

BUDGET COMMITTEE REQUEST:

Provide details of the walkable distances of other parks around Worthington Park

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the information be received.

KEY FACTS:

- A request has been brought forward to the 2026 Budget Committee to consider a playground at Worthington Park.
- In an Appendix report to the Budget Committee meeting on October 23, 2025, it was noted there are a number of playgrounds within 800 m of Worthington Park. In particular, Thornlea Park is approximately 320 m from Worthington Park with Lawson Park next at 630 m.
- At the meeting the distances from Worthington Park to other playgrounds presented in the Appendix report was questioned based the walking routes being greater than the noted distances. Staff used an 800 m radius in determining the distances, which is commonly used in the Parks, Recreation and Library Masterplan.
- In reviewing this request, staff confirm that Worthington Park is not an area with a “gap” in playground provision due to the proximity of Thornlea Park (at approximately 320 m), which falls well within the 800 m criteria irrespective of the walking or radii distance.
- Besides distances to playgrounds, the roads, both in terms of type and speed, are considered in geographically spacing playgrounds. Children having to cross higher speed arterial or collector roads introduces a much higher risk for children having to cross such roadways to utilize a creative playground. As noted in the earlier Appendix on this subject to Budget Committee, Lakeshore Road West would be considered a busy, higher speed road for children to cross. Thornlea Park is located on the north side of Lakeshore Road West from Worthington Park, so the crossing of Lakeshore Road West is required to reach this playground.

COMMENTS/OPTIONS:

Parks staff and Councillor McNeice recently met with several residents to discuss a potential playground at Worthington Park. Among those in attendance there certainly was enthusiasm for a playground. It is important to note that a decision to site a playground at Worthington Park, would fall outside of the town’s current provisional standard that has been established for playgrounds. It must also be noted that, at this time, there has been no formal staff led public consultation to confirm broad resident

support for the playground. Notwithstanding these considerations, staff have produced a draft sketch of where a playground would be best suited within this park. A very preliminary cost for a playground at Worthington Park is estimated at \$170,000.

Given the lack of a formal public consultation process among the local community staff believe any funds assigned for the playground at this time would be premature. Staff recommend conducting a public consultation process in 2026 and returning to Council with a report, for consideration, in advance of the 2027 Budget discussions.



drawing title:

POTENTIAL WORTHINGTON PARK PLAYGROUND LOCATION

scale:

N.T.S.

date:

04/11/2025

drawn by:

S.S.

checked by:

F.L.

drawing no.:

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