



**Maple Ridge**

## NEWS RELEASE

### CONSTRUCTION STARTING ON NEW MAPLE RIDGE PLAYGROUND EXPANSION

**Maple Ridge, B.C., March 14** - The City of Maple Ridge is moving ahead with the enhancement of the playground at Maple Ridge Park following Council's approval to award a construction contract to Canadian Landscape and Civil Services Ltd.

The playground project is part of the first phase of improvements to Maple Ridge Park, identified as a priority in the 2023 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan to diversify the City's play spaces and provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.

"The enhancement of Maple Ridge Park is a priority for the City, and the new playground represents an important step towards creating a vibrant, inclusive and fun recreational space for families to enjoy," said Mayor Dan Ruimy. "We are grateful for the valuable input received from residents throughout the design process, and we look forward to seeing this project come to life."

This significant milestone marks the culmination of a comprehensive planning and public engagement process aimed at enhancing Maple Ridge's oldest and most popular park, a cherished destination known for its rich history and natural beauty.

In addition to retaining key existing play structures, the final playground design incorporates features from both concept plans and the most requested play components, along with significant accessibility upgrades including:

- New accessible slide, see-saw, spinner, sand digger and swing
- Widened and re-paved pathways to and from the parking areas
- Rubber playground safety surfacing to support barrier free access to play features
- New sensory play features including a sand and water play area, musical play components, talk tubes and in-ground trampolines

The playground also includes a ropes-based tree house climbing tower and slide structure that provides interest and challenge for an older age group of children.

The next phases of the Maple Ridge Park improvements project will include a replacement of the existing spray park, new washrooms and changerooms, picnic shelters and parking areas.

### **Creating a safe place to play**

A certified arborist performed a comprehensive tree risk and health analysis of trees in various areas of the park. The result of this analysis identified that 10 trees adjacent to the playground are in declining health and will need to be removed for the safety of playground users. Understanding that the natural beauty and ecosystem is an important part of Maple Ridge Park, 15 new trees will be planted to mitigate the loss of the existing ones and to enrich the tree canopy of the park.

### **Construction Timelines**

Construction is anticipated to start this Spring with an approximate expected completion time of fall 2024. Some areas of the park and playground will be closed to accommodate the project construction space; however, several portions of the playground itself will remain open for the public to use. Residents are also encouraged to explore the variety of Maple Ridge's playgrounds and parks while the new playground at Maple Ridge Park is being built.

### **Investing in Recreational Spaces**

Funding for the approximately \$2.3M playground renewal initiative is part of the City's Capital Plan, reflecting its commitment to invest in infrastructure that enhances the quality of life for Maple Ridge residents.

Construction signage will be placed at park entrances to keep residents informed about the project's scope and progress. Follow the City's social media channels @yourmapleridge to stay updated.

To learn more about the PRC Master Plan, visit [mapleridge.ca/PRCmasterplan](https://mapleridge.ca/PRCmasterplan).

For more information about the Maple Ridge Playground enhancement project, visit [engage.mapleridge.ca/mrparkplayground](https://engage.mapleridge.ca/mrparkplayground).

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### **For additional information, contact**

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