

Summer 2008



Mosaic Sandbox



Alligator Drum by Soundplay

Incorporating Art into Playgrounds

Over the years, Leathers has collaborated with many local artists as well as other community-built professionals. Murals, mosaics, history walls, appliques, and carvings are all examples of artist collaborations.



Dragon Slide

By involving local artists and craftspersons projects are expanding their outreach into the community. Some of these individuals may not have participated without the inclusion of these creative volunteer opportunities. These components also reflect local history, culture, and general ambiance of the community.

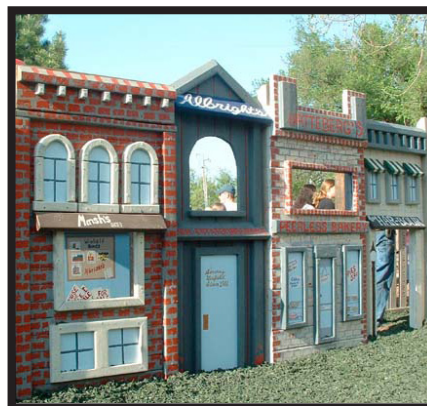
We thought it may be fun to share some of the results of these collaborations with you. The photos shown represent various forms of artist collaborations.



Petroglyph Fence



Mosaic Entry



Historic Storefronts



Mural Rock Wall

PROJECT PROFILE: PROJECT PROFILE ■ PROJECT PROFILE ■ PROJECT PROFILE ■ PROJECT PROFILE

Seward and Talkeetna, AK

Two More Playgrounds in Alaska: Seward and Talkeetna

Seward (located about 126 miles south of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula) completed its playground in May, and Talkeetna (120 miles north of Anchorage at the base of Mt. McKinley, also known as Denali) built a playground in June. John Dean designed both playgrounds in September 2007. Consultant Lee Archin conducted their Organization Days in early March—an adventure in itself!

Seward's original general coordinator Christine Shepard jump-started the Seward Community Playground project. Unfortunately for the committee, Christine's husband was transferred to Flagstaff, Arizona, shortly after Design Day. However, the project was picked up by a very able Maya Moriarty with the volunteer group PARKS (Parents Advocating Recreational Kids' Stuff). The Seward Parks & Rec Department also played a large role in the project's successful completion. Project Manager Dave Iannello developed the drawings and provided on-site consultation with Lee Archin. This is the first all-plastic playground in Alaska. Materials for the project were shipped into Seward on barges. The backdrop to the playground is Marathon Mountain and the Harding Ice Field. In fact, the rock wall mural features people climbing the mountain that can be seen immediately above the wall. Other details include a dogsled led by Alaskan huskies, a phoenix ship with dolphin details, sealife cubbies in the tot area, a long line fishing boat, a lobster, a train, and a fire truck. The top of the fence is decorated with handprint tiles.

Talkeetna is a small village of about 700 people that is reachable only by one road that runs north/south from Anchorage or by the Alaska Railroad. It is at the point where three rivers (Susitna, Talkeetna and Chulitna) converge. Karey Larson, owner of Talkeetna Travel, served as the general coordinator for the Wild Wood's Park. Building a playground in such a small, remote village was a daunting task in terms of volunteers, fundraising, tools and materials, but Karey was up to the task. Lee Archin and Justin Fowler were the consultants. The playground features an old-fashioned steam train on a trestle, a bus, a stage area, a raven slide, and a Denali rock climb.



LEATHERS & ASSOCIATES

GC Spotlight

Adam Thomas - Mullen-Hall Elementary School, Falmouth, MA

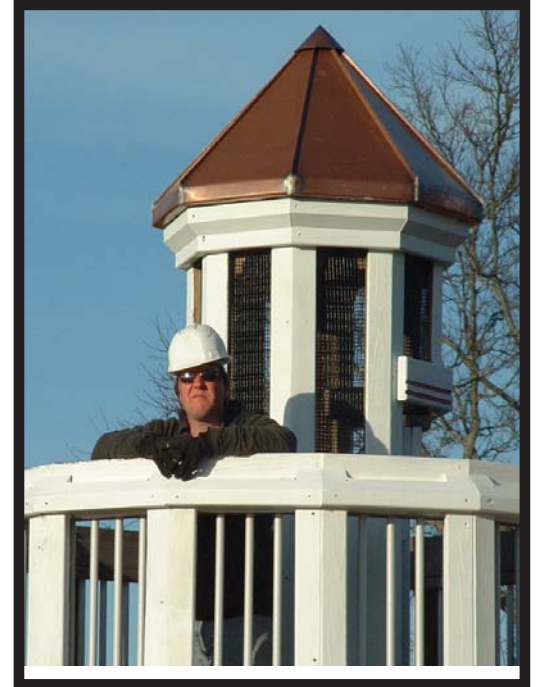
Adam Thomas, an 8th-grade American history teacher, took on the job of general coordinator for the Mullen-Hall Elementary School's science playground project in Fall 2005. More than a playground, he wanted to provide a fun learning environment for the children. Principal Donna Noonan agreed to assist as Adam's co-coordinator and was instrumental in school and committee involvement. "Donna was like a rock. I could always turn to her", says Adam.

Leathers' designer John Dean conducted the Design Day at the school in March 2006. With input from teachers, children, and the steering committee, John was able to design and present a unique science-themed playground to the community at the end of the day!

Along with project manager Dave Iannello, the steering committee decided to include some very unique science components. To Adam's amazement, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (located just south of Falmouth) gave them the propeller from the famous Alvin submarine. While most people know the Alvin as the submarine that discovered the site where the Titanic sank, science enthusiasts think of the Alvin as the submarine that discovered sea vents. In any case, this was a huge donation and created a lot of excitement in the community! One of the playground components is a mini replica of the Alvin submarine. Other specialized science components include a whale bone dig, a triple friction slide, a fulcrum beam, a built-in radio system, a sound wall, a DNA climber, artwork of the life cycles of local animals, a relief map of Cape Cod and Cape Cod Bay, whisper dishes, a historical timeline, and a stage with a compass rose. The lighthouse replicates a local lighthouse, and the tot lot includes façades of historic local buildings. All of these features make the playground unique and representative of their community.

Adam is quick to give credit to his steering committee, which began as a sub-committee of the PTO. The committee grew from 8 to 20 very supportive members and consisted of a diverse group of individuals who, in Adam's words, "were just awesome." He credits their success in networking throughout the community to the diversity of committee members. "This was huge because we were able to recruit volunteers for the specialized science components and, obviously, for the build from every nook and cranny" of the town. They also received tremendous volunteer support from the Coast Guard and Massachusetts Maritime Academy. "Our volunteer numbers exceeded Leathers' recommendations every single day of the build! A lot of contractors, builders and electricians turned up at the build!" An excellent call-a-thon pushed potential volunteers into committing to specific build shifts, which in turn garnered huge volunteer numbers.

Adam also feels that much of their success came from the coordination of fundraising and public relations. They tried to work the two together as much as possible. The group created a mascot who marched in parades to raise awareness for the playground. Another unique tactic that created buzz for



Adam atop the Lighthouse



Mini Alvin Sub

GC Spotlight continued

the project came in the form of a scavenger hunt. The committee handed out hundreds of sand shovels to the schoolchildren and asked the kids to hang them around town—anywhere and everywhere! The committee then hid 5 large gold-painted shovels. The kids who located the golden shovels won prizes. This event created a lot of excitement—just in time to get people to volunteer for the build. The fundraiser that raised the highest dollar amount was an auction in which they raised \$25,000. They also received a Community Preservation Act grant for \$40,000. Other funds came from various fundraisers held throughout the process.

Playground construction began on a cold, rainy March 27 and was completed on April 1, 2007. Looking back, Adam sees their biggest accomplishment as getting all the volunteers to show up for the build. Adam recalls the ribbon-cutting ceremony as his most memorable moment. Before the official opening, they read aloud an email from an astronaut at the International Space Station. The opening celebration itself was a huge success with hundreds of people and, most of all, a lot of really happy kids. “When all the kids ran on the playground, it was great, just awesome, and everyone was so psyched! There weren’t many dry eyes.”

Adam is often reminded of the positive effects this project has had on his community. “People are proud of their accomplishment and talk about the playground as being one of the positive and notable things in Falmouth.” Project manager and build consultant Dave Iannello refers to Adam as a “total ball of fire.” Working with Adam reminds our staff of what a great impact a strong general coordinator can have on a project. We thank Adam for his hard work, energy, and humor throughout the process! It was a joy and an honor work with him.



