

# Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council  
From: Jason Moore, Assistant to the City Manager  
Date: April 7, 2015  
Subject: Park Renovation Update

---

**Council Action:** General Discussion and Direction

**Background Information:** As you will recall, Schrickel Rollins and Associates (SRA) completed master plans for each of our four parks back in September 2014. A major component of that project was to also include phasing options for each park so that the City could move forward on various elements when funding allowed.

Over the last few weeks, staff has been working with SRA to identify opportunities to begin improving our parks. With some identified funding, two parks are being considered for immediate improvements. These improvements are being called Phase A-1 because they both include elements from each of their respective "Phase A" plans, yet it does not include all of the components shown for Phase A.

Using this approach, both Kate Baker Park and Windmill Park are being considered for new playgrounds.

At Kate Baker Park, current funding would allow for demolition of the existing playground equipment along with minor site improvements to the west side of the park along with new playground equipment. The equipment being considered includes traditional playground elements for the 2 to 5 year old age bracket and the 5 to 12 year old bracket. A drawing of what this might look like is attached. Shade elements are also being considered if funding allows.

At Windmill Park, current funding would allow for minor site improvements to the southeast corner of the park along with a new playground pod. Because the park is in a smaller setting, surrounded by trees, the equipment being considered at this location is more natural in appearance. A representative drawing of this playground is also attached. Both 2 to 5 and 5 to 12 year old elements would be included. Depending on the orientation of the playground and the proximity to existing trees, shade structure(s) may not be warranted. However, if funding allows and shade is needed, a separate structure may be considered.

The next steps are to move forward with design work. Even though it would appear we were only putting in playground equipment, many other things have to be done. This would include: subsurface drainage improvements; grading the site near and around the playground to ensure it doesn't hold water; and ensuring the improvements are cohesive with future development and phases of the parks. We would not want to make improvements now and then have to redo or throw away any of that work during future renovations.

However, before moving forward full throttle on this plan, we wanted to ensure all of the Council was on board with staff's proposed direction before spending any funds.

If you agree this is the direction to take, then over the next few weeks, staff will work with SRA to begin surveying both parks to capture the topographic data needed to set the playground and site work at the appropriate elevations. The surveying process takes about three weeks and from there, SRA can begin construction documents. The design element is not as straight forward as just looking at the playground equipment either; they have to consider how we will transition from various access routes, etc., when future improvements take place. With that said, the actual design work would take about six weeks and then there is a three week bidding process for general site work. The equipment would be purchased through the Texas BuyBoard contract with the playground manufacturer selected.

Therefore from surveying to bidding, you should anticipate about twelve weeks from now that construction could begin. Thus, new playground equipment for both parks would likely be installed within the months of July and August, weather and equipment availability permitting.

**Board/Citizen Input:** N/A

**Financial Impact:** N/A

**Staff Contacts:** Jason Moore, Assistant to the City Manager, [jmoore@richlandhills.com](mailto:jmoore@richlandhills.com)

**Attachments:** Kate Baker Park playground example and Windmill Park playground example





ADD => 2 SWINGS  
=> 2 SHADE CANOPIES

