

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **AWARD CONTRACT FOR NORTH RIVER VALLEY PARK
PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT**

BACKGROUND:

This project is to renovate the existing playground structure adjacent to the Hawthorne Shelter on the north side of the athletic field in North River Valley Park, 725 E. 13th St. The playground structure was installed in the park in 2000 and has reached the end of its useful life. The typical lifespan of playground structures is 20 years and funds for replacement are included annually in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

Staff solicited written proposals from qualified playground equipment representatives asking for proposals that offered different features that are not as prevalent in the playgrounds currently in the parks. Staff received five proposals and evaluated them based on the following criteria: safety; features (including balancing, spinning, sliding, climbing and swinging components); site compatibility; accessibility and inclusiveness; physical, cognitive, and emotional/social development; cost vs. relative play value; unique play features and aesthetics compared to existing structures within the park and the overall park system.

Vendors were provided a budget for equipment not to exceed \$55,000. The five vendors that submitted proposals are shown below in order of how they were evaluated with 1 being the highest:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID</u>
1. Boland Recreation, Marshalltown, Iowa	\$54,085
2. Outdoor Recreation Products, Omaha, Nebraska	\$55,000
3. Commercial Recreation Specialists, Verona, Wisconsin	\$55,000
4. Park Planet, Red Bluff, California	\$55,000
5. American Playground Company, Sioux Falls, South Dakota	\$51,044

Based on the review of the proposals, Boland Recreation, Marshalltown, Iowa, scored the highest and the cost of its playground structure including installation is \$54,085. The goal is to have this playground project completed sometime this fall. The playground selected for North River Valley is show below:

North River Valley Park
Ames, Iowa CD226042



The FY 2020/21 Capital Improvements Plan includes \$64,750 to replace this playground, including the playground structure, installation, installation of a two-bay swing, engineered wood fibers (EWF), and a concrete border.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Boland Recreation, Marshalltown, Iowa, for the North River Valley Park Playground Replacement Project in the amount of \$54,085.
2. Award a contract to another vendor.
3. Do not award a contract.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The residents of Ames continually rate the playgrounds in the parks as good or very good as part of the annual resident satisfaction survey and the commitment to ensuring playground structures are safe and enjoyable by the residents is very important. The current playground has reached its useful life and is ready to be replaced.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1 as stated above.