



2014 PARKS AND TRAILS BOND OPERATION PLAYGROUND BUILD

11 new/improved playgrounds in a neighborhood near you!

Frequently Asked Questions – June, 2015

What's Operation Playground Build all about?

The 2014 county-wide Parks and Trails General Obligation Bond, as approved by voters in November '14, funds playground improvements for 11 parks. The parks include Bonner, Franklin, Greenough, McLeod, Northside, Pleasant View, Rainbow, Skyview, Wapikia, and Whitaker parks, plus phase two development of Silver Summit playground in McCormick Park. Additionally, the bond funds development of Fort Missoula Park (which includes 4 new playgrounds), and creation of a new trails program for Missoula County. See below for the street addresses of the new/improved playgrounds.

How can I view and comment on Operation Playground proposed designs?

Visit www.missoulaparks.org to see the proposed playground equipment for each park and prioritize your favorite pieces as well as color options (if available) and provide comments. Public comment on the Operation Playground designs will be accepted through June 28.

Will each playground include all of the pieces shown on the proposed designs?

The playground pods are designed to accommodate all play pieces listed; however, the budget may not permit immediate purchase of all pieces—thus your ranking on the playground survey is very important. Neighborhoods may decide that now is best time to supplement their particular playground project by raising funds for additional equipment. Call Parks Services and Systems Manager David Selvage at 552-6252 for more information about donating to Operation Playground Build.

What's the budget for Operation Playground Build?

The project budget is \$1 million from the Bond. The budget may be supplemented with matching grants, donations, and additional City funding.

Why playgrounds?

- Citizens, through the Let's Move Missoula! Initiative, the 2004 Master Parks and Recreation Plan and the 2012 County Master Parks Plan have established a community goal of having a playground within a 10-12 minute walk for every child in Missoula.
- Playgrounds encourage active play and playgrounds have more “play value” (i.e.; encouraging physical activity) than most of the other ways children play.
- The 2013 Park Asset Management plan identifies playgrounds as a top priority to repair and renovate. Operation Playground Build will eliminate about 20 percent of deferred maintenance issues in City parks.

Why these particular parks?

These playgrounds were chosen based on neighborhood demographics of children ages 2 to 12, safety and condition of the existing playground and geographic distribution. The 11 playgrounds are well-distributed throughout the City and collectively will provide convenient service to over 50 percent of all families within City limits. In the last 5 years, the City has installed new playgrounds at White Pine, Lafray, Pineview, Sacajawea, Maloney Ranch, Boyd, Marilyn and Little McCormick Parks. In addition, Kiwanis Park will be receiving a new playground by 2016.

What will each playground contain?

Each project will be a “complete playground” meaning it is ADA-compliant, contains play features appropriate for youth ages 2 to 12, includes adequate fall-zone material and curbing to keep the fall-zone in place, and the play equipment provides a full range of play values.

What are “play values”?

Play is a means by which children develop their physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and moral capacities. It also teaches high-level reasoning, insightful problem solving, and creative thinking. There are many different types of play that children use to develop their social and intellectual skills. The play values, or types of play as described by the National Institute For Play include: Attunement and Role Play, Sensory and Tactile Play, Body and Active Play, Exploratory Play, Social Play, Imaginative Play, Storytelling or Communicative Play and Creative Play. Learn more at <http://www.nifplay.org/science/pattern-play/>

Are all of the new or improved playgrounds the same size?

Playgrounds are “right-sized” to meet the needs of the children in each neighborhood and to meet the needs of the community at large. Each playground will include play equipment to provide the full range of play values. Playgrounds in larger, more frequently-visited parks, or those in

neighborhoods with a greater population of 2-to-12-year-olds, may contain additional features to accommodate additional use.

Will all 10 playgrounds be constructed at once?

No. Playground construction will be conducted in phases to maximize cost savings and minimize park disruption.

When will Operation Playground Build happen?

Playground use will not be disrupted for the Summer, 2015 season. Here's the process and projected timeline:

1. Solicit public comment on playground design - June, 2015
2. Solicit bids for playground infrastructure (excavation, concrete, sidewalk, ADA ramps, etc.) - Summer, 2015
3. Purchase and install the playground equipment - Late Summer 2015
4. Install the playground infrastructure - Beginning Fall, 2015, will completion Spring, 2016

Will some of the new playgrounds be "smaller" than the existing playground?

While the size of the playground at some parks may be decreased, the play value at each playground will be increased. In most cases the playground area will be smaller and in some cases, the playground may contain fewer play pieces, but each playground will accommodate more children than the current equipment does. As mentioned above, the new playgrounds will provide for a full range of play values and serve children ages 2 to 12.

How did you choose the location of the playground within each park?

Each Operation Playground Build site was inspected and evaluated using the following criteria:

- Site safety and security: Location is visible from adjoining streets and to residents.
- Work with existing infrastructure: Ability to use/reuse existing ADA-compliant walkways.
- Avoid unnecessary costs: Avoid conflicts with utilities or park irrigation infrastructure.
- Protect existing park values: Minimize conflicts with and/or need to remove existing trees.
- Protect existing recreation values: Ensure no conflict with other existing park uses.
- Construction and maintenance needs: Suitably-sized flat area.

How did you choose the proposed play equipment for each park?

Each new or upgraded playground has been designed to offer a full range of play values for children ages 2 to 12 as well as provide unique equipment for the major pieces. In some cases the theme and/or color scheme will complement the character of the park and surrounding neighborhood.

Each playground will contain different major play features from the others to provide a distinctive play experience at each park.

How can you install a playground if our park doesn't have a Master Park Plan in place?

Creating a park master plan is an extensive public process that can take from 12 to 36 months. Rather than delay Operation Playground Build, each playground is sited in the optimal location for long-term functionality and benefits to the neighborhood. Careful consideration was given to current uses, ongoing public comment, and retaining maximum flexibility when developing or renewing a master site plan for a particular park.

Will the existing playground equipment you remove be available for purchase as City surplus?

No. If existing equipment meets current safety standards, it will be restored and reused at the same park or relocated to another park. If it does not, it can't legally be sold as surplus. The City will recycle the metal or wood of any play equipment that can't be reinstalled or repaired.

Where can I get more information about Operation Playground Build?

Visit www.missoulaparks.org or call Parks Services and Systems Manager David Selvage at 552-6252, or email David at dselvage@ci.missoula.mt.us.

Where are the 11 Operation Playground Build parks located?

Bonner	1600 Ronald
Franklin	2100 S. 10 th West
Greenough	1001 Monroe
McLeod	1651 North Ave W
Northside	800 N. 6th
Pleasant View	4104 Lexington Av.
Rainbow	6530 Linda Vista Blvd.
Silver Summit Phase 2	600 Cregg (McCormick Park)
Skyview	5550 Skyview Dr.
Whitaker	511 Whitaker Dr.
Wapikia	134 Tahoe Dr.