

# PRAC Recommendation

John Weir Park – November 2023

## Context

- The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) was mandated to examine different options with the goal of modernizing and optimizing the use of the John Weir Park (JWP).
- As part of this mandate, PRAC met several times to discuss various options and opportunities, and in September 2022, the Committee submitted to Council a recommendation to carry out a public consultation to allow for a greater participation from residents. The recommendation was approved.
- In June 2023, an online survey invited residents to identify their preferred recreational equipment for John Weir Park and to provide comments and suggestions.
- The survey was made accessible throughout summer 2023, from June until mid-September. (Annex 1: a copy of the survey). 420 residents responded to the survey. (Annex 2: a summary of the responses).
- The recommendations below reflect the preferences residents have expressed and follow the October 3<sup>rd</sup> PRAC meeting (meeting notes below). The Committee was not mandated to take into consideration the drainage situation or the various implementation costs. As a result, equipment choices are made solely on residents' preferences without taking into account any feasibility or implementation cost constraints.

## Recommendations to Council

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) makes the following recommendations:

- Based on the results of the survey, it is recommended that the two following main options be considered: -
  - o Splash Pad (38% ranked it as their number 1 preference),
  - o Hébertisme (28\*% ranked it as their number 2 preference and 10% ranked it as their first choice).
- It is also recommended that:
  - o Communications to residents be clear and precise in order to gain acceptance amongst residents, regardless of their demographic profile.

Future plans and possible uses of each piece of equipment that cater to different demographic groups be identified and promoted.

- Communication to residents include a reminder that that the baseball option for JWP was already rejected by a past Council resolution, reiterate that a baseball field cannot be part of the proposals for JWP. (While a baseball field was not included in the options offered in the survey a significant number of residents requested in their comments to bring the baseball field back; the baseball fencing should also be removed from the park to avoid any false expectations).
- The park be developed as a multi-generational park and that the selected equipment for the park should cater to different age groups.
- More natural looking and innovative solutions be considered.
- Regardless of what recreational equipment are chosen for JWP, basic amenities be installed, namely :
  - picnic tables,
  - shades,
  - water fountain
  - washrooms.

Council is invited to review and consider the other options and recreational facilities which were included in the survey.

Submitted by:

Nadia Bissada  
November 14, 2023

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**NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**PRAC (Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee) Meeting – October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
Fritz Community Centre – 7:30pm- 9:00pm**

**Responses to the Survey – Observations and suggestions**

- 420 residents responded to the JWP survey and that reflects interest in the park and a strong desire to improve its conditions and optimize its utilization.
- Whichever the equipment/installation for the park, it should cater to different age groups to make it a multi-generational park.
- Ideally, the park should be usable the year long, but it will be a challenge to find installations that could be used during both summer and winter seasons.
- Branding of the equipment, i.e., the way it will be presented to residents will be key to gain acceptance amongst residents, regardless of their demographic profile.
- Many residents are still hoping to get the baseball field back in the JWP, as reflected in the comments, even though it was not included in the options offered. Many either forgot or are not aware that the baseball option for JWP was already rejected by a past resolution.  
This should be pointed out at some point, and maybe the baseball fencing should also be removed from the park to avoid any false expectations.
- In the absence of any correlation analysis between the age group and the responses, it is safe to assume that comments leaning towards making JWP a green space would pertain to the older demographic segment of the town (60 and over).
- A report is expected to address the park's drainage problem following the soil testing. In the meantime, PRAC will make its recommendations to Council based on the responses to the survey and on the group's previous research/discussion. \*With the caveat of the different options about drainage – still to be determined as the options/costs will differ if a splash pad is included or not. We will need cost options from the administration – depending on the complexity of the drainage solution and the type of splash pad. Then we can determine how to best recommend it to Council.

### **Conclusions**

- Picnic tables, shades, water fountains and washroom are basic amenities that are needed, regardless what other recreational equipment will be chosen.
- While ranking their preferences, residents showed a net preference to
- Splash Pad (38% ranked it as their number 1 preference), followed by Hébertisme (28\*% ranked it as their number 2 preference).

