

## Construction set to begin on Happy Rolph's playground and pavilion upgrades

**March 17, 2021** — The Happy Rolph's Animal Farm playground and pavilion will be closed starting on March 22 as the City begins work on upgrades to the two amenities.

As part of the 2020 budget City Council approved \$330,000 for upgrades to the attraction. This investment comes alongside an additional \$95,000 from the City to match a \$95,000 donation from the Rotary Club of St. Catharines for the playground.

The project will see the current playground elements removed as the space is transformed into the farm-themed Rotary Club of St. Catharines Centennial Playground. The new playground is designed under the City's Facilities Accessibility Design Standards (FADS), featuring amenities for all types of play and levels of ability. Features include a fully accessible aero-glider swing and rubberized play surfaces.

As part of the project a new accessible network of paths will be provided to allow for access to the park's playground, washrooms and animal pens, alongside the installation of new seating areas throughout the park.

"Play is so important to the development of our children, regardless of their ability, all kids should have the opportunity to play outdoors in ways that challenge them to stay active, build relationships with their peers, and think creatively," said Community, Recreation and Culture Services Director Phil Cristi, adding, "the new, larger park designed under FADS will provide those opportunities. We want to thank the Rotary Club for their dedication to the project, their contribution will ensure all children, regardless of their abilities, or needs can enjoy a future filled with play."

During construction the farm's playground and pavilion will be closed to the public. Construction is expected to be completed by late spring.

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