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Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Operational Services

Re: Town Park Accessible Playground Update

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks and Fleet

Date: May 16, 2024

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Town Park Accessible Playground Update be received; and
2. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comments regarding Town Park Accessible Playground Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

Identified in the 2024 Capital Budget, as part of recommendations from Town of Aurora Parks and Recreation Masterplan (PRMP), improvements to the playground at Town Park are slated to be completed later this year. The goal of this improvement project is to create a new and fully accessible playground space, with features that provide opportunities for both junior and senior children aged 18 months to 12 years to play within an intentionally designed space that incorporates both users and caregivers' accessibility needs. Guided by the PRMP, this upgraded playground will serve as one of four accessible playgrounds, as recommended in each quadrant of the Town. Since January 2024, we have been progressing with the design and planning of the playground upgrades, conducting online engagement opportunities through Engage Aurora, an in-person Public Information Centre on February 7, as well as a posted display at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC). Additionally, Town staff heard comments and considerations from residents and park users who requested a follow-up.

Next Steps

After collecting feedback from the engagement opportunities described above, our park development team has incorporated the feedback received and is now finalizing the design ahead of preparing to tender out the manufacturing of required materials.

As part of the improvements, the following features are planned to be included in the final design provided that any additional budget is approved by Council and no other unexpected issues arise.

Key components:

- A junior and senior child combination play structure with included accessible ramps for users and child supervisors.
- A full swing set including junior and senior child options with accessible swing seat.
- Two double side-by-side slides for junior and senior children accompanied by a child supervisor.
- Interactive play board feature (touch and turn features).
- Two spinners, one flush grade for wheelchairs and another with accessible components.
- Accessible roller slider.
- Flush rubber surfacing.
- Direct connection from asphalt to junior and senior combination play structure.

Next steps will include finalizing design and project costing, with a report back to Committee of the Whole in June. Once approved, we will go out for tender to procure the supplied equipment. Depending on lead time to manufacture the specialized equipment, construction is slated for later in 2024 to be fully operational for beginning of 2025. Once design is finalized, staff will provide a rendering and post to the Engage Aurora website.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Overhead playground concept

Attachment 2 – Elevation playground concept