

## Report to Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Optimist Park Playground Phase II Project- Update and Request for Accessibility Reserve Funds Reallocation		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services		
<b>Department:</b>	Recreation		
<b>Date:</b>	May 21, 2024		
<b>Report Number:</b>	REC2024-08	<b>File Number:</b>	C11REC, R05
<b>Attachments:</b>	Optimist Park Playground Design		

### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2024-08- Optimist Park Playground Phase II- Update and Request for Accessibility Reserve Funds Reallocation, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves withdrawing up to \$6,000.00 from the accessibility reserve fund for the completion of this project.

### Report:

#### Background:

On November 28, 2023 Report FIN2023-33 Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant Approval – Phase II Optimist Park Playground was presented to Council. By-Law 2023-116 – Optimist Park Phase II Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant Agreement was approved on October 27, 2023.

During the February 23, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting Walkerton and District Optimist Club members Wayne Poechman and Brian Folmer presented an overview of Optimist Park Phase II including the addition of accessible playground equipment we-go-round, a learning and sensory wall and a single post swing pictured in attachment. A new pavilion will offer a shade and sitting area. The Accessibility Advisory Committee was pleased with the addition of the three new fully accessible playground equipment components.

The Walkerton and District Optimist Club members have been working diligently to secure necessary funds to fully realize its vision of being Brockton’s first fully accessible playground. Staff and the Walkerton and District Optimist Club continue to work in a collective effort to meet the Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant completion deadline of December 3, 2025. Even with the extremely generous donations of \$97,084.62 to date, a deficiency of \$5748.99 remains to fully fund phase II. The Optimist Park playground project aligns with and represents Brockton’s commitment to removing barriers to accessibility and meeting the needs of people of

all ages and abilities. Staff recommend using accessibility reserve funds to the amount of \$5748.89 to support the completion of this worthy project.

**Analysis:**

Since receiving EAF funding on December 20, 2023, staff and the Walkerton and District Optimist club members have made progress in various aspects of the completion of Optimist Park Phase II plans.

**Key achievements include:**

- Walkerton and District Optimist Club members Wayne Poechman and Brian Folmer presented an overview of Phase II to the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Project plans were supported by advisory committee.
- Site meeting with contractors, Optimist members and staff
- On May 10<sup>th</sup> the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approved application to construct a 20-foot-by 30-foot pavilion and 198 foot concrete pad, with related excavation, filling, and grading.
- Building permit application for pavilion has been submitted.
- Equipment Procurement: The chosen playground equipment including we-go-round, learning and sensory wall and a single post swing has been purchased through the Canoe Procurement Program.
- The Walkerton and District Optimist Club donation campaign continues to be successful in securing funds to complete project.
- Tree planting plans developed and partially executed.

**Remaining tasks:**

- Installation of equipment
- Landscaping
- Construction of pavilion
- Donation recognition dedication
- Final inspections

**Timeline for completion:**

Based on current progress and planning, the construction of pavilion will begin the end of May, site preparation and installation of playground equipment will occur during summer months depending on supply. The projected completion of Phase II of Optimist Park is Fall 2024.

This project is well underway, with significant progress made. Upon Council approval to allocate accessibility reserve funds to this project, staff will continue to coordinate health and safety of site work and installation of equipment by volunteers and contractors.

**Strategic Action Plan Checklist:**

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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|--|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision          | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life                  | Yes |

- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance N/A

**Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

To date, the Walkerton & District Optimist Club has had a very successful Phase II fund-raising campaign receiving support from Spruce the Bruce, EAF, local contracting companies including monetary and labour donations to the amount of \$34,696.62 and their own organization donation of \$62,388.00.

Estimated costs to complete Phase II work:

Playground Equipment (including supply, installation, delivery, and installation of Playsafe Playground Rubber	\$141,434.00
Excavation, Site Prep, Gravel and Drain	\$9800.00
Pavilion with concrete pad	\$30,000
Tree Planting	\$2500.00
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$183,734.00</b>
<b>Optimist Fund Raising Campaign Total Amount:</b>	\$97,084.62
<b>Enabling Accessibility Fund</b>	\$80,900.49
<b>Remaining Balance:</b>	<b>\$5748.89</b>

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**



Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services

**Reviewed By:**



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer