



STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 23, 2025

TO: Ted Henry - City Manager

FROM: Brian Hayes - Recreation Director

RE: Recreation Center Playground Renovation

SUMMARY: The current playground north of the Recreation Center was originally constructed in 1996. The purpose was to offer a city playground in the northwest quadrant of Bel Aire and to fulfil a KDHE requirement for Day Camp licensing. At that time Day Camp was contracted out to the YMCA, and they shared the cost of the initial construction consisting of the fencing, gravel surface, and simple wood play structures. At the recommendation of the city's insurance carrier, the wood structures were replaced by the city with commercial steel structures in 1999. The current play structures need some repairs, and the playground lacks ADA accessibility. The playground was constructed with playground standards of the 90's. Any new or updated playground today must be constructed in compliance with proper safety and accessibility guidelines.

DISCUSSION: When playground update discussions began, staff planned on rehabbing the current equipment, replacing the safety surface, and installing an accessible sidewalk. The rubber coated steps and platforms of the current play structure and swing hardware needs replaced. As planning progressed, it was determined to go with all new playground components. Parts & labor to replace the worn parts is estimated to be \$20,000. The city would need to upgrade the accessibility & safety components then would still have decades old equipment. These upgrades will be the first step to launch the 2023 Recreation Facility Master Plan.

FINANCIAL: Requests for Proposals went out on August 29. Two proposals were submitted: VersaSport LLC – \$97,341.18 and Fry & Associates - \$158,647.00. Funding for this project will come out of the CIP Reserve Fund.

Each year the City transfers \$150,000 to the CIP Reserve Fund for refreshing existing parks. This expense is the only item identified for this allocation for FY25. The remaining \$52,658.82 from the transfer will stay in the CIP Reserve Fund for use on a future project..

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends accepting the proposal from VersaSport LLC for \$97,341.18.