



Friends of Hidden Valley School Society

Playground Revitalization

BUSINESS CASE

1. Summary

The Friends of Hidden Valley School Society and Hidden Valley School Council (collectively referred to as Hidden Valley School Council or HVSC), in collaboration with Hidden Valley School's administration (a Calgary Board of Education institute) is looking to replace the 20-year-old outdoor playground directly behind the school as soon as possible, as necessitated by several safety related issues. The replacement of the playground will allow the students safe, continued use, year-round. As mandated by Alberta Education's Daily Physical Activity (DPA) Initiative¹, the school council and its fundraising society will be supporting students in developing healthy, active lifestyles; increasing students' ability to learn. Hidden Valley School Council has been proactively dedicating a portion of its AGLC gaming fundraising proceeds to this project and is hopeful the playground can be revitalized within a two-year timeframe.

2. Problem Statement

Hidden Valley School Council, in collaboration with Hidden Valley School administration needs to replace the outdoor playground directly behind the school as soon as possible, as necessitated by several safety related issues. If the playground is not revitalized, the space will become vacant when the playground equipment is removed at the end of its lifecycle. This will have a significant impact on the 400+ students and staff who attend the school and make use of this park space daily.

3. Problem Analysis

Playground

Hidden Valley School's outdoor playground is utilized by 400+ children aged four to nine during school hours along with approximately 700+ community children living within a 300m buffer outside of school hours. With approximately 4,000 households located in the community of Hidden Valley/Hanson Ranch, the community has approximately 2,632 children between the ages of 0 to 14². Because of its central location, adjacent soccer field, and ball

¹ Alberta Education, *Daily Physical Activity Handbook*, (Edmonton, 2006), <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/6e456485-798e-46fa-8e53-5dd20da41afa/resource/888457ca-9b86-4402-8c83-3fb3c0ae0737/download/edc-physical-activity-handbook-grades-1-to-9.pdf>, (accessed October 2021).

² City of Calgary, *Hidden Valley Community Profile*, (Calgary, 2014), <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/cns/social-research-policy-and-resources/community-profiles/hidden-valley.html>.

diamond this park space is utilized by many community organizations. These park spaces help to provide the entire community with gathering spaces free from socio-economic barriers.

Certain pieces of the existing playground equipment are wearing out. The playground vendor is no longer in business therefore replacement parts are not available to make repairs. The existing rubber surface tiles are starting to raise causing a tripping hazard for students, staff and parents picking up/dropping off.

A decision was made by the HVSC several years ago to proactively plan for the eventual replacement and revitalization needs for this park space.

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) has confirmed the playground is nearing the end of its expected lifecycle. It will either need to be replaced or be removed and left as a blank park space. The proposed new playground will be the only inclusive school playground within the community for children of all abilities to use.

4. Recommended Solution

- Replacement of the playground with inclusive play equipment and rubber surfacing

The existing playground was built in 2004 (20-years-old). With the playground determined to be at the end of its lifecycle, the HVSC recruited volunteers and formed a playground committee in September 2021 so that the playground can be removed and replaced in its entirety. Once 100% funding has been secured, the playground will be removed in late spring and replacement finished by the end of summer of the same year. This will accommodate both students and community groups in the neighbourhood to continue to use it safely, and without causing major disruptions during the school year.

The playground committee engaged the school community in November 2021 to help determine the following criteria:

- What type of play equipment should be installed?
- What type of theme should be used?
- Should any additional amenities be installed?
- Confirm that an additional outdoor learning space is favoured.

