



STAFF REPORT

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: AUGUST 3, 2026
FROM: DAN LAFONTAINE, PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CITY MINNIE PROVIS PLAYGROUND PROJECT UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Feedback and approval by Council are requested.

BACKGROUND: The City of Sutter Creek has been working with Nicolette Clymer of the Eva Clymer Memorial fund to add support for children with disabilities at the Minnie Provis Playground. All donations to the Eva Clymer Memorial Fund go directly to creating a sensory playground that can be enjoyed by children that are excluded from safely experiencing traditional playground activities due to challenges with hearing, sight, mobility and other physical functions that require special assistance.

Current plans are to replace parts of the playground structure and install a rubberized surface to allow greater access to children with disabilities. The City has committed 15K from the general fund to pay for engineering (plans and specs). The City has also pledged for Public Works staff to perform installation of all new playground structure pieces and perform the subsurface preparation of the rubberized surface. All other costs will be borne by the Eva Clymer Memorial fund.

DISCUSSION: The project has been broken into two distinct phases; updating of the playground structure and installation of the rubberized surface. The updating of the playground structure will occur shortly after the 2026/2027 school year starts whereas the rubberized surface will occur in the spring of next year pending council approval.

PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE: During the initial walk through of the playground structure it was decided that parts of the structure were becoming worn and past their useful life. Most of the decks are beginning to wear through to the bare metal. The manufacturer was contacted and replacement parts were ordered in July. The replacement parts were ordered by the memorial fund and are scheduled to arrive in 4 to 6 weeks. To minimize costs and the disruption of play, the playground will be closed for installation by Public works staff after the 2026/2027 school year begins. Replacement of the playground structure pieces is anticipated to take one to two weeks.

RUBBERIZED SURFACE: The existing subsurface consists of wood chips that need to be purchased yearly. The chips will be removed and relocated to Bryson park by Public Works staff. After all the wood chips have been removed, Public works staff will prepare the surface per the rubberized surface manufacturers specifications. The project consists of two separate additive alternatives; #1 to install sensory boards has been included and #2 to extend the limits of the rubber surface to the cinderblock wall backing up to Church Street.

Rendering from one of the subcontractors' estimates of the project limits has been included. The red surface represents the base bid and the blue represents additive alternative to resurface all the way to the back wall as shown in the rendering.

RECOMMENDATION: Because this project is primarily being funded by donations, we are working to keep the scope tightly defined. We ask that the council review this project, provide feedback and give overall approval to proceed. This project would not be possible without the support of the donor. Staff suggesting some deference to the donor's desires, within the framework of a public process.

BUDGET IMPACT: Due to the engineers estimate of 143K for the base bid and the property being owned by the City, the project must go to public bid. All engineering costs to prepare the bid documents have been budgeted in the general fund during the current fiscal year. Project cost (except budgeted costs, engineering) will be covered by donations prior to approving the contract.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Project Renderings - Minnie Provis Park Play Structure*
2. *Preliminary City of Sutter Creek Engineers Estimate*