



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator
Phil Jacobs, Parks and Forestry Supervisor**

Meeting Date: **April 21, 2015**

Subject: **Report APRAC15-022
Wedgewood Park Community Assistance Project**

Purpose

A report to inform of a Community Assistance Project to establish a children's play structure in Wedgewood Park, in partnership with the St. Teresa School Council.

Recommendation

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC15-022 dated April 21, 2015, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That the construction of a children's play structure in the southwest corner of Wedgewood Park be approved as a Community Assistance project, in partnership with the St. Teresa School Council.

Budget and Financial Implications

If the recommendation of this report is approved, the estimated maximum expense of \$60,000 (net of HST) can be accommodated within the approved 2015 Community Assistance Capital budget (reference # 6-1.03). The School Council has raised its

minimum 15% contribution of \$9,000, leaving the City's maximum contribution at \$51,000 (net of HST).

Background

On February 10, 2015, two representatives of the St. Teresa School Council met with City Staff to present a partnership proposal to replace the school's aging outdoor play structure, and to refurbish their basketball court, including court resurfacing and replacement of the posts and nets. The School Council reasoned that a partnership with the City would be beneficial to the broader neighbourhood, as the amenities located on school property are utilized by the neighbourhood residents outside of school hours. The neighbouring City owned Wedgewood Park is not equipped with amenities such as a children's play structure, basketball court, etc.

After reviewing the proposal, City Staff made an alternative proposal in which the play structure could be situated within Wedgewood Park, rather than on school property. The School Council/Board would independently deal with the basketball court refurbishment. Wedgewood Park abuts the St. Teresa school property, with no barrier between the two parcels of land. Essentially, the park acts as an extension of the St. Teresa School playground. An aerial view of Wedgewood Park, identifying the proposed location of the play structure is attached as Appendix "A".

The City's proposed arrangement would be consistent with how the City partners with neighbourhood associations, to improve park amenities through the Community Assistance Program. Through that program, the School Council would be required to make a minimum 15% financial contribution towards the estimated cost of the project. Staff has estimated the project cost to be a maximum of \$60,000. The School Council has already raised their 15% contribution, or \$9,000.

On March 13, 2015 City Staff met with two school board officials, to discuss the Board's position on the alternate proposal, to establish the play structure in Wedgewood Park. The School Board supports the arrangement, as long as the location of the play structure is in the southwest corner of the park. That location provides safe access for the students, and can be easily supervised by teachers during lunch and recess.

City Staff have been contacted by a representative of the Westmount School Council, who may also be interested in partnering with the City and St. Teresa School Council on this project. If that additional partnership evolves, it creates opportunity to enhance the scope of the project.

Staff recommends the establishment of the play structure in Wedgewood Park be approved as a Community Assistance project in partnership with St. Teresa School Council, as it serves a broad community need.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

Phil Jacobs
Parks and Forestry Supervisor

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Aerial view of Wedgewood Park