

Boissevain School Playground Project



Help us build a
PLAYGROUND OF POSSIBILITIES
in the community of
BOISSEVAIN

Executive Summary

Our mission is to create inclusive, accessible, fun, and engaging playground spaces for everyone at Boissevain school, members of our community, and visitors to Boissevain, MB. The objective of this project is to redevelop the playgrounds in each of the Primary and Middle school areas at Boissevain School, and create an outdoor space designed for our High School students. With preliminary design plans and estimates received to date, the overall budget is estimated at approximately \$500,000. Funding for this project will be secured through school led fundraisers, grants, donations and community sponsorship. We invite you to partner with us, as with your support, we believe we can make this vision a reality.

As noted in the Municipality of Boissevain-Morton Recreation Grounds Redevelopment Plan (April 2021), the Boissevain School playgrounds *"are all very well used, and generally older in vintage."* Over time the school and community have grown to serve a diverse population with a variety of cultural and language backgrounds, and a range of skills and abilities. As of the 2024-25 school year, there are five students out of approximately 400 enrolled who have mobility impairments. Two of the students use a wheelchair, however none of the playground structures at Boissevain School are accessible.

There are numerous concerns with the current playgrounds at Boissevain School, including a need to repair or replace most of the structures on the primary playground due to their poor condition, a lack of challenging or exciting play structures for middle school students, and a need to update surfacing to current standards for safety and accessibility. Further, there is no dedicated outdoor space for high school students. We have a clear need for playgrounds with inclusive and adaptive equipment, as well as for outdoor spaces that are safe and appropriately designed for every age group but lack the funding to provide them. The Boissevain School Playground Committee and Parent Advisory Council is dedicated to redeveloping the playgrounds through collaboration with members of the community to ensure needs are met.

Your generosity will help us reach our fundraising goal while also increasing accessibility opportunities, improving the quality of life for members of Boissevain and community, and demonstrate commitment to our shared goal of building a happier, healthier, stronger, and sustainable community. Sponsorship funds will go directly to the demolition / excavation of the current playgrounds, and purchase / installation of playground equipment and accessible safety surfacing. Revitalized playgrounds will help attract visitors, retain residents, and encourage the return of people to the community.

We are truly grateful for your consideration and look forward to the possibility of partnering with you. We are excited to share there are several partnership options and opportunities for recognition, including prominently displaying your name and logo on the donor wall within Boissevain School. Your sponsorship would have a lasting impact, ensuring we can build outdoor playground spaces that embed inclusion, foster a sense of community and respect, and celebrate the diversity in our community.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

How it started

“

“Mom, the middle school playground doesn’t have any swings. We need swings. If you are having a fight with your friends at recess and don’t have anyone to play with, you can just go and swing and not feel lonely.”

After only a couple of days of being a middle schooler, a grade 5 student came home and told her Mom how much she wished there were swings on the middle school playground. This led to a hopeful and determined Mom to attend the September 2023 Parent Advisory Council meeting. Her optimism rose when she saw that ‘Playground’ was one of the items already on the agenda.

After a brief discussion on the condition of the middle school playground, it was unanimously agreed upon that something needed to be done for the grade 5-8 students at Boissevain School. New Principal Mr. Landon White mentioned that while the primary playground looked good from a distance, up close it was also in need of a makeover.

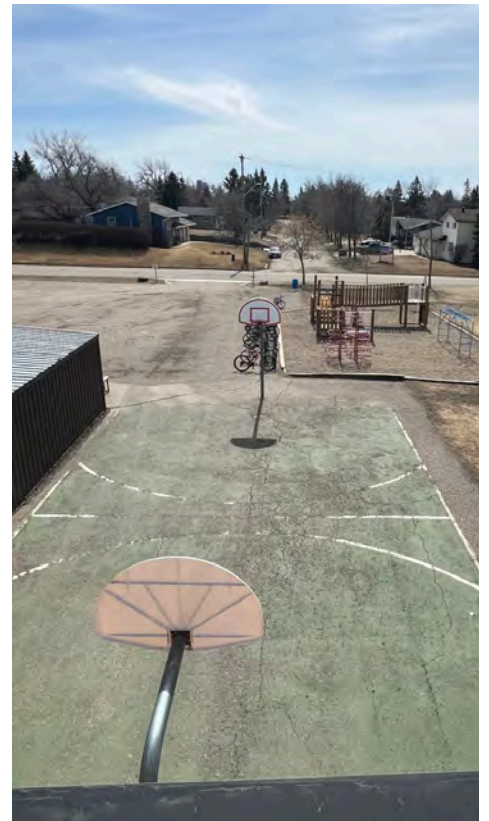
At this meeting two more Moms eagerly jumped on board, and the Boissevain School Playground Committee was formed.

Current Situation

Middle School Playground



The current middle school playground is approximately 70 feet x 40 feet, and has pea gravel for the base. The slide has been removed from the wooden structure that was built around 1990. The monkey bars are very low, with students being able to touch the ground when crossing them, and the glider no longer slides all the way across. The middle school playground is not accessible, and provides very little physical challenges or excitement for grade 5-8 students. The base of the basketball court is very cracked, and slopes aggressively to the middle of the court.



Current Situation

Primary Playground



The current primary playground is approximately 120 feet x 110 feet with a pea gravel base.

Numerous pieces of equipment on the primary playground date back to 1970, with a wooden structure being built around 1990. The climber with slide was added in 2003, however the slide is no longer able to be securely attached to the climbing structure, so is barricaded off, and children are not able to use it.

Primary Playground



Routine repairs have been done as needed, but many pieces do not meet current code requirements and will need to be removed due to safety hazards/concerns. This will leave us with very little playground equipment for our Kindergarten to grade 4 students.

High School Space

Currently there is no dedicated outdoor space for the High School students.

Rec Facilities Inventory and Assessment

Below please find the assessment of the Boissevain School grounds, from the *Rec Facilities Inventory and Assessment*, as part of the *Municipality of Boissevain-Morton Recreation Grounds Redevelopment Plan* conducted in April 2021 by:



Boissevain-Morton Recreation Grounds Redevelopment Plan

Boissevain School Grounds

Date opened/constructed: 1962, 1970 addition and more recent addition

Land Ownership: Turtle Mountain School Division

Location: Intersection of Mill Road (Hwy 10) & Buckingham Street

Capacity/Size: Site 36,339 sq.m. (8.98 ac.)

Zoning: PR Parks & Recreation

Maintenance: Turtle Mountain School Division Maintenance Staff

Features:

- Two ball diamonds (North & South), with bleachers
- Open field area between diamonds
- Play Structure (Elementary), northwest corner
- Play Structure (Junior High), southwest corner
- Asphalt play area with basketball court, north side
- Outdoor classroom & play equipment
- Bike racks
- Outdoor basketball court, south west corner



Condition Assessment:

Feature	Condition	Notes
• Diamond backstops	Fair	Chain link, three sided, angled overhang
• Diamond base paths	Poor	Very overgrown with weeds
• Diamond bleachers	Good/Fair	Wood slat seats have recently been replaced
• Open field area	Good	Natural grass
• Elementary Playground		
- Teeter totters	Poor	Bank of 7, older, not professionally manufactured
- Raised gardens	Fair	Wood construction, five units
- Swing bank, NW corner	Fair	Wood posts, metal beam, 4 belt swings
- Swing bank, north central	Poor	6 belt swings in four bays, older, not professionally manufactured
- Sand box	Good	No longer contains sand, filled with pea gravel
- Drop shot	Good	Usually located on asphalt instead of pea gravel
- Wood Play Structure	Fair	
- Wood/metal parallel bars	Fair	
- Wood balance beams	Fair	
- Metal climbing dome	Fair	
- Metal wave climber	Fair	

Rec Facilities Inventory and Assessment

Boissevain-Morton Recreation Grounds Redevelopment Plan

with slide			
- Play structure	Good/Fair		Likely installed 1990's era, pea gravel safety surfacing with telephone pole retaining edger. Slide was boarded off.
- Safety surfacing	Fair/Poor		Extremely overgrown with weeds in west portion
• Elementary basketball	Poor		Rusting chain net & backboard, post does not meet current standard safety offset
• Asphalt play area	Fair		Some cracking with weed growth
• Outdoor classroom			
- Shade structure	Excellent		Brand new shade area for outdoor teaching
- Play equipment	Excellent		Nature themed, engineered wood fibre safety surfacing, no containment edging
• Bike racks	Fair		Four bays, wheel locking only, not frame, not anchored
• Senior basketball	Very Good/Poor		Brand new backboards and posts with current standard safety offset. Painted asphalt surfacing in poor condition
• Senior Playground			
- Two, metal climbers	Fair/Poor		Older climbers, paint worn off
- Wood play structure	Fair/Poor		Some play elements have been removed
- Safety surfacing	Fair/Poor		Overgrown with weeds in north portion

Recent improvements or studies:

- Outdoor classroom area

Utilization:

- The playgrounds and play equipment are all very well used, and generally older in vintage.

