

Date: February 18, 2009



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

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

*THAT the Board approve the concept drawing (see Appendix A) as the basis for a submission for a Development Permit to allow for the construction of two synthetic turf fields with associated lighting at the Trillium park site.*

## **POLICY**

The Board approves park development projects.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 3.05 hectare (7.5 acre) Trillium park site is bounded by Malkin Avenue on the north, Thornton Street on the east and National Avenue on the south, and is situated in the False Creek Flats (see Appendix B). The Trillium park site was secured through subdivision and purchase in 1993, with the purpose of establishing a playing field park. In the following 13 years numerous reviews, studies, and discussions involving the future of this park site occurred. Essentially the local community representatives advocated strongly for a passive park, while field sports advocates supported the establishment of artificial playfields.

After this lengthy period of receiving public input, the Board at its regular meeting on October 16, 2006 passed the following motion, “THAT the Board approve a consultation and design process for the development of the Trillium park site as a sport and active recreation site as outlined in Scenario A.” The attached staff report had provided the option of Scenario A (Trillium as sport and active recreation park), or Scenario B (Trillium as a mainly passive neighbourhood park).

At the regular Council meeting on June 26, 2007, Council unanimously approved the following motion, “THAT Council approve an allocation of City-wide Development Levies (Park Development) in the amount of \$4.5 million and authorize the Park Board to develop two all-weather fields at the Trillium park site on the False Creek Flats.”

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff have been preparing plans for two synthetic turf fields that will be built on the southern 2/3 of the site, away from residents to the north. A future passive park will be built on the northern 1/3 of the site. This concept was most recently presented to the public at an Open House held on January 28, 2009, with about 20 people attending. Fourteen people filled out questionnaires and most were supportive of the plans, although there were concerns raised about glare from the field lights, security, washrooms and use of the fields by outside groups. There was interest and support for the passive park, with staff explaining that the neighbourhood would be consulted when it came time to develop a concept for this park.

The northern portion of the site is presently used by the Vancouver Police Department Dog Squad on a temporary basis. Once these facilities are removed, the planning and design of a more passive park can commence. At this time the Dog Squad facilities are expected to be removed in 2010. A future phase of park development would also have to accommodate a small field house.

With regard to the field development, staff have been working with consultants in developing the drawings for the fields, which would include state-of-the-art lighting, with technology to reduce glare and spill light. These lights would be similar to what were successfully installed at Point Grey and Vancouver Technical Schools, where the lighting has not been an issue. At Point Grey, field lighting also lights up the track around the field, allowing for safe and pleasant evening strolls by the community. The field lighting should likewise result in a positive experience for community members in using the perimeter path at the Trillium park site. To mitigate against future settlement, the site has been preloaded with sand for the last year.

The entire site will be landscaped with trees and shrubs to provide a green edge and separation from the street. Staff are currently working on the detailed design for submitting for Development Permit approval, which is required for the installation of the lights. The illustrative drawings are attached in Appendix A.

## **SUMMARY**

Staff are actively working on the design of the southern part of the Trillium park site. Staff seek Board approval to proceed with the next step in submitting for Development Permit approval for the installation of the sports field lighting.

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