Report - Standing Policy Committee on Public Works - May 13, 2003

Item No. 3 Criteria for the Playground Equipment Replacement Program in City Park Facilities
File PR-2 (Vol. 86)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 21, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submits the following to Council, namely, that the program criteria for the playground equipment replacement program in City-owned park facilities be approved, as follows:

1. Funds from the playground equipment replacement program must be directed to parks and community centers on City property only.

2. Funding shall be for playground equipment replacements (not new installations).

3. Playground equipment replacements include creative play structures, swings, slides, climbing apparatus, spring toys, other creative play components, cribbing, protective surfacing or related amenities.

4. Funding for this program may be granted to non-profit community groups or resident associations meeting the program criteria noted herein and the requirements listed in Appendix “B”. In the absence of a group or association, the Parks and Open Space Division will carry out the project.

5. Other funding sources may be combined with this program.

6. The Parks and Open Spaces Division will administer the funding that is granted to non-profit community groups or resident associations for playground equipment replacement program projects.

7. The administration will work with the ward Councillors to determine the need, priority and approval for replacing the playground equipment within each ward.

8. The Parks and Open Space Division will continue to monitor replacement needs and recommend adjustments on an annual basis to the long term playground equipment replacement program as necessary.

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9. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 21, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 13, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works concurred in the administrative recommendation and submitted its recommendation to Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Re: Criteria for the Playground Equipment Replacement Program in City Park Facilities

For Submission To: Standing Committee on Public Works

Submitted By: Jim Thomson, P.Eng., Director of Public Works

Report Date: April 25, 2003

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the program criteria listed herein for the playground equipment replacement program in City-owned park facilities be approved.

Report Summary

KEY ISSUES:

1. Of the 476 city-owned park sites containing playground equipment, 106 sites or 23% were assessed to have playground equipment in poor condition and replacement of this equipment was recommended.
2. Program criteria are recommended to focus the program on high need replacements in City-owned parks.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION(S):

General Implications

	None
X	For the organization overall and/or for other departments
X	For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg
	Involves a multi-year contract
	Comment(s): The funding will facilitate a minimum of 15 playground replacements per year. Some may be done in partnership with community organizations.

Policy Implications

X	None
	Yes
	Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

X	None
	Yes
	Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

X	None
	Yes
	Comment(s):

Financial Implications

X	Within approved current and/or capital budget
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required
	Comment(s):

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

This report is submitted at the request of the Executive Policy Committee for Council's approval of program criteria for the ongoing replacement of playground equipment in City-owned park facilities.

HISTORY:

On March 5, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee recognized the need for a program to replace playground equipment that is in poor condition and recommended that $450,000 ($30,000 per Ward) be identified in the 2003 Capital Budget to begin this program in 2003.

Also on March 5, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee requested that the administration bring forth within 60 days for Council's approval program criteria for the ongoing replacement of playground equipment in City-owned parks facilities. (Appendix A, EPC Motion)

On March 28, 2003, City Council approved the 2003 Capital Budget including the $450,000 playground equipment replacement program.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Winnipeg has a responsibility to provide safe and high quality play spaces for children.

The Canadian Playground Safety Institute has had play space standards approved by the Canadian Standards Association, which provide guidance on the maintenance of play spaces calling for a base level replacement program.

Of the 476 city-owned park sites containing playground equipment, 106 sites or 23% were assessed to have playground equipment in poor condition and replacement of this equipment was recommended.

The $450,000 ($30,000 per Ward) that is identified in the 2003 Capital Budget will be used to begin the playground equipment replacement program. The Administration is currently in the process of reviewing and identifying proposed sites and will meet with each Ward Councillor to determine the need and priority of playground equipment replacements and communicate the availability of the funding to the community.

Program Criteria

The following program criteria has been developed for the playground equipment replacement program:

1. Funds from the playground equipment replacement program must be directed to parks and community centers on City property only.
2. Funding shall be for playground equipment replacements (not new installations).
3. Playground equipment replacements include creative play structures, swings, slides, climbing apparatus, spring toys, other creative play components, cribbing, protective surfacing or related amenities.
4. Funding for this program may be granted to non-profit community groups or resident associations meeting the program criteria noted herein and the requirements listed in Appendix B. In the absence of a group or association, the Parks and Open Space Division will carry out the project.
5. Other funding sources may be combined with this program.
6. The Parks and Open Spaces Division will administer the funding that is granted to non-profit community groups or resident associations for playground equipment replacement program projects.
7. The administration will work with the ward Councillors to determine the need, priority and approval for replacing the playground equipment within each ward.
8. The Parks and Open Space Division will continue to monitor replacement needs and recommend adjustments on an annual basis to the long term playground equipment replacement program as necessary.

