

# Country Side South Homeowners Association Special Newsletter

MAY 27, 2016

**As mentioned** a few weeks ago in the last Newsletter, this year the Board has decided to address the Playground issues within the development. We requested input from the children of the neighborhood and were presented with a great response via e-mail, snail mail, Facebook and in person. Published inside this newsletter is a list of youthful suggestions along with some parental advice. The entire HOA Board considers this project to be of the utmost importance and certainly will not be able to accomplish all the requests. We will however prioritize where we can get the best “bang for the buck” and do what we can this year but will certainly need to continue this overhaul in phases over the next year or two or so. Please be patient with us. After analyzing the input from the neighborhood, the research we have done on our own, personal life experiences and good discussions, we feel we have a really good plan which we have started to implement.

## **Here is the first stage ambitious plan:**

1. Spruce up the existing Picnic Shelter off Countryside Blvd, paint, lights, electrical, etc
2. Convert the existing Volleyball Court next to the Picnic Shelter into a mostly pre-school and elementary school playground with age appropriate playground equipment
3. Fix the Basketball Net on the existing Basketball Court
4. Take care of the weeds and bring in more pea gravel ground surface on the Playground just east of Countryside Blvd
5. Re rake the pea gravel surface on the Barberry Circle Playground
6. Repair, refinish, upgrade, add to or replace the existing Playground equipment in the two existing playgrounds (and possibly sell the existing equipment if replaced)

We will do what we can with the \$17,000 available in our budget.

## **Here is the philosophy behind this first stage plan:**

The two existing playgrounds are very convenient for those living on Barberry Circle or who's homes back up to the park east of Countryside Blvd but are a distance away from many residents. The Picnic Shelter, the Volleyball Court and the Basketball Court are all centrally located within the development and have easy sidewalk access and an easy access parking lot just off Countryside Blvd. The Volleyball Court (which does not get used) is too small to convert into a Tennis Court or Baseball field but is a very adequate size (30' X 60') to become a nice playground. The Picnic Shelter has 4 large picnic tables, a covered roof and has a perfect view for parents to watch their kids play where the new playground will be or to observe the basketball activities. Thanks to our new Facebook page we feel we will be able to easily make the Picnic facility available for birthday parties, graduations, or family events.

Countryside South HOA “**KIDS**” (mostly) Playground Suggestions  
Through May 23, 2016

**Requests from e-mails and letters:**

Merry-go-round  
Monkey Bars  
Really cool slide  
Splash pad  
Rock Wall  
Zip line  
Twisty slide  
Tire swing (now too low)  
Baseball field by volleyball court  
More than 3 swings  
New basketball hoop and net  
Basketballs  
Climbing spider web dome  
Bars so we can do more tricks  
More than one slide  
Lots of swings  
Infant swing seat  
Teenagers want volleyball court converted to a tennis court  
Forts  
Monkey bars  
Metal equipment with swings and bars  
Slides  
Balance bar  
Fire Pole  
Useable tire swing  
Extended playground area  
Two different playgrounds for each location

**Requests from Facebook:**

Different ground covering  
What’s our budget?  
Commercial plastic set like schools and parks

### **Requests from Facebook continued:**

Monkey bars  
Big slide  
Swings  
Big tires  
Basketball court  
Monkey bars  
Longer slides  
More elaborate equipment with towers and slides

#### **Definite negatives mentioned:**

Get rid of tires  
No mulch

#### **Definite positives mentioned:**

Like big tires  
Like rocks  
Like swing bar with handles  
Like tire swing  
Keep gravel (pea gravel)

#### **Parent concerns mentioned:**

Fear of snakes hiding in the rocks  
Weeds and broken glass  
Budget

#### **Parent Suggestions mentioned:**

Put up warning signs  
Trash cans  
Lighting  
Bench Seats

### **Thank you to all the kids who responded with such great ideas!!!!!!**

**The Board** is also concerned with rattlesnakes and it is possible that they **could** be found in some of the larger rocks but we don't believe they have ever been spotted in the playgrounds even though there is usually one or two sightings somewhere within the development every year.

**One more good reason to convert the Volleyball Court!!**

**Remember also Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>** is the date we have decided to hold a neighborhood garage sale like has been done in the past. Each homeowner can participate by opening their garage that day if they would like to try to clear some goods out. We will also have a large dumpster placed by the picnic shelter on Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> and will have it picked up on Monday giving you the option of throwing things out that don't sell. (They will only pick up items **INSIDE** the dumpster so please don't set anything beside it) The HOA will put up signs a few days before the sale at both entrances to the development and will place a large advertisement in the Rapid City Journal and maybe on Craigslist.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS  
WHO SENT US SUCH FANTASTIC IDEAS!!!!**

**CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:**

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We are always looking for new HOA Board Members

Please give it some thought

We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each Month

**Also if you have some interest in purchasing one of our existing Playsets please contact  
any one of the Board Members so we can discuss it with you.**