

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 20, 2025

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Nicole McEachern, Parks and Recreation Director

**SUBJECT: Kensington Play Structure - Location Discussion**

In FY 22-23, the City acquired a spacious Kensington play structure for \$133,666, made possible by a 50% matching grant in partnership with the Gametime manufacturer. Originally, this structure was intended to replace the existing one at Lockman Park. However, following valuable feedback from residents who expressed their desire to retain the current structure, the decision was made to explore alternative locations. The new play structure is currently in storage, ensuring its readiness for future installation.

Previously, \$39,000 was estimated for design and bid assistance in the 25-26 FY, along with \$260,000 for construction in 26-27 FY. However, the City Manager has expressed an interest in prioritizing the design process in the current fiscal year, allowing us to move swiftly toward the bidding phase.

Three parks have been identified as potential sites for the structure. These parks will be assessed with several factors in mind:

- **Neighborhood Demographics:** Changes to the neighborhoods, based on the latest census data (see chart below), will be considered to ensure the structure serves the community effectively.
- **Condition of Existing Equipment:** Staff are in the process of evaluating existing play structures, with safety as our highest priority. The average lifespan of commercial playground equipment ranges 8-15 years, with some lasting longer with proper maintenance and high-quality materials.
- **Space Requirements:** The Kensington play structure's size (73 ft x 54 ft) will require adequate space for installation.
- **Park Classification:** As a substantial feature, the structure may attract significant visitors, so a community park is recommended as opposed to a mini or neighborhood category park. Zucker Park is equipped with dedicated parking, while VFW and Red Run Park offer street parking options. These will be important considerations in the final decision.

We are eager to gather input from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Next steps include engaging an engineering firm to assist with design and bidding processes

Park Name	Percent Population 18+	Percent population aged 65+	Percent Population Under 18	Playground Installed	Current Structure Age
Isabel & Myron Zucker Park	83.7	21	16.3	2001	24
VFW Park	87.4	18.9	12.6	2002	23
Red Run Park	83.1	13.8	16.9	2002	23



