



Morris Early Childhood Education Center's Doug & Linda Paul Playground Resurfacing Project

Preucil School Playground project is a capital campaign to continue to make the vision of a safe, rubber surface playground a reality. The project includes adding new railings, expanding the fencing around the playground so it is a larger area for students to play, installing sod in areas where there is currently sand, and replacing the mulch base with a tiled material made from recycled Iowa tires. Here are the Who, What, Where, When and Why of the campaign.

Who will be benefit from Preucil Playground Project?

The Preucil Preschool currently has 52 students enrolled in 2-day, 3-day, or 5-day preschool. In addition to the students who attend the Preucil Preschool, we have numerous students and siblings that attend lessons and group classes at the Preucil School that also use the playground when the preschool is not in session. At a time when children are spending more and more time indoors in front of screens and childhood obesity is increasing, Preucil is resurfacing and expanding our playground to make outdoor playtime safe, clean, and inviting. Children will experience a freedom of spirit and expansion of mind that only the outdoors can bring.

What are the advantages of solid rubber surface over mulch?

Currently the Preucil playground area is on a mulch surface. Our goal is to replace the mulch with a solid rubber surface made from recycled Iowa tires. The advantages of a solid rubber surface over mulch are numerous:

1. It is safer.
2. Students with mobility challenges would greatly benefit from a solid rubber surface.
3. A solid rubber surface is cushioned and permanent. It is impossible to maintain a uniform depth with mulch.
4. It dries faster. Rain and other weather conditions make mulch unplayable. The students need the many benefits an outdoor recess provides.
5. Kids throw the mulch.
6. It is cleaner and does not track into the school.
7. Sharp objects can be hidden in the loose mulch.
8. Mulch is decaying wood. It harbors mold and bacteria that is especially harmful for our students with asthma and allergies.
9. Tests proven to reduce injuries by 75%.
10. No daily maintenance to comply with safe fall regulations.
11. Solid rubber surface has a life expectancy of 25+ years.
12. With childhood obesity increasing, the resurface of the playground will make outdoor playtime safe, clean, and inviting.

Why?

Preucil Preschool believes that children learn best by doing what children do best—playing. Outdoor play is an important area of play that not only promotes large muscle development, but also engages children in ways that are not conducive to the indoors. The playground is an extension of our classroom as we bring paint easels, blocks, and drawing materials outside. It is important that our playground is well maintained, clean, and safe in order to encourage optimal learning and to provide sufficient play choices.

When?

The goal of Preucil Playground Project is to have the funds for this project raised by the spring of 2012 and start installation immediately after the funds are raised.

Where will the money come from?

The total cost of the project is \$79,209. We need *your* help to make this vision of a safe and accessible playground a reality.

Gift Table

Playground Partner	\$10,000 - and up
Runners	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Jumpers	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Leapers	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Skippers	\$500 - \$999
Trotters	\$499 - and under

Preucil School of Music is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Checks should be written to the Preucil School of Music with Preschool Playground in the memo portion.

To learn more about Preschool Playground Project and how you can help contact:

Sonja Zeithamel
319-337-4156 ext. 103
szeithamel@gmail.com

Mary Ann Hendrickson
319-337-4156 ext. 101
mhendrickson@preucil.org

Our current mulch-base playground:



Pictures from Lakeview Elementary playground:

