

## **Sports Strategy Framework Update**

<b>Date:</b>	May 18, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is 1) to update Committee on work with the Toronto Sports Council and other groups on improving sports and recreation infrastructure in Toronto; 2) to outline several partnership initiatives underway; and 3) to recommend directions and continued work on proposals that support the development of sports in Toronto.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:**

1. City of Toronto staff continue to collaborate with other municipalities, federal and provincial counterparts, and other stakeholders on the proposal for a National Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Program;
2. Partnership projects:
  - a. Authorize the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to continue work with TEDCO and the Don Mills Civitans on a potential multi-pad arena in the Don Mills area and to report back on status and any financial implications;
  - b. Authorize the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division City staff to continue to develop proposals for a twin pad facility in collaboration with Leaside Memorial Gardens and report back on status and any financial implications;
  - c. Authorize the Parks Forestry and Recreation Division to continue discussions with the University of Toronto on a potential joint sport facility, including opportunities for federal and provincial support, and to report on status and any financial implications;

3. the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation work with the Toronto Sports Council on a Sport Development Plan and a Strategic Plan, providing a contribution of \$20,000 towards the project from the approved Parks, Forestry and Capital budget under "Master Planning FY2007"; and
4. City staff explore and report back on a grant program that will support the Toronto Sports Council and the need to develop sport in Toronto, similar to the Toronto Arts Council funding programs.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Partnership opportunities under development will be assessed and reported to Council in accordance with City policies, including any financial implications.

Funding for work with the Toronto Sports Council of \$20,000 can be accommodated within the approved 2007 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital budget.

Implementation of a City grant program to support the Toronto Sports Council in developing sport in Toronto would require either reallocation of existing funding within the Community Partnership Investment Program or consideration of additional funding in a future City Operating Budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's Strategic Plan, Our Common Grounds, approved by City Council in 2004 recommended the development of a Sport Strategy Framework. The Sport Strategy Framework was recommended in recognition of the critical role that sport can play in city building and to help increase sport opportunities for all participants.

In May, 2006, Toronto City Council adopted a report on the Sports Strategy Framework from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The report emphasized the growing recognition that Toronto must increase the number and quality of sport facilities to provide residents with additional opportunities to become active, which benefit their health and enrich their quality of life.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division was requested to report back on the following:

1. An overall priority plan for sport and recreation facilities, including working with other Divisions and Agencies, and on the progress of the plan; and

2. Opportunities to pilot the development of various business models for the renovation and development of sport facilities; including pools, ice rinks and sports fields.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060523/edp3rpt/cl001.pdf>

## **COMMENTS**

This report provides an update on Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's work on exploring and developing a range of approaches to the renovation and development of sport facilities, as well as work on increasing sport development opportunities with the Toronto Sports Council and others.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Toronto Sports Council (TSC) has been developing its capacity to provide leadership for sport development as the "voice for sport in Toronto". The TSC is developing a strategic plan to help focus efforts on securing community partners and funding opportunities.

Working to promote the interests of community sport and increase participation opportunities for all residents, the TSC held a Sports Summit in January 2006 with representatives of over 200 organizations to discuss opportunities to advance sport in the coming years. Based on the success of that meeting, the TSC are now in the planning process to hold summits in each of the City's four districts this year, in partnership with Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The findings from these summits will be used, in part, to develop a consensus on priorities for regional-level facilities in Toronto with the sports community. The district summits will also serve as an opportunity to shape the TSC, including services needed by community sport organizations to help develop Toronto's sport delivery system.

The TSC is an active partner with the City, school boards and other institutions, and groups in Toronto. As noted above, the TSC is searching for community partners and funding opportunities that will provide support and resources for its work. Given the importance of improving collaboration and leadership amongst sport groups in Toronto, the City should consider the potential for funding this kind of work, e.g., through grants.

Co-ordination amongst sport organizations would help with many aspects of sport development in Toronto, including more focused approaches to securing funding for sports initiatives and infrastructure from other levels of government. There are parallels and successes in other sectors, such as in the arts and cultural areas, where co-ordination of activities amongst a diversity of groups has improved co-operation and fostered growth and improvement of the entire sector.

## 1. Planning for Sport and Recreation Facility Priorities

Planning for sport and recreation facilities occurs at many levels and through a number of processes.

In September 2004, Toronto City Council adopted the Recreation Facilities Report. The report identified directions and priorities for a range of sport and recreation facilities. Since that report, more detailed analyses of indoor ice facilities and indoor aquatic facilities has been initiated. Parks Forestry and Recreation builds on the directions established in this report, including the development of the Division's capital program.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2004/agendas/council/cc040928/edp6rpt/cl004.pdf>

The following table primarily outlines the current outlook on needs and directions in several key sport areas:

Facility Type	Facility Needs/Directions
Sports fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 89 new soccer fields (primarily in the south and north districts)</li><li>- 77 additional soccer fields (throughout the City)</li><li>- Invest in artificial turf fields</li><li>- Improve maintenance/access to existing City and school board and hydro corridor fields</li></ul>
Community centres, gyms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 15 new or expanded centres (as set out in Council approved Recreation Facilities Project)</li></ul>
Indoor ice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Long-term provision strategy being developed</li><li>- Increased emphasis on multi-pad facilities</li></ul>
Indoor pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Phase One strategy identified two 50-metre pools</li><li>- 20+ high quality community pools</li><li>- Replacement of end of life/older pools</li></ul>

While the City has a fundamental role to play in identifying and responding to the needs and priorities for sport and recreation facilities in Toronto, it is by no means alone. As noted in the Sport Strategy Framework, it is important for a diversity of facility providers and groups to work together to achieve better opportunities for sport in Toronto.

For example, City staff are working with school boards and other educational institutions to increase sports field opportunities. A number of schools and campuses in Toronto are interested in developing artificial turf fields; a partnership with the City on these projects may provide high-quality field opportunities for the larger community, as well as the school's or institution's own students. By the same token, school boards and educational

institutions have expressed interest in a number of City field venues for their use, and they may be able to provide capital to improve or upgrade facilities.

There is also the need to consider opportunities and priorities for sports and recreation facilities within Toronto's broader regional, provincial and national context. An example of this is a report recently completed for Aquatic Federation of Canada on Aquatic Facilities Needs Analysis and Strategy for Ontario. The Provincial report's findings include, among other things, the need for two competition level 50-metre pools in the Toronto area. This is consistent with the analysis and consultation undertaken in support of the City's Indoor Pool Strategy.

#### *Strategic Land Acquisition:*

Fundamental to providing new or expanded recreation facilities is the provision of parkland, and the following two reports to Council are anticipated in 2007. Parks Forestry and Recreation staff are updating the Parkland Acquisition Strategic Directions Report, which was approved by Council in 2001 with a focused review of the areas of interest identified in the 2001 report. Secondly, City staff are also preparing a review process and assessment criteria for surplus school board sites.

#### *Sport Hosting and Infrastructure Legacy*

Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Division has been actively developing a plan to attract long-term and ongoing stream of major sporting events to the City through its Toronto International unit since 2003. Hosting major sports events will produce infrastructure that can support future sport development in Toronto.

In August 2006, Toronto hosted the International Dragon Boat Federation Club Crew World Championships at the new Western Beaches Watercourse located at Marilyn Bell Park. This international sporting event brought together 130 crews and 3,530 competitors, coaches, and managers from 10 countries including teams from across Canada and the USA, and as far away as the Caribbean, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Toronto International estimates that this event contributed to \$15.5 million in value added economic activity for Toronto. The Toronto Waterfront Regeneration Corporation developed this 600-metre rowing and paddling facility which will be used for future dragon boat, rowing, canoeing, kayaking and training activities.

This summer, Toronto will be one of the main cities hosting the second largest world soccer champion event. The FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007 is a three week, 24 nation, 52 match tournament featuring the best under-20 youth players in the world. The matches will be watched by an estimated 500 million world-wide television viewers and Toronto International estimates the event will contribute up to \$155 million of economic activity in the City. Hosting this championship has resulted in the development of the BMO Field on Exhibition Place lands. The 20,000-seat stadium will be accessible for use year round with a winter bubble, and in the post event period will be available for both professional and sport development use. The Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Division has agreed to link with Parks Forestry and Recreation on the

development of their sport hosting strategy to better ensure legacy opportunities are capitalized.

