



**Date:** July 31, 2023  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Author:** Richard J.H. Wyma CSLA  
**RE:** Lions Park Inclusive Playground

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## RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That the Town Treasurer **BE AUTHORIZED** to transfer \$80,000 from the Park Reserves for the Lions Park Inclusive playground.

## BACKGROUND

In July 2018, following public consultations, Council approved a Master Plan for Lions Park that included new basketball and multi-use courts, shade structure, walking trails, tree planting, and an inclusive playground. The works were planned in four phases:

- Phase 1 (2019) included site servicing, a new basketball court to replace and relocate the then-existing court, paved walking trails and trees.
- Phase 2 (2021) included construction of a shade structure and additional trail work. A second multi-use court, planned for Lions Park, was relocated to Ridgeview Park. It was also determined that the proposed standalone washroom would be deferred to future phases and aligned with works to Lions Hall.
- Phase 3 (2023) includes the design and construction of trail access to Division Street and the design and construction of an Inclusive Playground.
- Phase 4 (2025, pending budget) includes the construction of accessible washrooms and parking lot improvements.

The 2023 budget included \$220,000 for Phase 3 including \$80,000 from Lions Club for the playground, \$85,000 carried forward from 2022, and \$55,000 through Development Charges. Additionally, in 2022, Lions received \$35,000 from a Canada Healthy Communities Initiative grant awarded through the Windsor Essex Community Foundation for rubberized surfaces providing a total Phase 3 budget of \$250,000.

The works were split into two projects:

- Spring 2023 (\$100,000) - construction of a trail access to Division St. South, drainage improvements and site preparation for the playground. This work is now largely completed.

- Summer/Fall 2023 (\$150,000) – design and construction of the inclusive playground.

## **DISCUSSION**

In July 2023, Administration posted a Request for Proposal seeking playground designers for design and installation of the inclusive playground. Administration received four tenders for the playground design and construction and awarded the contract to ABC Recreation for \$150,000 in keeping with the Delegation of Authority and Procurement by-laws.

Administration, and ABC Recreation met with Lions Club and members of the Town's Accessibility Committee to receive input on design options. It was noted that costs for playground equipment have increased significantly post Covid, as have costs for rubberized surfacing. A design (attached) was prepared and reviewed that included a number of inclusive playground components (climbers, spinners, stationary cycle, fun gliders, swings, etc.), and due to costs, a mix of specialized engineered wood fibre chips and associated mats designed to meet AODA and inclusive playground requirements, and strategically located rubberized surfacing.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Administration, ABC Recreation, Lions Club and the members of the Accessibility Committee worked to minimize the cost increase; however, the final design (excluding HST) for the playground (\$196,431) and surfacing (\$30,640) totals \$227,071. This exceeds the 2023 budgeted amount by \$77,071.

The playground is intended to be a signature playground for Kingsville and will draw users from throughout the town due to its inclusive design features. The Lions Club strongly supports that intention and in total, contributed \$123,000 towards the playground, almost double their initial commitment of \$65,000.

In recognition of the playground's role in the town, and the strong support from the Lions Club, Administration supports the added costs, and is proposing to fund the additional \$77,071 through park reserves.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Playground equipment and surfacing are all environmentally friendly and make use of recycled products. Additional trail connections will make Lions Park more accessible for pedestrians and bikers accessing the park.

## CONSULTATIONS

Courtney Godfrey, Manager of Parks, Recreation and Facilities  
ABC Recreation  
Lions Club  
Members of the Accessibility Committee  
Senior Management Team

PREPARED BY:



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Richard J.H. Wyma, CSLA  
**Director of Community and Development Services**

REVIEWED BY:



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John Norton  
**Chief Administrative Officer**