
Background

Calgary's [playgrounds](#) are great places for citizens of all ages to relax and play. The City of Calgary currently manages and maintains 1,137 playgrounds, with each playground inspected seven times a year to ensure [Canada Safety Association](#) guidelines are met. The planned useful life of a playground is 15 to 20 years. Over time, playground equipment standards change and playgrounds are assessed to determine what needs to be replaced to ensure equipment remains safe.

There are currently 408 city-maintained playgrounds that are over 20 years old and The City budgets \$1.2 million to replace 10 to 12 playgrounds per year. When playgrounds age and require lifecycle work, The City considers how to best maximize the use of the space to ensure it continues to meet community needs. We assess the need by looking at demographics and working with the community to determine whether the space is best suited as a playground or could be transformed with updated amenities that invite all-ages play or gathering.

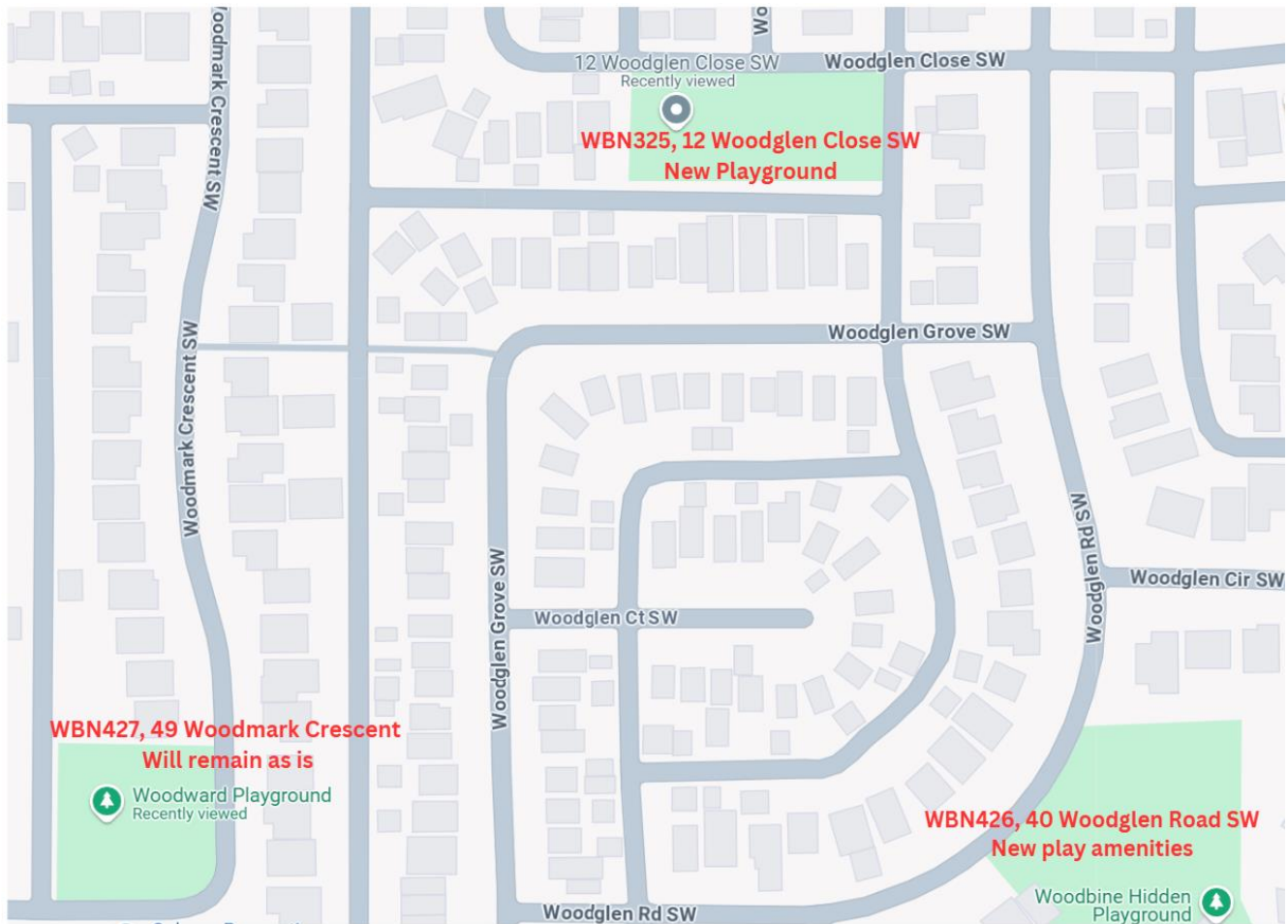
The Process

When evaluating the best possible use for a park with a playground that is up for lifecycle, the following factors are considered:

1. Available footprint in conjunction with budget.
What space is available to install/replace the play structure?
2. Age-appropriate equipment.
Generally, the age range of 5-12 years old is targeted as being most widely usable (both in terms of range and functionality) but does require a larger footprint to be functional.
3. Proximity to other playgrounds in the area.
The benchmark goal in Calgary is 5 playgrounds for every 1,000 kids under 12.
4. Options for other opportunities.
All-ages play opportunities, enhanced green space amenities (seating etc.), nature and naturalized options are becoming more desirable and sought-after.
5. Demographics of the community.
Are the existing spaces well-suited to the broader community? Upgrading a park space with new amenities and activity options can make it more inviting to a wider range of residents, creating an inclusive and enjoyable gathering place for all.

2025 Project Update

In discussions with the Community Association and based on community feedback, the following is proposed:



- WBN427, 49 Woodmark Crescent will remain as is, in its current state.
- WBN325, 12 Woodglan Close SW is identified as the preferred location in the community for a new playground. We propose replacing the existing playground and expanding the footprint of the playground equipment.
- WBN426, 40 Woodglan Road SW, is to be reimagined with new play amenities. In discussions with the Community Association, WBN426 was selected to be reimagined because the existing playground is less utilized and visited due to its secluded nature. Given that community feedback emphasized the importance of active play, we propose installing a GaGa ball pit at this location, including painted games on the asphalt surface like hopscotch and bullseye. GaGa ball is a popular, all-ages game and on-site signage outlining how to play will be included.

