



Date: April 6, 2011

**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Nelson Park Washroom**

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board approve the installation of an Automatic Public Toilet (APT) unit through the Engineering Street Services Contract as described within this report***
- B. THAT staff host a public open house about this toilet prior to its installation.***

## POLICY

The Board approves major changes in Vancouver parks including the design and development of parks.

## BACKGROUND

In 2006 a concept plan for the redevelopment of Nelson Park was prepared in consultation with residents and approved by the Park Board. A secure public washroom was requested as a high priority for participants during the community consultations for the park redevelopment. The concept plan included demolition of the park field house and the installation of a new public washroom located near the community garden, playground, and dog off leash area. The washroom was to be provided in the future when funding became available.

Subsequently in 2007, detailed designs and construction documents were prepared for the redevelopment of the park, the project was tendered for construction, and the park was reconstructed in accordance with the approved concept plan. During the park redevelopment the existing field house was demolished, however, to date funding has not been available for the new washroom.

A recent aerial photo of Nelson Park, including the location of the proposed washroom, is attached as Appendix 1.

An opportunity to obtain a fully accessible Automatic Public Toilet unit (APT) through the Engineering Department's street furniture program arose through staff collaboration.

The new street furniture program operates under a long-term contract between the City and CBS/JCDecaux, a partnership of two international companies with experience in providing street furniture in numerous cities around the world. The contract gives CBS/JCDecaux the rights to transit shelter advertising in exchange for installing and maintaining a variety of street furniture elements including bus shelters, benches, litter containers, bike racks, automated public toilets, and direction signs. The City also receives a percentage of the advertising revenues, along with fresher, coordinated, more effective street furniture

It is worth noting that area residents have continued to express an interest in seeing the park washroom installed as soon as possible, given the high level of use of this popular park.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Washroom Unit**

The Engineering street furniture program contract has an APT unit available for Nelson Park. These units have been installed throughout the City, including Pigeon Park, the intersection of Davie and Richards Streets, and Thornton Park and have advertisement displays on the exterior walls. In most cases, the advertisement is a requirement for the contract service, where the supplier and City receive advertising revenues to offset capital and operating costs. However, this will not be the case with the Nelson Park washroom unit.

The contractor indicates that advertisement panels on a washroom unit in Nelson Park will have a limited audience and therefore will not be installed. In order to offset the costs of the unit, Engineering recommends that two advertisement panels (Appendix 2) be installed in sidewalk areas, within the road right of ways, at Nelson Street and Thurlow Street near Nelson Park, and at Seymour Street near Davie Street near Emery Barnes Park. This land is not under the jurisdiction of the Park Board.

### **Availability of Utility Services and Maintenance Access**

During the park redevelopment, sanitary, electrical and water services with stub-outs were provided on site in anticipation of the future washroom. This particular washroom unit also requires a phone line for remote monitoring of the unit. Park Board staff members are working with Engineering Services staff and the contractor to ensure that all services are active in advance of the washroom unit arrival on site, at the Park Board's expense (currently estimated at \$3,000).

It is preferred to have direct daily maintenance access to the unit from Comox Street, so that the contractor does not drive through the busy park. A new curb drop with a porous

or grass-crete pavement is proposed to be installed on Comox Street by the Engineering Department, adjacent to the unit.

### **Process and Timeline for Installation**

The unit is currently being manufactured in France for delivery to Canada in the late summer of 2011. Staff will host a public open house in the spring to provide residents with details about the project as it relates to the 2006 park redevelopment, and to inform residents about the timelines for installation.

### **Operating Costs**

Operating costs for the toilet are accommodated through the Engineering Department contract. The washrooms are automatically cleaned and sanitized after each use, and are inspected daily by the contractor. There are no added basic operating costs to the Park Board and no costs to the public for use.

### **SUMMARY**

This collaborative effort with the Engineering Department provides a much needed facility without operating costs to the Park Board. This project is also a pilot project with potential for consideration for other park locations. With approval from the Board, staff will make arrangements for a public open house and for installation of the automatic public toilet unit in the fall of 2011.

Prepared by:  
Planning and Operations  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
Vancouver, BC

TKM/DD

**Appendix 1** – Air Photo of Proposed Location of Washroom in Nelson Park

**Appendix 2** – Advertisement Panel

# Appendix 1 – Proposed Washroom Location in Nelson Park



Aerial Photo of Nelson Park

2009

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Appendix 2 – Advertisement Panel Photo

