



155 S. SEWARD STREET ▪ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

PHONE: 907-586-5278 ▪ FAX: 907-586-4552

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Project Playground cleanup scheduled to start this month *Community steering committee looks ahead toward rebuild*

A chain-link fence has been placed around the perimeter of Twin Lakes playground to prevent access to the site until it can be cleaned. The playground was destroyed by a fire April 24. The City and Borough of Juneau anticipates the cleanup process to start sometime this month.

When that happens, the public will likely notice cleanup contractors wearing Tyvek suits and air filters around Twin Lakes. Immediately after the fire, CBJ hired a firm to investigate the area for contamination risk to the public. Air monitoring showed some off-gassing from the debris, but it was deemed safe for short-term exposure. During cleanup however, the firm recommends contractors wear protection equipment due to the length of time they'll spend in the area working directly with the debris. Air quality will be monitored throughout the cleanup to ensure off-gassing doesn't become a hazard to park users.

As the city has been working toward cleanup, a steering committee of volunteer community members has met several times to discuss rebuilding Twin Lakes playground, also known as Project Playground. The committee plans to reach out to the community this fall – children and adults – to get input on how to improve safety and access in the new playground.

“We’ve already heard several ideas from community members about wanting fire retardant materials, better ADA accessible ground cover, modifying the structures or expanding the footprint,” Project Playground committee chair Mike Goldstein said.

CBJ’s insurance will pay to rebuild the playground similar to what it was before and CBJ’s Risk Management Fund will cover the \$100,000 insurance deductible. Any changes or improvements to the original Project Playground design will be paid for with fundraising dollars.

“We are blown away by the kindness and generosity of the community here and statewide,” Goldstein said.

The Juneau Community Foundation has received about \$150,000 from donations and fundraisers, and money continues to come in. In addition, the committee and CBJ have received offers for in-kind services and skilled help for the rebuild. Goldstein said the committee will set a fundraising goal once

the redesign is finalized, likely around November. It is anticipated that basic improvements for safety and accessibility will cost in excess of \$250,000.

At a May 5 community meeting, dozens of residents indicated a desire to be part of the steering committee. The current committee, mostly comprised of members from the original project, is working to determine volunteer roles and contact those who expressed interest.

The committee is posting information and updates on the Project Playground rebuild on its website: <http://goprojectplayground.org/>

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For more information, contact:

Project Playground committee chair Mike Goldstein at 209-6335 or goldstein.mi@gmail.com

CBJ Parks & Recreation project manager Alexandra Pierce at 500-8677 or alexandra.pierce@juneau.org.