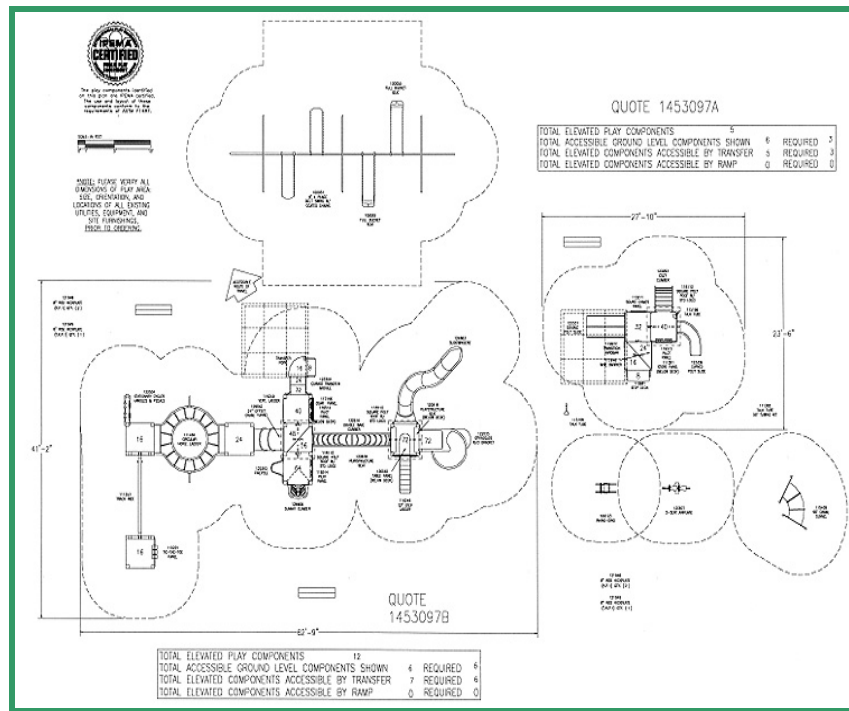




# WETASKIWIN REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## GUIDELINES for PLANNING & CONSTRUCTING NEW CREATIVE PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES



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## 1.1 FOREWORD

Information within this document is provided to assist in the pre-planning and planning stages of the construction of new child play spaces. Throughout the document reference is made to CAN/CSA-Z614, Children's Play spaces and Equipment, A National Standard of Canada. CAN/CSA-Z614 supersedes editions published in 1998 under the same title and in 1990 the terminology used was A Guideline on Children's Play spaces and Equipment. In order to remain consistent with expectations this document parallels CAN/CSA-Z614, June 2003.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES

In the very preliminary stages of planning the Plant Facilities must be contacted to review proposed site locations. During preliminary planning such things as drainage are to be considered so as to ensure proper site drainage and also to ensure that surface drainage channels are not obstructed. Low areas are to be avoided, as these areas tend to collect water.

- The location of the playground must not conflict with any existing facilities and a minimum of six meters must separate the playground from any active sports field.
- Areas of poor visibility must be avoided as these areas avail themselves to vandalism.
- Equipment shall never be installed at the base of a slope, which may be used as toboggan slope. An accurate plan indicating the play space location on the school ground must be forwarded to Plant Maintenance indicating compass orientation, school facility, playing fields, trees, sports equipment i.e.: goal posts, sidewalks, asphalt areas etc. Should school ground plans be required to facilitate accurate plotting of the play space, copies are available for Plant Facilities.

Once a site location has been determined and approved by the Director of Plant Facilities, Alberta One – Call (1-800-242-3447) must be contacted to determine underground utility right-of-ways. No excavation shall proceed until all disciplines have notified the owner, in writing, that it is safe to proceed. Disciplines directed by Alberta One – Call are telephone, power, gas, Supernet and in some instances cable TV. Other lines may exist underground that the former disciplines will not locate, for this reason Plant Facilities must be notified for underground right of ways such as storm drains, water lines, septic services etc.



### 3.0 **EQUIPMENT**

#### 3.1 Equipment Detail Approval (Must Do)

- Submit an accurately scaled plan, compass orientation, equipment specifications, and actual perimeter facilities on-site such as fences, sports equipment, sidewalks, asphalt areas, trees, etc.
- One copy of the final approved plan must be forwarded to Plant Facilities if it is different from the original submission.
- a copy of the manufactures warranty must be submitted to the sponsoring group.
- There should be at least 20% wheelchair accessibility to the playground.

### 4.0 **SPECIFICATIONS**

4.1 All designs must meet CAN/CSA Standards; Children's Play spaces and Equipment Z614-03.

#### 4.2 **Surfacing Materials:**

- acceptable play space surfacing materials are available in two basic types: loose fill and unitary.
- loose fill are materials that include, but are not confined to beach sand, pea gravel and shredded wood products.
- unitary type surfaces are generally rubber mats or a combination or rubber-like materials held in place by a binder that is poured into place at the playground site.
- the 2003 playground standards section 10.4.1 shall be referenced when decisions are being made to determine play space surfacing materials.



