



# 2026 Park & Playground *Planning Checklist*

## 1. Define project goals and community needs

Identify your purpose:

- ☐ Playground replacement
- ☐ Park expansion
- ☐ New amenity
- ☐ Full site renovation

Identify community needs:

Ages:

Accessibility:

Neighborhood:

Seasonal demand:

Stakeholder & community input:

## 2. Establish budget

Define a realistic budget:

*50% equipment costs  
50% freight, site preparation,  
installation, & safety surfacing*

Funding assistance:

Co-op purchasing agreement:

## 3. Understand your timeline

Approvals and permits needed:

Current lead times:

Site preparation needed:

## 4. Site evaluation

Existing conditions assessment:

Utilities:

Drainage:

Accessibility:

Grading:

Landmarks:

## 5. Design considerations

Amenities checklist:

- ☐ Shade
- ☐ Seating
- ☐ Waste bins
- ☐ Surfacing

Other:

## 5. Design considerations (continued)

### Special projects checklist:

- ☐ Inclusive play
- ☐ National Demonstration Site
- ☐ Custom & themed
- ☐ Aquatic play
- ☐ Fitness equipment
- ☐ Custom metalwork
- ☐ Gazebos and shelters
- ☐ Self-cleaning restrooms

Other:

## 6. Installation & scheduling

School calendars & events:

Seasonal use considerations:

Community events:

Other:

## 7. Future planning

### Future additions checklist:

- ☐ Shade
- ☐ Seating and tables
- ☐ Waste bins
- ☐ Surfacing
- ☐ Net climber
- ☐ Interactive equipment
- ☐ Play tower
- ☐ Bike racks
- ☐ Archways and signage
- ☐ Dog park equipment
- ☐ Athletic equipment
- ☐ Synthetic turf field
- ☐ Splash pad or spray park
- ☐ Custom metalwork
- ☐ Gazebos and shelters
- ☐ Self-cleaning restrooms

Phased planning schedule:



## *Helpful* Resources

GameTime's **Playground Planning 101**

GameTime's **Funding Tool & Playground Funding Guide**

MRC Recreation's **Purchasing Co-Ops**

MRC Recreation's **Ultimate Guide to Inclusive Playgrounds**

MRC & CORE: **Research-Based Play Solutions**