



## Corporation of the Township of Brock

### Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

**From: Paul Lagrandeur**

**Position: Director of Public Works & Operations**

**Title / Subject: Winter Playground Closures**

**Date of Report: January 18, 2022**

**Date of Meeting: January 24, 2022**

**Report No: 2022-OP-003**

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#### 1.0 Issue / Origin

Play areas at Municipal Parks signed closed for winter.

#### 2.0 Background

Signs were erected in our playground areas signed "Play Area Closed". Public outcry forced staff to further investigate proper procedure for parks in the winter and its usage. In the past, the Township would take swings down for the winter and had small signs stating playground closed. The change is our signs are bold and large and we have put it on social media.

#### 3.0 Analysis

In our research with other municipalities and how they handle their parks in winter months, we found a wide variety of methods. There were no consistencies amongst the neighbouring municipalities. Scugog signed that Playgrounds are not inspected and maintained during the winter season. Signage and social media. City of Kawartha lakes states "use at own risk" and if you see a problem there's a number to call. Others closed them completely. A response from our insurance provider came back as; sign it in bold letters PLAYGROUND or PARK CLOSED. Also No Winter Maintenance – Ground Frozen. In case of problems call xxx. The main point to remember in deciding which way to go is that we will have insurance coverage. From a risk point signs should be used to prevent injury, not avoid liability. If the ground surface is too hard and we don't inspect then we tell people that.

#### 4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

#### 5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

Minimal for signage.

#### 6.0 Climate Change Impacts

## **7.0 Communications**

## **8.0 Conclusion**

Staff in their research recommend our insurance providers recommendations. We leave our Play Area Closed signs up and add No Winter Maintenance – Ground frozen tabs as well as If any concerns call Brock TWP at 705-432-2355.

## **9.0 Recommendation**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT REPORT 2022-OP-003, Winter Playground Closures be received and THAT COUNCIL direct staff to purchase and install signage as directed by the Durham Municipal Insurance Pool.