

Date: October 20, 2010



TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board
FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Mount Pleasant Park Upgrade

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed Mount Pleasant Park upgrade as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix A.

POLICY

The Board approves the design and development of parks.

BACKGROUND

Mount Pleasant Park is a 1.12 hectare park situated at Ontario Street and 16th Avenue. The future of the park has been subject to extensive public discussion since 2000 when Council and the Board decided to rebuild the community centre on a new location at 1 Kingsway. In 2009, a series of illustrative concepts for redevelopment options for the site was presented for public commentary.

On December 14, 2009, the Board authorized the decommissioning of the existing building and pool in Mount Pleasant Park and directed staff to develop a plan for Mount Pleasant Park based on what was referred to as the Green Space option. This concept was the starting point for the park upgrade design consultancy. The Board also directed that the design allow for the future development of an outdoor pool and change rooms at such time as funds for this component become available.

In 2008, the Park Board and other parties (including the Vancouver School Board, the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association and the Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent Advisory Council) signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the design, construction and operation of a (now opened) child care facility on the Simon Fraser Elementary School site. This obligated the Mount Pleasant Park upgrade to include a suitable play area for the child development centre on the park, recreational opportunities in the park supplementing and complementing play amenities on the school grounds and a total of 20 parking/drop off spaces for the school and child development centre. These requirements are reflected in the recommended concept plan illustrated in Appendix A.

In June 2010, the consultancy for the upgrade of Mount Pleasant Park was awarded to the landscape architecture firm Durante Kreuk Limited. Park Board staff and the consultant team met with the community at two open houses, one on June 21st and the other on September 22nd, to consider options for park redevelopment and identify programming requirements. In addition, two focus meetings were held between the two open houses with representatives of various interested community groups and the proposed park design was displayed for public comment on September 25th at the Main Street Autumn Shift street festival. The panels prepared by the consultants and presented at these meetings can be viewed on the Park Board project webpage at:

<http://www.vancouver.ca/parks/info/planning/mountpleasantpark/index2010.htm>

The attached concept plan is the recommended option based on the comments received from the community through the consultation process. The budget for the project, approved in the 2006 – 2008 Capital Plan, is \$700,000.

Upon the Board's approval of the concept plan, Durante Kreuk Ltd will, under the direction of Park Development staff and in consultation with our maintenance departments, proceed to design development and produce all working drawings and related contract documentation in order for the project to be tendered for construction. It is anticipated that park construction will commence in the Spring 2011 and be completed by the Fall 2011.

The purpose of this report is for the Board to approve the preferred concept plan (refer to Appendix A).

DISCUSSION

During the first open house held on June 21, 2010 at the Simon Fraser Elementary School, the community considered features and park elements they wished to incorporate into the park upgrade and responded on a comment form. Respondents overwhelmingly supported a park design option that included the future pool and many expressed their desire that it be included in the current park upgrade. Otherwise, most people were most interested in children's play and passive recreation activities. This chart summarizes public response to potential park features:

How would you like to use the upgraded park?

Based on 281 Comment Forms, in order of priority

Use	Number	Percent
Outdoor pool in the future	234	83
Picnics	160	57
Children's play	158	56
Walking	143	51
Enjoying nature	131	47

Gathering/ hanging out	128	46
Enjoy natural features or areas	108	38
Splash park	106	38
Active sports	100	36
Growing fruits or vegetables	97	35
Edible landscaping	60	21
Jogging	58	21
Sandbox	53	19
Dog walking on-leash	53	19
Skateboarding	50	18

Two focus group discussions were held over the summer to fully understand the results. For example, staff wondered if the low support for the spray park was due to genuine lack of interest or fear that it may somehow threaten the possibility of a full pool in the future. Based on the open house results and the focus group discussions, the park features desired by the community were developed by the consultant team into a preferred design concept which was presented at an open house at the school on September 22nd and at the Main Street Autumn Shift street festival on September 25th.

This concept was very well received by the community and staff as it consolidated play areas (which helps for supervision of children of different ages), provided a generous great lawn area for unstructured play and concentrated the parking and active play towards the north-west corner of the park. Although the majority wanted the pool now, there was strong support for the proposed location in the park; this area is to be developed as part of the lawn area until funding for the pool components may become available at a future date. The only substantive change made in response to the comments was to relocate the community garden to the north-east corner where the site is flatter and sunnier for most of the day. The revised concept with the relocated community garden is the recommended concept illustrated in Appendix A.

A panel of children’s play equipment was also displayed at the last open house and people of all ages were invited to indicate what types they liked most. All of the 18 children (100%) and 108 of the adults (72%) responded to this section. These results will be used by the consultants in the design of the play areas and in discussions with the child development centre design committee (comprised of representatives of various stakeholder groups). The design committee is to have an opportunity to review and comment on the playground equipment and design.

Upon approval of the recommended concept for the upgrade to Mount Pleasant Park, the consultants will begin focussing on detailed design development and production of construction documents for tendering in early 2011. Ongoing review of the park upgrade

design as it progresses from concept plan to detailed design development and tender documentation is planned with our Operations and Park Development staff.

Park construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2011 and should be completed by Fall 2011.

SUMMARY

The recommended concept plan for the Mount Pleasant Park upgrade is well supported by the community and staff. The park upgrade is designed to increase the number of passive and active recreational activities for park users of all ages and abilities while reserving an appropriate location in the park for an outdoor pool should funding for one become available in the future.

Prepared by:
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Appendix A – Mount Pleasant Park Upgrade Preferred Concept Plan

Mount Pleasant Park Upgrade Preferred Concept Plan

The illustrated concept, with the community garden relocated closer to the north-east corner of the park (from the September 2010 concept), is the recommended concept.