Lighthouse and Whisper Dish t o

“Go Green” Initiative

Leathers & Associates has always been at the forefront in research and testing of new materials. We also pride ourselves on being environmentally conscious. Currently, our goal is to build at least half of our playgrounds with 100% recycled materials and the rest with a combination of recycled and renewable materials.

Many of our projects now use FiberForce plastic lumber for structural support. FiberForce is reinforced, 100% post-consumer recycled plastic lumber made of high-density polyethylene plastic. See www.plasticboards.com for more about FiberForce. All of our playgrounds use recycled plastic composite for decking, handrails and balusters. Trex is the leading brand and the product most often used. It is made of a combination of wood and plastic fibers from reclaimed or recycled resources, including sawdust, used pallets, and recycled plastic grocery bags. See www.trex.com/whytrex/environmentallyfriendly.aspx for details about the product. An added benefit of both FiberForce and Trex is the low-maintenance requirements.

Our groundcover is usually engineered wood fiber. In the past couple of years, many of our projects have used shredded rubber groundcover that is made from recycled tires. It is a loose fill similar to wood fiber (and meeting the same ASTM standards).

In The News

Leathers & Associates was featured in an article in “London Play” in April (www.londonplay.org.uk). Playground magazine’s July issue includes a spotlight on a generation-two project that Leathers completed with the Wilson Elementary School, Corvallis, OR. And Defense Communities magazine is featuring Leathers in its September/October issue.

Recent Builds:

Westminster Woods Camp & Conference Center in Occidental, California (Fall 2007)

An excerpt from a posting on the camp’s website:

“What began two years ago as a simple notion to replace an aging play structure became an unprecedented venture that reunited, redefined, and reinvigorated the community of the camp’s supporters. After raising over \$100,000 for a new, one-of-a-kind playground, kids, teens, young adults, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents came to The Woods in mid-October for a five-day build process that was both energizing and exhausting. Through hard rain, fog, cool evenings, and colder mornings, the roughly 300-person volunteer brigade persevered and created a unique play structure that will be a centerpiece of the camp’s ministry for years to come. . . .

“The theme for the playground build was “creation,” and a talented ceramic artist, Leslie Scott, designed a mosaic wall mural utilizing this theme. Local students and campers helped to collect and break 400 square feet of ceramic tile, marble, stone, and mirror for the wall. . . .

“This project was truly a memorable adventure for all those involved.” Westminster Woods is a Presbyterian Church USA camp. The complete article, photos and a video can be seen on the camp’s website: www.westminsterwoods.org.



Westminster Woods Tot Lot

Bayside resort golf community in Selbyville, DE (Fall 2007)

An excerpt from a press release by the community’s developer, Carl M. Freeman Companies:

“Bayside is home to a newly installed coastal-themed playground thanks to the efforts of local artists, Bayside homeowners and Freeman employees. The 6,500-square-foot facility, which is part of Bayside’s Carousel Park, is a visual delight with bright colors and whimsical art providing the backdrop for such features as a rock-climbing wall, an osprey tower, a lighthouse, a maze, and a puppet theater. . . .”

The playground includes a tot lot called Discovery Wharf and a school-aged area for kids aged 5 to 12 called Explorer’s Port. “Describing the colorful artwork that brings the playground to life, John Donato said he and fellow (local) watercolor artist Aubre Duncan “began with specific sea life in mind then designed them interacting with each other in a vibrant, playful style both children and adults seem to enjoy. . . A giant orange and red whale with a huge smile is the background for the playground’s climbing wall and a yellow octopus building a sand castle with his tentacles provide a fun picture-taking opportunity. . .



Selbyville, DE

“The playground, which opened Thanksgiving Day, is the latest amenity at Bayside’s Carousel Park. In addition to the playground, the park is home to Bayside’s 36-foot classic carousel that opened in September. Other features planned for the park include a picnic area and a covered stage for musical and theater performances.”

Recent builds Continued:

Lynden, Washington (Spring 2007)

Sent to us by Gary Vis, executive director of the Lynden Chamber of Commerce and the general coordinator for the playground project: “The stunning playground built last Spring by the Lynden community is called Million Smiles, which is appropriate given the size of the project. By the numbers, 1,985 volunteers worked a total of 6,760 hours over the course of 10 construction days, and those figures don’t count the scads of students, sports teams and youth groups who also helped. Local folks donated \$238,000, including \$108,000 from Mount Baker Rotary, and more than 100 companies donated materials or services. The value of the in-kind help wasn’t tallied, but it included the use of heavy equipment, power tools, discounts on materials, and the labor of entire construction crews.” Supporters also scheduled helpers in 4-hour shifts and provided tools, child care and more than 3,200 meals (including 600 dozen cookies) during construction.

“But what counted most was the willingness of so many people to endure days of drenching rain to build the playground. Volunteers ranged from construction-savvy coordinators who put in long days to an 11-year-old boy who tooted materials in a small wagon hooked to his electric wheelchair.”

“As the April 25 construction start drew near, materials began piling sky-high in the park: 30 truckloads of gravel, 6 huge truckloads of cedar chips, and enough lumber to build 6 houses. Also ready were about 2,000 tiles, each bearing the handprint and name of an elementary-school student in Lynden. . . .

“People who showed up to help still talk about who they met and what they accomplished. . . . Vis noted that the city’s insurer has valued the playground at \$1 million. ‘It’s a buck a smile,’ he said. ‘We Dutchmen, we like to do our math.’” (excerpted from the Bellingham Herald 12/23/07)



Lynden, WA

Warren, RI Project Playground (Fall 2007)

From an email sent to us by Linda Brunini in January 2008:

“The playground is ALWAYS full of giggling, happy-sounding children. What is SO much fun is to watch the make-believe time that the Fishing Village inspires between parents and their children. It’s a SCREAM to overhear it! Some serious Fish-and-Chips orders with extra fries on the side have been placed at the Fish-and-Chips store. I’ve even heard some bank transactions going on. . . .

“The boats are just awesome, too. And I have to tell you that the handicapped swings are the most popular swings. They are very nurturing—have even seen older kids dozing off in them! Along the outer wall, we scribed in creative, playful words so you can walk almost the whole perimeter and have fun reading. . . .



Warren, RI

Yes, I almost forgot, people come from ALL over! It’s a destination, like Disney World. I know I can say this for myself without reservation: thank you for inspiring me.”

Blasts from our Past:

Lancaster, OH

From Pam Eltringham, Principal of St. Bernadette School in Lancaster, OH (built in 1988): “Our playground is very much in use. The schoolchildren use it every day, and the neighborhood takes advantage of it during the summer months and late afternoons when school is not in session. During the summer of 2007, we added gravel, sanded, and refinished until it looked like new. We love our playground.”

Boardman, OH

Dan Slagle, Jr., Executive Director of the Boardman (OH) Township Park District sent this message as a response to an email from Michael Cohen, who was one of the consultants on the 1993 build: “Despite my age, I do remember you! The building of Kids’ Town is without question 5 days of my life that I will not forget. Good to hear from you! And glad to hear you are still doing playgrounds. Kids’ Town is in great shape and is still as popular as ever. Over the years, we have replaced the handrails, bench seats, and some other wear-and-tear pieces with plastic lumber, and have rebuilt items like the shaky bridge, etc., but overall, it has been a great asset to the park. We are diligent with regular inspections and maintenance. Kids’ Town started a much-needed revival of the park. After Kids’ Town, I modified the community-built concept and built an outdoor arts theater and an open-air pavilion. Boardman Park is now one of the most popular recreational areas in the Mahoning Valley.”

Young Architects Award

Kelly Hayes-McAlonie was one of 10 recipients of the prestigious 2008 Young Architects Awards, an honor bestowed on professionals licensed for ten or fewer years who have shown exceptional leadership and make significant contributions to the profession early in their careers. Some of you may remember that Kelly was your playground designer. She began her career at Leathers & Associates after she graduated from the Technical University of Nova Scotia. She has dedicated her career to design for education and improving learning environments for all ages and is now an associate vice president with Cannon Design in Buffalo.



