

Playground Accessibility

AAC meeting
May 21, 2024



Council direction

Council has directed Parks staff to consult with the AAC on the following topics:

1. That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play equipment, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features.
2. That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include at least one play structure that is wheelchair accessible to the lowest deck.
3. That recommendation 33 in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be revised to read "Apply a service level target of one rubber surface playground within 2.5 km of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground within 1.5 km of residential areas starting in 2026.
4. That the final PRMP include a recommendation that areas of economic need will be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber safety surface.
5. That the final PRMP include a recommendation to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to establish a target ratio of playgrounds that have rubber safety surface.

Format for today's presentation: Slide A

For each topic we will have one slide that shows the motion as presented at Council and a recommended motion.

Motion as presented at Council

Recommended motion

Format for today's presentation: Slide B

Motion as presented at Council

We will have a second slide for each topic that highlights the **challenges** with the Council motion. The original motion and the recommended motion will be shown on the left of the slide for reference.

We will ask the AAC to discuss and vote on each motion before moving onto the next.

Recommended motion

Item 1: Wheelchair accessible play components (1 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council

That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play equipment, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features.

Recommended motion

That the AAC recommends that new playgrounds include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play components. Where possible, this will be achieved by a ramp onto the play structure. Where a ramp is not feasible, this will be achieved by implementing inclusive play components in the playground area that are within 255mm of an accessible pathway.

Item 1: Wheelchair accessible play components (2 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council:

That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play equipment, and that talk tubes are not considered one of those features.

Recommended motion: That the AAC recommends that new playgrounds include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play components. Where possible, this will be achieved by a ramp onto the play structure. Where a ramp is not feasible, this will be achieved by implementing inclusive play components in the playground area that are within 255mm of an accessible pathway.

Challenges

- Rubber surface at all playgrounds is not sustainable with current approved a forecasted capital budgets.
- Ramps onto play equipment are possible in new parks, but difficult to include in playground replacement projects because:
 - Ramps require a lot of space.
 - Playground replacement project does not include budget to replace existing curb layout.
 - Play equipment gets pushed further into middle of existing play area and reduces ability to include play components. Loss of play value.

Item 2: Wheelchair access onto play equipment (1 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council

That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include at least one play structure that is wheelchair accessible to the lowest deck.

Recommended motion

That the AAC recommends that new playgrounds include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play components. Where possible, this will be achieved by a ramp onto the play structure. Where a ramp is not feasible, this will be achieved by implementing inclusive play components in the playground area that are within 255mm of an accessible pathway.

Item 2: Wheelchair access onto play equipment (2 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council:

That the final PRMP include a requirement that all new playgrounds in Guelph include at least one play structure that is wheelchair accessible to the lowest deck.

Recommended motion: That the AAC recommends that new playgrounds include a minimum of two wheelchair accessible play components. Where possible, this will be achieved by a ramp onto the play structure. Where a ramp is not feasible, this will be achieved by implementing inclusive play components in the playground area that are within 255mm of an accessible pathway.

Challenges

- Ramps onto play equipment are possible in new parks, but difficult to include in playground replacement projects because:
 - Ramps require a lot of space.
 - Playground replacement project does not include budget to replace or expand existing curb layout.
 - Play equipment gets pushed further into middle of existing play area and reduces ability to include play components. Loss of play value.

Item 3: Distribution of playgrounds with rubber surface (1 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council

That recommendation 33 in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be revised to read “Apply a service level target of one rubber surface playground within 2.5 km of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground within 1.5 km of residential areas starting in 2026.

Recommended motion

That the AAC supports the geographic distribution of playgrounds with rubber surface within 2.5 km of residential areas.

Item 3: Distribution of playgrounds with rubber surface (2 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council:

That recommendation 33 in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan be revised to read "Apply a service level target of one rubber surface playground within 2.5 km of residential areas until 2025, moving to a target of one rubber surface playground within 1.5 km of residential areas starting in 2026.

Recommended motion: That the AAC supports the geographic distribution of playgrounds with rubber surface within 2.5 km of residential areas.

Challenges

- Adjusting the distribution target to 1.5 km will result in adding nine additional rubber surface playgrounds City-wide.
- This will add significant tax impact to the 10-year capital forecast.
- De-prioritization of other park projects.
- More operational dollars spent on maintaining older infrastructure and possibly closure of playgrounds that are at the end of their service life before they are replaced.

Item 4: Consideration of economic need when selecting location of playgrounds with rubber surface (1 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council

That the final PRMP include a recommendation that areas of economic need will be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber safety surface.

Recommended motion

That the AAC recommends that economic need be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber surface.

Item 4: Consideration of economic need when selecting location of playgrounds with rubber surface (2 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council:

That the final PRMP include a recommendation that areas of economic need will be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber safety surface.

Recommended motion: That the AAC recommends that economic need be a factor in determining the location of playgrounds with rubber surface.

Challenges

- No significant challenges.
- Note that the city-wide distribution gaps will be considered first, followed by areas of economic need being identified within these gaps.

Item 5: Target ratio for playgrounds with rubber surface (1 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council

That the final PRMP include a recommendation to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to establish a target ratio of playgrounds that have rubber safety surface.

Recommended motion

That the AAC supports using a geographic distribution metric rather than a ratio metric for implementing playgrounds with rubber surface.

Item 5: Target ratio for playgrounds with rubber surface (2 of 2)

Motion as presented at Council:

That the final PRMP include a recommendation to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to establish a target ratio of playgrounds that have rubber safety surface.

Recommended motion: That the AAC supports using a geographic distribution metric rather than a ratio metric for implementing playgrounds with rubber surface.

Challenges

- A ratio target may result in playgrounds with rubber surface that are unevenly concentrated in certain areas of the City.
- Already have a distribution target that establishes quantity and location of playgrounds with rubber.
- The distribution target is measurable and more equitable.