

(FOR BOARD ACTION REFER TO
MINUTES DATED APRIL 1, 1996)

Date: March 28, 1996

SUBJECT: EARLY APPROVAL NNR FOR GRANDVIEW PARK

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board consider the NNR project for the installation of irrigation at Grandview Park and Sunset Beach (\$40,000) in conjunction with all other projects proposed, after Council has defined the 1996 NNR funding level for the Park Board.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of April 12 the Park Board considered a report requesting early approval for several NNR projects. Commissioner Donna Morgan proposed that a project to install irrigation in Grandview Park and Sunset Beach Parks also be included. The Board requested a further report on this matter.

DISCUSSION

Over the last several months a committee of citizens and staff from both the Britannia Community Centre and General Parks has reviewed the turf conditions at Grandview Park. Based on the extent of use of the park by the public, much of the grass area adjacent to Commercial Drive and areas around the playground and the wading pool are in poor condition. The turf is sparse and brown patches are clearly evident.

Improving the turf requires that staff provide an enhanced maintenance program of watering, overseeding and fertilizing. No irrigation system exists on this site presently. Without this, turf enhancements would likely have to be repeated annually with only minimal success.

Only about 30% of the park system is irrigated, primarily playfields or parks with extremely heavy use. Passive park areas are generally not irrigated. Watering restrictions over the last several years have limited the amount of watering that is done even when an irrigation system is in place.

If the irrigation were provided through the NNR request, the system could be installed and the turf improvements started prior to the summer program activities beginning. Installation of the system in May may require some turf improvements in the Fall. Otherwise the installation could occur in the fall after all programming had been completed. This however, would delay turf improvements until the Spring of 1997.

Sunset Beach is also a very heavily used area for informal soccer games and for program activities later in the summer season. Good turf

conditions would assist the success of these programs.

In considering all of the NNR proposals for the 1996 budget the project to add irrigation to both Grandview Park and Sunset Beach Park is 19th out of a list of 21 proposals developed by Environment and Operations Division staff. As well, based on 1995 NNR funding levels, this project would only receive partial funding. No overall priority within the Park Board has been determined for this project.

It is anticipated that Council will determine an overall NNR funding envelope by the end of April. Subsequently the Board will be able to consider this project and its priority in the early part of May.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff have identified the need for irrigation for Grandview Park and Sunset Beach but given other priorities would recommend that this NNR request be reviewed by the Board with all of the other projects that have been proposed. If it is considered in May and approved at that time, staff believe that the installation could occur at a time that would permit the additional maintenance activities to improve the turf conditions.

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