



## POSTPONED MOTIONS: ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

**NUMBER: PM13-2018**

<b>REQUESTED BY:</b>	Councillor Sheena Hughes
<b>ORIGIN OF REQUEST:</b>	Email
<b>DATE OF REQUEST:</b>	November 10, 2017

<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Diane Enger
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Recreation & Parks
<b>DATE RESPONSE DUE:</b>	November 10, 2017

**MOTION:**  
That COUN-034, the aquatic climbing walls for Fountain Park and Grosvenor Pools for \$40,000 is funded in the capital plan.

**RESPONSE (one page max.):**

**Administration’s Understanding of Intent Motion:**  
Administration’s understanding of the motion is that if approved, aquatic climbing walls would be purchased for Fountain Park and Grosvenor Outdoor Pool aquatic facilities and installed in 2018.

**Operational or Organizational Impacts if Motion is Approved:**

Fountain Park- Presently, aquatic play features are limited to a water slide area and smaller ladder slide. The addition of an aquatic climbing wall would provide a new water play feature. The aquatic climbing wall would replace a play structure called the ‘skywalk’ that was removed due to the end of its useful life. The aquatic climbing wall would be a new physical play challenge and enhance the pool experience for participants.

Grosvenor Outdoor Pool- Further water play features at Grosvenor Outdoor Pool has the potential to further enhance the positive experience for participants and increase Grosvenor Outdoor Pool attendance and satisfaction.

The climbing wall(s) meet all safety standards and will not impact regular operations.

**Financial Implications of Motions:**

The aquatic climbing walls would be included in the Aquatic Lifecycle Replacement Plan. Typically, no additional staff are required for the monitoring of the wall during public swim hours, other than sporadically when bather loads are high.

**Stakeholder Consultations:**

Feedback at Fountain Park and Grosvenor Outdoor Pool has been received indicating more amenities would be desired.

**Background:**

Fountain Park - In 2015, the 'skywalk' amenity at Fountain Park Recreation Centre was removed due to age, reduced-quality, and repair was no longer possible. The skywalk had been a popular water play feature at Fountain Park for over 15 years and served as a physical challenge and fun for users of all ages. There have been requests to offer another physical challenge item to replace the skywalk feature.

Grosvenor Outdoor Pool - In 2015, the community was surveyed regarding Grosvenor Outdoor Pool. Respondents indicated that more amenities at the pool would be desired. In 2016, a slide was installed and from feedback received through the staff, the response has been very positive.

An additional, new water play feature contributes to an enhanced participant experience at City of St. Albert aquatic facilities.

Research shows that many regional aquatic facilities, including Leduc Recreation Centre, Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre, and NAIT University have incorporated climbing walls as part of the aquatic play features. All three locations have indicated that the climbing wall is a very popular amenity in their aquatic centers.