



Date: July 30, 2003

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF A SPORT COURT FACILITY AT JOHN HENDRY PARK

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the installation of basketball and mini-basketball courts and an in-line skating area at John Hendry Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

BACKGROUND

The tarmac to the east of Trout Lake Community Centre was identified as a potential location for sports courts in a staff report the 1997-1999 Capital Plan. The site met the criteria for sport court consideration as outlined in Appendix B:

- the courts would be located on an existing paved area;
- the area is located adjacent to community centre - specifically staff can monitor the use of the courts;
- there would be minimal impact on others' use of the park or the adjacent neighbourhood.

During the past year, staff and the Trout Lake Community Association developed a proposal which includes a youth basketball court, a full size basketball court and an in-line skate hockey area. It was recognized that this would be required on an area larger than the existing tarmac. The in-line skating area would require the paving of a 66' x 100' grassed area adjacent to the all-weather playing field. In addition, three trees in this area would be relocated in the park.

DISCUSSION

The site design and selection criteria outlined in the Sport Court report (Appendix B) suggests that a larger multi-court facility could be accommodated in John Hendry Park: a multi-sport court facility would not "dominate" the park; staff are on site and could offer supervision and/or programs; and parking and washrooms facilities are available.

The current Capital Plan includes \$120,000 for the development of sport courts. Staff estimate the cost of this project at approximately \$80,000.

Community Consultation

The consultation process for a new sport facility involves informing park users, park neighbours and local community groups of the proposal and asking them for comments. The process consisted of distributing 1100 “proposal” pamphlets (Appendix B) to the park neighbours and the community groups. Staff received seven responses from the consultation process. Areas of concern include:

| Comment | Evaluation |
|---|--|
| Loss of Green Space. | The in-line skating area would require the paving of a 65' x 100' passive turf area. However, there are a limited number of parks with the appropriate amenities (staff, parking, washrooms) which could accommodate larger sport court facilities. The proposed facility can be accommodated without having an impact on the current users of John Hendry Park. |
| Other facilities are available - gyms, Schools, rinks, etc. | Other facilities are booked to near capacity. Proposed facilities will provide sport opportunities at little or no cost to participants. |
| Waste of tax dollars. | Currently, there is a city-wide shortage of sport court facilities. |
| Supervision of facilities. | Park Board staff are on site. Centre programs utilizing the courts would be supervised. |

SUMMARY

Given the high demand for and limited supply of in-line skating and basketball opportunities as well as the limited number of parks which can accommodate larger sport court facilities, it is recommended that the a multi-sport court facility be approved at John Hendry Park.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

