



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Council Session

Item I-2

#2021-186 - Consideration of Approving Inclusive Playground Project Donated at Ryder Park

Staff Contact: Todd McCoy

Council Agenda Memo

From: Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

Meeting: July 27, 2021

Subject: Consideration of Inclusive Playground Project to be Donated at Ryder Park

Presenter(s): Todd McCoy, Parks and Recreation Director

Background

The City was approached by students and staff from the Central Community College Occupational Therapy Class with the idea of raising funds to building a new community inclusive playground. After much discussion and excitement generated from community leaders, City staff, and the Community Foundation, the decision was made to move forward to raise money for the project proposed at Ryder Park. The location was chosen because Ryder Park is centrally located, has good access to parking and restrooms, and has potential to benefit from future park developments.

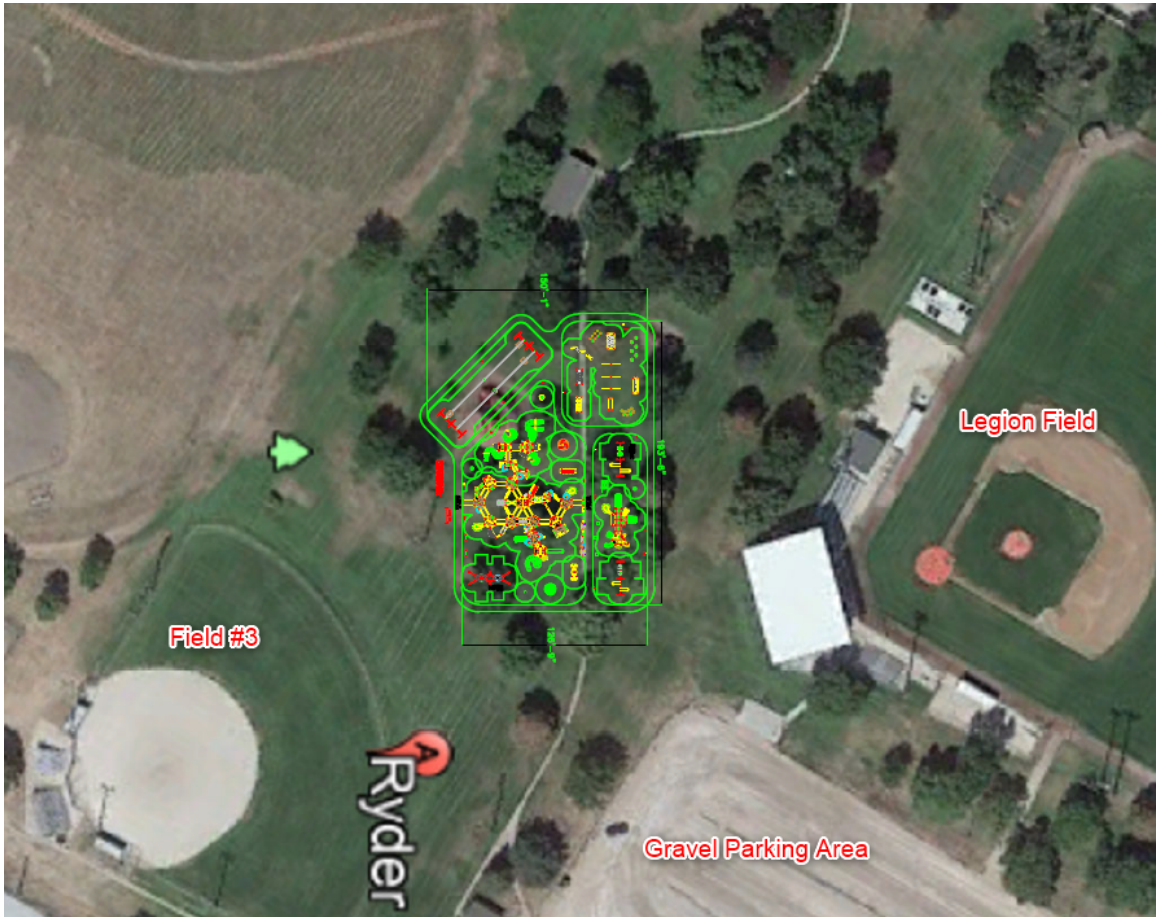
Discussion

The new playground is designed to be handicap accessible and serve children with a wide range of ability levels. The playground is anticipated to cost over \$1 million and be completely funded with private donations. Part of the fundraising plan is to include approximately \$250,000 endowment to cover annual cost maintenance of the equipment.

Park bathrooms and parking improvements are not essential or part of the current fundraising plan; however, as fundraising for the playground progresses the City may want to prioritize these updates to complement the new development.

With City Council approval it is anticipated that the group will begin work immediately to raise funds for the project. If fundraising goals can be met the project is anticipated to be complete in 2023.

Although the improvement will be funded privately, the City will have final approval of design and equipment prior to installation. Upon completion of the project the City will be responsible for maintaining the improvement.







Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the City Council approve the resolution to authorize a donated playground to be constructed in Ryder Park so that private funds can be raised for the project.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the resolution authorizing a donated playground to be constructed in Ryder Park.

RESOLUTION 2021-186

WHEREAS, the City was approached by students and staff from Central Community College Occupational Therapy Class with the idea of raising funds to build a new community inclusive playground in Ryder Park; and

WHEREAS, the new playground is designed to be handicap accessible and serve children with a wide range of ability levels; and

WHEREAS, the playground is anticipated to cost over \$1 million dollars and completely be funded with private donations. Part of the fundraising plan is to include approximately \$250,000 in an endowment fund to cover annual maintenance cost of equipment and upkeep were upon completion of the project the City will be responsible for maintaining the improvement; and

WHEREAS, the City will have final approval of design and equipment prior to installation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City Council approve their request to move forward with the fundraising project to build a new community inclusive playground in Ryder Park.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, July 27, 2021.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
July 23, 2021	☒ City Attorney