

Playground Equipment Design

- Children gravitate to a variety of play spaces and it is recommended that East Hants diversify their playgrounds to represent many different forms and shapes.
- A good playground challenges and promotes children's growth by providing opportunities for children to engage in multiple different types of play.
- Working with nature, and the surrounding landscape, and creating a sense of place is integral to producing a playground that fits with the community, is memorable, and keeps kids wanting to visit over and over.
- A good sense of place speaks to East Hants' culture and community spirit.
- A playground may represent our strong agricultural industry, ship building history, or Mi'kmaw peoples.
- Community engagement, and engagement of professional playground designers can provide alternative points of view on the design of playgrounds.
- It is recommended that as new playgrounds are proposed consideration be given to designing a playground that is unique and speaks to the culture of East Hants.



Playground Development Accessibility

- All East Hants children have the right to play.
- To support that right to play, East Hants is committed to creating accessible playgrounds and play opportunities for children with disabilities.
- Creating accessible playgrounds will allow all children to play, socialize and interact.
- Playgrounds provide a critical thread through our communities. These play spaces are often neighbourhood gathering places, bringing children, parents, and neighbours together.
- **Accessible East Hants** has identified the following Actions, as part of Council's accessibility plan:
 - Continue to build accessible playgrounds and walkways.
 - Construction of a fully accessible playground in the municipality within the next 10 years.
- A **Guide to Creating Accessible Play Spaces**, from the Rick Hansen Foundation has been used as a supporting document for the **East Hants Playground Development Strategy**.



Splash Pads and Spray Features

- Splash pads and spray features can offer affordable water play opportunities.
- As with playgrounds, they offer unstructured and spontaneous play and are an ideal way to activate public spaces.
- They offer opportunities to cool off on warm days and during extreme heat events.
- Splash pads are designed to engage children and youth and often have self activated features.
- Spray features are designed to engage all age groups.
- Both types of water features offer opportunities to cool down and have fun.



Splash Pads and Spray Features

- East Hants maintains one splash pad located in the community of Elmsdale, with a second splash pad located in North Noel at Findley Park and operated by the Hants North Recreation and Development Association.
- Deciding how to determine appropriate locations for splash pads and spray features throughout East Hants is difficult. The nature of the Municipality means that there are three distinct regions – the Corridor; Mount Uniacke and Rawdon Region; and the Shore and Central Region.
- Only the Corridor has Municipal water services and water capacity should be considered prior to the development of any new splash pads or spray features.
- Due to the regional nature of East Hants, the Municipality should aim for a minimum of one splash pad per each region.
- Additionally, the Corridor Region, due to its population size, should develop additional splash pads or spray features to accommodate the increased population and density. Spray features may be incorporated into new development where possible.