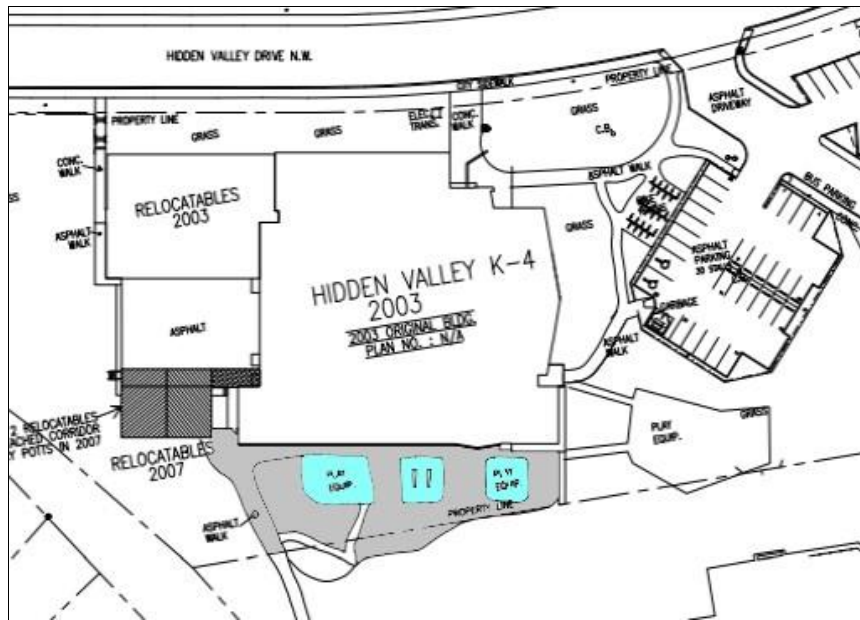
The HVSC has been proactively reserving a portion of its AGLC gaming fundraising proceeds to be utilized by this project. However, these revenue stream has restrictions, and the majority of these proceeds financially support Hidden Valley School with annual support for students and learning. With further fundraising and external financial support, the HVSC is hopeful the playground can be

revitalized within a two-year timeframe between July 2023 and August 2024, with construction completed by the end of August 2024. The entire project timeline (demolition to completion) is to take no longer than two months over the summer. This will ensure Hidden Valley School students do not lose any opportunities to use the space for physical play and exercise during the school year.

Diagram 1: Existing Playground



Diagram 2: Hidden Valley School Site Plan



The playground replacement directly affects the 400+ students who attend Hidden Valley School. Playgrounds provide many learning opportunities through different types of play. Outdoor play allows physical, social, emotional, imaginative, and cognitive development. Exercise improves health and well-being, and a playground provides a safe environment that encourages independence. If the playground is not revitalized, there will be limited stimulation for students during outdoor instructional time.

Based on the information above, a decision was made in 2021 to move forward with replacing the school playground by the end of summer 2024.

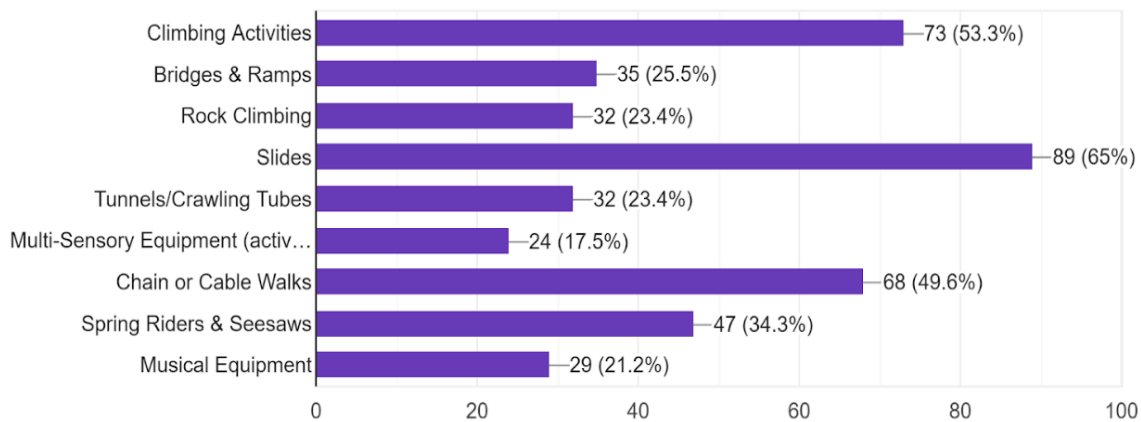
Phase I - School Community Engagement

Engagement 1: From November through December 2021, an engagement survey was sent out to the Hidden Valley School community (parents/guardians, all students, and staff) to provide input on what types of play equipment should be installed. Approximately 137 participants provided feedback. This included individual classrooms providing their feedback as one collective answer.

