



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: Councillor Kayla Leary-Pinch, District 7

Date: January 27, 2026

Subject: Rural Playground Request for Information and Consideration in the 2026/27 Budget Deliberations

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act, Section 65, Powers to expend funds for municipal purpose.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

After consideration of the information presented in this report, the recommended motion are:

COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF POTENTIAL PLAYGROUND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VAUGHAN AREA AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL WITH:

- 1. AN ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL LOCATIONS WITHIN VAUGHAN FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.**
- 2. AN OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY ASSETS, INCLUDING A COMMUNITY HALLS OR ADJACENT MUNICIPALLY OWNED OR COMMUNITY-MANAGED LANDS.**
- 3. PRELIMINARY OPTIONS AND HIGH-LEVEL COST CONSIDERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRANTS THROUGH RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA AND ACCESSIBILITY NOVA SCOTIA.**

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☒	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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Vaughan is a growing rural community with a strong sense of identity, supported by active volunteer groups, families, and community gatherings centered around shared spaces such as the community hall. At present, Vaughan does not have a centrally located, dedicated playground that is easily accessible to local families with young children.

Residents have expressed interest in having a safe and welcoming play space that supports outdoor activity, social connection, and child development. Playgrounds serve not only as recreational infrastructure, but also as social hubs that strengthen community cohesion, particularly in rural areas.

DISCUSSION

Establishing a playground in Vaughan would address a clear service gap by creating a walkable local destination that supports children, families, and community well-being. A centrally located playground would enhance opportunities for outdoor play, social connection, and healthy activity, particularly for families who may have limited access to recreational spaces.

Situating the playground in close proximity to a community hall or similar shared facility would significantly enhance its impact and long-term viability. Co-location increases visibility and safety, maximizes use of existing municipal or community-owned lands, and strengthens the role of the site as a central gathering place. This approach reflects best practices in efficient land use and integrated community planning, ensuring that new infrastructure delivers multiple benefits while minimizing future costs.

The success of the expanded equipment loan program clearly demonstrates strong community demand for accessible recreation. This momentum presents an ideal opportunity to transition from temporary solutions to a permanent, inclusive play space that will serve families for years to come. Establishing a playground builds on this success and translates demonstrated need into lasting community infrastructure.

Exploring partnership-based delivery models such as collaboration with a community hall association further strengthens the proposal. Shared stewardship can reduce operational pressures, encourage local ownership, and improve eligibility for external funding and grant opportunities. These partnerships not only enhance financial sustainability but also reinforce community pride and engagement.

The below images provide examples of modern playground designs that are inclusive, age-appropriate, and well suited to rural and small-community settings. These designs demonstrate how thoughtful, scalable playground infrastructure can deliver high community value while remaining practical and cost-effective. Overall, a playground in Vaughan is a prudent, community-driven investment that supports long-term social, health, and planning objectives.









NEXT STEPS

If approved, staff will:

- Identify and evaluate potential sites within Vaughan for the development of a community playground.
- Assess site suitability with respect to safety, accessibility, visibility, servicing requirements, and alignment with best practices for inclusive play spaces.
- Explore partnership opportunities with community organizations, including shared stewardship and funding collaboration models.
- Report back to Council with preliminary options, key considerations including funding sources, and recommended next steps to inform future decision-making during upcoming budget deliberations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the approval of this direction. Any future costs related to design, installation, or partnerships would be subject to further Council review and approval.

For awareness, both site preparation and playground structures may be eligible for funding through the Canada Community Building Fund, which could significantly reduce or eliminate direct costs to local taxpayers. In addition, land lease arrangements and partnership opportunities with community halls and local organizations may further minimize costs by leveraging existing facilities, shared stewardship models, and in-kind contributions.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose not to approve the direction or may direct staff to explore alternative approaches or locations.

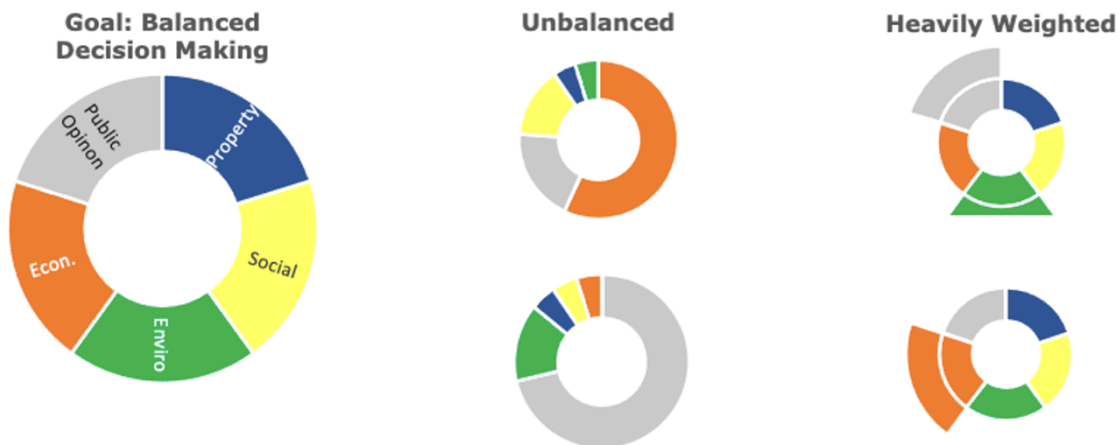
ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Pending the discussion from Council I support the request as it will ensure recreational opportunities are balanced across the municipality. In addition to this request there may be additional information that the Community Development Department can share as they are currently conducting a facility needs / assessment. With the combined information Council will be best informed for decision making and prioritization of projects and capital expenditures.

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: _____
Kayla Leary-Pinch, District 7 Councillor

Report Reviewed by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by:  _____
Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer

