

Parque de los Ninos Unidos



Garfield Square



Joseph Lee Recreation Center



Bay View Playground



Herz Playground



Louis Sutter Playground

For More Information

Neighborhood Parks Council: (415) 621-3260, www.sfnpc.org

SF Recreation and Parks Department: (415) 831-2700, www.parks.sfgov.org

Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) is a project of Urban Resource Systems, a non-profit organization. NPC accomplishments are based upon a comprehensive strategy to effect change in the San Francisco park system that includes neighborhood park stewardship, public education and advocacy, community planning, and securing funding for park and playground design. Most importantly, NPC's effectiveness lies in its ability to identify the gaps and challenges preventing an equitable and sustainable park system, and to provide solutions.



Angelo J. Rossi Playground



On March 24, 2008, the **Neighborhood Parks Council** (NPC) announced its citywide Playground Initiative to continue its bi-annual assessment of the City's playgrounds and to improve the state of failed playgrounds in underserved neighborhoods. Throughout the Spring of 2008, volunteer playground advocates conducted surveys for over 120 playgrounds in San Francisco, culminating in the 2008 Playground Day event on April 19th, co-hosted by NPC and the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) at **West Sunset Playground**.



Indian Basin Shoreline Park

The goal of the Playground Initiative is to upgrade the City's worst playgrounds and to ensure safe play and exercise space for all children in San Francisco, especially in low-income neighborhoods where park space is the only outdoor play space.



Gilman Playground

The Playground Report Card is a summary of the averaged results of 2008's playground surveys and an interpretation of District and City-wide trends of playground upkeep. NPC utilizes the Playground Report Card to create a baseline for the state of the City's playgrounds and to provide RPD with necessary information to direct limited resources for maintenance and improvements.

Survey Results

The averaged survey results, which take into account factors such as equipment conditions, fall surfacing, signage, and wood surface treatment, indicated that over half of the 125 assessed playgrounds scored a grade of A or B (Figure 1). 45% scored C or lower, with 21% of the playgrounds considered to be "failing" (D or F).



Moscone Recreation Center

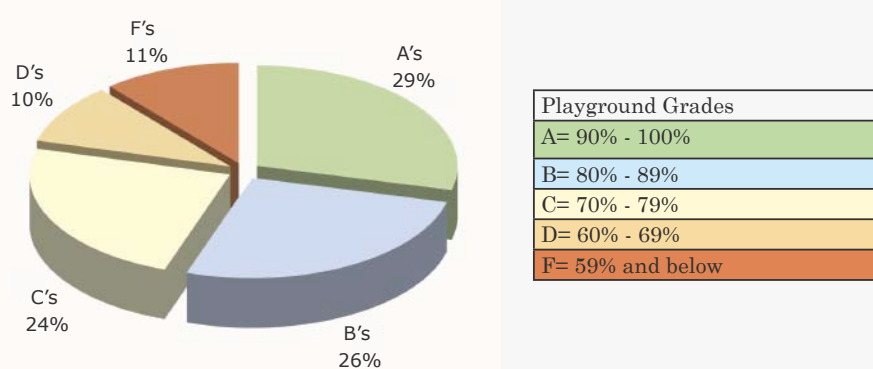


Figure 1. San Francisco Playground Grades 2008

What does the Playground Report Card do for failing playgrounds?

NPC's Playground Initiative focuses on upgrading failed playgrounds identified as unsafe through the Playground Report Card. Many of the City's older playgrounds consist of structures made from pressure-treated wood, which has been known to release arsenic if not painted regularly. Trash, needles, and animal waste in sand surfacing are health and safety issues in failing playgrounds. Rusty, missing, or broken equipment poses an obvious hazard to children and often requires an entire playground renovation. Several of these playgrounds (Table 1) have been included for funding from the GO Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond passed by voters in February of 2008. Ten of the failing playgrounds (Table 2) with the worst conditions have been targeted for immediate safety improvements through community work days by the end of 2008 (subject to change based on collaboration with RPD). The goal of improving the grades of these playgrounds to at least a C will involve sanding and repainting equipment, sifting or replacing fill material, and adjusting all "S-hooks" to meet the proper code.



Louis Sutter Playground

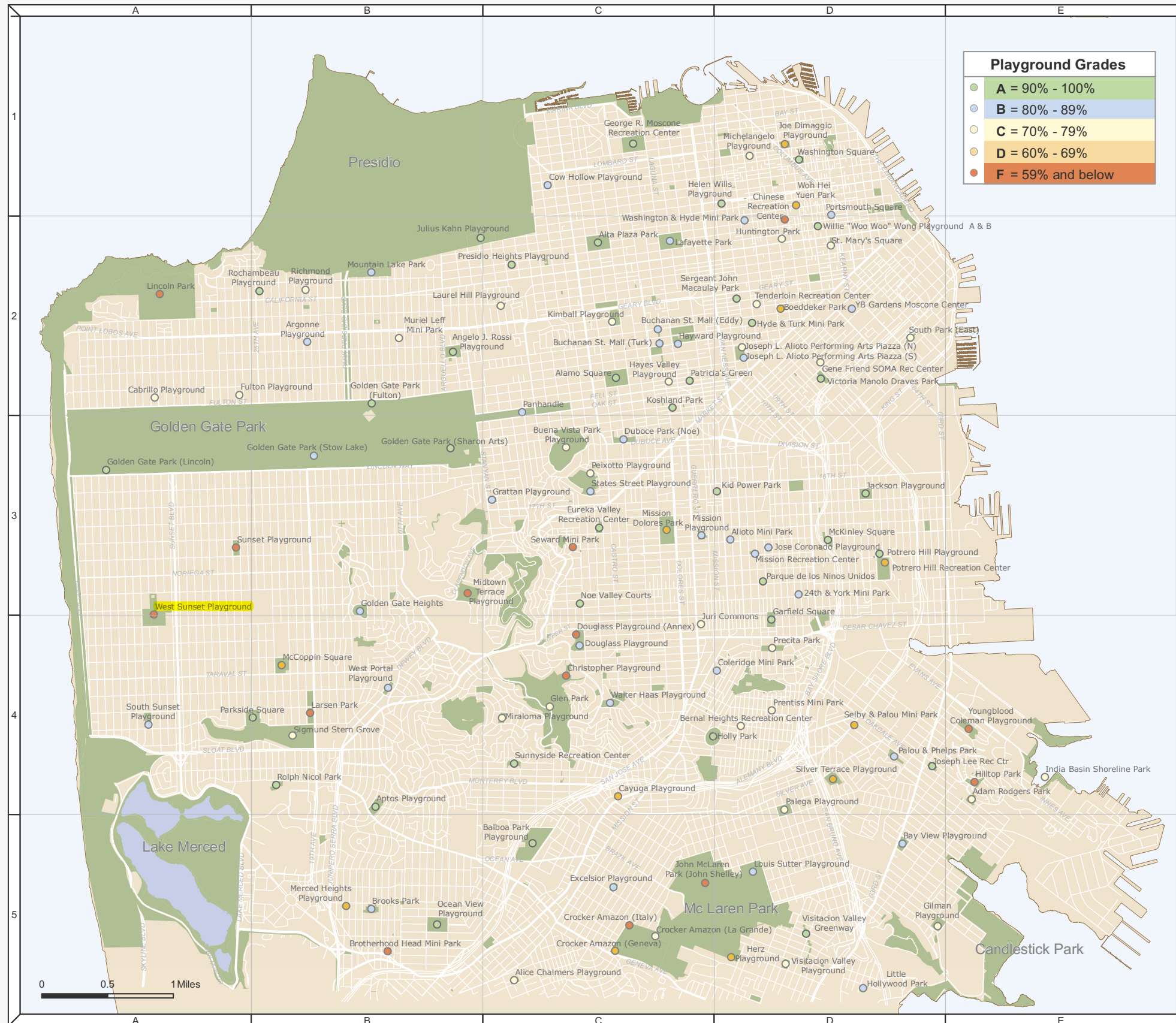
Table 1.	Table 2.
Playgrounds included by RPD in the 2008 GO Parks Bond	Playgrounds selected for safety improvements* *subject to change per collaboration with RPD
Cabrillo Playground Cayuga Playground Chinese Recreation Center Fulton Playground Glen Canyon Park Kimbell Playground Lafayette Park McCoppin Square Mission Dolores Park Mission Playground Palega Playground Sunset Playground	Cayuga Playground Crocker Amazon (Geneva) Crocker Amazon (Moscow) Herz Playground Joe DiMaggio North Beach Playground Lincoln Park Merced Heights Playground Silver Terrace Playground West Sunset Playground Youngblood Coleman Playground

How is the Playground Initiative Funded?

The Playground Initiative has raised a total of \$150,000 for neighborhood organizing around the failed playgrounds, with philanthropic support from the Miriam and Peter Haas Foundation, McKesson Corporation, Wells Fargo Foundation, Stulsaft Foundation, and the Seed Fund, among others. Additionally, NPC and the park groups have begun to leverage the neighborhood funds into much larger projects, attracting a total of \$3 million to date for site-specific capital improvements from private donors, associations, and the City.



Potrero Hill Playground



Playgrounds

24th & York Mini Park	B 3-D	Larsen Park	F 4-B
Adam Rodgers Park	C 4-E	Laurel Hill Playground	C 2-C
Alamo Square	A 2-C	Lincoln Park	F 2-A
Alice Chalmers Playground	C 5-C	Little Hollywood Park	B 5-D
Alioto Mini Park	B 3-D	Louis Sutter Playground	B 5-D
Alta Plaza Park	A 2-C	McCoppin Square	D 4-B
Angelo J. Rossi Playground	A 2-B	McKinley Square	A 3-D
Aptos Playground	A 5-B	Merced Heights Playground	D 5-B
Argonne Playground	B 2-B	Michelangelo Playground	C 1-D
Balboa Park Playground	A 5-C	Midtown Terrace Playground	F 3-B
Bay View Playground	B 5-D	Miraloma Playground	C 4-C
Bernal Heights Recreation Center	C 4-D	Mission Dolores Park	D 3-C
Boeddeker Park	D 2-D	Mission Playground	B 3-C
Brooks Park	B 5-B	Mission Recreation Center	B 3-D
Brotherhood Head Mini Park	F 5-B	Mountain Lake Park	B 2-B
Buchanan St. Mall (Eddy)	B 2-C	Muriel Leff Mini Park	C 2-B
Buchanan St. Mall (Turk)	B 2-C	Noe Valley Courts	A 4-C
Buena Vista Park Playground	C 3-C	Ocean View Playground	A 5-B
Cabrillo Playground	C 3-A	Palega Playground	C 5-D
Cayuga Playground	D 4-C	Palou & Phelps Park	B 4-D
Chinese Recreation Center	F 2-D	Panhandle	B 3-C
Christopher Playground	F 4-C	Parkside Square	A 4-B
Coleridge Mini Park	B 4-C	Parque de los Ninos Unidos	A 3-D
Cow Hollow Playground	B 2-C	Patricia's Green	A 2-C
Crocker Amazon (Geneva)	D 5-C	Peixotto Playground	C 3-C
Crocker Amazon (La Grande)	C 5-C	Portsmouth Square	B 2-D
Crocker Amazon (Italy)	F 5-C	Potrero Hill Playground	A 3-D
Douglass Playground (Annex)	F 4-C	Potrero Hill Recreation Center	D 3-D
Douglass Playground	B 4-C	Precita Park	C 4-D
Duboce Park (Noe)	B 3-C	Prentiss Mini Park	C 4-D
Eureka Valley Recreation Center	A 3-C	Presidio Heights Playground	A 2-C
Excelsior Playground	B 5-C	Richmond Playground	C 2-B
Fulton Playground	C 3-B	Rochambeau Playground	A 2-B
Garfield Square	A 4-D	Rolph Nicol Park	A 4-B
Gene Friend SOMA Rec Center	C 2-D	Selby & Palou Mini Park	D 4-D
George R. Moscone Rec Center	A 1-C	Seward Mini Park	F 3-C
Gilman Playground	C 5-D	Sergeant John Macaulay Park	A 2-D
Glen Park	C 4-C	Sigmund Stern Grove	C 4-B
Golden Gate Heights	B 4-B	Silver Terrace Playground	D 4-D
Golden Gate Park (Fulton)	A 3-B	South Park (East)	C 2-D
Golden Gate Park (Lincoln)	A 3-A	South Sunset Playground	B 4-A
Golden Gate Park (Sharon Arts)	A 3-B	St. Mary's Square	C 2-D
Golden Gate Park (Stow Lake)	B 3-B	States Street Playground	B 3-C
Grattan Playground	B 3-C	Sunnyside Recreation Center	A 4-C
Hayes Valley Playground	C 2-C	Sunset Playground	F 3-A
Hayward Playground	B 2-C	Tenderloin Recreation Center	C 2-D
Helen Willis Playground	A 2-D	Victoria Manolo Draves Park	A 2-D
Herz Playground	D 5-D	Visitation Valley Greenway	A 5-D
Hilltop Park	F 4-E	Visitation Valley Playground	C 5-D
Holly Park	A 4-C	Walter Haas Playground	B 4-C
Huntington Park	C 2-D	Washington & Hyde Mini Park	B 2-D
Hyde & Turk Mini Park	A 2-D	Washington Square	A 1-D
India Basin Shoreline Park	C 4-E	West Portal Playground	B 4-B
Jackson Playground	A 3-D	West Sunset Playground	F 4-A
Joe Dimaggio Playground	D 1-D	Willie "Woo Woo" Wong Playground A & B	A 2-D
John McLaren Park (John Shelley)	F 5-C	Woh Hei Yuen Park	D 2-D
Jose Coronado Playground	B 3-D	YB Gardens Moscone Center	B 2-D
Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza (N)	C 2-D	Youngblood-Coleman Playground	F 4-E
Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza (S)	B 2-D		
Joseph Lee Recreation Center	A 4-D		
Julius Kahn Playground	A 2-C		
Juri Commons	C 4-C		
Kid Power Park	A 3-C		
Kimball Playground	C 2-C		
Koshland Park	A 3-C		
Lafayette Park	B 2-C		

Playgrounds currently closed:
 Franklin Square
 Hamilton Rec. Center
 J.P. Murphy Playground
 James Rolph Playground
 Junipero Serra Playground
 Kelloch/ Velasco Park
 Potrero del Sol Playground
 St. Mary's Playground
 Upper Noe Rec. Center

Playgrounds Removed:
 10th & Clement Mini-Park
 Duboce Park (Walker)
 John McLaren Park (Burrows)



Park	Grade
Alamo Square	A
Alta Plaza Park	A
Angelo J. Rossi Playground	A
Aptos Playground	A
Balboa Park Playground	A
Eureka Valley Recreation Center	A
Garfield Square	A
George R. Moscone Recreation Center	A
Golden Gate Park (Fulton)	A
Golden Gate Park (Lincoln)	A
Golden Gate Park (Sharon Arts)	A
Helen Willis Playground	A
Holly Park	A
Hyde & Turk Mini Park	A
Jackson Playground	A
Joseph Lee Recreation Center	A
Julius Kahn Playground	A
Kid Power Park	A
Koshland Park	A
McKinley Square	A
Noe Valley Courts	A
Ocean View Playground	A
Parkside Square	A
Parque de los Niños Unidos	A
Patricia's Green	A
Potrero Hill Playground	A
Presidio Heights Playground	A
Rochambeau Playground	A
Rolph Nicol Park	A
Sergeant John Macaulay Park	A
Sunnyside Recreation Center	A
Victoria Manolo Draves Park	A
Visitation Valley Greenway	A
Washington Square	A
Willie "Woo Woo" Wong Chinese Playground A	A
Willie "Woo Woo" Wong Chinese Playground B	A
24th & York Mini Park	B
Alioto Mini-Park	B
Argonne Playground	B
Bayview Playground	B
Brooks Park	B
Buchanan St. Mall (Eddy)	B
Buchanan St. Mall (Turk)	B
Coleridge Mini-Park	B
Cow Hollow Playground	B
Douglass Playground	B
Duboce Park (Noe)	B
Excelsior Playground	B
Golden Gate Heights	B
Golden Gate Park (Stow Lake)	B
Grattan Playground	B

Park	Grade
Hayward Playground	B
Jose Coronado Playground	B
Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza (S)	B
Lafayette Park	B
Little Hollywood Park	B
Louis Sutter Playground	B
Mission Playground	B
Mission Recreation Center	B
Mountain Lake Park	B
Palou & Phelps Park	B
Panhandle	B
Portsmouth Square	B
South Sunset Playground	B
States St. Playground	B
Walter Haas Playground	B
Washington & Hyde Mini Park	B
West Portal Playground	B
YB Gardens Moscone Center	B
Adam Rogers Park	C
Alice Chalmers Playground	C
Bernal Heights Recreation Center	C
Buena Vista Park Playground	C
Cabrillo Playground	C
Crocker Amazon (La Grande)	C
Fulton Playground	C
Gene Friend SOMA Rec Center	C
Gilman Playground	C
Glen Park	C
Hayes Valley Playground	C
Huntington Park	C
India Basin Shoreline Park	C
Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza (N)	C
Juri Commons	C
Kimball Playground	C
Laurel Hill Playground	C
Michelangelo Playground	C
Miraloma Playground	C
Muriel Leff Mini-Park	C
Palega Playground	C
Peixotto Playground	C
Precita Park	C
Prentiss Mini Park	C
Richmond Playground	C
Sigmund Stern Grove	C
South Park (East)	C
St. Mary's Square	C
Tenderloin Rec Center	C
Visitation Valley Playground	C
Boeddeker Park	D
Cayuga Playground	D
Crocker Amazon (Geneva)	D

Park	Grade
Herz Playground	D
Joe DiMaggio North Beach Playground	D
McCoppin Square	D
Merced Heights Playground	D
Mission Dolores Park	D
Potrero Hill Recreation Center	D
Selby & Palou Mini-Park	D
Silver Terrace Playground	D
Woh Hei Yuen Park	D
Brotherhood Head Mini-Park	F
Chinese Recreation Center	F
Christopher Playground	F
Crocker Amazon (Italy)	F
Douglass Playground Annex	F
Hilltop Park	F
John McLaren Park (John Shelley)	F
Larsen Park	F
Lincoln Park	F
Midtown Terrace Playground	F
Seward Mini-Park	F
Sunset Playground	F
West Sunset Playground	F
Youngblood Coleman Playground	F

Grades:
A= 90%-100%
B= 80%-89%
C= 70%-79%
D= 60%-69%
F= 59% and below

Playgrounds currently closed for renovation:

- Franklin Square
 - Hamilton Recreation Center
 - J.P. Murphy Playground
 - James Rolph Playground
 - Junipero Serra Playground
 - Kelloch/Velasco Park
 - Potrero del Sol Playground
 - St. Mary's Playground
 - Upper Noe Recreation Center
- Playgrounds removed:**
- 10th & Clement Mini-Park
 - Duboce Park (Waller)
 - John McLaren Park (Burrows)

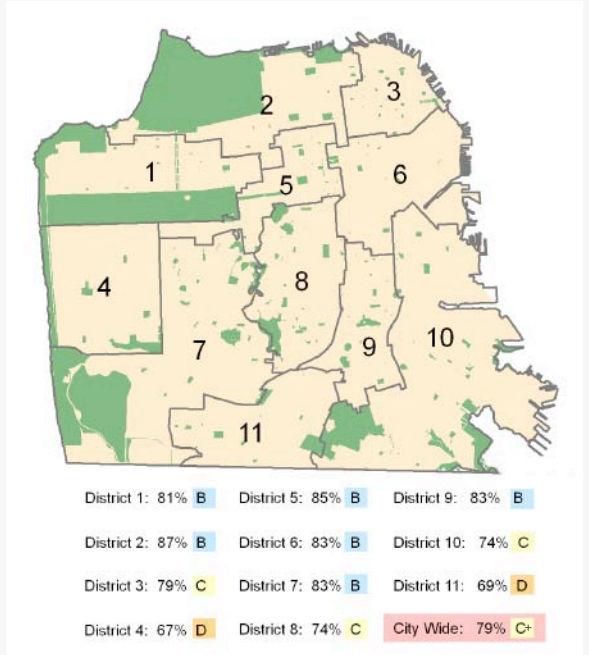


Figure 2. District Playground Grades

City-wide, San Francisco's playgrounds scored an average grade of almost 80% in the Playground Assessment (Figure 2). District 2 had the highest percentile grade (87%) of any District for its 8 assessed playgrounds, while Districts 4 (7 Playgrounds) and 11 (11 Playgrounds) both received failing percentages (67% and 69%). District 10, which has the highest number of playgrounds (20) of all of the Districts, received a C grade.

What gives playgrounds an A grade?

The 36 playgrounds that received an A grade generally have secure, stable play equipment that is free from rust or corrosion, proper depth of fill material and/or intact rubber surfacing, and adequate visual permeability for supervision. In addition, these well-tended playgrounds contain a sufficient number of trash cans and are free from hazardous debris, have appropriate paint or wood surface treatment, and have well-maintained chains and cables with closed "S-hooks."

What issues are common among failing playgrounds?

The 26 playgrounds that received a D or F grade exhibit missing, broken, or corroded equipment, poor fill material, surfacing, or drainage, and missing trash cans with potentially hazardous debris. Worn, splintering wooden structures are also a problem among these playgrounds, and the absence of proper paint is an especially significant issue due to the presence of arsenic-containing pressurized wood requiring consistent surface treatment. Furthermore, many of these failing playgrounds have broken or missing fences and gates.



Issues that don't "make the grade" in San Francisco Playgrounds

What issues are problems for all playgrounds?

Across the board, many of the surveyed playgrounds from all grade categories faced issues such as lack of safety lighting and proper seating.