2021 Survey Results

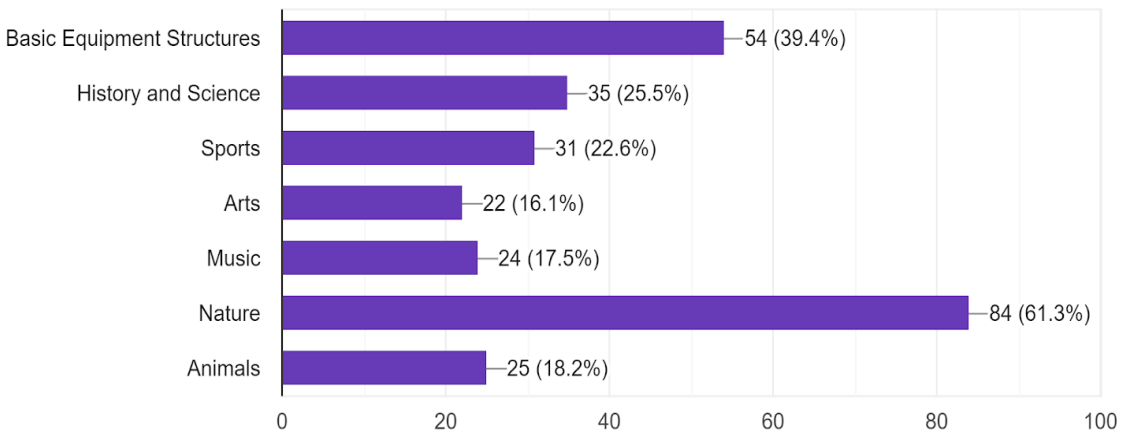
Please indicate your Top 3 preferred types of play equipment from the list below that you would support to be installed in this park space. Note: Surface area safety radius, taking up too much space.

137 responses



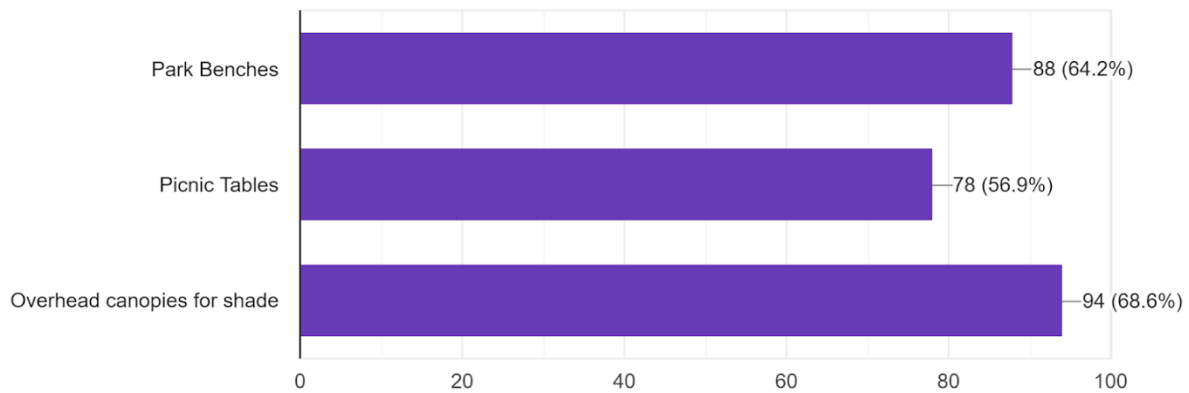
Select two (2) preferred design themes

137 responses



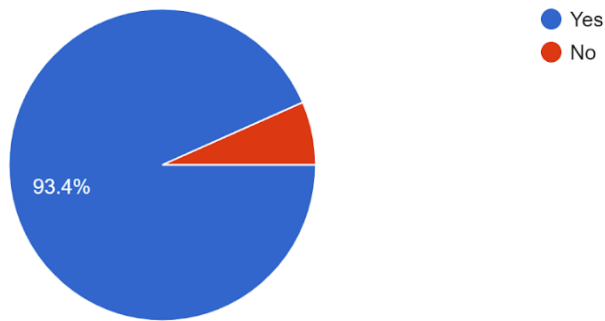
Please select what other types of amenities you would like to see included in this park space or surrounding area:

137 responses



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased need for outdoor spaces for students to both learn and play. Benefits of outdoor learning space as an extension to the playground area?

137 responses



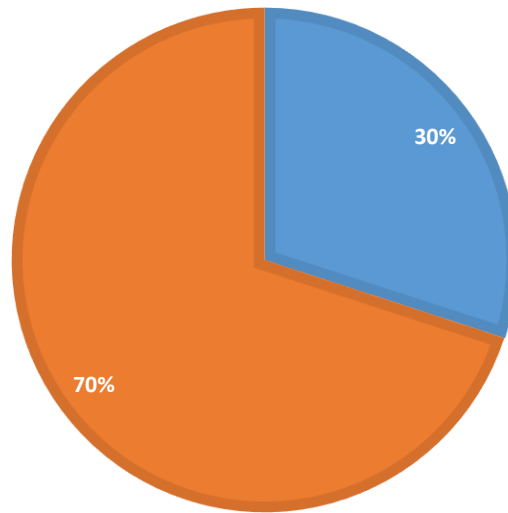
The survey results helped to provide a clear indication of the types of amenities that should be included in this playground build. The following results formed the basis of a Request for Proposal (RFP) with playground vendors for conceptual designs in March 2022. The playground committee used defined evaluation criteria provided by Parks Foundation Calgary to evaluate five (5) RFP responses and selected BDI as the playground vendor.

Top 3 Types of Play Equipment	Slides (65%)	Climbing Activities (53%)	Chain/Cable Walks (49%)
Top 2 Design Themes	Nature Theme (61%)	Basic Equipment Theme (39%)	
Additional Amenities	Overhead Canopies for Shade (68%)	Park Benches (64%)	Picnic Tables (56%)
Outdoor Learning Space	YES (93.4%)		

Engagement 2: In April 2022, the playground committee launched a second engagement survey to the Hidden Valley School community to determine which conceptual design out of two (2) was most favoured. Both designs were presented to the school community for feedback and a design was chosen based on a majority preference. This resulted in 70% of the school community choosing Option 2 from BDI's conceptual designs.

BDI DESIGN OPTIONS

■ Option 1 ■ Option 2

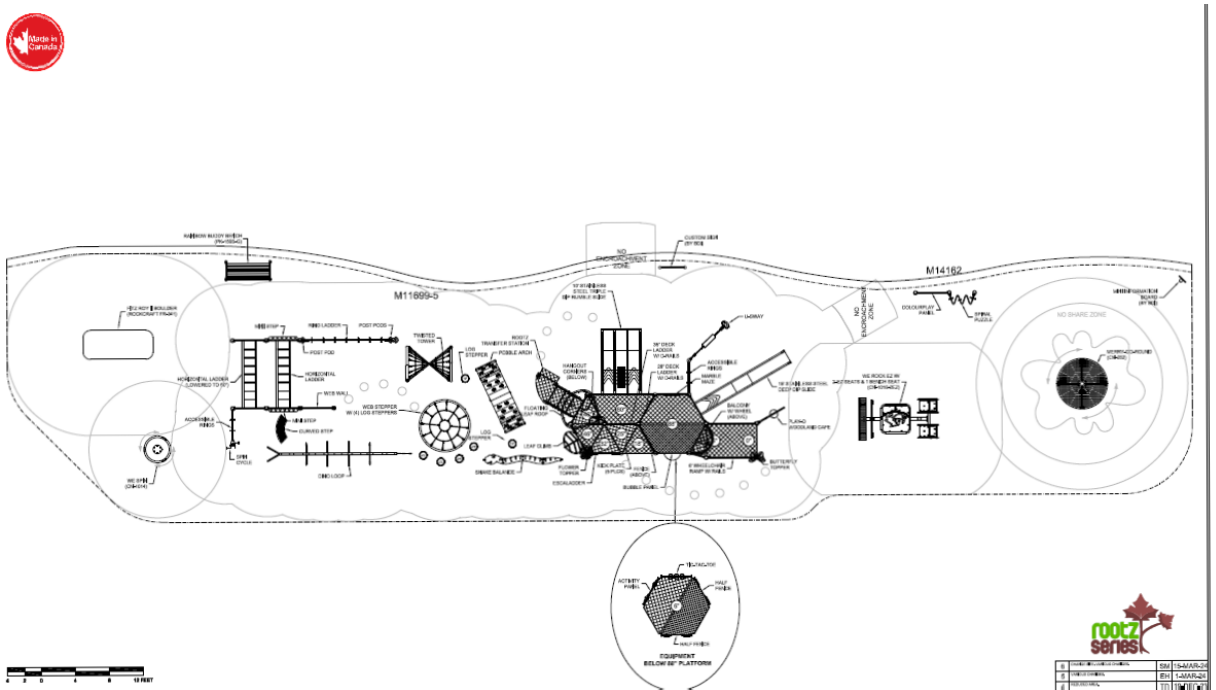


HVS Future Playground Design



Hidden Valley School - Option 2
layout # A09333-C1 | J07590





5. Phase I: Financial Overview

Financial support has been the primary obstacle for this project. The HVSC has asked to retain a portion of its AGLC Use of Proceeds for this project. However, most of the parent societies gaming proceeds are considered restricted funds. With the amount of financial support needed from the parent society on an annual basis to support students and their learning, the HVSC must seek out external financial support for a capital project of this magnitude.

The playground committee has already hosted three (3) fundraising campaigns throughout the 2022/23 school year for additional funds to support this project with an additional three (3) campaigns in 2023/24. Council began to engage with external funding sources in May 2022. A Community Facilities Enhancement Program (CFEP) has been awarded for 33% of the total project cost bringing our total fundraising efforts to 97% of the total project costs to-date. We have been unsuccessful to date with other external fundraising streams and our internal fundraising efforts are limited.

It was agreed upon by both the committee and CBE Facilities that the school council work in collaboration with Parks Foundation Calgary (PFC). Through its Project Support Program (PSP), the Parks Foundation can assist with money management of the project, and issue tax receipts for donations made directly towards the project. The parent society opened a PSP account with PFC in February 2022. Detailed information about the PSP can be found at <https://www.parksfdn.com/project-support-program>.

Total Project Expenses

EQUIPMENT COSTS	
Blue Imp Composite Structure	\$ 101,612.00
Blue Imp Freestanding ColourPlay Panel & Spiral Puzzle	\$ 3,440.00
Blue Imp We Spin	\$ 3,331.00
Blue Imp We Rock (replaces Tandem Bounce)	\$ 11,650.00
Blue Imp Merry-Go-Round	\$ 4,910.00
Blue Imp Rainbow Buddy Bench	\$ 1,374.00
RockCraft Fitz Roy	\$ 24,570.00
BDI Communications Board (Customer Sign)	\$ 1,350.00
BDI Mini Information Board (CBE Age Designation)	\$ 750.00
Pour in Plac Embedded Circle Graphics	\$ 2,400.00
Set of Slide Exit Semi-Circles (one Single, One Double)	\$ 1,200.00
240 FT of Channel Base	\$ 2,904.00
Triangular Steel Gussets	\$ 112.00
PFC Park Bench	\$ 3,000.00
Sub-Total	\$ 162,603.00
INSTALLATION COSTS	
Excavation & Site Preparation	\$ 8,926.30
Removal & Disposal of Existing Equipment	\$ 4,895.00
Temporary Site Fencing (310 Feet of Site Fencing)	\$ 1,450.00
Assembly & Installation of Equipment	\$ 28,348.20
Concrete Border Along North Edge (142 FT)	\$ 8,520.00
ProForm™ Rubber Edging	\$ 3,534.00
FallSAFETM Rubber Surfacing, Black	\$ 64,036.50
Base Preparation for Rubber Surfacing	\$ 15,524.00
Landscape Rehabilitation (Loam, Level & Seed Perimeter)	\$ 3,124.80
CBE In-Kind Contributions	\$ 25,000.00
BDI In-Kind Contributions	\$ 29,952.08
Sub-Total	\$ 193,310.88
Freight Costs	\$ 3,500.00
GST	\$ 15,073.09
Sub-Total	\$ 18,573.09
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (as of Apr 2024)	\$ 374,486.97

**The above costs do not include a 10% installation contingency.*

Total Project Revenue

Grants	56%
In-Kind Contributions	15%
Friends of Hidden Valley School Society Fundraising	20%
Direct Donations thru Parks Foundation Calgary	9%

6. Implementation Timeline

Forecasted project timelines are expected to change as steps #11 through #15 are solely dependent upon step #6 shown below. The estimated demolition and construction timeline should take no more than 2-months from start to finish.

Process Step	Start	End	Brief Description
1. Project Start	2021-09-14	2023-08-30	HVSC motioned for Playground Committee to be initiated at its AGM on September 14, 2021 - completed
2. Project Support Program Account	2021-10-12	2022-03-31	HVSC motioned for \$2,500 from AGLC Use of Proceeds to open a Project Support Program Account with Parks Foundation Calgary - completed
3. Initial Committee Steps	2021-10-13	2021-12-10	Project Managers: Principal Allison Hull and Playground Coordinator, S. Parchewsky to develop initial engagement survey - completed
4. Community Engagement Survey	2021-11-19	2021-01-10	Nov 19 th : Engagement Survey sent to school community. Close off December 3 rd . Dec 10 th : Survey results reviewed - completed
5. Formal Playground Committee Formed	2021-11-10	2022-01-25	Formal committee formed and an initial committee meeting to be determined what further engagement is needed - completed
6. Fundraising Campaigns	22-09-05	24-02-08	Committee to work with HVSC fundraising committee to layout fundraising campaigns for 2022-24 school terms. Campaigns Motioned/Approved in FEB 2022. in-progress
7. Vendor Request for Proposals	2022-03-10	2022-04-08	Playground Request for Proposals sent out and responses returned; completed

8. Vendor Selection & Vendor Notifications	2022-04-08	2022-04-19	Playground vendor evaluations reviewed, and vendor formally selected; completed
9. Conceptual Design	2022-04-20	2022-05-10	Playground vendor designs submitted to school community for engagement response; completed
10. Conceptual Design	22-05-11	2022-05-11	Confirmed conceptual design and interim project costs; completed
11. Site Demolition & Preparation	24-07-02	24-07-09	Site demolition, removal & preparation
12. Surface	24-07-15	24-07-30	Pour in-place rubber surfacing installation
13. Playground Equipment Installation	24-08-03	24-08-20	Equipment installation
14. CBE Site Inspection	24-08-22	24-08-30	Site inspection for grand opening
15. Grand Opening	24-09-02		Grand Opening

8. Additional Project Resources

Further information about the Hidden Valley School playground project can be found here:

- a) "Get Involved" Parents and Volunteers: <https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/hiddenvalley/get-involved/fundraisers-donation/playground-project/pages/default.aspx>
- b) Todayville Calgary: <https://www.todayville.com/calgary/213644-2/>
- c) Parks Foundation Calgary:
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParksFoundationCalgary/schools.html>

9. Conclusion

While there is a significant financial cost to replacing the school playground; it directly impacts all 400+ students and staff at Hidden Valley School, 700+ children who live in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Playgrounds provide many learning opportunities through different types of play. Outdoor play allows physical, social, emotional, imaginative, and cognitive development. Exercise improves health and well-being, and a playground provides a safe environment that encourages independence. If the playground is not revitalized, there would be limited stimulation for students during outdoor instructional time.

It is imperative the HVSC continues to succeed in our mission to support students and their learning. Installing a new school playground is a primary means of supporting this goal and measuring our success as an organization while continuing to promote school spirit.