



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** General Government Committee

**Date of Meeting:** November 29, 2021

**Report Number:** PWD-031-21

**Submitted By:** Stephen Brake, Director of Public Works

**Reviewed By:** Andrew C. Allison, CAO

**Resolution#:**

**File Number:**

**By-law Number:**

**Report Subject:** Playground Inventory and Upgrade Recommendations

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### Recommendations:

1. That Report PWD-031-21 and any related communication items, be received;
2. That Council accept the playground inventory and approve the upgrades and replacements to be implemented over the next five years as listed in Table 1; and
3. That all interested parties listed in Report PWD-031-21 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

## Report Overview

This report addresses Council resolution #GG-274-21 that was carried at the March 29, 2021 General Government Committee meeting. The resolution specifically directed staff to undertake an assessment of the current Clarington playgrounds. This document provides a summary of the park analysis and budget implications.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 At the regular General Government Committee Meeting held on March 29, 2021, Council passed resolution #GG-274-21 requesting staff report back by November 2021 with an assessment of all current Clarington playgrounds. The assessment examined the state of all playgrounds with regard to safety and accessibility, repairs and maintenance, the character of the neighbouring community, usage patterns and innovation with respect to equipment.

### 2. Discussion

- 2.1 During the summer and fall of 2021, staff completed a park playground assessment of the 62 Municipal park facilities to catalogue the current condition of existing playground equipment and related park amenities.
- 2.2 A detailed park playground inventory assessment chart was developed (see Attachment 1) to inform and prioritize the selection of parks for improvements that are identified in this report.
- 2.3 Criteria used to identify the recommended upgrades included age and condition of equipment, accessibility, character of neighbourhood and suitability for enhanced elements, i.e., exercise equipment or zip lines.
- 2.4 During the review of each park's play equipment, staff also completed an overall review of non-play related park amenities such as walkways, shelters, benches, waste receptacles, hard surface courts and fields.
- 2.5 Table 1 below lists the recommended upgrades and replacements to be implemented over the next five years. The recommendations took the condition of overall park amenities into account as it would be advantageous to complete surrounding surfaces and furniture improvements simultaneously to provide the parks with a complete refreshment and minimize disturbance as well as costs.

Park	Upgrades
Harvey Jackson Memorial Park - Kendal	Replace play equipment and safety surface & add curb. Reduce pod size to suit new equipment. Add asphalt path to play area.
Burketon Park	Demolish shelter move play pod to shelter area, replace play equipment and safety surfacing. Add asphalt path to play pod
Haydon Community Hall Parkette	Replace play equipment and safety surface & add curb and asphalt access to pod.
Ina Brown Parkette - Newtonville	Replace play equipment safety surface and add curb. Add asphalt path from north & east.
Peters Pike Parkette - Orono	Replace play equipment and safety surface.
Rhonda Park - Bowmanville	Replace play equipment, safety surface, & pathways. Retrofit drainage for baseball diamond. Remove dead tree. Replace benches and waste receptacle at ball diamond.
Solina Park	Replace play equipment and safety surface. Add curb & asphalt access path.
Argent Park - Bowmanville	Replace play equipment, safety surface and surrounding pavements. Repaint shelter, bike rack. Add waste receptacle
Elephant Hill Park - Bowmanville	Replace play equipment, safety surface and waste receptacles
Rosswell Park - Courtice	Replace play equipment and safety surface. Replace splash pad (ponding issues), all asphalt (incl. basketball), paint shelter
Stuart Park - Courtice	Replace play equipment and safety surface, add 2-bay swing
Bowmanville Memorial Park	Replace play equipment pod curb and safety surface, splash pad, upgrade washrooms, controller to current standard. Add furniture to park area and basketball courts
Longworth Park	Replace play equipment, safety surface and waste receptacle.
Lord Elgin Park - Bowmanville	Replace curb, asphalt path & safety surface, add new play equipment including swings. Remove existing play & swings NE of site. Add drainage for ball fields
Brookhouse Parkette - Newcastle	Repaint shelter replace light, play equipment and safety surface. Repaint basketball court.

Park	Upgrades
Pearce Farm Park - Newcastle	Replace play equipment and safety surfacing, repair basketball curb. Replace splash pad surface
Barlow Court Parkette – Bowmanville	Replace play equipment and safety surface, repaint shelter
Glanville Parkette - Bowmanville	Replace play equipment, safety surface, waste receptacles and benches. Remove bollards, replace asphalt and concrete curbs.
Cecil B Found Parkette - Courtice	Replace all play equipment and safety surface.

Table 1: park upgrades and replacements to be completed over the next five years

2.6 Innovative improvements such as exercise equipment and zip lines were considered and included in the inventory where recommended. Recommendation for the potential inclusion of exercise equipment in Municipal park play pods were based on population base, location, access, size constraints and other existing park amenities. Zip lines can provide a unique and enjoyable feature to neighbourhood parks; however, it is recommended by staff to focus the inclusion of zip lines to larger community parks with greater footprint and usage as community parks are designed to attract residents from across the Municipality (i.e. Lakeview Park in Oshawa). The overall open concept and typically illuminated nature of community parks will also deter vandalism to expensive zip line equipment once installed. Potential locations could include the future Port of Newcastle Community Park, Courtice Waterfront Community Park and future upgrades / expansion to Port Darlington Community Park.

### 3. Analysis

3.1 A total of 62 park facilities were reviewed and of those, 19 were identified as priority replacements based on the criteria noted above in Section 2.3. Table 2 below provides an upgrade forecast with anticipated costs over the next five years.

<b>Park</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
Harvey Jackson Memorial	\$140,000					<b>\$ 140,000</b>
Burketon Park	170,000					<b>170,000</b>
Haydon Community Hall	115,000					<b>115,000</b>
Ina Brown Parkette	130,000					<b>130,000</b>
Peters Pike Parkette	100,000					<b>100,000</b>
Rhonda Park		\$230,000				<b>230,000</b>
Solina Park		130,000				<b>130,000</b>
Argent Park		160,000				<b>160,000</b>
Elephant Hill Park		110,000				<b>110,000</b>
Rosswell Park			\$415,000			<b>415,000</b>
Stuart Park			170,000			<b>170,000</b>
Bowmanville Memorial			160,000	\$ 55,000		<b>215,000</b>
Longworth Park				120,000		<b>120,000</b>
Lord Elgin Park				175,000		<b>175,000</b>
Brookhouse Parkette				100,000		<b>100,000</b>
Pearce Farm Park				180,000		<b>180,000</b>
Barlow Court Parkette					\$ 95,000	<b>95,000</b>
Glanville Parkette					130,000	<b>130,000</b>
Cecil B Found Parkette					95,000	<b>95,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>	<b>\$745,000</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	<b>\$2,980,000</b>

Table 2: anticipated costs for park upgrades

#### **4. Concurrence**

This report has been reviewed by the Director of Financial Services/Treasurer who concurs with the recommendations.

#### **5. Conclusion**

It is respectfully requested that Council provide direction to staff on the recommended park playground replacements as listed in Table 1 and Table 2.

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Staff Contact: Andrew Johnson, Landscape Architect, 905-623-3379 ext. 2307 or AJohnson@clarington.net.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - Park Inventory Matrix Chart

Interested Parties:

There are no interested parties to be notified of Council's decision.