

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY: PLAYGROUND STANDARDS

PURPOSE: To provide standards for the upgrading of existing playgrounds and the construction of new playgrounds.

AUTHORITY: Council Resolution # 94-15-36 dated July 11, 1994

PLAYGROUND STANDARDS POLICY

Definitions

1. In this policy,

"City" means the municipality of the City of Whitehorse.

"City Engineer" means the definition as per the City of Whitehorse Servicing Standards Manual.

"Community Organization" means an association of individuals, registered under the Societies Ordinance and in good standing, whose purpose is to provide service(s) to the neighbourhood and/or community or an informal association of two or more individuals who have come together for the purpose of undertaking a project.

"Council" means the duly elected Council of the City of Whitehorse.

"Developer" means the definition as per the City of Whitehorse Servicing Standards Manual.

"Development Agreement" means the written agreement between the Developer and the City of Whitehorse as defined in the City of Whitehorse Servicing Standards Manual.

"Manager" means the Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Whitehorse or his duly authorized representative.

"Playground" means an area intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of residents within the area and provides amenities such as an outdoor rink and play apparatus.

Application

2. The standards would be used by:

(1) Developers, as part of the conditions established in the Development Agreement. The Developer would be responsible for providing site clearing,

grubbing and preparation; provision of access road and provision of electricity onto the site.

The Developer will have the option of:

- (a) providing a cash payment to the City of Whitehorse whereby the City is responsible for the construction and development of the playground (eg. outdoor rink board system, play apparatus, sand, etc.). The dollar amount shall be specified in the Development Agreement and collected at the time of subdivision; OR
 - (b) in lieu of the cash contribution, the Developer would be responsible for the construction.
- (2) Community Organizations who are upgrading existing playgrounds or developing new playgrounds.
 - (3) Mobile Home Parks who are developing or expanding the parks, as per the requirements of the Mobile Home Park Bylaw.
3. Whenever possible, in new developments, input will be solicited from area residents on playground apparatus/components planned for the site.

Site Selection

4. For existing residential areas (urban or rural) sites are identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. For Community Organizations undertaking the development or upgrading of playgrounds in existing areas, the plans must have prior approval of the Manager.
5. For new residential areas (urban or rural), land dedication will be as per the City of Whitehorse Dedication of Public Use Land Policy.
6. For the purpose of this policy, residential area will also mean:
 - (1) multi-family dwelling units such as apartment buildings, condominiums where each dwelling unit is interpreted as the equivalent of one lot.
 - (2) single family dwellings, in urban or rural residential developments where the total development exceeds ten (10) lots.
7. In urban residential developments, where the total development is between 5 - 10 lots the City may waive the requirement for an outdoor rink and reduce the minimum playground apparatus required in Appendix A, if there are existing playgrounds in proximity to the area. When the requirement is waived, the City shall collect a cash-in-lieu contribution from the Developer. The cash-in-lieu contribution shall be deposited in a reserve account for the development and/or upgrading of area parks and/or playgrounds.
8. For multi-family dwelling units that are designed for a specific segment of the population (example Seniors), the City will waive the requirement for the provision of a playground and require the Developer to provide recreation amenities appropriate to the age group.

9. In country residential developments, where the total development is between 5 - 10 lots, the City may waive the requirement for the provision of a playground if there exist playgrounds in proximity to the area or where the land available is neither suitable nor desirable. The waiving of the requirement shall be based on the Area Development Plan approved for the area. When the requirement is waived, the City shall collect a cash-in-lieu contribution from the Developer. The cash-in-lieu collected shall be deposited in a reserve account for the development of public use land, specifically parks and/or playgrounds.
10. As part of the Area Development Schemes/Plan and Subdivision Plans approved by Council for new developments, sites will be identified for Parks and Playgrounds. As part of the Development Agreement, the Manager will identify site(s) to be developed)

Construction Standards

11. Construction of playground and/or outdoor rink shall be as per the standards contained in Appendix A.
12. For sites developed as part of Development Agreement, implementation will be as per the Development Agreement, and/or Development Permits.
13. For sites developed by Community Organizations, implementation will be as per the terms and conditions established by the City of Whitehorse Parks and Recreation Department.



Appendix A

STANDARDS

Minimum Standards are as follows:

1. Installation of a service access road minimum of 14 feet wide to the play ground and outdoor rink site as per the standards of the City of Whitehorse Servicing Standards Manual for rural streets.
2. Clearing of the site (growth and overburden), as per standards of the City of Whitehorse Servicing Standards Manual. Site specifics are as follows:
 - Outdoor rink board structure site - clear and level a site to accommodate a 50' x 105' rink board structure.
 - Playground site - clear, level and cap with 6" of sand an area 50' x 80' to accommodate play apparatuses.

Clearing will be done in such a manner as to allow for visibility from the front of the playground but maintain a minimum thirty (30') foot treed buffer on the sides and back of the site.

3. Construction of outdoor rink board structure as per Appendix B specifications.
4. The equipment/apparatus selected for the playground shall conform to the Canadian Safety Association Standards on Children's Play Spaces and Equipment.
5. The minimum general standard of playground apparatus would be as follows:
 - (1) SWING - Four (4) place belt swing with 10' high beam, three (3) leg and heavy duty frame.
 - (2) TEETER TOTTER - Two (2) seat, rubber spring unit with ornamental (animal) seats.
 - (3) TOY STRUCTURE or INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS incorporating the following:
 - Metal or plastic slide.
 - Climbing structure.
 - Platform or gathering area.
 - (4) INDIVIDUAL STAND ALONE APPARATUSES - Two (2) of any type of single user stand alone apparatuses such as:
 - Dirt scoop units.
 - "C" spring ride units.
 - Communication units.
 - Game units (X and O's/Puzzles/etc.) wheelchair accessible.

- (5) GARBAGE CONTAINER - Hide-A-Bag unit bolted to a concrete slab.
 - (6) PICNIC TABLE - Six (6) seat wooden picnic table.
 - (7) PARKS BENCH - Minimum six (6) foot metal park bench concreted in the ground.
 - (8) All playground structures would have a 6" x 6" pressure treated timber border to contain the sand to a minimum depth of 6".
6. Signage: "Slow Children Playing" sign erected to inform motorists travelling in both directions.

