

# **PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT FOR**

## **THE CITY OF SUMMIT**

**CITY OF SUMMIT, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Prepared For:**

**The City of Summit  
512 Springfield Avenue  
Summit, New Jersey 07901**

**Prepared By:**

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**File No.:**

**SCE-R12675.021**

**June 2022**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Summit is a bustling community in the heart of the County of Union, State of New Jersey. It is a dynamic municipality teeming with rich history, cultural diversity and vibrant opportunities for businesses and families alike. Summit offers residents a treasured palette of community assets in its high achieving public schools, location within the New York City Metropolitan region, an active business environment and recreational facilities.

A 6.05-square mile city of almost 23,000 residents, the City of Summit is home to more than eight (8) parks, fields and recreational facilities that have allowed the community to facilitate an active and vibrant atmosphere for generations. From softball fields to picnic pavilions and playgrounds, this Playground Assessment looks to not only accommodate the City's present-day demands, but to plan for a continuously growing and active community in the generations to come.

Ensuring that the City of Summit's existing playgrounds can keep up with the community's increasingly active and continuously growing demographic **SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.** (SCE) has prepared the following Playground Assessment which seeks to evaluate the condition of existing playgrounds, identify potential locations for new playgrounds and make recommendations to improve existing play opportunities while prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity.

## 2.0 EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS EVALUATION

### 2.1 Mable Park (Village Green)

#### 2.1.1 Assessment

The Mable Park Playground is located within the southeast corner of the Village Green off Summit Avenue. The playground consists of two (2) separate playground areas, each with various play equipment structures. The first playground area is located on the south side of the park property, just west of the basketball courts. This playground features a combination play structure with equipment for both 2-5 and 5-12 year old age groups. The unit was manufactured by Playground Environments and consists of steel construction for the frame, posts, railings, and roof panels with recycled plastic lumber decking. Overall, the equipment on this structure is in good condition with minimal paint chipping or corrosion of steel observed and all hardware intact. Play features of this structure include one (1) slide for the 2-5 year old age group and two (2) larger slides for the 5-12 year old age group, wood suspension bridge and several overhead climbing pieces. It appears that all components of the play equipment structure are intact.

Accessibility to this unit is good with a brick paver pathway extending into the playground area which also provides access from Elm Street and Summit Avenue. In general, the brick pavers are in good condition with minimal settling observed between pavers. The Playground Environments structure also contains a ramp to the first level deck, improving accessibility to the unit, however there is no activity located on this level and access to higher decks and slides is not possible for users in a wheelchair. Surfacing for the playground area consists of Fibar and needs

replenishment to meet the required depth for fall height safety. The Fibar is held in place by plastic curbing around the perimeter which is in good condition. Seating is adequate in this playground area with several recycled plastic lumber benches and one (1) picnic table located around the perimeter. There are also (2) trash receptacles and two (2) recycling receptacles located in this area. There is one (1) sign for the playground area attached to the chain link fencing at the basketball courts which identifies the playground name and provides information on its dedication. The area is mostly open with no fencing separating this playground area from the remainder of the park. Overall this play unit lacks inclusivity as no ground based play opportunities exist for users with mobility issues and the ramps do not provide access to any type of play feature on the first level. This playground also lacks any type of sensory or cognitive play equipment or sheltered spaces which would serve to engage users of all abilities.

The second playground area within the Mabie Park Playground is located north of the basketball courts and is separated into two (2) areas; one (1) area for a small play structure and one (1) set of swings and a separate area with three (3) bays of swings. The play equipment structure is manufactured by Kompan and appears to be for the 5-12 year old age group based on deck heights and spiral climbing pole, however there is an existing playground sign from Burke which states the equipment is for the 2-5 year old age group, likely from a previous structure that was replaced. The Kompan equipment consists of a steel frame with steel decks and plastic panels, plastic railings and plastic roof panels. Overall, this equipment is in poor to fair condition. There is discoloration and mechanical damage on the plastic pieces and corrosion noticed on some of the metal pieces. Overall activities of this small structure are adequate with two (2) slides, climbing panel, climbing pole and several accessory pieces such as binoculars and panels with moving parts. The swings in this area consist of two (2) belt swings which are in good condition. Access to this play unit is poor with no paved or hard surface to grant access for users with limited mobility. Surfacing consists of Fibar which needs replenishment to provide adequate fall protection. Surfacing material is held in place by plastic curbing. The curbing is in good condition but is not consistently level with bowed segments throughout, especially along the Summit Avenue sidewalk.

Inclusivity and accessibility are both lacking in this playground area. Although there are special components for users to engage in that have sensory, cognitive, and social components, they are not freely accessible to users with mobility issues and once again general access to the equipment would provide a challenge to users in a wheelchair or with other mobility issues. One other item to note is the proximity of the play unit to the Summit Avenue sidewalk making this area feel very exposed to pedestrians on the sidewalk and vehicle traffic on Summit Avenue and has the potential to make users with certain social or sensory needs feel uncomfortable.

The other small play area north of the basketball courts consists of a swing unit with three (3) bays with a total of four (4) belt swings and two (2) bucket swings. The swings appear to be manufactured by GameTime and are in good condition. Surfacing in this area consists of Fibar and is once again needs replenishment. The surfacing is contained by the same black plastic curbing as in the other play areas and is in good condition. Access to the swings is poor with no paved or hard surface

pathway. Seating for the play areas north of the basketball courts is limited to three (3) square picnic tables situated between the swings and play unit; no benches are present in this area. There is one (1) trash receptacle and one (1) recycling receptacle present in the area. This area is partially enclosed by a mixture of chain link fence styles on the north, east and south sides. Inclusivity and accessibility is lacking in the swing area, there are no pathways with a smooth and stable surface providing access to the swings and there are no special seats equipped to allow users with special needs to use the swings alongside other users.

#### *2.1.2 Recommendation*

SCE recommends that the large existing structure from Playground Environments remain as it is in good condition and has several more years of use left. SCE would suggest adding some freestanding activity and sensory panels to this playground to help make it more inclusive. It is also recommended that additional Fibar be added to the playground area. SCE recommends completely removing the Kompan play equipment and swings and creating a larger, unified playground area with playground equipment from a reputable playground equipment manufacturer. The new structure could be custom designed to include a theme if desired and to include ramps and accessible features throughout the structure to make it truly inclusive. SCE recommends adding new swings with both typical belt and bucket seats as well as specialty seats which allow for a wide range of users. It is also recommended that a free-standing piece of equipment be installed that can offer a place of refuge for users with special sensory or social needs. This could be something like one of the tunnels, dome structure or "playhouse" structures offered by many of the playground equipment manufacturers. Since this would be a new playground structure, SCE recommends switching to a poured-in-place safety surfacing as opposed to Fibar. This will provide a surface that is more easily traversed by users in wheelchairs or with mobility limitations and avoids the need for raised plastic curbing. New seating, including both benches and picnic/game tables would be recommended adjacent to the new playground structure in an area that allows for clear sight of the equipment.

## **2.2 Memorial Park Playground**

### *2.2.1 Assessment*

The Memorial Park Playground is located north of Myrtle Avenue behind the park office building. The playground consists of two (2) separate play structures and a four (4) bay swing set. All equipment is manufactured by GameTime and is in good condition despite being several years old. The larger play unit is a combination unit with activities for the 2-5 year old age group and 5-12 year old age group and is mainly composed of steel posts, railings and decking with plastic panels, slides and tunnel segments. There is a ramp on this unit which improves accessibility and allows users in a wheelchair to access the small 2-5 year old slide. A plastic tunnel then takes users to the higher deck where there are two (2) slides and various climbing apparatuses. The smaller play unit is mainly plastic with a fish motif and consists of two (2) small slides and panels with moving parts. The swings contain a total of four (4) bays with a total of six (6) belt swings and two (2) bucket swings.

Access to the playground area is good with concrete sidewalks and paved asphalt pathways leading users from Myrtle Avenue around the building and to the playground. The playground is surfaced with Fibar and needs replenishment to meet fall height protection requirements. Fibar for the playground is held in place by brown plastic curbing staked into the ground. The plastic curbing is in good condition but could be a potential tripping hazard for people moving in and out of the playground by stepping over the curb due to a high reveal on each side. Multiple benches and picnic tables are located around the perimeter of the playground and provide adequate seating. There is also a nearby pavilion structure to provide shade with additional seating surrounding the pavilion. Trash and recycling receptacles are located nearby. The area is fully open with no perimeter fencing present. Site lighting is provided by several pole and building mounted flood lights. There is no signage identifying the playground or age groups.

Inclusivity at this playground is fair. The larger unit does have a ramp which allows wheelchair bound or users with mobility issues to access the structure along with one slide and activity panels. In addition, the two activity panels on the larger unit can be accessed from the ground and do provide some cognitive and social skill enrichment. The swings are not equipped with specialty seats to allow users with special needs to use the swings alongside other users. The smaller unit contains an activity panel which provides cognitive and social skill enrichment, in addition the small, enclosed nature of the unit can provide refuge for users with special social or sensory needs.

### *2.2.2 Recommendation*

Although the existing playground is in relatively good condition, SCE recommends full replacement of both the 2-5 structure and 5-12 structure with newer equipment as this equipment is nearing its typical use lifespan. To save on costs the existing framework for the swings could be salvaged and some of the seats could be swapped out for an accessible swing seat to improve inclusivity. SCE recommends the City replace the existing play structures with new separate play structures for the 2-5 age group and the 5-12 age group. SCE would recommend using products that are manufactured by a reputable playground manufacturer and recommends that these structures, especially the larger 5-12 age unit be designed with ramps and features which improve accessibility and inclusivity on the unit. Since this would be a nearly full replacement, SCE recommends switching from Fibar to poured in place rubber safety surfacing with a flush concrete curb. There is adequate seating adjacent to the playground, however much of it is oriented away from the playground. SCE recommends installing additional benches to match the existing on site around the perimeter of the playground with clear line of site to the play equipment.

## **2.3 Tatlock Playground**

### *2.3.1 Assessment*

The playground at Tatlock Park is located north of Washington Elementary School located off Morris Avenue and situated within a grove of various shade trees. The

park is accessible from a paved asphalt pathway from the adjacent school parking lot and through various cut-outs in the plastic curbing. The slope of the pathway from the parking lot may be out of tolerance for ADA compliance and may need to be regraded. The playground features a variety of play equipment, but is geared towards the 5-12 year old age group. There is one large, sprawling play structure which features several slides linked by various overhead climbing and balance components. Overall, this large play structure manufactured by GameTime is in poor to good condition with some climbing pieces missing components, fading on the red plastic pieces and some corrosion observed on some of the hardware as well as missing hardware. In addition to the large play structure, there are three (3) sets of single bay swings with a total of four (4) belt swings and two (2) bucket swings. Additional free-standing equipment includes a small zip line (metal track), serpentine overhead bars, pull-up bars and a large net climber. The swings and freestanding units are in poor to good condition.

Surfacing consists of Fibar and is in need of replenishment to meet required fall height protection requirements. The Fibar surfacing is contained by a black plastic curbing which is in good condition. In some locations the curbing has an approximately twelve-inch (12") reveal on both sides which presents a tripping hazard for people stepping over the curb. Seating within the playground consists of three (3) benches and one (1) picnic table. Additional benches are located outside of the playground area but are oriented facing away from the playground area. Trash and recycling receptacles are located within the playground area. No formal signage for the playground exists, however there is one sign identifying that the park is part of the "Kids's Recreation Trust Fund" grant program. No site lighting was observed in this area. The playground does have plenty of shade thanks to the large shade trees found throughout the playground and around the perimeter.

In terms of accessibility and inclusivity this playground gets a poor rating. The large playground structure and all freestanding units do not allow for play opportunities for users in wheelchairs or with mobility issues. There are no ramps to allow access to any part of the structure and there are no ground-based activities. Similarly, there are no activities specifically geared toward developing cognitive or sensory skills. Most of the equipment here is geared toward physical activity so this playground does allow for development of physical and social skills. As previously mentioned, there is only one paved walkway into the playground area and the slope may be out of tolerance for ADA requirements.

### 2.3.2 Recommendation

Based on the poor to fair condition of the existing playground equipment, SCE recommends full replacement. Since this is a large area to work with, SCE would recommend one large structure with combined areas and activities for both 2-5 and the 5-12 age groups. This large structure should be custom designed to include ramps, slides and other activities which can be accessed and used by playground visitors of all abilities. SCE also recommends the addition of various free-standing equipment throughout the area that can be used by both age groups. SCE recommends a variety of freestanding equipment that engages users on multiple levels including net climbers, overhead bars, rotating or swinging equipment and

activity panels. Although this neighborhood is located in a mainly residential area, the healthy tree canopy gives this playground a wooded feel and perhaps a nature-based theme would be appropriate at this site.

SCE recommends laying out the equipment to avoid the many existing trees in and around the playground area which provide beneficial shade to the program. Since this is a large playground with many trees within the playground area, SCE recommends maintaining a Fibar surface. There is a lack of seating within the playground area and SCE recommends installing several new benches around the perimeter of the playground and under some of the existing shade trees. Picnic tables could also be installed in certain area to provide a gathering place within the playground.

## **2.4 Aquatic Center Playground**

### *2.4.1 Assessment*

The aquatic center playground is located within the Summit Family Aquatic Center Complex off Ashwood Avenue. The playground area is in the northwest corner of the aquatic center complex and is accessible by a sloped concrete sidewalk or a set of concrete stairs with stainless steel railings. The sidewalk appeared steep and may exceed tolerances for ADA compliance for a sloped walkway. The playground consists of two (2) separate playground structures manufactured by Little Tikes. Both play structures are mainly composed of plastic side and roof panels with steel posts and decking, both structures are in good condition. Both units appear to be only a few years of age based on their physical condition. The smaller structure is geared for the 2-5 year old age group. Activities are somewhat lacking on the smaller unit which only has one (1) slide, one (1) pod climber and one (1) activity panel. The larger structure is geared toward the 5-12 year old age group and has slightly more activities incorporated with two (2) slides, one (1) arch climber and several activity panels.

Surfacing consists of Fibar and needs replenishment to meet fall height protection requirements. Fibar is held in place by black plastic curbing, which is in good condition, however several of the pins which hold the curbing in place and interlock the segments are protruding above the curbing and are a tripping hazard. The curbing has also created some drainage issues by blocking water coming off the slope on the east side of the walkway and causing it to pond on the east side of the playground. Seating in this area is limited to two (2) picnic tables within the playground limits, however there are additional picnic tables and benches throughout the pool complex. No site lighting, trash receptacles or playground signage were observed within the playground area. In addition, there is no fencing around the playground area apart from the perimeter fencing for the complex which is located on the north and west sides of the playground.

Inclusivity and accessibility are lacking at this playground. As previously mentioned, there is a sloped walkway leading to the playground area, however it appeared steep, in addition there are no activities within the playground for users in a wheelchair or with special mobility needs. There are no ramps or transfer stations



which allow access onto the two playground structures. They do provide some inclusiveness in that there is a musical activity panel and game panel which allow for cognitive and social development. The larger structure also has a sort of enclosed space under the main deck which can provide some refuge to users with special sensory needs.

#### 2.4.2 Recommendation

Since this equipment is in good condition and relatively new, SCE recommends the equipment, plastic curbing and fibar to remain in place. The existing area could be supplemented with a few pieces of free-standing equipment which provide more opportunities for social and cognitive engagement such as the sensory play center by Landscape Structures. This piece of equipment has various auditory and tactile elements which encourage children to explore different, shapes, textures and sounds and could be used by multiple children simultaneously. This could also be a good location for a swing such as the oodle swing by Landscape Structures or similar product offered by many of the leading playground equipment manufacturers. This type of swing does not take up as large of a footprint as a traditional swing and allows for four to six children to use at once. This site could also be a good location to install outdoor musical equipment. SCE recommends the fibar surfacing remain in place and be refreshed with new material to ensure adequate fall protection. The plastic curbing should be adjusted to address some of the drainage issues and all the pins should be installed flush with the top of the curbing. The Fibar and plastic curbing could be replaced with flush concrete curbs and poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing once the larger play structures have reached the end of their typical lifespan and are ready for full replacement. SCE also recommends installing one or two benches around the perimeter of this playground to provide a resting place for parents in addition to the picnic table.

### 3.0 POTENTIAL NEW PLAYGROUNDS SITE EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 3.1 Art Park at Wilson Park

##### 3.1.1 Evaluation

This potential playground is located just off Springfield Avenue between the street and athletic fields located behind the Wilson Primary School. The proposed area is a relatively flat lawn located in a clearing within a small, wooded patch. The area was previously used as a sculpture garden, but currently only one (1) piece remains. No site amenities such as benches, trash receptacles or site lighting were observed in this area. Currently there is an asphalt paved access drive which connects the Wilson Primary School Grounds to Springfield Avenue. The existing drive provides an accessible route into this area from both the school grounds and Springfield Ave sidewalks. The large open area to the east of the access drive would be the ideal place for equipment since it would require minimal grading and clearing operations.

