

September 15, 2026

ITEM: New Business – Park Advisory Committee Recommended: Inclusive Park Project Proposal

BACKGROUND: The St. James Inclusive Park Committee has been working to develop a proposal for a new inclusive park designed to provide a welcoming recreational space where individuals of different ages and abilities can play, gather, and participate together. The proposal is intended to go beyond minimum accessibility requirements by incorporating accessible movement, sensory opportunities, age-appropriate play, supportive amenities, and design features that reduce physical, sensory, and social barriers.

As part of the Community Project Request process, the proposal was presented to the Park Advisory Committee for review. The Park Advisory Committee approved a recommendation to move the Inclusive Park project forward to the City Council for consideration.

The proposed project is currently estimated at approximately \$1.5 million at the planning level. Anticipated project components include inclusive playground equipment, accessible surfacing and routes, parking and sidewalks, potential landscaping, professional design and engineering, and installation.

Everett Garlisch has indicated a willingness to donate approximately two acres of a five-acre parcel for the project. Funding is anticipated to come from a combination of private donations, business and community sponsorships, grants, fundraising, in-kind contributions, and any City participation that may later be approved through the City's budgeting process.

At this stage, Council consideration is intended to provide authorization to continue advancing the project, rather than approval of the final design or a commitment of city funds. If the project moves forward, the next steps will include confirming the site and scope, continued community engagement, refining the concept design and cost estimate, developing a funding strategy, and ultimately returning to the City Council as necessary for land acceptance, agreements, expenditures, final plans, procurement, and construction authorization.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve/Deny the Project.

