

CFPD Funds Westpark School Playground Project

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A Playground in Need of Upgrades

Westpark School is a private school in the west end of Portage la Prairie, home to 236 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The Westpark School playground was in need of upgrades as the existing play structure was very old and worn, had become unsafe, and it was not very accessible to students with differing physical abilities. The Grant Selection Committee at the Community Foundation of Portage & District felt the Westpark School Playground Project was very deserving of

funding support, and were happy to award a grant to help them realize their goal.

Physical Activity Benefits all Youth

Physical activity and play are essential in the development of children, for myriad reasons. Physical activity promotes good physical and mental health, facilitates social interaction, and helps children to focus in the classroom during the school day. School playgrounds that have a variety of things for kids to do at recess (and outside of school hours) offer a good way for kids to keep active and social. It is particularly important for playgrounds to have accessible features so that kids with different abilities (such as those in wheelchairs) can use them.

A Beautiful New Playground Becomes Reality Thanks to CFPD Funding

With the CFPD funding, Westpark School was able to purchase and install an attractive and fun play structure that sits on an engineered wood fiber substrate. In contrast to the old gravel substrate, this new substrate is wheelchair friendly, and there is an element that allows wheelchair users to transition onto the play structure. The play structure also includes an accessible way for children with different physical abilities to get to the top of the structure in order to utilize the slides. As an added bonus, the play structure features

the Westpark School colours. The CFPD Grant Selection Committee recognized the vast benefits this new playground would have and was pleased to fund this project. Westpark School reports that since its construction, the play structure has been well used and loved by students both during and outside of school hours, and that non-student community members are also using the feature outside of school hours. This quality project will provide hours of fun and physical activity for many years to come, not just for Westpark School students, but for the entire community.



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Thanks to the ongoing support from Southport, the Community Foundation of Portage & District is able to share this grant story and show how your donations make an impact on Portage la Prairie & area.