



Celebrating Municipal Excellence
2023 Nomination Form
Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Nominee Contact Information	
Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated: <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Town of Dalmeny
Contact Name:	Jim Weninger
Contact role in project:	
Telephone #:	306-254-2133
Mailing Address:	Box 400, 301 Railway Avenue, Dalmeny, SK S0K 1E0
E-mail Address:	jweninger@dalmeny.ca
Name of Nominated Practice or Project:	Dalmeny Spray Park - Saskatchewan First Recirculating Spray Park
Date of Project or Practice Initiation:	10-Jun-2021
Date of Project or Practice Completion: <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	11-Sept-2023
	Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Lacy Boisvert
Organization:	Town of Dalmeny - Spray and Play Committee
Position:	Chairperson
Mailing Address:	Box 21, Dalmeny, SK, S0K 1E0
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Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.

The Practice

1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

There were many families in Dalmeny and surrounding area that were looking for local, family friendly, economical activities, sports or events during the summer months. This was especially evident for families that owned only one vehicle that was being used by the spouse or partner's commute for work, leaving them unable to travel outside of the community. Council discussed a number of options for a summer space that would meet the needs of the community.

2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

A Spray Park has been a priority raised by the community since 2010, and after years of fundraising, Council made the decision with the support of the Spray and Play Committee to move forward with plans for a Spray Park. Council wanted to ensure that the Spray Park was accessible to all families by choosing features that were wheel chair accessible. There are also a number of different spray zones, that accommodate children of different ages. They range from infant, toddler, teen, and family to allow everyone a safe place to play based on their comfort level. The tendered project also included walking paths, benches, picnic tables and trees for shade. Ground breaking took place for this project on September 8, 2021. Council was also cognizant of keeping the cost low to the tax payers of Dalmeny. This was a major contributing factor when making the decision to install Saskatchewan's First Water Recirculating System for Spray Parks rather than the traditional flow through system. The Spray Park currently has 15 features, expandable to 21 as additional funding becomes available. Therefore, the 2,500 square foot Spray Park is a local community space for people of all ages to come together. All families in Dalmeny and surrounding area that have used the Spray Park since its opening love using this public facility. It is a welcoming, family friendly, inclusive space that allows for a place to socialize, play, and enjoy during the summer months.

The Process

This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

Municipal Council

- Municipal Administration
- Other

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

The role of the municipal Council was to approve the project design, the decision to install a recirculation system versus a flow through system, and the overall high level details. Municipal staff was responsible for the day to day activities, maintenance, and chemical treatments once the park was installed. Recreation Manager Mat Halcro and Chief Administrative Officer Jim Weninger worked closely with the Committee Chair Lacy Boisvert and William Hrycan from Crosby Hanna & Associates to present the final design layout and kept Council informed on the processes.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

Representatives of Saskatchewan Public Health were consulted for their expertise, as this was the first recirculating Spray Park in Saskatchewan. Members of the Public Works Department and Recreation Department were trained on chemical processes to treat the water and will be in charge of the operation and maintenance of the water recirculating system.

6. What resources were involved?

The Spray and Play Committee had many community fundraising events that helped contribute to the cost of the Spray Park. The Committee Chair was also included in many meetings for the overall design, and helped to research the cost of materials and vendors. In terms of human resources, the Town paid all the invoices, tracked the progress of the project and made sure everything was completed as per the tender specifications. We also worked closely with Crosby Hanna, PlayQuest, and ConTech General Contractors. This allowed the town to gain valuable insight into the construction of the Spray Park due to the expertise of all parties involved. The Spray and Play Committee used the JJ Community Centre on a number of occasions which was given "free of charge", in order to assist with their efforts to raise money. Over \$150,000, to date has been raised by community efforts. Many volunteer hours were associated with this Project and like the Arena, in winter, the Spray Park is the focal point of the community in the summer. The biggest resource used in this project was water, which was utilized in a limited capacity due to Dalmeny's recirculation system. This system recirculates 454 litres of water every minute. The water usage of the Spray Park was 60,128 imperial gallons, at a cost of \$1,031.95 for the entire season.

In discussions with other communities, they typically budget \$50,000 to \$60,000 just for water consumption. With fundraised dollars and grant money used towards the project it kept the total investment for the project less than \$585,000.

7. How was the project or practice developed?

With the cooperation of the municipal Council, residents of Dalmeny and surrounding area, municipal staff, Spray and Play Committee, and Crosby Hanna & Associates explored a number of design options for the Spray Park. Once the design was finalized Crosby Hanna & Associates were engaged to complete the project plan specifications for construction and to tender the Project to interested parties. Also, municipal staff and the Committee visited a number of Spray Parks in Saskatchewan and Alberta and incorporated the latest trends into the final design for the Spray Park.

The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

From the start, this has been a community endeavor. The idea of the project had been brought forward by the Spray and Play Committee, who then ran a number of fundraisers to raise money for the project. This encouraged a number of families and companies to donate significant sums of money towards the project. The fundraisers were family friendly and were always well attended. The final design of the Spray Park included a space on the benches where families could put their children's handprints into the cement as a way to commemorate the community working together to make the project happen.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

Since the opening of the Spray Park, there has been a lot of great feedback, and a lot of use by the community. It is common for the Spray Park to run from opening to closing during the hottest days of summer, which has also increased the use of the nearby playground equipment. It has also provided for a safe place for families to socialize and meet other residents of the area. A formal review has not been undertaken to date, however, based on the comments from the community and surrounding area, the Spray Park has definitely been appreciated and well utilized. We also wanted to be environmentally aware of our water resources, and of the changes happening due to climate change. Therefore, we have been tracking water consumption and rates to evaluate the impact of the Spray Park. Fifty-two trees were also planted around the Spray Pad. To date, we are happy with the low water consumption and foot print of the Spray Park.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

One big challenge was to try to keep costs low during Covid-19 and inflation. Originally, the Town tendered out all the work. In the end, the Public Works Department and Recreation Department staff planted all the trees, placed the bollards, gathered the rocks and tendered the supply and delivery of topsoil. This helped to save approximately \$45,000, but also lengthened the process. In terms of inflation, when this Project was first discussed, the estimated cost was approximately 30 percent lower than what the Town paid in the end. However, if Council would have not approved the Project when they did, the cost could have easily been 10 percent to 20 percent higher. Another challenge was the process of being approved by Saskatchewan Public Health for the First Recirculating Spray Park system. Working with the Ministry of Health, the Town was able to ensure safety standards and get their approval. This unanticipated requirement delayed the project somewhat, therefore other communities who are looking to install a recirculating system should start these discussions well in advance.

Lessons Learned

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

The Spray Park is in close proximity to a number of residential dwellings. Initially, the Town had discussions with the nearest property owners about the construction of the Spray Park. The home owners that are adjacent to the Spray Park were concerned with the higher level of noise from children playing, and other potential noise levels, but only voiced their concerns during the construction phase. We would recommend engaging home owners closest to the Project early in the Project timeline to get feedback and concerns, rather than closer to the completion, as it would have alleviated concerns sooner. We have also learnt, that there are some things done better by a contractor, as opposed to municipal staff. Although more expensive, we should have had the contractor do a little more of the work (repurposing of the lift station building and generator building for the spray park buildings). We would recommend, that if budget allows to have the contractor do as much of the Project as possible, to ensure cohesive and professional quality. We would recommend that you build what you can afford and add other items as you can afford them, such as picnic tables, benches, waste and recycling containers. Also, always allow for expansion of additional spray features within the Spray Pad. It is very hard to plan and construct a Spray Park facility over 2 years. Always allow for a longer time period, if possible.

