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**Date** September 12, 2024 **Report No.** 2024-559

**To** Chair and Members  
Accessibility Advisory Committee

**From** Jennifer Elliott, LET, C.E.T., Dipl.M.M  
Director, Engineering Services

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### 1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item   
Item For Consideration

### 2.0 Topic **Playground Rehabilitation Projects Update [Financial Impact - None]**

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### 3.0 Recommendation

A. THAT Staff Report 2024-559 Playground Rehabilitation Projects Update BE RECEIVED.

### 4.0 Background

City Council approved the Playground Equipment Replacement Capital Program resolution at the meeting held on November 16, 2015 to replace aging playgrounds throughout the city to meet the current CSA standard for playgrounds.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan outlines the following recommendations:

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- Continue to address current standards for safety and accessibility of play structures through ongoing renewal/replacement of existing structures and in new play equipment installations, and by providing barrier-free pathways to playgrounds (existing and new).
  - Continue to coordinate planning for playground locations in parks with those available or planned at local schools to maximize access, variety and appeal to children of all ages, as well as multi-generational features and amenities.
  - Continue to address current standards for safety and accessibility of play structures through ongoing renewal/replacement of existing structures and in new play equipment installations, and by providing barrier-free pathways to playgrounds (existing and new).

The following parks are under construction over the summer and fall of 2024 and 2025:

- i. **Woodman Park** is located in Ward 4 at 491 Grey Street. As a part of the design process for Woodman Park, a public survey was conducted to inform the new playground design in November 2022. An open house was also scheduled in November 2022 at the Woodman Community Center. The City retained a professional consultant to design the play space that reflects the findings of the public survey and engagement. The City awarded construction of the site work is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2024.
- ii. **Pace Park** is a new park located in Ward 4 on Pace Avenue. As a part of the design process for Pace Park, a public survey was conducted to inform the new playground design in February 2023. The City retained a professional consultant to design the play space that reflects the findings of the public survey. The City awarded construction of the site work is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2024.
- iii. **Devereux Park** is located in Ward 5 at 401 Wellington Street. As a part of the design process for Devereux Park, a public survey was conducted to inform the new playground design in February 2023. The City retained a professional consultant to design the play space that reflects the findings of the public survey. The City awarded construction of the site work is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2024.

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- iv. **Iroquois Park** is located in Ward 5 at 132 Victoria Street. As a part of the design process for Iroquois Park, a public survey was conducted to inform the new playground design in February 2023. The City retained a professional consultant to design the play space that reflects the findings of the public survey. The City awarded construction of the site work is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2024.
  - v. **Brooklyn Park** is located in Ward 1 at 49 Charles Street. This park is being relocated across the street to 12 Edge St at Steve Brown Park as two baseball diamonds are being installed in its original location. As part of the design process for Brooklyn Park, a professional consultant has been hired, and the design is currently in its preliminary stages. A public survey will be posted in fall 2024 to allow the community to vote on the playground equipment. The City will tender this project for construction in Summer 2025.

## 5.0 Analysis

- i. Woodman Park

The existing playground and park site was not accessible, included no paths and contained sand under the play structures that have no play features that can be accessed from ground level.

Refer to Appendix A for construction plan improvements to Woodman Park.

Refer to Appendix B for photos of existing conditions at Woodman Park.

- ii. Pace Park

Pace Park is a newly developed community playground, transforming what was once an open space into a recreational area. The park will now feature a new playground, paved pathways, benches, and a shade shelter.

Refer to Appendix C for construction improvements to Pace Park.

Refer to Appendix D for photos of existing conditions at Pace Park.

- iii. Devereux Park

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The existing playground and park site was not accessible, included no paths and contained sand under the play structures that have no play features that can be accessed from ground level.

Refer to Appendix E for construction improvements to Devereux Park.

Refer to Appendix F for Photos of original conditions at Devereux Park.

iv. Iroquois Park

The existing playground and park site was not accessible, included no paths and contained sand under the play structures that have no play features that can be accessed from ground level.

Refer to Appendix G for construction improvements to Iroquois Park.

Refer to Appendix H for Photos of original conditions at Iroquois Park.

v. Brooklyn Park

The existing playground and park site was not accessible, included no paths and contained sand under the play structures that have no play features that can be accessed from ground level.

Refer to Appendix I for construction improvements to Brooklyn Park.

Refer to Appendix J for Photos of original conditions at Brooklyn Park.

Items related to accessibility improvements to Woodman Park are listed below:

1. New 2m wide asphalt path connecting all amenities to the sidewalk.
2. Continuous paved loop surrounding main play area to increase number of access points and viewing points into play space.
3. New community garden including accessible garden beds.
4. New rubber surfacing in the playground area.
5. New play equipment to include features accessed from the ground level.
6. New trees planted to increase shade in park.
7. New benches with seating space to sit beside benches.

8. New shade shelters at each play area.

Items related to accessibility improvements to Pace Park, Devereux Park, Iroquois Park and Brooklyn Park are listed below:

1. New 2m wide asphalt path connecting all amenities to the sidewalk.
2. Continuous paved loop surrounding main play area to increase number of access points and viewing points into play space.
3. New asphalt ramps into play areas.
4. New engineered wood fibre safety surfacing providing accessible surfacing up to play equipment.
5. New play equipment to include features accessed from the ground level.
6. New trees planted to increase shade in park.
7. New benches with seating space to sit beside benches.
8. New shade shelters at each play area.

The construction of the new play areas at Woodman Park, Devereux Park, Iroquois Park, and Pace Park began with site work in the summer of 2024. It is expected that all four parks will be complete in the fall of 2024. The design of the new park at Brooklyn Park is underway and expected to be completed and tendered in fall 2024.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. All costs associated with the accessibility improvements for the park renovations are included in the approved capital budget.

The City has been successful in obtaining grant funding to offset the capital costs from the Federal and Provincial governments, from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to offset the costs of the Woodman Park Pool and Playground project. The Woodman project is specifically funded through the Community, Culture, and Recreation Stream of ICIP. The total approved federal funding was \$1,810,100.00 (40% of eligible project costs), and the total approved provincial funding was \$1,508,265.83 (33.33% of eligible project costs). Obtaining this grant ensured that staff was able to deliver the

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project and complete both the pool and playground construction within the approved budget.

## 7.0 Conclusion

Playgrounds continue to be the park amenity frequently requested by residents in all areas of the City. The City of Brantford strives to ensure that concepts and actions in delivering goods and services to persons with disabilities remain progressive and that AODA and FADS compliance is achieved in all park and trail designs.



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Attachments (if applicable)

Appendix "A" Layout Plan of Woodman Park

Appendix "B" Photos of existing conditions at Woodman Park

Appendix "C" Layout Plan of Pace Park

Appendix "D" Photos of existing conditions at Pace Park

Appendix "E" Layout Plan of Devereux Park

Appendix "F" Photos of existing conditions at Devereux Park

Appendix "G" Layout Plan of Iroquois Park

Appendix "H" Photos of existing conditions at Iroquois Park

Appendix "I" Layout Plan of Brooklyn Park

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Appendix "J" Photos of existing conditions at Brooklyn Park

Copy to:

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required  yes  no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk  yes  no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council?  yes  no