



City of Delta
COUNCIL REPORT
Regular Meeting

To: **Council**

File No.: **6200-01**

From: **Parks, Recreation & Culture
Department**

Date: **June 4, 2025**

2025 Playground Renewal Update

The following report has been reviewed and endorsed by the City Manager's Office.

▪ **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT this report be received for information.

▪ **PURPOSE:**

To provide an update on the community consultation process and construction timelines for the renewal of the Bell Park playground, updates on the North Delta Recreation Centre REACH Playground expansion, Beach Grove Mini Park enhancements and other playground enhancements targeted for 2025.

▪ **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Delta has 37 playgrounds in its inventory, 27 of which were constructed during the period of 2002 to 2005 and are nearing the end of their lifecycle. As part of an effort to create a continuous playground renewal program, the City has completed the replacement and upgrade of nine playgrounds since 2019, with two playground renewals planned annually moving forward. In 2025, the renewal program includes a provision for the design, construction, and replacement of the Bell Park playground, as well as an expansion of the existing playground at North Delta Recreation Centre ("NDRC") in partnership with REACH Child and Youth Development Society ("Reach"). Other playground enhancements planned for 2025 include improvements at Beach Grove Mini Park, Cory Drive Park, Diefenbaker Park, Memorial Park, Gunderson Park and Kirkland Mini Park.

▪ **DISCUSSION:**

Bell Park Playground Renewal and Site Realignment Plan

The community consultation process for the Bell Park playground renewal included two phases, one before and one during the design process to ensure that the community's feedback was heard and incorporated where possible in the playground design. For each phase, consultation included both in-person and online feedback options and was promoted through social media platforms, the Let's Talk Delta website ("TalkDelta"), and

park signage. In addition, letters were mailed to residences within a 250 metre radius of the park site to notify them of the consultation opportunities.

Phase One of the consultation was undertaken prior to the development of design concepts and was available online through TalkDelta in January 2025. Feedback was received from 65 participants through an online feedback form. Key feedback themes included the need to improve accessibility, enhance inclusivity, incorporate elements suitable for a range of age groups, and include features such as swings, climbing structures, and slides.

As part of the City's 2025 Capital Plan, projects from a number of routine capital programs were identified for Bell Park in an effort to realize construction and cost efficiencies and minimize disruption to park users. As a result of this project bundle, staff were able to develop a proposed Site Realignment Plan (Attachment A) that better meets the needs of park users. The Plan includes relocating the playground to the east side of the park for easier access and proximity to amenities, shifting the under-5 baseball diamond to make room for the playground, planting trees, renewing baseball diamond backstops, and addressing field drainage issues.

Phase Two of the consultation was open from early May to early June 2025 where staff presented the proposed realignment plan and two playground design options based on input received in Phase One. Staff spoke to over 40 park users on-site and received feedback from 78 participants, both in-person and online.

Feedback indicated strong community support for Playground Option Two, along with clear requests for a more inclusive, accessible playground design, and additional swings. Most participants expressed support for the proposed realignment of park features, noting that placing the playground closer to the baseball fields, washrooms and parking lot would be more convenient for families. In addition, Ladner Minor Baseball Association has endorsed the concept (Attachment B). Strong support was also provided to improve drainage at the park, and for tree planting to increase shade. A summary of the consultation results and the final design concept will be publicly promoted through social media platforms, TalkDelta, and updated park signage.

Based on this feedback, Playground Option Two has been selected as the base design, with additional inclusive play elements, including interactive play panels, a barrier-free accessible play feature, a molded bucket swing seat, and expanded rubber surfacing incorporated in the final design. In response to community requests for additional swings, the existing swing set will remain, with all seats converting to belt swings. Given the positive community response and support from the primary sport user group, staff will proceed with the overall revised park concept and Playground Option 2 with refinements noted above. Contracts with the successful vendors will be awarded in late June, with installation targeted for fall 2025. The estimated cost of the playground renewal is \$340,000.

North Delta Recreation Centre REACH Playground Expansion

In July 2024, a Cost-Sharing and Access Agreement was confirmed with Reach to support an application to the Province of British Columbia's Community Gaming Grants

Program, seeking funding for the proposed expansion of the existing playground at NDRC. In early 2025, Reach confirmed they were successful in securing this grant. The NDRC REACH Playground expansion project is expected to cost \$400,000, the majority of which is funded by the grant (\$201,372), funds raised by Reach and donations from Tasty Indian Bistro, BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (\$68,000), and a Tire Stewardship BC Grant (\$21,420). In addition to providing the space and construction management, the City is also contributing up to \$150,000.

The community consultation process for the expansion of the existing playground was undertaken in the spring of 2024 to ensure that the community's feedback was heard and incorporated where possible into the playground design concept. Feedback was received from 113 participants, with key themes including the need for shade, seating, rubber surfacing, a fully fenced playground, accessibility, and play options for a variety of age groups.

The expanded playground will provide an added amenity at NDRC to enhance the accessibility of the facility and support the area's growing population. With a variety of inclusive play equipment and passive space, including benches, picnic tables and shade trees, the playground is designed to foster a welcoming environment for children of all abilities and ages (Attachment C). Construction is set to commence in the summer of 2025, with an anticipated completion date of fall 2025.

Beach Grove Mini Park Playground Enhancements

Given the relatively good condition of the playground, combined with archeological constraints, the approach for the playground will be to undertake targeted enhancements. These will include the replacement of inclusive play panels, replacement of a spring toy and installation of new molded bucket swing seats and renewal of the engineered wood fibre playground surfacing. The estimated cost for these improvements will be approximately \$60,000. Construction is targeted to begin in late fall or winter of 2025.

Other Playground Enhancements

Improvements to existing playgrounds will be undertaken at several other parks to help extend the lifespan of the playgrounds. Parks include Cory Drive Park, Diefenbaker Park, Memorial Park, Gunderson Park and Kirkland Mini Park. These enhancements will focus on the replacement of worn, damaged or missing play components and installation of new engineered wood fibre surfacing where needed. The estimated cost for these improvements will be approximately \$65,000.

Implications:

Financial Implications – Funding for construction of the Bell Park playground renewal, Beach Grove Mini Park enhancements, North Delta Recreation Centre REACH Playground expansion and other playground enhancements is provided in the City's approved 2025 Financial Plan.

CONCLUSION:

The replacement of the Bell Park playground will provide an exciting and inclusive amenity for youth and child play, while helping facilitate a broader park renewal that will address long-standing accessibility and experience challenges in the park. The expansion of the existing playground at North Delta Recreation Centre is set for construction to commence this summer and will provide an expanded accessible playground to serve a growing area of the City of Delta. Playground enhancements at other sites, including Beach Grove Mini Park will help extend the lifespan of the City of Delta's existing playgrounds.



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DC/cv/cd/fb

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

Concurring Departments		
Department	Name	Signature
Communications & Engagement	Deanie Wong	JK for DW
Finance	Navin Chand	NC

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Bell Park Playground Renewal and Site Realignment Plan
- B. Ladner Minor Baseball Association Letter of Support
- C. North Delta Recreation Centre Playground Expansion Design Concept – 3D Renderings