

Accessible Playground Grant Program

2026 Grant Guidelines

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1 Overview

The Accessible Playground Grant Program provides financial support to non-profit organizations to replace or upgrade existing playgrounds or install new playgrounds that will be available for use by the public and are located in Regina. The playground shall meet the requirements for a Neighbourhood Playground described in the City of Regina's [Accessible Playground Design Standard](#).

For a list of minimum design requirements for a Neighbourhood Playground see Appendix A – Playground Checklist.

1.1 Application Deadline

Application submissions will be accepted until April 9, 2026 at 4 p.m.

See 5 – Grant Application Process for more information.

1.2 Funding Period

Playground construction and all associated site upgrades shall be completed and open to the public no later than June 1, 2028.

1.3 Funding Limits and Project Phasing

Organizations may apply for a maximum of 30 per cent of their project's total budget up to \$80,000.

- i) Playground projects may be built in multiple phases. Each phase will be considered one project and each project must meet all requirements of the Accessible Playground Design Standards.
- ii) If an organization receives Sport & Recreation New Initiative Grant funding for a playground project, they are eligible to apply to the Accessible Playground Grant Program for the same project to a maximum combined grant total of \$80,000. For example, if an organization receives \$30,000 from the New Initiative Grant, they may also apply for up to \$50,000 from the Accessible Playground Grant Program.
- iii) The Accessible Playground Grant Program has a total of \$160,000 available in 2026.

1.4 Contact Us

City of Regina staff are available to answer questions and provide clarity and guidance as you develop your application. We encourage organizations to reach out early in the development of your application so we can provide our best support.

All grant inquiries can be sent to:

Community Investments

Email: CommunityInvestments@regina.ca

Phone: (306) 777-7507

2 Eligibility

2.1 Who can apply?

For all proposals, organizations must:

- i) Be a registered non-profit organization that is operating with an active status and has been incorporated for at least one year at the time of application submission;
- ii) Demonstrate sound financial management and accountability;
- iii) Demonstrate that a minimum of 40 per cent of the project's total value has been raised at time of application submission;
- iv) Be responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of those activities for which the funds are intended;
- v) Not exclude anyone because of religion, national or ethnic origin, colour, sex, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability. This does not preclude those organizations that restrict services to a particular sector of the community for reasons of improving the conditions of disadvantaged

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- individuals or groups according to Section 15 (1) (2) of the Charter of Rights;
- vi) Have a distinct line of separation between the budget of its funded activities and the furtherance of an organization's religious and political mandate (if applicable); and
 - vii) Be considered in good standing by the City of Regina. Applicants must not have any outstanding taxes or other charges owing to the City of Regina, must not be in active litigation against the City of Regina and must abide by all applicable laws and bylaws as well as the City of Regina's policies and procedures. An applicant that has outstanding taxes, charges and/or Community Investment Grants Program (CIGP) follow-up reports, is in active litigation or has breached a law or policy will lose, at the discretion of the City of Regina, any outstanding grant payment and/or unused funds.

2.2 Who is ineligible to apply?

The following organizations are not eligible to apply:

- i) Post-secondary institutions, universities or private schools
- ii) Municipal service providers such as fire, police and libraries
- iii) Saskatchewan Health Authority, hospitals, nursing homes

2.3 What playground type qualifies for funding?

The following playgrounds are eligible for funding:

- i) Playgrounds located in Regina, Saskatchewan
- ii) Playground projects that meet all requirements of the City of Regina's Accessible Playground Design Standards. See Appendix A – Playground Checklist
- iii) Playgrounds available for general use by the public

2.4 Eligible Expenses:

- i) Eligible expenses are costs directly related to the design and construction of an accessible playground that meets the City of Regina Accessible Playground Design Standard including professional design services, demolition, site preparation and playground and gathering area items lists in Appendix A – Playground Checklist.
- ii) Playground structures are eligible expenses so long as, prior to purchase of the playground structure/equipment, the playground was reviewed and approved by the City of Regina for compliance with the Accessible Playground Design Standard.

2.5 Ineligible Expenses:

- i) Deficits, financing costs or debt repayment
- ii) Ongoing maintenance and operating costs
- iii) Fundraising initiatives
- iv) Administrative equipment
- v) Facility rental fees
- vi) Program supplies or consumable equipment (unless approved as part of a larger project)
- vii) Awards, gifts and prizes
- viii) Socials and volunteer appreciation

3 Requirements for playgrounds on City-owned property

Organizations proposing construction on City-owned property, including upgrades to or replacement of an existing City of Regina playground will be required to enter into a Donation and Installation Agreement with the City of Regina at least two weeks in advance of starting construction. Construction on City-owned property will not be permitted until all funds required for the project are raised by the organization. Where funding is not raised with sufficient time to complete construction within the timelines, the City of Regina may require return of the funding. See Appendix B – Sample Donation and Installation Agreement

4 Requirements for playgrounds not on City-owned property

Organizations must provide proof of consent of the property-owner to carry out construction on the lands.

