



Date: June 24, 2004

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Kingcrest Park Upgrade Concept Plan**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

*THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed upgrade of Kingcrest Park as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix 1.*

## **POLICY**

The Board approves new park designs.

## **BACKGROUND**

Kingcrest Park is located at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Knight Street and is 2.5 hectares (6.2 acres) in area. The current features in the park include a playground, washroom, wading pool, drinking fountain, off-leash dog area and sport field which all require upgrading or replacement.

The Friends of Kingcrest Park, after receiving the input of area residents, approached the Park Board in 2002 with a proposal to upgrade the park and have it included in the 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan. The Friends felt that in order to meet the goals of the neighbourhood and serve the diverse population, safety issues needed to be addressed, there should be more opportunity for activities for children and the park landscape should be improved.

The Friends of Kingcrest Park and staff held meetings in June, August, October and November of 2001. An open house held in December of 2001 presented improvement proposals to the public which included a new playground, picnic area, more paths, trees and benches and an improved playing field.

The 2003 - 2005 Capital Plan approved \$180,000 for park redevelopment including a playground replacement and \$150,000 for playing field improvements, for a total of \$330,000.

## **DISCUSSION**

In April, 2004 Park Board Planning staff met with area residents to review proposed park improvements and one site meeting was held with about 15 residents. As a result of this meeting three redevelopment options were presented at an open house in May, 2004.

All three options included a new playground, and upgraded playing field, a perimeter walking path, a better demarcated off-leash are for dogs, a sports court, improved corner entrances into the park, more trees and benches, a dog fountain, and better drainage. The key differences between the options were the location of the children's playground, the sports court, and the off-leash dog area.

Thirty to forty people attended the meeting and 22 filled out questionnaires. Those attending the open house were given the opportunity to comment on the three proposed park layouts and asked to indicate preferences. An equal number of residents supported Option 1 and Option 3. Staff have reviewed the options further and conclude that Option 1 offers a preferable layout because the sports court is centrally located in an attempt to isolate noise, the off-leash area is separated from the playground, and the playground is adjacent to the casual play field. The existing public washroom facility will be upgraded so that it can be made available to support park users. The recommended plan is illustrated in Appendix 1.

## **SUMMARY**

The proposed upgrade of Kingcrest Park will provide an improved amenity in a growing neighborhood. The population of the area will increase significantly with the residential development of the land east of Knight Street between Kingsway and King Edward Avenues. The public consultation process has resulted in a user designed park which will accommodate a wide range of recreational pursuits.

Prepared by:

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Appendix 1

**KINGCREST PARK UPGRADE  
RECOMMENDED CONCEPT PLAN**