It should be noted that a playground currently exists just south of the school building at Wilson Park. The equipment in this playground was observed to be manufactured by GameTime and looks to have been installed within the past year or two based

on its condition. The structure is sized for the 5-12 year old age group and has several slides and climbing features. This playground also features a two (2) bay swing set with two (2) belt swings and two (2) bucket swings.

### *3.1.2 Recommendation*

Since there is a new traditional playground installed at Wilson Park adjacent to the school, SCE would recommend a more natural style playground with equipment manufactured from natural timber products. This playground could offer different play opportunities such as timber climbing structures or obstacles that would blend in with and compliment the natural setting of this location. This could be an ideal location for a small outdoor classroom or amphitheater or even a small children's community garden. SCE recommends installing benches and game and/or picnic tables in this area to provide seating and gathering spaces within the playground. Site lighting should also be considered to provide basic security lighting levels from dusk to dawn. Main access to the new playground area would be from the existing asphalt pathway and additional secondary pathways would be needed. To keep with a more natural look, lower costs and to maintain accessibility SCE recommends surfacing any additional pathways or seating areas with stabilized aggregate. This provides a smooth, solid surface which is easily traversable but also has the look of natural stone and allows for some infiltration.

## **3.2 Community Center**

### *3.2.1 Evaluation*

This potential playground is to be located on the grounds of the Summit Community Center on Morris Avenue. Topography will be a challenge at this site due to the community center being constructed at the high point of a slope. Currently no playground areas exist at the community center, however there is a bocci ball court off the eastern parking lot and a little league field to the south of the building, identified as Edison Recreation Center on Google Maps. To the east of the bocci ball court is a large open lawn area that could potentially be used for future play equipment. This location offers easy access to any potential playground from the parking lot on the east side of the building or from the Morris Avenue sidewalk. A playground in this area would require at least a small retaining wall to create a flat terrace for any play equipment. In addition, fencing would be crucial given the locations proximity to busy Morris Avenue. This area is also very exposed visually to Morris Avenue which could potentially make users feel uneasy.

Another potential location would be off the southeast corner of the building near the batting cages at the little league field. This location is at a lower elevation than the community center building and at the toe of a steep slope from the eastern parking lot. The existing retaining wall could be expanded into the slope to create more usable space for a small playground area off left outfield. Additional sidewalk or some other type of firm, stable walking surface would need to be created for access from the western parking lot. Fencing would not be as crucial in this area as there is an existing 4-foot high along the roadway which leads to the Bristol Meyers Squibb complex and any parking lots are separated by grade changes.

The third potential playground location at the Community Center is further south in the Edison Recreation Center. Currently there is a basketball court and "pocket forest" installed as a community engagement piece with Bristol Meyers Squibb. This area also has ample, open lawn area which could accommodate new playground equipment. An accessible pathway would need to be constructed from Morris Court to the new playground if it were constructed in this area. Again, fencing would not be as crucial as Morris Court is a dead-end street with minimal vehicular activity observed during the site visit.

### 3.2.2 Recommendation

Of the three areas mentioned above, SCE recommends constructing a new playground at the community center within the Edison Recreation Center area, south of the little league field. This location is ideal for new construction given it's relatively flat, open terrain and access from Morris Court. SCE recommends new 2-5 and 5-12 age group structures here that could either be combined or standalone structures. Portions of the structures could be ramped to increase accessibility and inclusivity. SCE also recommends installing swings at this location with at least two belt swings, two bucket swings and one accessible seat swing. Some amount of paving would be required to provide access from Morris court to the playground area and could be constructed from a variety of material. SCE recommends that new playground areas be surfaced with poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing contained by a flush concrete curb. Seating such as benches and game/picnic tables should be installed in this area to provide places to gather and rest and to provide parents and guardians with a clear line of site to the playground equipment. The City may want to consider installing low, decorative fencing on the Morris Court side of the playground to help deter children from running out into the street, however this is not entirely necessary as Morris Court is a dead street and does not appear to have heavy traffic volume.

## 3.3 Briant Park

### 3.3.1 Evaluation

This potential playground is to be located somewhere on the west side of Union County owned Briant Park, off Briant Parkway. The western side of Briant Park is mainly open lawn space with an asphalt pavement walkway which continues throughout the park and makes a complete loop. The southwest corner of this area is higher in elevation than the northwest corner and slopes down to the east into a wooded valley with small stream. The asphalt pathway doubles back here with an open lawn space between the pathway which varies in width from approximately 50 to 75 feet. While open and wide enough to fit a playground, this area is not as ideal as the northwest corner as it has a consistent slope across the open lawn area to the east and would not provide much buffer space between the walkway and play equipment.

The second potential playground location within Briant Park would be in the northwest corner of the park closer to the intersection of Springfield Avenue and Briant Parkway. The area is relatively flat, sloping gently toward Briant Pond and

consists of open lawn. There is an existing Pavilion Structure in this area which could be used as shelter and seating for the playground and could also be used to connect an accessible pathway to a new playground location. Fencing would be necessary at this location given the proximity to busy Springfield Avenue.

### 3.3.2 Recommendation

As stated above SCE recommends constructing a new playground near the existing pavilion in the northwest corner of the park. This area is large, open, and relatively flat which will allow for minimal site clearing and grading. Since this is a large County Park and highly visible from busy Springfield Park, SCE recommends installing new playground equipment from a reputable playground equipment manufacturer that is eye-catching and will attract users to the park. The playground could be designed with a theme in mind, such as nature with an emphasis on freshwater wetlands and streams given the proximity of this playground location to Briant pond. Equipment could be selected that has custom designed pieces such as posts designed to look like cattails or stepping pods resembling lily pads. Additional nature themed equipment could be spread around the area such as log tunnels, mushroom steppers and climbing boulders.

SCE recommends adding many inclusive and accessible features to this playground since it would be located in a prominent location at a busy County Park. This would allow for the greatest amount of usability and again would include factors such as ramp access to various features, accessible freestanding equipment such as specialty swings and gliders, free-standing panels or games which would allow for social and cognitive engagement. This would also be an ideal location for outdoor musical equipment since the closest residential properties are more than 200 feet away and adjacent to busy roadways which are already generating noise. SCE recommends that the new playground be surfaced with poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing which could once again incorporate patterns to enhance the nature theme such as curvilinear bands meant to emulate a flowing stream or river. Since this would likely be a large playground covering a large area, safety surfacing could be reduced to the required safety zones of the specific equipment installed with another surface such as wood chips or stabilized aggregate installed in the remainder of the space. It is recommended that a low decorative fence for added safety since the playground is close to both a body of water and a busy street.

# **Appendix A**

## PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT FORMS

**PROJECT NAME: VARIOUS PLAYGROUNDS MASTER PLAN - MABIE PLAYGROUND**  
**PROJECT LOCATION: CITY OF SUMMIT, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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## PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT FORM

04/12/2022

## CLIENT NAME: CITY OF SUMMIT

PROJECT NAME: VARIOUS PLAYGROUNDS MASTER PLAN - MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND

PROJECT LOCATION: CITY OF SUMMIT, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Name of Playground: Memorial Park Playground Location: 5 Myrtle Avenue SCE Staff Name: JP & KAK Date of Assessment: 04/12/2022	Present		Condition		Comments
	Yes	No	Poor	Good Excellent	
<b>Playground / Tot Lots</b>					
Toddlers / No. of	✓				
2-5 Year Olds / No. of: 1	✓		✓		Small structure.
6-12 Year Olds / No. of	✓		✓		
Swings / No. of: 4 bays - 8 swings	✓		✓		2 bucket swings, 6 belt swings.
Boundless Equipment / No. of		✓			
Miscellaneous Activity Equipment		✓			
<b>Appurtenances</b>					
Benches / No. of: multiple	✓		✓		Multiple around playground
Trash Receptacles / No. of: multiple	✓				Multiple around playground
Bike Racks / No. of		✓			
Water Fountains / No. of: 1	✓				Located near play area.
Flag Poles / No. of					
Playground Entrance Sign / No. of		✓			None at playground.
Playground Entrance Gates / No. of		✓			
Playground Fencing		✓			No fence
Picnic Tables / No. of: 2 - 4	✓				Located around perimeter.
Other Signage / No. of		✓			Entrance sign at park.
Playground Site Lighting		✓			No site location, but playground located next to building
Accessibility	✓		✓		Partial accessibility to structure.
Surfacing	✓		✓		Wood fiber surface.
Grading and Drainage					Some evidence of ponding at adjacent compacted soils around playground.
Signage	✓		✓		No age signage but park has entrance signage.
Miscellaneous		✓			

## PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT FORM

04/12/2022

**CLIENT NAME: CITY OF SUMMIT****PROJECT NAME: VARIOUS PLAYGROUNDS MASTER PLAN - TATLOCK PLAYGROUND****PROJECT LOCATION: CITY OF SUMMIT, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Name of Playground: Tatlock Playground Location: Washington School on Morris Avenue SCE Staff Name: JP & KAK Date of Assessment: 04/12/2022	Present		Condition		Comments
	Yes	No	Poor	Good Excellent	
<b>Playground / Tot Lots</b>					
Toddlers / No. of	✓				
2-5 Year Olds / No. of	✓				
6-12 Year Olds / No. of: 2+	✓		✓		Plan 6-12 year old equipment only.
Swings / No. of: 7 bays x 2 each	✓		✓		Condition is poor to acceptable, some good
Boundless Equipment / No. of	✓				
Miscellaneous Activity Equipment	✓				Pull up bars / see saw / net climber / upper body climber
<b>Appurtenances</b>					
Benches / No. of: 4	✓			✓	Several benches in play area. Recommendations for additional sitting / gathering space.
Trash Receptacles / No. of: 2	✓			✓	
Bike Racks / No. of		✓			Bike rack at school beyond playground entrance.
Water Fountains / No. of		✓			
Flag Poles / No. of		✓			
Playground Entrance Sign / No. of	✓				
Playground Entrance Gates / No. of		✓			
Playground Fencing		✓			
Picnic Tables / No. of	✓				No fence.
Other Signage / No. of	✓				Sign for Grant ID.
Playground Site Lighting		✓			
Accessibility		✓	✓		Poor accessibility into playground. Paved path may exceed stone without ramp.
Surfacing	✓		✓		Wood fiber surface requires additional depth / replacement.
Grading and Drainage		✓	✓		Poor drainage in several areas & compacted soils.
Signage	✓		✓		Age signage recommended.
Miscellaneous		✓			



# PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENT FORM

**CLIENT NAME: CITY OF SUMMIT**

**PROJECT NAME: VARIOUS PLAYGROUNDS MASTER PLAN - AQUATIC CENTER PLAYGROUND**

**PROJECT LOCATION: CITY OF SUMMIT, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Name of Playground: Aquatic Center Playground Location: 100 Ashwood Avenue SCE Staff Name: JP & KAK Date of Assessment: 04/12/2022		Present	Condition	Comments
<b>Playground / Tot Lots</b>				
Toddlers / No. of				
2-5 Year Olds / No. of				
6-12 Year Olds / No. of				
Swings / No. of				
Boundless Equipment / No. of				
Miscellaneous Activity Equipment				
<b>Appurtenances</b>				
Benches / No. of				
Trash Receptacles / No. of				
Bike Racks / No. of				
Water Fountains / No. of				
Flag Poles / No. of				
Playground Entrance Sign / No. of				
Playground Entrance Gates / No. of				
Playground Fencing				
Picnic Tables / No. of: 2				
Other Signage / No. of				
Playground Site Lighting				
Accessibility				
Surfacing				
Grading and Drainage				
Signage				
Miscellaneous				

# **Appendix B**

## PLAYGROUND PHOTO LOGS

## 1.0 EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS PHOTO LOG

### 1.1 Mabie Park (Village Green)



Approach to Mabie Park Playground from Summit Avenue sidewalk



Large combination 2-5 and 5-12 age group play structure by  
Playground Environments





**Benches and picnic table at the larger combination play structure, additional benches are located around the perimeter of the structure.**



**Kompan play structure, belt swings and picnic tables located on the north side of the basketball court near Summit Avenue.**





