

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the 15 playground sites included in phase two of the Playground Revitalization Project.

The report also provides an update on the capital fundraising campaign United Way Centraide North Eastern Ontario (UWCNEO) committed to during the 2018 budget deliberations. Due to limited staffing resources and challenges presented by the COVID-19 situation, UWCNEO has stated they will be deferring any fundraising efforts towards the project until the summer of 2021.

As a result, no further playground sites will be revitalized until the City of Greater Sudbury receives funds or a commitment in the form of an agreement.

Background

As part of the 2018 budget deliberation process, a business case for the revitalization of 58 playground sites identified as being in poor condition was included for Council's consideration. The business case outlined capital investment to upgrade 58 playground sites at an estimated cost of \$40,000 per site for a total of \$2,320,000.

During the budget deliberation process, Council was also informed about the United Way Centraide North East Ontario's commitment to match the City's investment in Playground Revitalization through a fundraising campaign. The United Way's contribution would supplement the City's budget and result in an average investment of \$80,000 per playground site. The Finance and Administration Committee approved \$2.3 million for Playground Revitalization with an annual contribution from the Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) funds in the amount of \$150,000 per year to cover debt payments for 25 years.

At the May 11, 2019 Community Services Committee meeting, Council received a report titled "Playground Revitalization Update 2019". The report provided an update on the twelve playgrounds which were identified for revitalization as part of the first phase of the project. The report also informed Council on the Standing Offer issued for the design, supply and installation of playground equipment to advance future phases of the project and other playground builds. The report identified the following locations to be included as part of phase two of the project which were to be initiated in 2019:

- Participation Tot Lot (Byng Street, Sudbury)
- Queen's Athletic Sports Complex (30 Cypress Street, Sudbury)
- Meatbird Lake Tot Lot (785 Municipal Road 24, Lively)
- Algoma Tot Lot (Main Street East, Chelmsford)
- Russell Beaudry Playground (10 Juniper Avenue, Onaping)
- Birch Tot Lot (2450 Birch Street, Azilda)
- MacMillan Tot Lot (MacMillan Drive, Val Caron)
- Catherine Park (Catherine Drive, Garson)
- Doug Mohns Sports Complex (100 Field Street, Capreol)
- Ravine Park (Garson)
- Paquette Tot Lot (Paquette Street, Sudbury)
- Ray Street Tot Lot (Ray Street, Wahnapiatae)
- Cedar Park Playground (47 Normandy Court, Sudbury)

- Columbus Tot Lot (Melvin Avenue, Sudbury)
- Eyre Playground (243 Ferndale Avenue, Sudbury)

Playground Revitalization Phase Two Update

Following the award of Contract CDD19-22 (Request for Proposal for Standing Offers (RFPSO) for the design, supply and installation of playground equipment), community consultation sessions were hosted in the summer of 2019 for each of the 15 locations identified for phase two of the project.

Due to COVID-19, there have been delays with respect to the ability to obtain equipment and installation of structures. The following is an update of phase two locations:

- Participation Tot Lot (to be completed October 2020)
- Queen's Athletic Sports Complex (to be completed November 2020)
- Meatbird Lake Tot Lot (see below)
- Algoma Tot Lot (completed)
- Russell Beaudry Playground (completed)
- Birch Tot Lot (completed)
- MacMillan Tot Lot (completed)
- Catherine Park (completed)
- Doug Mohns Sports Complex (to be completed October 2020)
- Ravine Park (substantial completion, installation of basketball hoop remains)
- Paquette Tot Lot (completed)
- Ray Street Tot Lot (completed)
- Cedar Park Playground (completed)
- Columbus Tot Lot (substantial completion, landscaping work remains)
- Eyre Playground (substantial completion, installation of independent play equipment remains)

United Way Centraide Update

In January 2020, City staff reached out to United Way Centraide North East Ontario (UNWCNEO) for an update on their capital fundraising campaign towards the project. In February 2020, City staff met with the UWCNEO Executive Director to discuss the need for a more formal contribution agreement and it was agreed that the City would provide a framework, which would outline options regarding potential payment schedules and project responsibilities.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, UNWCNEO representatives advised the City that it is unable to commit to entering into a contract with the City of Greater Sudbury for the funding of the revitalization of playgrounds, however, are committed to work alongside the City in order to make this project a success.

UNWCNEO cited the significant reductions in their staffing resources as a factor. United Way Centraide North East Ontario operates across six Districts (Sudbury, Cochrane, Timiskaming, Nipissing, Parry Sound and Manitoulin) and have had their full time compliment of employees reduced from 16 in 2018 to a current level of eight full time employees. Currently UWCNEO employs one fundraiser in Sudbury and one in Timmins; both work primarily on workplace campaigns.

The need for funding of programs and services in the community has more than doubled since March 2020 (Appendix A) and is expected to continue into 2021 and 2022. UNWCNEO has also stated COVID-19 has also had significant impacts on their ability to fundraise as typical funding sources are not generating anticipated revenue:

- Loss of Sudbury Wolves United/ Sudbury 5 revenue in 2020 expected to be \$300,000 gross. Permanent loss of this revenue stream expected in spring 2021.
- Expected negative impact on workplace campaigns into 2021 of between 15% and 30% (\$300,000 to \$600,000).

During the pandemic UNWCNEO has shifted its focus on addressing urgent needs for food, shelter, hygiene and personal protection equipment in our community with responsibilities for the distribution of Government of Canada funds to support charities and municipalities with focus on supporting seniors and vulnerable populations.

For these reasons, UNWCNEO representatives have expressed the organization will be deferring the Playground Revitalization Project conversation until the summer of 2021 to allow for a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on UWCNEO revenue generation and the urgent needs of our community/funded partners in the coming months. This will allow the organization to present a more accurate partnership plan for solicitation of funds for the project.

Future Phases of Playground Revitalization

To date, all but \$75,000 of the City's \$2.3M contribution has been spent or committed on the first two phases of the Playground Revitalization Project. UWCNEO collaborated with the City for a \$7,000 grant towards the project. The project will be suspended until future funds are committed through a formal agreement or alternate funds are received.

The following sites remain to be completed (playgrounds which have been rated in poor condition and require replacement). City staff have established a revitalization budget for each site based on existing amenities:

Playground	Ward	Estimated Replacement Cost
St. Charles Park	1	\$ 140,000
VLA Playground	2	42,000
Simon Lake Playground	2	65,000
Black Lake	2	42,000
Penage Road Community Centre	2	10,000
Den Lou Playground	2	65,000
Centennial Park	2	150,000
Whitefish Playground	2	75,000
Gill Loop	3	45,000
Pine and Fir	3	10,000
Onaping Tot Lot	3	42,000
Shawn Tot Lot	4	50,000
Grandview Playground	5	70,000
Daniel Tot Lot	5	80,000
Pine Street	7	60,000
Central Lane	7	50,000

Brighton Tot Lot	7	37,000
Thomas Tot Lot	7	70,000
Parkinson Tot Lot	7	80,000
Rose Marie Playground	8	45,000
Don Lita	8	150,000
Lebel Playground	8	120,000
Mountainview Playground	9	60,000
Moonlight Beach	11	150,000
Total		\$ 1,708,000
Contingency		15%
Estimated Total Replacement Costs		\$ 1,964,000

Total replacement costs for the sites noted above is \$1,708,000. When adding a 15% contingency, at total estimated amount of \$1,964,000 is required to complete the Playground Revitalization Project.

The following locations, originally identified for playground revitalization, are not included above due to recent developments:

- Centennial Arena Playground (potential of Valley East Twin Pad Project)
- Meatbird Lake Park (potential land disposition)
- Raymond Plourde Playground (potential of Valley East Twin Pad Project)
- Summerhill Park (to be replaced through insurance coverage due to vehicle collision)

Annual inspections on play equipment will continue to take place. Should individual components fail inspection, equipment will be safeguarded and placed out of service until funding can be secured for replacement.

Next Steps

United Way Centraide North East Ontario has expressed their commitment to this project and City staff will work with the organization with the aims of their capital fundraising campaign being restarted in the summer of 2021. Staff will provide updates on developments of playground revitalization efforts to the Community Services Committee.

References

Playground Revitalization Update 2019, Community Services Committee (May 11, 2019)
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=7&id=1353>

Playground Revitalization Update, Community Services Committee (September 25, 2018)
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1247&itemid=15433&lang=en>

Playground Revitalization Final Report, Community Services Committee (December 5, 2017)
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=3&id=1155>

Playground Revitalization Incremental Report #1, Community Services Committee (June 19, 2017)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=5&id=1152>

Playground Revitalization Report, Finance and Administration Committee (April 12, 2017)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1169&itemid=12145>

Playgrounds Report, Finance and Administration Committee (September 20, 2016)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=7&id=973>