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Organizations must notify the City of Regina of construction start-up a minimum of three days prior to mobilization.

On completion of playground installation, the City of Regina and the Organization shall jointly inspect the Project and any associated equipment or materials to ensure the installation meets the requirements of this grant program, including any City of Regina specifications.

On completion of the playground installation, the City of Regina will identify and document deficiencies and will forward this documentation to the Organization.

The Organization is responsible for ensuring the deficiencies identified to the Organization pursuant to this Agreement are corrected and arrangements are made with the City of Regina for further inspections.

Once the City of Regina provides the final approval of the installation, this will constitute completion of the project, and the Organization may submit a Follow-up Report and all required attachments in order to receive the final 20 per cent grant payment.

5 Grant Application Process

5.1 Application Deadline

See 1.1 Application Deadline

5.2 Application Submission

Organizations may submit their application(s) and all applicable attachments through electronic transmission to: CommunityInvestments@regina.ca

All documents are required to be in a PDF, MS Word or Excel format.

Please Note: Community Investments Grant Program (CIGP) application forms are developed as a fillable PDF or fillable Word document. If you are using the fillable PDF version, the forms offer editable text, as well as scrollable text boxes to encompass all relevant information when providing responses to the questions on the application. To ensure your application includes all information, please submit the original fillable PDF application.

Materials submitted to the Community Investments Office will not be returned.

All applications require two signatures and must be signed by the Organization's authorized signatory. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the Community Investments Office has received the information prior to the above-mentioned deadline. Please see application forms for more details on submission guidelines.

5.3 Submission Requirements

For a complete list of submission requirements to include in an Accessible Playground Program application, please see Application Form, Section 7 – Application Submission Requirements.

For list of submission requirements following funding approval, please see Application Form, Section 8 – Post-Funding Approval Submissions Requirements.

6 Application Review, Evaluation and Funding Recommendation

6.1 Overview

Applications will be processed by City of Regina Administration and assessed for completeness and eligibility and to confirm playground designs meet minimum accessibility requirements of the Accessible Playground Design Standard, see Appendix A – Playground Checklist.

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The Grant Review Committee will then review, evaluate and make recommendations for funding to the Director, Recreation & Cultural Services for consideration and approval.

6.2 Grant Review Committee

Grant applications are reviewed by a Grant Review Committee comprised of City of Regina Administration.

6.3 Application Evaluation

Applications are evaluated and awarded funding based on their merit, available funding and competing applications. Preference will be given to projects that upgrade or replace existing City-owned playgrounds located on City-owned property and projects that can be completed within the same year funding is issued.

Each application will be scored based on the following criteria: Organization, Program Merit, Community Need, Community Impact, Financial Need and Accessibility. See definitions below:

- i) **Organization:** The Organization has an appropriate structure and capacity to fulfill its mandate. It can identify and access viable funding opportunities and effectively manage its operations.
- ii) **Program Merit:** The initiative is well-planned, clearly articulated and likely to address the Community Need described.
- iii) **Community Need and Impact:** The playground proposed replaces an aging City of Regina asset and provides play opportunities for public use; or the playground provides new accessible play opportunities at a school site, which is available outside of school hours for general use by the public.
- iv) **Financial Need:** The organization demonstrates that City of Regina funding is integral to the initiative's success and has 40 per cent of funding required to deliver the project.
- v) **Accessibility (Technical Review):** The playground design drawings clearly show that both the playground and the supporting amenities of the gathering area near the playground meet the minimum requirements of the Standard. See Appendix A – Playground Checklist.

6.4 Playground designs that do not meet Standard

In the event an application is otherwise eligible, but the playground design submission does not meet the Accessible Playground Design Standard, the City of Regina will provide the applicant with a list of deficiencies and recommended design revisions required to meet The Standard via email prior to adjudication.

Applicants are required to revise their design and submit an email with updated playground drawings that meet all design requirements listed in Appendix A – Playground Checklist. Design revisions must be submitted for City of Regina review and approval before funding can be released.

Applicants proposing to construct their playground in **2026** have until June 1, 2026 to submit revised playground drawings for review and approval.

Applicants proposing to construct their playground in **2027** have until have until December 1, 2026 to submit their revised playground drawings for review and approval.

6.5 Funding Recommendations

The process is competitive; therefore, not all eligible applications may receive funding.

6.6 Grant Notification & Payment

Applicants will be notified of decision by May 29, 2026. All applicants will receive a letter notifying them of the funding decision.

Organizations approved for funding will receive 80 per cent of the payment upon execution of the Agreement, where an agreement is required. Where an agreement is not required, Organizations will receive 80 per cent of the payment after award and all other pre-conditions are met. The final 20 per cent payment will be made upon City of Regina approval of the Organization's Follow-Up Report submission.

This is one-time funding and approval does not commit the City of Regina to any future funding of these organizations.

7 Follow-Up Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to submit a completed Follow-Up Report. See 2026 Follow-Up Report for a complete list of information required for this submission.

The Follow-Up Report must be submitted within 90 days of the final playground inspection.

8 Terms and Conditions for Applicants Awarded Funding

For applicants installing playgrounds on land not owned by the City of Regina, the Accessible Playground Grant Program application form, if funding is approved, will act as the agreement for funding through the CIGP. This shall not constitute consent to perform construction on school lands; any further consent or agreement required by the school board shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

Organizations installing playgrounds on City-owned property will be required to sign the application agreement and in addition, enter into a Donation and Installation Agreement, following approval for funding. Funding will not be disbursed until a copy of the signed and sealed agreement as well as any required supporting documentation has been provided to the City of Regina.

Appendix A: Playground Checklist

The Playground Checklist summarizes the design requirements for a Neighbourhood Playground described in the Accessible Playground Design Standard. For reference, see link to the full Standard here: [Accessible Playground Design Standard](#).

This checklist serves as a tool to guide your playground design. During the playground planning and design, applicants can use this checklist to confirm the playground and its supporting amenities (gathering area) meet the Accessible Playground Design Standard. See [Accessible Playground Design Standard](#) for definitions of ‘playground’ and ‘gathering area’.

All Accessible Playground grant application submissions shall include a completed Playground Checklist.

PLAYGROUND CHECKLIST

Item	Design Criteria for GATHERING AREA – Neighbourhood Playground	Design criteria has been met (Y/N)
Accessible Pathway		
1	Accessible Pathway(s) shall provide a direct route of travel to playground from park entrance(s).	
2	Accessible Pathway(s) shall provide a direct route of travel from designated accessible parking stall (on-street or off-street).	
An Accessible Pathway shall have:		
3	A minimum width of 1,525 millimetres	
4	Have a slip-resistant, continuous and even surface (made of asphalt or concrete)	
5	Provide ramps, wherever required, to overcome a difference in elevation greater than 13 millimetres (e.g. at sidewalks, parking areas, transition from pathway into safety surfacing etc.)	
6	Have a maximum vertical slope of five per cent	
7	Have a maximum cross slope of one per cent	
Shade (See Plantings below for further information)		
8	The Gathering Areas shall provide trees for users to rest in shade.	
9	A minimum of 15 large-canopy shade trees shall be provided within the gathering area.	
10	Trees shall be located to create shading opportunities during peak hours of summer sunshine (July, August).	
11	A playground and/or gathering area shall be sited to take advantage of existing trees, whenever possible.	
	Shade Structures (optional): A permanent shade structure for the provision of shade e.g. shade sail, gazebo, picnic shelter etc., is optional. If a shade structure has been proposed for a playground located on City-owned property,	

	the size, materials, construction and location of shade structure shall be approved by the City of Regina.	
Site Furnishings		
	General	
12	All site furnishings shall be commercial grade and tamper resistant.	
	Benches	
13	A minimum of two benches have been provided.	
14	Benches shall be provided in both sunny and shaded areas within the gathering area.	
15	Benches shall be accessed by an accessible pathway or accessible play route.	
16	Benches shall have good sightlines to play area.	
17	Benches shall have back and arms.	
18	Benches shall be installed on a reinforced concrete pad and will accommodate a stroller or mobility device beside the bench.	
	Trash Units	
19	A minimum of one trash unit has been provided.	
20	Trash unit shall be accessed by an accessible pathway.	
21	Trash unit shall be located away from benches, play structure, picnic tables and other gathering places to reduce user's proximity to odors and insects.	
22	Trash units shall be anchored onto a reinforced concrete pad.	
23	Trash units shall be 32 gallons receptable with liner and lid (for playgrounds on City-owned property only).	
Accessible Vehicle Parking		
24	Playgrounds shall provide accessible on-street or off-street parking.	
25	Accessible parking stalls shall be sited a maximum of 125 metres from playground.	
26	Accessible parking stalls shall be clearly designated with line paint and signage.	
Plantings		
	Plantings General	
Refer to CSA Z614:20 Annex G.8 Plant materials in children's playgrounds, for minimum requirements regarding plant selection safety.		
27	All proposed plant material in gathering areas and/or playgrounds shall be Zone 2b or hardier.	
28	If adjacent to pathways, plant material shall not drop any fruit or debris that can create a barrier on pathways for mobility devices.	
29	Fruit or coniferous trees shall not impede the clear headroom of 2,100 millimetres when overhanging accessible routes and shall be planted away from playground safety surfacing to avoid fruit and needles falling onto the playground's safety surfacing.	

