

Advisory Committee of Council Staff Report



To Accessibility Advisory Committee
Date Tuesday, December 19, 2023
Subject **Play Equipment Lifecycle Project: University Village Park**

Recommendation

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee of Council support the proposed new play space at University Village Park as presented and to be implemented in 2024.
-

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To outline key aspects of design for new play equipment and play area within University Village Park as they relate to accessibility and inclusive play.

Key Findings

There is a strong desire in our community to include a higher number and range of inclusive and barrier free play elements when designing and implementing new play spaces.

The design for new play equipment and play space at University Village Park is barrier free and inclusive, making it a universal play space.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Staff are pleased to put forward and implement the new play space design for University Village Park as it truly builds on Guelph's community vision. The design is reflective of the shared aspirations of our community as well as our commitment to a shared future for Guelph. This project incorporates our vision, mission, and values, and touches on all five strategic priorities to champion improved community well-being in our Parks and City.

Financial Implications

Capital Funding

There are no financial implications for proceeding with the implementation of this project in 2024. Funds to complete this work have previously been approved by Council.

Operating Funding

Administrative and operating costs for the ongoing maintenance of the proposed play space at University Village Park have been estimated at \$5,000 per year. Future impacts to maintenance will be provided as part of future budget approval.

Report

The new complete barrier free play space at University Village Park will include:

- Rubber safety surfacing throughout the entire play area
- Wheelchair access to all play elements and components
- Abundance of shade incorporated throughout the play equipment
- Various sensory features throughout including roller slide
- Multiple accessible swings
- Multiple areas for seating including sunshade structure with accessible picnic tables
- Accessible signage and wayfinding
- Accessible route by way of asphalt pathway connecting an existing bus stop to the new play space
- Accessible route by way of asphalt pathway connecting new accessible parking to the new play space

Financial Implications

Capital Funding

The new play space at University Village Park is part of the City's Annual Play Equipment Lifecycle Project funded through the Play Equipment Lifecycle Account PK0130 and the City-Wide Trail Enhancements Account PK0125. The cost for design and implementation of only University Village Park is \$1,250,000.

Operating Funding

Like all play equipment throughout City Parks, the new play equipment at University Village Park will be inspected monthly by Parks Operations Staff in compliance with CSA Z614:2020. There is no impact to operating funding on this specific item since there was previously an existing play equipment asset at University Village Park.

Rubber safety surfacing, asphalt pathways, sunshade structure, and site furnishings are new assets to the park that will require ongoing maintenance and have been estimated at \$5,000 per year.

Ongoing maintenance within University Village Park on other existing amenities, grass cutting, and winter snow removal for the parking lot will continue as normal with no other impacts.

Consultations

Community engagement has been completed for this project and the community has determined the final play equipment design for University Village Park. In the month of December, 90 per cent design drawing set will be circulated to internal stakeholders for final comments prior to development and completion of contract drawing set for tender in January 2024.

The December 19 AAC meeting will be the final consultation for this project. Staff have previously engaged AAC on two separate occasions in December 2022 and in April 2023 and have incorporated their ideas and desires into the design.

Feedback received at the December 19 meeting will be used to complete the design process for new play equipment at University Village Park and the construction will be tendered in January 2024.

Attachments

University Village Park Playground Design

Departmental Approval

Mallory Lemon, Manager, Park and Trail Development, Parks

Report Author

Stefan Ilic, Project Manager, Park and Trail Development, Parks

This report was approved by:

Mallory Lemon

Manager, Park and Trail Development

Public Services

519-822-1260 extension 3560

mallory.lemon@quelfh.ca