



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	April 14, 2025
SUBJECT:	Playground, Spray Pads, and Play Court Facilities – Maintenance Service Levels Update (ES2504) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

This Communication Update confirms the Parks Section's operating season maintenance service levels and 2025 capital program activities respecting the City of Hamilton's (City) playgrounds, spray pads, and play court facilities.

Playground Maintenance Program

Hamilton has 291 play structures that receive regular monthly inspections and maintenance services as required, in accordance with CSA guidelines, through certified staff. Inspection Reports identify equipment condition and remedial repair requirements for follow up. Regular maintenance activities such as ground litter, debris, garbage collection, safety surface maintenance, and graffiti removal are performed regularly and on an accelerated frequency from May to September to meet increased seasonal demand.

Spray Pad Maintenance Program

The City's inventory of 71 spray pads receive pre/post and regular in-season inspection and maintenance services. Pre/post season works include inspection, repair, and activation/winterization, which is performed by staff or the contractor as required. In-season inspection and regular maintenance activities such as ground litter, debris and garbage collection, as well as graffiti removal and system monitoring are performed in accordance with the operating season.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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At the General Issues Committee meeting on May 31, 2018, Council directed staff to open spray pads starting on the May long weekend and continue the operating season until the end of September. Community residents can follow the opening of the spray pads on the City of Hamilton website: <https://www.hamilton.ca/things-do/recreation/locations/spray-pads>

All water systems are controlled by a timer set for standard hours of operation (10:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.). Systems are also equipped with activation sensors, limiting operation to real time demand, and thus enhancing water conservation. During a heat warning, the following community level spray pads noted below will be open from 9:00a.m. to 9:00p.m:

- Waterdown Memorial Park
- Dundas Driving Park
- Village Green Park
- William Connell Park
- Gord Oaks (Mount Hope) Parks
- Gage Park
- Winona Park
- Binbrook Fairground Community Park
- Pier 4 Park
- Heritage Green

Play Court Maintenance Program

The City's inventory of approximately 172 play courts, which include public tennis courts, multi-purpose/basketball courts, and pickleball courts receive pre/post and regular in-season inspection and maintenance services. Pre/post season works include inspection, repair, and asset condition reporting by staff. In-season inspection and regular maintenance activities such as ground litter, debris and garbage collection, as well as graffiti removal are performed in accordance with the operating season noted below:

- Tennis courts – Late April to the last week of October.
- Multi-purpose courts – Year-round weather permitting.
- Basketball courts – Year-round weather permitting.
- Pickleball courts – Early May to the last week of October.

An initial/annual detailed inspection of these assets is undertaken in early spring by maintenance inspection staff. The reports generated from these inspections identify and determine priorities such as remedial repairs, and/or major court improvement requirements.

Should you require further information, please contact Rory Doucette, Manager, Parks at extension 7358, or rory.doucette@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A