Item	Design Criteria for PLAYGROUND – Neighbourhood Playground	Design criteria has been met (Y/N)
Accessible & Inclusive Playgrounds		
30	All new playgrounds are to meet the definitions of accessible and inclusive playgrounds, as defined below: Accessible playground: Accessibility is about travel, movement and approach or entry. A playground that is accessible is one that is easy for a person who uses a mobility device to maneuver to and around. Inclusive playground: Designed to meet the needs of a variety of disabilities such as visual impairments, hearing impairments, communication, cognitive disabilities, sensory sensitivities, physical disabilities etc. designed thoughtfully to encourage engagement and interaction of multiple abilities.	
Materials – Play Components		
31	Play component materials shall meet safety standards described in CSA Z614:20 Children’s playground equipment and surfacing.	
32	Manufactured playground components shall be made of steel and plastics.	
Materials – Safety Surfacing		
Note: Loose materials, including but not limited to, Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF), sand and pea stone shall not be accepted as accessible safety surfacing material at new or refurbished playgrounds on City-owned property.		
33	Safety surfacing shall meet safety requirements as described in CSA Z614:20 Children’s playground equipment and surfacing.	
34	All new and refurbished playgrounds shall provide accessible safety surfacing that meets ASTM 1951 standards.	
35	All high-wear locations (e.g. bottom of slides, under swings etc.) shall double the thickness of the specified poured-in-place rubber wear layer to provide increased durability.	
Accessible Play Route		
<p>An accessible play route is an unobstructed route that connects users to play components. An accessible play route shall be monolithic safety surfacing (e.g. poured in place rubber surfacing), a play structure ramp or a play structure platform accessed by a ramp.</p> <p>Transfer stations shall not act as the primary means of access to an accessible play route but may be included as a secondary access option. A transfer station may be used as the primary means of access to individual play components (e.g. slides) that otherwise meet the requirements of this document.</p>		
36	All accessible play routes shall have a minimum width of 1,100 millimetres.	
37	A minimum of a 1,525 millimetres turning diameter, must be provided at the end of an accessible path, walkway or corridor, including platforms for slides/poles/climbing structures.	
Play Components		
See Accessible Playground Design Standard, 6.8 Play Components, for method to quantify play components and Appendix A – Play Experience Types. Link: Accessible Playground Design Standard . Accessible play elements must be appropriate for a person with a mobility device to maneuver around, therefore:		

38	A minimum of 50 per cent of a playground's play components shall be located along an accessible route.	
39	A maximum of 15 per cent of accessible play components requires a person to exit their mobility device. Therefore, a minimum of 85 per cent of the required play along an accessible route allows user to remain with their mobility device. See below for example calculation.	
<p>Example calculation: If a playground has a total of 32 play components, a minimum of 16 play components (50 per cent) shall be along an accessible route. Math: $32 \times 50\% = 16$</p> <p>Of those 16 play components along an accessible route, a minimum of 14 play components (85 per cent) shall allow a user to remain with their mobility device. Math: $16 \times 85\% = 13.6$ (14) round up.</p>		
40	A minimum of one of each type of play experience is to be accessible. Preference for side-by-side play of varying abilities.	
Elevated Play - Optional		
Elevated play is not a requirement of an accessible playground.		
41	If elevated accessible play is provided in the playground the design professional shall avoid creating a 'ramp to nowhere'. Whereby, the elevated play route shall have play components along its route and/or shall have an engaging and fun accessible play event/component at its terminus.	
Sensory Cues and Contrast		
42	A play structure's surface colours (platforms/ramps) shall be in high contrast to its vertical elements (hand/guard rail colour). E.g. dark brown ramp and light blue handrail.	
43	To show change in elevation, a high-contrast colour horizontal strip shall be located along the edge of each stair tread and at the top and bottom of each ramp (e.g. dark blue ramp and yellow horizontal strip)	
44	A high-contrast colour shall be used on accessible safety surfacing to indicate obstacles, such as the end of the slide or free- standing items like a post of a swing set. Additionally, high-contrast colour shall indicate the safety areas of swinging, spinning or other movement-based play features.	
45	A high-contrast colour shall be used to indicate the boundary or perimeter of the playground.	
Communication Board		
Note: The City of Regina will supply a digital file of the communication board design for organizations to then fabricate and install signs.		
46	The playground shall include a City-approved communication board.	