

August 26, 2008

FLIN FLON PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS TO BE IMPROVED: PREMIER

FLIN FLON - A commitment to take action on cleaning up metals in the soil of 10 Flin Flon parks was made here today by Premier Gary Doer.

“Our initial efforts are going to focus on two sites with the highest levels of metals,” said Doer. “Once we have addressed these areas, we will act on the remaining eight sites in Flin Flon.”

Ten parks with active playgrounds have been identified by the province for soil enhancement work. This fall, improvement work that will add soil and sod will begin with the North Avenue and Foster parks. A landscape specialist is already on-site preparing plans for the soil improvements.

After soil improvements have been completed, each site will meet standards for soil and sod application. In addition to reducing potential exposure to metals at these sites, soil and sod improvements will also contribute to improved greening of the community.

A study of metals and other elements in soils at various publicly accessible areas of Flin Flon found that levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, mercury and lead at a number of sites exceeded soil quality guidelines as established by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

Although a preliminary review of the study results suggested the risk to human health is most likely low, the work now being undertaken is a precautionary measure to protect young children using the parks. The findings from a scientific human health risk assessment, which is currently underway, will determine what additional measures, if any, may be required.

Doer noted the province will immediately invest up to \$150,000 this year for work on the two sites with the highest levels of metals. Work on the remaining eight parks is expected to begin in the spring of 2009.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FLIN FLON 10-SITE SOIL IMPROVMENT

The criteria for selection of the sites were as follows:

- the site must have been sampled during the 2006 soil survey conducted by Manitoba Conservation in August 2006,
- the site must be at a location that is frequently used by children such as in play areas of parks, playgrounds, and school yards,
- when sampled in 2006 the site had to have had concentrations of at least one of the elements of concern above the CCME residential/parkland soil quality guideline for the protection of human health. The elements of concern included arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and mercury.

Selection criteria identified 10 sites for possible soil enhancement work based on the above selection criteria; nine playground sites with play structures, one school yard site with a play structure. These are listed in the table below in order of priority for soil enhancement.

This priority listing was originally proposed in December 2007, and has been adjusted slightly. It must be emphasized that this arrangement is based on guideline exceedences and whether or not the area had a play structure (to attract children). Furthermore, these priority categories are relative and only pertain to the sites listed in the table.

Site	Description	Land Use	Arsenic (12 ug/g)	Cadmium (14 ug/g)	Copper (1100 ug/g)	Lead (140 ug/g)	Mercury (6.6 ug/g)	Priority (based on exceedence of CCME guidelines and site use)
TQ0514	North Avenue Park, at North Ave. E. and Hammell St.	Playground	26.9	24.2	2953	216	68.67	Highest
TQ0525	Foster Park, W. side of Boam St., near play structures	Playground	33.9	16.4	1525	171	37.33	Highest
TQ0510	Rotary Park, 3rd Ave. and Bellevue Ave.	Playground	15.8	8.9	764	99	36.74	Moderate
TQ0527	Grandview Park, E. side of road at N. end of Grandview St., near play structures	Playground	18.1	4.4	563	119	20.17	Moderate
TQ0543	Pop's Park, W. side of Tweedsmuir St., S. of Mosher Ave.	Playground	11.4	14.4	967	113	7.35	Low - Moderate
TQ0563	Playground on W. side of Steventon Blvd between East Whitney St. and Windsor Ave.	Playground	9.7	15.3	1007	125	7.17	Low - Moderate
TQ0588	Playground, W. side of Dominion Blvd between Manitoba Ave. and Balsam Ave., near play structures	Playground	11.8	10.1	773	91	12.31	Low - Moderate
TQ0517	Ruth Betts School near play structures ¹	School play yard	9.7	3.7	399	44	12.83	Low - Moderate
TQ0550	Creekside Park, playground 60 m south of ball diamond, E. side of Riverside Dr., S. of West St.	Playground	14.6	8.8	474	104	4.05	Low
TQ0566	Alder Park, N. side of Alder Ave at N. end of Parkway Blvd.	Playground	13.2	11.3	643	123	4.96	Low

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¹ The portion of the Ruth Betts School yard that has not been reworked with new soil/sod.

