

Woodvale Parks and Playground Redevelopment Background

The existing three playgrounds in Woodvale (located in Greenview and Hillview Parks and on the John Paul 1 School yard site) were all built in the 1980's and are getting to the point that they were starting to need more upkeep and replacement in the near future. In some instances i.e. the Greenview Playground site, there are also problems of flooding in the spring due to problems with the weeping tile etc.

The current Woodvale Parks and Playground Redevelopment committee was formed in April 2010. Meetings were held through the spring to fall time period in 2010 with a survey distributed in September 2010. The intention was to determine what uses residents and other users (i.e. residents from outside Woodvale but attending Woodvale Schools) made of the parks and playground facilities.

Copies of the survey were distributed door to door to the majority of residents (a few apartment/condo buildings did not permit access) as well as copies were sent home with students from Greenview, Hillview and John Paul 1 schools and from the Rainbow Daycare. Information sessions were also held at the three schools in September 2010. Completed surveys could be returned via the three schools, to the Rainbow Daycare or mailed/dropped off at the Community League office.

Overall survey results

- 259 surveys were returned
- 174 returned surveys were from Woodvale residents with just over 50% of residents being from the Greenview area and the balance from Hillview.
- Non residents of Woodvale used Woodvale Parks due to having children attending one the three Woodvale schools, or using a Woodvale Daycare
- The age groupings of children 14 or younger in homes responding indicated that there 396 children with 122 being in Greenview, 123 from Hillview and 151 from non residents using the Woodvale Facilities.
- The main items requested and usually applicable to all of the playgrounds were the following:
 - Having new and more equipment in the playgrounds; at same time safer equipment
 - Having more benches and/or picnic tables to rest at in the playground or park area
 - Having activities/structures for a variety of ages vs. just very young etc.
 - Having new ground cover in the playground i.e. rubberized, wood chips etc and less or no sand
 - Having a covered structure i.e. Gazebo to be out from the elements
 - Having no wooden structures
 - Having more garbage cans (covered varieties to reduce birds getting in them) and closer to the sidewalks
- Two other aspects were also frequently requested:
 - Adding a spray park: this is not being considered due to the spray park just built at Jackie Parker Park and another being in the Mill Woods Park. As well cost (minimum \$500,000) for just the spray park which requires just as much space as the playground portion as well as is usable for only a short period of time each year (approx. three months or less vs. the playground which can be usable for 12 months a year) .
 - Climbing walls, rocks etc. : This will be dependent on space and funding available so not totally ruled out or necessarily being done at the same time as the initial work; again recently added to Jackie Parker Park so has this aspect is already in the area.
- Additional sidewalks or trails requested and this is being looked at, although the cost can be substantial and may not be in the first phase of playground work being done.

In February 2011, the committee initiated project requests with a copy of our needs assessment (results of the survey) to the City of Edmonton for the 3 playgrounds to be done in 3 phases. A meeting was held with the city in June 2011 once we were assigned a project manager and landscape architect and the Greenview site was selected as the first development area mainly due to the flooding problem that often occurs in the spring. (Note, subsequently the Hillview Playground site was selected to go first due to inadequate funding available to cover the costs of the Greenview site)