Staying Connected

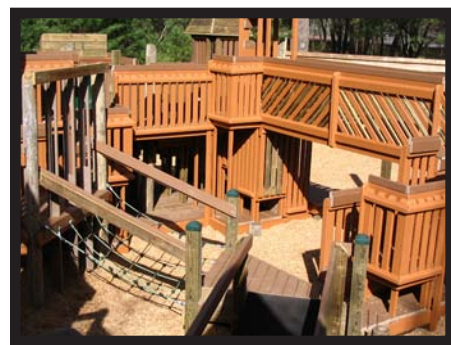
We are currently contacting all of our projects who are celebrating 5th, 10th and 15th birthdays with a mailing that includes: information on CCA-treated lumber and sealing your playground, details of our audit and inspection services, and a reply card for you to share updated contact information with us. Our 15-year-old playgrounds can also look forward to receiving some additional information on what’s new at Leathers & Associates and photographs of some recent “G2” renovations and re-builds. If you receive this information in the mail, please take a moment to review it, and don’t forget to return your reply card – we want to stay in touch!

Generation Two Projects

Once again, we'd like to report on and congratulate communities that have successfully completed their second Leathers playground! Each of these groups embarked on their own, unique rebuilding efforts this past year:

Marlborough, CT

Marlborough's playground was built in 1989. Those children who soaped screws nearly 20 years ago spearheaded this renovation effort! Upgrades included the addition of a Tot Lot area, new slides with transfer points, and other handicap-accessible components. The volunteers also power washed, sanded, and re-sealed the older parts of the playground. Leathers' consultant Scott Smith was there for the original build as well as the renovation.



Marlborough's Renovated PG



Woodland's Treehouse

Woodland, CA

An enthusiastic effort to rebuild after an arson fire partially destroyed the playground at Ferns Park in Woodland turned into a reuniting of original committee members and an opportunity to improve on a well-loved playground. The Tot Lot was untouched by the fire, so the rebuild efforts focused on the school-aged area, specifically the addition of a colorful new tall structure. The playground was built in the spring of 1998. The renovation was quickly organized and completed in a few short months and would not have been possible without the strong steering committee and support from the city of Woodland.



The Robot Farmer

Corvallis, OR

In 1989, the Wilson Elementary School and Corvallis, Oregon communities united to build a community playground like no other. They solicited the help of Bob Leathers and, from penny drives to Rotary Club support, a unique playground known as Wildcat Park came to be. In 2006, Wildcat Park was sadly and suddenly shut down. Admittedly, Corvallis hoped that their playground would last "forever." And with a re-birth and re-build in 2007, it seems it could!

This second-generation Wildcat Park project began with individual letters to the editor and grew to an outpouring of support for a new playground. In December 2006, Leathers' designer Dennis Wille returned to Corvallis and met with a new generation of students at Wilson School. An enthusiastic citizens' committee rallied and raised over \$200,000 for the new Wildcat Park, and the school district contributed \$100,000.



Corvallis, OR

Corvallis, OR continued....

Hundreds of volunteers helped to make the build a success, and new materials, such as recycled plastic lumber, mean that Wildcat Park #2 should last even longer than the original. The new playground includes a miniature Benton County Clock Tower, children's book scenes, and a dragon slide (www.newwildcatpark.org).

Volunteers have committed more time and energy to beautify the area surrounding the playground. For the second time, the Corvallis community is a shining example of the power of community. From tea parties to pizza night, businesses to Boy Scout troops, football players to fraternities, Corvallis made it happen. Go Wildcats!

Warren, RI

The original Warren Project Playground was valued and loved by so many community members that when the time came for a re-build, hundreds of hands rallied to build a new 10,000-square-foot accessible playground for the children and families of Warren. Word has it that the upgraded structure is a big hit. See the email from Linda Brunini under In the News.

Sciencenter, Ithaca, NY

Our second-ever newsletter back in winter of 1989 featured a photo of Bob Leathers helping to design the Ithaca Sciencenter. In May 2008, almost 20 years later, we were pleased to help the Sciencenter spruce up its outdoor science park. With the addition of Trex handrails and seating surfaces, some serious sanding and a fresh coat of stain, the playground is looking sharp and ready for 20 more years of fun!

Awards

Lynden, WA (Spring 2007): The Million Smiles Playground project and the Lynden Relay for Life were joint recipients of the 2007 Sol Lewis Awards. Normally, a man and woman are selected for their volunteer community service in the 26-year-old awards program of the Lynden Tribune. "The idea behind it always has been to honor people for their community service, and it was hard to honor just one individual for these causes that are so important to the community," said Tribune publisher Mike Lewis.