#### 4.3 **Border Materials**

- borders are to be constructed out of timbers, two 15 cm x 15 (6"x 6") treated timbers planned with rounded edges (where exposed). Timbers are to be pinned down with 2.5 cm (1") x 1.25 cm (4') rebar pins with washers welded to top spaced every 1.8 M (6').
- border corners can either be butt jointed or cut to fit @ 45 degrees.
- minimum clearance from outside edge of border to any landscape fixture such as trees or shrubs must be 8 M (26').
- minimum 6 M (20') must separate the playground from any active sports field.
- benches may be installed inside the border but garbage receptacles must stay outside.

#### 4.4 **Support Posts**

- All posts are to be set in concrete to a depth of .8 meters minimum. Auger dirt must be removed from around the top and from the bottom of the holes before concrete is poured.
- Concrete footings must be 15cm (6") below the level of the sub grade.
- Concrete footings must be smooth edge and no flare tops.

#### 4.5 **Clean up**

- It is the responsibility of the group performing the installation to remove all construction garbage from the site.

#### 5.0 **Maintenance**

- Until the end of the twelve-month warranty period, maintenance is the responsibility of the Supplier (excluding vandalism and accidental damage).
- It shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring group to ensure that any sod laid or seed sown is adequately watered for an appropriate period of time to ensure "Rooting". (Usually, One (1) Month)

## 6.0 Warranties

- All equipment must be guaranteed to be free of defects in workmanship and material for one year from date of acceptance.
- Pressure treated wood on decks or ramps must be guaranteed against decay for 15 years.
- Manufactures warranty must be one of the considerations in determining choice of vendor.
- Once a playground has aged to the point that major renovations or replacement are necessary because of safety considerations these components will be removed at the discretion of Plant Facilities and notice will be given to the school.

## 7.0 Items Not Recommended

- Tree planting in the immediate vicinity of the playground (extremely high incidence of vandalism and accidental damage).
- Cargo or climbing nets constructed of steel-core poly ropes, etc. (steel wears through the coating at junction points then becomes frayed).

## 8.0 Items Not Acceptable

- Wooden upright posts and wooden railings on a creative playground space.
- Nails (high maintenance, safety).
- Conventional old-fashioned swings with board seats (belt seats must have spring steel insert to guard against vandalism and be impact resistant with rounded edges).
- Tripod swings (suspended from criss-cross telephone poles set in the ground).
- Slides constructed of PVC plastic (susceptible to vandalism and deterioration when exposed to ultraviolet rays. However, slides constructed of injection-molded polyethylene will be acceptable as long as they are treated to be ultraviolet resistant and are double sided. All metal slides must be installed to face either east or north.
- Large implement tires, telephone poles, and concrete culverts.
- Teeter-totters.

**cont'd**

- Merry-Go-Rounds
- Maypoles
- Plastic molded tires for tire swings.
- Cable rides
- Prototype equipment that has not been field-tested.
- Tire swings suspended by poly-covered wire rope.
- Maintenance access to the field or facilities must not be obstructed.
- No equipment is to be installed at the foot of a slope, which may be used as a toboggan run.

**9.0 Other**

9.1 School volunteers, through their donation of time and talent, contribute significantly to the successful operation of a school. Prior to volunteer participation in the construction stage, all volunteers must fill out Form 490-1, Volunteer Registration Form.

9.2 Contractors shall:

- Ensure that all workers use appropriate personal protective equipment as required by Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety Act. Essential protective equipment must meet CSA approval.
- Provide proof of Contractor Liability Insurance (\$2 Million) and proof of good standing with WCB.
- Ensure that any operators of contractor owned equipment have experience in operating said equipment and any operator of said equipment becomes an employee of the contractor
- Be aware that any physical damage to or caused by contractor's owned equipment is the responsibility of the contractor
- Ensure that when volunteering equipment (does not include rental of equipment) both equipment and insurance remains the responsibility of the equipment owner
- Ensure that vehicles and/or mobile equipment on site have adequate liability insurance (\$2 Million)

**10.0 Acceptance**

Before the equipment is used the owner or representative shall carry out a thorough and complete inspection. Items shall be checked for compliance with the plans and specifications and particularly with recommended clearances and space requirements.



11.0 **Project Monitor**

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools  
Creative Playground Project Monitor

**Guidelines Received**

_____	_____	_____
Sponsor or School Principal	Plant Facilities	Date

**Site Approval Clearance**

_____	_____	_____
Sponsor or School Principal	Plant Facilities	Date

**Approval of Equipment and Layout Proposal**

_____	_____	_____
Sponsor or School Principal	Plant Facilities	Date

**Approval to Proceed**

_____	_____	_____
Sponsor or School Principal	Plant Facilities	Date

**Final Inspection**

_____	_____	_____
CPSI Inspector	Plant Facilities	Date

COPIES TO: Plant Facilities  
Sponsor (Playground Committee)  
School Principal