



**Date:** August 8, 2016

**To:** Park Board

**From:** Eric Boettcher, Recreation Supervisor

**Subject:** Weber Park Playground Replacement Design

## **Information / Background:**

The current playground structure at Weber Park was designed and installed in 1997. The city has \$375,000 budgeted in CIP funds to replace the playground structures at Rosland and Weber parks in 2016. \$200,000 was budgeted for Rosland Park and \$175,000 for Weber Park. The original \$175,000 was budgeted for Weber Park to include a rubber poured-in-place safety surface and to potentially relocate the playground. After meeting with the neighborhood on multiple occasions, it was determined that the residents preferred the engineered wood fiber safety surface. This reduced the overall budget need for Weber Park. We were able to replace and expand the existing playground for \$100,000. This still added roughly 400 square feet to the playground and provided an ADA accessible path and parking spot.

Weber Park is one of our most active neighborhood parks. The primary focus of the replacement is a playground designed to meet the needs of the community park. The key components of the design is to utilize the current location of the playground structure, use wood fiber for the safety surface and provide features that would accommodate children ages 2-12. The playground will meet ADA requirements for accessibility. Other elements that were considered in the playground design were the actual play features, play value, safety, accessibility and cost.

The playground vendor selected to work on the project is Northland Recreation. This company sells Little Tikes playground equipment. It is the same design group that designed the playgrounds at Pamela and McGuire parks. This vendor was selected for several reasons:

- Little Tikes equipment is listed on the National Joint Power Alliance (NJPA) contract so we are guaranteed the lowest pricing.
- City staff has been very pleased with the service and quality of the equipment.
- Staff has received positive feedback from community members on the creativity and play value of the Little Tike playground equipment.

Staff worked with the vendor on the initial playground design. The design was then presented to the community at a variety of neighborhood events. Feedback was received from residents at the Eco Fair on Sunday, April 24. The vendor then made adjustments to the plan based on that community input. The design was then brought to Morningside Neighborhood Association Steering Committee meeting on Monday, June 6 and to a public meeting for the Morningside Neighborhood on Monday, June 20 to get additional feedback.

The vendor and staff made the next set of changes to the design based on the received feedback. The revised design was displayed at a community open house on July 12, 2016. Members of the community who live 1,000 feet from Weber Park were invited to share ideas and provide feedback; this feedback is what allowed us to create the current design. Some of the changes to the plan, based on the July 12 open house, are as follows:

- Taller/higher climbers – now have 6
- Raft swing - added
- Longer zipline – now is 20' long with decks on each end
- Higher center structure – now is 8' high which is as high as they can go with this structure
- More motion events – wobble sphere, zip line and raft swing
- Benches – added one

The proposed design offers play features that provide a safe and fun experience for ages 2-5 while providing some challenges for ages 5-12.

#### **Potential Project Timeline:**

Community Presentation – Eco Fair	April 24, 2016
Community Presentation – Morningside Neighborhood Association Steering Committee	June 6, 2016
Community Presentation	June 20, 2016
Community Open House	July 12, 2016
Re-design by Playground Vendor	July 2016
Park Board Final Design Approval	Aug. 8, 2016
City Council Request for Purchase	Sept. 6, 2016
Removal of Existing Playground	Mid-September 2016
Begin Playground Installation	Late-September 2016
Project Completion	End of October 2016

Action Requested:

Approve the design of the Weber Park playground and recommend to the City Council its purchase and installation and related ADA improvements by Northland Recreation.