

Activate park playgrounds with diverse community programming



Inspiration: Art in the Playground!



Image Credit: Seattle Parks & Rec

Inspiration: Environmental learning programs



Inspiration: Food trucks and pop-up retail kiosks

Background & Rationale:

- Opportunities exist to increase safety and activation of Courtenay's park playgrounds. Programming helps to create vibrant, community-focused places, which in turn encourages positive activity and a strong sense of place.
- Public engagement participants and interest groups were supportive of increasing programming opportunities in park playgrounds and shared ideas about gathering spaces to support programming, pop-up retail opportunities, and recreational programs coordinated through the City and local community groups.

Design Standards:

- Provide open, multi-purpose paved or lawn spaces adjacent to park playgrounds to support a range of programs and activities.
- Explore opportunities to increase City-led programming at park playgrounds, including:
 - » The Courtenay Playground Trail! A scavenger hunt / map to visit all of Courtenay's unique park playgrounds (with potential incentives)
 - » Pop-up City of Courtenay Recreation programming
 - » Creative programming including art, music, or photography classes
 - » Musical performances
 - » Story walks through the playground
 - » Movies at the playground / park
 - » Indigenous story-telling or other cultural activities at the playground / park
 - » Environmental learning in Nature Park Playgrounds
 - » Grants for neighbourhood-led community gatherings
- Partner with community organizations to diversify programming opportunities.
- Near Community Park playgrounds, provide infrastructure to support community gatherings, including power connections for events and pop-ups (e.g., food trucks, markets) and shade structures for all-season use (see Standard 8).
- Help foster community playground groups to advocate for playground spaces and coordinate community efforts and events to create safe, welcoming spaces (e.g. friends of Woodcote Park!).