



**GEORGINA**

**Subject:**

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Bob Ferguson, Manager of Parks Development and Operations

**Date:** April 10, 2024

**Briefing:** Parks Repair and Remediation Program – Highcastle Park

During the 2024 Budget process, the Highcastle Park play structure was approved for replacement in the amount of \$125,000 under Capital Project No. 24-CI-CS-03 Parks Repair and Remediation Program. Upon further investigation into the replacement of this play structure, however, it was identified that it is entirely situated on lands owned by the York Catholic District School Board.

Staff reviewed historical records to obtain background information to determine if there was a formal agreement between the Town and the School board. While our records review revealed limited information about the ownership and maintenance of the playground structure, Staff were able to find correspondence regarding the parties' positions with respect to required annual inspection, maintenance, and replacement of the equipment; however, no Council-approved agreement is in place.

Community Services and Legislative Services have consulted based on the details contained in our records. Legislative Services advised that an agreement should be in place and approved by Council before proceeding with the replacement of a playground on property that is not owned by the Town. The timeline to complete an agreement with York Catholic District School Board will delay the process of procurement for the supply and installation of playground equipment which currently takes four months to arrive once orders are placed.

To keep our 2024 Parks Repair and Remediation Program on track staff will proceed with the replacement of the Udora Park playground in lieu of Highcastle Park. The Highcastle Park replacement will be reconsidered for the Parks Repair and Remediation Program in 2025 once a formal agreement is in place.