Menomonie, WI (Fall 2007): The playground project received an award from Synergy: Collaboration for Sustainable Growth. Synergy is a project of the West Central Wisconsin Regional Education Consortium. The award is for "quality of place enhancement."

Concord, CA (Spring 2007): Liz Lamach was awarded the Special Award for Outstanding Service from the California Association of Park & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members (CAPRCBM). Liz was presented the award in February 2008 for her tireless work over a period of four years. Liz was the general coordinator of Matteo's Dream, a playground for children of all abilities, that was inspired by her son Matteo. See the playground's website for more information (<http://www.cityofconcord.org/matteosdream/index.htm>).

McLeansboro, IL (Spring 2006): The City of McLeansboro's Kids' Kingdom Playground/Park was the recipient of the 2007 Governor's Cup. The Governor's Home Town Awards recognize 40 people/projects across the state who have worked to improve the communities in which they live. One winner each year—McLeansboro—is presented with the celebrated Governor's Cup Award. "Every year, a new class of volunteers stands out as the work that they do every day helps hundreds of people in their communities. The Home Town Awards are an opportunity for us to say thank you for their hard work that helps improve the quality of life for communities across Illinois," said Gov. Blagojevich. The Governor's Cup is a traveling silver trophy presented to the community whose efforts were deemed most representative of the spirit of Illinois volunteerism. Each of the award-winning communities receives a road sign and plaque recognizing its efforts, and the Governor's Cup winner receives a unique road sign that proclaims its status as the overall winner.

Memorial Playgrounds

We have been fortunate to collaborate with communities throughout the country on memorial playground projects. The playgrounds are a way to turn a painful loss into a positive experience that provides a long-term remembrance of a loved one.

Yuma, AZ

Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground is a super-sized playground located in Yuma's West Wetlands Park. Ron Martin donated a large amount to the playground project in memory of his friend Vince, who loved the park. Yuma's city parks department managed the project, which made this special playground possible.

This true community effort boasts some impressive numbers: a budget of more than \$300,000, 8,000-plus construction volunteers, imaginative ideas from 5,000 schoolchildren, 50 committee volunteers serving on 9 committees, and 10 short but full days of construction. The result is a 17,000-square-foot kingdom for kids—that's over 3 acres of playground!

Martin said that "the biggest thing is the people working on this from all walks of life. The inmates were honored to be here. And the winter visitors were awesome. This showed they're part of the community. There was so much positive energy. It's amazing to see the finished product." Amazing is right! (http://www.azcorrections.gov/adc/news/2007/021907_children_storm_playground.html)



Families Flood the Playground - Yuma, AZ

River Heights, UT

Ryan's Place Park stands tall in River Heights, UT, memorializing young Ryan Adams. Ryan tragically drowned on a family vacation at the age of 2. Ryan's love of play motivated his grieving parents, Alicia and Craig Adams, to turn their loss into a celebration of Ryan's life. They successfully completed the playground project with the help of hundreds of willing community volunteers. Alicia commented that the playground is not only for Ryan but for every family who has suffered a tragic loss. "We want it to be a celebration of children playing and laughing to come here with their families to have fun."

Clermont, FL

Paradise Park, located next to the Family Christian Center in Clermont, FL, memorializes young Brittany Black, who died of cancer when she was 12 years old. Remembered as upbeat and mature beyond her years, Brittany's last poem was entitled 'Paradise,' hence the naming of the playground (www.brittany-black.org). The playground encompasses Brittany's spirit and passion for life. Nearly 4,000 volunteers engaged in the process of making Paradise Park a reality. The smiling faces throughout the build and playing on the finished product are a true reflection of Brittany's spirit at a special playground that will be enjoyed by many for years to come.



Paradise Park, Clermont, FL

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Safety Surfacing

We talk about groundcover again and again in our newsletters, but there's a reason. In terms of safety, maintaining an adequate amount of groundcover, or safety surfacing, may be the most important single item on your playground. Three-fourths of playground injuries are due to falls, which reinforces the need to properly maintain your groundcover. If you have a loose-fill type of groundcover, such as wood fiber or pea gravel, you should spray paint lines on various poles throughout the playground 12" above grade. This will help you maintain the proper depth for the surfacing. When the red lines are visible, you know it is time to add more groundcover to your playground.

