

To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation
Re: Splash Pad Location ½ Upper Complex Field

AIM

To seek Council's authorization to proceed with building of a Splash Pad on ½ of the upper complex field and to decommission the water park and wading pool once the splash pad is operational.

BACKGROUND

On June 1, 2023, Council was presented with a report called the *Revised Recreational Water Needs Assessment/ Aquatic Study* in which they were informed that the chosen location of a new splash pad was no longer the ideal location. The first splash pad location was to be between the East Ball diamond and the Southside playground. The reason for the change in location was due to a negative engineering report involving construction and operation hurdles surrounding this site with regards to flooding and the non-ideal soil conditions. Two other sites were reviewed within Southside Park and were also not preferred sites due to either Hydro line issues or flooding conditions.

At the June 1st Council meeting Council passed the motion to approve the new location of the 2023 splash pad building to half of the Upper Complex soccer field in principle and directed staff to undertake stakeholder consultation for this location and report back to Council with the results.

COMMENTS

On Monday June 5, 2023, City staff met with the president of the Woodstock Soccer Club and informed her of the direction to change the Upper Complex field into a half soccer field and half splash pad. The Woodstock Soccer Club is the only club to book this field and has done so for 2 days a week. The president expressed concerns about game play for older players that need a larger field. Staff have investigated the Woodstock Soccer Club's scheduling concerns and can accommodate games at Cowan Sportsplex by moving some practices that are on the largest fields to smaller ones, thereby freeing up time for game play on the larger fields.

A letter went out on June 15, 2023, to the 8 homes on Parkinson Rd that back onto the upper and lower complex fields. At the time of writing this report no resident responses were received. (Map attached as part of the communication with residents). The splash pad move was also discussed at the June 12, 2023, Woodstock Recreation Advisory Committee meeting with no negative comments or concerns expressed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves that the new location of the 2023 splash pad build take place on half of the current upper complex field.

Authored by: Brian Connors, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approved by: David Creery, M.B.A., P.Eng., Chief Administrative Officer

Upper Community Complex

