The Grant Potter Playground has been an extremely popular family destination in Annapolis Royal for several generations. Time, use and weather have taken their toll on many of the playground elements. The time has come to remove some elements of the playground, upgrade others and to plan ahead or the near future.

1. **Playground Support** 
   1. Grant Potter Community Group Meeting – 26 January 2023
      1. Anna Kate Newman, parent
      2. Sienna Pyne, parent
      3. Laura Boyko, parent
      4. Brant Hamilton Brown, Accessibility Committee
      5. several more people also expressed interest
   2. Very strongly want to upgrade playground
      1. They all agree that the playground is why many families come to Annapolis Royal for the day
      2. The group strongly believes that the success of the playground is linked to success of the town
   3. Provide “Family Friendly Services and Infrastructure”
      1. To attract residents and visitors to town
      2. While many park users do not live in town – they support town business and add much vibrancy to the town
   4. Legacy Project opportunity – community building experience
      1. We have had a few years of unusual physical separations and minimal socialization. People are looking to get out and do something meaningful.
2. **Existing Assets**
   1. Residents and visitors love to come to the Grant Potter Park. The playground has so many positive assets including:
      1. A secure fence along the perimeter (wooden picket fence along the street and waterfront with chain link around the rest of the park)
      2. Many mature trees to provide shade and visual interest
      3. Small low maintenance perennial gardens
      4. A well-built waterfront retaining wall
      5. An interesting location on the waterfront and beside the boat haul-up
      6. A convenient location adjacent to the Annapolis Royal summer farmers market and the downtown – this provides families with easy entertainment for all the family members
      7. Existing playground elements including the climbing hill, the boat, the swings and the sallyport
3. **Accessibility** 
   1. The current gravel pathway is not accessible when it is wet. The surface becomes a gooey mess that allows wheels to sink right in.
      1. Upgraded surface treatment will permit all users - from children in strollers to elderly family members in wheel chairs to experience the playground together.
      2. In order to determine the correct remediation method, some excavation of the existing pathway is required.
   2. The safety surfacing (in the fall zones) is currently inadequate
      1. It doesn’t work effectively as a fall zone
      2. Does not allow accessibility (wheelchairs or walkers can not navigate across the existing surface).
      3. The existing fall zone materials need to be removed and replaced.
      4. Wood chip surface provides an effective solution
         1. It provides an effective safety fall zone cushion-y material when installed to the correct depth
         2. When installed correctly, it provides barrier-free surface
         3. And can be supplied locally!
      5. Underground drainage must be included in new construction – keeps safety surface working effectively (the surface won’t freeze solid or become a puddle)
4. **Swings**
   1. Existing swings need to be replaced. They have been extremely well used for many years - the structure and the hardware are wearing out.
   2. Propose another 2-bay swing with 2 belt seats and one basket swing
      1. This equipment will fit into the area currently used for the swings
   3. Design accommodates the current users (like Gwennie)
   4. Basket swing adds an accessible component and a multi-child play element
   5. Wood chip surface and underground drainage will make the basket swing barrier-free
5. **The Hill Slide**
   1. The existing slide is broken and must be removed prior to opening the playground this year
   2. Propose a double slide as requested by the playground group
      1. This provides significantly more play value.
   3. Propose a gravel path to the top of the slide – reduce maintenance requirements
      1. While children will climb straight back up beside the slide, the gravel path will offer a durable access route
   4. The existing climbing wall will be removed – it was not a popular attraction
6. **Gazebo**
   1. Current structure was not well designed for the playground setting and now it has become rotten and unsafe
   2. Opportunity to install barrier-free structure
      1. Providing an at grade shelter from overhead sun and rain
      2. Opportunity to include an accessible table and / or some benches under the shelter
   3. Propose to locate the new structure near the water to allow better enjoyment the waterfront views
   4. The community group asked for adult oriented features within the playground
7. **Sand Play Area**
   1. New sand play space
   2. Provide “Loose Parts” for imaginative play
      1. e.g.: hand shovels, buckets, driftwood, shells, planks, toy trucks and much more
      2. Provide “toy Box” for sand toys
   3. Potential for “Sand Kitchen”
      1. This could be as simple as a child sized table with bins for filling with sand and “kitchen tools”
   4. Potential for an accessible digger in association with the sand play
8. **Maintenance**
   1. Design will consider low maintenance. We recognize the limited resources of Annapolis Royal. Efficient design and procedures are important to ensure success.
   2. Regular inspection by Recreation Director required
      1. Develop a maintenance check-list
   3. Regular maintenance by Public Works staff required
      1. Mow lawn / trim edges
      2. Top up gravel pathway / compact
      3. Equipment repairs as required (e.g.: swing hardware)
   4. Regular maintenance by the town gardener required to ensure that trees, shrubs and gardens are safe and well-tended
      1. A well-kept space promotes the site users to respect it
9. **The Boat**
   1. The boat was built over 20 years ago and has become a treasured part of the playground
      1. The reason that the element is so successful is that it provides an opportunity for active, passive and imaginative play
      2. In addition, the boat “fits” into the waterfront location right next to the boat haul-up.
   2. The structure is nearing the end of its serviceable life and will need to be removed within 1-2 years
   3. The community group was ***very clear*** that the boat needs to be replaced by another element that has as much play value
      1. Exploration of custom designed options is on-going
      2. Off the shelf play equipment
         1. do not provide the desired play qualities
         2. do not “fit” aesthetically into this historic town.
10. **Community Involvement**
    1. Involving the community when setting design goals is crucial to the success of the playground. This process has begun with the first community playground meeting.
       1. Opportunity to build support for the park within the community – word of mouth and / or social media
    2. Some elements can be installed by volunteers – e.g., wood chips, laying sod
    3. Some elements can be donated by community – e.g., feature boulders, wood chips, gravels
    4. Participation builds a sense of community and a pride for the place