



Hidden Valley School Playground Project (HVSPP) FAQs

1. Why was this project initiated?

The HVSPP was initiated by a need to replace the deteriorating small playground directly behind Hidden Valley School. The existing playground was built in 2004 and is currently utilized by approximately 400 students and staff in grades K-3 as well as 700+ community children in the community living within a 300m buffer outside of school hours.

2. When was the HVSPP initiated?

Revitalizing the school playground has been an initiative that the Friends of Hidden Valley School Society has strategically, financially planned for several years knowing that the playground in its entirety would be facing the end of its lifecycle. This project was formally started in September of 2021. At the time, there were 3 committee members involved. There are now six (6) committee members.

3. What input was given for the project?

In **November 2021**, the HVSPP committee launched our first engagement survey 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. The survey results provided the steppingstone in determining the types of equipment desired in a new playground.

The results were compiled and analyzed and used to help make planning decisions and to form a Request for Proposal (RFP) to playground vendors to be launched in March 2022 the following year.

In **January 2022**, the HVSPP entered a Third-Party Facility Related Stakeholder Agreement with CBE Facilities to commence work on a new playground. We have worked alongside the CBE Facilities Management team to ensure the proposed work and materials meet not only CBE Standards but CSA Standards and the CBE's Certified Playground Safety Inspections.

In **February 2022**, the HVSPP motioned with the parent society to enter into a collaboration agreement with Parks Foundation Calgary to open a Project Support Program (PSP) Account to assist with money management for the project, issue tax receipts for donations made to the

project, and manage the vendor RFP process. Detailed information about the PSP can be found at <https://www.parksfdn.com/project-support-program>.

In **March 2022**, the HVSP committee used defined evaluation criteria provided by Parks Foundation Calgary to evaluate five (5) RFP responses and formally selected BDI as the playground vendor.

In **April 2022**, the HVSP committee launched a second engagement survey to the Hidden Valley School community to determine which conceptual design out of two (2) was most favoured. This resulted in 70% of the school community choosing Option 2 from BDI's conceptual designs.

In **December 2023**, the parent society placed a 50% deposit on the playground equipment to secure pricing without 2024 inflation costs.

In **January 2024**, students were asked to choose the colour pallet for the playground equipment. The final selection being the colours shown in the concept design below.

4. What kind of fundraising is being executed for the project?

The fundraising initiatives employed for the HVSP are the following to date:

- Existing AGLC Use of Proceeds
- 1 - 50/50 Cash Raffles (May 2022)
- 1 - Silent Auction (October 2022)
- 1- Fill Your Freezer Campaign (Apr 2023)
- 1- Family Spring Event (June 2023)
- 1 - Family Fall Event Donations (Oct 2023)
- 1 – School Community Bottle Drive (Jan 2024)
- 1- Cheque Writing Campaign (Feb 2024)
- Local Sponsorship Donation Letter Campaign (Feb 2024)
- Grant Writing (Feb 2024)
- Volunteer Hours transferred through Corporate Donations utilizing [Benevity](#)
- TC Energy Employee Matching Contributions (2023-24)
- Direct Social/Community Donations utilizing Parks Foundation Calgary:
<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParksFoundationCalgary/schools.html>

5. Which grants were applied for?

Literally hundreds of hours of volunteer time is being spent writing very intensive grant applications. The committee will be applying for the following grants:

- Parks Foundation Calgary Project Gift Administration- Approved
- Alberta Blue Cross Grant (\$50,000) x 2 – Denied
- Community Facility Enhancement Program (\$125,000) – Awarded
- ATCO Community Investment – Denied
- Shell Canada In the Community (\$5,000) – Denied
- TC Energy Build Strong – (\$5,000) - Denied
- Co-op Community Spaces Grant- (\$146,000) – Denied

- Parks Foundation Calgary Building Communities Grant (\$30,000) – Awarded
- Canada Post Foundation Grant (\$5,000) – Denied
- Private Sponsorship (\$52,900) – Awarded
- Calgary BILD (\$20,000) – Denied

6. What is the plan for an outdoor learning space?

As part of initial community engagement, 93% of the school community agreed that there is an increased need for outdoor spaces for students to learn and play. The outdoor learning space will be Phase II of these playground projects and will not commence until the playground equipment and surface area has been revitalized.

7. What are the plans for rebuilding the playground in between Hidden Valley School (HVS) and Valley Creek School (VCS)?

CBE regularly audits all school playgrounds including both playgrounds surrounding HVS and VCS. The CBE will determine any course of action required with this playground as necessary. To date, this playground is safe and in good condition. When it is close to its lifespan, the CBE will help to determine which school is responsible for revitalizing it.

8. What is the playground budget?

The total project cost (including in-kind contributions) is \$374K.

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

9. Why aren't we choosing Volunteer Installation to cut costs?

When building a playground, there are two options for installation a) Volunteer Installation, and b) Commercial Installation. Volunteer installation requires a lot of volunteers to help and puts a great deal of insurance liability on the parent society. The liability risks of a volunteer installation far outweighed the small reduction in total project costs and a formal decision to move forward with commercial installation has been agreed upon.

10. Why doesn't the school board fund this type of project?

Unfortunately, school boards do not have the means to provide funding support for the purchase and installation of playgrounds. Therefore, it is up to parent groups to fund these capital projects. These types of projects take years to fundraise, and it is a collaborative effort between parent societies and their school administrators. The Alberta Government does provide funding support to new schools where there has never been a playground built through [Planning and building schools | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/planning-and-building-schools.aspx).





Note: Colours shown may not accurately reflect actual colours.

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



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About the New Playground

The goal of inclusive play is to create a multi-faceted, sensory-rich play space where communities can connect and where children— regardless of abilities or disabilities, ages or stages, needs or preferences—can enjoy unstructured outdoor play. Inclusive play does not mean that every element of play is accessible to every child. It means incorporating a broad diversity of elements into the playground design—both ground level and elevated, physical play as well as sensory, imaginative, cognitive, and social play—so that the combination of experiences is rewarding for each child. It's about maximizing playability and enjoyment for as many users as possible.

ENGAGING ALL ABILITIES

Since only 14% of Canadian children with disabilities have mobility challenges, it is important to think beyond mobility and find ways to engage children with other disabilities, including vision, hearing, dexterity, developmental, autism and other challenges. A few examples include:

- Stainless steel slides prevent damage to cochlear implants worn by hearing-impaired children
- Alternating deck colours on playground structures help visually impaired users recognize changes in height
- Components that make sound or provide tactile play are enjoyable for users with visual impairments
- Components that rock or sway or items that offer a perch point are helpful to neuro-diverse children

The Inclusive Orbit as shown below will allow people of all abilities to enjoy the spinning motion and ease of entry with the platform flush to the surfacing.



The We Spin as shown below is designed to deliver the thrill of spinning for children of all abilities. The wide, gentle concave design enables users with less upper body strength to spin while lying down or sitting and allows for easier access/egress and hand holds provide extra stability.



Wheelchair ramps as shown below will be a major component of this park space to enable people of all abilities to utilize all aspects.



The Ascender, as shown below provides kids with an introduction to climbing.



The Rainbow Buddy Bench as shown below helps foster kindness, inclusion and compassion on the playground.



Communication between someone who is nonverbal and someone who uses spoken language can be difficult. The communication board provides simple, recognizable images and symbols that can be used to understand one another.

