



2025 Budget Request

Request: Municipally Owned Parks & Improvements

From: Niall Lobley, CAO

Department: Community & Environmental Services

Total Financial Ask: \$920,000 (2025), \$400,000 (2026)

Type of Budget Request: Capital

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Background and Strategic Priority

In 2023, staff highlighted several park projects for inclusion in the 2024 budget. During discussions in regard to the 2024 budget, Council deferred these requests to 2025. These projects are related to delivery of the Parks and Trails Master Plan and seeking to advance the delivery of the Townships Accessibility Master Plan in seeking to maintain high quality, accessible parks and open spaces, that meet the needs of community.

Analysis

This budget request captures several key projects.

Shallow Lake Ball Diamond Fencing and Bleacher Removal: \$50k (2025)

Budget Request [CES2024BUDGET-C-06](#) was deferred during the 2024 budget process. The ball diamond at Shallow Lake has seen a steady increase in use, and in 2024 saw increased use as a result of the Junior Baysocks returning to play in the Township.

Both sets of bleachers are at an advanced age and are deteriorating with concrete starting to fail and several missing bricks. It is proposed that these bleachers be



removed and replaced with new prefabricated aluminum bleachers which require less maintenance and can incorporate greater accessibility for users.

In addition, the infield fencing is too low and line drives regularly clear the fence, entering the spectator area, injuries have occurred as a result of stray balls, that, with an improved infield fence, would have been avoided. Enhancing the fence and raising this to eight feet in height is required and staff will also make amendments to the back stop area and fencing as well.

Shallow Lake Washrooms Upgrades: \$400k (2026)

In 2023, Council deferred a number of accessibility improvements to facilities. This included upgrades to the washroom building at Shallow Lake Ball Diamond/Shouldice Family Park.

The washrooms at the Shallow Lake Ball Diamond, that also serve the Shouldice Park, are older in nature and in need of renovation. This project will see the existing washrooms renovated and modernised to fully accessible standards similar to Sarawak Park. Staff will ensure that modern and clean facilities are developed that incorporate the highest standards of accessibility to support recreation in Shallow Lake.

In addition, a delegation to Council in early 2024 noted that the washrooms inside the community centre/arena were not accessible. While staff have made adjustments to the washrooms and changing facilities to ensure that there is an improved accessible washroom for the 2024/5 season, the washrooms are generally in need of renovation to ensure that these provide a welcoming, accessible space for visitors.

Sarawak Family Park Playground: \$850k (2025 design, 2026 construction)

Budget Request [CES2024BUDGET-C-09](#) was deferred during the 2024 budget process. Sarawak Family Park has seen successive improvements to improve accessibility over recent years. These include new accessible washrooms, a new accessible trail, improvements to the parking lot, new seating and an accessible mobi-mat to improve access to the beach and water area.

The playground at Sarawak is a smaller play unit with no accessible features associated with it. The play area is surfaced in engineered wood fibre which, while recognised as an accessible surface, is not the most accessible surface that can be provided.

It is proposed that, to accompany the newly accessible park, a fully accessible play area be installed. The play area would be specially designed to accommodate a wide range of play opportunities and would be designed so that users with a variety of mobility and accessibility challenges would be able to access and use the area. The surfacing of the play area would be enhanced to a rubber surface to support accessibility for all, including those in wheelchairs. A connecting trail to ensure accessibility to the play area



would be made, and additional accessible seating and shade tree planting would be undertaken to enhance and support the space. Staff are recommending that a permeable parking area be developed adjacent to the existing parking to support overflow parking on the busiest of days.

The new playground would be designed to meet the highest accessibility standards and the development of a design would include consultation and engagement with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Balmy Beach Washroom: Redesign or Removal \$20k

The Balmy Beach Washroom is located at the Balmy Beach Park and Indian Falls Conservation Area parking lot. The property is owned by Grey Sauble Conservation Area and the Township has an agreement to manage the parking area and parkland areas of the property. Located within the parking lot is an older washroom block which has traditionally been operated by the Township on a seasonal basis.

During 2023, the washrooms faced significant delays in opening at the start of the season and experienced successive issues during the season. These related to the failure of adequate water supplies, burst pipes, and a lack of hot water. The washrooms are older in nature and do not meet current accessibility standards.

In 2024, the washrooms were not deemed to be feasible to be opened and have remained closed. Portable washrooms have been installed at the property and have provided service during summer 2024.

A new washroom facility, built to a similar design and standard as at Sarawak Family Park could be located on the property. These washrooms would be a short distance from Sarawak Family Park, and, as at Sarawak Family Park, would be managed by the Township with the associated maintenance costs being met by the Township.

Alternative options could be considered. Several municipalities have implemented low maintenance, semi automatic washrooms to service public spaces and there are alternative designs that might provide for lower capital costs and maintenance costs. Portable washrooms are a cost-effective solution for park washrooms and have been deployed effectively in parks. These meet accessibility standards and are maintained by external vendors providing a cost-effective way of meeting park users needs.

The budget request of \$20,000 would support a either a design process for a new washroom facility or the removal of the existing washroom facility, for future reliance on portable washrooms. Grey Sauble Conservation Authority would be involved in all discussions and decision making and it is anticipated that cost sharing agreements would be formed in respect to any remove or replacement washroom.



Financial Impact

\$920,000 in 2025:

- \$50,000 for Shallow Lake Ball Diamond Improvements
- \$850,000 for Sarawak Family Park Accessible Playground
- \$20,000 for Balmy Beach Washroom design or removal

\$400,000 in 2026:

- Washroom enhancements in Shallow Lake

It is anticipated that these projects may be suitable for attracting grant aid funding which may offset these costs. It is likely that, if supported, the playground would not be installed until 2026, but all design and engagement would be completed in 2025 with the equipment and installation tendered and awarded in 2025.