



Staff Report

RE: Vlasis Park Playground

Department/Program: Parks and Recreation

Explanation:

The City has budgeted in FY2023 and FY2024 a total of \$1.65 million for a renovation of the Vlasis Park playground surrounding area. The City has also been awarded two Municipal Park Grants totaling \$1.15 million that will offset much of that cost.

The first step in the renovation process is to bid and award a contract for new playground equipment. This includes the large play pieces, the swingset, the toddler play pieces, a new pavilion, some other smaller and ADA accessible pieces, and new play equipment on the hillside. It also includes new surfacing - poured in place rubber in some areas and an astroturf product in others. The budget for this portion of the project totals \$772,000. The City issued an RFP to playground vendors and five qualified bids were received and reviewed.

It is important to note that with playground bids, the deciding factor is typically not price. Rather, the bid spec includes the budgeted amount and the vendors provide their best design and product for that price.

The City received responses from Hutchinson and Associates, Great Southern, Landscape Structures, AB Creative, and All Inclusive Recreation.

After a review of the RFP responses, it was determined that the bid from All Inclusive Recreation best met the City's needs regarding design, accessibility, and overall play value. However, we also determined that while their response was the best of the bids, it was still not a sufficient playground for the space. So after determining All Inclusive Recreation was the best bid, we worked with them to refine the design and add some additional play value.

The resulting playground proposal is included with this packet. As you'll see it is a considerable upgrade over the current playground in Vlasis. Highlights of the new playground include a new and improved big kid area with an ada accessible bridge tying into a ramp on the hillside; a new toddler area with an ADA accessible ramp; a new swing set including swings for different types of abilities; a new accessible spinner play piece designed to accommodate wheelchairs; a new sensory area featuring various smaller play pieces for kids of different ages and abilities.

In order to get the playground design that staff feels is the best fit for the area, we did have to increase the budget. The current playground as proposed (including surfacing) will cost \$872,000, which is an increase of \$100,000 over the original budget. However we are recommending this design in order to not only meet ADA compliance requirements but to further exceed this compliance and to provide the best possible play area the city can offer. At this point we do not yet know if the entire Vlasik Park playground project will be over budget, or, if the overage on the playground can be offset with savings in other areas of the project. We will certainly strive to save funds elsewhere on the project if possible, but we recognize the importance of this project to the community and want to make sure we do it right.

This design was shared with the Parks and Recreation Committee on Monday, November 13 and other than a few minor details the committee seemed to approve of this design.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends awarding the bid to All Inclusive Recreation for \$872,000.

Submitted By: Chris Conway, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: November 20, 2023





