**View of the Kompan play equipment showing the proximity to the sidewalk and Summit Avenue.**



**View of the three (3) bay swing structure adjacent to the Kompan play equipment**





**View of the large open lawn adjacent to the playground which could be an alternative location for new equipment.**

## **1.2 Memorial Park Playground**



**View of the combination 2-5 and 5-12 age group playground structure from GameTime and plastic curbing.**





**Alternative view of the combination play structure with three (3) bay swing structure visible on the right.**



**View of the small 2-5 year old play structure by GameTime.**





**View of the small pavilion, drinking fountain and seating area directly adjacent to the playground area.**



**View of the plastic transition piece from the asphalt pavement walkway to the fibar surfacing at the playground entrance located behind the park office building.**



### 1.3 Tatlock Playground



**View of the asphalt pavement access pathway leading from the parking lot to the playground area.**



**View of the large 5-12 play structure, fading of the red and blue components are visible.**





**Example image of the fading typical on the playground structure, image also shows some missing hardware on the panel piece.**



**Two of the three existing swing set structures. The unit on the left is set up with three bays, however the central bay is missing swings.**





**View of the third swing structure with four (4) belt swings, zip-line type equipment and serpentine overhead bar structure.**



**View of the net climber located in the center of the playground area, bench, picnic table and waste receptacles are visible and typical of those found throughout the playground area.**





**View of Grant program signage with large 5-12 play structure visible in the background**



**Break in plastic curbing for maintenance vehicle access into the playground area.**



#### 1.4 Aquatic Center Playground



Overall view of the playground area at the Aquatic Center; 2-5 age group equipment on the left and 5-12 age group equipment on the right.



View of the 2-5 age group equipment; orange temporary fencing was to restrict access during a recent event.





**View of the larger 5-12 age group play equipment; the equipment is only 2-3 years old and is in good condition.**



**Drainage issues near the entrance to the playground area from the sidewalk. Runoff from the adjacent slope is eroding the Fibar surfacing.**





**Stakes from the plastic curbing are protruding in several locations and are tripping hazards**



**Two (2) picnic tables located within the playground area provide seating, additional tables and benches are located throughout the Aquatic Center Complex.**



## 2.0 POTENTIAL NEW PLAYGROUND SITES PHOTO LOG

### 2.1 Art Park at Wilson Park



**View of the existing asphalt pavement access drive which connects Wilson Park to Springfield Avenue.**



**Large open lawn area to the east of the existing asphalt pavement access drive.**





**Additional view of the large open lawn area located on the east side of the existing asphalt pavement access drive.**



**The nearby Wilson playground at Wilson Park. This playground is connected by the existing asphalt pavement access drive and is located slightly north and west of the art park area.**



## 2.2 Community Center



Existing bocci ball court off the eastern parking lot at the community center, the lawn area to the left is one of three (3) potential locations for a future playground at the community center.



Looking south at the open lawn area near the existing bocci ball courts, while this area is large and would not require significant clearing, retaining walls would be needed to terrace the slope and create useable space.





**View looking north at the open lawn area adjacent to the existing bocci ball courts. Morris Avenue is visible in the background and fencing would be required around a playground in this area for safety.**



**View of the second potential playground location at the Community Center. This area is located off the southeast corner of the Community Center and provides a relatively flat, open area. There is an existing retaining wall partially visible in the photo which could be extended east to create additional space for a playground.**





**View of the second potential playground location looking east from the existing restroom building.**



**View of the third potential playground location south of the existing little league field. This area is located within the existing Edison Recreation Area and provides flat open areas for potential playgrounds.**





**Access for this playground area would be from nearby Morris Court which is a dead-end street. The flat terrain in this area would allow for easy creation of an accessible pathway from the street.**

### **2.3 Briant Park**



**View of potential playground location at Briant Park looking south toward Orchard Street. The lawn area to the left of the path ranges from approximately 50' to 100' wide and could potentially accommodate a playground area, cars parked along Briant Parkway visible on the right side of the photo.**





**View looking north at the first potential playground location within Briant Park. The open lawn area begins to narrow moving north and does not provide as much space to accommodate a playground, especially with the existing shade tree plantings.**



**View of the second potential playground location within Briant Park. This potential location is located in the northwest corner of the site near the existing pavilion structure. This area is flat, open and could accommodate a large playground. Fencing would be necessary for safety as this location is close to Springfield Avenue.**





**View looking south from the second potential playground location. This image serves to characterize the flat and open nature of this area.**



**View looking east at Brant Pond from the second potential playground location within Briant Park. Potential playgrounds should be kept as far from the pond as possible as the ground was observed to be saturated during the time of the site visit and flooding could be a potential problem.**