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To: Chair and Members of the Committee of the Whole - Budget

From: Councillor Rory Nisan

c.c. Tim Commisso, City Manager; Allan Magi, Executive Director of Capital Works;
Joan Ford, Director of Finance

Date: February 13, 2019

Re: BAR Form -- Residents' Request for a Splash Pad at Brant Hills Park

Ward 3 residents, particularly in Brant Hills, have asked for a splash pad (also known as a spray park) in their community. Further to discussions with staff (parks and recreation, finance and the city manager), I have requested a \$550,000 allocation for a Brant Hills Splash Pad through my Budget Action Request (BAR) Form.

IDENTIFIED NEED

Brant Hills is a community with a significant population of children – demographic data indicates that the community is a “typical” Burlington neighbourhood (see table 1).

However, there is no splash pad, and none nearby. In fact, the nearest free splash pad is a 49-minute, 4 km walk from the Brant Hills Community Centre, meaning the only option for residents of Brant Hills and Tyandaga is to drive (see map 1). This is inconsistent with the current strategic plan, which promotes walkable neighbourhoods and a healthy, greener city.

Burlington lags behind neighbouring municipalities in terms of residents per splash pad. Oakville enjoys 16 splash pads, or one for every 12,000 residents, while Hamilton has 64, or one per 8,800 residents. Burlington has only ten, or one for every 18,300 residents (see maps 2, 3 and 4 for a visual representation demonstrating the relative distance to travel for each municipality).

I created a Facebook post last year which reflected the in-person views I had heard and suggested that the Brant Hills area merited a splash pad. This post was liked/loved 170 times and had 90 comments and 10 shares. All comments except one were positive. Furthermore, 13 families submitted written delegations to the Committee of the Whole and two in-person delegations took place. All written and in-person delegations supported having a splash pad at Brant Hills Park.

LOCATION

As a community park, Brant Hills Park is a logical location. It offers washrooms and changerooms that can be accessed from the outside, approximately 200 metres from the proposed splash pad location, which would be adjacent to a play structure and swings. This means caregivers would have different play options for their children based on their age and interest. The soccer fields and baseball diamonds mean that young children can enjoy the splash pad while their older siblings are playing organized sports.

COST

I worked with Capital Works staff on a cost estimate based on similar splash pad installations in recent years, leading to the \$550,000 request. This amount includes contingencies and the provision of a net to affix to the baseball fence to ensure safety. The amount is also intended to cover design, site improvements including accessibility and construction in 2020. The proposed funding source is the Park Dedication Reserve Fund. Staff have confirmed that sufficient funds exist; the PDRF is healthy and able to withstand the \$550,000 reduction (uncommitted balance of approximately \$15 million prior to expenditures resulting from the 2019 proposed capital budget).

In accordance the Planning Act, park dedication cash-in-lieu funds shall be spent only for the acquisition of land to be used for park or other public recreation purposes, including the erection, improvement or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or the public recreational purpose. The proposed splash pad thus meets the requirements for spending from Burlington's Parkland Dedication Reserve Fund (PDRF).

The requested amount includes contingencies and the provision of a net to affix to the baseball fence to ensure safety. Because the full amount can be used from the PDRF, there will be no net impact on the tax rate. Any funds remaining upon the completion of the project would be returned to the PDRF.

IMPLEMENTATION

Approving the allocation in the 2019 budget will allow for preparation and consultation to begin in 2019 ensure timely delivery of the splash pad.

Subject to approval during the 2019 budget, this project would be added to the City's parks 2019/20 capital improvement program and would be project managed and implemented in keeping with our normal staff led process, including working closely with me as ward councillor on public consultation and design development.

Burlington residents are looking to see results from the 2019 Budget. Supporting the splash pad in Brant Hills will connect Burlington's strategic plan with a tangible outcome improving residents' quality of life and ensuring that city council is delivering on their priorities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rory Nisan, Councillor, Ward 3

Table 1

Percentage Share of the Population by Age Group

Age Group	City of Burlington	Ward 3	Brant Hills Community
0 to 14 years	17%	17%	17%
15 to 64 years	64%	66%	65%
65 years and over	19%	17%	18%

