

COUNCIL – JUNE 25, 2013

FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBLE SWINGS
WARD 1, 2, 3 AND 5

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Item #	56
Report No.	32 (CW)
Council - June 25/13	

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Parks & Forestry Operations, and Acting Commissioner of Finance, recommends:

- 1) That the four identified projects for the retrofitting of accessible swing systems be funded through the Parks Infrastructure Reserve in the amount of \$96,145.00 in accordance with the descriptions and summary chart below; and,
- 2) That the inclusion of this matter on a Public Committee or Council agenda with respect to amending the capital budget identified as Budget Amendment – Funding for Accessible Swings is deemed sufficient notice pursuant to Section 2(1)(c) of By-Law 394-2002.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

Economic Impact

There is sufficient funding identified in the Parks Infrastructure Reserve to cover the total costs of \$96,145.00 associated with the installation of accessibility swings to the four identified sites. Due to the advanced replacement of these swing systems, the future infrastructure capital replacement funding proposed for these projects will be reduced.

Communications Plan

Not Applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the requested information relating to community requests for more accessible swing facilities and the available funding source to cover the associated costs.

Background - Analysis and Options

Committee of Whole on June 18, 2013 identified the following:

That staff come back with a report to the Council meeting of June 25, 2013, to determine if there is sufficient funding available to cover the costs of installing accessible swings in four already identified parks and providing for the minimum accessibility standards as an interim measure until such time as each of these parks will be fully funded for the balance of the accessibility improvements in future budgets.

There are currently limited funding options available for parks improvement and redevelopment projects. Therefore, it is proposed that these works be funded through the Parks Infrastructure

Reserve and that if there are any grant funding possibilities these would be used to help to offset the costs.

Based on staffs' review of the available information regarding accessible swing seats, it has been noted that the cost of these swing seats can range in price from \$1,000.00 -1,500.00 per swing seat, excluding delivery, installation and taxes. In addition, there are various other factors required to make an existing swing set and play pit accessible, which include the installation of curb cuts and appropriate safety surfacing within the play pit area.

Based on Council's direction staff have reviewed four locations, as per the list provided by Parks and Forestry Operations on June 21, 2013. The four sites identified are noted below, as follows:

West Maple Creek Park- Ward 1, Block 25

This existing neighbourhood park currently has a sand safety surface. The Playground location is currently noted as a high priority on the playground replacement list and is ranked number (6) six. Due to the limited availability of infrastructure reserve funds during the last year's budget cycle, this capital project request is currently proposed for capital funding consideration in the 2017 and beyond budget.

The closest locations in this neighbourhood that currently offers accessible swings and other accessible play facilities are located at Mackenzie Glen District Park and Civic Park.

Based on staffs' review of the existing conditions, the swings are located in a separate play pit and would allow for the removal of the existing sand safety surfacing and associated drainage system. The replacement of one swing bay would be required in order to accommodate an accessible swing seat along with the installation of new drainage, wood carpet safety surfacing, wear mats and the addition of a curb cut. The costs for these works are estimated to be \$16,170.00, including 5% contingency allowance and 3% administration recovery.

Rainbow Creek Park- Ward 2, Block 51

This existing neighbourhood park within the Rainbow Creek River corridor currently includes play equipment and a play pit area that was renovated between 2005 and 2009; the capital improvement works included the supply and installation of new senior and junior play equipment, new - drainage, concrete curbing and a sand safety surfacing. The playground area is located within the Rainbow Creek Park system and is within an area that is currently regulated by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The existing swing bays and play equipment are reported to be in good condition. However, staff has noted that access to the play pit will require the installation of a pedestrian walkway and associated site works.

This is a combined play pit which included the play structure and swing bays all in one play area. Staff has reviewed the existing conditions and have noted the following to allow for a minimum accessible standard. The existing swing bays are to remain in place, an accessible swing seat is to be added, including new wood carpet safety surfacing and a new asphalt walkway connection to the play pit. The costs for these works are estimated to be \$29,470.00, including 5% contingency allowance and 3% administration recovery.

Vellore Heritage Square- Ward 3, Block 32 West

This playground is currently ranked twelfth (12th) on the playground replacement priority list. The closet fully accessible swing seat is located in Matthew District Park, which is located approximately 650 m away from this playground area, just west of Weston Road.

The Vellore Heritage Square playground area would allow for the required accessible swing pit modifications as this area includes a separate play pit. The works required to convert the swing

pit would require the removal of the existing sand safety surfacing, replacement of the swing bays, installation of a new accessible swing system, including the installation of new drainage, wood carpet safety surfacing and the addition of a curb cut. The costs for these works are estimated to be \$27,362.00, including 5% contingency allowance and 3% administration recovery.

Yorkhill District Park- Ward 5, Block 1

This District Park site currently has several play pits with sand safety surfacing. These playgrounds are currently ranked at number eight (8) for playground replacements for the playground and safety surfacing. The proposed works noted in the current project summary are required to bring these playground areas up to the standards of other District Parks that have been constructed over the last several years throughout the City of Vaughan.

There are a number of capital projects proposed for this District Park site over the next several years, which would include the redevelopment of the existing tennis courts, walkway hardscape and basketball court. Staff have reviewed the condition of the existing District Park and recommend that capital funding be consolidated in order to allow for a revitalization plan with public consultation in 2014 that would allow to set a budget for the 2015 season in order to bring this park to a suitable development standard.

However, due to the desire to pursue the installation of new accessible swing as soon as possible, as the swings are located in a separate play pits, it would be possible to remove the sand safety surfacing, replace the two swing bays and install a new accessible swing seat, including new drainage, wood carpet safety surfacing and the addition of a curb cut. The cost for this works is estimated to be \$23,144.00 including 5% contingency allowance and 3% administration recovery.

Accessible Playgrounds in Ward 4

Parks Development staff has also reviewed the existing neighbourhood parks located in Ward 4 and have determined that a substantial number of park sites already include accessible swing systems, including the associated structures and safety surfacing that would allow suitable access to an accessible swing seat. Due to the amount of new park development within Ward 4 and the amount of growth, it has been noted that this Ward is well equipped with accessible playgrounds in comparison to other locations within the City.

The summary chart below indicates the estimated costs to complete the installation of accessible swing and associated site works that are to be funded from the Parks Infrastructure Reserve.

Location	Ward	Estimated Cost	5% Contingency Allowance	3% Administration Recovery	Total Cost
West Maple Creek Park	1	\$14,950.00	\$ 747.50	\$470.93	\$16,168.43
Rainbow Creek Park	2	\$27,250.00	\$1,362.50	\$858.38	\$29,470.88
Vellore Heritage Park	3	\$25,300.00	\$1,265.00	\$796.95	\$27,361.95
York Hill District Park	5	\$21,400.00	\$1,070.00	\$674.10	\$23,144.10
					\$96,145.36

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020 / Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the project will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.

- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness - To deliver high quality services and to promote health and wellness through design and program.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated.

Regional Implications

Not applicable.

Conclusion

Should Council approve the recommendations to fund the accessible swing works in the four park sites through the Parks Infrastructure Reserve, the projects would be moved forward immediately. A quote package would be completed by the Parks Development Staff and submitted to Purchasing Services within 3 weeks of the approval of this recommendation.

Attachments

Not Applicable.

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Respectfully submitted,



Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services