

Meeting Date: May 20, 2025
Department: Community Services
Report No.: CS-2025-22
Submitted by: Darren Dowding, Supervisor of Parks and Recreation Facilities
Reviewed by: Rob Lilbourne, Director of Community and Development Services
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Woods Edge Playground Update

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report number CS-2025-22 for information, and further;

THAT: Council approve Park N Water Ltd. to supply and install playground equipment and associated accessories at Woods Edge Park in Mt Brydges for a value of 208,963.51, including HST, and further;

THAT: Council approve the transfer of \$19,411.69 from the Park Reserve Fund to this capital project to cover the slight overage, including a 5% contingency.

BACKGROUND:

Council approved \$200,000.00 as part of the 2022 Capital budget to fund the installation of a playground and amenities at Woods Edge Park. It should be noted that this park location was not assumed by the Municipality until late 2024. As part of the design staff engage a landscape architect to develop a concept for the parkland.

In late November of 2024 staff conducted a Public Information Meeting (PIM) to consult with the area residents within 125 metres of the proposed neighbourhood park to share the initial concept seeking feedback. This feedback was provided to Park N Water where they include the suggestions by the residents. Staff conducted a follow up PIM in mid-April of 2025 where the revised concepts were presented and based upon this consultation the proposed playground has been selected. (see attached)

COMMENTS:

Due to supply demands and timing it is expected that the installation of this playground and amenities should occur in early Q4 of 2025.

In accordance with the Municipality's Purchasing Policy Section 16 Co-Operative Purchasing staff utilized the Co-operative purchasing of "Canoe Procurement Group of Canada" (Canoe) through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Local Authority Services (LAS). The program saves time and money by being able to leverage Canada-wide purchasing power, reduced time on conducting RFP's or tenders, and allows the municipality to access hundreds of vendors across multiple categories.

This project has come in slightly over budget due to the inclusion of a boundary wall, blocking and separating the storm water management ponds. This amenity was included as a suggestion from residents to deter young children from running directly to the SWM pond. This feature was chosen over a fence due to ease of maintenance.

Staff have worked with the vendor on the budget overage to find savings, and alterations have been made to an alternative plan, which would see the barrier wall between the playground and the SWM pond removed, to bring the project in under budget, should Council not approve the recommendation.

CONSULTATION:

Stantec – Landscape Architect
Middlesex County Accessibility Committee
Community Members of Woods Edge
Director of Community and Development Services
Director of Engineering and Public Works

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This capital project has an approved budget amount of \$200,000.00. As indicated in the report, it has come in slightly over budget due to the inclusion of the boundary wall.

To include this feature, staff are requesting that the additional \$8,963.51, including HST, along with a 5% contingency of \$10,448.18, be added to this capital project for a total of \$19,411.69. These funds are available from the Park Reserve Fund

The remaining funds available in the Park Reserve Fund minus the request equals \$360,722.63

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Local Infrastructure and Capital Investment: Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc will be supported by reliable, financially responsible, and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

Community Well-being and Quality of Life: Residents of all ages in Strathroy-Caradoc will have access to community amenities and activities that are accessible and support active lifestyles and wellbeing.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Wood Edge Park preferred concept