

With no swings, city park has lost its last bit of fun

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STAFF REPORTER

A ride on a swing is a wonderful fling, until it disappears.

Of the many pleasures of childhood, few are more satisfying than jumping on a swing set and pumping high and higher towards the sky. Swings are enjoyed as much as anything found in a park.

During summer, parks are a focal point for parents or caregivers trying to amuse pint-sized children.



JACK LAKEY/TORONTO STAR
Frame is there, but Coronation Park's swings weren't safe, city official says. July 4, 2008

A reader called to say the chains and seats on a swing set in Coronation Park, at the corner of Royal York Rd. and Judson St., disappeared this spring, leaving kids who use the park with absolutely no playground equipment.

There are several highrises in the area, said the caller, which adds up to a lot of families without yards.

Sure enough, we found only the frame for perhaps a half-dozen swings, and no other playground equipment in the park.

Nearby, serving no obvious purpose, was a faded building that had been plunked there from elsewhere. Lest anyone confuse it with a playhouse, it was surrounded by a chain-link fence.

All in all, of all the Toronto parks we've visited, Coronation is in a photo finish for the most hardscrabble and dispiriting of the bunch.

No flowers and nothing to play on. Even the grass is patchy and uneven.

STATUS: The city's Kevin Bowser checked his files and reported back that the chains and seats were removed because the swing set did not meet safety standards.

He said he'd try to get new swings for Coronation before the end of summer.

The old building we wondered about, he said, is the former Mimico train station, uprooted from a nearby rail line.

It's to be restored through a fundraising campaign by a local service club.

The project is likely to take a couple years to complete.

WHO'S GETTING IT FIXED: Kevin Bowser, parks manager, Etobicoke-York district; 416-394-2486; kbowser@toronto.ca

What's broken in your neighbourhood? Wherever you are in Toronto, we want to know. To email us, click on the submit a problem link. Or call us at 416-869-4823.