

Background

An information report regarding playgrounds was provided at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting of September 20, 2016. The report provided an inventory of the City of Greater Sudbury's (City) 189 playground sites and ranked the current inventory of play structures based on a poor, satisfactory, or good rating. Following the report, Council requested an additional report to include options and financing to bring all parks to a city-wide standard to be presented back to the Finance and Administration Committee.

On April 12, 2017 a report entitled "Playground Revitalization" was provided to the Finance and Administration Committee. The report recommended developing a business case to improve 48 playground sites ranked in poor condition at an approximate cost of \$1,920,000. The Finance and Administration Committee referred the matter to the Community Services Committee, requesting a series of incremental reports on the subject of Playground Revitalization.

At the June 19, 2017 Community Services Committee meeting a report entitled "Playground Revitalization Incremental Report #1" was presented. The report included a review of best practices and policy in regards to parkland development and revitalization. The report summarized previous recommendations and action items from the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan and the Green Space Advisory Panel in regards to playgrounds. The report also included a summary of industry trends and implications for play spaces as per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

The June 19, 2017 report also outlined a number of next steps relating to Playground Revitalization including community consultation and the development of design guidelines for Neighbourhood and Community Parks.

A report entitled "Playground Revitalization Final Report" was presented to the Community Services Committee on December 4, 2017, and provided a summary of the community consultation process regarding Playground Revitalization. The report also provided recommended design principles for Neighbourhood and Community Parks. The report outlined a methodology for prioritizing investment in municipal playgrounds. The following resolution was passed:

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the design principles for Neighbourhood and Community Parks as well as the methodology for prioritizing investment in municipal playgrounds as outlined in the report entitled "Playground Revitalization Final Report", from the General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community Services Committee meeting of December 4, 2017.

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 commitment to match the City's investment in Playground Revitalization through a fund raising campaign. The United Way's contribution would 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.

Update

Upon approval of the 2018 Budget, it was determined that the first phase of the project would include revitalization of one site per ward in 2018. The rationale for this approach is as follows:

- As Ward based HCI funds are being utilized to fund Playground Revitalization, the initial phase of work is to be invested in each ward.
- To provide equal access for play across the City as per the Population Health Priority of Play.
- Investment community-wide will raise awareness of Playground Revitalization in support of the United Way's fundraising efforts.

As per the Playground Revitalization Final Report presented to the Community Services Committee on December 4, 2017, the following criteria were used to prioritize which locations are to be invested in:

- Priority neighbourhoods based on socioeconomic factors (Low Income Cut Off, Deprivation Index, proximity to social housing units, etc.).
- Neighbourhoods with parkland gaps as per Green Space Advisory Panel reports. Conversely, areas with overlap according to service levels will not be ranked as high.
- Facilities and equipment that is nearing its end of lifecycle or in need of urgent repairs.
- Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review recommendations for fully accessible barrier-free playgrounds in Rayside-Balfour, Nickel Centre and Walden.

Using these factors, it was determined that the following playgrounds would be revitalized as part of phase one of the project:

- Coté Park, 215 Edward Ave., Chelmsford
- East St. Tot Lot, East St., Coniston
- Hillcrest Playground, Hillcrest Cres., Sudbury
- Howard Armstrong Sports Complex, 4040 Elmview Dr., Hanmer
- Lakeview Playground, 420 Sunday St., Sudbury
- Lonsdale Playground, 811 Lonsdale Ave., Sudbury
- Penman Park, Penman Ave., Garson
- Pinecrest Tot Lot, Swanson Crt., Val Caron
- Place Hurtubise Playground, 1966 LaSalle Blvd., Sudbury
- Sixth Ave. Playground, 215 Sixth Ave., Lively
- Selkirk Park, Selkirk St., Sudbury

- St. Joseph Playground, St. Joseph St., Sudbury

A second round of community consultation on Playground Revitalization was held May 14 through 17, 2018. Neighbourhood huddles were held at each site identified to gather specific feedback for each of the 12 sites including playground themes, favourite elements and other park amenities. Residents also had the opportunity to submit feedback via the overtoyou.greatersudbury.ca website.

Information received was incorporated in a Request for Proposal document for the revitalization of the 12 playground sites. Contract CDD18-88, Request for Proposal for the Playground Revitalization Project, Phase 1 was issued July 4, 2018.

Submissions from four qualified proponents were received and evaluated. Submissions were evaluated based on the following:

- Price
- Play Value (climbing, social interaction, swinging, coordination, spinning, physical fitness, agility, imagination, balancing, jumping elements)
- Accessibility (physical, sensory and surfacing)
- Park Design (ability to meet neighbourhood huddle requests, design standards and innovation)
- Delivery Lead Time & Installation Schedule
- Proponent's Experience, References & Qualifications
- Warranty of Equipment

Using the above scoring criteria, Contract CDD18-88 was awarded September 7, 2018 to the following proponents:

- Blue Imp (one playground)
- New World Park Solutions Inc. (five playgrounds)
- Open Space Solutions Inc. (six playgrounds)

As part of the contract, firms have agreed to have installation complete by the end of 2018.

Summary

Phase one of the Playground Revitalization project will see the completion of twelve (12) playground sites in 2018.

Next Steps

Selected park designs will be posted at each location and online to inform residents. The City will develop a communications campaign to celebrate the launch of the first phase of playground revitalization in partnership with United Way Centraide North East Ontario.

Future phases of Playground Revitalization will be executed in coordination with the United Way Centraide North East Ontario's fundraising campaign.

References

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>

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>

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

Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014)
[https://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Leisure%20Master%20Plan%20Review%202014\(1\).pdf](https://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Leisure%20Master%20Plan%20Review%202014(1).pdf)