OTS
Rethink your relationship with tires

CASE STUDY

KAWARTHA VILLAGE CO-OP PLAYGROUND PROJECT

FROM OLD *TIRES TO* **INNOVATIVE** SOLUTIONS

WHO
Kawartha Village Co-operative Homes

WHERE
Peterborough, ON

WHAT
SofSURFACES SofTILE Plus was used to create surfacing for an accessible community playground

WHEN
June 2013

WHY
SofTILE Plus is environmentally friendly and provides a safe, accessible surface for children and adults alike.

ESTIMATED TIRE EQUIVALENTS

885

Background

Kawartha Village Co-op has not had a playground since 2005, when the original structures were deemed unsafe and subsequently demolished. There has been a void in the community of 80 townhouses and 200 residents ever since, and funding a replacement play area has been a long-standing challenge for Peterborough residents. As a result, creating a safe new playground has been a growing priority for the Co-op. The community started by raising money through simple fundraising events such as bake sales and car washes, and supplemented this by applying for grants to secure the funding they needed to build a new playground.

Transforming Communities

In 2013, Kawartha Village Co-op received funding through multiple sources including OTS' Community Grant Program, enabling the group to begin the community playground project on Lansdowne Street East.

The playground was constructed using SofSURFACES SofTILE recycled rubber surfacing. The product's durability, eco-friendly attributes and user safety influenced Kawartha Village Co-op's decision to use SofTILE over traditional alternatives such as sand, gravel, mulch and cement.

The durable rubber tiles, made from recycled scrap tires, also show fewer signs of wear and tear from high impact use, and can be easily removed for upgrades or re-installation, resulting in long-term maintenance cost savings.

In addition, SofTILE was designed to reduce the risk of head injury, and has one of the best Head Injury Criteria (HIC) ratings when compared with its

competitors.

"We feel really confident about the surface and its durability. Once it's installed, it's good for a really long time," said Candida Clarke, Playground Committee Chair.

In addition to being safe and durable, it was vital that the playground be accessible for all members of the community, and the SofTILErubber surface helps achieve this goals as it is much easier for wheelchairs to access the area, when compared with sand or pebbles.

The long-awaited playground is now open to all members of the Peterborough community.
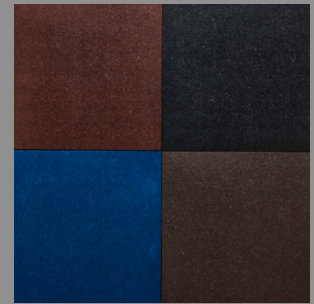
SofSURFACES Background

Established in 1988 in Petrolia, ON, SofSURFACES began as a small but committed supplier of poured in place playground surfacing in the Ontario market. Today, the company manufactures innovative indoor and outdoor recycled rubber surfacing solutions to consumers, landscape designers and contractors throughout North America, Asia and Europe

To date, SofSURFACES has diverted more than 650,000 used passenger tires in Ontario from hazardous landfills.

"We're proud that SofSURFACES has played an integral role in improving the sustainability and safety factor of playgrounds across Ontario," says John Prins, Chief Executive Officer, SofSURFACES. "Our playground surfacing was designed to reduce the risk of injury from falls, while providing durability and creating a bright, eye-catching space."

SofSURFACES.com

ABOUT OTS

Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) is a not-for-profit organization responsible for ensuring the 10 million scrap tires generated annually get recycled, right here in the province.

Since 2009, we've diverted more than 50 million tires from landfills or from getting burned. We work with leading Ontario companies to put used tires to work in your community and your home. They get made into landscape tiles, doormats, speed bumps, roofing shakes, garden mulch and a variety of useful and eco-friendly products made right here. Plus, we've helped bring more than $40 million in investments and hundreds of jobs to the province. It's amazing how something we used to just throw away can benefit Ontarians' quality of life in so many ways.

RethinkTires.ca