



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

**Statement from Cambridge City Manager Robert W. Healy
On Pressure Treated Wood Play Structures
May 21, 2001**

I would like to clarify some information regarding the use of pressure treated wood play structures in Cambridge. The City has approximately 65 parks with play structures, 14 of which are made of pressure treated wood. These 14 structures are more than eight years old and will be replaced over the next several years. All wooden structures still remaining in the City have been sanded and sealed within the last two years.

Cambridge has not installed pressure treated wood play structures in the past eight years. The City embarked on an aggressive effort to switch over to metal play structures eight years ago, primarily because they require less maintenance and present fewer problems (e.g. splintering). Since that time, we have converted a majority of the parks with play structures from wood to steel and the effort is ongoing.

It is important to note that not all wood play structures are pressure treated wood. Some existing wood structures, such as Bergin Playground and Paine Park, are actually redwood, which is not pressure treated. However, both are scheduled to be replaced over the next several months.

This year, the City replaced pressure treated wood play structures in the following parks:

- Larch Road Park
- Fitzgerald School
- Danehy Park (two play structures)
- St. Peter's Field
- Bergin Playground (made of redwood, which is not pressure treated wood)
- Paine Park (made of redwood, which is not pressure treated wood)

Over the next several months, pressure treated wood structures will be replaced at:

- Rev. Williams Park (Sleeper Park)
- Kennedy School
- King School

The FY02 Budget to be approved at the May 21 City Council meeting includes funds to replace the pressure treated wood structures at:

- Agassiz School/Alden Park
- Lopez Street Playground (through play structure replacement fund)

-more-



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The replacement of the remaining nine (9) structures will be included in the Capital Plan for the FY03 Budget. These structures are located at:

Cambridge Common
Tobin School
Dana Park
Alberico Park
Gore Street/Gold Star Mother's Park
Fulmore Park
David Nunes Park (also known as Old Morse Park)
Columbia Street Park
Charles Park.

The Cambridge Department of Public Works is no longer using pressure treated wood for any purposes. Pressure-treated wood is not burned and is not used for wood chips or mulch.

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