



## Parks & Recreation

# Memo

To: Robert Kuntz, City Administrator

From: Linda Bruer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: June 10, 2013

RE: Ferris Park Playground

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According to the master plan completed in 2012 for Ferris Park, a new exploration playground was included for construction and budgeted as part of Phase I improvements in 2013.

A grant for Phase I construction from the St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant Commission includes \$180,000 for play equipment, surfacing, and installation, to be matched by \$60,000 from budgeted city funds for a total anticipated playground cost of \$240,000. According to the master plan and the grant agreement the playground will include a 1,200 square foot 2-5 year old play area, a 1,400 square foot swing area including an accessible swing, and a 2,400 square foot 5-12 year old play area.

Working with landscape architect SWT Design, staff requested proposals and advertised for proposals from local playground manufacturers. The creative nature of play equipment makes comparing like products a challenge, therefore, manufacturers were asked to submit design proposals that followed the criteria below.

1. Design proposals should reflect a design not to exceed \$161,000 including surface material which is to be an accessible fiber mulch material. (The installation of the equipment is to be completed as part of the general contractor's work in Phase I. This contract will be bid separately and include grading, flat work, pavilion installation, and plumbing for water feature)
2. Designs should reflect a "natural theme"; using the newer "nature look" materials that look and feel like rocks and trees. Provide play elements that tie in with the nature theme concept such as climbing rocks, swinging bridges, tree stumps, etc.
3. At least two interactive music play pieces should be included along the walk way between the play areas.
4. Playground designs must meet current American's with Disability Act and Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines for public playgrounds.

Eight different playground manufacturers submitted anywhere from one to three different designs for consideration. John Hoffman and I met with Jay Wohlschlaeger of SWT Design to evaluate the submittals based on the amount of play value for both age groups and the quality of materials in terms of "nature-look" and durability. We visited several metro sites to see products as they are currently being used. The following is a summary of the submittals.

## Ferris Park Playground Design Submittals

Playground Manufacturer	Local Product Sales Company	Comments
Little Tykes Commercial	All Inclusive Recreation	Submitted 3 designs; 2 NuEdge Nature and 1 Mega Tower. Many activities including slides, bridges, climbing elements. Most realistic nature related materials-unique. Equipment made in Farmington, MO.
Landscape Structures	NuToys Leisure Products	Submitted 2 designs; one mega tower fort design, one ADA inclusive design with a lot of ramps, fewer play elements. Lot of budget spent on ramps that are not required. Not realistic rock/tree components.
Miracle Recreation	Hutchinson Recreation	2 designs; both mega tower designs like Viasis Park. Nothing new or original for park. Equipment is manufactured in Monet, MO.
Play World	Fry Associates	1 Play World design; 2 Dynamo ropes designs. Rope designs are unique architecturally but play value is limited to kids with a lot of skill. Play World system did not reflect the nature theme—average in terms of number of play elements.
Gametime	Cunningham Recreation	2 designs—one with a themed plastic tree the other general Gametime equipment piece. Overall not as much play value—nothing remarkable.
Berliner Seilfabrik	ABCreative	Unique "fort" design architecturally with ropes—but very limited play value and accessibility is limited for ages and abilities
Kompan	Custom Property Solutions	1 design-bright colors and molded plastics—does not fit design concept
Sports Play	Sports Play	Very basic play structures—definitely no wow factor

Based on play value, quality of proposed materials, and incorporation of nature theme, staff is recommending purchase of the play equipment and surface material from All Inclusive Rec for Little Tikes Commercial equipment in an amount not to exceed \$161,000.

We anticipate the general contracting package including this information will be bid later in June with submittal to the board for review in August and construction to begin on the playground and other features in September. If you should need further information, please let me know.







## FERRIS PARK PHASE ONE IMPROVEMENTS - SCHEDULE

### June 2013

- June 05 – Playground Submittal Review / Coordination (SWT Design)
- June 11 – 100% Design Development / 50% Construction Document Review (The Pointe)
- June 17 – Playground recommendation to Board of Aldermen (City Hall)
- June 19 – 90% Construction Document Review Meeting (The Pointe)
- June 19 – Public Meeting for Planning Grant and Progress Update (The Pointe)
- June 25 – Submit Drawing Package to City of Ballwin for Permit Review

### July 2013

- July 03 – 100% Construction Document Review Meeting (The Pointe)
- July 11 – Release Bid Package
- July 17 – Prebid Contractor Meeting (Ferris Park)

### August 2013

- August 06 – Bid Opening (City Hall?)
- August 13 – Submit Recommended Contractor for Board Approval
- August 19 – Board of Aldermen meeting to approve contractor
- August 26 – Finalize agreement with selected contractor / notice to proceed

### September 2013

- September 05 – Pre-Construction Meeting with Contractor (Ferris Park)
- September 16 – Contractor Mobilization / Begin Construction

- \* Complete Design Development, Phase 2  
(parking lot, walkways, play field)
- \* Oct - Apply for STL CTY MUNI PARK GRANT  
PHASE II.