



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
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Council Meeting Staff Report

November 14, 2019

Agenda No.: C.
Indexes (Council Goals):
Presenters: Wayne Kohlrust; Anthony Strain
Legislative File: 12492-19

Title

Splash Pad Configuration

Recommended Action

Parks and Recreation Board prefers the _____ configuration and recommends to Council the _____ design.

Body

Council approved four recreation related capital projects: the Leisure Pool, the Golf Course Irrigation Project, the Ice Rink Improvements and the Splash Pad slated to be installed near the library in White Rock. The configuration of the water is delivered to the splash pad can greatly affect both the initial cost as well as on-going maintenance costs. The two configurations considered are a “flow-through” system and a “recirculating” system.

A flow-through system provides potable water to the features and the water is immediately discharged to the sanitary sewer system. The flow-through system has a lower initial cost since filters will not be required to maintain the water. This system is also easier to maintain since water chemistry analysis will not be required. “Winterizing” the system will be easier since there are no tanks or filters to maintain. The cost of the water to supply the features will be a reoccurring substantial cost, however, the water will be able to be reused as part of the effluent watering program at Overlook Park. Other parks including Rover Park are being considered for effluent irrigation. There is some concern that the water utility to the park would have to be improved to support this project.

A recirculating system filters the water requiring a substantial initial cost of filter system installation. There is also reoccurring costs including filter maintenance, water chemistry analysis and the probable addition of a full-time employee to maintain the splash pad system. This employee would not only have to perform periodic water chemistry checks but monitor the facility for acute issues including fecal events. The effort expended regarding filter maintenance is amplified due to the unprotected outdoor environment of the facility (leaves, pine needles, grass and dirt). While there is an associated cost of chemicals and filter maintenance the water cost is substantially less; only initial filling / periodic changing of the water, water make-up (evaporation and water splashing outside the confines of the filtration system) and backwash of the system based upon water chemistry requirements.

Council has requested a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Board.

An analysis of the two systems is attached.

Attachments

A - Pinon Park Splash Pad

B - Water System Type - Pros and Cons Comparison

