



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee  
David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

**Re:** Splash Pad

**DATE:** March 31, 2022

### **Recommendation**

Approve report and recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee to convert the existing “kiddie pool” at White Park to a Splash Pad.

### **Background**

Over the past several years the City has funded full pool renovations at Rolfe Park (FY2016), Kimball Park (FY2017), Keach Park (FY2018), Merrill Park (FY2021) and the White Park “Kiddie Pool” is scheduled for reconstruction in FY23.

At the July 21, 2021 City Council meeting there were funds repurposed from the Merrill Park Pool renovation to study the idea of a Splash Pad at White Park. The funds were available from the Merrill Park Pool renovation as the General Services Department completed the project underbudget.

City staff working with the H.L. Turner Group and Ironwood Group reviewed the White Park site, researched other local splash pads and developed a concept for a splash pad at White Park.

Two main benefits of operating a Splash Pad are:

- Limited number of employees to open. Staff only need to be certified in CPR and First Aide and not Lifeguard Certified.
- Have the ability to open earlier and stay open longer compared to regular pool season.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee at their January 20, 2022 gave their full support to convert the White Park “Kiddie Pool” to a Splash Pad.

At the meeting committee members approved the concept for the splash pad (see attachment) and discussed the projected cost. The estimated cost for the splash pad was \$650,000 with another \$100,000 to update the current buildings (bathrooms and pump building) to have them match the exterior of the Merrimack Lodge. While members were very supportive of the \$650,000 they did not support the full \$100,000 to have the buildings match. However, they asked staff to look at other less expensive options to improve the exteriors of the pool buildings.

In the FY22 CIP budget the White Park Pool is scheduled for renovation in FY23 budget at \$550,000. Rather than renovating the current pool it is the recommendation of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee and City Staff to convert the pool to a splash pad in FY23.

By accepting this report, it will allow City Administration to try to factor the Splash Pad request into the FY23 Capital Budget. If funds are approved in the FY23 budget, work would begin after the 2022 pool season and should be ready for the 2023 season.

At the same time City Administration will work with City Staff and the Recreation and Park Advisory Committee on the operational plan of a splash pad.

There are several operational decisions that need to be worked out prior to the 2023 pool season.

- **Option 1:** Create schedule to have open Memorial Day to Labor Day: We would operate the Splash Pad similar to the rest of the pools. Only open when staffed and employees can check Concord/Penacook residents and small fee for nonresidents. Bathrooms would be open with this option.
- **Option 2:** Create schedule to have open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Operate the Splash Pad almost like a city playground with no staff. People would need to push a button to turn on the splash pad (we can control times). Once button is pushed the splash pad would stay on for a certain amount of time. However, the challenge with this option is the bathrooms would not be available for use and no resident check process.
- **Option 3:** Hybrid of option 1 and 2. Create schedule to have open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Allow the operation of the splash pad with the on/off button however during “peak use” times have staff on duty with bathrooms open and staff would check resident status.