



**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024**

Agenda Item 10.2 Report – Spray Park Page 3 Email and attachment received December 14,
Survey Results 2024, from Lani Gibson.
(4.10.22)

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From: Lani Gibson [REDACTED] >
Sent: December 14, 2024 10:42 AM
To: districtofkitimat <dok@kitimat.ca>
Subject: Spray park at Chilko or Heron

Dear Mayor and Council,

You invested \$100,000 into the feasibility study for a spray park in the downtown area. This was a good decision to follow-up on community interest in this project.

You now know that you will need at least \$1.5M to construct this park, and an additional \$860K to refurbish the two existing wading pools. Those wading pools will need on site staff in order to operate in the summer and the spray park will also require some staff time.

I do not believe that a community of our size can support the existence of three outdoor water parks.

As you know from recent years, actual costs of projects like these often significantly exceed the budget. It is also very challenging for Leisure Services to find enough students each summer to staff all of the various summer programs and playgrounds.

Thinking about long term asset management and staff capacity/budgets for our community, I strongly believe that the better choice is to use funds from the budget to replace one of the wading pools with a spray park.

The existing Lion's park needs an equipment update, but that part of downtown is already a well used and beautiful park area.

With increasing extreme heat events in the summer and many older home and apartments close to both Chilko and Heron parks, residents next to a spray park in one of those locations will benefit from access to the park all summer long as opposed to only having access to the wading pools when there is a staff person present (currently weekdays only I believe, and only when there are enough summer students).

There is no shame in changing course on a plan after acquiring new information and taking a second look - on the contrary, changing course when it's in the best long term interests of the community shows wise and prudent leadership. A spray park will be a lovely amenity in our community but it is overstressing the municipal budget now as well as in the future to add it as new infrastructure instead of as an upgrade to existing infrastructure.

I hope you might consider making a motion to direct staff to take steps to replace one of the wading pools with a spray park instead of proceeding with a spray park at Lion's park.

Thank you for your time,

Lani

Lani E. Gibson (she/her)

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I live and work on unceded Haisla Nation territory

In addition to playgrounds, Kitimat offers many other opportunities for children such as, wading pools, trails, Sk8 park, and greenspace. There are two wading pools, one in Kildala and one in Nechako neighbourhoods. The wading pools are staffed during summer for safety and offer a place for children to cool down and gain confidence in the water. Transitioning wading pools into spray parks that are on timers or button-activated could increase opportunities for residents as to eliminating supervision as there could be 24/7 access.

Excerpt from page 25 of Leisure Services Master Plan
Lani Gibson's attachment to her December 14, 2024 email.