

Advisory Committee of Council Staff Report



To Accessibility Advisory Committee
Date Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Subject **2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project:
Colonial Drive, Holland Crescent and Highview
Parks**

Recommendation

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee receive the information provided regarding the 2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project.
 2. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee share their recommendations regarding the proposed scope outlined within the report.
 3. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee participate in the Have Your Say public engagement that is currently available until March 6th, 2024.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the 2024-25 Play Equipment Lifecycle Project, including identifying the parks to be included, the existing conditions of each park, and the expected outcomes as they relate to accessibility and inclusion. Staff are looking for the support of the Accessibility Advisory Committee as it relates to the scope of this project.

Key Findings

There are opportunities for accessible and inclusive improvements to the play equipment and play spaces at Highview Park, Holland Crescent Park and Colonial Park.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This project will align with the Strategic Plan objective to grow and care for our community space and places. We will focus specifically on the initiative of attracting more people to our parks and programs by making them easier to access and enjoy.

Financial Implications

The budget for this project is being funded from the playground replacement capital project account PK0130.

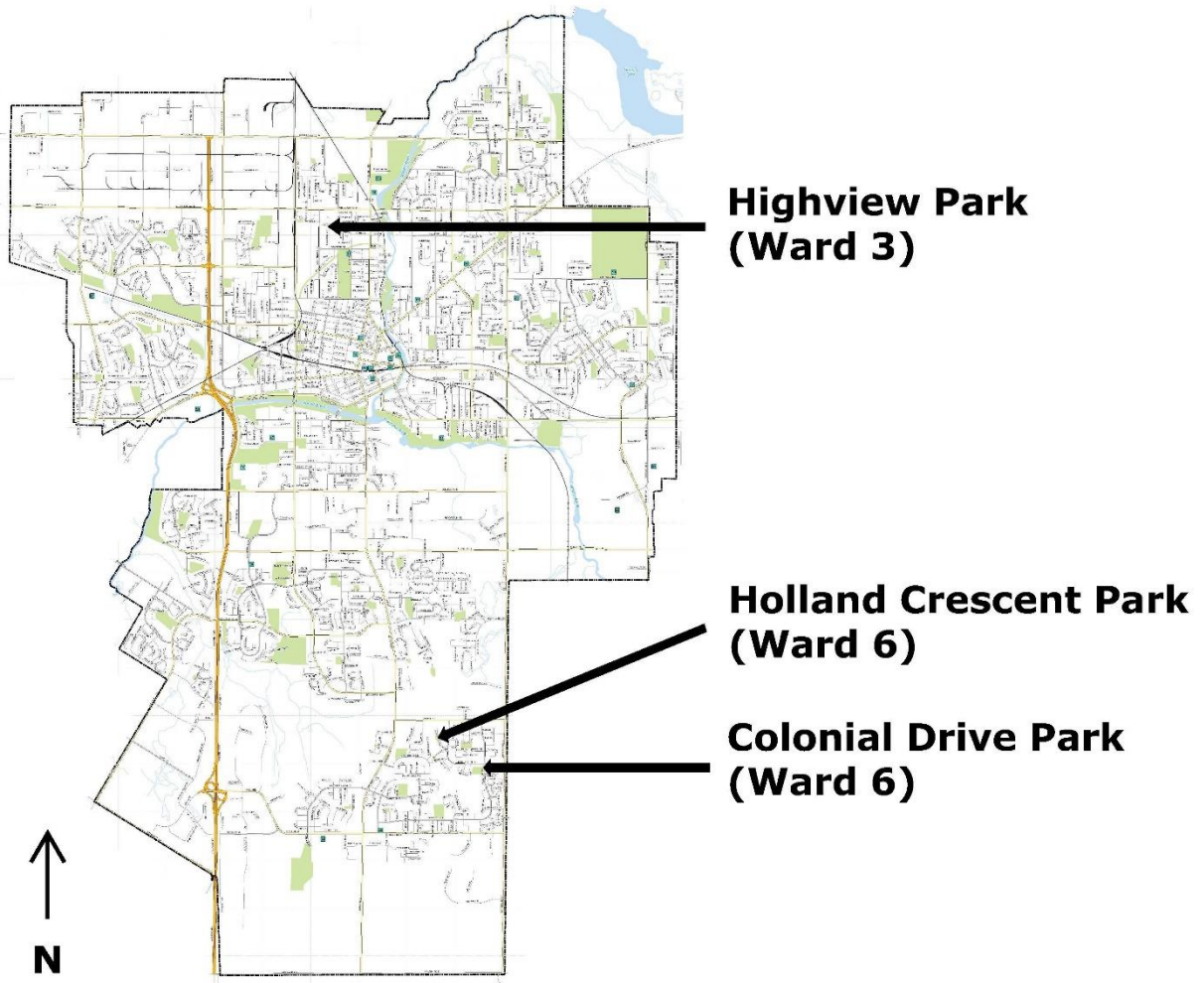
Report

Every year, Park and Trail Development undertakes life-cycling of playground equipment located in parks throughout the City of Guelph. When the useable

lifecycle of a playground has been reached, the playground is replaced to ensure the City is providing a reliable and safe place for our community to play.

The 2024-25 cycle for play equipment replacement will Highview Park, Holland Crescent Park and Colonial Park. The map below locates the 3 parks within the City.

Figure 1: Park context map



Below are images showing the existing conditions for each park.

Figure 2: Highview Park existing conditions



Figure 3: Holland Crescent Park existing conditions



Figure 4: Colonial Drive Park existing conditions



This project aims to develop play equipment and play spaces for each of these parks, that comply with the following:

1. Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
2. CAN/CSA Z614:21 Children's Play Spaces and Equipment
3. CAN/CSA Annex H Accessibility
4. American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM)
5. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
6. The City of Guelph's Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM), section 4.5.2.
7. Children's Play Spaces and Equipment: A National Standard of Canada
8. The Rick Hansen Foundation's Let's Play: Creating Accessible Play Spaces
9. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Creating Inclusive Playgrounds: A Playbook of Considerations and Strategies

Focusing specifically on the guiding principles of [Creating Inclusive Playgrounds: A Playbook of Considerations and Strategies](#), this project will be looking to respond to accessibility and inclusion from 3 perspectives:

1. Can I get there?
 - a. Ensure each park has an accessible route providing access from the municipal sidewalk to the play space.
 - b. Ensure each play space has at least one (1) accessible ramp providing access into the play space.

Figure 5: Example of an accessible ramp into a play space



- c. Provide accessible playground surfacing within the play space.

2. Can I play?
 - a. Ensure each park has accessible and inclusive play elements.

Figure 6: Example of an accessible and inclusive playground element



- b. Ensure there is good balance of play elements that are integrated within the play space to promote social interaction amongst all users.
- c. Ensure there are calm areas for rest and relief from play integrated within the play space.

3. Can I stay?

- a. Provide seating that is accessible, comfortable and meets FADM standards.

Figure 7: Example of an accessible bench



- b. Ensure that seating is integrated with the main accessible route to the play space.
- c. Ensure that seating offers shade at various times during the day.

This project will be undertaken over 2 years. 2024 will involve the development of a preliminary and final design through extensive engagement. 2025 will involve the construction of the park improvements, based on the vetted final design.

Financial Implications

The budget for this project is being funded from the playground replacement capital project account PK0130.

Consultations

Phase 1 of community engagement for this project has begun. An online survey is available to the public until March 3, 2024. This survey asks residents to share their thoughts on what they would like to see as part of the playground replacement as well as to share any other ideas that should be considered to create an inclusive, accessible, and safe play space. Any recommendations from residents, stakeholders and the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be taken into consideration during the design phase of the project.

Phase 2 of community engagement will be undertaken in spring/summer 2024. An online survey will be available for the public to review two playground designs for each park, and we will invite the public to vote on which one they like best. The

designs with the most votes will get selected and built as part of the construction project in spring/summer 2025.

We will return to the Accessibility Advisory Committee with the selected designs for new play equipment to review and discuss any comments or considerations.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Presentation Slide PDF

Departmental Approval

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