

Susitna Rotary
Little Susitna Rotary Park Playground
Project Narrative
District Grant Project P-5530

April 2025

Susitna Rotary proposed building a new playground adjacent to the existing pavilion previously constructed by the club at Little Susitna Rotary Park. A district grant was submitted to fund Phase I planning, with an estimated cost of \$5,000. Landscape architect Nancy Casey—who designed the Fairbanks Rotary Club playground—agreed to provide professional planning services for the project.

June 2025

In June, Jack Timm discovered a Facebook Marketplace listing for a used Raindrop Imagination Station playground structure in Anchorage. The equipment was offered as *is/where is*, with the buyer responsible for removal, for \$2,500. The committee agreed that purchasing the structure could allow the club not only to complete planning, but to finish the entire playground this year.

Kim Erickson presented the proposal to the City of Houston Parks & Recreation Commission, securing their approval. The City of Houston owns and maintains all improvements made to Little Susitna Rotary Park.

After inspecting the equipment and confirming it was in good condition and suitable for refurbishment, Jack Timm recommended purchase. Kim Erickson negotiated the price to \$500 with Mountain City Christian Academy.

Casey Planning and Design updated their scope to include a site layout and installation instructions for the structure.

A team led by Jack Timm disassembled the playground, transported it to his home in the Mat-Su Valley, where Jack spent the next month cleaning and refurbishing all components.

July 2025

The committee researched playground surface and border materials. Although Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) mulch was the initial preference, the final decision was to use pea gravel.

An opportunity also arose to partner with the City of Houston to pave the parking area adjacent to the playground and pavilion, improving handicap accessibility, for \$5,000.

Ground preparation began, including construction of the wooden border and installation of a concrete pad to support the playground structure.

August 2025

All site-preparation work was completed, and pea gravel was delivered and staged.

On **August 9th**, Susitna Rotary held a club work party to install the refurbished equipment and spread the pea gravel. The playground was successfully completed that day.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony followed, attended by Susitna Rotary members, the Mayor of Houston, two city council members, and local media.

Total Project Cost (including parking area paving): \$8,944