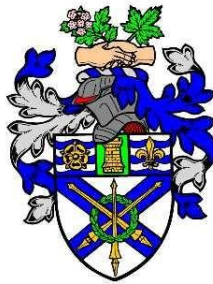


---

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP-26-03**

**Design Build  
Inclusive & Accessible Playground**



**TOWN OF AMHERST**

---

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1) Information to Proponents .....	3
2) Scope of Work .....	12
3) Specifications .....	13
ATTACHMENT “A” – Terms & Conditions .....	16
FORM OF PROPOSAL.....	17

---

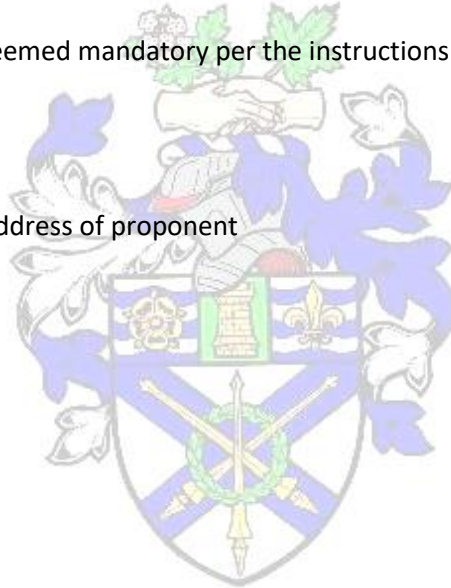
### Proposal Submission Checklist:

#### Submit WITH the Proposal:

- Contractor experience profile
- Addenda pages, if applicable
- Signed Attachment “A”
- Signed Proposal Form
- Any other document(s) deemed mandatory per the instructions included in RFP-26-03

#### Submission must indicate:

- Proposal ID
- Company name and full address of proponent



## 1 INFORMATION TO PROPONENTS

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Amherst is seeking proposals from qualified firms for the design and construction of an inclusive and accessible playground at Beacon Street Park in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The proposed playground will be the centerpiece of Beacon Street Park. The design must create a fully accessible and inclusive play environment for children and families of all abilities, encouraging social interaction, physical activity, and imaginative play.

The project design is to be guided by the Town's Accessible Playground Concept Plan (Phases 1 and 2 only), attached as Appendix "A" and aims to remove barriers that often prevent children with disabilities from fully participating in play opportunities. The accessible design must ensure equitable entry, movement, and engagement within the space.

The successful proponent will be responsible for the demolition and removal of the existing play structure, and the design, supply, and installation of the playground and associated features as a complete, turn-key, design-build project.

#### 1.1.1 SITE VISIT

A **mandatory** site visit is scheduled for 11:00am Thursday April 9th. Proponents must attend to ensure familiarity with the site and requirements of the RFP. Meet in the Amherst Town Hall lobby located at 98 Victoria St, Amherst, NS

### 1.2 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proponents to submit completed Proposal Form, and submit all other documents as required by the invitation, for the project below by **April 28, 2026, by 2:00:00 p.m. local time**. All are to be submitted electronically by emailing [procurement@amherst.ca](mailto:procurement@amherst.ca). Ensure the email subject line is marked with the RFP ID:

**PROPOSAL: RFP-26-03 DESIGN BUILD INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND**

**TOWN OF AMHERST  
98 VICTORIA STREET EAST  
AMHERST, NS B4H 1X6  
[procurement@amherst.ca](mailto:procurement@amherst.ca)**

**ATTENTION: JASON MACDONALD, MCIP, LPP  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**1.2.1** Failure to mark the subject line with the Tender ID could result in a bid being rejected as late.

**1.2.2** Note: with proposals being submitted through electronic means only, all references to documents now mean electronic documents.

**Location:**

**1.2.2.1** Proposals must be received by the email address: [procurement@amherst.ca](mailto:procurement@amherst.ca)

**1.2.2.2** Submissions received by emails other than the address above, or in any physical location, will not be accepted. Conversely, all questions must go to [procurement@amherst.ca](mailto:procurement@amherst.ca) or will not be answered.

**Time:**

**1.2.2.3** Bids must be received by the time listed above on the Town of Amherst email server and is to be considered the official receipt date and time

**1.2.2.4** It is solely the responsibility of each bidder to ensure their Tender Submission arrives on time. Late Tender Submissions will not be accepted.

**1.2.2.5** Tenderers are advised the Town of Amherst has electronic mail security systems in place and therefore tenderers must allow sufficient time before the official closing time of the tender to be received by the Town of Amherst electronic mail system. The Town of Amherst is not responsible for electronic mail submission failures.