- The website <https://Strollerparking.ca> was cited as good reference for the various features and characteristics of parks in Montreal. Furthermore, Jeff happened to know the creator of that website – it was suggested that she could be approached to provide some advice/recommendation to the group about the park – Jeff knows her personally and emailed her to ask if she would be interested in contributing to the discussion. As of these notes being sent out (Oct 13), she has not replied.
- After the PRAC meeting, Jeff spoke with Dominique Godin, Councillor in Beaconsfield, regarding a government subsidy that is being given to Beaconsfield for their eventual updating of James Armstrong Park (Lakeshore Road, west of Christmas Park). In order to be eligible to receive the type of grant to offset some park costs, Baie D’Urfe needs to be a MADA member (Municipalité amis des aînés). We need someone from the Town or Council to verify if we are already a member, and then have the administration fill out a grant request. This may offset costs of revamping John Weir Park.

## Annex I

### ***Word copy of the Survey*** ***(layout of online survey different and available as a hard copy)***

# CITIZEN SURVEY - JOHN WEIR PARK

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is in the process of making recommendations for the future use of the western end of the John Weir Park (JWP).

As you complete the questionnaire below, please keep in mind that:

- The recreational equipment suggested below is subject to a feasibility analysis for this park. Options that may be popular with a large number of residents but not suitable for JWP will be considered for other locations.
- In 2023 a drainage study of JWP will be done. Funds have been allocated already for future work in JWP which will be carried out in 2025.

This survey will only take a few minutes to complete and will be very helpful in guiding the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) in its recommendations to the Town of Baie-D'Urfé. Your input is important for the future of our parks!

At the end of the survey is a mock-up of the potential appearance of the park.

### **1. Are you a resident of Baie-D'Urfé?**

Yes  
No

### **2. What age group do you belong to?**

Under 18  
18-24  
25-34  
35-44  
45-54  
55-64  
65-74  
75-84  
85+

### **3. Do you currently use John Weir Park?**

Yes

No

**4. Are you satisfied with the current installations at the JWP?**

Yes

No

Comment




**5. Of the recreational equipment/development listed below, please select in order of preference, 1 to 9, the most important for your family's needs. Please use the up and down arrows to indicate your preferred order**

**(1= most preferred - 9 = least preferred):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Wall	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hébertisme (ropes and logs circuit)	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Running Track (oval)	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Volleyball	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Equipment (e.g. TrekFit)	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bocce Ball	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Table Tennis	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cornhole (Bean bag toss)	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>

**6. Of the suggested outdoor furniture proposed below, please select in order of preference, 1 to 3, your choice for John Weir Park.**

**(1 = most preferred - 3 = least preferred):**

 Lounge Chair	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
 Picnic Tables	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>
 Benches	<input type="button" value="^"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>

**7. Do you currently use other parks in Baie D'Urfé?**

Yes  
No

**8. If "Yes" for Question 7, please indicate which park(s) you use.**

**Comment**

**9. 9 - Are there any outdoor activities that you or members of your household practice regularly and that you would like to see available in JWP or in some of our parks?**

1 - \_\_\_\_\_

2- \_\_\_\_\_

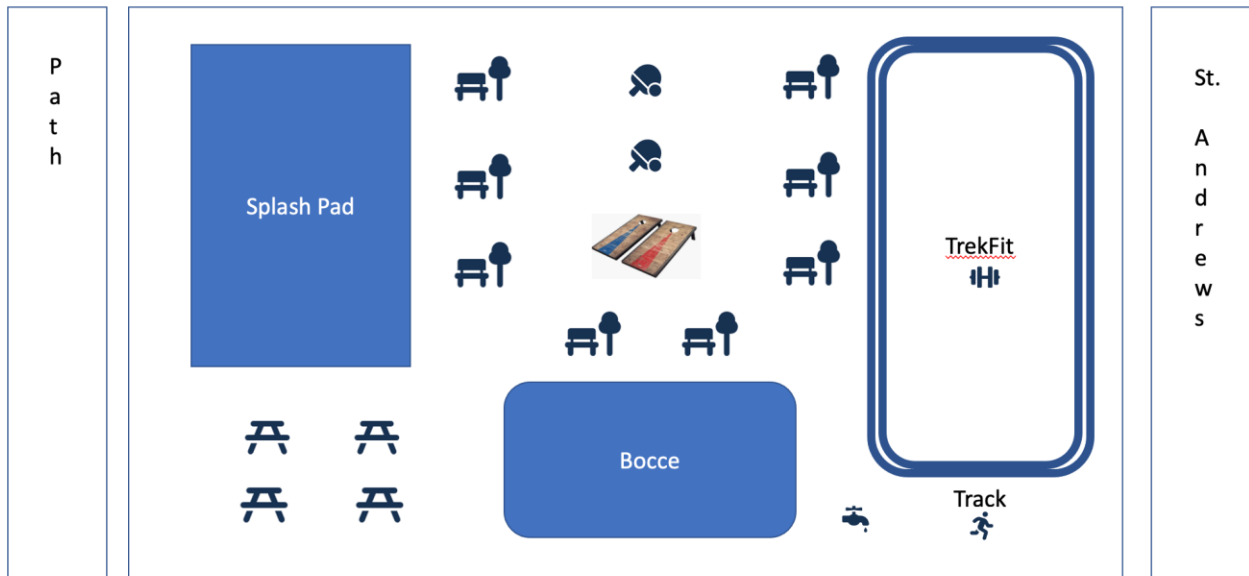
3- \_\_\_\_\_

**10 - How many persons in your household are:**

- less than 7 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- between 7 and 13 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- between 14 and 18 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- between 18 and 25 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- between 26 and 45 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- between 46 and 66 year old \_\_\_\_\_
- older than 67 year old \_\_\_\_\_

**11 – What is your Postal Code? OR what is your nearest neighborhood park?**

**Thank you!**





## Annex II Summary of the Responses

### Question 1:

**Are you a resident of Baie-D'Urfé? Êtes-vous résident de Baie-D'Urfé ?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes / Oui	99.28%	413
No / Non	0.72%	3

### Question 2:

**What age group do you belong to? À quel groupe d'âge appartenez-vous ?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
0-18	3.16%	13
18-24	2.67%	11
25-34	9.22%	38
35-44	19.42%	80
45-54	21.84%	90
55-64	21.36%	88
65-74	14.56%	60
75-84	6.31%	26
85+	1.46%	6
<b>Answered</b>		<b>412</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>8</b>

### Question 3:

**Do you currently use John Weir Park (JWP)? Utilisez-vous le Parc John Weir (PJW) en ce moment ?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes / Oui	53.83%	225
No / Non	46.17%	193
<b>Answered</b>		<b>418</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>2</b>

### Question 4:

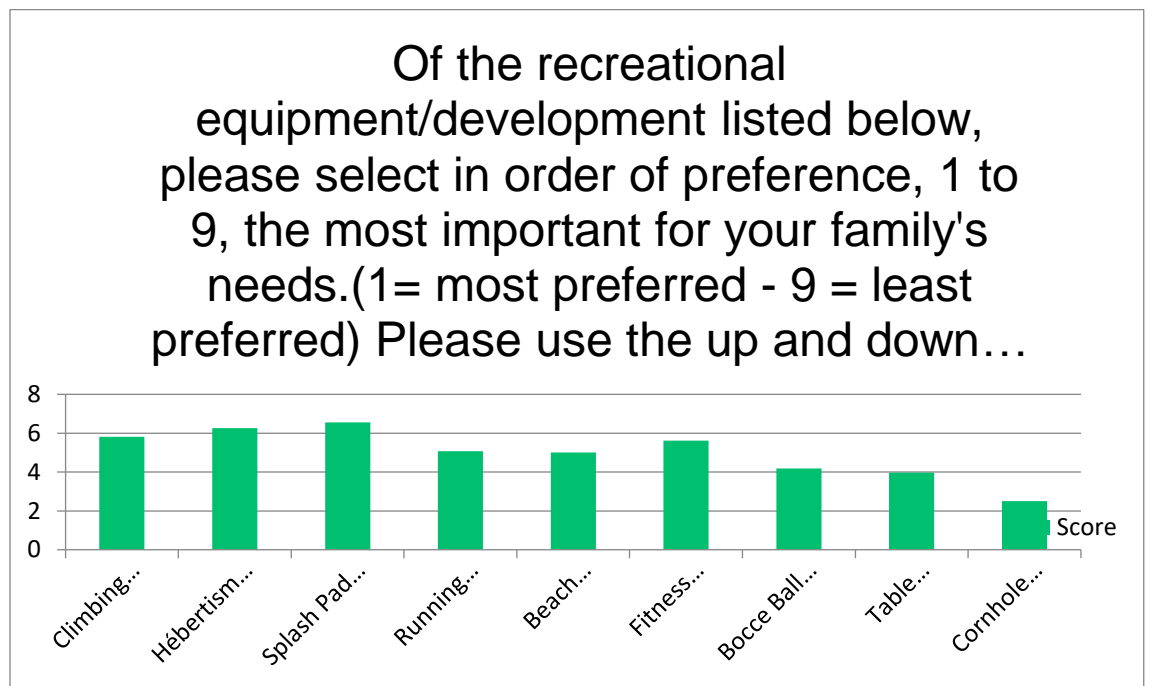
**Are you satisfied with the current installations at the JWP? Êtes-vous satisfait des installations actuelles du PJW ?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes / Oui	30.85%	116
No / Non	69.15%	260
Comment / Commentaires		189
<b>Answered</b>		<b>376</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>44</b>

**Q4 COMMENTS**

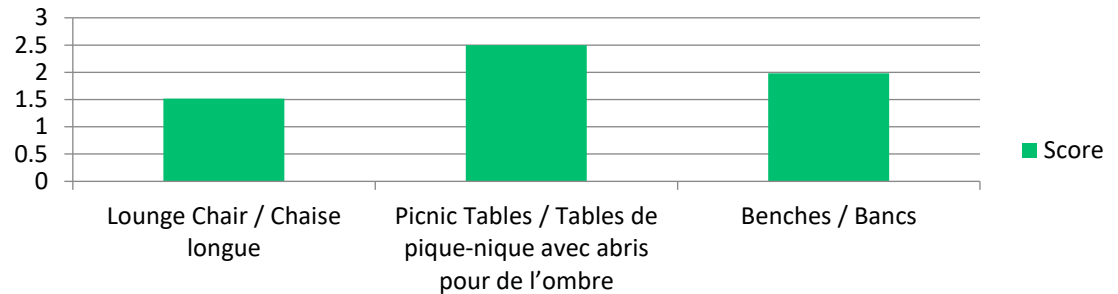
Playground needs update and for older 10 up	Not enough for adults	Not enough for preteens	not enough for teens	Need more green space	splash pad	not enough Multi gen	update softball field area	update/keep Basket ball	softball field leave as is	pickleball
<u>29</u>	8	8	8	9	Y-9	22	57	14	7	4

**Question 5**



**Question 6**

Of the suggested outdoor furniture proposed below, please select in order of preference, 1 to 3, your choice for John Weir Park. (1 = most preferred - 3 = least preferred): À partir de la liste de mobilier extérieur proposé ci-dessous, veuillez...



### Question 7

Do you currently use other parks in Baie D'Urfé? Utilisez-vous en ce moment les autres parcs de Baie-D'Urfé ?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes / Oui	72.42%	302
No / Non	27.58%	115
<b>Answered</b>		<b>417</b>
<b>Skipped</b>		<b>3</b>

### Question 8

If "Yes" for Question 7, please indicate which park(s) you use and at which frequency (weekends, one time per month or less)? S  
Si oui pour question 7, quels parc utilisez-vous ? À quelle fréquence (Les week-ends, une fois par mois ou moins)?

Answered 290  
Skipped 130

(Most frequent: *Picardy (most popular), Bertold, Morgan, Fritz*)

### Question 9

Are there any outdoor activities that you or members of your household practice regularly and that you would like to see available in JWP or in some of our parks?

Est-ce qu'il y a des activités extérieures que vous ou les membres de votre ménage pratiquez régulièrement

Answered 241  
Skipped 179

(Various: *Pickleball, tennis, splashpads, baseball, volleyball, basketball, badminton, hokey, ...*)

### Question 10

How many persons in your household are: Combien de personnes dans votre ménage sont âgées :

Answer Choices	Responses
- less than 7 years old / de moins de 7 ans:	43.47%
- between 7 and 13 years old / entre 7 et 13 ans:	40.45%
- between 14 and 18 years old / entre 14 et 18 ans:	34.92%
- between 18 and 25 years old / entre 18 et 25 ans:	32.16%
- between 26 and 45 years old / entre 26 et 45 ans:	52.01%
- between 46 and 66 years old / entre 46 et 66 ans:	61.06%
- older than 67 years old / de plus de 67 ans:	38.19%

Answered  
Skipped

### Question 10

What is your Postal Code OR what is your nearest neighborhood park?

Quel est votre code postal OU quel est le parc de quartier le plus proche de votre domicile ?

Answered 400  
Skipped 20