



TITLE: Playground Maintenance, Refurbishment and Replacement Plan 2026

DATE: April 2, 2026

TO: Executive Committee

PUBLIC: X

INCAMERA:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Playground Maintenance and Refurbishment Plan for 2026 be received and filed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has identified priority playground and recreation projects for 2026 focused on safety, accessibility, asset lifecycle management, and service reliability.

It is noted that during the 2026 budget deliberations, the capital budget for playgrounds was reduced from \$150,000 to \$100,000, while the operational budget for playgrounds remained at \$70,000 for the fiscal year, resulting in a total budget of \$170,000.

Key initiatives include:

- **Midtown Community Centre Spray and Play:** Full insurance-funded replacement and restoration following fire damage in 2025, scheduled for completion in spring 2026.
- **Capital upgrades and playground improvements:** Lifecycle repairs, surfacing replacement, border repairs, new play features, accessibility enhancements, and lighting upgrades at multiple sites.
- **Maintenance of key destination playgrounds:** Specialized equipment repairs, pathway improvements, rototilling, and routine upkeep to extend asset lifespan.
- **Contingency:** \$52,000 allocated for emergent repairs and unforeseen costs following our annual inspection to our playground locations.

The 2026 program reflects a balanced approach to asset stewardship, risk management, and high-quality recreational service delivery.

PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:**Capital Upgrades and Playground Improvements (2026)**

Playground / Site	Key Works	Budget
Midtown Community Centre Spray & Play	Insurance-funded replacement of main structure, garbage bin, shade sail; landscaping	Insurance-funded
Optimist Tourist (Visitor Centre)	Tree trimming; swing area surfacing replacement	\$3,000
Elks Playground	Border replacement (6x6 timbers), tires under teeter-totter, surfacing	\$4,000
Longworth Playground	Equipment touch-up, tires under teeter-totter, surfacing	\$3,500
Southwood (Myron Kowalsky)	Accessibility ramp, new play features, expand playground area and border, add surfacing.	\$20,000
Davis Playground	Timber border replacement, tires under teeter-totter, surfacing	\$6,000
Mair Playground	Timber border replacement, surfacing, 10' double-bay swing set	\$15,000
Erickson Playground	Border removal/replacement, surfacing	\$7,500
James Isbister Playground	Surfacing replacement	\$1,500
Miller Hill Playground	Border replacement, surfacing, 8' double-bay swing, furniture, LED lighting	\$31,000
Crescent Acres Spray Park	Spray Park controller replacement	\$8,500

Total Capital & Upgrades (City-funded): \$100,000

Maintenance Focus Areas (2026)

Playground / Site	Key Works	Budget
Alfred Jenkins Jumpstart	Pressure washing, "We-Go-Round" rubber repairs, accessible merry-go-round	\$5,000
Ninja Warrior Park	General repair/maintenance, shade cover replacement	\$6,000
Rotary Adventure Playground & Zipline	Zipline repair, XGen Hurricane Climber, crusher dust pathways, Fencing	\$4,500

Playground / Site	Key Works	Budget
Rototilling (Sand Areas)	Kinsmen, AC Howard, Car Guy's Ball Park, Rotary, Nordale, High Noon Optimist, Agnew, Barton Coombe	\$2,500

Total Maintenance Budget: \$18,000

Contingency Budget: \$52,000

Total 2026 City-funded Program (excluding insurance-covered Midtown project):
\$170,000

CONSULTATIONS:

The following staff were consulted and contributed to the plan:

- Jody Boulet, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
- Curtis Olsen, Sports and Recreation Manager
- Dan Sadlowski, Parks Operations Manager
- Erin Hurd, Recreation Programmer

Their input has informed the findings and discussions brought forward to Council.

Consultation will occur with Procurement to ensure that all items related to the listed projects comply with the requirements set out in Purchasing Policy No. 17.6.

COMMUNICATION AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENT PLAN

The Department will implement a multi-channel communication strategy:

1. Public Awareness:

- City websites and social media updates highlight upgrades and timelines.
- On-site signage with project details and safety information.

2. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Direct notification to community associations and impacted user groups.
- Coordination with schools and recreation programs for closures.

3. Media Relations:

- Press release for major projects (e.g., Midtown Spray & Play).
- Media interviews to promote safe, accessible play infrastructure.

4. Internal Communication:

- Staff briefings on schedules, responsibilities, and contingency plans.
- Ongoing project progress updates to Council.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2026 playground and recreation priorities involve a combination of insurance-funded replacements, planned capital upgrades, and ongoing maintenance, with a contingency to address emergent needs. Key financial considerations include:

1. Insurance-Funded Projects

- **Midtown Community Centre Spray and Play** – Full replacement of the main play structure and associated restoration costs are covered by SGI insurance. No direct impact on the City’s operating or capital budget.

2. Capital Upgrades and Playground Improvements

- Planned investments across 10 playground sites and spray parks total **\$100,000**, including border replacement, surfacing, new equipment, accessibility features, lighting upgrades, and site furniture.
- Notable individual projects:
 - Miller Hill Playground – \$31,000 (largest single-site investment)
 - Southwood (Myron Kowalsky) Playground – \$20,000
 - Mair Playground – \$15,000

3. Maintenance and Lifecycle Work

- Routine maintenance and specialized repairs at key parks are budgeted at **\$18,000**, covering equipment repairs, pressure washing, shade replacement, pathway improvements, and rototilling of sand areas.

4. Contingency Allocation

- **\$52,000** is set aside to respond to unforeseen repairs, emergent safety issues, and potential scope adjustments throughout the year.

Overall Impact

The total 2026 allocation for City-funded projects and maintenance is approximately **\$170,000**, excluding the insurance-covered Midtown project. The budget reflects a proactive approach to asset stewardship, risk mitigation, and the ongoing provision of safe, accessible, and high-quality recreational amenities.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS:

There are no policy, privacy implications, or other considerations.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Direction: High Quality Public Service.

This work supports the City's commitment to delivering reliable, well-managed services that meet community expectations and strengthen public trust.

Strategic Goal: Establish a regular, sustainable cycle for the review and continuous improvement of municipal services.

This plan follows a structured process for assessing park assets, identifying priorities, and guiding ongoing improvements.

Key Initiative: Conduct a comprehensive asset condition assessment and renewal strategy.

This work advances this initiative by providing an evaluation of park conditions and a long-term plan for reinvestment.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The report aligns with (Section 9.2) of the Official Community Plan.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public Notice pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

PRESENTATION:

Verbal: Timothy Yeaman, Parks, and Open Spaces Manager

Written by: Timothy Yeaman, Parks, and Open Spaces Manager

Approved by: Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, City Manager