



2025

Town of Olds
Playground
Replacement Plan

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Town of Olds Playground Replacement Plan

Overview

The Town of Olds is committed to providing safe, accessible, and engaging play spaces for families. To ensure these spaces remain in good condition, we have assessed all public playgrounds and established a phased replacement plan. This strategy aims to replace one small and one large playground every three years, prioritizing those most in need based on condition, safety compliance, accessibility, and age.

Evaluations used a standardized system to assign a Rating, Priority, and Size to each site. Higher ratings indicate a greater need for replacement.

Phase 1: 2026–2028

Small Playground: OR Hedges

- **Rating:** 88
- **Priority:** Urgent
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
OR Hedges is the highest rated for urgent replacement. The wooden structure and sand surface are outdated and lacks compliance with current safety and accessibility standards. The surfacing, structure, and borders need full replacement. A new structure should include more accessible features to serve a broader range of children.

Large Playground: Neil Leatherdale

- **Rating:** 76
- **Priority:** Urgent
- **Size:** Large
- **Why Replace:**
The sand is in poor condition, the main structure is wooden, and the paint on equipment is peeling. The surfacing does not meet current safety standards. A complete replacement is recommended, with special attention to surfacing and accessibility upgrades.

Phase 2: 2029–2031

Small Playground: Wally's (57A Close)

- **Rating:** 78
- **Priority:** Urgent
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
The sand surface is worn, and the structure is outdated. Expansion of the protective surface is needed for safety compliance. Recommendations include installing engineered wood fiber (EWF), adding accessible equipment, and incorporating play features for younger children. Alternatively, Parks staff could repurpose this space, as Deer Meadow School has a playground across the street.

Large Playground: Ryan Boutwell (Horizon School)

- **Rating:** 60
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Large
- **Why Replace:**
While still functional and compliant, this playground shows signs of aging. Minor updates such as the pour-in-place surface need to be replaced with EWF, but full replacement in this phase is planned before major wear sets in.

Phase 3: 2032–2034

Small Playground: Richards

- **Rating:** 80
- **Priority:** Urgent
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
Features aging equipment and deteriorating sand surfacing. It requires upgraded borders and EWF for compliance and accessibility improvements.

Large Playground: Craigs Corner

- **Rating:** 75
- **Priority:** Urgent
- **Size:** Small (however designated for large cycle)
- **Why Replace:**
Although it is a smaller playground, Craigs has wear that is consistent with large playground sites. It will benefit from being placed in a large playground cycle due to condition severity and use levels.

Phase 4: 2035–2037

Small Playground: Beech

- **Rating:** 52
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
Scheduled based on age and projected wear trends. Currently it has a sand playing surface, which will be replaced with EWF in 2025.

Large Playground: Balsam

- **Rating:** 58
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Large
- **Why Replace:**
Shows significant aging and likely to elevate to urgent status by this phase. Replacement will maintain the momentum of upgrades and safety improvements.

Phase 5: 2038–2040

Small Playground: Highlands

- **Rating:** 52
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
Future replacement based on age and preventative planning.

Large Playground: Vistas

- **Rating:** 56
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Large
- **Why Replace:**
Aging infrastructure and high-use area justify replacement by this time.

Phase 6: 2041–2043

Small Playground: Destiny

- **Rating:** 56
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
Lower rating now but expected to deteriorate over the next 15+ years.

Large Playground: Ralph Maybank

- **Rating:** 44
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Large
- **Why Replace:**
Included in future planning cycle to maintain lifecycle rotation.

Phase 7: 2044–2046

Small Playground: Rotary Athletic Park

- **Rating:** 48
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Small
- **Why Replace:**
Included based on projected lifespan and rotation.

Large Playground: Frank Wong

- **Rating:** 61
- **Priority:** High
- **Size:** Large
- **Why Replace:**
Currently in good condition but added to the final cycle for full lifecycle planning.

Additional Note

- **Jean Statham Playground:** Built in 2023, not scheduled for replacement during this cycle but included in long-term tracking for completeness.

Conclusion

This phased replacement strategy allows the Town of Olds to responsibly plan for capital upgrades while ensuring the safety, accessibility, and enjoyment of playgrounds for all users. It prioritizes the most urgent needs first, supports long-term sustainability, and ensures our public spaces continue to serve our community well in the future.

Playground Replacement Plan – Schedule A

Year	Playground	Value
2026	OR Hedges	\$ 125,000.00
2027	Neil Leatherdale	\$ 225,000.00
2028		
2029	57A Close	\$ 125,000.00
2030	Ryan Boutwell	\$ 225,000.00
2031		
2032	Richards	\$ 125,000.00
2033	Craig's Corner	\$ 225,000.00
2034		
2035	Beech	\$ 125,000.00
2036	Balsam	\$ 225,000.00
2037		
2038	Highlands	\$ 125,000.00
2039	Vistas	\$ 225,000.00
2040		
2041	Destiny	\$ 125,000.00
2042	Ralph Maybank	\$ 225,000.00
2043		
2044	Rotary Athletic Park	\$ 125,000.00
2045	Frank Wong	\$ 225,000.00
2046		
2047	Jean Statham	\$ 225,000.00