

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.

UPDATED 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	Replacement					
Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick Bravery Park ¹	Addition ¹					
Duchess Park - fall protection only ³	Replacement		✓			
Eaglenest park	Replacement	✓				
Fairmont Park	Replacement					
Gladstone Park	Replacement					
Hammond Park	Replacement			✓		
Heather Park	SD 57		✓			
Jackpine Park	Replacement		✓			
Jean de Brebeuf Park	Replacement			✓		
Lhedili 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. Geroge Family Resource Centre ⁶	Removed					
Sanderson Park	Replacement		✓			
Seymore Park	Replacement					✓
Snowdrop Park	Replacement					
St. John Park	Replacement					✓
St. Mary Park	Replacement	✓				
Starlane Park ⁷	Replacement		✓			
Watrous Park	Replacement			✓		

Notes:

1. Includes addition of a toddler playground.
2. The addition of a playground at Blackburn Park would be considered part of reinvestment for the park.
3. The replacement of Duchess Park fall protection is estimated at \$150,000
4. Replacement of Lhedili T'enneh Memorial Park playground is estimated at \$500,000.
5. Replacement of Rainbow Park playground is estimated at \$250,000.
6. SD 57 removed in 2020. SFGFRC is 100% SD57 responsibility and will not be replaced by the City.
7. Starlane playground was added by council and replaced 2018.

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 Playground Plan is subject 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.

The five-year investment program has been delayed due to COVID -19 pandemic in 2020. The playground replacement plan would be reviewed in 2022 to determine additional updates that may be required over the next ten (10) year period.