



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: June 17, 2019

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| SUBJECT: | New Playground Construction – Crosby Park |
| PREPARED BY: | David Plant – Operations Senior Manager Parks, Horticulture and Forestry Division ext. 4893 |

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report entitled “New Playground Construction – Crosby Park” dated June 17, 2019 be received; and,
2. That staff establish a new capital project in the amount of \$150,000 for “New Playground Construction – Crosby Park” to be funded in the amount of \$138,000 from the Facility Ramp Up Reserve; and \$12,000 from the Parkview Public School’s Parent Council for the playground construction, to be provided prior to commencement of this project; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Not applicable.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to obtain Council approval to construct a new playground at Crosby Park.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Markham was made aware that the senior age playground at Parkview Public School would soon be decommissioned and removed. This playground has served not only the school but also the community from the catchment area for many years and it is the only playground within the general area.

The Integrated Leisure Master Plan (ILMP), approved by Council, in 2010, has a provision target for playgrounds, which states that Markham would where possible ensure the placement of playgrounds within 400 metres of homes or roughly a 5-minute walk, a standard provision target utilized by many municipalities. In this case, the removal of the playground will affect the surrounding neighbourhood leaving it without a senior playground. Staff undertook an evaluation of options to address the impact and at this time, the best option for a new location would be at Crosby Park adjacent to Parkview School.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Staff and the local Councillor met with Parkview Public School's Parent Council and they have agreed to provide some funding to this project if it was located close to the school. This partnership opportunity recognizes the Parent Council contributing \$12,000 in funding to partially offset the cost to provide the playground at Crosby Park in the amount of \$150,000.

As part of the due diligence, staff consulted with the user groups of the Crosby Park baseball diamond for comment on vertically extending the outfield fence as the new playground would be placed in close proximity to the baseball diamond. With positive feedback received, staff proceeded to perform a preliminary site layout to ensure compliance with our standards and safety of our children using the equipment.

Realizing that the junior playground at Parkview Public School would likely also be decommissioned in the near future, the design would include both junior/senior combined playground equipment, which will better serve the needs of the community over the long term.

In discussion with the Ward Councillor and senior staff, a parent/student consultation session was held at Crosby Arena after school on May 29th. At the engagement session facilitated by the Recreation Department, staff obtained feedback from children about the individual play elements to include in the new playground.

Following approval to proceed, the project would be tendered together with the 2019 playground replacement project to maximize economies of scale. Playground installation expected to proceed in late Fall 2019.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Playground construction and outfield fence extension is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000 and the funding source would be the Facility Ramp Up Reserve. The cost estimate was based on recent tender awards.

Parkview Public School's Parent Council will fund \$12,000 of this cost and will provide funding prior to commencement of this project.

Operating and Life Cycle Impact

The playground equipment has a life cycle of 17 years and \$150,000 will be added to the 2020 Life Cycle Reserve Study for replacement of playground equipment once within the next 25 years. There is incremental impact of \$1,000 per year to the Parks operating budget beginning in year 2020 for playground equipment inspections and miscellaneous playground maintenance work.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This initiative aligns with all of the goals of Building Markham's Future Together and in meeting the needs of the community as advanced in the Integrated Leisure Master Plan.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Recreation and, Finance Departments

RECOMMENDED BY:

Morgan Jones – Director Operations

Brenda Librecz – Commissioner
Community Fire Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Crosby Park Site Map