



Date: May 17, 2000

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: International Community Service Day Foundation Project at Mount Pleasant Elementary School and Guelph Park**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT the Park Board approve the installation of new playground equipment in Guelph Park as part of the International Community Service Day Foundation project at Mount Pleasant Elementary School.
2. THAT the Park Board acknowledge the contribution of the International Service Day Foundation, Mount Pleasant Elementary School and the Mount Pleasant community for their involvement in this project

## **BACKGROUND**

The International Community Service Day (ICSD) Foundation is an organization who's mission is to help empower communities to mobilize volunteer resources in their own neighbourhoods toward projects involving beautification and renovation of local schools and other facilities that serve children. (Appendix 1) ICSD projects are largely volunteer efforts that rely on community support and are in the spirit of an "old fashion barn raising". The ICSD Foundation has been involved in the Vancouver area since 1985 and has successfully completed at least one project per year since then. (Appendix 2)

This year, Mount Pleasant Elementary School was successful in being selected as the recipient of an ICSD project which will include painting, creation of a mural, installation of benches, landscaping and tree planting. The principal at Mount Pleasant Elementary School contacted the Vancouver East District office with an enquiry as to whether the Park Board would consider being included in the project. The portion of the project that relates to the Park Board involves the adventure playground equipment in neighbouring Guelph Park, which is used extensively by Mount Pleasant Elementary School children and is in need of replacement. The proposal was reviewed by Vancouver East District staff and was deemed to be worth exploring.

## **DISCUSSION**

The playground in Guelph Park was installed in the early 1980' s and is scheduled to be replaced by the Park Board in the 2003 - 2005 capital plan. The proposed play structure will be located in the same area as the existing structure and will include a new resilient surface that is wheelchair accessible. Park Board Planning staff have met with ICSD representatives and the supplier of the playground equipment. The play structure design conforms to CSA standards, is of good quality and is similar to structures used at other Park Board facilities. (Appendix 3) Value of the play structure and resilient surface is approximately \$50,000.

Public consultation involved the distribution of 300 leaflets to neighbouring residents. (Appendix 4) The Park Board received 98 responses, all positive. There was a public meeting held on April 18 at Mount Pleasant Elementary School that was attended by 300 parents, children and community members. Plans for the playground were posted in the gymnasium where they were reviewed and feedback received.

The project is scheduled occur on the weekend of June 17, when it is expected that over 500 volunteers will participate in various activities. The ICSD Foundation will coordinate the installation of the play structure, which will be supervised by 2 representatives from the supplier, RecTec Industries. Volunteers will be covered by liability insurance held by ICSD Foundation.

Park Board staff will review installation procedures with ICSD prior to installation and inspect the completed play structure to ensure it has been properly assembled. The Park Board will also contribute to the project by having staff dismantle the old playground, prepare the site and do any landscape repairs required at an estimated cost of between \$3,000 and \$4,000, to be funded out of the operating budget.

## **CONCLUSION**

Through this project, the ICSD Foundation will provide an opportunity for the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board, parents and neighbours to work together to make improvements that benefit the school and the community. The new adventure playground at Guelph Park will stand as a reminder of the value of community involvement and will be a source of pride in the neighbourhood.

Prepared by:  
Vancouver East District Office  
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