

Study Session Agenda Item Memo

From: Kristin Zimmerman, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director

Council Meeting: May 21, 2024

Subject: Brookings Inclusive Play Project at the Fishback Soccer Complex

Presenter: Victoria Schmitt Babb, Cunningham Recreation | Play 4 All
Terri Strong, Cunningham Recreation
Kristin Zimmerman, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director

Summary:

Together with Cunningham Recreation and the Play 4 All Campaign, this presentation will provide a brief overview of the importance of inclusive play and what this project will bring to our community. The designs for the playground will be unveiled to launch the Brookings Inclusive Play Project fundraising campaign.

Background:

There is a growing need for accessible play spaces in Brookings. In the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has \$900,000 budgeted to be used as a match for grants to allow the City to move forward with the Brookings Inclusive Play Project.

Inclusive play spaces represent more than just physical environments; they embody the values of diversity, equality, and belonging. It is recognized the profound importance of creating spaces where every individual, regardless of age, ability, or background, feels welcomed, valued, and empowered to thrive. Inclusive play spaces are essential for fostering a sense of belonging and enriching the lives of all members of our community.

Item Details:

The City has partnered with the Play 4 All Campaign to assist with the designing of the playground, community outreach, grant writing and fundraising for the Brookings Inclusive Play Project. Cunningham Recreation and the Play 4 All Campaign have been integral with the design and National Demonstration Site designation.

The Brookings Inclusive Play Project's first phase will include a large destination playground, splash pad, and restrooms designed for people of all abilities in mind.

- Playgrounds offer diverse play opportunities, fostering physical, social, and cognitive development in children of all abilities.
- Splash pads provide inclusive water play experiences, promoting sensory exploration and social interaction in a safe and accessible environment.
- Accessible restrooms ensure hygiene, comfort, and convenience for park visitors, accommodating the needs of individuals with disabilities and caregivers.

Together, these amenities create welcoming and inclusive spaces where everyone can play, learn, and thrive.

As the City builds upon the first phase, future phases are aimed at enriching the experience for our community and stakeholders. Grounded in our commitment to

innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability, the future phases represent a significant step forward in our journey to create spaces that inspire, connect, include and empower. Future phases will include:

1. **Additional Pavilions and Shelters:** beautifully designed pavilions which will serve as versatile gathering spaces for a range of activities. Pavilions will provide shaded areas for relaxation, socialization, and events, fostering a sense of community and belonging.
2. **Walking Track:** a scenic walking track weaving through the grounds. Track will offer a tranquil environment for individuals to engage in physical activity, unwind amidst nature, and promote overall well-being.
3. **Mini Pitch:** a mini pitch facility supporting the passion for sports and recreation. This versatile space will provide opportunities for friendly matches, training sessions, and community tournaments.
4. **Outdoor Fitness Zones:** outdoor fitness zones equipped with state-of-the-art exercise stations. These zones will offer a range of equipment designed to cater to various fitness levels and preferences, providing opportunities for strength training, cardio workouts, flexibility exercises, and more.

Legal Consideration:

None

Financial Consideration:

Incorporating funding considerations into the phased approach is essential for the success and sustainability of the Inclusive Play Project. The initial phase identifies potential funding sources, including government grants, corporate sponsorships, community fundraising efforts, and partnerships with philanthropic organizations; leveraging these resources to support community outreach, design development, and project planning activities. The implementation phase will involve continued pursuit of funding opportunities to cover construction costs, equipment purchases, and ongoing maintenance expenses. By adopting a strategic approach to funding, it is ensured the Inclusive Play Project remains financially viable and accessible to all members of our community.

Phase 1 funding to date:

- 2025 Capital Improvement Plan - \$900,000
- Potential Grant - \$500,000

Estimated Inclusive Play Project Cost Phase 1: \$1,700,000 to \$2,000,000

Future phases funding:

Estimated remaining Inclusive Play Project cost: \$1,000,000 (estimated)

All donations will follow City Policy and donations over \$50,000 in value will go to City Council for acceptance.

Supporting Documentation:

Presentation