



Meeting Name: Town Council Meeting
Meeting Date: May 22, 2024
Prepared By: Andrea Dobbins, Project Coordinator/Risk Manager
Item Title: Kagan Park Ground Cover Discussion

DISCUSSION:

Kagan Park has had multiple types of ground cover over the years; sand, wood mulch and rubber mulch. Wood mulch has been used but proved to be difficult to keep in the designated play area. During the rainy season and any time a heavy rain event would occur the wood mulch would float over the plastic borders and get deposited throughout the park. Wood mulch breaks down, deteriorates, and needs to be replenished to maintain the fall height criteria for the play equipment. Sand, according to the handbook for “Public Playground Safety” does not meet the fall criteria for the Kagan Park playground equipment and the swings which requires an 8’ fall height. The rubber mulch currently in the park, is validated by IPEMA (International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association), a 3rd party certification service for playground safety, and provided to the ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials). The rubber mulch meets all the fall height requirements for the playground equipment.

At the May 8, 2024, Council meeting staff was directed to investigate ground cover options for the playground. The only two options for ground cover to meet the fall height safety criteria are rubber mulch or wood mulch or wood chips. An estimate was received to remove the rubber mulch and replace it with the wood mulch for a total cost of \$19,422; removal \$10, 422 + installation \$9,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1 – Move forward with the selection and installation of a new playground and related turf ground cover as shown in the Kagan Park Playground Survey; Option #__. Funding is currently budgeted from the One Cent Surtax (sales tax) not to exceed the budgeted \$225,000.

Option 2 – Cancel the playground selection and apply for a FRDAP grant in the amount of \$150,000 (75% state funding/25% local funding) and make the immediate minor repairs to the existing equipment. Staff requests \$10,000 from contingency for repairs and the grant application through RMPK Funding.

Option 3 - Cancel the playground selection and apply for a FRDAP grant in the amount of \$150,000 (75% state funding/25% local funding) and make the immediate minor repairs to the existing equipment along with the temporary replacement of ground cover. Staff requests \$30,000 from contingency for wood mulch ground cover, repairs and the grant application through RMPK Funding.

ATTACHMENTS:

Diagram from the Handbook for Public Playground Safety

Certificate of Compliance for Rubber Mulch

Kagan Park Playground Survey