

## **Options for Adaptive Reuse of a Wading Pool**

<b>Date:</b>	August 13, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Parks and Environment Committee
<b>From:</b>	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2012\Cluster A\PFR\PE15-091412-AFS#16139

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Parks and Environment Committee on the options and associated cost estimates for the potential to convert or enhance wading pool facilities. This information was requested as part of Council's decision during the 2012 Operating Budget deliberations to close five wading pools.

In June 2012, City Council adopted a motion to reallocate funding in the 2012 approved Operating Budget in order for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to continue to operate the five wading pools that were originally scheduled to be closed for the 2012 summer season.

The adaptive reuse options contained in this report were investigated prior to City Council's decision to keep the five wading pools open, and are presented in this report as information only.

This report also responds to the July 11, 12 and 13, 2012 City Council decision for MM25.50, Rec. #3, requesting Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the feasibility of adding the spray feature to higher traffic wading pools where appropriate.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:**

1. the Parks and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

## Financial Impact

Operational savings due to the reduction in staff will be realized in the first year where a wading pool is decommissioned and converted to a splash pad. These operational savings will be used as partial funding towards the cost of conversion equivalent to Option 1 - \$15,000 per location. Where the local councillor prefers Option 2, 3 or 4, Parks, Forestry and Recreation will fund the equivalent of Option 1, i.e. \$15,000 per location, with the remaining cost to be funded from eligible sources, where available, such as Section 37; Section 42; and Section 45 agreements and pending Council review and approval.

Where a wading pool and staffing levels are maintained and waterplay features are added to enhance a wading pool, no operational savings will be realized. Accordingly, eligible funding sources such as Section 37; Section 42; and Section 45 agreements need to be identified and submitted for Council review and approval in order to fund the local councillor's preferred waterplay enhancement option. This will result in there being no financial impact to Parks, Forestry and Recreation to install the waterplay enhancements selected by the local councillor.

Is Wading Pool to be Decommissioned?	<b>YES</b> (Operational Savings due to Reduction in Staff)	<b>NO</b> (No Operational Savings)
Cost of Option 1: \$15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PF&amp;R will absorb the full cost of the conversion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible funding sources must be identified for the full cost of the waterplay enhancements</li> </ul>
Cost of Option 2: \$30,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PF&amp;R will absorb the equivalent of Option 1, i.e. \$15,000;</li> <li>• Eligible funding must be identified for the remaining \$15,000 required and submitted for Council review and approval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible funding sources must be identified for the full cost of the waterplay enhancements</li> </ul>
Cost of Option 3: \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PF&amp;R will absorb the equivalent of Option 1, i.e. \$15,000;</li> <li>• Eligible funding sources must be identified for the remaining \$35,000 required and submitted for Council review and approval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible funding sources must be identified for the full cost of the waterplay enhancements</li> </ul>
Cost of Option 4: \$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PF&amp;R will absorb the equivalent of Option 1, i.e. \$15,000;</li> <li>• Eligible funding sources must be identified for the remaining \$135,000 required and submitted for Council review and approval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible funding sources must be identified for the full cost of the waterplay enhancements</li> </ul>

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of January 17, 2012, City Council requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the March 27, 2012 Community Development and Recreation Committee on a plan for the adaptive reuse of five wading pools suggested for closure and associated cost estimates and timelines.

City Council Decision Document – EX14.1, Rec. #194)

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX14.1>

At its meeting of June 6, 7 and 8, 2012, City Council adopted the motion for \$0.157 million to be allocated in Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2012 Approved Operating Budget to restore service at 2 Outdoor Pools and 5 Wading Pools.

City Council Decision Document – EX20.8, Rec. #2c)

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX20.8>

At its meeting of July 11, 12 and 13, 2012, City Council adopted MM25.50, and in so doing, requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee on the feasibility of adding a spray feature to higher traffic wading pools where appropriate.

The information in this report responds to Recommendation #3 of the Member Motion, which directed Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the Parks and Environment Committee. Due to the capital component associated with this request, it is appropriate that this report be submitted to the Parks and Environment Committee for consideration.

In addition, recommendations #1 and #2 request the Division to review opportunities to extend the hours of operation of the City's wading pools and splash pads during heat alerts for the remainder of the 2012 summer season within the existing Operating Budget, and that the feasibility of implementing this strategy in future years be reported back to the Parks and Environment Committee. As directed, Parks, Forestry and Recreation has extended its operating hours for splash pads, and will submit a subsequent report regarding the possibility of extending hours of the City's wading pools.

City Council Decision Document – MM25.50, Rec. #3

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.MM25.50>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

As part of its strategy to reduce operating costs, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommended the permanent closure of five wading pools, effective 2012 during the 2012 Operating Budget Review.

City Council, through the adoption of EX14.1, Recommendation #194, requested that staff investigate alternative water play options for these locations and report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. Due to the capital component associated with this request, it is appropriate that this report be submitted to the Parks and Environment Committee for consideration.

Through an expression of interest, Parks, Forestry and Recreation secured the services of a reputable architecture firm with substantial experience in water play design to provide various options for Committee's review.

