

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** September 20, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Jim Gordon, P.Eng., Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations

**SUBJECT:** Emerson Park – Phase 2 Playground Equipment Review

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council:

- 1) Receive the corporate report dated September 20, 2022, from the Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations, titled “Emerson Park – Phase 2 Playground Equipment Review” for consideration; and
  - 2) Provide direction to staff regarding the potential addition of playground equipment for use by children 8 to 10 years of age.
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this corporate report is to provide Council with feedback on the addition of playground equipment designed for use by children 8 to 10 years old at Emerson Park.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

<b>Motion # &amp; Meeting Date</b>	<b>Motion Details</b>
2022-231 May 30, 2022	<p>THAT Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Receive the corporate report dated May 30, 2022, from the Director of Engineering &amp; Municipal Operations, titled “Emerson Park – Options for Additional Playground Equipment”;</li><li>2. Direct staff to proceed with the current design for Emerson Park as is; and</li><li>3. Agrees to take some further time, within the next three (3) months, to review other options for play structures as presented in the corporate report.</li></ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>

2022-203 May 9, 2022	<p>THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a corporate report with options to <b>add</b> structures for the age group of 8 - 10 year old children at Emerson Park Playground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Emerson Park is a small neighbourhood park on the corner of Columbia Avenue and Lee Street. It serves residents who want to enjoy greenspace and time with family. The park is approximately 1,144 square meters and the original playground structure was designed for children 2 to 5 years old with a coverage area of approximately 70 square meters. There is a family residence located on the north side and also on the east side bordering the park.

In summer of 2021, the city launched the “Playground Equipment in Emerson Park” survey on the Talk White Rock platform and received 617 visitors and 309 survey responses. Based on the response from nearby residents, staff issued a Request for Proposal with key elements for the new playground structure and subsequently awarded the contract to Habitat Systems Inc. The survey on the Talk White Rock platform was divided between those requesting playground structures for participants 2 to 5 years old and those requesting playground structures for participants 5 to 12 years old.

Staff decided to move forward to replace and upgrade the existing playground with a playground structure for use by those 2 to 5 years old. The swings and the adjacent grass area were included to provide play opportunities for older children. The new playground is fully installed and has a coverage area of approximately 140 square meters, twice the size of the original playground coverage area.

At the May 9, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, staff were directed to bring forward a corporate report with options to add structures for 8 to 10 years of age participants at Emerson Park Playground.

Habitat System Inc. provided two options as follows for a potential Phase 2:

- a) Replace the swing set with a new structure for older children; and
- b) Keep the swing set and extend the current playground footprint to add an additional play structure for older children.

Each option provided by Habitat Systems Inc. can incorporate the play equipment designs identified in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Phase 2 Playground Equipment Design Review**

<b>Play Equipment Design</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Design Option #1 (Image included in Attachment 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good option for 2 to 5 year olds and 5 to 8 year olds</li> <li>• Incorporates fundamental movement</li> <li>• Incorporates “perching” opportunities</li> <li>• Compliments existing equipment well</li> <li>• Non-intrusive aesthetic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

Design Option #2 (Image included in Attachment 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporates fundamental movement</li> <li>• Includes a more challenging slide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bit repetitive to existing equipment because of similar “post &amp; deck” structure</li> </ul>
Design Option #3 (Image included in Attachment 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for upper body development</li> <li>• Lowest cost</li> <li>• Provides a variety of play opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

The play equipment design options identified in Table 1 combined with the two options provided by Habitat Systems Inc. yields a total of six options for Council’s consideration. The estimated cost for each of these options is summarized in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 – Summary of Options for Additional Playground Equipment**

Options	Description	Estimated Cost	Lead Time	Additional Impacts
1A	Replace the swing set with design option #1	\$101,000	6 months	None
1B	Place design option #1 next to the current playground	\$129,000	8 months	An additional 70 square meters of playground surface will be added to the park for a total coverage of 210 square meters.
2A	Replace the swing set with a design option #2	\$116,000	6 months	None
2B	Place design option #2 next to current playground	\$144,000	8 months	An additional 78 square meters of playground surface will be added to the park for a total coverage area of 218 square meters.
3A	Replace the swing set with design option #3	\$88,000	6 months	None
3B	Place design option #3 next to current playground	\$119,000	8 months	An additional 87 square meters of playground surface will be added to the park for a total coverage of 227 square meters.

During the grand opening, staff noticed that the existing swing set was well received by local residents. Since the grand opening, staff have noticed on many instances where the swing set is fully occupied with a lineup to take a turn. Therefore, staff do not recommend that the swing set be removed from Emerson Park Playground.

Furthermore, Emerson Park is a very small park and adding playground equipment will increase the footprint and take away greenspace for children to play soccer, tag or otherwise enjoy a green environment, including picnicking on the grass. Additionally, residents could potentially object to more structure buildup adjacent to their homes.

The current park is very popular and fits the concept of a neighborhood park. It is not recommended to remove the popular swing set or crowd additional expensive structures into the limited green space buffering adjacent homes.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A summary of the project budget is as follows:

**Table 3 – Project Budget**

	<b>Playground</b>	<b>Park Improvements from CAC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Project budget	\$160,000	\$200,000	\$360,000
Tire Stewardship BC Grant	\$27,481.50	nil	\$27,481.50
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>\$187,481.50</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$387,481.50</b>
Contract amount for Phase 1	\$151,780	\$97,945	\$249,725
Supplies	\$80	nil	\$80
<b>Remaining budget available for Phase 2</b>	<b>\$35,621.50</b>	<b>\$102,055.00</b>	<b>\$137,676.25</b>

The current budget in the approved 2022 Financial Plan is \$360,000 and does not currently include the Tire Stewardship BC Grant.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

If there is direction from Council to proceed with Phase 2, staff will deliver notices to the residents located within two (2) blocks of the project area advising of any changes to the existing design.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS**

Should Emerson Park Playground - Phase 2 proceed, the Communications Department and the Recreation & Culture Department will be notified to schedule the Emerson Park re-opening.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

If the playground equipment footprint is expanded, there will be a reduction in green space to accommodate the additional structures.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

The park improvements are a Community Amenity Contribution “Shovel-in-the-Ground” project, and this project is consistent with Council’s Top Strategic Priorities.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following options are available for Council’s consideration:

1. Leave the current Emerson Park Playground - Phase 1 as-is; or

2. Select one of the six options provided in Table 3 to add additional play structures to Emerson Park to accommodate 8 to 10 years of age participants.

## **CONCLUSION**

At the May 30, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Council agreed to take some further time, within the next three (3) months, to review other options for various play structures as presented in the corporate report.

Staff have provided a review of the design options presented herein. Staff have observed that the swing set has been well received by the neighbourhood. Other considerations include that by extending the current footprint to incorporate an additional play structure(s) it would necessitate the removal of greenspace that currently exists, and nearby residents may potentially object to more structure buildup adjacent to their homes.

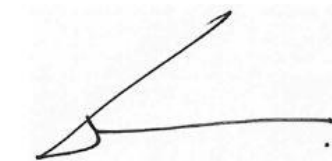
Respectfully submitted,



Jim Gordon, P.Eng.  
Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations

## **Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

This report is provided for Council's consideration and direction to staff.



Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Design Option 1  
Appendix B: Design Option 2  
Appendix C: Design Option 3