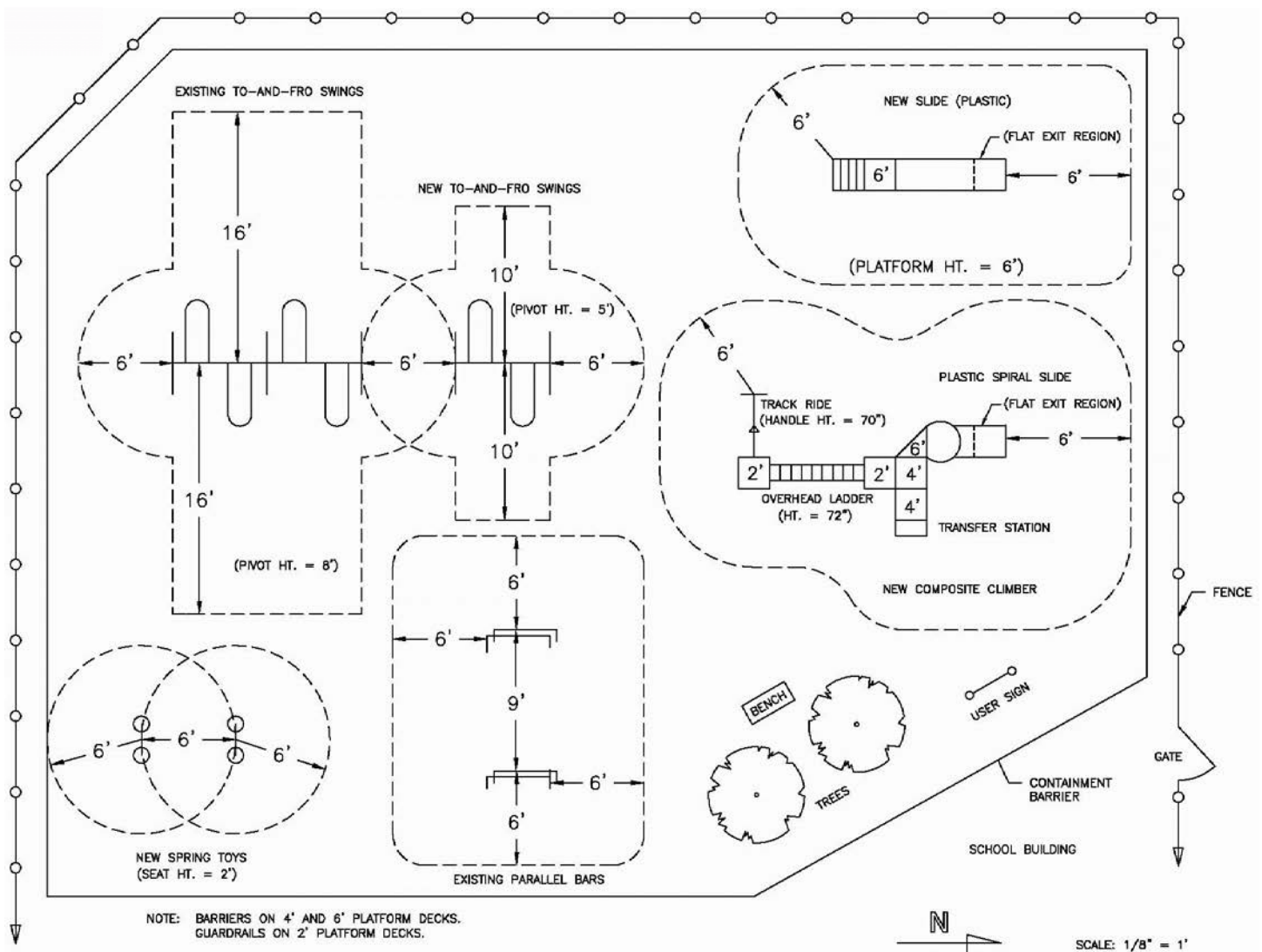
- 1. Completed K-12 School Playground Plan Review Application.
- 2. Overhead drawing or footprint plan of playground layout (see next page for example) showing the following information.
 - a. Containment border for all surfacing material under the playground equipment.
 - b. Location of fences, trees, buildings, concrete, asphalt and septic system drainfields.
 - c. Directional arrow showing true north.
 - d. If drawn to scale, indicate scale.
 - e. Location of existing playground equipment.
 - f. All equipment to be installed. Note activities attached to composite (multi-activity) structures.
 - g. Use zone around each piece of equipment. Use arrows to show distances between each piece of equipment (existing and new) and from equipment to containment border.
 - h. Distance of slide use exit zone from end of slide and length of flat exit region at end of slide bed (11 inches minimum length, 0 to -4 degree slope). Slide exit use zone is equal to slide height and measured from end of slide bed (minimum 6 feet; does not need to be greater than 8 feet).
 - i. Height of all decks or platforms for each piece of equipment. Indicate if platforms have guardrails or barriers.
 - j. Height of all balance beams, spring toys, seesaws or other equipment less than 30 inches tall. Maximum height for balance beams is 12 inches for children 2 to 5 years and 16 inches for children 5 to 12 years.
 - k. Height of all upper body equipment (arch climbers, overhead ladders, etc.). Maximum allowable height is 60 inches for children 2 to 5 years and 84 inches for children 5 to 12 years.
 - l. Handle height for track rides. Allowable height is 64 to 78 inches.
 - m. Height of all swing structures. To-and-fro swings are measured from ground to pivot point. Tire swings are measured from seat to pivot point.

