
2006 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE – Youth Recreation Strategy

Issue/Background:

- The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Strategic Plan, Our Common Grounds, identifies youth as a top priority for the Division.
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation has developed a Youth Recreation Strategy with input from youth, youth serving agencies, parents and staff.
- In 2006, Parks, Forestry and Recreation requested \$638,912 to provide the following youth programs (with an annualized amount of \$1,277,820):
 - 44 Youth Councils, one per Ward, to accommodate 880 youth participants
 - 10 Young Women's Clubs, to accommodate 1,200 young women
 - 10 After School Youth Programs, to accommodate 1,350 youth participants
 - 10 Youth Leadership Programs for Youth from At-Risk Neighbourhoods, to accommodate 600 youth, and 4 Leadership Programs for Youth with a Disability, to accommodate 96 youth with a disability
 - 1 Youth Drop In for Homeless Youth, to accommodate 36 homeless youth
 - 4 Drop In Social Clubs for Youth with a Disability, to accommodate 600 youth with a disability
 - 1 Camp Isuma, an adventure and wilderness camp for youth from at-risk neighbourhoods, to accommodate 120 youth
- Attachment 1 contains a summary of staffing and salaries for the Youth Recreation Strategy
- Budget Advisory Committee, at its meeting on January 25, 2006, added \$638,900 gross and net to the 2006 Operating Budget of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for the implementation of the Youth Recreation Strategy

Key Points:

- It is vital to the health and well being of the City's young citizens that the Youth Recreation Strategy be implemented.
- There are approximately 370,000 youth in the City of Toronto. Research indicates that the youth population will increase by 20% in the next 10 years, posing a greater challenge to City services.
- In 2003, 4% of youth were registered in recreation programs and 9% participated in recreation drop-in programs. This is the lowest participation rate, in recreation, by the various age groups in the City.
- Additional resources are required to meet the growing need, expressed by youth, for recreation.
- Recreation provides a place where youth can gain skills for employment, be physically active and build social skills in a safe and supervised environment.
- Recreation is vital in promoting resiliency among young people (Dr. Michael Unger).
- Youth involvement in arts and recreation programs is instrumental to producing well rounded, fully engaged citizens, and healthy and safe communities (Laidlaw Foundation).

- The need to invest in recreational programs for youth is especially important in this climate of youth poverty, violence, and homelessness.
- All Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation initiatives for youth have received the support of the Toronto Youth Cabinet.
- Recreation programs reduce a youth's sensitivity to risk by providing them with successful coping experiences

Conclusion:

- The Youth Recreation Strategy responds to the needs of youth in the City of Toronto and supports the Parks, Forestry and Recreation's Strategic Plan, Our Common Grounds.
- The Youth Recreation Strategy provides necessary programs to respond to the issues of gun violence, safe neighbourhoods, homelessness and physical activity.

Prepared by:

Kelvin Seow (416) 395-6190

Costanza Allevato (416) 395-6191

Contact for further information:

Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation, (416) 392-8182

Attachment:

Attachment 1: Youth Recreation Strategy - Summary Sheet

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Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Attachment 1: Youth Recreation Strategy - Summary Sheet

Program	# of Participants	New Perm FTE's	New Part-Time FTE's	Salaries (including Benefits)	Non-Salaries	Annualized Totals	2006 Amount
Youth Councils	880	2.0	2.9	\$ 287,801.62	\$ 93,700.00	\$ 381,501.62	\$ 190,750.81
Young Women's Clubs	1,200	0.8	0.9	\$ 109,979.57	\$ 45,400.00	\$ 155,379.57	\$ 77,689.79
After School Youth	1,350	1.7	0.2	\$ 142,063.61	\$ 75,122.00	\$ 217,185.61	\$ 108,592.80
Youth Leadership	696	1.5	0.9	\$ 154,269.98	\$ 43,150.00	\$ 197,419.98	\$ 98,709.99
Drop In For Homeless Youth	36	0.7	0.7	\$ 89,182.49	\$ 25,800.00	\$ 114,982.49	\$ 57,491.24
Drop In Social Clubs For Youth With a Disability	600	0.8	0.2	\$ 75,318.48	\$ 17,150.00	\$ 92,468.48	\$ 46,234.24
Camp Isuma	120	0.6	0.3	\$ 62,882.37	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 118,882.37	\$ 59,441.19
Totals	4,882	8.0	6.1	\$ 921,498.12	\$ 356,322.00	\$ 1,277,820.12	\$ 638,910.06