



Report to: Development Services Committee

Meeting Date: July 13, 2020

SUBJECT:	Results of the Public Consultation Survey Regarding the Play Structure in Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette
PREPARED BY:	Richard Fournier, Manager, Parks & Open Space Development, ext. 2120
REVIEWED BY:	Ronji Borooah, City Architect, ext. 8340

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report titled “Results of the Public Consultation Survey Regarding the Play Structure in Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette” be received;
2. AND THAT the play structure in the Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette be retained at its current location based on the results of the public consultation survey;
3. AND THAT buffering measures such as a wood privacy fence and/or buffer planting be installed, where feasible, in consultation with the adjacent residents and the Ward Councillor, at a maximum cost of \$15,000 from funding available in Design project 17227 - Wismer Percy Reesor St. Parkette – Design and Construction;
4. AND THAT staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To review the results of a Public Consultation Survey about the play structure at Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette and provide a recommendation to retain the play structure in its current location.

BACKGROUND:

Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette is located at 20 Percy Reesor Street, adjacent to naturalized valley lands and is intended to serve residents of the adjacent townhouse complex. The construction of this park started in October 2017 and residents who live directly behind the parkette brought concerns over their privacy and safety to the Ward Councillor in the spring of 2018.

Following a community meeting that took place in January 2019 related to the residents concerns, a Recommendation Report titled “Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette, Response to Resident’s Request to Relocate the Percy Reesor Parkette” was brought to DSC on September 9, 2019 (Attachment A).

The September 9, 2019 report identified several options to resolve the residents' concerns, and upon review of the options, DSC directed staff to conduct a Public Consultation Survey of area residents to determine whether the community preferred that the play structure be removed or retained while maintaining the site as an open park space (Attachment B).

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION SURVEY:

The Public Consultation Survey was distributed to all households within 250m of the parkette and surveyed the resident's preference between the removal or retention of the play structure in the Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette (Attachment C). A total of 440 surveys were mailed out via Canada Post on February 28th, 2020.

A total of 67 surveys were returned by the March 16th, 2020 deadline, which corresponds to a 15% return rate. This is an average return rate for an external survey and staff are confident that the responses are representative of the neighbourhood residents' preference to retain the play structure in its current location.

Out of 67 survey responses, 60 residents were in favour of keeping the play structure in its current location in the Percy Reesor Parkette, and 7 were in favour of removing the play structure.

Based on the results of the public consultation survey, staff recommend that the play structure in the Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette be maintained at its current location. Possible buffering measures such as fencing and additional planting may be installed, where feasible, in consultation with the affected residents and the Ward Councillor

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Retaining the play structure at its current location has no financial capital impacts. The approximate cost of the additional buffering measures noted in this report would be up to \$15,000 depending on the chosen materials. Funding is available in Design project 17227 – Wismer Percy Reesor St. Parkette – Design and Construction for this work.

There is no incremental impact to the Operating Budget or the Life Cycle Reserve Study.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Not applicable

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDED BY:

Biju Karumanchery, R.P.P., MCIP
Director of Planning & Urban Design

Arvin Prasad, RPP, M.C.I.P.
Commissioner of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A - Recommendation Report, “Wismer Percy Reesor Parkette,
Response to Resident’s request to Relocate the Percy Reesor
Parkette” dated September 9, 2019

ATTACHMENT B - September 9 DSC Extract - Item #8.2

ATTACHMENT C - Public Consultation Survey dated February 28, 2020

ATTACHMENT D – Location Map