

Troopers Hill Field – Replacing the Red Slide

The red slide on Troopers Hill Field (which was the last remaining part of the 1980s play area) was removed on 4th November 2019.

The rust had finally reached the point where it had become structurally unsafe putting users at risk.

A small slide was included in the new play area installed in 2016 and Bristol Parks have agreed in principle that a replacement large slide can be installed next to the play area.



We are intending to apply for a grant to part fund the new slide but some of the funding will need to come from donations, we have therefore launched an online appeal - you can donate via the link below, or [contact us](#) for other ways to donate.

Every donation, large or small, will help towards our target and demonstrate support that will make our grant application more likely to succeed.

[**Donate online via GoFundMe >>**](#)

Red Slide FAQs

a) Why does a new slide cost so much?

- The cost covers new safety surfacing as well as the new slide, including taking off the turf, putting down a 10 cm layer of stone and the safety surfacing itself.
- The slide is not the kind of slide you have in your back garden - it has to take all the stresses and strains of being outside in a public space, taking the weight of many bodies other than the small children we would like to be the only users.
- The guarantee period for most play equipment of this type is 15-25 years.
- A small amount of this sum is to allow for changes in cost while we raise the funds and for costs such as the website we are using for fundraising and doing any kind of publicity to raise funds. All fundraising websites make charges.

If you are wondering why the slide has gone

Notice of play equipment removal



Site name: Troopers Hill Date of notice: 25/10/2019
Equipment description: Free Standing Steel Slide
Reason for removal:
The equipment has come to the natural end of its life span (installed 1980). The steel is eroding at the base and user safety can no longer be guaranteed.
Removal of the slide is scheduled for November 2019 with the wetpour and tarmac along with reinstatement landscaping being scheduled for the spring of 2020 due to ground conditions



b) Why couldn't the old slide be repaired?

- The slide had completely rusted through in places, [in particular some of its supporting legs.](#)
- To repair it would have been a specialised engineering job, in effect it would have meant building a new slide but with some old parts.
- A new slide needs to meet modern safety standards, this may not have been possible using parts from the old slide.

c) Where will the new slide go?

- Next to the new play area so it can be used with the other play equipment.
- It will have to face north so the stainless steel slide section does not heat up too much in the sun - this was a problem with the old slide which faced west and was not in the shade.
- The proposed location is marked on this aerial view of the existing play area.



d) Why wasn't a new slide included in the new play area?

- There was a limited budget for the new play area - we raised £80,000. There was a strong plea to keep the old slide and not replace it. We chose to go for the priority list of items that parents had suggested at [our consultation](#) and with the slide still there (it lasted 3 more years), a small slide in the play area seemed to be enough.

e) Why can't the new slide be where the old one was?

- Now we have a new £80,000 play area it does not make sense to have a single piece of play equipment so far away, particularly as Bristol City Council have to make fortnightly safety inspections of all play equipment in all their parks.

f) How can I get the best value for my donation?

- While it is quick and easy to make an online donation via [GoFundMe](#) a charge will be levied on your donation. If you want us to have exactly what you give then you can make a direct transfer to our bank account or send us a cheque made payable to Friends of Troopers Hill to The Treasurer, Friends of Troopers Hill, c/o 3 Corkers Hill, St George, Bristol, BS5 8DT or hand us cash at an event or conservation work party. Email friends@troopers-hill.org.uk for our bank account details.

g) Is there any other way to raise the money?

- If you have fundraising ideas we would be very happy to put out publicity about your fundraiser, just get in touch via friends@troopers-hill.org.uk or ring 0117 947 5037.
- We are looking at other sources of funding for which we might be able to use funds raised through this appeal as 'matchfunding'.

h) What happens to my donation if you don't reach the target or raise more than you need?

- Friends of Troopers will keep the appeal open for 2 years, but it would be great to reach the target quickly so children don't miss out.
- If we fail to reach the target (or if we raise more than we need) we will use the funds for children's activities on Troopers Hill.



www.troopers-hill.org.uk/field.htm#RedSlide