

CITY OF STEINBACH

Policy on Playground Development

The City develops Playgrounds on a request or need basis to a minimum standard, as set out in the “Playground Guidelines”.

General Guidelines:

1. The City will continue to invest on a non-cost-shareable basis the minimum standard of equipment in a Playground up to \$3,500.00. The city performs regular inspections and maintenance on the equipment after initial installation.
2. The City will provide up to an additional \$7,500.00 for development of a Playground, providing it is a 50% match with citizen donations. The City will issue tax deductible receipts for donations made to a City approved Playground project. For explanation purposes, this could be the City providing a maximum of \$3,500.00 plus \$7,500.00 for a Playground for which the neighborhood raises \$7,500.00 by donations for a total of \$18,500.00.
3. The additional \$7,500.00 expenditure is a maximum per Playground contribution by the City. The City fund cannot be matched by any grant from another level of government.
4. Each request for funding or project approval must follow normal budget process, and the City portion is not guaranteed. A request to fund a Playground would normally be approved the year following the request, and would be subject to being approved as part of the City overall operating budget for that year. Request must be in writing.
5. The City must approve the type and quality of the facilities being constructed on a Playground. Upon completion, ownership of the facility is vested with the City of Steinbach.
6. Any Playground enhanced through neighborhood fundraising will be maintained by the City only to the extent that a standard Playground would be maintained.
7. As the land is owned by the City, liability insurance would be carried by the City, providing all facilities are installed according to City specifications and approvals.

City of Steinbach PLAYGROUND GUIDELINES

Definition

A playground is defined as an area set aside for outdoor play and recreation for children, typically located within a residential development. It provides either green space for local area residents, or a balance of green space and play equipment typically designed for children of elementary-school age. A playground is generally comprised of two to five residential sized lots, but may be larger. Playgrounds are a permitted use in “RLD” zoning as per City of Steinbach zoning by-law.

Contents

1. Equipment

1.1 All equipment installed in City of Steinbach playgrounds must meet regulations set out by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the City of Steinbach zoning by-law, and must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department prior to installation. Equipment may include, but not be limited to, the following:

Swing - Swing structures not to exceed a total height of 8 feet. Recommend inclusion of at least one toddler seat.

Slide - Slides not to exceed a height of 6 feet (excluding safety rails).

Teeter Totter or other approved equipment -

Climber - Climbers of any type not to exceed a total height of 7 feet.

Composite Play Structure - Total size of any composite play structure not to exceed 30 feet by 30 feet. Any part of the structure not to exceed 14 feet in total height. Deck not to exceed 6 feet in height

Backstop - Backstop to be of smaller size. Ball fields with hard surface infields and fences are not permitted.

Ice Rink - Temporary boards may be installed for winter (October-April) to accommodate a small ice rink for skating. Size of rink shall be appropriate to size of the playground it is located in. See also “*Community Skating Rink Policy*”.

1.2 Equipment that is generally not considered to be intended for use by children of elementary-school age, or equipment that may cause excessive noise or safety concerns is not permitted in a playground. Such equipment includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- a. *Horseshoe Pit*
- b. *Basketball Court*
- c. *Volleyball Court*
- d. *Tennis Court*
- e. *Skateboard or Bike Ramps*

2. Accessory Structures

Picnic Shelter - Structures such as a picnic shelter are allowed. Size of the shelter is not to exceed 14 feet by 14 feet, and 12 feet in total height.

3. Other Items

Benches - Park benches may be placed within a playground.

Garbage Containers - Developed playgrounds are to include a minimum of one garbage container.

4. Overall Size and Location of Contents

Location of all equipment and structures within a playground must comply with the City of Steinbach zoning by-law and be approved by Parks and Recreation prior to installation. Placement of equipment is to be as central as possible, keeping in mind that there must be a balance between play equipment and open green space.

Setbacks (property line to any equipment or structure) as follows:

- a. Side and Rear Yard Setback - to be a minimum of 10 feet, and up to 30 feet wherever possible, but in no case closer than 2 feet as per zoning by-law.
- b. Front Yard Setback - to be a minimum of 25 feet as per zoning by-law.

These setbacks include the protective surface of the equipment (i.e. pea gravel).

Equipment and structures installed in a playground are to be of a size and nature appropriate for that particular space and should be installed in such a manner as to minimize on-going regular maintenance. Total area of equipment and structures (including protective surface) is limited to 10% of total land area.

Exceptions to maximum size of equipment and structures may be made in cases where overall land area is greater than a typical playground.

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