



**Subject: 2023 Playground RFP – Library Park**

**Report Number:** RCP 23-28

Department: Recreation, Culture and Parks Department

Submitted by: Julie Columbus, Director

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council receives Staff Report RCP 23-28 2023 Playground RFP Library Park as information; and
- B. THAT Council awards the playground tender, including supply and install of rubberized surface to Park n Water in the amount of \$119,045.44 (non-refundable HST included).

**BACKGROUND**

Library Park currently has a playground that was installed March 2001. It has been well used for over 22 years. A playground, if maintained properly, usually reaches end of life at approximately 15 years, depending on variables such as ongoing maintenance, weather exposure and usage.

The Library Park location is a very busy amenity with extensive use by local families, daycares and library programming. The equipment is tired, dated and in need of replacement. This playground was noted in the Playground Replacement Program for 2024, however, there was an opportunity for staff to apply for an accessibility grant through the Federal Government in the fall of 2022 which could be used to enhance playgrounds.

The Employment and Social Development, Enabling Accessibility grant was available for communities looking to enhance accessibility for various parks for up to \$100,000. The town was successful in our application and awarded the maximum of \$100,000 to replace the current playground and install a new, AODA compliant one with fully accessible rubberized surface.

Staff noted that the theme should be focused on community and a shade structure should be part of the overall submission.

## DISCUSSION

A tender was created to obtain proposals and costing for a replacement playground unit, rubberized surface, including supply, delivery and installation, meeting AODA requirements. A review committee was established to evaluate the submissions which included the Director of Finance, Manager of Parks and Facilities, and Supervisor of Parks.

### **Library Park Playground Budget: \$130,000.00**

The following five (5) proposals were received exclusive of HST:

| <b>COMPANY</b>                  | <b>QUOTE (EXCL. HST)</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Park N Water (1 <sup>st</sup> ) | \$116,986.48             |
| New World                       | \$125,000.00             |
| Park n Play (2 <sup>nd</sup> )  | \$130,000.00             |
| ABC Recreation                  | \$129,977.68             |
| Open Space                      | \$130,000.00             |

The top two proposals with the highest scores from the review committee included Park n Water and Park n Play. Scoring was established with criteria including price, playability, features, theme, delivery and design.

The top two designs were put out to the community for a vote on which playground was preferred. The voting process was promoted on social media, the Town website and in the Town newspaper. Votes were collected for one week with a total of 853 votes received.

**Option A (Park n Water) - received 495 votes (58%)**

**Option B (Park n Play) - received 358 votes (42%)**

The Park n Water playground proposal is a community and music themed playground suitable for 1.5 to 5 years old and includes:

- two slide units including one twisty slide
- two double-sided accessible, inclusion play panels
- annex H accessible transfer platform
- rock climbing access ramp
- two music stations (drums and xylophone)
- interactive play station with panels and playable parts
- large decorative shade canopy over play structure
- imaginative play concession stand and microphones

The products used by Park n Water address the 2023 Council Priorities to be more environmentally focused as they manufacture 25% to 100% of recycled materials for their equipment. The supply and delivery of the playground will be 8 to 10 weeks once order is confirmed.

### **CONSULTATION**

This report has been prepared in consultation with the RCP Director, Manager of Parks & Facilities, Supervisor of Parks and Director of Finance.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

The Library playground replacement is not specifically contained in the 2023 approved capital budget as it was identified for 2024. Due to the Town's success in obtaining a 2023 available grant, the project was pushed forward. The approved 2023 capital budget contains \$95,000 funding through reserve for annual playground equipment. The Enabling Accessibility Grant is providing \$100,000 towards the overall cost of the playground and rubberized surface. Utilizing \$19,045.44 from the approved budget the Town can cover the cost of the expenditure.

### **CORPORATE GOALS**

How does this report support the corporate goals identified in the Community Strategic Plan?

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

**Goal** – Within the community, Tillsonburg will strive to offer residents the amenities, services and attractions they require to enjoy balanced lifestyles.

**Strategic Direction** – Target new programs, services, amenities and attractions that will be a magnet for young families; Provide an expanded, accessible network of parks and trails.

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**Priority Project** – *Ongoing Projects* – New playground construction.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A – Library Park schematic a

Appendix B – Library Park schematic b