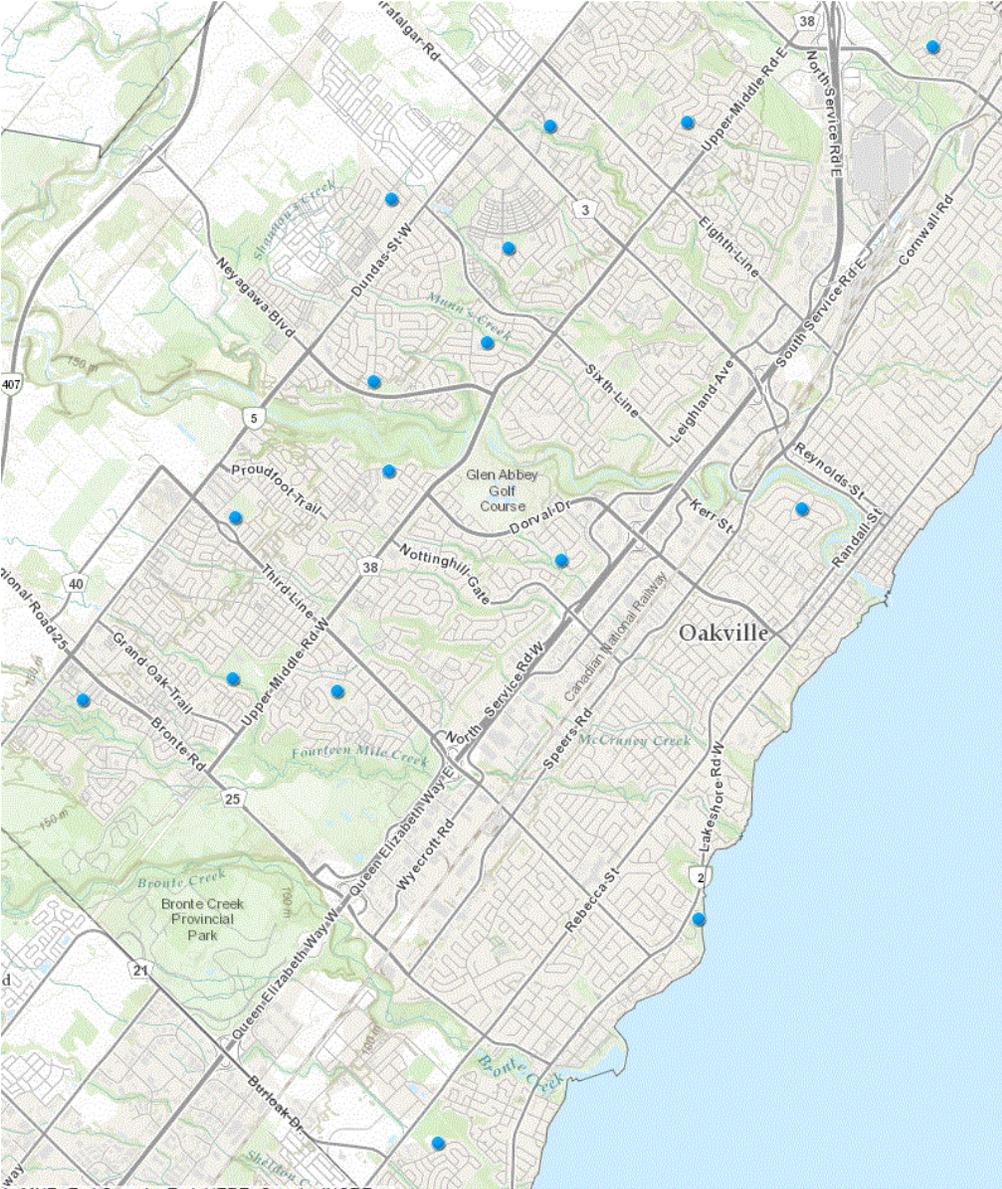
Map 1

Walking Distance to Ireland Park Splash Pad



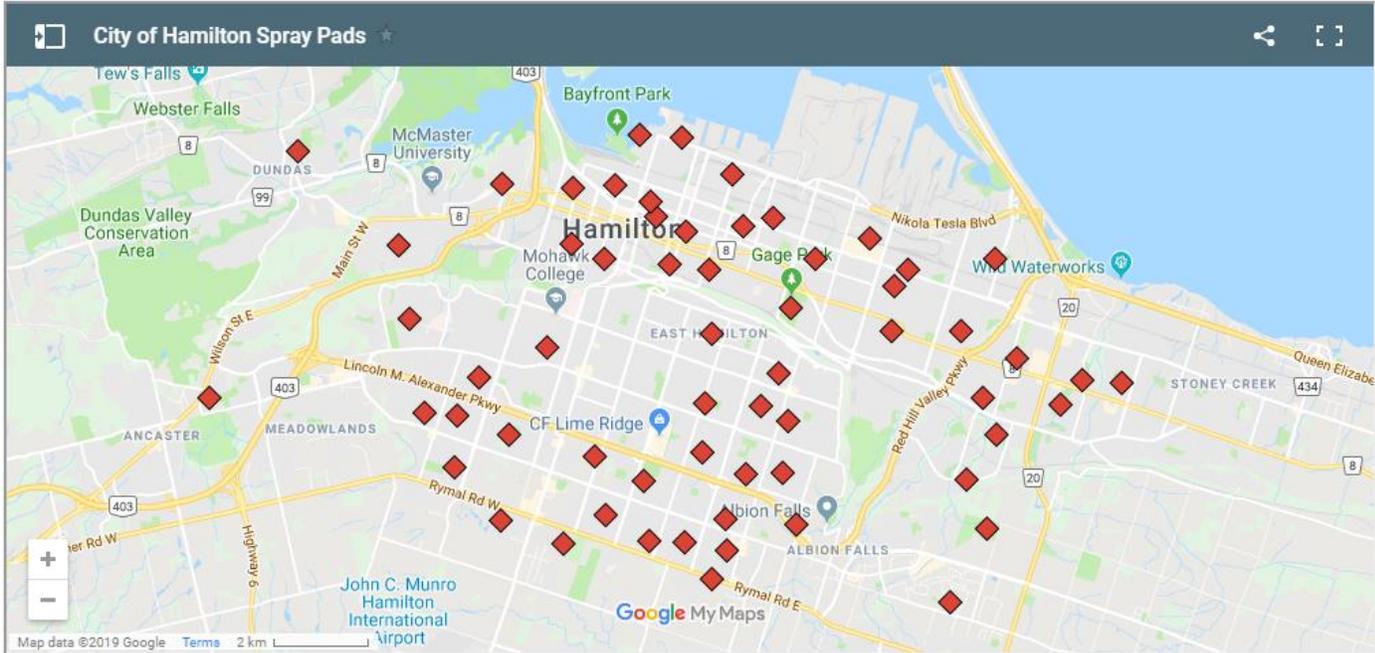
Map 2

Map of splash pads in Oakville



Map 3

Map of splash pads in Hamilton



Map 4 – City of Burlington map of splash pads (note that there are numerous duplicative entries and the splash pad at Bolus Park is missing)

