

School & Playground Zone Changes

Overview:

The City of Medicine Hat has completed a review of playground and school zones with respect to changes in legislation and best practices. The goal of the review was to create a clear and consistent message to motorists traveling through school and playground zones.

The following information and recommendations have been made using both extensive study and public input (survey and open houses). The recommendations have been accepted by Council, and the City will move forward in implementing these changes.

FAQ:

WHAT DOES MEDICINE HAT CURRENTLY HAVE IN PLACE?

IN MEDICINE HAT, WE HAVE ZONES:		
Dual School & Playground Zones (27 total) (at all schools)	School Zone (1 total)	Playground Zones (56 total)
		
<p>In effect on school days: 8:00 am to one hour after sunset</p> <p>In effect on non-school days: 8:30 am to one hour after sunset</p>	<p>In effect on school days: 8:00 am - 9:30 am 11:30 am - 1:30 pm 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>In effect every day: 8:30 am to one hour after sunset</p>

WHAT IS A ZONE?

When you approach a school or playground sign with a maximum speed sign attached to it, you are entering a school or playground zone. You must not exceed the posted speed when the zone is in effect. The speed restriction ends when you have passed the "end playground zone" or "end school zone" sign, or a higher maximum speed sign is posted.

WHEN DOES A PLAYGROUND ZONE END?

The 30 km/h speed restriction ends when the motorist has passed a yellow or white "End Playground Zone" sign, or a 50 km/h sign.

HOW ARE LOCATIONS OF PLAYGROUND ZONES DECIDED?

The City utilizes Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) Manual of Uniform Traffic Control devices (MUTCD) and Alberta Transportation Guidelines for Establishing School/Playground Zones and Areas.

WHY DID THE CITY LOOK AT CHANGING SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUND ZONES?

Recent changes to legislation (Alberta Traffic Safety Act) allow a municipality to set the start and end times of playgrounds zones. These changes allow a community to change the times a playground zone is in effect to better meet the needs of the community, and ultimately create a clearer message to motorists of when they have to slow down.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

1. ALL schools and playgrounds will be signed as playground zones
2. Effective September 1, 2016 - playground zones will be in effect 7:30am to 9:00pm

WHAT WILL THE NEW SIGNS LOOK LIKE?



WHEN WILL THE ZONES BE IN EFFECT?

In the interest of defining a start and end time, and providing appropriate coverage for the needs of the community. As of September 1, 2016 school/playground zones will be in effect 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every day.

WHEN WILL CHANGES TO SIGNAGE START?

In June 2016, Municipal Works crews will begin installing and bagging time signage, the effective times remain as is. (The new times will come into effect September 1, 2016)

School Area signage will be removed starting in July 2016, when school is out, as these signs are no longer required. Playground zones will remain in effect from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset.

Inconsistencies in sign placement will be mended throughout May-August 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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