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# Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo Playground Replacement Capital Project

## Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That the Zoo Playground Replacement Capital Project, in the amount of \$400,000, be set up under Capital Project No. 2048;
2. That funding for the project, with \$275,000 from the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and \$125,000 through a reallocation of previously approved City funding, be approved; and
3. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the appropriate construction agreement.

## Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a proposed transfer of residual funds from the Roadway Replacement Capital Project, which has received very favourable pricing, to the Zoo Playground Replacement Capital Project. The replacement of the old wooden playground, was noted in Capital Project No. 1938 Wooden Playground Replacement, as due for replacement in 2018, but was unfunded.

## Report Highlights

1. Replacement of the old wooden playground structure is identified in the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo Master Plan. The project was put forward in 2018, but was unfunded and is subsequently being considered for 2019.
2. The fundraising program by the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation has recently received donations in the amount of \$275,000 toward the playground project.
3. The City of Saskatoon (City) has been requested to support the project, in 2018, with a further \$125,000, for a total project cost of \$400,000.

## Strategic Goal

Under the City's Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, this report supports the long-term strategy of ensuring recreation facilities are accessible and meet community needs.

## Background

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo Masterplan was approved by City Council in 2006. One of the projects identified was replacement of the Zoo's old wooden play structure. Over the past number of years, the City has been progressing through the replacement of the long list of old wooden playgrounds city wide, including the playground structure at the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo (the Zoo).

## **Report**

### Replacement of Wooden Playground Structure

The Zoo play structure, along with the four other remaining old wooden play structures to be replaced, had been identified in Capital Project No. 1938 for replacement in 2018. Specific to the Zoo play structure, the Facilities and Fleet Management Division identified funding required in the amount of \$165,000. Due to the capital project being unfunded, the play structures are subsequently being considered for the 2019 budget year.

### Fundraising by Saskatoon Zoo Foundation

In late 2017, the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation approached the City with an opportunity to fund the playground replacement project in 2018. The proposal included an extensively upgraded playground product and accessibility design concept for a total value of \$400,000. This project is jointly being funded by a donor and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation due to a large donation of \$275,000 through fundraising.

### Request for Funding Support

As part of an ongoing partnership, the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation requested that the City provide funding support totalling \$125,000 in order to fully fund the project.

A funding source was identified through favourable pricing with the Road Replacement Capital Project at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park. This project has an approved funding amount of \$939,000.

In April 2018, City Council approved the award of tender for the Road Replacement Capital Project for the amount of \$620,000. Previous expenses on the roadway project totalled \$60,000 for a total projected cost of \$680,000. This will result in a savings of approximately \$260,000 for the overall project. Of this projected saving, the Administration is recommending \$125,000 be redirected to support the playground project. The balance of the residual funding would remain in the project until completion, and then be returned to the original sources of funding (Forestry Farm Capital Reserve, Forestry Farm Development Reserve and Reserve for Capital Expenditures), on a pro-rated basis.

### **Options to the Recommendation**

City Council could decide not to reallocate the \$125,000 to support the larger playground project in partnership with Zoo Foundation. This would mean the old wooden play structure would remain on the outstanding list of play structures to be replaced, subject to available funding.

### **Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement**

The City and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation will track expenses for the playground project through a construction agreement to be prepared by the City Solicitor's Office and confirm that any carrying costs in relation to the project will be accounted for within the total project cost.

The Saskatoon Zoo Foundation is also formally requesting donor recognition and naming rights for the replacement play structure as the “Orano Fun Zone.”

**Communication Plan**

There will be a joint communication plan required around the announcement of the project and the naming sponsor of the playground, in collaboration with the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation.

**Financial Implications**

Currently, there is an approved budget of \$939,000 for the Road Replacement Capital Project, which has a projected savings of \$260,000. The projected cost of the Zoo Playground Replacement Capital Project is \$400,000. The Saskatoon Zoo Foundation has secured \$275,000 in funding and is requesting the City provide \$125,000, which Administration is recommending be redirected from a portion of the proposed savings on the roadway project.

Facilities and Fleet Management Division has identified the Civic Building Comprehensive Maintenance (CBCM) contributions and ongoing maintenance costs to be \$6,000 per year as the operating impact in future budget years. Operating costs for the Parks Division related to the maintenance of the engineered wood chips are identified as \$1,000 per year in future operating budgets. These costs would be applied to the operating budget, beginning in 2020.

**Safety/Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

A safety/CPTED review of the playground will be completed prior to installation.

**Other Considerations/Implications**

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

**Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion**

If funding is approved, the new playground is anticipated to be installed and open for play in summer 2018.

**Public Notice**

Public notice, pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

**Report Approval**

Written by: Tim Sinclair-Smith, Manager, Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo  
Reviewed by: Lynne Lacroix, Director of Recreation and Community Development  
Approved by: Randy Grauer, General Manager, Community Services Department  
Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager