

TO: Park & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: Assistant Parks & Rec Director
DATE: January 11, 2022
SUBJECT: Emerson Park Playground Safety



City of West St. Paul

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Late in 2021, some residents near Emerson Park began expressing concerns about traffic and speeding along Gorman Ave between Butler Ave and Bernard St. Emerson Park borders about 25% of this 2-block stretch. Many kids live in this neighborhood and use the park often. There is concern for the safety of these kids crossing the street to get to the park. There is also concern that traffic will continue to increase once the new apartments at Signal Hills are completed.

The concerned residents have asked staff to add a stop sign at Arion St, making it a 4-way stop. Staff evaluated the intersection and presented findings to the City Council on November 8, 2021 (report attached). Based on the findings, Council chose to follow staff recommendation not to add the stop sign. Council did recommend that Park and Recreation Advisory Committee discuss options for improved safety around the playground, such as adding landscaping or fences to prevent young children from running out into the street.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss options for improved safety at Emerson Park.