

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Dieppe Park Improvements Public Meeting 2

Meeting Summary

August 2021

Paulo Fetalvero, Supervisor, Capital Projects
Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator



Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Project Background.....	2
Meeting Purpose	2
Public Meeting Advertisement.....	2
Feedback Summary	2
Polling	6
Next Steps	6
Contact Us	6
Appendix A: Project Scope	7
Appendix B: Options for the Family Play Zone & Park Improvement Plan	9

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the Dieppe Park Improvements Virtual Public Meeting that was held on July 21, 2021, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. by the Toronto-Danforth Councillor. Approximately 97 people attended.

More information about the project can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/DieppeParkImprovements

Project Background

Dieppe Park is located on Cosburn Avenue just east of Greenwood Avenue. The three-hectare park has an outdoor artificial ice rink and skate trail, a lit ball diamond, a multipurpose sports field, a family play zone that includes a children's playground and a splash pad, and a parking lot.

The family play zone, including the playground and splash pad are being updated. In addition to these updates, the City is creating a Dieppe Park Improvement Plan to guide future park improvements. This plan will identify and prioritize future park improvement projects to undertake as funding becomes available. The Dieppe Park Improvement Plan does not include the removal or relocation of any existing recreational spaces. The Improvement Plan will influence:

- Use of the space between the existing ice rink and soccer field as a zone for new, non-permitted uses.
- Circulation and pathways through the park.
- The potential creation, location and design of a new fitness zone.
- Opportunities to enhance existing recreation spaces.

Visit Appendix A for more information on the project scope.

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of this meeting was to share proposed design options for the new Dieppe Park Family Zone (playground and water play area) and the proposed Park Improvement Plan and collected community feedback. Visit Appendix B for an overview of the proposed options and improvements.

Public Meeting Advertisement

The meeting was promoted through the multiple channels:

- E-notification through the local Councillor's office and website
- E-updates to community members who signed up for project updates on the City website or through previous online surveys

Feedback Summary

Project staff presented a project overview, proposed design options for the new Dieppe Park Family Zone (playground and water play area) and the proposed Park Improvement Plan. A copy of the meeting presentation is available on [the project website](#). Following the presentation, participants were able to ask questions of clarification and provide comments and suggestions.

Paraphrased comments (C), questions (Q) and responses from the Councillor, the design team, and/or City Staff (R) are presented below.

Q. How much money is available to complete this project?

R. \$500,000 for the family play zone. Funds for the rest of improvements are being sorted out.

Q. Is it possible to fast track this project to meet timelines discussed in the previous consultations? There are so many lessons learned from the many park builds that have happened over the last two years. We have already provided local community input. Can we please move past the discussion phase to the action phase?

R. This is a big project as Dieppe has not had these kind of upgrades before. The general upgrades need to be confirmed through this process as the funds are sorted out. We anticipate construction on the Family Play zone to begin in the fall. There has been a lot of construction during Covid, and some products may not be readily available which may cause delays.

Q. Why is a dog park not being considered to control the dogs that are off-leash?

A. There is limited space available in Dieppe Park. It is understood that the community would like an off leash dog park in the area. Staff will look into alternative options for locating a dog off leash area nearby, in a park with more available space and fewer competing uses.

Q. Are the pathways of the track curved or at 90 degrees?

R. The corners of the larger loop, south of the soccer field can be curved. The reason they are not is to provide as much separation from the field as possible, and to maintain the existing trees and vegetation. We can look to create a short cut in this space, or remove the 90 degree angle.

Q. Where will the snow from the rinks go?

R. Currently, snow from the rinks are placed in the open lawn area south of the rink and the paved area north of the rink. This will generally continue. There is potential to add some drainage to that area, so that the water from melting snow penetrates the ground more easily.

Q. Are the maintenance bunkers moved?

R. We are proposing they are moved off to the edge of the site so there is still access, but the open lawn area is not interrupted by those bunkers.

