

Date: January 6, 2006



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2006 Advance Approval for Capital Expenditure

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board request City Council to approve capital spending of \$5,730,000 for current projects, as described in this Report, in advance of final approval of the 2006 capital budget.

POLICY

The Board's annual Capital expenditure requires Council approval. Within the approved envelope the Board sets budget priorities consistent with program objectives outlined in the Capital Plan plebiscite question and agreements with external agencies.

BACKGROUND

The 2006 - 2008 Park Board Capital Plan totals \$80,045,000, comprised of the following allocations:

Electorate-approved borrowing for parks and recreation capital projects	\$19,070,000
Electorate-approved borrowing for 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games - community legacies	\$35,000,000
City-wide Development Cost Levy (DCL)	\$14,500,000
Community Amenity Contribution and other development funds	\$2,200,000
Various external funding	\$9,275,000

The Board will receive a staff report on the proposed 2006 Capital budget at an upcoming meeting and the approved budget will then be forwarded to City Council for consideration. Final Council approval of the 2006 Capital budgets for City departments and boards is anticipated later this spring after Council approval of the yearly operating budget. In the meantime funding commitments are required for projects which, for the reasons outlined in this report, need to be tendered or otherwise initiated before the annual budget approval is secured.

DISCUSSION

Advance spending approval is sought for the projects outlined on the following table:

	Capital Plan Program	Project/Reason	Amount
1	P-01 Neighbourhood Park Renewal	Design consultancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Park (\$40K) • Oak & 37th Park (\$25K -- project to be cost-shared in partnership with the Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie Britannique (CSF)) • Victoria Park (\$30K) Geotechnical and other site tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China Creek Park (\$30K) • Selkirk/72nd Park (\$30K). 	\$155,000
2	P-02 Playgrounds	Construction tenders for 2006 projects at Foster, George, John Hendry and Kitsilano Beach Parks	\$100,000
3	P-06 Waterfront	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seawall widening and pedestrian/cycle path separation, at ramp area east of Lions Gate bridge (\$500K); • Foreshore erosion control at New Brighton Park (\$250K). 	\$750,000
4	P-08 Park Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospect Point cliff scaling and stabilization (\$75K) • Brockton Point structural repairs (\$250K) • Road resurfacing: approximately 150 Meter section of Park Drive, west of Brockton Point (\$250K) 	\$575,000
5	P-10 Park Planning	Trout Lake Master Plan	\$50,000
6	R-01 Major Renewal	Design consultancy for VanDusen Garden Building Renewal Phase I	\$600,000
7	T-01 Ice Rinks	Design consultancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killarney (\$800K) • Trout Lake (\$800K) Practice Rinks. 	\$1,600,000
8	T-03 Aquatic Centre	Design consultancy for Percy Norman Pool & related site works.	\$1,900,000
		Total:	\$5,730,000

All the projects listed above were previously identified in the 2006 – 2008 Capital Plan, approved by Council and the Park Board. The projects are proposed for advance approval for the following reasons:

Line items 5, 7 and 8 are associated with the development of amenities for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and subsequent legacies of the Games. There is an extreme urgency to deliver these projects in a timely manner, and a very tight timeframe for doing so. The advance approvals sought will enable the Trout Lake Master Plan to be completed, to confirm the siting of the practice rink at that location, as well as securing budget for design tendering of the rinks and aquatic centre.

Advance approval is also sought to award a design consultancy for phase I of the VanDusen Garden Building Renewal project, for which a high proportion of funds have been raised by the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association. These external funds include a grant from the Canada British Columbia Infrastructure Program, requiring work to be initiated in 2006.

The remaining items concern park improvements and related works which either (a) need to be initiated promptly to ensure completion before a peak seasonal demand, (b) need to be designed in readiness for later construction during the summer dry period.

The advance approvals requested will also help to distribute the 2006-2008 Capital Plan work program more evenly over the coming three-year period. The \$5,730,000 of total funding required represents approximately 7.2% of the total Park Board Capital Plan allocation.

SUMMARY

This report outlines spending requirements of \$5,730,000 in capital projects for which staff propose to seek Council approval for advance expenditure from the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan, approved by the electorate in November 2005.

Prepared by:

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