



Look Who Can Play Now!

Important Information on a New City of Edmonton - PLAY AREA ACCESSIBILITY Design Standard



City of Edmonton, Community Services is pleased to announce a new direction for play areas constructed on City parkland. Beginning in 2005, all new play areas will be universally designed and will incorporate a minimum level of accessibility. This new direction means that park designs will utilize the most up to date approach to designing children's play areas. These play areas will have a base level of accessibility to ensure everyone in the community can participate!

What is the Edmonton Play Area Accessibility Design Standard?

This Standard addresses two areas. First, it identifies *what* is to be accessible for those persons with disabilities, at both ground and elevated play components of the playground structure. Second, the Standard spells out the necessary specifications for *how* this is to be achieved. Playground equipment suppliers are familiar with the Standard and will incorporate the various requirements into community project plans just as they do with safety standards.

How was the Standard developed?

The Standard was developed in accordance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act: Accessible Play Areas Guideline*. Extensive work was put into analyzing the American Guideline for a fit within the Edmonton context. The Edmonton Standard was then successfully piloted over two seasons at eight sites throughout the City including Riverdale and Homesteader Parks. Based on learning's from the pilot projects, the final Play Area Accessibility Design Standard was completed and approved by Community Services Management Team in October 2004.

What does your community need to do to ensure your playground adheres to the new Standard?

All playground equipment suppliers approved by the Community Services Department are familiar with the Standard. They are required to incorporate the Standard into play area design as a matter of course. The Department's design staff is also working with the community and suppliers to ensure that plans meet the requirements of the Standard.

Will the Standard cost more money?

A major component of the Standard is accessible surfacing. The Department has piloted a number of surfacing materials and has found that these materials are slightly more costly than sand in the development phase. Over a 15 year period, however, these costs will be recovered due to reduced maintenance. Our designers view the standard as just another one of the many requirements they need to consider for ensuring a creative, safe and playful design outcome.

Are financial supports available to us in order to meet the accessibility requirements?

The Department is providing support funding towards the total cost of your project for the next two years. There are several grants available to leverage this funding for additional supporting dollars. Your Community Recreation Coordinator can direct you to these funding sources. Finally, Department designers will work with suppliers to minimize the effects of these costs.

Can we go beyond the minimum requirements outlined in the Accessibility Standard?

Most definitely! Suppliers have an array of accessible features to choose from. These are generally outlined in their catalogues which are available upon request. Some communities are also opting to go with fully accessible surfacing on their sites.

How can I obtain more information on this Standard?

Visit our website at www.edmonton.ca/playgrounds where you will find links to the following documents:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- The Play Area Accessibility Design Standard
- Photos and addresses of play areas with accessible components
- Fun For All video ordering information

Contact your Community Recreation Coordinator (CRC) at:

East Service Area 496-1901

West Service Area 496-7320

Central Service Area 496-7275

South Service Area 496-5910