

Park Strategy Action Plan

Action Item	Task	Targeted Initiation (Quarter)								Capital Estimate
		2017				2018				
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Playground Plan	Follow a five-year Annual Playground Plan (Appendix A) of scheduled removal and replacement that is based on the priorities identified through the Park Strategy.	Annual investment pending funding								\$250,000/yr.
	Refine the playground maintenance program within Cityworks to include annual maintenance and inspection schedules that meet CSA standards and inform the Parks Asset Management Plan.									n/a
	Develop a tiered system for playground investment with standards for a premiere playground versus a base level of equipment, and review new and innovative play opportunities such as natural playgrounds.									n/a
Park Service Delivery	Update the Parks Service Level Program to reflect service delivery levels.									n/a
	Identify potential opportunities within City Works for more proactive service delivery and review opportunities to fill gaps in areas such as urban forestry, trails, and weed control through the reallocation of resources.									n/a
	Develop a Parks Operational Plan to guide strategic service delivery.									n/a
Park Investment Program	Update park asset inventories within GIS for use in Cityworks and park promotions.									n/a
	Prioritize park investments in the capital budget and develop a list of DCC park projects.									TBD
	Develop a 10-year Parks Asset Management Plan that will outline the operations, maintenance, renewal, and replacement required to meet service levels, as well as identify risks associated with not meeting these service levels.									n/a
Park Partnerships	Pursue the Ball Diamond and Sports Field Strategy (Appendix B) to explore service delivery and potential efficiencies.									n/a
	Review the exclusive use agreement model to identify potential opportunities, challenges, capacities, and options for future improvements to the system.									n/a
	Pursue ongoing collaboration with partners such as the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Heritage Commission, Accessible Advisory Committee, Community Associations, and School District 57 (Shared Use Agreement) to advance park investment.	Ongoing								n/a
Park Visitor Services/ Communications	Redesign park webpages with a focus on promoting parks and providing a more interactive, user-friendly, and streamlined approach to online park bookings, permits, payments, and information sharing.									n/a
	Compile a park signage inventory and develop templates for external communications of park projects and areas of interest.									n/a
	Explore opportunities to expand park visitor services through enhanced planning, promotions, and event hosting, in addition to supporting the age-friendly use of parks and universal design initiatives.									n/a
Parkland Disbursement/ Repurposing	Develop a Parkland Disbursement Policy that will guide the sale or repurposing of redundant sites and fund park investment.									n/a
	Remove playground equipment and associated site furnishings from the parks listed in Appendix A and reallocate the operational resources to gaps in service delivery.									n/a
	Determine potential sites for disbursement or repurposing and incorporate a public consultation process.									n/a

List of Appendices:

Appendix A – Playground Plan

Appendix B – Ball Diamond and Sports Field Strategy Summary

INVESTMENT IN PRINCE GEORGE PLAYGROUNDS

The City of Prince George maintains sixty-six (66) playgrounds that are distributed throughout parks in the community. The 2017 Park Strategy assessed these playgrounds and identified priorities for investment based on condition, provisional standards, and distribution.

A Playground Plan has been developed to address this investment over a five-year term with an annual program for playground additions, replacements, and removal. The following provides an overview of this playground investment.



Malaspina playground

PLAYGROUND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

The 2017 Park Strategy incorporated an assessment of the City's playgrounds in order to prioritize investment. The playground assessment was based on various factors that included:

- an audit of the playgrounds to determine compliance to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) playground standards;
- measurement of playgrounds against the provisional standard of one (1) playground within a maximum 800m radius of residents; and,
- the distribution of available City or School District 57 playgrounds.

One of the key factors from this assessment included a recommendation from the audit for the complete removal of thirty-one (31) playgrounds that are at the end of their life cycle or present multiple hazards that cannot be feasibly repaired. Playground surpluses and deficiencies have also been identified for a number of neighbourhoods throughout the community. Findings such as these directly informed the determination of playgrounds as a high to low investment priority.

PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PLAYGROUND INVESTMENT

The Playground Plan is proposed as a five-year investment program with a schedule of removals, replacements, and additions. The full completion of the plan would result in a provision of forty-eight (48) total playgrounds throughout the City, with the removal, replacement or retention of playgrounds in quantities that consist of the:

- replacement or addition of twenty-five (25) playgrounds;
- removal of twenty (20) playgrounds without replacement; and,
- retention of twenty-three (23) newer playgrounds.

The strategic removal and replacement of playground equipment requires consideration of both the playground priorities and costs associated with playground investment. Each playground can require approximately \$75,000, on average, for full replacement. A number of non-CSA compliant playgrounds have been proposed for removal without replacement given a surplus of other playground opportunities within the immediate area and the demands for operational resources to help fund higher priorities. The locations that would see complete removal of playgrounds will be reviewed to determine how they can be repurposed for alternative park uses.

An annual capital budget of \$250,000 is proposed over the five-year term in order to replace an average of four (4) to five (5) playgrounds per year. An additional average of \$175,000 would also be required each year over the five (5) year period, to fund a number of larger stand-alone playground projects such as the replacement of the Rainbow Park playground. City staff will also be re-developing the playground asset maintenance and inspection program in order to align it with the current CSA standards and to help inform the development of the Park Asset Management Plan.

PROPOSED PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT OR ADDITIONS

Park Name	Replacement/ Addition	Proposed Year of Replacement				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Blackburn Park ²	Addition ¹					
Byng Park	Replacement					
Carrie Jane Gray Park	Replacement					
Clapperton Park	Replacement					
Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park	Addition ¹					
Duchess Park – fall protection only ³	Replacement					
Eaglenest Park	Replacement					
Fairmont Park	Replacement					
Gladstone Park	Replacement					
Hammond Park	Replacement					
Jackpine Park	Replacement					
Jean de Brebeuf Park	Replacement					
Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park ⁴	Replacement					
Moosehart Park	Replacement					
North College Park	Replacement					
Paddlewheel Park	Replacement					
Quinson Park	Replacement					
Rainbow Park ⁵	Replacement					
Ridgeview Park	Replacement					
S. Ft. George Family Resource Centre	Replacement					
Sanderson Park	Replacement					
Seymour Park	Replacement					
Snowdrop Park	Replacement					
St. John Park	Replacement					
St. Mary Park	Replacement					
Watrous Park	Replacement					

Notes:

1. Includes the addition of a new toddler playground.
2. The addition of a playground at Blackburn Park would be considered as part of a reinvestment plan for the park.
3. The replacement of the Duchess Park fall protection is estimated at \$150,000.
4. The replacement of the Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park playground is estimated at \$500,000.
5. The replacement of the Rainbow Park playground is estimated at \$250,000.

PROPOSED PLAYGROUND REMOVAL IN 2017 – NO REPLACEMENT

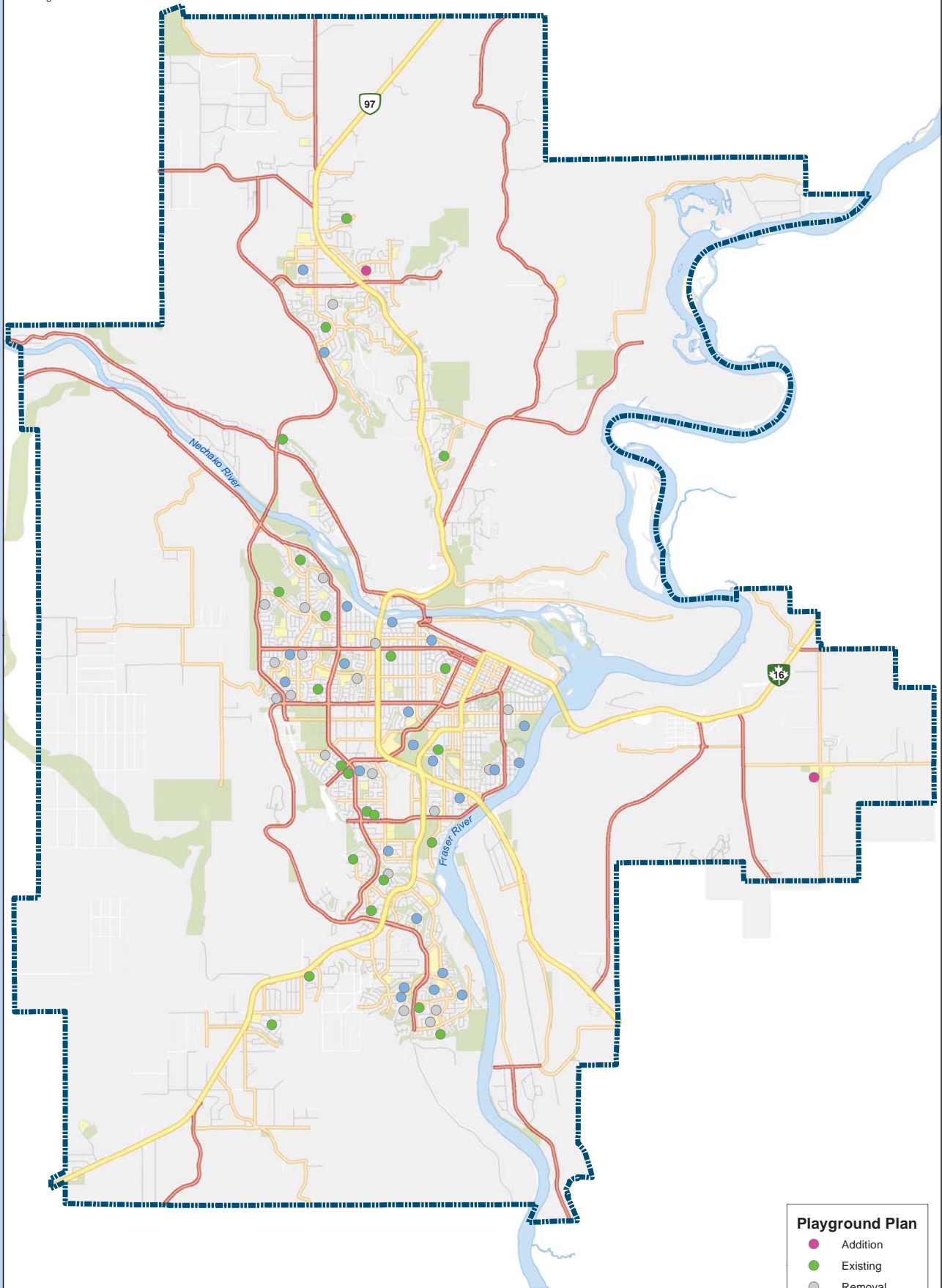
Park Name
Antler Park
Azure Park
Balsum Park
Blair Park
Campbell Park
Corless Park
Freimuller Park
Harry Loder Park
Ingledeew Park
Jasper Park
Kelly Park
Latrobe Park- north
Lorne Park
Malaspina Park
McMaster Park
Ochakwin Park
Perry Park
Punchaw Park
Starlane Park
St. Mathew Park

EXISTING NEWER PLAYGROUNDS – TO BE RETAINED

Park Name
Baker Park
Bednesti Park
Charella Park
Cherry Park
Clearwood Park
Coyle Park
Duchess Park
Fairburn Park
Foot Park
Gordon Bryant Park
Harper Park
Latrobe Park (South)
Nordic Park
Parkridge Heights Park
Poyner Park
Prudente Park
Renison Park
Sinclair Park
Stirling Park
Strathcona Park
Sycamore Park
Westgate Park
Zimmaro Park

WHAT'S NEXT

The five-year Playground Plan would be implemented subsequent to the approval of annual funding through the Capital Expenditure Plan. The City will also be looking for additional investment sources such as third party funding or partnership opportunities to help leverage the capital funding. The investment program will incorporate a tiered system for playgrounds with standards for a premier versus a base-level playground. Accessible routes and play opportunities will be considered for playground replacement projects, particularly at the larger Community Parks and Major Parks. New and innovative playground equipment will also be explored for concepts such as natural play or incorporating equipment for all ages including seniors. Once the five-year investment program would be fulfilled, the playground replacement plan would be reviewed in 2021 to determine additional updates that may be required over the next ten (10) year period.



Playground Plan

- Addition
- Existing
- Removal
- Replacement



**City of Prince George
Playground Plan**

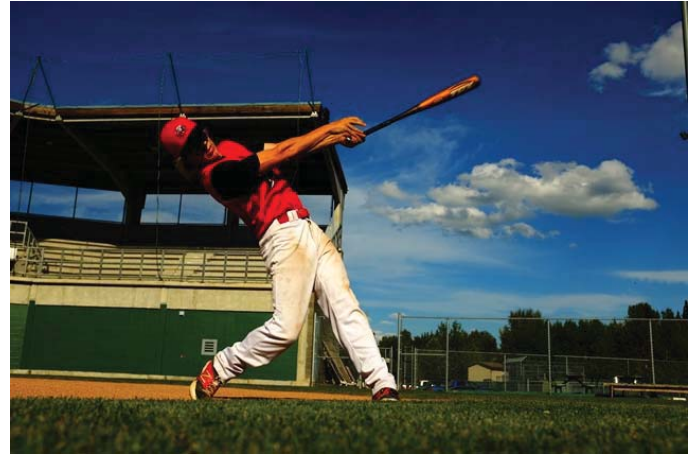


BALL DIAMOND & SPORTS FIELD STRATEGY

INVESTMENT IN PRINCE GEORGE BALL DIAMONDS & SPORTS FIELDS

The Ball Diamond and Sports Field Strategy will assess the City's fifty-six (56) ball diamonds and forty-seven (47) sports fields and identify priorities for investment based on condition, usage, community feedback, and distribution.

The strategy is being developed with a goal to balance the growing community demands for a number of quality, tournament hosting facilities while efficiently allocating the City's resources. The various sports user groups will be invited to participate in the development of options to achieve this goal.



Citizen Field at Carrie Jane Gray Park

BALL DIAMOND & SPORTS FIELD INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

The Strategy will provide direction for the replacement, betterment, repurposing or disposal of ball diamond and sports field facilities by:

- **assessing** ball diamonds and sports fields against evaluation criteria, a comprehensive stakeholder consultation, benchmarking, and determining opportunities and constraints for service provision;
- **developing** a balanced and equitable distribution of ball diamond facilities and sports fields; and,
- **identifying** priorities, options, scenarios, and tools to facilitate efficient resource allocation while helping to meet community demands.

The Strategy will inform operational and capital budget planning as it relates to maintenance and investment in ball diamonds and sports fields.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Prince George will engage the ball diamond and sports field user groups in discussions in early 2017. This would be followed by the development of a strategy for stakeholder review and input, prior to presenting the final strategy to Council during the Summer of 2017.