K-12 School Playground Plan Review Application

- ❑ 3. Manufacturer cut sheets with pictures of each new piece of equipment and design specifications.
- ❑ 4. Letter from manufacturer stating equipment being purchased meets or exceeds standards in the current American Society for Testing and Materials Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use (ASTM F 1487-11) and U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook November 2010 (CPSC PPSH).
- ❑ 5. Manufacturer documents for installation, surfacing and equipment compliance, maintenance/repair instructions, inspection procedures, parts lists and installation instructions.
- ❑ 6. If equipment pieces are located closer than minimum use zones specified in the current ASTM F 1487-11 and CPSC PPSH, manufacturer letter stating equipment is designed to be installed in this configuration (i.e., "functionally linked").

Example Overhead Drawing of Proposed Playground Layout

Provided only as an illustration of information required on plan.



K-12 School Playground Plan Review Application



OFFICE USE ONLY

Project

New Equipment Relocating Equipment Other _____

Est. Start Date _____ Est. Completion Date _____

Site

School Name _____ School District _____

Address _____ City, Zip _____

School

Project Manager _____ Email _____

Address _____ City, Zip _____

Office Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Billing

Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Office Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Equipment

Company _____

Representative _____

Office Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Installer

Company _____

Representative _____

Office Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Surfacing

What types of surfaces will be installed?

- Unitary synthetic materials* Engineered wood fiber* Sand Pea gravel Wood chips
 Shredded Tires Shredded bark

How deep will materials be? _____ inches

**ADA accessible surfacing materials*

For more information about surfacing materials, refer to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook 2010 (CPSC PPSH) section 2.4, page 8 to 10.

Site Design

What is the intended user age group for the playground? 2 to 5 years 5 to 12 years

If the playground contains equipment for both age groups, does a distance separate the two areas? Yes No

Will posted signs indicate the appropriate age of users? Yes No

Is the playground fenced and separated from traffic? Yes No

Are barriers and landscaping designed to allow users to be supervised? Yes No

Is the site level and well-drained? Yes No

Is a septic system located on school grounds? Yes No

If yes, the playground cannot be located over the drainfield. Show drainfield on overhead drawing/footprint plan.

K-12 School Playground Plan Review Application



Equipment Design

If installing fulcrum seesaws, seats have padding underneath to prevent arms and legs from being crushed between the seat and the ground? Yes No

What is the seesaw height (distance between maximum attainable height and the ground)? _____ inches

Slide bed exit region length (portion parallel to ground) _____ inches

Does the slide layout meet the minimum ASTM F 1487-11 and CPSC PPSH slide exit use zone based on slide height? Yes No

Equipment Height

To-and-fro Swings (distance from ground to pivot point) _____ inches

Tire swings (distance from seat to pivot point) _____ inches

Upper body equipment (maximum height of equipment) _____ inches

Spring toys (height of seat or highest designated play surface) _____ inches

Balance beams _____ inches

Track rides (handle height above ground) _____ inches

Equipment Not Recommended for Children 2 to 5 Years

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Free standing arch climbers | Swinging gates | Free standing climbing events with flexible components |
| Chain or cable walks | Parallel bars | Fulcrum seesaws, unless they are spring-centering |
| Vertical sliding poles | Track rides | Long spiral slides (more than one 360° turn) |
| Overhead rings | Log rolls | |

Equipment Not Recommended for Public Playgrounds

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|
| Animal figure swings | Giant strides | Climbing ropes not secured at both ends |
| Swinging gates | Rope swings | Swinging dual exercise rings |
| Trapeze bars | Trampolines | Multiple occupancy swings |

Equipment Layout

Refer to CPSC PPSH section 2.2, page 5 to 8 for guidance. Consider these recommendations.

- Locate ADA transfer stations near school entrances to minimize travel distance.
- Add extra circulation zones to minimum required use zones to reduce congestion.
- Locate active, physical activities in a separate area from more passive or quiet activities.
- Disperse popular, heavily used equipment to avoid crowding.
- Locate composite structures so play and traffic patterns around adjacent components are complementary.
- Locate slide exits and moving equipment like swings and merry-go-rounds at the edge or corners of the playground.
- Guy wires, power lines and tree limbs should be at least 7 feet above the playground surface.

Signature

Title

Date