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Pathways and Connectivity

Provide safe, well-connected paths of travel to access park playgrounds



Inspiration: Accessible paths of travel for all



Parkgate Community Centre Playground, North Vancouver, BC

Inspiration: Pathways can provide play value in the form of “stop and go” loops for early walkers and striders, with grade changes to navigate including bridges and humps

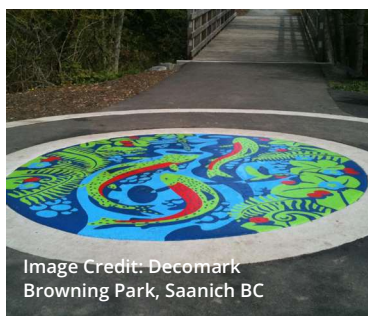


Image Credit: Decomark Browning Park, Saanich BC

Inspiration: Pathways provide opportunities to enhance placemaking, including custom markings and integrated public art

Background & Rationale

- Increased connectivity to parks and recreation opportunities was identified as a priority in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2019).
- Public engagement participants identified opportunities to increase safe access to Courtenay’s park playgrounds by active transportation, including walking and rolling (cycling, rollerblading, skateboarding, wheelchair / scooter / stroller travel).
- Integration of supporting amenities can encourage active transportation to park playgrounds (e.g., bike parking and water fountains).

Design Standards

- Locate new playgrounds in close proximity to existing park and neighbourhood trails (see Standard 2).
- Plan pathways with CPTED principles in mind, including clear sightlines and boundaries (see Standard 4)
- Integrate a hierarchy of pathways to and surrounding the playground including primary pathways, secondary pathways, and path loops.
 - » All primary pathways to be 3m wide
 - » Secondary pathways to be minimum 1.5 - 3m wide
- For all primary and secondary paths, longitudinal slopes should be maximum 5%, and cross slopes maximum 2%.
- If longitudinal slopes exceed 5%, install an accessible ramp and handrails per BC Building Code standards. Maximum longitudinal ramp slope to be 1:12, with ramp landings at regular intervals.
- For Community Park Playground pathways, surfacing to be cast-in-place concrete, precast concrete pavers (including permeable pavers), or asphalt.
- For Neighborhood Park Playground pathways, surfacing to be cast-in-place concrete, precast concrete pavers, asphalt, or packed gravel.
- For Nature Park Playground pathways, surfacing to be wood chip.
- Install all pathways to suitable depth and compaction and avoid minor grade changes between pathways and adjacent surfaces, which can create tripping hazards or other mobility challenges.
- Plan pathways to provide play value, including pathway loops surrounding the play environment for tricycles, push-toys, and early walkers.
- Integrate “discovery pathways” at the periphery of playgrounds through planted areas with stepping stones to encourage a sense of discovery and surprise.
- Provide supporting amenities along playground pathways including furnishings, lighting, and signage (see Standard 8).
- Provide a different colour, finish, or type of pathway surfacing to differentiate paths from main play areas to reduce conflicts.