



Date: July 30, 2003

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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the installation of a sport court at Grays Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

BACKGROUND

A staff report regarding sport court facilities was developed for the 1997-1999 Capital Plan (Appendix B). Developing a sport court at Grays Park was initially considered by staff to resolve conflicts between tennis players and in-line skaters - the tennis courts were frequently being used for in-line hockey and to respond to requests from local residents to provide basketball courts in the neighbourhood.

During the past year, neighbours of Grays Park and staff from the Vancouver Park Board have been working on a plan for the future development of Grays Park (see Appendix A - site plan). The proposal calls for adding a sport court to the east of the tennis courts, creating an additional public green space by removing the eastern lawn bowling green, improving the water play area as well as general landscaping improvements (pathways, planting of trees, etc.). It is the "neighbours" intent to submit a Grays Park Master Plan to the Park Board for funding consideration in the 1999-2001 Capital Plan.

DISCUSSION

The site design and selection criteria outlined in the Sport Court report (Appendix B) suggests that a multi-use "casual use" sport court with a neighbourhood focus is the most appropriate facility for Grays Park. The proposed court is approximately 55 x 100 feet and would be enclosed with a chain link fence. The court can be used for either basketball or hockey and will operate on a drop-in basis, similar to the existing tennis courts.

The current Capital Plan has \$120,000 allocated for sport court development. Staff estimate the cost of this project at approximately \$40,000.

Community Consultation

The proposed plan for Grays Park is a product of an extensive community consultation. During the past year, over 50 neighbours of Grays Park have been involved developing the park plan. Over 500 “proposal” pamphlets (Appendix B) were distributed to the park neighbours and the community groups. Staff received five responses from the consultation process. Areas of concern include:

| Comment | Evaluation |
|---|---|
| Loss of Green Space. | Both the committee and staff gave serious consideration to locating the sport court on either a tennis court or the parking lot adjacent to the clubhouse: Tennis Court: both tennis courts are well used, past practice indicates that converting one court is not a good option as “single tennis court” facilities are not well used. Parking Lot: is required during events, multi use of the lot could lead to conflicts - e.g., balls hitting cars, oil leaks on the playing surface. |
| Use of chain link should be minimized - only required for hockey. | Chain link is required for the hockey. Developing a sport court at Grays Park was initially considered by staff to resolve conflicts between tennis players and in-line skaters - the tennis courts were frequently being used for in-line hockey. The proposed fence will be 10 feet along the north/south ends (matching the tennis court fence). A 4 feet high fence or cement barriers could be used along the eastern side of the court. |
| Local use of facilities. | The sport court’s smaller size should encourage neighbourhood and youth play. |
| Improved drainage. | Included in “future plan” for the park. |

SUMMARY

The provision of a sport court in Grays Park will enable the Board to meet neighbourhood demand for ball/inline hockey and basketball opportunities. The size of the facility “fits” the neighbourhood focus of the park. Finally, the facility has the support of the neighbourhood committee which is developing a longer term plan for the park.

Prepared by:
Recreation Division
Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation