



EAST HANTS PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
DECEMBER 2021



EAST HANTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: Play	2
Playground Development Standards	3
South Corridor & Commercial GMA	4
Large Lot Subdivisions - Corridor	5
Milford & Shubenacadie GMA	6
Mount Uniacke & Lakelands Area	6
Rural Areas	7
Playground Equipment Design	8
Demographics & Maps	9
Playground Development Accessibility	23
Splash Pads & Spray Features	24
Municipal Playground Asset Management	25
Final Recommendations	34
References	36



PLAY

All play, particularly outdoor play, is important for a child's development. In fact, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, play has been identified as a right of all children. As children are expected to achieve more and more, they have less free time for play, for this reason the right to play has been protected.

Although outdoor play can occur anywhere, East Hants Council wants to ensure that the children of our Municipality have access to outdoor spaces where groups of children can come together through play and develop motor skills, take risks and push their limits, interact with each other, and learn social norms in an environment that is safe and close to home. As part of that commitment, East Hants Council has adopted the **East Hants Playground Development Strategy** to ensure there is a plan that will allow greater playground access for as many East Hants children as possible.

Part of this strategy includes the identification of all playgrounds located in East Hants, their neighbourhood

demographics, asset management for East Hants owned playgrounds, and future playground development locations and accessibility.

The Playground Development Strategy will also consider splash pads and spray features and will identify future site locations for these amenities.

It is the goal of East Hants Council to develop new playgrounds, and restore older playgrounds, providing the opportunity for engaging and energetic play and creating playgrounds that are inclusive to all children.

The **East Hants Playground Development Strategy** provides the Municipality with a road map on how to achieve Council's goal. New playground and splash pad development will comply with the guidelines set forth in this strategy. This strategy is meant to be a living document and the guidelines in the strategy will be updated as best practices regarding playground and splash pad development evolve.

INTRODUCTION

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

There is no hard and fast rule for the development of playgrounds. As a result, research has been conducted for this strategy on playground development, to assist in creating a set of standards for the placement of Municipally owned playgrounds throughout East Hants.

Playground Catchment Areas

The **East Hants Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan** defines neighbourhood parks as having a small localized service area and a catchment area of 600 m radius. Based on the current population and density of the Municipality, the **Playground Development Strategy** recommends using the same approach to determine the number of required playgrounds in serviced areas. A 600 m distance is equivalent to an approximate 9-minute walk at a relaxed pace. Other Municipalities throughout Canada use different measurements. For the purpose of this strategy, the standard of a 600 m radius catchment area will be used.

An alternative method of calculation, which could be considered in the future if there is a significant increase to the population and density of East Hants

residents, is from the US National Recreation Standards. According to the US National Recreation Standards for Small Cities there should be 5,058 m² (1.25 acres) of playground area (active play areas) per 1,000 people. This would mean that based on the population of the South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area, which has a current population of approximately 7,374 people, there should be a minimum of seven playgrounds. Using this method of calculation may benefit future residents living in the Corridor as the density and population of the Corridor increases. Council may want to consider this method of calculation in future reviews of the **Playground Development Strategy**.

The **East Hants Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan** defines district and destination parks as municipal wide parks, servicing a population beyond the standard walking distance. East Hants has a limited number of these parks in this category but the direction of the **Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan** encourages their development in strategic locations throughout the

Municipality. As part of the development of new destination and district parks, playgrounds should be integrated into their design where appropriate.

Playground Road Access

Another important consideration in the development of neighbourhood playgrounds is to consider how the playground is accessed. Playground development should only take place on roads that are publicly owned and maintained. Private road developments limit who has access to an area. Private roads, and right-of-way easements, only service the residents living on them and are not constructed to a public road standard. In addition, the general public do not have permission to access private roads. Therefore, playgrounds should only be constructed where they can be accessed by a public road. Allowances may be made for unique circumstances where there is a significant benefit for Municipality.

Current & Future Playground Identification

In order to determine where future playground development in East Hants should occur, the current playground

assets need to be understood and the **Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan** shall be considered. The playground identification maps on the following pages, identify the location of playgrounds in the Municipality.

A table has been developed of each playground, indicating the number of approximate children within the 600 m radius of the playground, the number of households and the household average income. Data was not available for three of the rural playgrounds due to the low density of the surrounding population and lack of statistical information available.

Statistical information is important in the determination of playground location and in considering the number of children and households in the surrounding area. Playgrounds should be located where there is a high population of children and/or households. Household income matters in ensuring that there are no economic disparities in the locating of recreational amenities. Researchers have identified strong links among socioeconomic disparities,

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

1. Private road means a road, street or thoroughfare (not being a public road) in private ownership and used for vehicular traffic between two or more parcels of land.

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS CONTINUED

physical inactivity, and poor health.¹

The playground identification maps show playgrounds that are not only owned by the Municipality but also playgrounds that are owned by the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre for Education and by community groups. As illustrated on the maps, there are playground service area gaps in our communities, which will be explored further in this section.

Providing a playground every 600 m for the rural parts of East Hants is not feasible. There is not adequate density and population to support such an approach. Instead, a simpler approach is to use the 600 m radius rule where Municipal services are available and the playground can be supported by the surrounding community. In other parts of the Municipality, the approach to playground development should be to locate playgrounds in traditional settlements and in combination with tourism assets or as part of community-based assets.

Tourism assets may not have a high density of children in the surrounding area but the tourism destination acts

as a destination attraction, bringing in families throughout Nova Scotia and beyond.

By locating playgrounds at tourism destinations, and on Municipally owned community based assets, both the community and the attraction benefit from the improvement in park amenities.

Playground Development Location Guidelines

Council has adopted the **East Hants Playground Development Strategy**. The Strategy identifies how playgrounds are established and provides parameters for their future development.

- a. Where Municipal services are provided, a 600 m radius catchment area shall be used for the locating of Municipal playgrounds.
- b. The number of children, households and average household income shall be tabulated for the 600 m radius catchment area, and shall be taken into consideration when determining the location of a new playground.
- c. The minimum area of land for a playground shall be 4,050 m².

- d. Playgrounds should be integrated into the design of new destination and district parks.
- e. Where Municipal services are not provided, Council shall take into consideration traditional community centres and areas of higher density when identifying the location of a new Municipal playground.
- f. Municipal playgrounds shall be located at Municipal tourism sites and/or on existing community-based Municipally owned assets where appropriate.
- g. Municipal playgrounds shall be located with frontage on a publicly owned road.

Future Playground Development
Taking into consideration the playground development guidelines and the **Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan**, a list of possible future playground locations has been identified and mapped.

Map 1: South Corridor & Commercial Growth Management Area

The East Hants **Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan** identifies the location of future playgrounds under Part 7.3.2 Corridor Proposed Parks. Since the Master Plan was initially adopted, a number of the land parcels identified have been acquired or are in the process of being acquired. Remaining park land locations still to be acquired include:

- 1. **Grand Lake** – lake access for regional park (includes playground)
- 2. **Bakery Lane** – concurrent with future subdivision development
- 3. **Kali Lane** – concurrent with future subdivision development
- 4. **Mariah Drive** – concurrent with future subdivision development

Further to the park areas identified in the Master Plan, one additional location for a Municipal playground has been identified in the southern end of Enfield, where there is currently a shortfall of playground facilities. The property is identified as PID 45395951, Megan Lynn Drive, Enfield, and is owned by the Municipality. In accordance with the demographics for the 600 m catchment area, PID 45395951, Megan Lynn Drive

1. McKenzie, Moody, Carlson, Lopez, and Elder, 2013 “Neighborhood Income Matters: Disparities in Community Recreation Facilities, Amenities, and Programs”, J Park Recreat Admi. 2013 Winter; 31(4): 12-22..
2. **Growth Management Area** means an area of land delineated for the purpose of containing urban development in the areas where water and waste water services are available, or may be in the future, and to optimize the density of development for maximum efficiency in providing services and infrastructure.

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS CONTINUED

is recommended as the primary area for locating a new Municipal playground to support current community needs. Depending on future development trends, there may be a possibility of acquiring additional land in the southern portion of Enfield for future playground development, which may better suit the current development pattern in Enfield.

Although Elmsdale and Lantz also appear to have a shortfall of playgrounds at this time, there are playgrounds planned for both the Armco Capital Inc. lands and The Shaw Group Limited lands. **Map 2: Future Development Lantz & Elmsdale**, shows the future development of these lands and their playground development areas. In addition to the two approved comprehensive development plans, negotiations are currently underway with FH Development Group Inc. for a comprehensive development that will include a neighbourhood playground in Elmsdale. With the addition of these three playgrounds, the Municipality will near its goal of having a playground located within 600 m radius of every home in the South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area.

As the South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area continues to develop there will be opportunities for further refinement of the **Playground Development Strategy**, and new possible playground locations.

Map 3: Comprehensive Current and Future Playground Map - South Corridor and Commercial GMA

Map 3 illustrates the locations of current and identified future playground locations in the South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area. Including playgrounds that are proposed as part of comprehensive development proposals.

Map 4: Large Lot Subdivision Playgrounds - Corridor

Other than Royal Oaks, many of the large lot subdivision developments in East Hants do not have playground access within their neighbourhood boundaries. Historically, much of the land provided to the Municipality as part of open space agreements for these neighbourhoods has been poor quality and not suitable



for playground development. In addition, there has not been the community interest in developing playgrounds in these neighbourhoods, as there has been from other parts of our community. This can be attributed to many home owners having large lots and the

financial means available to construct play structures for their children. If one of these neighbourhoods did show interest in developing open space lands the Municipality would complete a needs assessment and work with the community, based on the results of the

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS CONTINUED

needs assessment.

As current large lot subdivisions expand, or as new ones develop, it is recommended that open space is acquired to support future playground construction.

Map 5: Milford Growth Management Area & Shubenacadie Growth Management Area

There is one playground located in the Milford Growth Management Area, which is run by the Milford Recreation Association. Although, the playground is not Municipally owned, the Milford Recreation Association does receive grants from the Municipality to assist in the upkeep of the entire park.

A second playground in Milford may be considered in the future at Wickwire Station Park, when the park attendance numbers support the development of a playground at this destination park.

Currently, there is one playground located in Shubenacadie, at the Shubenacadie District Elementary School. This playground services nearly

half of the Shubenacadie Growth Management Area. A second playground is required to service the northern part of Shubenacadie. The Shubenacadie River Park property has been identified as a potential future playground development site, if the site is changed to Municipal ownership. Work is currently underway by the Municipality to develop a master park plan for the lands. If the Shubenacadie River Park is acquired by East Hants, a playground with accessible features has been identified as a future park element that may be constructed as part of Phase 1 of the Shubenacadie River Park Redevelopment Plan.

Map 6: Mount Uniacke Current and Future Playgrounds

The Parks, Open Space and Active Transportation Master Plan identifies Municipally owned water lots for future destination or district park development. If one of these lots were to be developed, the addition of a playground to the park is recommended. As identified previously, development of parks or playgrounds on private roads is not recommended.

Further to this, the Mount Uniacke and the Lakelands area is a growing region of East Hants. Although the area is not serviced, it has the potential of becoming a future serviced area¹. In recognition of this, playground development in Mount Uniacke and Lakelands shall be carefully considered in order to ensure there are no lost opportunities to develop future playgrounds in a part of the Municipality that may increase in density. Therefore, as land is developed in the Mount Uniacke and Lakelands area, land should be acquired for future playground development in areas where the provisions of Part 13 Open Space of the Subdivision Bylaw are triggered.

Lakelands has been identified as an area that may require a Municipal playground as the community develops. Currently, much of the development that has occurred in Lakelands has been located on private roads, which is not recommended for playground development. Therefore, when future subdivision proposals are submitted, additional consideration shall be given to the locating of a playground that would service the larger community. Land, to date, has not been identified for future

playground use in Lakelands.

Two potential locations have been identified for a future playground in the Mount Uniacke area.

- 1. Villages of Long Lake - Under the terms of the development agreement, which permitted the development of the Villages of Long Lake, land has been identified for open space purposes to allow for lake access to Long Lake. Although the land is not yet in Municipal ownership, once the land is acquired a playground should be developed on the property to service the 401 potential dwellings that are permitted under the terms of the existing development agreement.
- 2. Moonlight Drive - A tentative plan of subdivision has been submitted for Moonlight Drive, which is part of the Townsend Lynch Country Estates subdivision. A new 1.5 hectare park is proposed as part of the development.

1. Policy GM17 of the East Hants Official Community Plan indicates that Council shall consider the provision of Municipal water and wastewater infrastructure only when the development density within the Mount Uniacke Growth Management Area dictates the need and it is in the financial capabilities of the Municipality to do so. A feasibility study shall be conducted by a qualified professional to determine the financial and environmental impacts of installing Municipal services when Council determines that Municipal water and wastewater infrastructure should be considered and evaluated for the Mount Uniacke Growth Management Area.

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS CONTINUED

Map 7: Rural Playground Development

Traditional community centres shall be another determination of playground location. Currently, three traditional community centres are serviced through their elementary schools.

- 1. **Rawdon** – Rawdon District Elementary School
- 2. **Kennetcook** – Kennetcook District Elementary School
- 3. **Noel** – Cobequid District Elementary School

Both Walton and Maitland have lost their elementary schools due to population decline, which means they no longer have access to playgrounds at the school locations. Therefore, a new municipal playground is recommended to be located in both communities. There is an opportunity at the Maitland location to combine the playground location with the tourism attraction, Dawson Dowell Park. In Walton, it is recommended that a new playground be located on the Walton Fire Hall lands or have the Municipality purchase an alternative site.



Future Playground Development Location Guidelines

Council shall consider the following locations for future playground development:

- a. In accordance the **Parks, Open Space, and Active Transportation Master Plan** the following areas shall be considered for future playground development:
 - i. **Grand Lake** – lake access for regional park (includes playground)
 - ii. **Bakery Lane** – concurrent with future subdivision development
 - iii. **Kali Lane** – concurrent with future subdivision development
 - iv. **Mariah Drive** – concurrent with future subdivision development
- b. To fill the playground service gap in Enfield, the property identified as PID 45395951, Megan Lynn Drive, Enfield, shall be considered for future playground development.
- c. As large lot subdivisions expand, or new large lot subdivisions develop, open space lands shall be acquired for future playground development.
- d. A playground shall be considered at Wickwire Station Park when park attendance warrants its construction.
- e. If the Shubenacadie River Park lands are acquired by East Hants, an accessible playground shall be located on the property as part of the redevelopment plan.
- f. If a destination or district beach park is developed In the Mount Uniacke and/or Lakelands area a playground shall be developed in conjunction with the beach park.
- g. Parks, Recreation and Culture staff shall strategically acquire open space lands in Mount Uniacke and Lakelands area for future playground development as these communities continue to grow.
- h. Lands identified for future playground development in rural areas of East Hants shall include:
 - i. Dawson Dowell Park, Maitland.
 - ii. Walton Fire Hall (or alternative land owned or acquired by East Hants).

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

1. Moreno, Elizabeth, copyright 2021 “10 Principles of Playground Design”, Playground Ideas, <https://playgroundideas.org/10-principles-of-playground-design/>

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS CONTINUED

Playground Equipment Design

To date East Hants has invested in CSA approved playground equipment, with a play structure containing a slide, monkey bars and swing set or combination of similar components.

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. Playgrounds can look like a

sculpture, a secret forest, or a traditional playground. A good playground challenges and promotes children’s growth by providing opportunities for children to engage in multiple different types of play¹. Community engagement, and engagement of professional playground designers and Landscape Architects, can provide alternative points of view on the design of playgrounds. Their input may lead to new and creative places for East Hants children to play.



Beaverbrook Park playground replacement, Halifax
Plane play structure a nod to the Stanfield International Airport

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. Playgrounds that represent the culture of East Hants will better represent our communities compared to traditional playground designs. 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 Equipment Guidelines

Council shall consider the following when selecting a design for a new playground or when replacing an existing playground:

- a. Playground design shall create a sense of place.
- b. Playground design shall speak to the culture of East Hants or of the

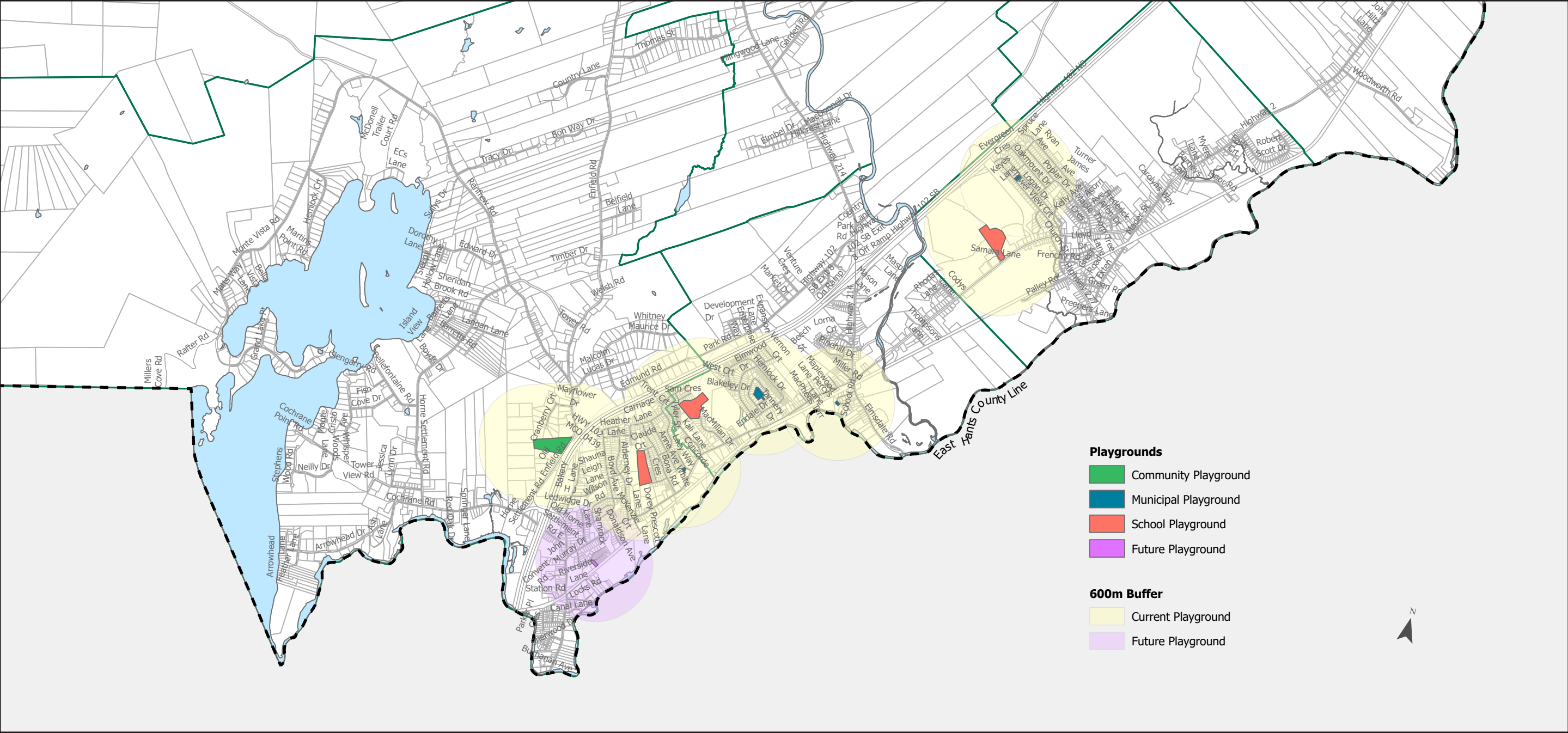
community in which the playground is located.

- c. Engagement should be considered in the design or replacement of new playgrounds. Engagement should include community and professional engagement.

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

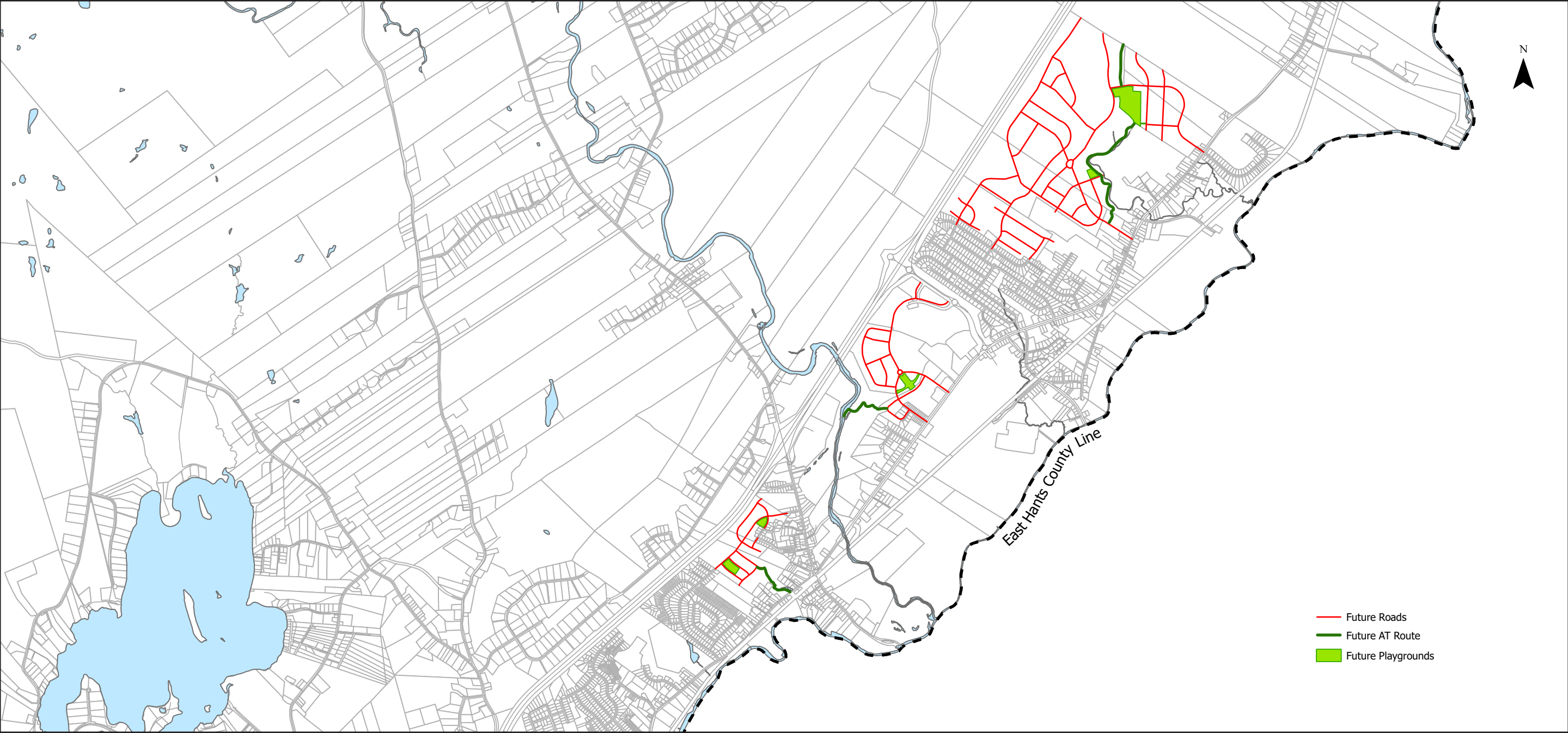
1. Moreno, Elizabeth, copyright 2021 “10 Principles of Playground Design”, Playground Ideas, <https://playgroundideas.org/10-principles-of-playground-design/>

MAP 1: SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREA CURRENT & FUTURE PLAYGROUNDS



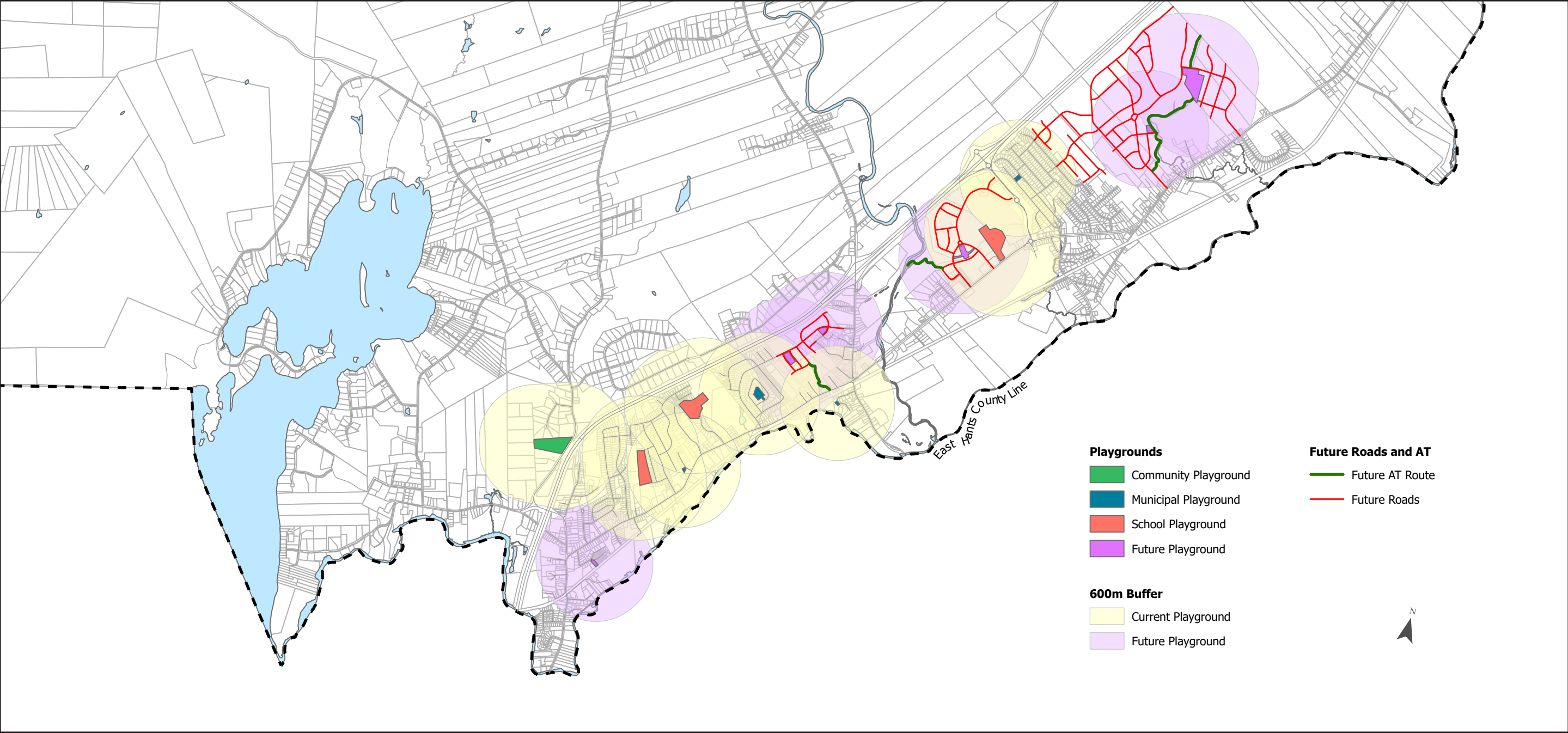
SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREA PLAYGROUNDS

MAP 2: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT LANTZ & ELMSDALE



SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GROWTH
MANAGEMENT AREA PLAYGROUNDS

MAP 3: COMPREHENSIVE CURRENT AND FUTURE PLAYGROUND MAP - SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GMA

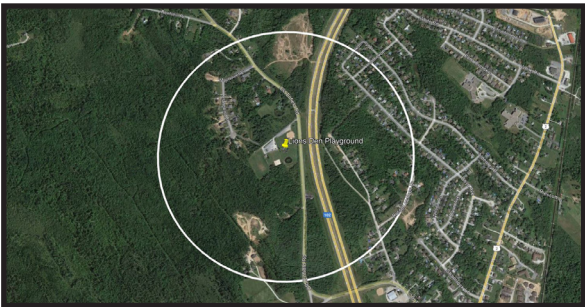


SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GROWTH
MANAGEMENT AREA PLAYGROUNDS

CURRENT PLAYGROUND INVENTORY

LIONS DEN PLAYGROUND*

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	189
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	103
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$112,621



ENFIELD DISTRICT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	607
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	353
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$99,772



CONCORDE WAY PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	309
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	193
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$101,390



ELMSDALE DISTRICT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	419
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	257
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$102,545



*DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.

* The Lions Den Playground has been included with the South Corridor and Commercial Area playgrounds due to its close proximity to the area. In addition over half of the homes located within the 600 m radius are located in the Growth Management Area.

Disclaimer: the geospatial data referenced in this report were derived from external sources and are subject to change at any time. Statistical/demographic data in particular are subject to a margin of error which increases as the data are further manipulated, projected, and/or estimated by the third parties. The Municipality of East Hants is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of the information derived from external sources.

LOGAN DR. PARK PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	219
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	116
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$110,651



MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	29
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	68
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$103,770



ELMSDALE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	180
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	102
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$109,193



ELMWOOD PARK PLAYGROUND

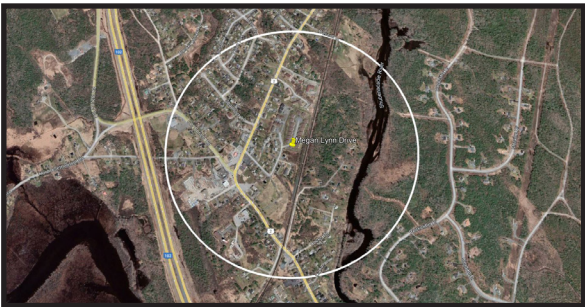
DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	336
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	213
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$108,545



SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREA PLAYGROUNDS

FUTURE PLAYGROUND LOCATIONS

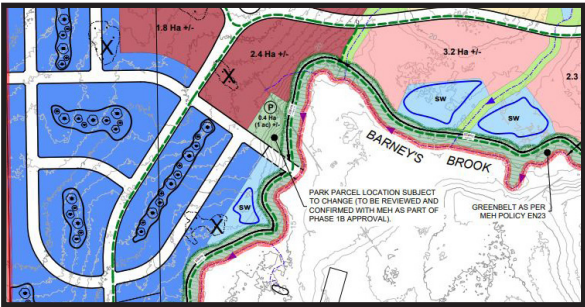
MEGAN LYNN DRIVE
DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS: 209
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14: 104
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME: \$78,600



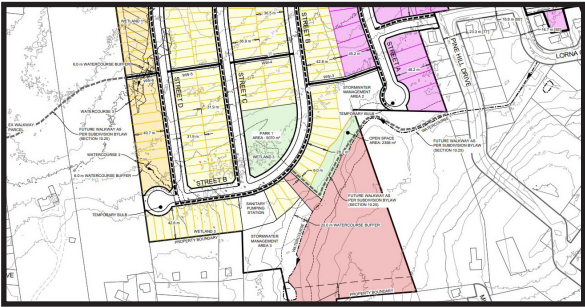
KILN CREEK
UNDER DEVELOPMENT
MAX. HOUSEHOLDS 1,500
EST. POPULATION 3,750



ARMCO CAPITAL INC. LANDS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT
MAX. HOUSEHOLDS 2,205
EST. POPULATION 5,500



FH DEVELOPMENTS INC. LANDS
APPLICATION UNDER CONSIDERATION
MAX. HOUSEHOLDS 660
EST. POPULATION 1,650



*DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.

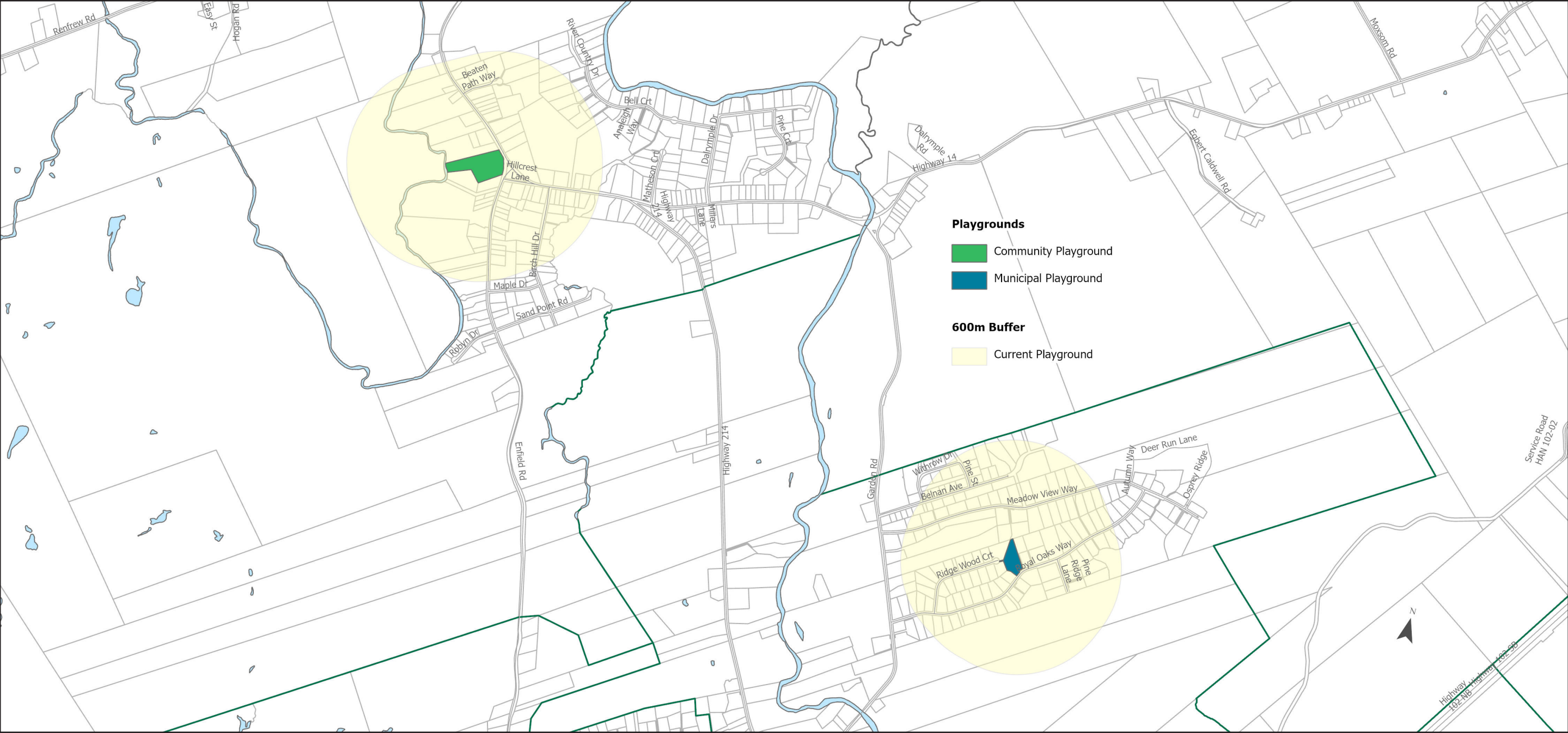


Accessible Playground Rendering from PlayPower Canada

Disclaimer: the geospatial data referenced in this report were derived from external sources and are subject to change at any time. Statistical/demographic data in particular are subject to a margin of error which increases as the data are further manipulated, projected, and/or estimated by the third parties. The Municipality of East Hants is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of the information derived from external sources.

SOUTH CORRIDOR & COMMERCIAL GROWTH
MANAGEMENT AREA PLAYGROUNDS

MAP 4: LARGE LOT SUBDIVISION PLAYGROUNDS CORRIDOR



UNSERVED CORRIDOR PLAYGROUNDS



CURRENT PLAYGROUND INVENTORY

NINE MILE COMMUNITY HALL PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	61
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	35
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$100,589



ROYAL OAKS NATURAL PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	97
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	84
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$130,603



**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.*

UNSERVED CORRIDOR PLAYGROUNDS

Disclaimer: the geospatial data referenced in this report were derived from external sources and are subject to change at any time. Statistical/demographic data in particular are subject to a margin of error which increases as the data are further manipulated, projected, and/or estimated by the third parties. The Municipality of East Hants is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of the information derived from external sources.

[illegible]

CURRENT PLAYGROUND INVENTORY

MILFORD RECREATION PARK
PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	177
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	123
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$86,985



SHUBENACADIE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	265
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	116
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$86,061



FUTURE PLAYGROUND LOCATIONS

SHUBENACADIE RIVER PARK
PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	264
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	111
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$85,751

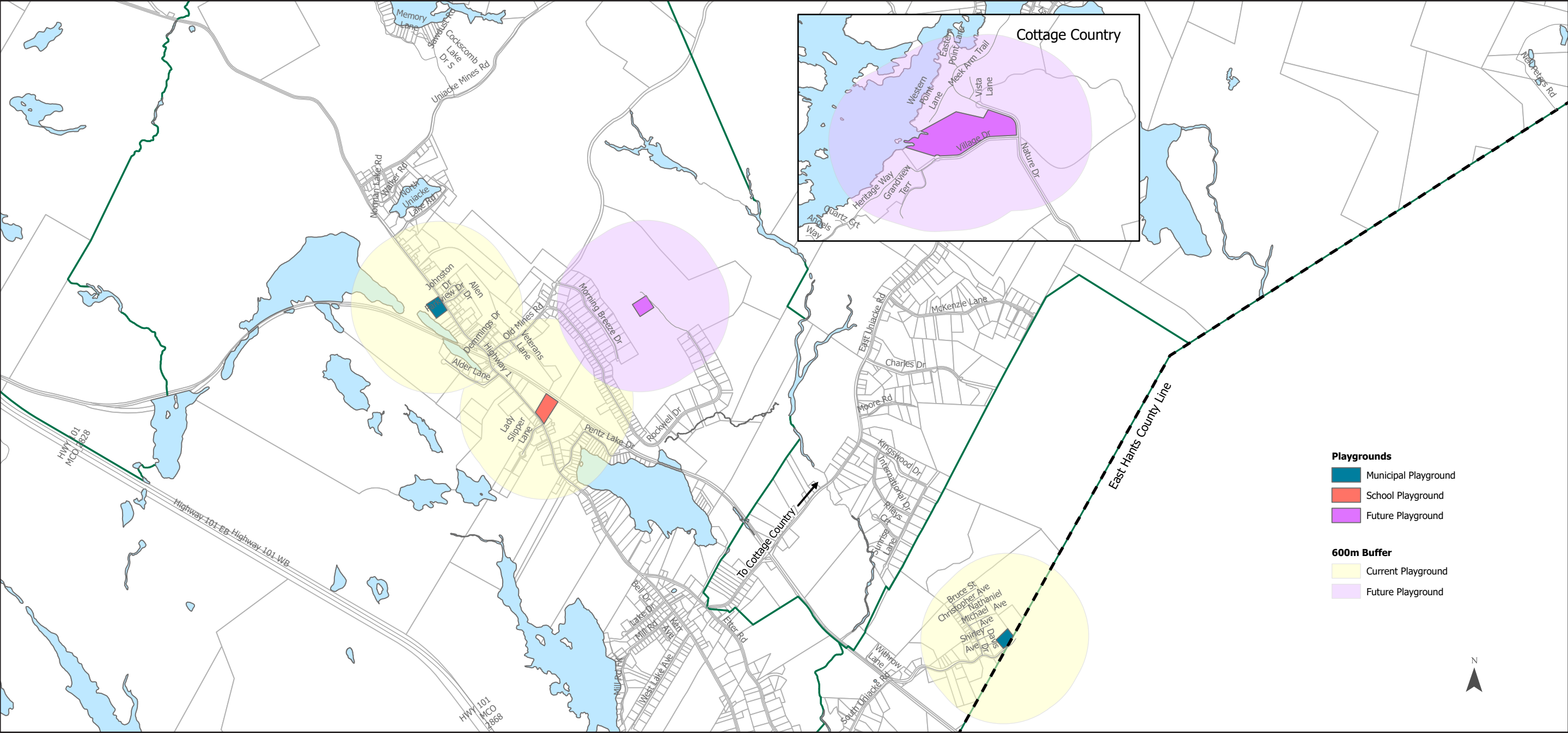


**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.*

Disclaimer: the geospatial data referenced in this report were derived from external sources and are subject to change at any time. Statistical/demographic data in particular are subject to a margin of error which increases as the data are further manipulated, projected, and/or estimated by the third parties. The Municipality of East Hants is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of the information derived from external sources.

MILFORD & SHUBENACADIE GROWTH
MANAGEMENT AREAS PLAYGROUNDS

MAP 6: MOUNT UNIACKE CURRENT & FUTURE PLAYGROUNDS



MOUNT UNIACKE AREA PLAYGROUNDS

CURRENT PLAYGROUND INVENTORY

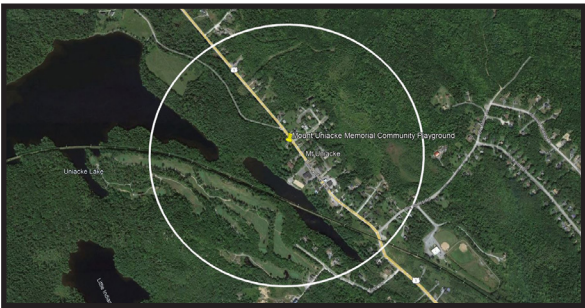
SOUTH UNIACKE PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	267
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	125
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$83,875



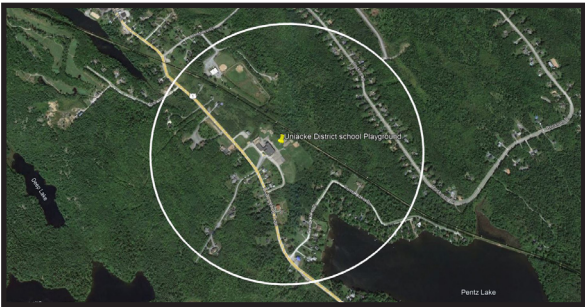
MOUNT UNIACKE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	213
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	49
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$96,540



UNIACKE DISTRICT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	252
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	90
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$95,012



**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.*

FUTURE PLAYGROUND LOCATIONS

CHARLES DRIVE

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	40
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	15
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$74,651



MOONLIGHT DRIVE

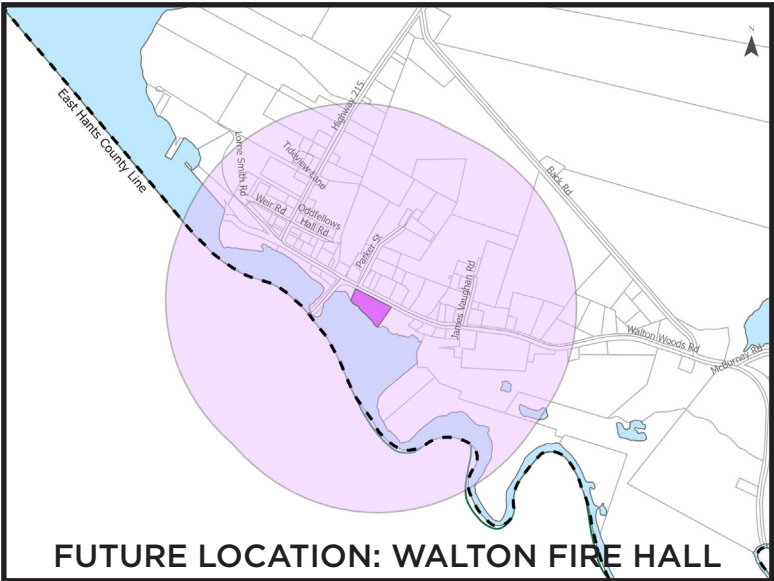
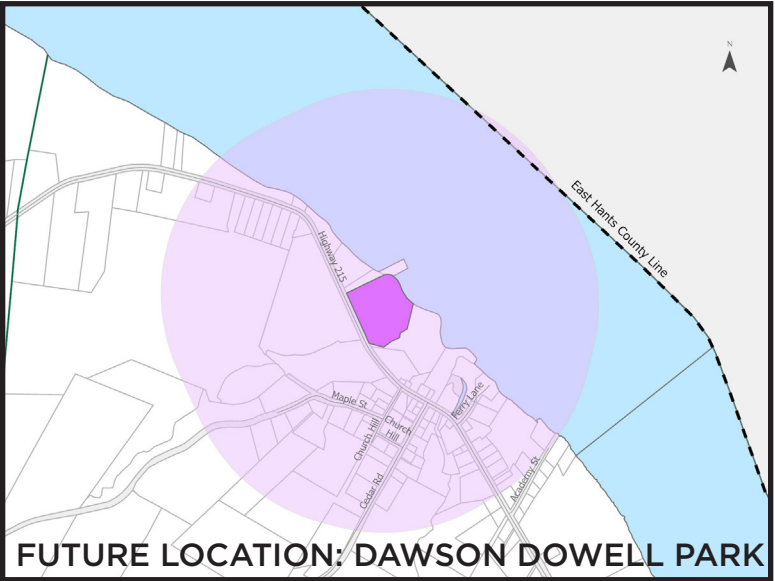
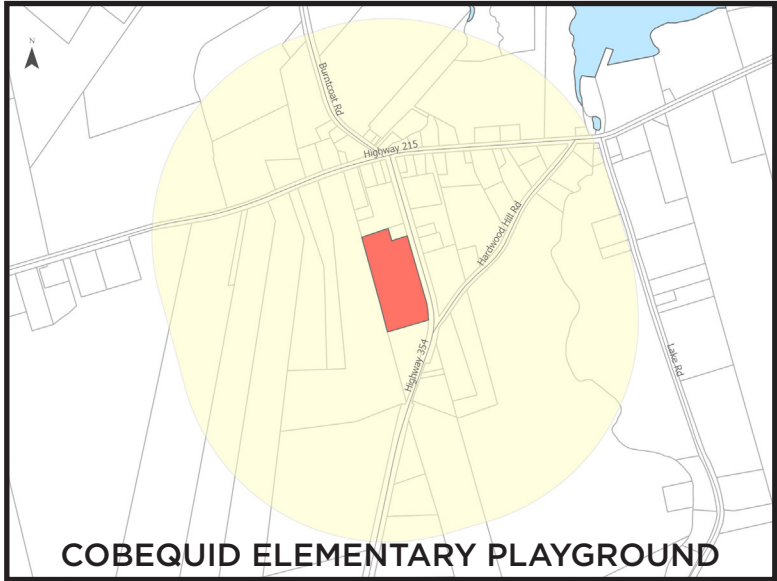
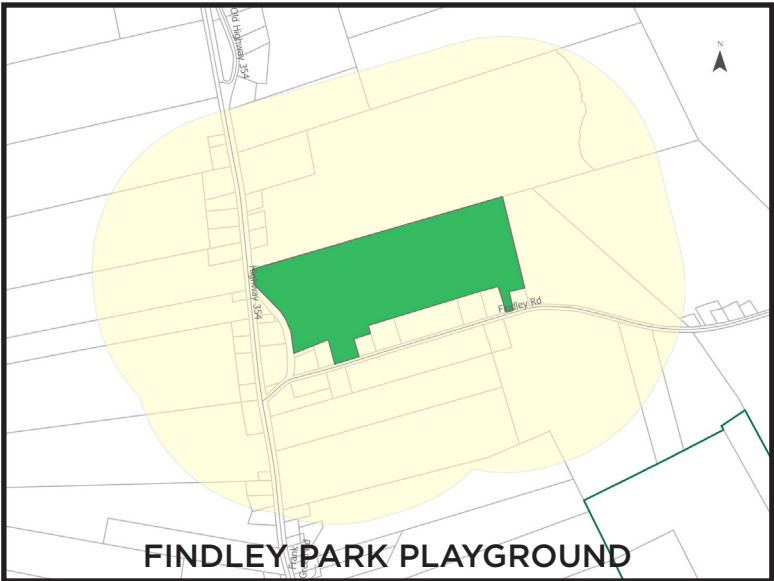
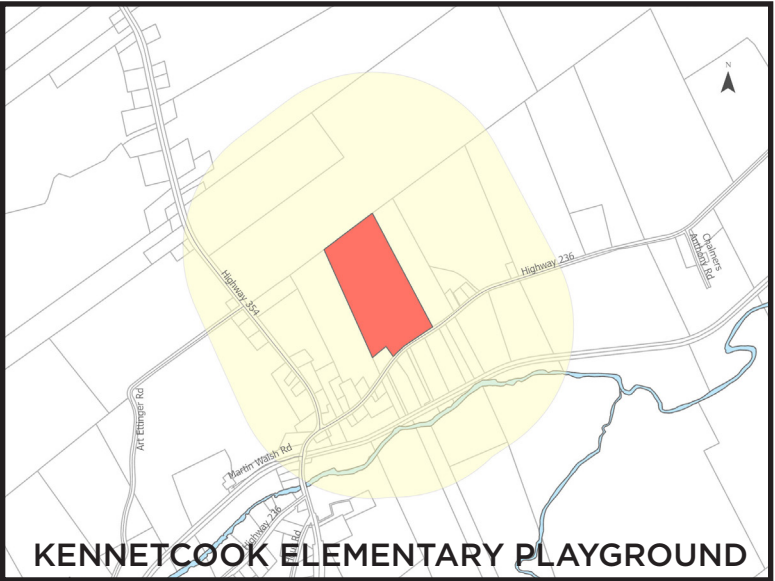
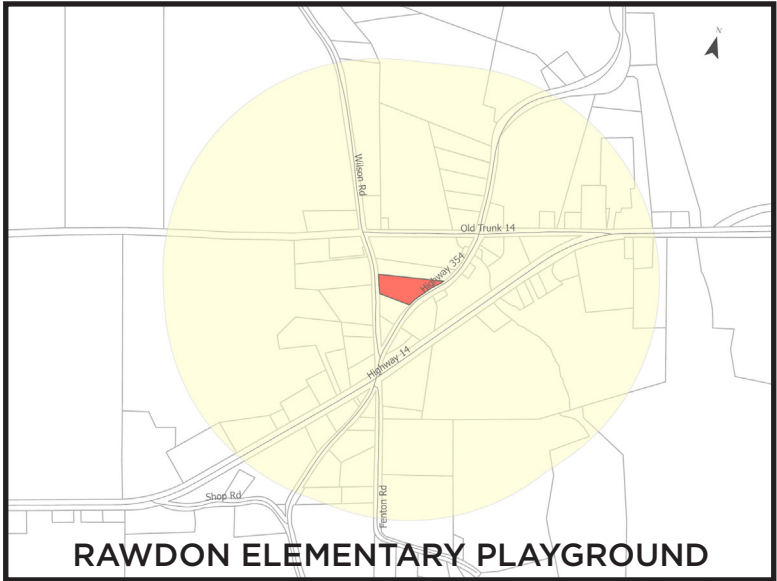
DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	71
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	30
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$87,111
*23 NEW LOTS PROPOSED AS PART OF SUBDIVISION APPLICATION	



Disclaimer: the geospatial data referenced in this report were derived from external sources and are subject to change at any time. Statistical/demographic data in particular are subject to a margin of error which increases as the data are further manipulated, projected, and/or estimated by the third parties. The Municipality of East Hants is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of the information derived from external sources.

MOUNT UNIACKE AREA PLAYGROUNDS

MAP 7: RURAL PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT



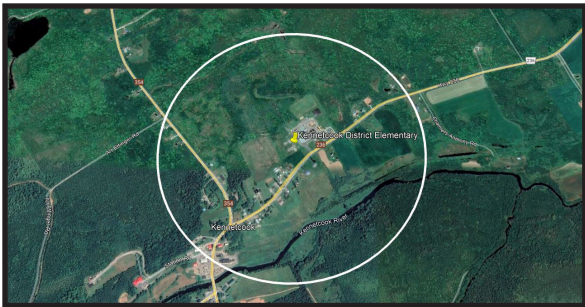
*DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.

RURAL EAST HANTS AREA PLAYGROUNDS

CURRENT PLAYGROUND INVENTORY

KENNETCOOK DISTRICT
ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	103
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	25
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$70,403



COBEQUID DISTRICT SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	NA
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	NA
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	NA



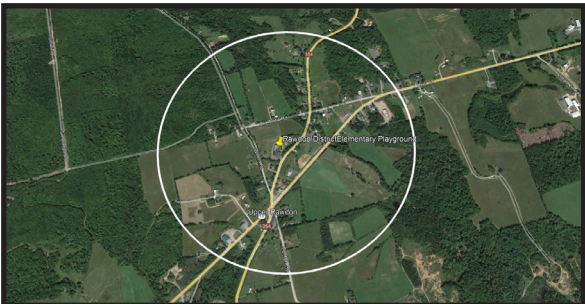
FINDLEY PARK PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	NA
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	NA
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	NA



RAWDON DISTRICT
ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	125
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	40
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$84,329



**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA BASED ON SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATES ONLY.*

FUTURE PLAYGROUND LOCATIONS

DAWSON DOWELL PARK

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	115
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	NA
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$76,255



WALTON FIRE HALL

DEMOGRAPHICS 600 M RADIUS*	
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS:	183
KIDS UNDER THE AGE OF 14:	NA
HOUSEHOLD AVERAGE INCOME:	\$60,407

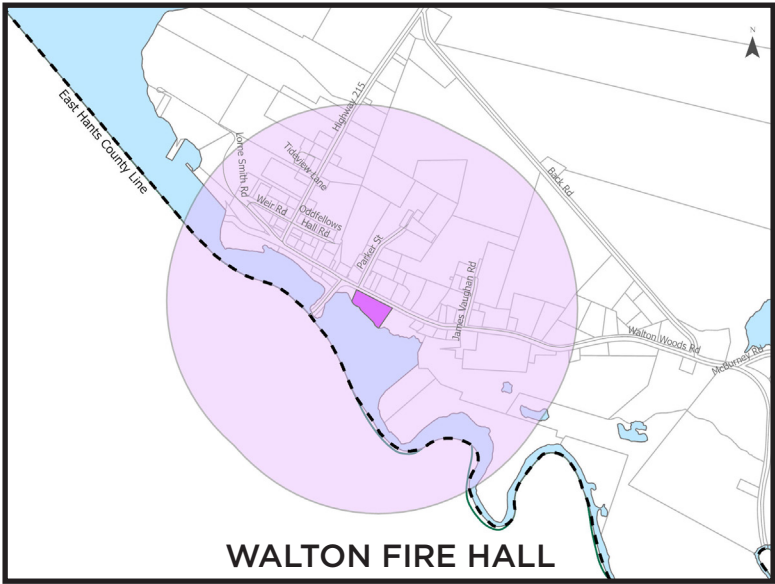
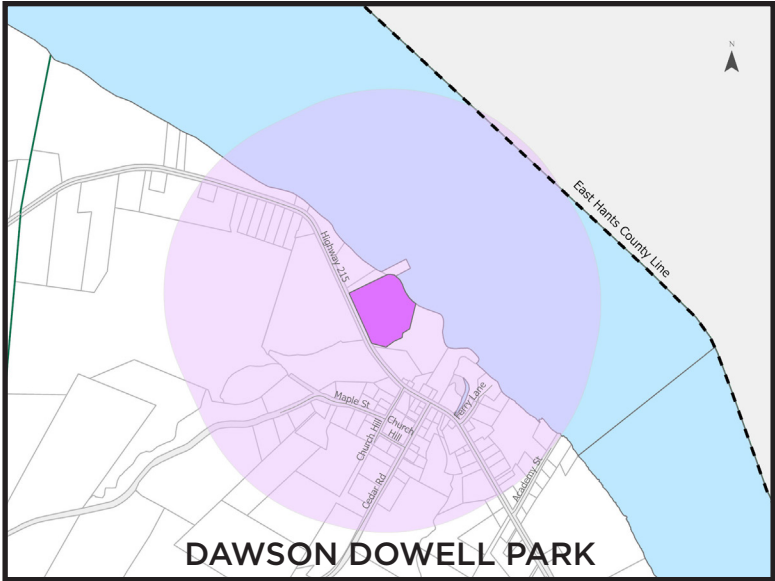
**INCLUDES WEST HANTS*



RURAL EAST HANTS AREA PLAYGROUNDS

Disclaimer: the geospatial data referenced in this report were derived from external sources and are subject to change at any time. Statistical/demographic data in particular are subject to a margin of error which increases as the data are further manipulated, projected, and/or estimated by the third parties. The Municipality of East Hants is not responsible for the accuracy, reliability or timeliness of the information derived from external sources.

MAP 8: RURAL FUTURE PLAYGROUND LOCATIONS*



RURAL EAST HANTS AREA PLAYGROUNDS

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.¹

The Province of Nova Scotia recommends that outdoor play spaces and their paths of travel are accessible.² In addition, **Accessible East Hants** has identified the following Actions, as part of Council’s accessibility plan:

- 1. Continue to build accessible playgrounds and walkways.
- 2. Construction of a fully accessible playground in the municipality within the next 10 years.

As part of East Hants’ commitment to creating accessible outdoor play spaces, existing municipal playgrounds will be reevaluated when their lifecycle is up for

renewal. Revaluation of play equipment will include an accessibility audit and a feasibility analysis to determine if upgrading or replacement of playground equipment and surfaces are required. New playgrounds, and playgrounds that require complete replacement, will be built to allow for accessible play. Based on best practices for the development of accessible playgrounds, the following guidelines are recommended in order to create play spaces that consider a wide range of abilities.

Accessibility Playground Development Guidelines

The Playground Development Strategy shall identify how to create playgrounds that consider a wide range of physical and mental abilities, a wide range of accessible design elements, and a wide range of play experiences:

- a. When selecting a new playground structure, consideration should be given to selecting structures that have been designed for children with different forms of mobility and to equipment that is designed to engage the senses of children. The selection of play structures has to be weighed against the funds available

to complete a project.

- b. Seating spaces with back support and/or grips shall be provided for caregivers that may have mobility issues.
- c. Play equipment and other park amenities shall use strong contrasting colours to help improve safety by making it easier to identify different play spaces and elements for persons with a visual impairment.
- d. Sensory play elements shall be added to the playgrounds to engage children that are not able to enjoy the more challenging parts of the playground structure.
- e. Playground surfacing materials shall be selected keeping in mind different forms of mobility. Surfacing material shall include the following products:
 - i. Pour-in-place rubber surfacing;
 - ii. Rubber tile;
 - iii. Engineered carpet, artificial turf, and crushed rubber products;
 - iv. Engineered wood fibre (cost effective but is not ideal for those using mobility devices or those

with stability issues); and
v. Pea gravel.

- f. Accessible paths of travel shall be provided around the playground and there shall be multiple accessible routes of travel into and out of the play space.
- g. Parking areas shall have at minimum one accessible parking stall and curb cuts to pathways shall be provided.

PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS ACCESSIBILITY

1. Rick Hansen Foundation, 2020 “A Guide to Creating Accessible Play Spaces”.
2. Summary of Advice for the Government of Nova Scotia on Accessibility Standards in the Built Environment: Phase 1, from The Built Environment Standard Development Committee recommendations to the Province of Nova Scotia.

SPLASH PADS & SPRAY FEATURES

Splash pads and spray features offer affordable water play opportunities for the children and families of East Hants. 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. Whereas spray features are designed to engage all age groups by being incorporated as a design element of park landscaping. Spray features operate based on time of day programming and can be in operation in the spring, summer and fall. Splash pads mainly operate during the summer months. Both water features offer opportunities to cool down and have fun.

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 Hants North Recreation and Development Association. Splash pads and spray features are unstaffed park

amenities that spray water from a variety of features.

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 of East Hants. Only the Growth Management Areas (with the exception of Mount Uniacke Growth Management Area) have Municipal water services. The South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area, has the largest population and the greatest density.

Constructing a splash pad or water feature is easier from a construction and repair aspect if they are connected to Municipal services. Otherwise the water feature requires a well and “treatment of gray water”, which adds to the overall cost of the initial project and of the upkeep. Where Municipal water is available, water capacity should be considered prior to the development of any new splash pads or spray features. Splash pads themselves come with a large construction budget. In 2017, the Province of Nova Scotia produced a trend report for splash pads, which

indicated that the cost of building a splash park is around \$250 per sq. ft. As an example, the Town of Berwick constructed a splash park with hard and soft scaping for \$310,000.

Splash Pad & Spray Feature Development Guidelines

Due to the regional nature of East Hants, the Municipality should aim for a minimum of one splash pad per each region. Additionally, the South Corridor and Commercial Growth Management Area, 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.

This Strategy recommends the addition of splash pads or spray features to the following communities:

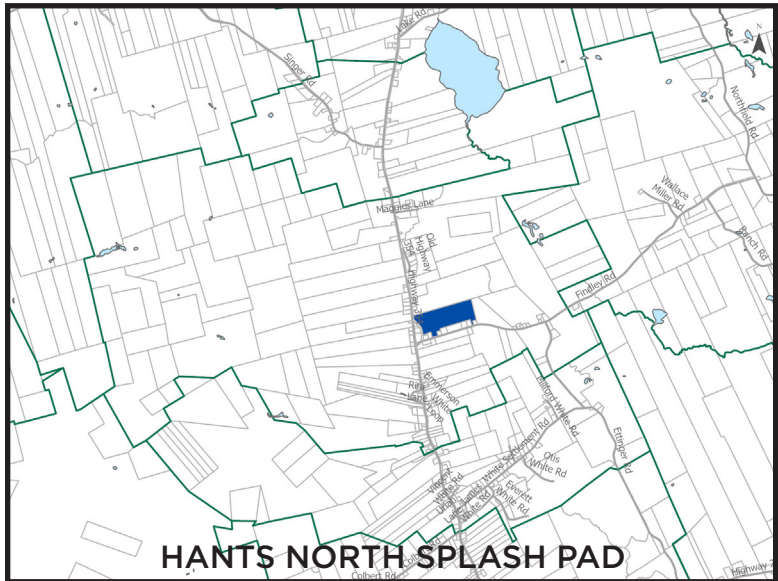
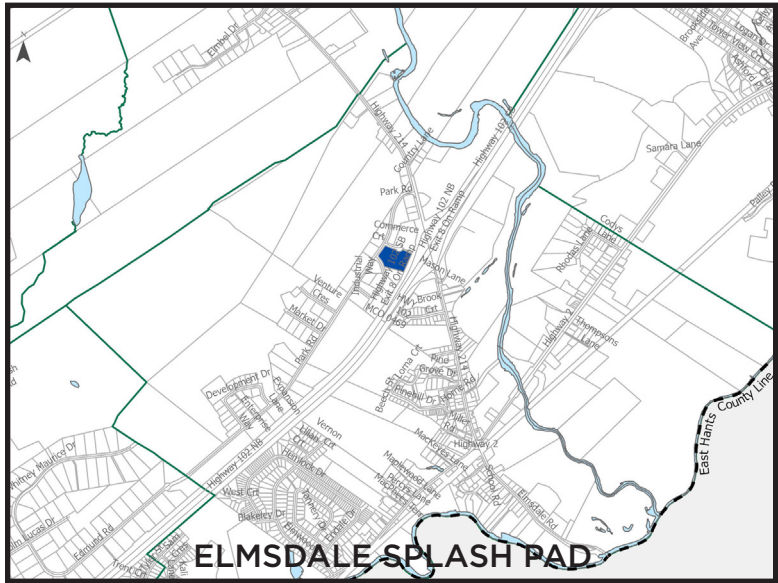
- Mount Uniacke – opportunity for splash pad to be located at the Mount Uniacke Memorial Community Playground or on the Uniacke and District Fire Department lands or additional locations to be consider as determined by a future Mount Uniacke Recreational Needs Study.

- Enfield – Spray feature or splash pad combined with new park and playground.
- Elmsdale – Existing splash pad, opportunity for spray feature as part of park design for FH Developments lands.
- Lantz – spray feature planned for new Armco Capital Inc. development as part of hardscaped plaza.
- Shubenacadie – opportunity for splash pad at the Shubenacadie River Park.
- Municipal water and wastewater capacity shall be considered when developing new splash pads & spray features.



SPLASH PADS & SPRAY FEATURES

MAP 6: SPLASH PAD CURRENT LOCATIONS



SPLASH PADS & SPRAY FEATURES

MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND ASSET MANAGEMENT

Part of the approach in developing a strong network of Municipally owned playgrounds, is to ensure an asset management plan has been created for existing infrastructure. Playground inventory is maintained by the Municipal Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. The asset data has been compiled over the summer of 2021, with most assets being measured and recorded in the field. It is important to note that the park asset inventory represents a snapshot in time and that

park development, park upgrades, and data refinement efforts will influence playground inventory over time.

A rating system has been developed based on Parks, Recreation and Culture staff’s knowledge of the park assets. Each Municipally owned playground has been reviewed, and the results have been provided in chart form from pages 27 to 33.

Condition Description	Identifier
Very Good (VG)	New condition or recently rehabilitated. No defects and little maintenance.
Good (G)	Normal maintenance costs, good overall condition.
Fair (F)	Asset requires some attention. Maintenance costs begin to rise.
Poor (P)	The asset is approaching end of service life; condition is below standard and a large portion of the asset exhibits significant deterioration. Risk of negative impact to service level increases.
Very Poor (VP)	Asset is beyond service life, no longer safe for use, and requires major refurbishment, upgrade, or replacement. Service level may be negatively impacted.

Financial Considerations

As shown by the inspection of Municipal playground equipment and amenities that was conducted by Municipal staff during the summer of 2021, the majority of playground equipment and park amenities are in either good or very good condition. There are a few items that are identified as being in fair condition but none of the items listed as in fair condition are related to the playground structures. As the asset management plan develops, two decisions need to be made:

1. What is the desired condition level?
2. How fast would East Hants like to reach the desired condition level (expenditure level)?

Determining the minimum condition equipment should be in and how fast the desired condition is reached will help to determine the amount of funding required to be budgeted for on a go forward bases.

As East Hants has been in the replacement and building phase of our Municipally owned playgrounds over the

last number of years, the funding for the development of the playgrounds has been coming from the following sources:

1. Capital Reserves.
2. Open space contributions or open space reserves.
3. Gas Tax Fund now known as Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
4. Grants

Playground asset maintenance and replacement are funded through a variety of operating and capital sources. Renewal and maintenance should be prioritized each budget year. As the number and types of Municipal owned playgrounds increase, an area rate may be considered to maintain playground assets to the desired condition level. The current method of funding playground asset maintenance and replacement lacks a predictability. Assets should continue to be inspected and managed to ensure a lack of funding does not result in poor or very poor condition of equipment.

LOGAN DRIVE PARK PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Logan Drive Playground (45238839)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating	1	✓					20 years	\$1000
Garbage Cans	1	✓					15 years	\$1000
Bike Racks	1	✓					20 years	\$1500
Tables	2	✓					20 years	\$13,000
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt		✓						
Concrete								
Crusher Dust								
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel								
Paved		✓						
Roadways								
Gravel								
Paved		✓						
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink – basketball court		✓						\$15,000
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal		✓					25 years/15years	\$80,000/\$40,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre		✓						
Rubber Surfacing								
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel			✓					
Irrigation/Drainage			✓					
Irrigation/Drainage								
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

ROYAL OAKS PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Royal Oaks Playground (45382546)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating	1						20 years	\$1000
Garbage Cans	1						15 year	\$1000
Bike Racks								
Tables	1						20 years	\$6500
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt								
Concrete								
Crusher Dust		✓						
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel		✓						
Paved								
Roadways								
Gravel		✓						
Paved								
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink								
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal		✓					25 years	\$90,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre		✓						
Rubber Surfacing								
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel								
Irrigation/Drainage								
Irrigation/Drainage		✓						
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

SOUTH UNIACKE PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
South Uniacke Playground (45160173)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating	1	✓					20 years	\$1000
Garbage Cans	1	✓					15 years	\$1000
Bike Racks								
Tables	1	✓					20 years	\$6500
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt								
Concrete								
Crusher Dust			✓					
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel			✓					
Paved								
Roadways								
Gravel			✓					
Paved								
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink (basketball court)		✓					25 years	50,000
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal		✓						\$80,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre		✓						
Rubber Surfacing								
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel								
Irrigation/Drainage								
Irrigation/Drainage			✓					
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

CONCORDE WAY PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Concorde Way Playground (45395431)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating	3	✓					20 years	\$3000
Garbage Cans	1	✓					15 years	\$1000
Bike Racks								
Tables	1	✓					20 years	\$6500
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt								
Concrete								
Crusher Dust								
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel								
Paved								
Roadways								
Gravel								
Paved								
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink								
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal		✓					25 years	\$80,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre								
Rubber Surfacing								
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel		✓						
Irrigation/Drainage								
Irrigation/Drainage		✓						
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

ELMWOOD PARK PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Elmwood Subdivision Playground (45224771)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating		✓						
Garbage Cans	1	✓					15 years	\$1000
Bike Racks								
Tables	1	✓					20 years	\$6500
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt								
Concrete								
Crusher Dust								
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel								
Paved								
Roadways								
Gravel		✓						
Paved								
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink								
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal			✓					\$80,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre								
Rubber Surfacing								
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel			✓					
Irrigation/Drainage								
Irrigation/Drainage			✓					
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

ELMSDALE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
School Road Playground (45147881)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating								
Garbage Cans	1	✓					15 years	\$1000
Bike Racks								
Tables	1	✓					20 years	\$6500
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt								
Concrete								
Crusher Dust								
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel			✓					
Paved								
Roadways								
Gravel			✓					
Paved								
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink		✓					15 years	\$10,000
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal		✓					23 year	\$40,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre								
Rubber Surfacing								
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel		✓						
Irrigation/Drainage								
Irrigation/Drainage		✓						
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

MOUNT UNIACKE MEMORIAL COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND



Asset	Quantity	Condition					Life Span	Replacement Value
		Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Highway 1 Playground (45149903)								
Amenities								
Benches & Seating	2	✓					15 years	\$2000
Garbage Cans	1	✓					15years	\$1000
Bike Racks	1	✓					20 years	\$1500
Tables	4	✓					20 Years	\$25,000
Signage								
Pathways								
Asphalt								
Concrete								
Crusher Dust								
Pavers								
Parking Lots								
Gravel		✓						
Paved								
Roadways								
Gravel								
Paved								
Fencing								
Bollards								
Stone								
Chainlink								
Play Structures								
Composite or Metal		✓					25 years	\$110,000
Wood								
Cribbing (wood border around some playgrounds)								
Play Surface								
Engineered Wood Fibre		✓						
Rubber Surfacing		✓						
Rubber Tile								
Artificial Turf								
Pea Gravel								
Irrigation/Drainage								
Irrigation/Drainage		✓						
Water Features								
Splash Pad								
Spray Fountain								

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Final Recommendations

Playground design has a direct impact on the quality of East Hants children’s experiences and the extent to which a playground will be used. This makes it important to ensure Municipal playgrounds are well planned, designed and maintained. **The Playground Development Strategy** provides a framework on how to achieve desirable playgrounds that give all East Hants children a place to play.

Summary of all Recommendations

Council shall establish an **East Hants Playground Development Strategy**. The Strategy shall identify how playgrounds are established and shall provide parameters for their future development.

- a. Where Municipal services are provided, a 600 m radius catchment area shall be used for the locating of Municipal playgrounds.
- b. The number of children, households and medium household income shall be tabulated for the 600 m radius catchment area, and shall be taken into consideration when determining the location of a new playground.

- c. The minimum area of land for a playground shall be 4,050 m².
- d. Playgrounds should be integrated into the design of new destination and district parks.
- e. Where Municipal services are not provided, Council shall take into consideration traditional community centres and areas of higher density when identifying the location of a new Municipal playground.
- f. Municipal playgrounds shall be located at Municipal tourism sites and/or on existing community-based Municipally owned assets where appropriate.
- g. Municipal playgrounds shall be located with frontage on a publicly owned road.

Future Playground Development Location Guidelines

Council shall consider the following locations for future playground development:

- a. In accordance the **Parks, Open Space, and Active Transportation Master Plan** the following areas shall be

considered for future playground development:

- i. **Grand Lake** – lake access for regional park (includes playground)
- ii. **Bakery Lane** – concurrent with future subdivision development
- iii. **Kali Lane** – concurrent with future subdivision development
- iv. **Mariah Drive** – concurrent with future subdivision development

- b. To fill the playground service gap in Enfield, the property identified as PID 45395951, Megan Lynn Drive, Enfield, shall be considered for future playground development.
- c. As large lot subdivisions expand, or new large lot subdivisions develop, open space lands shall be acquired for future playground development.
- d. A playground shall be considered at Wickwire Station Park when park attendance warrants its construction.
- e. If the Shubenacadie River Park lands are acquired by East Hants, an accessible playground shall be located on the property as part of the



redevelopment plan.

- f. If a destination or district beach park is developed In the Mount Uniacke and/or Lakelands area a playground shall be developed in conjunction with the beach park.
- g. Parks, Recreation and Culture staff shall strategically acquire open space lands in Mount Uniacke and Lakelands area for future playground development as these communities continue to grow.
- h. Lands identified for future playground development in rural areas of East Hants shall include:

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- i. Dawson Dowell Park, Maitland.
- ii. Walton Fire Hall (or alternative land owned or acquired by East Hants).
- iii. land owned acquired by East Hants).

Playground Equipment Guidelines
Council shall consider the following when selecting a design for a new playground or when replacing an existing playground:

- a. Playground design shall create a sense of place.
- b. Playground design shall speak to the culture of East Hants or of the community in which the playground is located.
- c. Engagement should be considered in the design or replacement of new playgrounds. Engagement should include community and professional engagement.

Accessibility Playground Development Guidelines
The Playground Development Strategy shall identify how to create playgrounds that consider a wide range of physical and mental abilities, a wide range of accessible design elements, and a wide

- range of play experiences:
- a. When selecting a new playground structure, consideration should be given to selecting structures that have been designed for children with different forms of mobility and to equipment that is designed to engage the senses of children. The selection of play structures has to be weighed against the funds available to complete a project.
 - b. Seating spaces with back support and/or grips shall be provided for caregivers that may have mobility issues.
 - c. Play equipment and other park amenities shall use strong contrasting colours to help improve safety by making it easier to identify different play spaces and elements for persons with a visual impairment.
 - d. Sensory play elements shall be added to the playgrounds to engage children that are not able to enjoy the more challenging parts of the playground structure.
 - e. Playground surfacing materials shall be selected keeping in mind different

- forms of mobility. Surfacing material shall include the following products:
- i. Pour-in-place rubber surfacing;
 - ii. Rubber tile;
 - iii. Engineered carpet, artificial turf, and crushed rubber products;
 - iv. Engineered wood fibre (cost effective but is not ideal for those using mobility devices or those with stability issues); and
 - v. Pea gravel.
- f. Accessible paths of travel shall be provided around the playground and there shall be multiple accessible routes of travel into and out of the play space.
 - g. Parking areas shall have at minimum one accessible parking stall and curb cuts to pathways shall be provided.

Splash Pad & Spray Feature Development Guidelines
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.
- This Strategy recommends the addition of splash pads or spray features to the following communities:
- Mount Uniacke – opportunity for splash pad to be located at the Mount Uniacke Memorial Community Playground or on the Uniacke and District Fire Department lands or additional locations to be consider as determined by a future Mount Uniacke Recreational Needs Study.
 - Enfield – Spray feature or splash pad combined with new park and playground.
 - Elmsdale – Existing splash pad, opportunity for spray feature as part of park design for FH Developments lands.
 - Lantz – spray feature planned for new Armco Capital Inc. development as part of hardscaped plaza.
 - Shubenacadie – opportunity for splash pad at the Shubenacadie River Park.
 - Municipal water and wastewater capacity shall be considered when developing new splash pads & spray features.

RECOMMENDATIONS

REFERENCES

1. City of Saskatoon, 2017 “Building Better Parks: An Asset Management Plan for Parks”.

Design”, Playground Ideas, <https://playgroundideas.org/10-principles-of-playground-design/>

2. Matheson and Sheppard, 2017 “Facility and Recreation Trend Report: Splash Pads/Parks”, Trend Report, Communities, Sport and Recreation Division of Nova Scotia’s Communities, Culture and Heritage.

7. Rick Hansen Foundation, 2020 “A Guide to Creating Accessible Play Spaces”.

3. McKenzie, Moody, Carlson, Lopez, and Elder, 2013 “Neighborhood Income Matters: Disparities in Community Recreation Facilities, Amenities, and Programs”, J Park Recreat Admi. 2013 Winter; 31(4): 12-22..

8. Ripat and Becker, 2012 “Playground Usability: What Do Playground Users Say?”, Occupational Therapy International (<https://doi.org/10.1002/oti.1331>).

4. Moeller, 1965 “Standards for Outdoor Recreational Areas”, American Society of Planning Officials.

9. Geospatial Data:

- Property Valuation Services Corporation. (2020). Residential Dwelling Characteristics [geospatial residential unit data accessed via dataazONE]. <https://www.pvsc.ca/>
- Environics Analytics. (2020). Demostats [geospatial demographic data accessed via ArcGIS Business Analyst]. <https://environicsanalytics.com/en-ca>
- Statistics Canada 2017. Aggregate Dissemination Areas Boundary File for the 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 92-160-G. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/>

5. Montieth and Brown Planning Consultants, 2019 “Implementation Strategy for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038”, Prepared for City of Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation.

6. Moreno, Elizabeth, copyright 2021 “10 Principles of Playground



EAST HANTS

MUNICIPALITY OF EAST HANTS
LLOYD E. MATHESON CENTRE
15 COMMERCE COURT
ELMSDALE, NS B2S 3K5
INFO@EASTHANTS.CA

EASTHANTS.CA