**1.2.2.6** Bids may be withdrawn at any time prior to opening.

**1.2.3** Any submissions or addenda submitted by fax, telephone, or physical hard copy will not be accepted under any circumstances.

**1.2.4** All submissions must be firm for 90 calendar days. The price is to include any and all delivery charges, FOB Amherst, Nova Scotia.

**1.2.5** The Town of Amherst reserves the right to waive technicalities, reject any or all bids, or any portion thereof, to advertise for new submissions, to proceed to do the work otherwise, or to abandon the work, if in the best interest of the Town.

**1.2.6** The Town of Amherst reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information, if required. All costs associated with the presentation of the tender submission and any supplemental information shall be borne solely by the bidder and shall not be passed on to the Town under any circumstances.

**1.2.7** The Proponent is responsible for obtaining any needed clarification of the RFP while it is open. Questions are to be directed in writing to the contact named in the tender. Email is the preferred method of contact. No verbal responses will be given. Only information received from the contact is considered valid and is to be used within the tender response.

**1.2.7.1** Bidders will be deemed to have familiarized themselves with the existing working conditions which may affect the performance of the Contract. No claims for extra compensation resulting from failure to investigate will be paid.

**1.2.8** The Town of Amherst reserves the right to inspect any work performed as a result of this RFP either during the life of the project or at completion and shall be the sole judge as to whether the work performed is satisfactory.

**1.2.9** The Town of Amherst reserves the right to cancel the contract immediately upon written notice, if, in the opinion of Chief Administrative Officer, the successful Proponent is not fulfilling the terms, conditions and specifications of the contract.

**1.2.9.1** All fees will be paid up to the date the work terminates, based on the work plan submitted and actual work completed, provided that work has been approved by Town Staff as satisfactory, and there are no outstanding 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance claims against the Contractor. The Town of Amherst has sole discretion in all matters.

**1.2.9.2** Proposal approval will be contingent on the bid being approved by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Amherst, who may at any time, choose to forward the bid to Amherst Town Council for Council’s approval. The successful proponent and the Town of Amherst can then proceed to settle, draft and sign the necessary legal agreement.

**1.2.10** Failure to comply with any requirements of this RFP could result in the rejection of the submission or delay in payment.

**1.2.11** This RFP is subject to the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the Atlantic Trade and Procurement Partnership (ATPP).



### 1.3 PROPOSAL OPENING

1.3.1 This RFP will not have a public opening.

### 1.4 REVISION OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

1.4.1 The Town of Amherst reserves the right to amend this Request for Proposals at any time before the closing date and will issue an addendum should a change be required.

1.4.2 Revisions shall be submitted only by signed letter delivered to the address as stated in Proposal submission. Only the proponent's entries on the delivered proposal offer may be revised. The revision must state only the amount by which a figure is to be increased or decreased, or specific directions as to the exclusion or inclusion of particular words. The revision shall not include the total proposal price.

### 1.5 LOCAL PREFERENCE

1.5.1 Local preference will not apply to this Request for Proposals as per the Town of Amherst Procurement Policy - Section 7 ([www.amherst.ca](http://www.amherst.ca)).

### 1.6 TIME/COMPLETION/DELIVERY/CANCELLATION

1.6.1 Time is of the essence in all matters under this order and the specified completion/delivery dates should be carefully considered before proponents enter a promised date on this form. Failure to meet promised completion/delivery dates may result in cancellation of any subsequent order.

### 1.7 ERRORS

1.7.1 Proponent submissions as received shall be considered final and no proponent submission shall be altered, amended or withdrawn after the specified closing date.

1.7.2 In the event of an error in calculation of the extended price, the unit price will be taken as correct and will govern in the Proponent evaluation and contract administration.

### 1.8 FORM

1.8.1 Proponent submission will not be accepted unless properly signed and submitted on this form.

1.8.2 Qualifying clauses or exceptions may result in rejection of the proponent.

### 1.9 LIABILITY

1.9.1 The proponent acknowledges that he is an independent contractor and shall indemnify, protect and save harmless the Town of Amherst, its agents, employees, successors and assigns from any and all damages, liabilities and claims of whatsoever nature arising out of the furnishing by the Vendor, its agents or employees, of the materials covered by this order or incidental or ancillary thereto.

1.9.2 Any claims against a Proponent/Contractor working on behalf of the Town of Amherst must be documented and the claims process started within 3 days of receipt of original complaint by either the Town or the Contractor. The Town of Amherst will not pay complete any Contractor with an outstanding insurance claim brought forward during the contracted work. Monies held are not a holdback but are to ensure vendor resolves the claim(s) to the satisfaction of the Town of Amherst. The Town of Amherst has the sole discretion in this matter.

---

**1.10 PLANNING/PREDESIGN**

**1.10.1** Following the award of the Request for Proposals, the winning Proponent will meet with Town staff to develop the detailed project schedule. Once complete, no change orders will be made to the design and/or details without the authorization of the Director of Operations, or designate, in writing.

**1.10.2** The Contractor will be required to coordinate with all suppliers and specialized contractors. The Contractor will provide on-going supervision as required, to oversee each phase of project development, and report to the Director of Operations at regular scheduled intervals, which will be determined at the initial meeting held prior to work commencement.

**1.10.3** The Owner will have access to all information throughout the project.

**1.11 SAFETY**

**1.11.1** As the project is deemed to be supply of goods, **this clause is not applicable.** Proponent will be responsible for all safety measures at the construction site. Proponent will be responsible to ensure all employees, contractors and sub-contractors follow all safety regulations such as the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act. Proponent is responsible to deal with concerns or hazards that may develop during the course of the project and shall set up safety procedures for contractors, employees and sub-contractors to follow

**1.12 INDEMNITY**

**1.12.1** If the Contract is awarded, the successful proponent shall indemnify and save harmless the Town of Amherst and its directors, officers, employees and agents from and against any and all liability, claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, actions, suits or proceedings, including solicitor's fees, howsoever arising or incurred, including those alleging damage to property or injury to, or death of, any person arising out of or attributable to the contractor's performance of or the failure to perform the Work of the contract awarded.

**1.12.2** Any property or work to be provided by the contractor under this contract will remain at the Contractor's risk and the Contractor will replace, at the Contractor's expense, all property or work damaged by any cause whatsoever.

**1.13 CLARIFICATION AND ADDENDA**

**1.13.1** Notify Procurement Coordinator not less than five (5) working days before Request for Proposals Closing of omissions, errors, or ambiguities found in Request for Proposal documents. If Procurement Coordinator and/or Director of Operations considers that correction, explanation, or interpretation is necessary, a written addendum will be issued.

**1.13.2** All addenda will form part of Contract Documents.

**1.14 EVALUATION**

**1.14.1** An evaluation committee will be established to evaluate proposals. All proposals will first be evaluated on their compliance of response to all sections of this Request for Proposals. Compliant proposals will be further evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight
<b>Meets the Needs of the Town of Amherst</b>	<b>Mandatory</b>
<b>Project Price:</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Design Quality &amp; Innovation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Accessibility &amp; Inclusivity</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Timeline and Project Delivery</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Warranty &amp; Maintenance Requirements</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Experience &amp; References</b>	<b>10%</b>

Proposals will be scored by the following equation for Cost of Project:

1. Lowest bid will receive highest score of 30%
2. Next lowest bid will be divided into the lowest bid x 30 =\_%
3. Next lowest bid will be divided into the lowest bid x 30 =\_% and so on

**In order to advance beyond the evaluation cycle, a total overall score of 60 must be achieved upon the evaluation of your proposal.**

**1.14.2** The above evaluation criteria are defined as;

- **Project Price:** The total proposed turnkey lump sum cost to design, supply, and construct the accessible playground. Evaluation will consider:
  - Overall value for money
  - Completeness of pricing (all-inclusive scope)
  - Alignment with project requirements and deliverables
  - The lowest compliant bid will receive full points, with other bids scored proportionally.
- **Design Quality & Innovation:** Assessment of the proponent’s overall design concept, methodology, and execution plan. Evaluation will consider:
  - Quality, creativity, and functionality of the playground layout
  - Integration of required features (play zones, circulation, embankment, etc.)
  - Clarity and feasibility of the proposed design approach
  - Alignment with the Beacon Street concept plan
  - Constructability and practicality of the design
  - Higher scores will be awarded to proposals demonstrating a well-developed, cohesive, and buildable design solution.
- **Accessibility & Inclusivity:** Evaluation of how effectively the proposal delivers a fully inclusive and universally accessible play environment. Evaluation will consider:
  - Compliance with CSA accessibility standards
  - Quality and variety of inclusive play features
  - Accessibility of pathways and circulation routes
  - Integration of sensory play elements
  - Ability to support play for children of varying abilities simultaneously
  - Higher scores will be awarded to proposals that go beyond minimum standards and demonstrate leadership in inclusive design.

- **Timeline & Project Delivery:** Assessment of the proponent’s ability to deliver the project within the required timeframe. Evaluation will consider:
  - Realistic and detailed project schedule
  - Key milestones and sequencing of work
  - Ability to complete within the 2026 construction season
  - Approach to minimizing disruptions and managing risks
  - Preference will be given to proponents demonstrating a clear, achievable, and well-structured delivery plan.
- **Experience & References:** Evaluation of the proponent’s experience with similar projects and demonstrated performance. Evaluation will consider:
  - Relevant experience in playground design-build projects
  - Experience delivering inclusive and accessible play spaces
  - Quality and relevance of provided references
  - Past project performance, including timelines and quality
  - Higher scores will be awarded to proponents with strong municipal experience and proven successful project delivery.
- **Warranty & Maintenance:** Evaluation of the durability, warranty coverage, and long-term maintenance requirements of the proposed playground and associated components. Evaluation will consider:
  - Length and comprehensiveness of warranties for:
    - Playground equipment
    - Surfacing systems (rubber, turf, wood fibre, etc.)
    - Structural components and hardware
    - Clarity of warranty terms, including what is covered and exclusions
    - Expected service life of materials and equipment
    - Ease of maintenance and availability of replacement parts
    - Ongoing maintenance requirements (frequency, complexity, and cost implications)
    - Suitability of materials for the local climate and municipal use conditions
  - Higher scores will be awarded to proposals that demonstrate:
    - Long-term durability and reliability
    - Comprehensive, clearly defined warranties
    - Low-maintenance design with minimal lifecycle costs

## 1.15 CONDITIONS OF PURCHASE

**1.15.1** The proponent warrants and agrees that for a period of one year or greater from the date of delivery or performance, the goods or services set out in the order are and shall be supplied or manufactured in a good and workmanlike manner. No substitution of alternate quality shall be permitted unless previously agreed to by the Town of Amherst and confirmed in writing.

## 1.16 TERMINATION

### 1.16.1 Termination of Convenience:

The Town of Amherst may terminate a contract in whole or in part, whenever the Town determines that such a termination is in the best interest of the Town, without showing cause, upon giving written notice to the proponent. The Town of Amherst shall pay all reasonable costs incurred by the proponent up to the date of termination. However, in no event shall the proponent be paid an amount which exceeds the proponent price for the work performed. The proponent shall not be

reimbursed for any profits which may have been anticipated but which have not been earned up to date of termination.

**1.16.2 Termination of Default:**

When the proponent has not performed or has unsatisfactorily performed the contract, the Town of Amherst may terminate the contract for default. Upon termination for default, payment will be withheld at the discretion of the Town of Amherst. Failure on the part of the proponent to fulfill the contractual obligations shall be considered just cause for termination of the contract. The proponent will be paid for work satisfactorily performed prior to termination, less any excess costs incurred by the Town of Amherst in re-procuring and completing the work.

**1.17 CONTACT**

**1.17.1 All questions relating to this Request for Proposals to be directed IN WRITING to:**

**Name:** Kim Jones

**Email:** [procurement@amherst.ca](mailto:procurement@amherst.ca)

**1.17.2** Should any question raised by a proponent necessitate an addendum to this Request for Proposal, addendum notice will be posted on the Provincial ([www.procurement.novascotia.ca](http://www.procurement.novascotia.ca)) and Town of Amherst ([www.amherst.ca](http://www.amherst.ca)) websites.

**1.17.3** The Town of Amherst has the right to reject any vendor that is found to be in communication with a Town staff member other than the contact above. The Town will not, and cannot be held responsible for, any information used within a proposal that has not been communicated through this RFP, an addendum issued by Town staff specific to this RFP, and/or including information heard or communicated at any site visit.

**1.18 LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**

**1.18.1** Not applicable

**1.19 WARRANTY**

**1.19.1** Title to all materials and equipment shall be furnished free and clear of all liens, charges or other encumbrances.

**1.19.2** Upon written notice during the warranty/guarantee period, immediately replace, repair or otherwise make good all defective work, materials or equipment at no additional cost to the Town.

**1.19.3** All service work and repairs are FOB Amherst. In other words, the Town of Amherst will not pay travel charges for travel to/from our premises for warranty, further service, maintenance or repairs during the life of the equipment supplied as a result of this RFP. Out of town suppliers MUST, therefore, bid on the basis of providing service and support equivalent to that of an Amherst based dealer/supplier.

**1.20 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

**1.20.1** As proposals may be forwarded/reviewed by Council at public meetings, all proprietary information within your submission needs to be identified clearly, so all parties are aware of its proprietary nature. Preferred method would be yellow highlighting.

## 2 SCOPE OF WORK

### 2.1 OBJECTIVES & SCOPE OF WORK

The Town of Amherst intends to construct a playground that:

- Provides inclusive play opportunities for children of all abilities
- Is accessible to users with mobility, sensory, and developmental disabilities
- Encourages social play between children of different abilities
- Is durable, safe, and compliant with CSA playground safety standards
- Creates a welcoming public space for families and caregivers

The playground must comply with **CAN/CSA Z614 – Children’s Play Spaces and Equipment** and applicable accessibility standards.

The successful proponent will provide **complete design-build services**, including:

- Concept design and playground layout
- Supply of all equipment and materials
- Site preparation and grading, including demolition and removal of existing play structure
- Installation of playground equipment
- Installation of safety surfacing
- Landscaping and site furnishings
- Lighting installation
- Project management and coordination
- Compliance with all applicable codes and standards

The contractor will be responsible for coordinating with utilities, obtaining required permits, and completing all work necessary to deliver a fully operational playground.

## 3 BUDGET

### 3.1 BUDGET

The estimated budget for this project is \$1,000,000. All prices will be in Canadian dollars only and exclusive of HST. Proposals over budget will not be considered. Concerns about budget must be addressed during the enquiry period only.

## 4 PROPOSAL MANDATORIES

### 4.1 Proposals MUST include the following:

- 4.1.1 The supplier must supply product specification sheets with the Request for Proposal. It must comply with the specifications in this Request for Proposal, and it should confirm the information supplied by the supplier in the response sections of the specifications. If not, the Request for Proposal could be considered non-conformant. In the event there are discrepancies, it is the sole responsibility of the Supplier to explain these discrepancies in writing in the RFP response.
- 4.1.2 Signed copy of Attachment “A”
- 4.1.3 Provide three references for similar projects.
- 4.1.4 The Town of Amherst reserves the right to evaluate references other than those listed.
- 4.1.5 Complete manufacturer’s specifications and illustrated description shall be submitted with each bid. Insufficient descriptive information may be cause for rejection of bid.
- 4.1.6 Product warranty information is to accompany all submissions.
- 4.1.7 Price must exclude HST.
- 4.1.8 Proponent may include any other information with the submission that proponent the believes is necessary.

## 5 SPECIFICATIONS

- 5.1 The playground equipment and installation must comply with CAN/CSA Z614 – Children’s Play Spaces and Equipment and applicable accessibility standards, accessibility best practices, Nova Scotia OH&S requirements and Proponents must incorporate the design principles and features identified in the Town’s Accessible Playground Concept Plan.

All proposed play structures and materials must be:

- Durable and vandal-resistant
- Suitable for Canadian climate
- Low maintenance

The playground must include a universally accessible central play core with resilient rubber surfacing to allow barrier-free movement for wheelchairs and mobility aids.

### 5.2 GENERAL

The successful proponent shall provide a **complete design-build solution** including:

- Design and layout
- Supply of all playground equipment
- Site preparation and grading, demolition of existing play structure
- Installation of all features
- Accessible surfacing
- Landscaping and site furnishings
- Lighting installation

---

**5.3 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS**

- Prepare a comprehensive playground design aligned with the Beacon Street Park concept plan
- Develop layout drawings illustrating all play elements, circulation, and site features
- Integrate inclusive and accessible design principles throughout
- Ensure design accommodates multiple age groups and abilities
- Provide shop drawings and design details for review and approval

**5.4 SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION**

- Supply all playground equipment, materials, and components
- Complete all site preparation, grading, and excavation
- Install all equipment in accordance with manufacturer specifications
- Install safety surfacing including rubber, turf, or wood fibre as required
- Install accessible pathways and circulation routes
- Complete all required landscaping and site restoration

**5.5 ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND FEATURES**

The playground must include the following core elements:

**5.5.1 Accessible Central Play Core**

- Rubberized safety surfacing
- Inclusive play structure
- Accessible spinner/whirl
- Musical/sensory play components

**5.5.2 Circulation and Access**

- Barrier-free pathways
- Concrete accessible routes
- Clear entry points from Beacon Street

**5.5.3 Embankment Play Feature**

- Accessible sloped play area (~1.8m height)
- Integrated slides and climbing features
- Handrails and safety features

**5.5.4 Swings**

- Accessible swing
- Basket swing
- Traditional swings

**5.5.5 Age-Based Zones**

- Ages 2–5 play area
- Infant/toddler (6 months–2 years) area
- Sand/sensory play zone

**5.5.6 Sensory Play**

- Interactive panels

- Musical elements
- Textured surfaces

**5.5.7 Seating and Shade**

- Benches (8 minimum)
- Accessible picnic tables (3 minimum)
- Shade structures and Picnic Structure

**5.5.8 Landscaping**

- Trees and planting beds
- Turf or grass areas
- Buffer planting

**5.5.9 Lighting**

- Pedestrian lighting throughout site

**5.5.10 Security Cameras**

- The Proponent shall provide a complete, fully turnkey electrical power supply installation to support the operation of up to three (3) security cameras. Location of power supplies to be approved by the Town. The supply and installation of the security cameras will be the responsibility of the Town.

**5.6 PROJECT DELIVERY**

- Provide a detailed project schedule with key milestones
- Coordinate with utilities and obtain all required permits
- Ensure safe work practices and site management
- Minimize disruption to surrounding park areas
- Achieve substantial completion within the agreed timeline

**5.7 PROJECT CLOSEOUT REQUIREMENTS**

- Provide as-built drawings upon completion
- Submit operation and maintenance manuals
- Provide warranty documentation for all components
- Conduct final inspection with Town representatives
- Address any deficiencies prior to final acceptance

ATTACHMENT "A"

[Standard Terms and Conditions – The Council of Atlantic Premiers \(cap-cpma.ca\)](https://cap-cpma.ca/atlantic-supplier-development/standard-terms-and-conditions/)  
<https://cap-cpma.ca/atlantic-supplier-development/standard-terms-and-conditions/>

**NOTE: These Terms and Conditions and the Supplements for the Town of Amherst shall apply to those documents that reference them specifically. In the event of any conflict or disagreement between these Terms and Conditions and the Invitation documents, the Invitation documents have precedence and will be assumed to be correct.**

These Terms and Conditions are intended to cover a wide range of procurements, including goods and services. As such, not all clauses will be applicable in all situations.

If Proponents have questions regarding any of these Terms and Conditions, they must call the contact person named on the Invitation form.

To satisfy special requirements, supplementary Terms and Conditions may also apply to some acquisitions. If this is the case, the Invitation documents will reference any such documents, in addition to these Terms and Conditions.

*Failure to completely comply with these Terms and Conditions could cause the Proponent to be disqualified.*

---

**AS EVIDENCE OF THE PROPONENT'S INTENT TO BE LEGALLY BOUND BY THIS ATTACHEMENT A AND HAS ACCORDINGLY READ THE ATLANTIC STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, THE PROPONENT HAS EXECUTED AND DELIVERED THIS ATTACHMENT A, AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS TENDER FORM IN THE MANNER AND SPACE SET OUT BELOW:**

---

Authorized Signatory for the Proponent

---

Date

---

Print Name and Title

**PROPOSAL FORM**

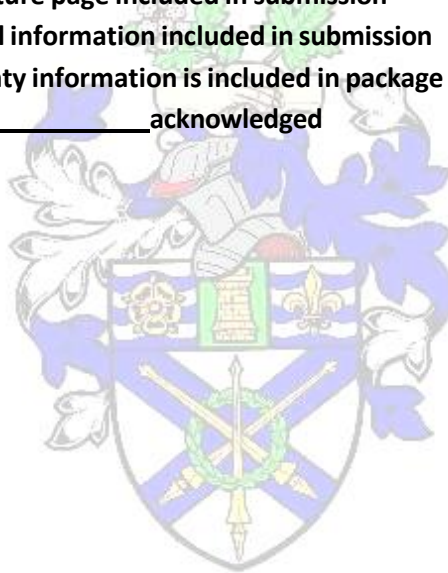
All prices to **exclude HST**

<p><b>Lump Sum Price (Excluding Taxes)</b> <b>Design Build of Inclusive &amp; Accessible Playground</b></p>	<p>\$</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

Earliest Guaranteed Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Documentation Requirements**

- Attachment A Signature page included in submission
- Three references full information included in submission
- Product and Warranty information is included in package
- Addenda # \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledged



**SIGNATURES**

DATED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

[Seal]

Name of Firm Tendering

Signature of Signing Officer

Name and Title of Signing Officer (Printed)

Witness

Name and Title (Printed)

Witness

Name and Title (Printed)

Full Company Address, with Postal Code

Telephone No.

**\*\*NOTE:** Proposals submitted by or on behalf of any Corporation must be signed in the name of such Corporation by a duly authorized officer or agent.



**Appendix "A"**



# AMHERST ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND

---

DRAFT REPORT

2026

**GLENN  
GROUP**  
LANDSCAPE  
ART, INTERIORS AND  
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL

# Understanding the Beacon Street Park Enhancement Project

The Town of Amherst has engaged our services to support the enhancement of Beacon Street Park. This design report focuses specifically on the improvement and expansion of the park's accessible playground, with particular attention to accommodating children and adults of all abilities and aligning with applicable Canadian Safety Association (CSA) playground safety standards.

"Play is a fundamental human right and is integral to children's emotional well-being and cognitive, physical, and social development. However, children with disabilities often face significant barriers to accessing sport and play."

(Town of Amherst Accessible Playgrounds Research Report, 2023)

Traditional playgrounds, while vital for unstructured play, often create barriers that prevent children with disabilities from fully benefiting. These include limitations in developing imagination, self-awareness, risk assessment, personal identity, and crucial social and motor skills. Our goal is to dismantle these barriers through thoughtful design.

## The Aim of Accessible Playground Design

The primary aim of designing an accessible playground is to remove physical and social barriers so that children of all abilities can engage in meaningful, safe, and enriching play experiences. This approach fosters a truly inclusive community space.



### Equitable Access

Ensuring children with disabilities can enter, move through, and use all key play areas and amenities without hindrance.



### Inclusive Participation

Enabling children of diverse abilities to play together, fostering interaction rather than segregation in specialized zones.



### Healthy Child Development

Providing rich opportunities for social interaction, sensory exploration, physical activity, and imaginative play for every child.



### Community Inclusion

Creating public spaces where families of all abilities feel welcomed, supported, and able to participate fully in community life.



### Compliance with Standards

Meeting all Canadian accessibility guidelines and best practices for public infrastructure and playground safety.



## CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT: Inspiration

The design of the Beacon Street Park enhancement project draws deeply from the rich cultural, natural, and historical tapestry of the Amherst region. Our conceptual framework is built upon three distinct yet interconnected sources of inspiration, ensuring the park reflects the unique identity and heritage of its location.



### Siknikit: Mi'kmaw Culture

Rooted in Mi'kmaw culture, Siknikit reflects the spiritual importance of the east. This concept symbolizes rising land, new beginnings, the sunrise, and life itself, guiding our focus on spaces that foster growth and renewal.



### Christie Pond: Natural Heritage

Christie Pond, historically created by the damming of Dickey Brook, offers a pivotal natural and cultural reference point. It informs our understanding of the site's hydrological features and ecological setting, influencing integrated design elements.



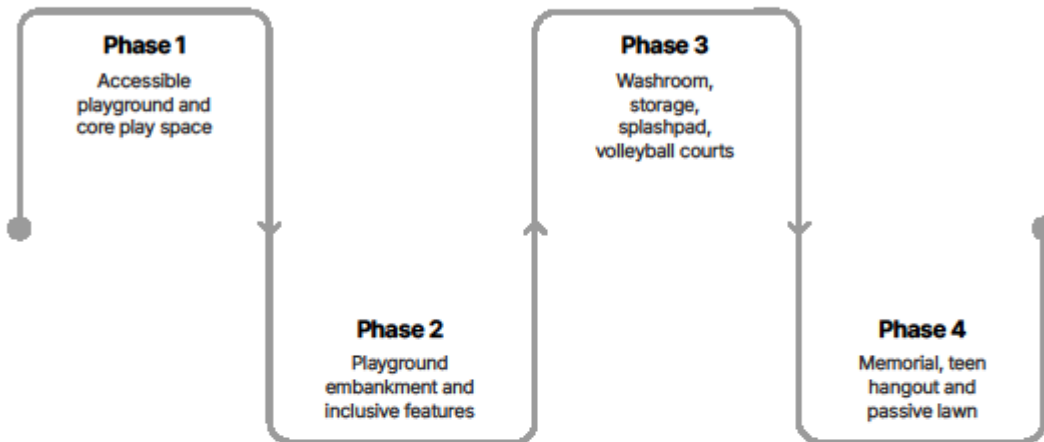
### Architectural & Cultural Legacy

The architectural and cultural heritage of Amherst, with its connection to the Fathers of Confederation, inspires the incorporation of materials like sandstone and granite. These elements pay tribute to the region's historical foundations and strength.

## The Design: Masterplan Phasing

Beacon Street Park is organized into four phases to allow the project to be delivered in a financially responsible and operationally manageable manner. Phasing enables the Town of Amherst to prioritize essential upgrades, align construction with annual capital budgets, and pursue external funding opportunities as they arise. It also minimizes disruption to park use by sequencing work logically and ensures that early improvements can inform and refine subsequent phases.

The park design consists of 4 areas broken up into phases:



This strategic approach allows for a methodical and adaptive development of Beacon Street Park, ensuring each component is integrated thoughtfully into the overall vision.







## Accessible Playground





## Playground Summary: Enhancing Inclusive Play

The proposed enhancements to Beacon Street Park are meticulously designed to create a fully accessible and inclusive playground experience. The core of the design features a resilient rubber surface, ensuring safe and easy navigation for all children, including those with mobility challenges. This central area serves as the heart of the play space, connecting various zones tailored for diverse age groups and abilities.



### Accessible Slopes

Smooth, graded slopes allow effortless access to different play levels, eliminating physical barriers for children using wheelchairs or other mobility aids, and encouraging adventurous movement.



### Climbing & Sliding

A variety of climbing and sliding features are integrated, ranging from gentle slides to more challenging rock walls, all designed with safety and accessibility in mind to promote physical development and fun for every child.



### Inclusive Swings

The swing area boasts a selection of options, including basket swings, swings with high backs and harnesses, and traditional swings, ensuring every child can experience the joy of soaring through the air.



### Sensory Elements

Interactive sensory panels, chimes, and textured surfaces are strategically placed to engage multiple senses, fostering cognitive development and providing calming or stimulating experiences.



### Shaded Seating Areas

Thoughtfully positioned shade structures and integrated seating offer comfortable resting spots for children and caregivers, providing respite from the sun and promoting longer, more enjoyable visits to the park.

Beyond the play equipment, the design incorporates thoughtful landscaping, integrated planting beds, and clear, wide pathways. Materials such as synthetic turf and accessible wood fiber are utilized to ensure barrier-free movement and enhanced safety throughout the entire site. These elements collectively support optimal comfort, safety, and supervision within the park. Overall, this comprehensive design significantly strengthens accessibility, boosts play value, and fosters greater community use, creating a truly welcoming and engaging space for everyone in Amherst.











### Dynamic Embankment Play

Surrounding the central play area, an accessible embankment gently slopes to a height of 1.8 meters from west to east. This sloped surface is finished in concrete and features a continuous handrail, ensuring safe and supported movement along its entire length. At the higher end, the embankment seamlessly connects to a deck that links directly to a combined climbing and sliding structure, embedded in an accessible wood-fiber surface. Three shade sails are strategically positioned along the embankment, providing consistent overhead coverage for the slide elements and enhancing comfort and usability throughout the day. Along the interior face of the slope, slides of varying heights descend toward the central core, set within a surface of synthetic turf. This design actively encourages play by inviting children to climb up the slope and slide back down, promoting both accessibility and dynamic recreation. The exterior face features a planted bed of low-growing shrubs and medium to large trees, offering additional shade and establishing a protective buffer between the accessible play area and adjacent sections of the park.



### Dedicated Tot & Young Child Zones

At the lower end of the embankment, the slope gracefully transitions into a dedicated play zone specifically designed for children aged 2 to 5, featuring age-appropriate play equipment integrated into the synthetic turf. Southeast of this area, the play surface extends beyond the concrete pathway, creating a separate, secure zone tailored for children aged 6 months to 2 years. This younger age area is bordered on the east by a stimulating sand pit, supporting essential sensory play. Adjacent to this zone, a spacious 6 by 6-meter shade structure is equipped with accessible picnic tables, offering a sheltered space for social interaction among families and enhancing supervision capabilities for caregivers.



### Swings & Social Seating

The eastern portion of the accessible playground is thoughtfully designed to include a social seating space, providing a comfortable area for rest and interaction. This zone also features three swings, including one specifically designed for accessible use, ensuring that children of varying abilities can experience the joy of swinging. All swing structures are set within an accessible wood fiber surfacing, guaranteeing safe and barrier-free access. This arrangement promotes inclusive fun for everyone, allowing all children to engage in active play while also providing dedicated areas for parents and caregivers to relax and socialize.



### Integrated Lighting Solutions

To enhance the functionality and safety of the park during evening hours, lighting has been strategically integrated into the proposed design. Fixtures are planned at approximately 30-meter intervals throughout both the accessible playground and the broader park area. This careful placement supports optimal visibility, significantly improving safety for all users. Furthermore, this strategic lighting design facilitates extended evening use, allowing the community to enjoy the park for longer periods, fostering a more vibrant and accessible recreational space for everyone.