



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 5, 2023

SUBJECT: Consideration of approval to award the contract to Nature Playscapes, a uniquely qualified company, for the construction of Northwest Park Playground, in the amount of \$99,968.21.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	\$ 99,968.21
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 100,000 (FY 2023-24 Budget)
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 0
LINE ITEM NUMBER	208-752.00-977.033

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2015, the City of Novi acquired nearly 10 acres of property on Twelve Mile Road, southwest of Napier Road. The property was designated as parkland in 2017. Following input sessions with the community, and specifically the adjacent Andelina Ridge neighborhood, the city applied for and received a grant from Oakland County Parks and Recreation in 2022 in the amount of \$100,000 for the development of the park. In addition to the proposed playground, design is currently underway for pathways throughout the park. A parking lot was constructed in 2022.

The proposed playground is of a nature-based design, something new to the Novi Parks system. Using mainly natural materials such as stumps, logs, and boulders, the playground elements will be custom built for the park. Natural materials have a lifespan similar to those made with synthetic materials and ease of "part" replacement is made simpler. This type of construction also introduces the opportunity to source border and retain materials locally. Elements have been chosen to promote inclusivity for those with differing abilities and ages. The playground will be constructed in a wooded area of the park. With the likelihood of tree debris (branches, acorns, leaves, etc.) routinely falling or blowing into the playground area, engineered wood fiber is the planned surfacing material. The playground concept was supported by the PRCS Commission at the April 20, 2023, meeting.

Nature Playscapes playgrounds are designed and constructed with industry standards for public playground safety and inclusivity. The Nature Playscapes team includes a design team and a landscape construction manager that focuses on using a variety of natural materials, textures and surfaces that encourages unstructured play. Each playground is custom designed, with elements built onsite, based on the needs and wants of the community. The Children's Nature Playscape on Bronson Park in Kalamazoo is a similar example.

Images of the proposed design elements are attached. The contract would be effective after July 1, 2023, with construction anticipated for late fall 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration of approval to award the contract to Nature Playscapes, a uniquely qualified company, for the construction of Northwest Park Play Structure, in the amount of \$99,968.21.