



Slide structure catches on fire at Partnership Park in Jackson

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A slide structure caught on fire at Partnership Park on Williams and Mason Streets Saturday afternoon. The park will be closed indefinitely.

JACKSON, MI—Due to a fire at Partnership Park on Williams and Mason Streets Saturday afternoon, the park will be closed indefinitely. The Jackson Fire Department responded to the scene around 3:40 p.m. Capt. Todd Weaver said the structure was “heavily” smoking by the time they arrived. Heavy smoke could be seen from miles away and the smell of burning rubber permeated for blocks.

A very popular slide structure at the park caught fire. At the time, Weaver said they did not know how the fire started. The padding chips beneath the slide are made out of old rubber car tires.

Partnership Park President Wanda Beavers said they laid down the padding chips this past July. She is saddened by the news. “Who would have the heart to do that?” She said the organization installed

new equipment at that park three years ago and it is the cornerstone of the community. The organization applies for and receives grants to keep the park going.



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Beavers was not sure if they will have the funds to rebuild. "We worked hard for this. We need some community support," she said as she looked at the charred remains of the slide. The slide is one of the park's main attractions. "We have to close it down," she said. Patricia Anthony lives next door to the park. She said she smelled the smoke and started running down the stairs thinking it was her house that was on fire. "Two days ago there were kids that set that trash can on fire," she said pointing to a can inside the park. "I yelled at them to put it out," she said. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

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