Other Facilities in the Region:

- N/A

Issues/Challenges:

- Poor condition of safety surfacing
- Dated materials and construction
- Non-professionally manufactured play equipment
- Hodge-podge nature of some areas
- Limited shade opportunities available within the play areas other than outdoor classroom

Opportunities:

- Proximity to hub of municipal recreational facilities is advantageous for the school

Conclusions & Recommendations:

- Maintain asset and replace or renovate amenities as required including updating to current standards for accessibility and safety surfacing.

The Goal

After meeting with Mr. White, and looking closer at the poor condition of the current playgrounds, it was decided that planning and fundraising for new playground spaces for both the middle and primary playgrounds was needed.

With so many benefits to unstructured play, and the mental health crisis facing teens today, the decision was easily made to create an outdoor space for the high school students as well, where they can set their phones down, enjoy fresh air and move their bodies.

Our goal is to provide opportunities that help build a **happier, healthier, stronger, sustainable community.**

We will reach this goal by creating playgrounds and outdoor spaces that are:

Inviting *calming* **ADVENTUROUS**
Inclusive *Creative*
Interactive
FUN
ENGAGING **IMAGINATIVE**
SAFE
Challenging *Colorful* **Welcoming**
Cool *Quality*
INTERESTING *Inspiring* **Exciting**
DARING

The Plan

Boissevain School Playground – Project Timeline

2023

October to December

Research & Planning

- Reach out to organizations in the area that have recently built playgrounds to gather information and feedback on their experiences.
- Create design survey and share with students, teachers and parents
- Request designs and estimates from playground builders in Manitoba

Fundraising

- Cash 4 Climbers cash lottery – students will sell tickets at \$10 a piece until draw date on December 4th.
- Grants – Apply for all grants that we qualify for.

2024

- **Grants** – Research and apply for grants that we qualify for throughout the year
- **January** – Start collecting recipes & have students design cover pages for 'Taste of Summer' cookbook.
- **March** – Send cookbook to Print
- **April** – Develop Community Donation Program
- **May** – Have cookbooks ready to sell in time for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Summer season.
- **May to August** – Sell cookbooks through the school, local businesses, Farmer's Markets.
- **June** – Start Community Donation Program
- **July** – Sell 50/50 tickets at Tommy's Birthday Bash
- **Fall** – PAC will coordinate a School Fundraiser.
- **September** – Requests for Proposals (RFP) sent out to playground builders for Middle School Playground.
- **October** – Share top 3 proposals with students and community to gather feedback in choosing most suitable design.
- **November** – (Beginning) – Send out Community Donation Program mailer
- **December** – Create purchase order for chosen playground if fundraising goal of \$150,000 is met, to avoid price increases in 2025.

2025

- **Grants** – Research and apply for grants that we qualify for throughout the year
- **April*** – Place ad in local paper for RFP's for removing old playground equipment and additional work needed outside of building the playground.
- **May*** – Deadline for local work submissions
- **June*** – Review of submissions and award the local contractor
- **July*** – Commencement of removing old equipment and construction of new playgrounds
- **August*** – Completion of construction

2026

- **Grants** – Research and apply for grants that we qualify for
- **February – August*** – Repeat steps as above for Primary and High School areas.
- **September*** – Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

*Dates are estimated and subject to change

Over the course of this project we will continuously be researching and applying for grants that we are eligible for. We will participate in fundraising opportunities that become available in our community, and organize and create additional fundraisers to support the project.

Survey

An online survey was created for Kindergarten to grade 8 students, looking for feedback on what they would like to see on their new playgrounds. The survey received 83 responses. This feedback is being used when reaching out to potential playground builders.



The online survey created for grade 9 to 12 students only received 9 responses. They included:

I would love to have a basketball ball court with some sitting area to watch the games. And a swing set and a tire swing.

High school space

Beach volleyball court, and outdoor furniture and gazebo

Road hockey

As long as we still have picnic tables outside during the summer that is what I like to have access too.

