

Middle Playground Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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What is the status of the middle playground project?

Last year, after the annual Pulaski fundraiser (formerly Party with a Purpose, now Saber Soirée), up to \$200k was set aside to upgrade the middle playground. After reaching out to CPS to initiate the project, we learned that the actual cost to replace the entire play structure is closer to \$750k. So, the playground committee began exploring ways to make an immediate impact.

Why is it so expensive to replace the playground structure (\$750k)?

All projects that require permits, etc. must go through the CPS Capital Construction group. The cost includes: demolition and removal of existing equipment, site-prep, installing adequate sub-base (deeper depending on height of equipment), design fee, landscape architect fee, program manager fee, equipment purchase from approved vendors, and installation costs all contribute to the high price tag. Additionally, the estimated cost has risen from \$550k pre-pandemic due to inflation. CPS Capital Construction provided examples of recently rehabbed playgrounds and associated costs (Drummond – \$1.5M; Ogden (1119 N. Cleveland campus), Disney II, Falconer, Scammon – all completed in summer 2022 for \$750k each).

Pulaski's playground is old and has broken parts. Why won't CPS just replace it?

CPS paid \$1M to install the big turf on the west side of the campus, the small turf in the middle playground, the rubber extension in the gaga pit area and new equipment in the Leavitt St. playground. They will not provide additional funding for Pulaski external spaces at this time.

How will a phased approach to updating the space work?

We are trying to work with the facilities manager for Pulaski to implement short term improvements through what is called the Job Order Contract (JOC) process. These short-term improvements would focus on three under-utilized areas with upgrades that do not require

permitting, and therefore no involvement from the CPS Capital Construction group. Areas we are looking at include:

- Existing planters - remove / repurpose and install equipment in that space.
- Relocate / add seating near the existing play structure (against the main building / current 4-square courts).
- Add features / equipment to the gaga pit / ball toss area.

In the future, when it is time to replace the old play structure, these areas will be incorporated into the overall design.

What else is being worked on in the space?

We recently added a basketball hoop in the nook next to the stairs and the team is working on netting for the small turf field to keep those soccer balls (and the kids chasing them) out of the street.

How can we fix the holes in the rubber / repair broken equipment?

The equipment is still serviceable (installed in 2007) and can be repaired, along with patching the rubber surface. We plan to obtain quotes for this as part of the playground project and can proceed if within budget.

Who decides what equipment will be selected?

You do! There is a playground committee that is working on design concepts with Juli Ordower, landscape architect. The designs are based on the [results](#) of the survey from last year. The committee will determine proposed designs and share them with the Pulaski community. Reach out to stephanie@friendsofpulaski.org if you want to get involved.