

Ethel Tucker Centennial Park Play Space Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where will this play space be located?

This play space will be located adjacent to the south side of the former Okotoks Public Library building.

2. What is the construction timeline for this project?

Installation of the play space is expected to occur over the summer with planned opening in September of 2022.

3. What is the overall size of the play space?

The approximate foot print of the new play space area will be around 170 SM. This is a slightly larger space than the original play space at Ethel Tucker Centennial Park (ETCP) which was 150 SM.

4. How did we get to this point?

The initial stakeholder engagement for the project was with the Okotoks Arts and Learning Campus project partner and stakeholders: Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, Bow Valley College, Community Futures Highwood (no longer part of the project), Foothills School Division and Okotoks Public Library. These organizations are considered the stakeholders of the play space project. The direction was given for an art and nature themed play space with some challenge components. The Town also required Indigenous elements be included as part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

5. What kind of Indigenous consultation has occurred?

The selected project team includes Indigenous artists and advisors. The Town also engaged with our Indigenous partners representing the Blackfoot Confederacy, Tsu Tina and Stoney Nations, who reviewed the two project concepts first and support the designs.

6. Who has been involved in the design and creation of the play space?

The Town put out a Request for Proposal for an Art and Nature Themed play space and peace pole project tender in the summer and the tender was awarded to a consultant who specializes in nature based play, with support from an Indigenous artist and an Indigenous elder and educator.

7. In what ways is the play space inclusive and accessible?

As the play space design incorporates an art, nature and challenge theme, a number of sensory experiences are provided that a standard playground typically cannot provide. The design is artistic in itself, offering visual appeal and associated narrative story telling through on-site informational signage. The feature animal, rubbing stone, and other

components, will be at ground level and will be made of wood, rock, and other materials and be visually appealing and interesting to touch.

The peace poles also contribute to art and learning through showcasing the various languages and historical information signage, some of which will be placed along the pathway to easily approach up close. In addition to the many languages being displayed, translation of the narrative in braille is being considered. Access to the site is provided through the primary pathway system or through the Arts & Learning Campus Plaza.

8. What kind of surfacing is being used and why?

Given the frequency of flooding in the area, rubber surfacing is not being installed. Surfacing for this play space is approved wood chip material, which is a more accessible surface than gravel and will help us work toward making the play space as inclusive as possible.

9. How can I access the play space?

Upon project completion, the play space will be located on the primary pathway systems, and is accessible from Sheep River Park. Parking is provided east of the ALC building. Additional parking is planned northeast of the former library building adjacent to the CPR tracks.

10. Will there be any changes to the pathway in this area?

Pathway connectivity will be retained in this area, though the final alignment will likely change somewhat to provide direct connection to the new plaza space at ALC. During construction, there will be some construction access along the pathway. This activity will be signed in advance

11. What are the details about the Peace Pole part of the project?

Concurrently, the Town had been planning a series of peace pole installations at an adjacent site to the play space. Peace poles are often handcrafted monuments that displays the message *May Peace Prevail on Earth* in multiple languages to accommodate the cultural diversity of a region, past and present. The peace poles will be predominantly constructed using the salvaged beams from the 1897 Lineham Lumber Company barn (*formerly the Creamery building*) that burned down in 2015.

12. What languages will be included on the Peace Poles?

The languages that will be included on the peace poles is currently being finalized but will be representative of the Treaty 7 nation languages (as provided by each Nation) and languages spoken in Okotoks based on census data.

13. What other playgrounds does Okotoks have to offer?

Here is a [link](#) to all the playgrounds available in Okotoks.