

# TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Recreation Department  
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## Recreation Department

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### Robbins Farm Playground Project Schedule Update

The Robbins Farm Playground renovation project is on-going. The Town is working with Agency Landscape and Planning, as Landscape Architects, and JJ Phelan Contractors. Currently the project is moving forward, however, there have been significant delays with the two new concrete slides outside our team's control.

The concrete slides were ordered from UPC Parks based in California. Upon finalizing the purchase of these custom built 30' slides, the Town of Arlington and UPC Parks had to come to an agreement on contractual language. Despite the Town doing everything possible to expedite the process the ordering of the slides was delayed by approximately six weeks. UPC Parks, Agency Landscape and Planning, as Landscape Architects, and the JJ Phelan then had to finalize the detailed as built drawings. This process again took longer than anticipated due to the custom nature of these slides and the unique installation application.

The slides have been ordered and are scheduled to be on site in late July/early August. The slides are not only the mainstay playground feature, but they also are the key to the entire construction schedule. The installation of these slides will require the use of a heavy crane. The crane needs to be placed at the base of the hill for installation purposes. Therefore, construction throughout the remaining areas of the park cannot move forward until the slides are in place.

Initial earth work and path work to the hillside has been completed, as well as the initial slide footings. Until the slide is installed the contractor cannot complete the other playground features on the hill. Everything on the hill has very specific fall zones with mandated safety and installation dimensions. If for some reason the slide must be tweaked by even a couple of inches that will impact the final footing placement of all of the other hillside pieces. The slides are the scheduling key to this project.

As soon as the slides are delivered to the site the project will then move at a much more rapid pace. Until then the contractor has very limited options as to work they can complete. Assuming the slides are delivered in late July/early August we then anticipate another 6-8 weeks of equipment installation. Once all the equipment is installed, the contractor will then install the poured in place rubber surfacing. The playground will then be inspected and then opened to the public.

At this point in time it is difficult to give an exact date of completion but we are currently estimating a late fall 2024 opening. The Park and Recreation Commission realizes that this is disappointing news to the many park users! This project is valued at over \$2.4 million dollars and will be Arlington's first playground designed with universal design principles. It is imperative that we get this project right the first time. Robbins Farm has had three other variations of metal and plastic slides over the last 20 years, it is our intention that the new concrete slides will be the last slides we install at Robbins for the next 25 years.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and patience as we strive to give the residents of Arlington a playground we can all be proud of.