

Tyler J. Carpenter

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Mayor and Council of Galena

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Dear Galena Residents and Families,

I am writing to share an important update regarding the playground at Dogwood Park.

After approximately 25 years of serving generations of Galena families, the playground has reached a point where its age and condition have raised significant safety concerns. Following a recent review, the Town's insurance provider advised that the playground should be closed immediately.

At the October 5, 2026 meeting, the Mayor & Council voted to close the main playground equipment at Dogwood Park effective immediately. We know this is disappointing news for the many children and families who enjoy the playground. This was not a decision we wanted to make, but the safety of our residents, especially our children, must come first.

The Teen Hangout play equipment at Dogwood Park will remain open. Families are also encouraged to use the playground at Toal Park and the playground at Galena Elementary School, which is open to the public after school hours. Dogwood Park itself also remains open for the community to enjoy.

Town staff has been working diligently for months to secure funding for a new, modern, and inclusive playground. Playground replacement is a significant investment, and while we have actively pursued grants and other funding opportunities, we have not yet secured the funding necessary to complete the project. We will continue pursuing grants, partnerships, fundraising opportunities, and other available resources to make a new playground a reality. In the meantime, we ask for your patience and understanding and, most importantly, that everyone respect the closure of the main playground equipment.

This playground has been part of our community for 25 years, and we look forward to the day when we can welcome everyone back to a new playground that will serve the next generation of Galena children.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our Town.

Sincerely,

Tyler J. Carpenter

Mayor of the Town of Galena