

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Steve Benoit , Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: July 21, 2025
SUBJECT: Approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Shamrock Park.
ITEM NUMBER: 10.h
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Shamrock Park in the amount of \$526,000.

INTRODUCTION

The city council is being asked to approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Shamrock Park in the amount of \$526,000.

DISCUSSION

The city's 2025 capital improvement program includes a project for the replacement of the Shamrock Park playground. The current playground was installed in the early 1990's with partial updates in the early 2000's. Replacement parts are difficult to acquire and in many cases are no longer available making it difficult to maintain. It is recommended that playgrounds be replaced every 20-25 years.

A request for proposals (RFP) was sent out on April 30 to solicit consultant firms to design and install the playground. Within the RFP, firms were instructed to follow the following criteria:

- Project budget of \$460,000.
- Protect trees surrounding the playground area.
- Utilize a combination of poured in place, turf, and wood fiber for base material.
- Serve ages 2-12.
- Be composed of low maintenance materials.
- Include at least five swings.
- Incorporate features that address inclusivity.
- Consultant must be a member of Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing, the State Contract, or OMNIA Partners.

Firms were allowed to submit up to three designs. Four firms submitted proposals including:

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| • Kompan | one design |
| • St. Croix Recreation-Burke | one design |
| • Flagship Recreation-Landscape Structures | two designs |

- Webber Recreation-Miracle

three designs

Once the proposals were received, staff began the public engagement process to gather community feedback on the designs. Community feedback was acquired through several methods including both an online survey and open house. These methods were advertised through Facebook, the city website, and our e-newsletter. In addition, a postcard was mailed to the residents around Shamrock Park.

The on-line survey received total of 198 responses. Of those the majority were for the St. Croix Recreation design with 108 votes. The next closest design had 21 votes.

The open house was held at Shamrock Park on Saturday, June 14 from 1-3 pm. 33 people attended. Of those 20 voted for the St. Croix Recreation design.

The parks and recreation commission reviewed the designs at the June 22 meeting. While the commission felt each design has unique merits, the majority of the members felt that the St. Croix Recreation was the preferred design. There were two design adjustments the commission and staff discussed. One was in regards to the playground base material which is proposed as a combination of poured in place (PIP), turf, and wood fiber. Due to the better accessibility that PIP and turf provides over wood fiber for people with mobility challenges, the commission asked staff to research the possibility of eliminating the use of wood fiber. Staff worked with St. Croix Recreation who redesigned the base material to exclude the wood fiber.

The cost for this change adds an additional \$55,000 to the project. Wood fiber is less costly than PIP and turf to initially install, but requires more maintenance over the lifespan of the playground. The other adjustment in regards if the climbing rock structure that is part of the current playground could be kept and incorporated into the new design due to its popularity.

St. Croix Recreation evaluated the climbing rock and determined that once refurbished it is still usable. The cost for the refurbishment and adding additional base material around the climbing rock to provide a safe landing zone would be \$11,000.

Based on all the combined feedback, staff is recommending the St. Croix Recreation-Burke design. The amount budgeted for the Shamrock Park playground is \$460,000. The cost of the adjustments to the base material and climbing rock feature noted above is a total of \$67,000 bringing the total project cost to \$526,000. To cover the cost of the additional \$67,000, two funding sources have been identified. The park improvement fund includes a \$50,000 allowance to cover unexpected repair and/or project costs. In addition, the Sitzer Park scoreboard project came in \$22,000 under budget. Combined these two areas add up to \$72,000 which will cover these additional costs and keep the 2025 capital improvement fund at its budgeted levels.

The playground will be funded from the park improvement fund. Staff has worked with St. Croix Recreation-Burke on other projects and has had positive experiences. St. Croix Recreation-Burke is a member of the State Contract (number 218090).

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the foregoing information, it is recommended that the city council approve St. Croix Recreation's proposal to design and install a playground at Shamrock Park in the amount of \$526,000.

ATTACHMENTS

Flagship-Landscape Option A Rendering.pdf
Flagship-Landscape Option B Rendering.pdf
Flagship-Landscape Proposal.pdf
Kompan Rendering.pdf
Kompan Proposal.pdf
St. Croix Recreation-Burke Rendering.jpg
St. Croix Recreation-Burke Proposal.pdf
Webber Recreation-Miracle Option 1 Rendering.pdf
Webber Recreation-Miracle Option 1 Proposal.pdf
Webber Recreation-Miracle Option 2 Rendering.pdf
Webber Recreation-Miracle Option 2 Proposal.pdf
Webber Recreation-Miracle Option 3 Rendering.pdf
Webber Recreation-Miracle Option 3 Proposal.pdf