

# Development of Beach Play Area at Hawrelak Park – Request for Proposal

## Recommendation:

That Community Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That design and development of a beach play area in Hawrelak Park adjacent to the lake, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the February 26, 2013, Community Services report 2012CSS005, be approved.
2. That Administration bring forward a capital project profile to fund the beach play area project in Hawrelak Park, as part of the 2013 spring Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment.

## Report Summary

**This report provides a progress summary of the development of a beach play area in Hawrelak Park and recommendations on the location and design of the beach and water features.**

## Previous Council/Committee Action

At the June 25, 2012, Community Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration prepare a Request for Proposal for the preliminary design that meets the requirements of theme two "Wading and Play Area with Beach", as outlined in the June 25, 2012, Community Services report 2012CS9544.

## Report

### Project Overview

- Stantec Consulting was engaged to explore the feasibility of developing a beach play area in Hawrelak Park. The scope of work included:
  - to explore cost effective options to provide children and families an opportunity to get wet, play in water features, lazy river or stream with sand and other lake features
  - to explore the viability of two options incorporating the criteria from the program statement and site plan
  - to meet all required codes and legislative requirements; in particular the Alberta Water Quality requirements from Alberta Health Services
  - to meet Edmonton's seasonal weather operational requirements for spring and summer operations of the water experience and possible winter uses
  - to meet minimal maintenance and operation criteria
- The beach play area project description included:
  - a wading area with a beach-like environment adjacent to the lake or existing playground
  - shallow water play areas with zero entry
  - spray features
  - natural looking wading pool/beach area
  - aesthetics and features or amenities one would find at most lake front areas
  - potable water with a mechanical filtration system and chlorinated disinfection system

### Site Context and Design Process

- two locations for a beach play area were identified; one adjacent to the north east side of the lake next to the main parking lot and pavilion and the other adjacent to the existing playground
- constraints and opportunities were identified for each location by the consultant team, Administration and stakeholders. Utility locates were completed to assist with site impacts and costing
- a review of other municipalities' artificial beach-like projects was completed to further define design options
- conceptual designs were completed for each site which included the program elements identified in the project description

### Location Recommendation

- The lakeside location has advantages over the playground location as it provides more of a beach like environment due to its proximity to the lake, there is a large open space for development, limited utility conflicts, adjacencies to the large parking lot with ability for expansion, close proximity to the pavilion for shared use of facilities and good visibility for security.
- After review of the constraints and opportunities, conceptual plans, safety and security of the site, and operations, Administration asked the consultant team to pursue schematic design and costing for the lakeside location for City Council's consideration.

### Lakeside Preliminary Design

- The lakeside location features a large sand play and wading pool area encompassing 5,285 square

metres, which is similar in size to a full size soccer field. The lakeside experience would include:

- sand beach area, with umbrellas, picnic areas, and lounging areas
- wading pool adjacent to the lake, but separated by boulders and plantings
- boardwalk and viewing deck along the south end of the beach
- outdoor shower area and outdoor lockers
- bike racks
- lighting
- possible winter skating on the wading area that could be opened earlier than the skating on the lake
- mechanical building
- new pathways and service road
- The water volume is approximately one and a half times the water volume as the City Hall water feature at just under 150,000 gallons.
- The consultant also provided information on additional amenities which are currently out of scope: splash pad, increased parking area, and site specific washrooms. A splash pad would increase play value for young patrons and increased parking will offer convenience on busy days in the park. Upgrades to the existing pavilion have been included in the project budget to improve washroom and change room amenities.
- If recommendations and budget are approved, an environmental impact assessment and site location study will be conducted and construction will coincide with the lake construction for the Grand Final Triathlon in fall 2013.

### Policy

- North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan – Bylaw 7188.
- Outdoor Aquatics Policy C534

### Corporate Outcomes

Improve Edmonton's Livability

### Public Consultation

- Consultation with the surrounding communities and general public will take place shortly after the project enters the detailed design phase.
- Stakeholder consultation was conducted with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, Silver Skate Festival Society, Edmonton Triathlon Academy and the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association.
- Two separate consultation sessions were conducted with stakeholders on the opportunities and constraints and conceptual designs for the two proposed beach play area locations.
- The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues expressed concern with the lake side location due to the distance from their planned 100 year anniversary projects in Hawrelak Park. The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues contemplated a water feature project adjacent to the playground in the same location identified for the beach play area project. The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues will not pursue an additional water feature if the beach play area adjacent to the lake is developed.
- The Silver Skate Festival Society representatives had no concerns with either location identified.

- The Edmonton Heritage Festival Association will be impacted by the lake side location. Power servicing will need to be relocated in the park. Administration has met and will continue to meet with representatives of the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association to discuss mitigation strategies.
- The Edmonton Triathlon Academy preferred the lake side location as it will animate the space adjacent to the triathlon start area.

### Budget/Financial Implications

- This project is not fully funded in the 2012 to 2014 approved Capital Plan.
- Funding in the amount of \$2.1 million is available through the District and City Parks and Outdoor Aquatic Amenity Profile 12-28-7070 for the beach play area project. Cost estimates for the recommended location are currently being developed and are anticipated to be approximately \$5 million.
- Committee could direct Administration to bring this project forward for consideration with the Spring Supplementary Budget Adjustment. However, it is unknown at this time if any funding will be available for reallocation.
- The estimated yearly operating budget is \$150,000. Further refinement will continue as design progresses.
- Operating impacts will be identified for funding during the 2013 Operating Budget Service Package process.

### **Justification of Recommendation**

1. The water play feature as described in Attachment 1 is consistent with the previous direction provided by City Council with regards to the intent of the project and the proposed budget range.
2. Bringing the request for funding forward as part of the 2013 spring Supplemental Budget Adjustment will allow Administration to develop a final cost estimate and allow City Council to consider this project along with other requests.

### **Attachments**

1. Hawrelak Park Beach Play Area Site Location
2. Hawrelak Park Beach Play Area Preliminary Design Concept

### **Others Reviewing this Report**

- R. G. Klassen, General Manager, Sustainable Development
- L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer