

RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR INQUIRY / SUGGESTION

COUNCILLOR SWENDSEID

Councillor Swendseid provided an inquiry regarding the rationale for using wood chips versus a rubberized material as ground cover for some Town playgrounds.

Estimated Administrative Time to Respond



Under 4 hours (no motion required)



Over 4 hours (motion required) Estimated Hours: n/a

Motion

n/a

Response

Although most people prefer the rubberized poured-in-place safety surfacing at playgrounds, it is not installed in every playground, largely due to cost. The engineering wood fibre (EWF) is about 1/5th the cost of rubber poured-in-place surfacing. Pending the playground surface size, the cost to install rubber surfacing would range from \$80,000 – \$120,000.

The Town's objective is to prioritize the installation of the rubber surfacing in community destination parks and plan budgets accordingly. The recent upgrade at Rich's Playground in Sheep River Park and the new play space at Ethel Tucker Park, however, did not include rubber surfacing as advised by the suppliers due to the risk of loss of integrity during flooding event(s). In an overland flooding situation, the pores of the rubber surfacing can become filled with sediment, resulting in loss of impact attenuation of the surfacing, requiring its replacement, which would not be covered by the Town's insurance due to its placement in the floodway.

While the rubber poured-in-place surfacing is the ultimate in creating accessible surfaces, EWF is also considered an accessible surface. While it will be "fluffier" when first installed, it does settle into place in short order, facilitating its accessibility.

Attachment(s)

n/a

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