Q. Who is meant to use the smaller track?

R. It could be used for example, by a family, a parent with a stroller, kids on trikes or scooters. We are trying to establish a flexible loop to create recreation opportunities and a separate space in the park.

Q. Can you explain QR codes that will be used as part of the fitness stations?

R. You can turn your phone camera on and scan the QR code. The smartphone will read the code and take you to a website to give you instructions for the fitness equipment in the park.

Q. Area 8 with the seating is where people play pickle ball. Is pickle ball going to remain there?

R. Area 8 is grass, so not the pickle ball area would be on the paved surface. There is no proposed change there.

Q. Can a rink roof be considered?

R. A rink roof is not in the scope of this project. Staff can investigate if this is possible to include.

Q. Would permits be required for the flexible play lawn?

R. Not likely, since this is a small, flexible play area. The field could be designated a mini field, in which case it could be permitted. This has not been decided yet. The community can provide input on this. The intention of the space is to not become a mini soccer field, but to instead to be a multi-use space (that can sometimes be used for soccer).

Q. Are you planning to upgrade the northern sidewalk on the North side of Memorial Park Ave so it's easier to navigate with a stroller when coming from across the street?

R. That is outside the scope of this project but the Councillor's office will follow up with transportation to investigate if curb cuts can be installed.

Q. Can the water play area be moved to area 1?

R. Currently, the splash pad has all existing services needed including water and drainage. It would cost more money to move the location, as you would add more servicing and infrastructure costs.

Q. Can you add a fitness station closer to the play areas? It would be great for parents of young children to get some exercise while supervising their kids.

R. Typically fitness areas are along pathways and circulation routes. We are crunched for space around the play area, as we were asked to expand the play area in the last survey. Trying to add too much to that space could get too tight. There are some smaller pieces of fitness equipment that we can consider, like a fitness bench. If there is a desire to spread the equipment out, we could look at more compact features.

Q. Can you put a small fence near the pickle ball area, so the balls do not roll onto Cosburn Ave? And will the area be lined for Pickleball?

R. The lines for pickle ball are on the way if not already there. We will consider adding the feature to stop balls from rolling.

Q. Can you move the existing Ping-Pong table by the washroom out into the park? Is this difficult?

R. Yes they are concrete and tend to crumble if a move is attempted, once they have settled in place. Staff are working with the company that builds them to try to move this table.

Q. Can the bathroom be winterized?

R. There have been no discussions about winterizing that building. An assessment needs to take place on the building to understand if it will be possible to winterize. The other building by the arena has winterized washrooms that are open when staff are present.

Q. Can they at least be opened more often?

R. The washrooms were left open late after programming a few times and were trashed.

Q. Can basketball nets be considered?

R. The nets would be too close to houses on Greenwood and the noise would be too loud. This park was therefore not considered suitable for basketball.

Q. There is a berry tree at the splash pad. It's hard to stop young children from eating them. Any chance of cutting them back, having regular cleanup, or taking other measures to reduce/eliminate berries?

R. We can look into the berry trees to ensure they are safe to eat. There is also a concern around the mess from berries, so this is something we will consider in the detailed design.

C. They are mulberry trees and are edible. The tree is on private property.

C. We should keep the berries.

Q. Any chance of adding an apron to the south side entrance into the park to make it easier/safer for people with strollers?

R. An extended concrete area to make the entrance and exit easier can be considered.

Q. Can there be a non-rubber surface for the playground that is more natural?

R. The rubber surfacing being proposed here is an upgrade. There are colours and patterns we can introduce into the piece. Maintenance-wise, the mulch surfacing spreads throughout the playground, and it is easier to identify hazards like needles on rubber rather than mulch.

C. Good idea to keep rubber. Safety and avoiding needles is critical.

Q. Can the playground be extended south to include equipment for older kids? We should have the biggest and best playground and splash pad. The playground in particular gets extremely busy, and we need more swings, more climbing areas, more jets running at once in the splash pad.

R. Space is limited due to the size of the park. We are using the space to the maximum that we can.

Q. In the stroller parking area, are there places to lock a stroller, similar to what the city has for bikes or is it just a designated area?

R. It is just a parking area with no locking features.

C. I had three babies and brought them regularly in strollers to this park. There was always a ton of place to put the strollers. That was never an issue. I have no idea what the issue is with current setup. I have never seen more than 4 people with babies in the play area at once. Not sure what we would do with 12 stroller spots.

C. I like the idea of designated stroller parking just to keep them out of the way for everyone else using the park. I often feel like mine is in the way of other people's use of the park.

Q. What is the plan for the parking areas? Can part of the lot be converted into a basketball court?

R. All current parking is required.

C. Love the fence for keeping kids safe and contained!

R. Great! The fence came from the feedback from the first consultation. We are listening!

C. I love the fence idea around the playground but in the design it doesn't look like it extends all the way around the playground. There are gaps for kids to escape.

R. The fence extends around the west limits but isn't total closure. It provides separation from the soccer field as well.

C. The splash pad needs to be a destination. My kids are splash pad snobs and they ask to go to more up-to-date splash pads all the time.

C. For the water play area, I like the ball that bubbles up. Just add that into option 3 and you'll have a winner!

C. With all new builds in the park, are you making sustainability a priority? Like sustainable alternatives to plastic? There's already too much plastic everywhere. We need to keep in mind where things end up when their time comes to be replaced, so please no plastic. Also, kids touch all of this and microplastics get into their bodies.

C. Junior and Senior options are great, and addresses a real issue right now. I like the Option 1 form but with the Option 2 aesthetic. Option 1 looks similar to Howard Kempton Park. Option 2 looks like a smaller version of Grange Park. I can't place Option 3 or 4.

Q. Will the playgrounds and splash pad features all fit in the current space?

R. Yes.

Q. Can you mix and match play features?

R. Each option presented has a different design, but if there are elements you like, like a climber or spring toy, they can be incorporated into another design.

Polling

A few mid meeting polls were conducted. Results follow:

1. Did you attend the October 22 2020 meeting?

- Yes: 24%
- No: 76%

3. Do you use Dieppe Park with your children?

- Yes, ages 0-6: 62%
- Yes, ages 6-12: 19%
- Yes, ages 12-18: 0%
- I do not use the park with my children: 19%

4. What are your preferences for the water play area?

- Option 1: 6%
- Option 2: 39%
- Option 3: 55%

5. What are your preferences for the playground?

- Option 1: 39%
- Option 2: 10%
- Option 3: 19%
- Option 4: 32%

Next Steps

Participants were asked to provide any additional feedback through the online survey, which was online from July 22 to August 8, 2021. The feedback collected through this meeting and the online survey will be used to select and refine the designs for the family play zone and refine the Park Improvement Plan.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

Paulo Fetalvero

Supervisor, Capital Projects

Telephone: 416-395-0178

Email: Paulo.Fetalvero@toronto.ca

Appendix A: Project Scope

This summary contains all of the suggestions and comments made by public meeting attendees. It is important to note that some of these suggestions and comments are outside the scope of this project.

What is in the project scope:

- Improvements to the Family Play zone, including the Splash Pad and Playground (Image 1).
- Improvements to spaces around sports facilities and the potential inclusion of multi-seasonal programming (Image 2).
- Circulation and pathways through the park.
- The potential creation, location and design of a new fitness zone.



Image 1 (above): Family Play Zone outlined in yellow.



Image 2 (above): Park areas for improvement outlined in yellow.

What is not in the project scope:

- Major updates related to sports fields such as field resurfacing and expansion, removal, or relocation.
- Major updates related to existing buildings, including changing the location of the buildings or their renovation.
 - While sports fields and existing buildings in the park are not within the scope of the Dieppe Park Improvement Plan, they are part of a City wide State of Good Repair Program. They will be assessed and if required they will be improved in the future as part of the City's State of Good Repair program.
- A Dog Off-Leash Area.
 - A suitable location for a Dog Off-Leash Area in the community is being explored. Sites are being assessed based on City's Off-leash Policy.

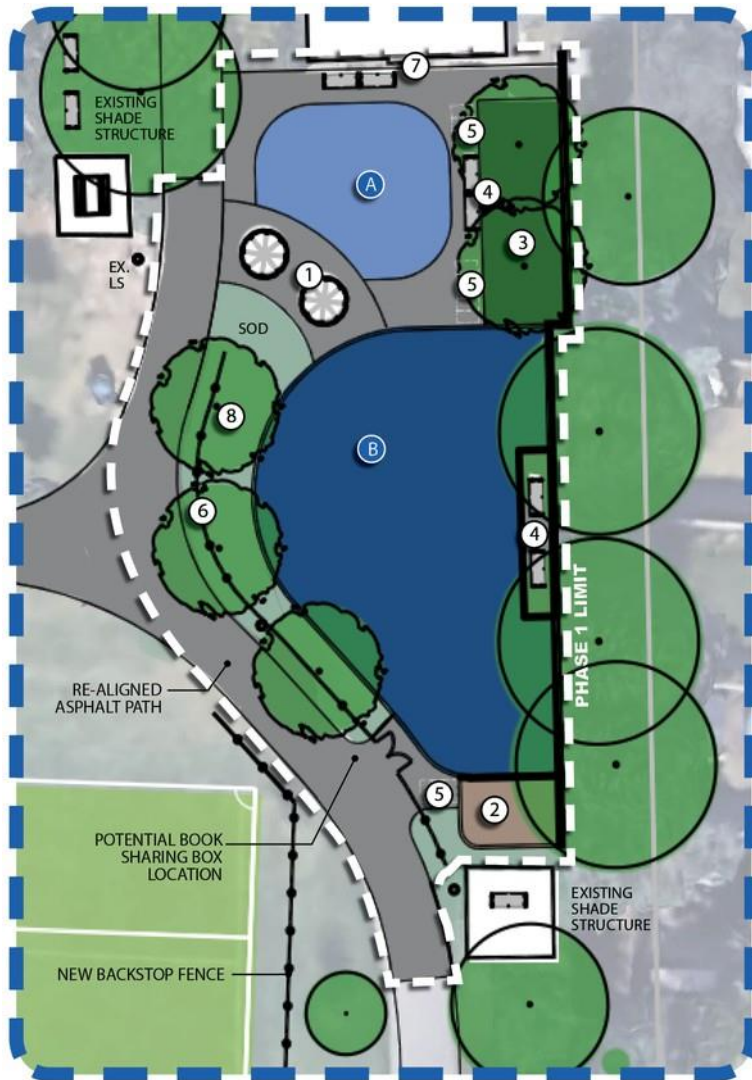
Operational Issues:

- Changes to facility access and maintenance will not be included in this project, but are currently being reviewed by Parks Operations staff to determine what actions or service improvements should be taken. Examples of operational issues include:
 - Maintenance and operating hours of the park's washrooms
 - Maintenance of the existing sport facilities including the rink, skate trail, baseball diamond, and soccer field
 - Maintenance of the parking lot
 - Park lighting
 - Cleanliness throughout the park

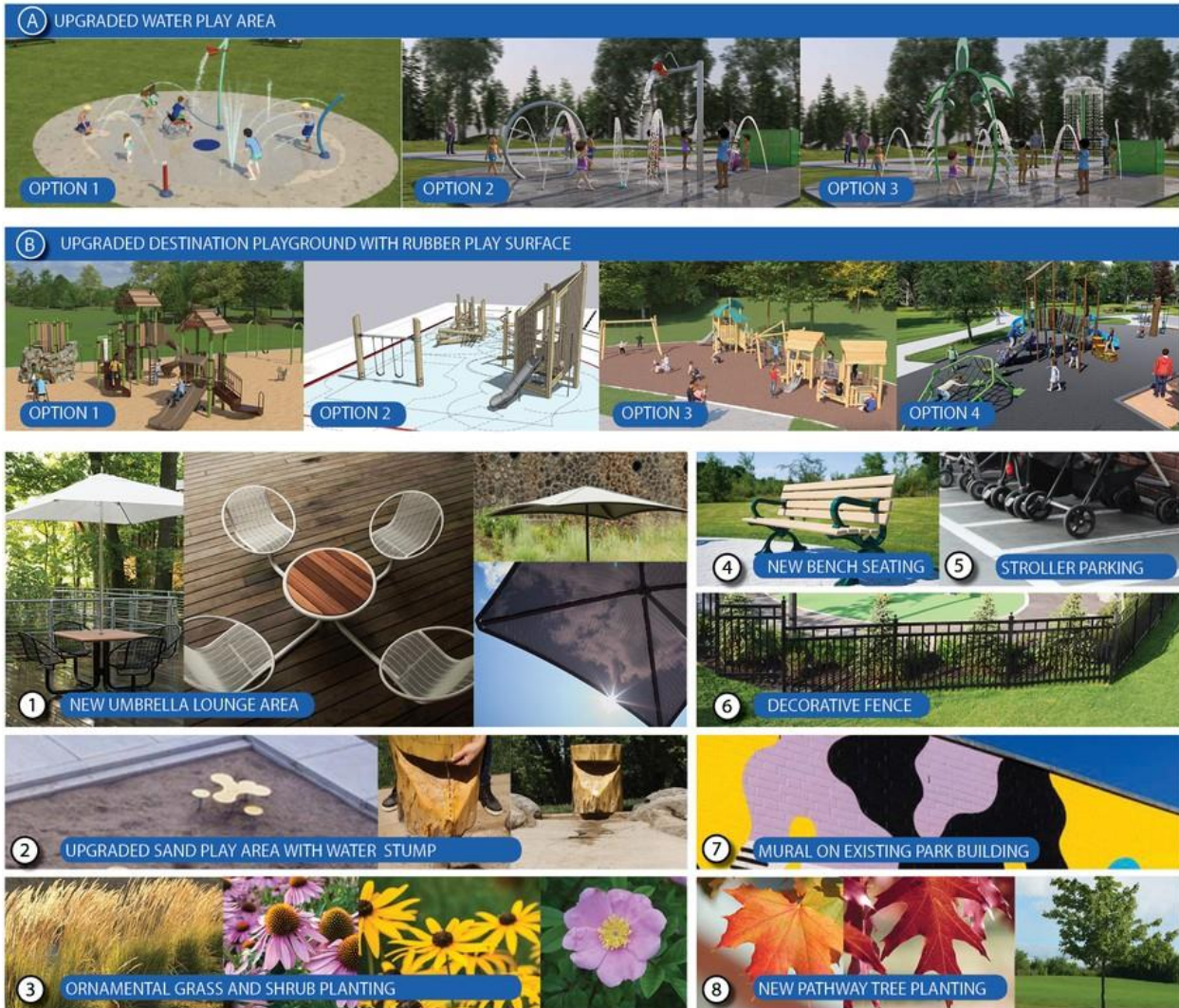
Appendix B: Proposed Options for the Family Play Zone and Proposed Park Improvement Plan

Family Play Zone

The two images below showcase the new family play zone proposal. Each of the features labeled in the images is described in the text that follows.



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



The new family play zone is proposed to include two main areas:

- A. **Upgraded Waterplay Area:** new water play equipment and concrete paving
- B. **Upgraded Destination Playground with Rubber Play Surface:** new playground equipment in rubber play surface.

In addition to the upgraded water play area and playground, key features proposed for the new family play zone include:

1. **New Umbrella Lounge Area:** gathering area adjacent to the waterplay area with tables, accessible seating and umbrellas to provide shade.
2. **Upgraded Sand Play Area with Water Stump:** playground area with sand surface and a water spigot to allow play with sand and water.
3. **Ornamental Grass and Shrub Planting:** drought tolerant, native planting to provide seasonal interest.
4. **New Bench Seating:** seating with back rest and armrests adjacent to waterplay and playground areas.

5. **Stroller Parking:** a dedicated spot to leave strollers or wagons while playing.
6. **Decorative Fence:** low ornamental fence to define play area and separate play space from adjacent pathway and open field.
7. **Mural on Existing Park Building:** artwork painted on the face of the existing building as a backdrop to the family zone play area.
8. **New Pathway Tree Planting:** new tree planting along pathway to provide shade for playground and pathway.

Accessibility

The new family play zone will be accessible. This means people of different abilities can play and have fun at the new playground. The upgrades will include:

- Providing firm, level, non-slip concrete deck for the waterplay area,
- Providing a firm, level rubber safety surface for the playground,
- Play equipment that offers a diversity in play experience for users of different ages and abilities,
- Proximity of play area to washroom and shady rest areas, and
- Designated stroller and wagon parking areas.

Playground Design

There are four playground designs to choose from. All four designs:

- Are accessible. This means people of different abilities can play and have fun at the new playground.
- Have about the same number of play features like swings, slides, etc.
- Cost about the same amount.
- Include rubber surfacing under the playground structures.

Playground Option 1



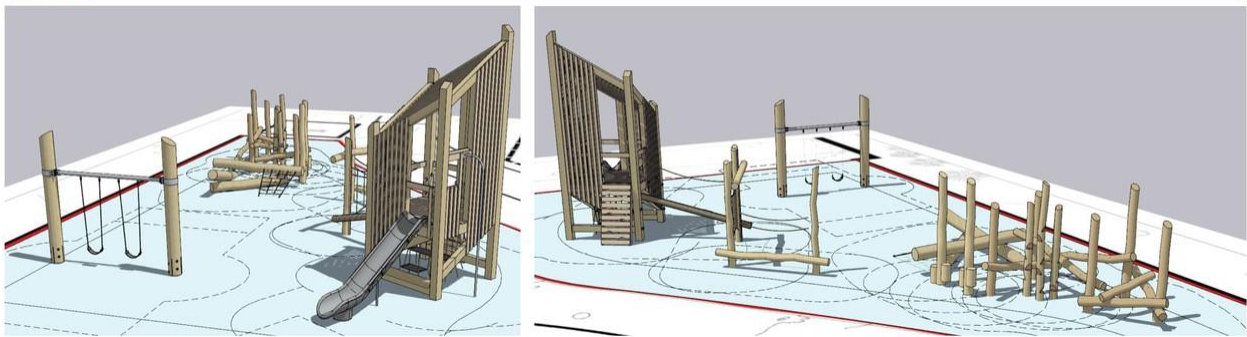
Playground Option 1 includes:

- Steel frame swing set with 2 swings
- Steel frame senior play structure (5 to 12years)
 - Corkscrew slide (6 foot height)
 - Tree house themed shade roof
 - Animal tracks interpretive play panel
 - Faux wood plank ladder
 - Faux rock feature with den and climbing wall

- High wire net
 - Accessible transfer station
- Steel frame junior play structure: (2 to 5years)
 - Double slide (3 foot height)
 - Rain sound panel toy
 - Mushroom stepper faux wood grain panels with handrail
 - Tree house themed shade roof
 - Pretend play counter
 - Accessible transfer station
- 1 spinner seat toy
- 1 riding horse toy
- 1 seesaw toy

Playground Option 2

OPTION 2



Playground Option 2 includes:

- Natural wood frame swing set with 2 swings
- Natural wood senior play structure (5 to 12 years)
 - Straight slide (6 foot height)
 - Fire pole
 - Ladder climber
 - Rope and log post entrance
 - Sling seats below platform
- Natural wood junior/ senior Log climbing structure (2 to 12 years):
 - “Stilt” balancing posts
 - “Notched” climbing/ balancing log posts
 - “Log jam” balancing logs
 - Climbing net

Playground Option 3

OPTION 3



Playground Option 3 includes:

- Natural wood frame swing set with 2 swings
- Natural wood junior play structure (2 to 5 years)
 - 2 towers connected with bridge
 - 3 foot slide
 - Balancing beam
 - Pretend play steering wheel panel
 - Hut themed shade roof
 - Accessible transfer station
- Natural wood senior play structure (5 to 12 years)
 - Pretend play counter
 - Turning bar
 - Banister bars
 - Climbing wall
 - Straight slide (5 foot height)
 - 3 sided shade roof
 - Accessible transfer station
- Senior net climbing structure (5 to 12 years)
 - Balancing ropes
 - Rope and pole ladder
 - Vertical net
- 1 spinning toy
- 1 bee spring toy
- 1 snail spring toy

Playground Option 4

OPTION 4



Playground Option 4 includes:

- Tree themed steel Swing set with 2 swings
- Steel Frame Senior play structure (5 to 12 years)
 - Spiral slide (6 foot height)
 - Curved slide (5 foot height)
 - Faux rock climbing wall
 - Chinning bars
 - Therapeutic rings
 - Fun seat below
 - Climbing timbers
 - Timber themed shade roof
 - Faux Log themed steps
 - Accessible transfer station
- Junior net climbing structure (2 to 5 years)
- Rocking egg seat toy
- Animal race panel toy
- 2 leaf stepping toys

Water Play

There are three water play area design options to choose from. All three designs:

- Are accessible. This means people of different abilities can play and have fun at the new water play area.
- Have about the same number of play features like water jets, dumping buckets, etc.
- Cost about the same amount.
- Include concrete surfacing under the water play area. (note that rubber surfacing will not be used in the water play area because it is more slippery when wet)

Water Play Option 1

OPTION 1



Water Play design option 1 includes:

- Bamboo flower waterfall
- Post with side spray
- 3 water-arch spray jets
- 2 vertical jet sprays
- 1 button on a small stand that users can press to turn the water features on

Water Play Option 2

OPTION 2



Water Play design option 2 includes:

- Walk through loop
- Dumping bucket
- Aqua sphere
- 6 water-arch spray jets
- 1 button on a small stand that users can press to turn the water features on

Water Play Option 3

OPTION 3



Water Play design option 3 includes:

- Sea turtle with buckets
- Daisy post
- 4 water-arch spray jets
- 4 vertical jet sprays
- 1 button on a small stand that users can press to turn the water features on

Park Improvement Plan

The Park Improvement Plan is used to guide future park improvements. This plan is not currently funded, but helps plan for what park improvements will take place as funding becomes available.

The Improvement Plan will not include the removal or relocation of any existing recreational spaces.

The design for Park Improvement Plan will include upgrades to improve accessibility within the park by building paved connections to new and existing amenities that are:

- Firm with a level surface,
- Wide enough to allow individuals to pass one another, and
- Include seating and rest areas along the route.

The two images below showcase the proposed park improvement plan. Each of the features labeled in the images are described in the text that follows.



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



The proposed Park Improvement Plan includes:

1. **Flexible Play Lawn:** natural turf open field intended for drop-in games, picnicking or fitness.
2. **Covered Dug Out:** small shade structure intended to provide shelter for spectators adjacent to the existing senior soccer field.
3. **Backstop Fence:** new fence intended to prevent balls from the existing senior soccer field traveling outside the limits of the play area.
4. **Buffer Planting:** coniferous tree planting to buffer between proposed amenities and neighboring residential properties.
5. **Outdoor Fitness Equipment:** exercise equipment stations located around a paved exercise loop trail.
6. **Exercise Loop with Pavement Marking:** circuit pathway with painted lanes and indication of distance intended for walking, running, scooter or learn to bike.
7. **Shade Structure with Ping Pong Terrace:** small concrete paved gathering area set amongst new tree planting. Paved terrace with ping pong table and steel frame pavilion to shade for picnic table seating.
8. **Informal Seating Area Under Tree Shade:** small gathering area with stone block seating under the shade of new tree planting.