
TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
COMMISSION

DATE: 2023 March 21

FROM: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

FILE: 63000-01

SUBJECT: INVESTING IN BURNABY PARKS

PURPOSE: To inform Commission of the selection criteria, and the locations of future enhanced and destination playground sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the report titled “Investing in Burnaby Parks” from the Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture be received for information.

REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2022, Council approved the *Investing in Burnaby Parks* report that outlined an expanded playground replacement program. The playground redevelopment projects were described in three categories:

- Basic playgrounds;
- Enhanced playgrounds;
- Destination playgrounds.

Commission requested further information on the criteria for each of these categories. This report provides information on:

- The criteria for each playground category;
- The parks identified for enhanced and destination playgrounds;
- The 2023-2028 schedule of works.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The development of a strategy for locating basic, enhanced and destination playground features was presented in December 2022. The criteria for the three playground development categories are described in Attachment #1.

2.1 Basic Playgrounds

Basic Playground projects are located in neighbourhood parks and serve children in age groups of 2-5 and 5-12. The playground are within walking distance for the majority of residents in the neighbourhood.

Key Criteria:

- Service provided in neighbourhood parks within a 15 minute walking radius of residences.

2.2 Enhanced Playground

Enhanced Playgrounds are intended to meet the same client age groups as basic playgrounds and, in addition, have the capacity to serve higher density uses. They require additional funds to develop as they are serving a more intense client base (70+ children) and /or the site is more expensive to develop.

Key Criteria:

- The location is in high density area in the City;
- Compounding play use by other service organizations (elementary schools, daycares);
- Land area has more extensive development challenges.

2.3 Destination Playgrounds

Destination Playgrounds serve the city and region broadly and attract visitors. They will have capacity for over 200 children and will have maximum universal accessibility.

Key Criteria:

- Distinction – there is a special sense of place or regional appeal that draws users to the area;
- Support facilities can be developed in the surrounding area;
- There is adequate space for development.

3.0 DISCUSSION

Site selection for basic playground development are aligned with the neighbourhoods in the City. Each of these playgrounds will require replacement over time and are tracked and evaluated in the annual asset assessment program to identify when replacement should be scheduled. In addition to these sites, there are park sites without playgrounds (that are currently undeveloped or being reviewed within zoning redevelopment plans). These sites will be added to the program over time as new installations are undertaken.

Enhanced Playground development sites are a subset of the basic playground program. They are located in parks that require a more extensive play opportunities to serve a larger user demand loads (user loads increase due to schools and daycares in the area) or sites that require additional funds for development due to difficult site mitigation requirements. A site may require additional funding to deal with drainage/flooding issues, grade challenges that require retaining walls, or tight spaces that require rubberized resilient surfacing. The sites that are proposed to be elevated into the enhanced category are:

- Bonsor Park
- Cameron Park
- Ernie Winch Park
- Jim Lorimer Park
- Kensington Park
- Keswick Park
- Lewarne Park
- Maywood Park
- Ron McLean Park
- Taylor Park
- Willingdon Park

Each of these sites has a different mix of service requirement needs and/or extraordinary development cost associated with it.

Destination Playgrounds site selection criteria are quite different. The user groups broaden to include both Burnaby residents and patrons drawn from outside the City. The space requirements are much more extensive requiring area for water play, physical active play, and combinations, as well as, support facilities such as washrooms, concession, shade, trail connections and parking. The space requirements make the site options fewer but also more unique. The locations where destination play is proposed to align with Burnaby's Major or District Park sites. The initial sites that emerge after considering the criteria are:

- Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park
- Burnaby Lake Sport Complex West
- Burnaby Mountain – Centennial Park
- Confederation Park
- Deer Lake Park
- Edmonds Park
- Central Park
- Barnet Marine Park

Work Schedule 2023-2028

After identifying the proposed locations for enhanced and destination playgrounds, staff completed a second level analysis to look at where each site sits in relation to one another contextually, and what other development projects are occurring in the vicinity. These filters help to determine which projects can move forward in conjunction with area development projects and ensure there is equitable distribution throughout the City. This review and reprioritization process will occur annually in response to Council priorities.

Based on the second level of analysis, the locations for play redevelopment have been identified for the next 3-5 years.

The sites proposed for the basic playground replacements for 2023-2028 construction planning cycle are:

2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Lochdale School Park	Richard Bolton Park	Suncrest School Park	Graham Park	Broadview Park
Forest Grove Park	Greentree Village Park	Cariboo Hill School Park	Burnaby Heights Park	Bell Park
Lobley Park	Froggers Creek Park	Riverway West School Park	John Matthews Park	Central Park (Ponds)
Poplar Park	Mary Avenue Park	Willard Park	Deer Lake (Shadbolt Ctr.)	Beecher Park

The sites proposed for the Enhanced and Destination playground development 2023-2028 are:

Year	Location
2023-2025	Jim Lorimor - Enhanced
2025-2027	Central Park - Destination
2025-2026	Ernie Winch Park -Enhanced
2026-2027	Lewarne Park -Enhanced
2027-2029	Barnet Marine Park -Destination
2027-2028	Maywood Park -Enhanced

The complexity of site works for Enhanced and Destination playgrounds will require site specific infrastructure that may require extended time to establish in advance of the play structures. So these categories will require a multi-year site development plan to reach full execution. The first two are described briefly below:

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Jim Lorimor Enhanced Playground project will require a two-stage development process. In 2023 a drainage and water management plan will be developed to create a flood proof plateau in the park for the play area to be located. The second phase of the project would be the playground development on the plateau;

Central Park Destination Playground is proposed for the Northeast sector of the park, illustrated in Attachment #2. This location, previously identified in the Central Park Management Plan, would be reviewed in the context of a number of park program changes. The concept plan will be re-visited and configured to include support services for a destination playground in 2023/2024. The playground plan will be brought back to Council prior to construction in 2025.

4.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The annual budget forecast will include funds for: four basic replacement projects and either one enhanced playground or one destination playground development project. The combined budget will be brought forward annually in the capital plan for approval by Council.

5.0 POLICY SECTION

The enhanced playground program is aligned with the following Council adopted policies and plans/strategies: City's Equity Policy, Corporate Strategic Plan, Social Sustainability Strategy and Healthy Community Policy.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received for information.



Carmen Gonzalez
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

CG:HE:tc
Attachments (2)