



# Staff Report

## Community Services – Parks and Trails

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**Report To:** COW\_Finance\_Admin\_Fire\_Community\_Services  
**Meeting Date:** October 7, 2024  
**Report Number:** CSOPS.24.064  
**Title:** Response to deputation from Ms. Crosskill regarding Bayview Park Playground Project  
**Prepared by:** Nathan Plater,  
Acting Manager of Parks and Trails

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.24.064, entitled “Response to deputation of Ms. Crosskill regarding Bayview Park Playground Project”;

AND THAT Council direct staff to include this project in the 2025 budget with funding recommendations to include rubberized play surfacing.

### B. Overview

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The playground equipment located at Bayview Park is scheduled to be replaced in 2024, \$200,000 has been budgeted for the project with the intent of using engineered wood fiber chips for the protective surfacing. Our panel of residents has indicated that a poured rubber play surface is a much more accessible surface and would like to see it installed over the wood fiber chips.

### C. Background

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The playground equipment located at Bayview Park is scheduled to be replaced in 2024, \$200,000 has been budgeted for the project with the intent of using engineered wood fiber chips for the protective surfacing. Our panel of residents has indicated that a poured rubber play surface is a much more accessible surface and would like to see it installed over the wood fiber chips.

Working with the playground contractor, they provided 2 original designs to bring forward to a working group of 4 individuals for some public feedback on accessibility. Our first meeting took place May 27<sup>th</sup>. This is when the group first initiated the conversation about moving to the rubberized surface which was not budgeted for. The playground contractor provided a preliminary estimate of \$140,000 to install the rubberized surface. Quotes from the rubber companies are coming in at a similar price ranging from \$130,000 to \$180,000.

The working group took the initial designs to the Kids Day at Lions Park on June 22nd for more public input into the preferred design and play elements for the playground attachment #1 (see attached original playground design). With the input from the fair as well as ongoing correspondence with the working group we were able to sit down on August 7<sup>th</sup> and come up with a final list of equipment that takes accessibility of all levels into account and accommodates all users.

## **D. Analysis**

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Engineered wood fiber is considered an accessible and protective surface but in practical applications wheelchair users struggle to travel over the surface as well as have issues with small scrapes and rashes from pulling themselves over the surface. The rubberized surface makes for a smooth, long lasting, low maintenance solution for all concerns.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

### **2. Organizational Excellence**

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

### **4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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To be considered through final design and construction.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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The final design of the playground (Attachment #2) equipment cost is \$180,266.79 + HST leaving \$19,733.21 in the approved budget for the project.

The additional cost to change the surface from engineered wood fiber to the preferred rubberized play surface is approximately \$140,000.

The additional funding required to complete the project is approximately \$120,000.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Michael Switzer, Deputy Treasurer / Manager of Budgets & Accounting

Vicky Bouwman, Asset Management Specialist

Community members of an informal accessibility group

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre. Staff met with local residents to review the playground equipment options and accessibility opportunities for this project.

Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Nathan Plater, Acting Manager of Parks and Trails [nplater@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:nplater@thebluemountains.ca)

## **J. Attached**

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1. Original playground design
2. Final Playground design

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Plater  
Acting Manager of Parks and Trails

Ryan Gibbons  
Director Community Services

For more information, please contact:  
Nathan Plater, Acting Manager of Parks and Trails  
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519-599-3131 extension 352

### Report Approval Details

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Document Title:      | CSOPS.24.064 Response to deputation from Ms. Crosskill regarding Bayview Park Playground Project.docx |
| Attachments:         | - Attachment-1-Original-Playground-Design.pdf<br>- Attachment-2-Final-Playground-Design.pdf           |
| Final Approval Date: | Sep 27, 2024  |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature - Task assigned to Nathan Plater was completed by assistant Katie Love**

**Nathan Plater - Sep 27, 2024 - 8:59 AM**

**Ryan Gibbons - Sep 27, 2024 - 10:13 AM**