



Helicopter Park Frequently Asked Questions

Dear resident,

As you may have seen this past summer, The City has been undertaking some work at Helicopter Park that will improve the park experience for all community users, in particular the work will create a safer space for both players and other park users at the baseball diamonds and a more accessible inclusive playground.

We've received some questions from the community around how the projects were initiated and wanted to provide some additional background information.

Why is a new fence needed at the baseball diamonds?

The new fencing is designed to help protect both players and spectators from being struck by foul balls and provides a barrier to prevent overthrown balls rolling into the street. The fencing also protects other park users who may be in the park during a baseball game playing soccer, football or taking part in an exercise class.

How are other organizations involved in amenities at City parks?

To improve amenities in our parks, The City will often partner with sports leagues to install this type of upgraded fencing. This partnership results in upgraded facilities at no additional cost to The City while creating safer sport fields for communities and sport groups that use them. Upgraded amenities like this aren't closed off to the community, so the benefits can be enjoyed not just by the baseball community but all park users.

With this new fencing, does the classification of the field now change?

The formal classification is a Class D Baseball Diamond (B1WHL12), specifically designed for children to play baseball – the fencing does not change the classification of the field and does not see any expansion of the current baseball diamond. No additional infrastructure like a scoreboard or lighting is being added.

Does this work now negatively impact the value of my property?

Our surveying (for example, the 2024 Spring Survey of Calgarians) has shown that Parks and Recreation is consistently a top 10 priority for Calgarians, with 96% of Calgarians indicating that maintaining the same amount or increasing investment into parks is needed. One determining factor of a property's market value is the proximity to different types of green spaces. Green spaces can include playgrounds, natural areas, sports fields, pathways, and trails. These green spaces provide both direct and indirect benefits to the users and the homeowners nearby. As a result, green spaces appear to be significant drivers of value for home buyers ("2024 Property Assessment – Residential Market Trends", City of Calgary).

Why wasn't the community engaged in this work?

As with many of the projects at The City, there are many tools we use to inform our decision making. These factors include budget, the best way to operate and manage a park space, public engagement and most importantly, public safety within a site. For this project, where the use of the space and footprint of the site remains unchanged, and where public safety would be improved,



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public engagement was not required according to The City's Engage Policy. Although engagement was not required, The City always aims to communicate where and when work is taking place in a community – residents are encouraged to call 311 whenever they have a question about a project which can then be tracked and directed to a project team member to respond to.

Why is the playground at Helicopter Park under construction?

As part of routine maintenance lifecycle work, the surfacing at Helicopter Park required replacement due to its age and condition, which presented an opportunity to enhance accessibility and inclusion at this space. The addition of updated, inclusive playground equipment aligns with The City's goal of having one inclusive play space or recreational opportunity within a 5 km radius of every Calgarian as part of the Council-approved Inclusive Play Spaces Implementation Plan.

How and why was the playground at Helicopter Park selected to become an inclusive playground?

Playground locations are chosen based on meeting the following requirements:

- There is an existing playground onsite enabling easier development;
- The site is large enough to accommodate the larger format of an inclusive playground;
- There is access to either a parking lot, accessible street parking or close to major transit routes;
- Preferably near a public washroom and the route/pathway to the site is accessible.

What is the timeline for construction?

Construction began in August 2024 and is anticipated to be complete by October 2024.

What updates or improvement will the new playground feature?

The updated playground will feature the following inclusive amenities:

- Access Pathway
- Shaded seating
- Pour in place rubber surfacing
- Ground level fully accessible spinner
- Accessible saucer swing
- Challenge climbing
- Quiet zone enclosure
- Sensory panels
- Street parking

Are there other plans to further redevelop and change the park?

Once the fencing and playground improvements have been completed, there are currently no further development plans for Helicopter Park.