

# What We Decided

## Duncan Innes Park Playground Renewal

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# DUNCAN INNES PARK PLAYGROUND RENEWAL - WHAT WE DECIDED

## Project overview

Duncan Innes Park Playground, located in the King Edward Park neighbourhood at the corner of 80 Avenue and 81 Street, has been chosen for renewal. The scope of this playground renewal project includes:

- Replacing the playground sand with engineered wood surfacing for better accessibility
- Replacing the playground curbs
- Adding new play equipment
- Adding a new pathway to the playground
- Adding a new “buddy bench”
- Replacing one bench and the concrete pad that the bench sits on

## Project background

In May 2025, the first phase of public engagement took place, where local residents identified the type of play elements and colours they would like to see for this playground. Engagement participants also provided local knowledge and suggestions they wanted the project team to consider. The project team included [Phase 1 engagement results](#) as part of the instructions given to designers when they were asked to develop playground designs for Duncan Innes Park.

## Design selection

Over the winter months in 2025/26, the project team evaluated the playground designs received, with specific focus on:

- Play value (e.g., the number of children who can use the space at one time)
- Varied play elements
- Promotion of active play
- Suitability for the site
- Ability to meet the project schedule
- Social value within its supply chain (e.g., Canadian businesses)

On March 7, 2026, the project team sought public feedback on three designs that best met the above criteria by hosting an in-person event. The event was promoted through postcards, lawn signs, the City’s social media accounts, public service announcements and public engagement calendar. A week prior to the event, King Edward Community League also promoted the event at a special general meeting of the league, which had high attendance. The Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator also helped inform residents of the event.

Approximately 55 children and adults from the King Edward neighbourhood attended the March 7 public engagement event at the Spirit of Hope Church near the Duncan Innes playground. Attendees viewed the designs and offered their preference for the project team's consideration.

### Preferred design

Taking all evaluation criteria into account, including public feedback and policy and technical requirements, the project team is pleased to share the preferred design for the playground in Duncan Innes Park below.



This design offers a “circuit-style” layout and can accommodate up to 70 children between the ages of 18 months to 12 years at one time. There are different play areas for older and younger children. Caregivers’ sightlines when supervising children are considered throughout the layout.

The design emphasizes the most preferred play elements identified in [Phase 1 public engagement](#) for this project, including:

- Climbing (eight different elements, including ground-level ring climbers, ladders and stepping pods )
- Swinging (two belt swings)
- Sliding (two slides of different heights for varied ages and abilities)

A curved overhead ladder offers opportunities for hanging and learning hand-over-hand coordination. The design also includes an accessible spinning seat. Imaginative and social play are encouraged with sensory panels offering

music and varied shapes. The “under deck” of one play structure offers children an area to take a break from active play.

As part of this project, a new pathway will be added to the site for ease of stroller use and accessibility. Based on community feedback, the project team will endeavour to replace the existing bench with a “buddy bench” to foster social connection. Tree planting where possible is also prioritized as part of all City of Edmonton playground renewal projects.

### **Next steps**

Construction of the renewed playground will be scheduled in summer 2026. Minor adjustments to the design may occur through the construction process.

To learn more about past engagements, the Playground Renewal program and project updates, visit [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal).

The project team thanks the King Edward Community League, Spirit of Hope Church, local residents and children for their support and contributions to the project.