



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator
Mary Gallop, Manager of Facilities & Special Projects
Phil Jacobs, Parks and Forestry Supervisor**

Meeting Date: **May 17, 2016**

Subject: **Report APRAC16-017
Outdoor Water Play Facilities 10-Year Capital Strategy**

Purpose

A report to identify a proposed ten-year capital strategy to address the City's outdoor water play facility needs, through development of new facilities and replacement of aging facilities.

Recommendation

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC16-017 dated May 17, 2016, of the Manager of Facilities and Special Projects, the Parks and Forestry Supervisor, and the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That the ten-year strategy to address the City's water play facility needs as detailed in Chart 1 of Report APRAC16-017 be endorsed and recommended for consideration by City Council in the City's 10-year capital program.

Budget and Financial Implications

The capital funds required to accomplish the proposed ten-year outdoor water play facilities strategy will be requested as part of the annual budget approval process for the 2017 to 2026 budget years.

Background

Existing Splash Pad Facilities

There are four splash pad facilities within City-owned parkland, located in the following parks: King Edward, Nicholls Oval, Rogers Cove, and Kinsmen. There is one splash pad located at the Riverview Park and Zoo, which is owned and operated by Peterborough Utilities. With the exception of the Riverview Park and Zoo facility, all the splash pads were constructed within the past six years.

Existing Wading Pool and Spray Post Facilities

The City operates five supervised wading pools located in Turner Park, Knights of Columbus Park, Chelsea Gardens Park, John Taylor Memorial Park, and Barnardo Park. Each pool is more than fifty years old with the exception of John Taylor Memorial Park, which is 24 years old. Each pool is showing signs of decline and will need to be replaced within the next ten years.

Additionally, spray posts are located in Olympus Park and Hamilton Park. Both spray posts are not operable and cannot be repaired. These posts were installed in old wading pools to provide an alternative water play feature. Both spray posts are over 25 years old.

A map identifying the location of the existing wading pools, splash pads, and spray posts is attached as Appendix “A”.

Ten-Year Outdoor Water Play Facilities Strategy

Staff of the Community Services, Corporate Services and Utility Services Departments met to review the facilities and discuss options. A strategy was developed to address the various water play facilities needs over the next ten years, and is included in Chart 1 below.

Staff considered the volume of activity and physical condition of each of the wading pools, to determine the order in which they would be replaced. The strategy identifies that the five existing wading pools be replaced with splash pads. Splash pads do not require lifeguard supervision and are cost effective to operate. Splash pads also provide a higher play value for children, if designed correctly.

Currently, wading pools open the last week in June, and are closed on the last week in August. Without a need for lifeguard supervision, splash pads can open each year for an extended period of time at the start and end of the good weather season. In some years, this includes the full month of June and one or two weeks into September.

Given that the two spray post facilities are currently not functional, Staff is recommending they be replaced in the second year of the ten-year strategy with a single ground geyser feature, to avoid ongoing vandalism issues and offer the same flexibility of use as a regular splash pad. The ground geyser feature sprays upwards, directly out of the pad, without the need for a post. The ground geyser can be activated by the user and will not go on if there are no users of the feature. Olympus Park, in the north end of the City, is recommended for a ground geyser. A full splash pad is not recommended at this location as the Zoo and Barnardo Park Splash Pads are within close proximity. Hamilton Park is also recommended to transition to a ground geyser as it uses a smaller footprint than a splash pad and would not interfere with the other recreational features in the park (i.e., children's playground, basketball court, and Disc Golf).

As seen in Appendix "A", the west and southwest areas of the City are not as well serviced with water play facilities as are the other areas of the City. The west and southwest areas have seen a great deal of growth over the last 20 years and new facility installations have not kept up with the residential growth. Therefore, Staff recommends that the next two new splash pads be situated in the southwest and west areas of the City in 2020 and 2023. The actual locations will be determined by a staff team and come back to APRAC for consideration at a later date.

The locations of the three ground geyser facilities, slated for 2024, are yet to be determined. A needs assessment process will be undertaken at that time to determine the most appropriate sites. The locations may be considered for existing parks or new parks that are introduced in the next eight years. Staff will bring back site recommendations at a future date.

The third new splash pad, slated for 2026, is recommended for Beavermead Park. Staff anticipates activity within the park will increase as further elements of the Little Lake Master Plan unfold over the next ten years, including trail development in and around the park, and relocation of the Canadian Canoe Museum to a location just a few hundred metres up the road. The splash pad in Beavermead Park will support the campsite, sport fields, picnic pavilion, beach volleyball courts, and major special event activities that take place annually. Previously, the Board of Parks and Recreation recommended a wave pool for the park but the size and footprint of property it would consume was not supported by Council. A splash pad is a suitable alternative, consumes less parkland, and provides family friendly water play opportunities, particularly when the beach is posted.