Small greenhouse or a gazebo

Outdoor work out equipment or a better track

Beach Volleyball Court and Outdoor Gazebo and Outdoor Furniture

A nicer sitting area

Budget & Designs

With initial potential designs and estimates received to date, we are planning a budget of \$500,000 to complete Boissevain School's Playground Project.

Primary Space – \$225,000

Middle School Space – \$175,000

High School Space – \$100,000

Below are renderings of potential designs and quotes. A builder has not yet been chosen.
These are **not** final designs or costs.



Playgrounds R Us

Springfield, MB

Middle School Playground

\$125,104.70

(Includes Fibar protective surfacing)



Blue Imp

Medicine Hat, AB

Middle School Playground

\$180,240

(Includes Engineered Wood Fiber protective surfacing and full install)



Art of Play

Oak Bluff, MB

Middle School Playground

\$161,222.04

(Includes Engineered Wood Fiber protective surfacing)

Below are renderings of potential designs. A builder has not yet been chosen.

These are **not** final designs.



Art of Play

Oak Bluff, MB

Primary Playground

\$166,854.46

(Does not include protective surfacing)



Playgrounds R Us

Springfield, MB

Primary Playground

\$166,550.30

(Includes Fibar protective surfacing)



Park N play Design

Springfield, MB

High School Outdoor Space

\$115,997.18

Includes basketball hoops, work out equipment, bleachers, benches and picnic tables





Playground Committee Fundraising

Cash 4 Climbers – \$14,450

2 Jets Tickets – \$325

Town Wide Garage Sale Bake Sale – \$362.47

Taste of Summer School Cookbook – \$4,300

(More cookbooks still available for sale)

PAC Hot Lunches – \$1,500

Tommy Shellabration 50/50 – \$1980

Nuggets Memorial Tournament 50/50 – \$220

Dunrea Flea Market Booth – \$197.25

Community Fundraising

Co-op Grocery Store Jeans Day Initiative – \$435

Paul's Pumpkins – \$3,958.40

2022/23 Middle School Government Dances – \$346.70

Boundary Co-op Earth Day BBQ – \$968

Jamie Smith arcade game raffle – \$1000

Nuggets Memorial Tournament – \$2000

Sunrise & Co-op Farmer's Market BBQ – \$914

Westman Communications Group BBQ – \$3748.40

Co-op Fuel Good Day – \$5199.03

Donations To Date

Carole Kentner – \$200

Boissevain UCT Council – \$1,000

Penny & Paige's Birthday Party – \$315

Eritrean Committee of Boissevain – \$310

Boissevain Dental Clinic – \$5,000

There is currently \$25,000 available in the Boissevain School Playground Reserve Fund through Turtle Mountain School Division.

Being part of an Accessible Community

While our community has a couple of well loved playgrounds for everyone to enjoy, opportunities at these playgrounds for individuals requiring accessible spaces are limited or not available at all. In addition to students enjoying the new spaces during the school year, everyone will be welcome to enjoy the spaces after school, on the weekends and throughout the summer.

In 2020 Boissevain-Morton municipality conducted an Accessibility assessment of the community, and made a commitment to ensuring equal access and participation for all people, regardless of their abilities. The municipality is committed to meeting the needs of people who face accessibility barriers by identifying, removing and preventing these barriers and by meeting requirements of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

As an essential service in the community, Boissevain School is also committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to opportunities and be able to participate and play at recess regardless of their abilities. Boissevain School has approximately 400 students enrolled from Kindergarten to grade 12 for the 2024-25 school year. Two of the current students require the use of a wheelchair at all times. There are three additional children currently enrolled who have varying degrees of mobility and would benefit greatly from an accessible playground.

Not only is an accessible playground needed for the youth of our community, it will also be beneficial for adults with limited mobility. Having a playground they are able to take their children and grandchildren to, also gives adults requiring accessible spaces, the opportunity to be immersed in the simple joy of play up close, instead of having to watch from the sidewalk.

For long term community growth and sustainability, it is vital that Boissevain be able to better support the underserved members of our community.






Benefits to our community

Location

Boissevain School is located along highway 10, which runs south to a 24 hour port of entry at the International Peace Garden and north through Brandon, making the playgrounds highly visible to visitors and those passing through the community. These new playgrounds will be in a prime location in the community for spring and summer activities, being close to the new community swimming pool, campground, ball diamonds, daycare, soccer fields and ice cream shop, making them a great stop for a play on a summer day. The school grounds are also used regularly by the Boissevain Nursery School, home-schooled children, and school-age daycare program.



-  Primary Playground
-  Middle School Playground
-  High School Space

New playgrounds will be in a prime location in the community for spring and summer activities.

Inclusiveness

In 2015, the Boissevain Resettlement Committee was formed in response to the global crisis of displaced people. Since then, our community has sponsored and welcomed many families from Eritrea and, in recent years, Ukraine. As such, Boissevain School has grown to become a school with diverse learners with a range of learning styles, cultural and language backgrounds. Shared playground spaces that are accessible to all learners helps to foster acceptance, community, care and respect for one another.

Including pieces such as a communication board helps to make the playground inclusive along with being accessible.

Playground Communication Boards have many benefits:

- promote inclusion
- enhance social interactions
- reduce the stress of verbal communication



Along with being able to slide, swing, roll, climb and jump, children will have the option to enjoy quiet areas, sensory boards and musical instruments. This will help grow their self confidence and independence. They will build both fine and gross motor skills, and have the opportunity to develop better body awareness.

Opportunities for Tweens

Proposed designs for the middle school playground will focus on providing opportunities that challenge the mind and the body of 10-13 year old's. It can be difficult to keep youth engaged in physical activity as they get older. Organized sports can be too costly for some families, and playgrounds can be considered childish. The current playgrounds in Boissevain (Kinsmen Park & McDonald Bay) focus on play opportunities for younger children.



Become a Playground Partner

Be a leader in building a playground of possibilities

Levels & Benefits	RUBY \$20,000+	EMERALD \$10,000-\$19,999	SAPPHIRE \$5,000-\$9,999
Tax Receipt.	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on Boissevain School Playground Facebook page.	✓	✓	✓
Logo or name prominently displayed on donor wall in the school.	✓	✓	✓
Recognition in a thank you ad in The Recorder at end of project.	✓	✓	✓
Name listed on the playground welcome sign	✓	✓	
Verbal recognition at the community grand opening.	✓	✓	
Recognition on large signage facing #10 highway for minimum ten years.	✓		

Logos and names of all Playground Partners will be displayed prominently on the donor wall, located along the hallway outside the gymnasium doors at Boissevain school.

People visiting the school for concerts, grad, award ceremonies, sports events, etc. from Boissevain and other communities will see the support you have given for the playgrounds.

The option for Playground Partner sponsorship being paid over two years is available.

Playground Pal

Diamond	\$1501-\$4,999
Platinum	\$1151-\$1500
Gold	\$801-\$1150
Silver	\$451-\$800
Bronze	\$101-\$450
Copper	\$5-\$100

Playground Pals will receive:

- Name on the donor wall, located in the school. (*Bronze to Diamond Pals*)
- Recognition on Boissevain School Playground Facebook page.
- Tax Receipt.

We invite you to help grow Boissevain into an accessible and sustainable community.

Please print. *Enclose this form with your cheque.*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

How would you like your name shown on the donor wall:

☐ I would prefer my donation to remain anonymous

Please make cheque payable to: **Turtle Mountain School Division**. Write the words "**Boissevain Playground**" in the memo section of your cheque.

Mail or drop off form along with cheque to:
Boissevain School
Box 1030,
Boissevain, MB R0K 0E0

e-Transfers can be sent to:
accounting@tmsd.mb.ca

In memo section indicate '**Boissevain Playground**'
Email the information requested on the left to
accounting@tmsd.mb.ca.

For more information, reach out to a member of the Playground Committee:

Email: boissevainschoolplayground@gmail.com

Susan Jackson: 204-215-0465

Heather Janssens: 204-534-8085

Keeping Boissevain moving forward

It is important for the community of Boissevain that our school play a key role in fostering our children's development at all ages by providing them a fun, safe, inclusive and accessible environment to hone empathy and compassion for others, build their resilience and self confidence, and develop their critical thinking skills.

Boissevain School believes in being a progressive part of our community. Creating fun, inclusive and accessible spaces for all Boissevain School students, including members of our community and visitors, will help to keep Boissevain moving forward as a thriving and sustainable community.



Or click [here](#) to see a video and learn more about our project.

**Help build a 'Playground of Possibilities'
in the town of Boissevain.**

Visit our website: www.boissevainschoolpac.ca

boissevainschoolplayground@gmail.com

Follow us on Social Media  

Susan Jackson: 204-215-0465
Heather Janssens: 204-534-8085