

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: June 15, 2023
To: Community Services Sub-committee
From: Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services
Report #: COM23-008
Attachments: Urban Gym Design

Title: Stratford Urban Gym Proposal

Objective: To provide Council with information regarding a proposal for an adult urban gym at Shakespeare Park and to seek authorization to proceed with the RFP process.

Background: In 2018 there was a large fundraising effort put together to aid in the skatepark development and relocation to Shakespeare Park, now known as the "All Wheels Park". This was a big improvement to the park and participation of the area has increased.

Recently, Community Services staff were contacted by a resident about a proposal to purchase and install an Urban Gym on the Shakespeare Street side of the park. This would have accessible pathways leading from the tennis court to the skatepark with gym components throughout. These additions to the park would be paid entirely from donations.

See attachment for the Urban Gym design.

Analysis: An Urban Gym would promote fitness and draw a different demographic to the park. By having components that adults can use, it would provide opportunities for families to be active and put a more inclusive lens to the park. Also, the components and walkway will be accessible to ensure that inclusion is available for all users.

Benefits of the park include:

- 1) getting people outside;
- 2) free to users, no gym membership required;
- 3) simple and effective equipment for ease of use and maintenance.

The resident has undertaken some of the preliminary research into the designs and has involved the accessibility committee in the early stages of the discussions. Furthermore, the resident would be undertaking the fundraising for the project. City staff would be

involved in the procurement to supply and install the equipment and pathway and potentially the administration of providing donation receipts.

The first step in moving this project forward, is to obtain approval from Council to accept the proposed design and authorize staff to issue an RFP through our procurement process. Before the RFP is issued, there would be a public notice sent to the surrounding neighbours to ensure the property owners have no objections and fully support the Urban Gym.

If the project proceeds, there will be an ongoing expectation that the City performs regular maintenance and ultimately has the financial resources for maintenance and repairs and ultimately replacement of some or all of the components as required. This will impact the 10-year forecasted costs and asset management planning requirements but given the expected useful life of the components and the minor nature of ongoing maintenance, this is expected to be manageable in the upcoming budget years.

Warranty on most of the equipment components is five years some components up to 10 years, therefore no additional replacement costs are anticipated in the earlier years. Lifespan is expected to be 15 or more years in speaking with other municipalities that have undertaken an Urban Gym. Each of the outdoor units can be replaced individually when needed as not every structure would need replacement at the same time.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

Donation revenues would be collected for the project, and expenditures incurred of approximately \$110,000.00. As such, there is no expected variances to the City's operating levy surplus or deficit for 2023.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

Inspection of the equipment will be an additional item to the operations budget which would be added to the existing playground inspection list. This would be absorbed in the current operating budget and therefore have a nominal impact, if any.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

Based on the total installation costs and expected useful life of the asset components, it is anticipated that increasing the contributions to reserves to deal with future requirements would be approximately \$7,500 above the requirements identified for existing assets.

Insurance considerations:

The Urban Gym will constitute a playground structure and be assessed similarly to other playgrounds with respect to managing risks. It will not materially impact the City's risk profile and is not expected to cost additional funds to insure against liability risks or equipment failure risks.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Stratford Urban Gym" (COU23-008), be received;

THAT a public notification be given to the surrounding residents advising of the Urban Gym proposal and to obtain comments on the proposal;

AND THAT following the public notification process, and confirmation of success of the fundraising, staff be directed to issue a Request for Proposal for the design and installation of a Stratford Urban Gym for Shakespeare Park.

Prepared by:	Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services
Recommended by:	Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services
	Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer