

## JUSTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Several projects have been identified and listed in the Brampton Township 5-year recreation plan based on public survey input and need. This project pertains to the renovation of the Kipling Park recreation facility. The Park's playground equipment had been used for well over 75 years. The equipment was unsafe for children's play and was considered a liability to the Township. It was imperative the playground equipment be removed. This project is to renovate the playground with new upgraded equipment, padded surfacing and accessible walkways that are safe and meet ADA and Universal Design objectives.

The Kipling Park site is the township's primary recreation facility. The Kipling Park and adjacent Township Hall serve as a central community hub. The purpose is to promote families, healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation and a sense of community for both residents and visitors.

To promote an interest in outdoor activities, wildlife and natural resources the Park will include a pollinator theme. The playground equipment will include representations of butterflies, bees, lady bugs and other flying insects. In addition, a future project will follow to establish a pollinator garden that includes native milkweed and flowers on the NW end of the Kipling Park site. The garden will include a walking path with educational displays explaining the endangerment of monarch butterflies and bees. In close proximity to the garden are woodlands for those interested in bird watching and viewing other wildlife.

Another future activity defined in the township's 5-year plan is to develop safe bicycle infrastructure along Bay Shore Drive to improve regional trail connections and enhance recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. One proposal is to work with the City of Gladstone and the Michigan DNR on redesignating part of the Iron Belle Trail along US Highway 2, to Bay Shore Drive through Kipling. The Kipling Park would serve as a rest stop and picnic area for cyclists. A bike path could easily be implemented along the shoulder of the Bay Shore Drive roadway redirecting cyclists away from the heavy high-speed traffic on US Highway 2. An alternative proposal would be to designate Bay Shore Drive as a spur off the existing Iron Belle Trail. The proposed bike path along Bay Shore Drive could also connect to the Michigan DNR's Days River Nature Trail just 1.9 miles away from the Kipling Park.

For additional information see the Brampton Township Recreation Plan - Goals and Objectives pages 31-34.