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT, THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH AND CONCURRENCE BY:

N/A

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Public Works Department
Parks and Open Space Division
Prepared By: Rob Zanewich
File No. w:\rob z\playground info\playground equipment replacement report

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Date: 28-Apr-03

Project Name: First Year of Program **2003**

Criteria for the Playground Equipment Replacement Program in City Park Facilities

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 450,000				
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	450,000				
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal					
Debt - External					
Grants (Enter Description Here)					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other - Enter Description Here					
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs					
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery					
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts					
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Year 2003 is the first year of the program.

"Original Signed by Darcy Stewart, C.A."
Manager of Finance & Administration

Approved by Supervisor of Financial Services: X

APPENDIX “A”

MOTION

Executive Policy Committee
March 5, 2003

Moved by Councillor Angus,

WHEREAS the Executive Policy Committee has tabled its 2003 Preliminary Capital Budget at its meeting of March 5, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the Public Works Department has identified that of the approximately 476 city-owned park sites containing play equipment (i.e. play structures, swings, climbing apparatus etc), 23% or 106 sites are in poor condition and replacement is recommended;

AND WHEREAS this total does not include all the joint use school sites that we currently inspect and maintain. Installations at most of these sites are/were funded by residents associations.

AND WHEREAS a playground-funding program should first and foremost direct resources to neighbourhood parks on city property. The Community Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) already covers school division playgrounds and numerous Parent/School groups make use of this funding and city owned park sites are not eligible for the CIGP program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration review and identify the specific requirements for playground equipment replacement on a Ward-by-Ward basis, noting any new playground equipment that has been installed on City property, including Community Clubs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administration meet with each of the Ward Councillors to determine the need and priority for replacing the playground equipment;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administration bring forth within sixty (60) days for Council’s approval program criteria for the ongoing replacement of playground equipment in City-owned parks facilities;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that $450,000.00 ($30,000.00 per Ward) be identified in the 2003 Capital Budget to begin this program in 2003.

APPENDIX “B”

Funding Requirements for Playground Equipment Replacement Program

Non-profit community groups or resident associations requesting funding from the City of Winnipeg Playground Equipment Replacement Program must submit a letter of application to the Manager of the Parks and Open Space Division including the following information:

1. The legal name of the organization submitting the application.

2. The complete mailing address, including postal code, to which all correspondence will be sent.

3. Indicate the names and positions of the primary contacts for your project. Please include phone numbers to be used during normal business hours.

4. List all other sources of funding toward the total cost of the project including other grants, funds on hand, proposed fund raising, work in kind, volunteer labour (confirmed by documentation from supervising company). Indicate whether or not each source of funding is confirmed.

5. Assign your project a descriptive name to be used in all correspondence.

6. Provide a detailed project location including a site plan.

7. Provide a detailed description of the proposed project.

Funding Requirements for Playground Equipment Replacement Program

Upon approval of funding from the Playground Equipment Replacement Program, the City of Winnipeg requires that the following conditions be met:

1. Final plans and specifications for all projects must be submitted to the City of Winnipeg for review and approval before any work is started on the project.

2. The project must proceed in accordance with the final plans and specifications as approved by the City of Winnipeg. Any revisions must receive the prior approval from the City of Winnipeg.

3. Upon completion of the project, a final inspection of the work will be carried out by the City of Winnipeg.

4. Evidence of liability insurance, satisfactory to the City of Winnipeg Corporate Finance Department (Insurance Supervisor) must be provided.

5. Periodic audited financial statements or other evidence satisfactory to the City of Auditor may be required from all projects to verify that the project was undertaken as planned and that the funds were expended solely for the intended purpose. Project sponsors will not be funded for any costs reimbursable from other sources.

6. A formal agreement, satisfactory to the City Solicitor, is required prior to the start of construction, and prior to funds being reimbursed.

7. The applicant will be required to obtain all necessary permits, etc. and to comply with any and all applicable codes, regulations, etc.

8. Any works undertaken on City-owned property become the property of the City of Winnipeg.

9. Projects must be initiated within one year of the approval date and completed within three years of the approval date.