

Scope Change to WJL Harvey Play Structure Replacement Capital Project

ISSUE

Alternative additional funding has been secured for Capital Project P901 - Park Upgrades, Enhancements and Repairs to support the replacement of playground equipment in WJL Harvey Park North. With the additional funds, Administration is recommending that three aging play structures in WJL Harvey Park North be replaced instead of one as originally planned.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that the scope for Capital Project P901 - Park Upgrades, Enhancements and Repairs for the replacement of play structures in WJL Harvey Park North be increased by \$70,000 to \$420,000, to include the replacement of two additional play structures with accessibility components with the additional funding, as described in this report.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2020-2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget, a capital project to replace one aging intermediate play structure in WJL Harvey Park North in Silverwood Heights was approved within Capital Project P1595 Park Upgrades, Enhancements & Repairs. As originally planned, the Silverwood Heights Community Association (SHCA) was to fundraise \$225,000, while the City of Saskatoon (City) was to contribute \$25,000 as a Park Enhancement Grant, for a total project budget of \$250,000.

In July 2020, City Council approved an allocation of \$1.6 million to the Parks Asset Management Plan in one-time funding through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP). Subsequently, with the additional MEEP funding the decision was made to allocate \$350,000 of the Parks Asset Management Plan funding under Capital Project P901 to increase the scope of the project to replace three play structures, instead of one in WJL Harvey Park North, between St. Angela and Brownell Schools.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Due to the proximity to two schools, and large numbers of young people in the area, the playground between Brownell and St. Angela Schools is made up of several separate play structures. It consists of one intermediate play structure, two small tot play structures, two sets of climbers (monkey bars), and two banks of swings. The three play structures are all in need of replacing as they have all reached their serviceable lifespans. When WJL Harvey Park North was upgraded in 2017, the playground was not included in the park upgrade due to the significant cost to replace all three structures at the same time, and the funding that was available at the time.

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These play structures have been continually evaluated and maintained to ensure that they meet current CSA safety standards, however as noted above, they have reached their serviceable lifespan and have been identified by Parks and Facilities Management Departments as high priorities among the number of play structures across the city in need of replacing.

Since the approval of the original capital project to replace one aging intermediate play structure in WJL Harvey Park North between St. Angela and Brownell Schools, additional funding of \$35,000 has also been secured from the Saskatoon Public School Division by the SHCA.

Now that MEEP funding has been secured, the opportunity has presented itself to replace all three of these aging play structures with accessibility components in this park at the same time, resulting in both efficiencies and cost savings. The additional funding allows for the replacement of all three structures in 2021 rather than one this year, and the other two in future years.

Capital Project P1595 will be cancelled and the Park Enhancement Reserve contribution of \$25,000 and \$10,000 from the Silverwood Heights Community Association Playground Committee will be instead allocated to Capital Project P901.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As originally submitted, the capital project to replace the one intermediate play structure was \$250,000 under Capital Project P1595. Subsequently, with the funding from MEEP, a new project for \$350,000 was approved under Capital Project P901. The original capital project, Capital Project P1595, will be cancelled and the revised project under P901 will now be increased by \$70,000, financed as follows to accommodate the increase in scope:

P901 - MEEP Funding (existing)	\$ 350,000
Park Enhancement Reserve	\$ 25,000
Saskatoon Public School Division	\$ 35,000
SHCA Playground Committee	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total	\$ 420,000

The SHCA will contribute the \$10,000 they have already fundraised to date. The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly hindered the fundraising capacity for the SHCA and it was anticipated that it would have taken several years for them to reach their initial fundraising goal just to replace the one structure. The MEEP funding, along with the additional \$70,000 as identified above, allows for the replacement of all three aging play structures in 2021.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

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NEXT STEPS

If approved, the Parks Department anticipates tendering the play structure replacements in late summer of 2021 for installation by the end of Fall 2021.

REPORT APPROVAL

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