At its meeting on June 6, 2012, City Council adopted the motion for \$0.157 million to be allocated in Parks, Forestry and Recreation's 2012 Approved Operating Budget to restore service at 2 Outdoor Pools and 5 Wading Pools.

## **COMMENTS**

A review of various waterplay design options has resulted in four (4) options being recommended by Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PF&R) staff.

Regardless of the design option chosen, a wading pool can be decommissioned and converted to a splash pad, which will no longer require wading pool attendants and will result in operational savings. Alternatively, a wading pool can be maintained and waterplay features can be added to enhance the amenity. In this option, staffing levels must be maintained and no operational savings will be realized.

### Decommissioning a Wading Pool and Converting to a Splash Pad:

Where a wading pool is decommissioned, PF&R will absorb the cost to convert to Option 1 – i.e. \$15,000 because operational savings in the first year are equivalent to the reduced number of wading pool attendants. If the local councillor prefers Option 2, 3 or 4, PF&R will fund the equivalent of Option 1, with the remaining cost to be funded from eligible sources to be identified and submitted for Council review and approval.

### Maintaining a Wading Pool and Enhancing with Waterplay Features:

Where a wading pool and staffing levels are maintained and waterplay features are added to enhance the wading pool, no operational savings will be realized. Accordingly, eligible funding sources such as Section 37; Section 42; and Section 45 agreements need to be identified and submitted for Council review and approval in order to fully fund the local councillor's preferred waterplay enhancement option. An advantage to adding any of the options is the continued use of the facility after the wading pool attendants have left for the day.

## **Waterplay Design Options**

### **Option 1 – \$0.015 million**

The scope of work for Option 1 consists of a new poured in place concrete slab in the centre of the pool partially covering the existing concrete basin with two trench drains such that water will not accumulate. The existing turret will contain 5 spray jets: 2 on the top and 3 on the sides and will be operated by a battery powered master valve connected to a mechanical activation switch mounted on the top cover plate of the turret.

This option would be funded from the savings generated in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating Budget from the reduced cost to operate this waterplay.

#### **Option 1 Summary:**

- Project Cost: \$0.015 million
- 2 trench drains – water will not accumulate
- 5 spray jets: 2 on top; and 3 on the sides
- Operated by a battery powered master valve

### **Option 2 – \$0.030 million**

The scope of work for Option 2 consists of a new poured in place concrete slab in the centre of the pool partially covering the existing concrete basin with two trench drains such that water will not accumulate. The existing turret will contain 10 spray jets: 2 on the top; 2 on the sides; and 6 integrated floor jets within the two trench drains. It will be operated by a battery powered master valve connected to a mechanical activation switch mounted on the top cover plate of the turret.

This option requires additional funds for the scope of work and, at this time, no funding source has been identified for this option. Eligible funding sources, where available will be identified and submitted for Council review and approval if Option 2 is preferred.

#### **Option 2 Summary:**

- Project Cost: \$0.030 million
- 2 trench drains – water will not accumulate
- 10 spray jets: 2 on top; 2 on the sides; and 6 integrated floor jets
- Operated by a battery powered master valve

### **Option 3 – \$0.050 million**

The scope of work for Option 3 consists of a new poured in place concrete slab in the centre of the pool partially covering the existing concrete basin with two trench drains such that water will not accumulate. The existing turret will contain 12 spray jets: 2 on the top; 4 on the sides; and 6 integrated floor jets within the two trench drains. It

will be operated by a battery powered master valve connected to 2 mechanical activation switches mounted on the top cover plate of the turret. The entire concrete surface, except the concrete apron, will have a rubber coating applied to it.

This option requires additional funds for the scope of work and, at this time, no funding source has been identified for this option. Eligible funding sources, where available, will be identified and submitted for Council review and approval if Option 3 is preferred.

**Option 3 Summary:**

- Project Cost: \$0.050 million
- 2 trench drains – water will not accumulate
- 12 spray jets: 2 on top; 4 on the sides; and 6 integrated floor jets
- Operated by a battery powered master valve
- Rubber-coated concrete surface

**Option 4 – \$0.150 million**

The scope of work for Option 4 consists of a new poured in place concrete slab in the centre of the pool partially covering the existing concrete basin with three trench drains such that water will not accumulate. The existing turret will contain 20 spray jets: 2 on the top and 4 on the sides along with 9 integrated floor jets within the trench drains, 1 water cannon and 4 pole mounted spray features located on the pool apron with an activation bollard, and operated by an electrical powered water play control system located in a new vault.

This option requires additional funds for the scope of work and, at this time, no funding source has been identified for this option. Eligible funding sources, where available, will be identified and submitted for Council review and approval if Option 4 is preferred.

**Option 4 Summary:**

- Project Cost: \$0.150 million
- 3 trench drains – water will not accumulate
- 20 spray jets: 2 on top; 4 on the sides; 9 integrated floor jets; 1 water cannon; and 4 pole mounted spray features
- Operated by an electrical powered water play control system

**CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jim Hart  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Options 1-4 – Toronto Wading Pool Concepts