

May 30, 2011

Arenas Park and Recreation Advisory Committee

Councillor Leslie Parnell  
Chairperson APRAC  
City Hall  
500 George St. N  
Peterborough, Ontario K9H 3R9

Dave Gillespie, myself and several other residents of East City are interested in revitalizing Nicholl's Oval park with our main point of interest focusing on building a splash pad. This park is long overdue for having its water attraction rejuvenated. At one point the City determined that Nicholl's Oval was an ideal location for a wading pool, however, it has been out of commission and not maintained for at least 15 years.

Currently, there are no working wading pools east of the Otonabee River. There appears to be 6 wading pools per 74,000 residents (1 per 12,300). East City and area accounts for over 10,000 people. Without a water attraction close by, people tend to go to the Inverlea Beach or wading in along the Otonabee. East City needs a means of allowing area children to cool off during the summer months. The non-functioning Nicholl's Oval wading pool creates a huge gap in recreational facilities for children.

Nicholl's Oval is becoming a destination point again. With the addition of the Rugby Club, the park will not only be used by local residents, but those from all areas of the city as well as out of town guests. Many adults with children in tow will now be in attendance and bringing new life to the park. The Peterborough Folk Festival and the Quaker/GE picnic and carnival are also other mainstay summer attractions at the park. A splash pad would serve locals as well as visitors who attend the above-mentioned events. It would also be a quick detour for those using the Rotary Trail.

There are 3 public schools in the Nicholl's Oval area. King George (241 students), Armour Heights (225) and Immaculate Conception (225) have a combined total of 691 students. P.C.V.S also uses the track and park for their P.E. program. If a splash pad were to go in at Nicholl's Oval it would also be the closest one within walking distance of Pearson's Day Care on Water St.

This project goes beyond creating a neighborhood splash pad as Nicholl's Oval is a regional park and not just a local one. Both Dave and I are willing to do some significant leg work in bringing this project to completion. We are eagerly seeking some guidance on this project so that we can move forward and establish a course of action. We have met with the Recreation Division staff and with the support of the APRAC would like to establish a Neighbourhood Association.

Sincerely,

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and

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