

Staff Report to Council

Title: Victoria Park Construction Drawings

Report Number: Parks & Facilities-2025-15

Director: Community Services

Manager: Manager.

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to _____.

Executive Summary:

At the Special Meeting on January 13th to present 2025 capital projects, Council expressed their desire to bring back a conversation for concept designs for Victoria Park. Staff is seeking further direction from Council on Council's preferred next steps so that staff can proceed with construction drawings for the Park.

Strategic Priorities:

C.8-Create vibrant parks, green space, recreation facilities and programs for residents or visitors of all ages and abilities

Financial Considerations:

Council approved \$60,000 for the purposes of repairing the fountain and cannons. If Council would like to proceed with additional community engagement or an alternate first step for improvements at the park additional funds are likely to be required.

Policy:

Procurement Policy

Context and Background Information:

Staff along with Plural Design Planners and Landscape Architects presented concept designs derived from the input of the public and key stakeholders for the purposes of proceeding towards construction drawings for Victoria Park.

Members of Council have indicated that the concept drawings do not reflect the aspects that several members of the public have expressed to them.

Public engagement is a critical part of decision-making processes, providing insights into community needs and preferences. However, it is important to recognize that not all members of the public participate equally, and the feedback we receive often represents only a subset of our population. This memo highlights the limitations of current engagement approaches and recommends strategies to ensure more representative outcomes.

In order to advance the construction drawings for completion, staff are seeking council direction as to desired components within the park that may not currently exist in the presented concepts on October 23, 2024.

Once these components are passed by Council, then staff will proceed with construction drawings to be passed by Council at a later date.

Construction drawings will enable a more robust costing process which will lead to construction in 2026 if approved by Council.

Consultation Overview:

1. June 6, 2024 Open House open to the public + invitation extended to key stakeholder meetings
2. June 6-21, 2024, Online comment opportunity made available
3. July 25, 2024, AAC Meeting
4. July-August Response to email inquiries
5. October 1, 2024, Open House
6. October 1-7, 2024, Online comment opportunities made available
7. October 15, 2024, Heritage Advisory Committee

Origin:

Staff requested new pavilion design as part of the 2024 budget due to the existing depreciated condition of the existing pavilion.

Council requested that the scope be expanded to include accessibility components within the park to include moveability features. Budget was not increased to reflect the additional components, and staff worked with the consultant within those constraints.

Staff presented concept designs based on community and key stakeholder engagement at the October 23, 2024, Council Meeting.

For 2025 Capital Budget, Council approved \$60,000 to repair the cannon and fountains and construction drawings.

Implementation Considerations:

Ensure that the input already shared by those who participated in the broader engagement process is not dismissed. The presentation on October 23rd presents a collaboration as to what staff and consultants heard. If Council wishes to proceed with additional engagement from the public, it is important to ensure previous input is included.

Risk Analysis:

Future community engagement events could be ineffective as participants may feel that their input is not valued.

Attachments: PF- 2024-25 Victoria Park Concept Design

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Submitted by: Jayne K. Jagelewski, Director of Community Services