

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Rob Sperl Director of Parks and Planning  
Steve Hinchee, Superintendent of Planning

THROUGH: Michael Benard, Executive Director

RE: Hoffman Playground Equipment

DATE: April 19, 2023

---



**SUMMARY:**

Staff has requested bids for the replacement of Hoffman Park playground equipment that was originally installed in 1999.

In 2008, we developed a process for bidding playground equipment that allows various manufacturers to submit proposals that fit within the budgeted amount. This has since proven to provide more competition and creativity in the designs submitted.

The first step was to conduct a survey of neighbors surrounding the park to see what types of equipment is desired. More than 300 neighbors were notified of the survey. Staff received 12 completed surveys and compiled the results.

Staff then developed a set of criteria by which the new playground equipment would be rated. The criterion was incorporated into bid specifications. Bidders were asked to submit proposals that were within a budgeted amount and met the goals outlined in the bid documents. Bidders were allowed to submit two proposals for each bid item.

Bids were solicited on January 30, 2023 and they were opened on February 17, 2023. The results were as follows:

Contractor	Proposal A	Yrs. Proposal B	Delivery by August
Team REIL	\$69,417.00	\$75,000.00	Depends on when order is placed
Play Illinois	\$74,931.00	\$74,997.00	Yes
Kompan	\$74,907.30		Yes 12-14 weeks
NuToys	\$75,675.00		24 weeks
PlayCraft	\$72,775.74	\$71,973.30	Yes
Larson Equipment	\$74,289.41	\$76,852.94	Yes
Imagination	\$75,000.00		

It is important to note that our specifications emphasized the quality of design as long as it was within the budget amount. This is the reason that many of the bids are similar amounts. This also means that the bids are likely discounted from the “catalog” prices.

A committee of 8 staff members who are directly responsible for various aspects of playground installation, maintenance and safety met to review the various proposals. Information provided by references was reviewed, and staff’s experience with various manufacturers and representatives was discussed at the meeting as well. The members of the committee then rated the proposals individually according to the criteria. Individual ratings were compiled and averaged to narrow the list. A final design was selected from that list as a group.

The preferred proposal based on budget and staff’s rating were from NuToys. Staff has been pleased with their products and the references provided.

If approved, playground equipment is anticipated to arrive between August and September. The existing playground will be donated to Kid’s Around the World, an organization that refurbishes playgrounds for countries outside the United States that do not have the means to provide these types of amenities. Recent equipment donations were used to build playgrounds in Haiti, Zambia & Belize.

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:**

NA

**REVENUE OR FUNDING IMPLICATIONS:**

\$160,000 is budgeted within the current fiscal year (40-800-818-57-5701-0000). Another \$40,000 is budgeted in accessibility funding (40-000-000-12-1224-0000) and is partly to allow for unitary safety surfacing which is bid separately. The projects crew will perform all removals, site work and installation of the equipment. The anticipated costs are as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Equipment	\$75,000.00
Surfacing	\$90,720.00
Removals	\$4,800.00
Site Furniture	\$7,000.00
Landscape	\$5,000.00
Misc. Site Work	\$15,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$197,520.00</b>

**STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:**

A neighborhood survey was completed, and various staff were involved in equipment selection.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

Contract documents will be prepared by our legal counsel, and they have provided previous favorable opinions of this bidding process.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Recommended playground equipment design.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioner's approve a contract with NuToys for the Hoffman Playground Equipment in the amount of \$75,675.00.

Staff may request the vendors make minor revisions to the equipment proposed to ensure the District receives equipment that is well suited to the site and the desires of the neighborhood. Any modifications to the proposals will remain within the budget for equipment described above.

## Proposed Equipment





### Existing Playground Equipment at Hoffman