Chart 1 – Summary of the Proposed Ten-year Strategy

Year	Site	Description of Work	Total Budget Amount
2017	Turner Park Wading Pool	Changeover to Splash Pad	\$300,000
2018	Hamilton Park, Olympus Park	Changeover of Spray Post to Ground Geyser spray feature (\$100,000 each)	\$200,000
2019	Barnardo Park Wading Pool	Changeover to Splash Pad	\$320,000
2020	Southwest End Park - site TBD	New Splash Pad (similar to King Edward)	\$375,000
2021	Chelsea Gardens	Changeover to Splash Pad	\$360,000
2022	Knights of Columbus Park	Changeover to Splash Pad	\$375,000
2023	West End Park - site TBD	Installation of new Splash Pad	\$380,000
2024	New Parks	Installation of mini Ground Geyser (1 per park for 3 parks)	\$360,000
2025	John Taylor Memorial Park	Changeover to Splash Pad	\$400,000
2026	Beavermead Park	Installation of new Splash Pad	\$420,000

Summary

Staff is seeking APRAC's endorsement of the strategic plan identified in Chart 1 above. The plan provides a geographically distributed investment in recreation infrastructure and addresses underserved areas. Should the recommendation be supported, the capital budget will be prepared with this information for City Council's consideration.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson
Recreation Division Coordinator

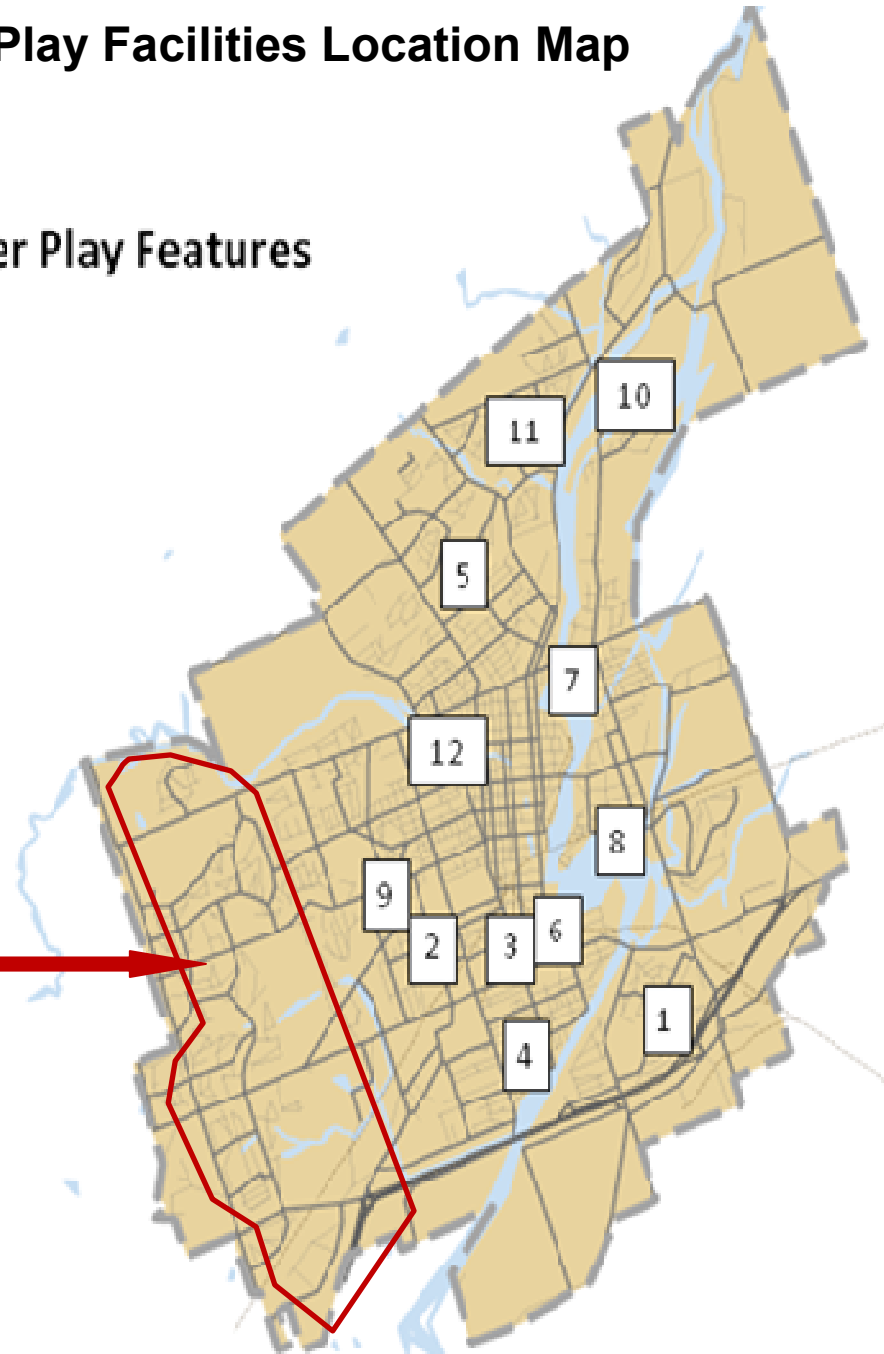
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Attachments:
Appendix A – Water Play Facilities Location Map

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Location of Outdoor Water Play Features

Underserved Area



Wading Pools

- 1 Chelsea Gardens
- 2 Turner Park
- 3 Knights of Columbus Park
- 4 John Taylor Park
- 5 Barnardo Park

Splash Pads

- 6 King Edward Park
- 7 Nicholls Oval Park
- 8 Rogers Cove Park
- 9 Kinsmen Park
- 10 Riverview Park & Zoo

Spray Posts

- 11 Olympus Park
- 12 Hamilton Park