If your playground still has pea gravel for surfacing, you might want to call our office to see how to upgrade to engineered wood fiber or shredded rubber.

Our Fall/Winter 2005 newsletter included a full page on shredded rubber. We'd be happy to send that information to you also.

Important Maintenance Checks

It is very important to follow the maintenance guidelines that Leathers & Associates provides in our Long-Term Care Guide. If you don't have a copy, call our office and we'll send you the most recently revised version. In addition to following the guide, we'd like to point out a few items:

1. We no longer use S-hooks in the construction of our playgrounds. Instead, we use clevis connectors (shackles and quicklinks). This eliminates entanglement concerns that are inherent to S-hooks. Call our office if you'd like to replace the S-hooks on your playground.
2. We have also made changes to most of the chain equipment for easier maintenance and replacement. These changes include using eyebolts and clevis connectors. It is important to regularly check for wear on the chain, hose, and connectors on all chain components in your playground. Again, call the office if you'd like more details.
3. If you have a suspension bridge, you may want to consider installing turnbuckles (you need a square or rectangular deck at one end of the bridge). This makes it easier to tighten the chain. If you're interested, call us and we'll check your playground drawings to see if your bridge can be converted.
4. If your playground has wood decking and handrails, you may want to consider replacing the wood or covering with Trex or another approved plastic composite lumber.
5. Pre-made cargo nets and cradle bridges are now available from Darquest Industries (www.darquestonline.com) if the nets on your playground are worn and need replacing. Contact us for more information.
6. Annual sanding and sealing of all pressure-treated lumber is also very important for the extended life of your playground. The playground should be power washed every few years before you sand and seal. We recommend using Restore to clean the wood and Deck & Shake to seal it. Both products are available from Pacific Sales & Manufacturing (www.deckandshake.com).



MAINTENANCE UPDATES

Inspection Service

For those of you with older playgrounds, we want to remind you that Leathers & Associates' inspection service is available. We will visit your playground, talk to you about any problems or concerns, do a detailed inspection, and report back with an extensive written description of the condition of your structure and any suggested repairs. Some communities use this to guide their volunteers on yearly fix-up weekends, and some playgrounds are opting for a three- or four-day revovation to bring the playground into compliance with new accessibility and safety standards. Call our office for more details.

Safety First

Safety is a paramount concern in our office, and we have an excellent track record of providing communities with safe and well-designed playgrounds. All Leathers projects are built in compliance with the current ASTM International standards, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines, and in the spirit of the soon-to-be-released Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Two staff members sit on ASTM International committees and have a hand in setting the guidelines that we, along with the rest of the industry, follow. We also have 17 members of our staff that are certified as playground safety inspectors.

A comprehensive maintenance program is essential for the long-term health of your playground. Routine maintenance tasks should be performed annually. The Friends of the Park committee can help to sustain a regular maintenance program. The Long Term Care Planning Guide that we provide will also aid in the upkeep of the playground. It includes a safety checklist, a maintenance inspection chart, and other relevant information. If you've misplaced yours, call our office to get a new copy of the packet.

Products to use for playground maintenance:

Graffiti removing products:

SoyClean Graffiti Remover - all natural and non-toxic - by Natural Soy Products, LLC - www.soyclean.biz

Graffiti Off - by Core Products Co. - www.coreproductscs.com

Ultra-Safe Graffiti Remover - biodegradable and non-petroleum ingredients - by Universal Chemicals & Supplies, Inc.

To remove graffiti from the plastic slides and crawl tunnels, use brake fluid. Wash off thoroughly after applying.

To clean the green plastic post caps (if they are faded or turning white):

Clean with a fiberglass boat oxidation remover/cleaner such as -

Protect All Fiberglass Oxidation Remover & Color Restorer

Collinite Fiberglass Boat Cleaner #920

To repair cracks in the wood or poles:

Abatron WoodEpoxy - by Abatron, Inc - www.abatron.com or 800-445-1754

To clean the wood prior to sealing:

Decktergent - by Duckback Products - 800-825-5382

Restore - by Pacific Sales Manufacturing - 800-541-0128

For a maintenance supply quick reference sheet, please contact our office.