

# Tualatin's Playful Playgrounds

SUBMITTED BY: MARY FRENCH

Have you ever noticed how creative, whimsical, and playful the playgrounds are in Tualatin's parks? With spring just a month away, let's take a look at these playful playgrounds.

We start off with the "classic" – the playground at Lafky Park, a little 2-acre gem on Siletz Drive. The sturdy wooden play structure has two slides, a chain climbing slant and more, with soft wood chips underneath. All very natural, well-built, and ready for fun.

Next up, Ibach Park, on Ibach Street. This is a triple award-winning park, the most recent award being named the 2012 Prettiest Park and Playground in the Portland Metro area by Red Tricycle. It's hard to know where to start – Ibach Park is full of whimsy, creativity, and education. The Mastodon bones are a highlight, surrounded by lots of sand for digging. The canoe, drum circle, and wind chime harkens back to the Native Americans who used to live in the area. The rubber "river" flows down to the pioneer playground with logs to walk across and a farmhouse to climb upon. And don't forget the cow...does she have a name?

Interested in a pirate adventure? The boat at Atfalati Park, on Sagert Street, is just the place to say "Ahoy Matey!" before you sail off to distant lands and exciting escapades. Or how about a game of Tic Tac Toe on the adjacent play structure?

Community Park, in the heart of Tualatin, has its award-winning skate park, as well as the most space age-like structure in town. Here you will also find train engine Tualatin 101. And your pet pals? They too can enjoy the fun of Community Park at the dog park...fire hydrant thrown in for free.

Jurgens Park, on Jurgens Avenue, is named after potato farmers William and Rosa Jurgens. The park is located on a portion of their former farm, and thus, not surprisingly, has a farm theme. There's a barn, a hay cart, a root cellar, and a wonderful pig settling into a meal at the trough.

As colorful and fanciful these playgrounds are, they all have what is needed for serious fun – slides, poles, bridges, sand boxes, ladders, bars and more – meaning the time you and your family spend at Tualatin's playful playgrounds will be memorable. Because, you know, spring is just a month away...



**Mary French** is a native Oregonian who lives in Tualatin. Her hobbies include birding, photography, and exploring Tualatin.



**Lafky Park  
Siletz Drive**



**Atfalati Park  
Sagert St.**



**Community  
Park**



**Jurgens Park  
Jurgens Ave.**



**Ibach Park  
Ibach Street**