#### *National Sports & Recreation Infrastructure Program*

Cities across Canada have joined together to advance a National Sports and Recreation Infrastructure Program that will support the needs of municipalities to repair and build sport and recreation facilities. Provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity and recreation have undertaken a review of sport, physical activity and recreation infrastructure in Canada and have estimated the capital deficiency of at least \$15 billion nationally, and are therefore urging the Federal government to work collaboratively to establish this program.

Mayor Miller has supported a motion of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to this end and has written to the federal Minister of Sport, Michael Chong, and the Ontario Minister of Public Infrastructure, David Caplan in support of this effort. The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation has also written to the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion on this issue.

The current City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation “state of good repair” backlog has been established at \$197 million and it is expected to rise to approximately \$267 million by 2011. This amount does not include funds needed to expand and improve facilities to meet citizens’ needs and interests.

## **2. Sports Facility Development through Innovative Means**

Parks Forestry and Recreation works with foundations, other public sector agencies, and the private sector to increase sport infrastructure opportunities.

Collaboration with other facility providers and developing and sustaining new approaches with community and public interest partners is increasingly important in the provision of sport facilities. Recent examples include sports facilities provided by Nike Canada, the Raptor Foundation and the Toronto Blue Jays Field of Dreams initiative as follows:

#### Nike Canada Ltd.

- 400 metre running track
- Basketball Courts
- Mini Soccer field
- Tennis Court refurbishment

#### Field of Dreams (Toronto Blue Jays)

- Baseball diamonds in 6 parks
- Basketball facilities in 3 parks
- Multi-use sports pads
- Refurbishment and upgrade of playing fields

#### Embassy of Hope (Vince Carter)

- Lit outdoor basketball court

#### Raptors Foundation

- Outdoor sports court construction

There are also other partnership programs and initiatives that benefit sport and recreation facilities. The Leafs Home Depot Hockey Legacy program has helped fund improvements and refurbishments of outdoor ice rinks, most recently the West Mall rink in Etobicoke.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation, along with other City Divisions, is actively involved in many projects to help bring much-needed sports and recreation infrastructure into service through partnerships and innovative approaches. Planning is underway to include partnerships with school boards and public agencies (e.g., Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Public Library) as well as foundations, private sector groups, community-based organizations and other levels of government.

The Sports Strategy Framework recommended that sports facilities be pursued through innovative partnerships and new business models. City staff have been working with a number of groups on projects and proposals that will help achieve improved sports facilities. Some examples of this work are as follows:

#### *Lakeshore Lions Multi-pad Arena*

A proposed 4-pad arena in South Etobicoke to replace a City-owned single-pad arena operated by the Lakeshore Lions Club. City staff negotiated a long-term lease for the land and is working with the Lakeshore Lions towards development of this facility on a brownfield site. The facility will address the lack of available prime time ice and will fill the need for hockey league play, including practice time and tournaments. The Toronto District School Board will have access to 500 hours of non-prime time ice, and the City will have access to 800 hours annually of prime time ice at City arena rates. The final fixed price project cost is \$33,650,000 and the City has approved a loan guarantee of \$29,000,000. The details for the construction and operation of the proposed arena complex were approved by Council on April 23 and 24, 2007. This report can be viewed at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-2875.pdf>

#### *Leaside Memorial Gardens*

City staff have been working to acquire provincially-owned lands adjacent to the existing City-owned facility currently occupied by the Ontario Film Review Board. These lands are essential to facility expansion plans by Leaside Gardens, a board of the City to expand their existing single pad in to a double pad. Leaside Gardens is working on business plans for the development and operation of the proposed facility. City staff and the province are exploring opportunities to help advance this land acquisition.

#### *North District Multi-Pad Arena*

Parks, Forestry and Recreation are working with TEDCO and the Don Mills Civitan Club on opportunities to replace (and expand) an existing single-pad arena facility located in the Don Mills Centre at a suitable site to serve the community. TEDCO is actively involved in developing business cases and a business plan for this proposal.

### *Sports Facility in the Waterfront*

The Toronto Waterfront Regeneration Corporation has proposed a number of investments in the Central Waterfront as part of the commitment to bring parks and recreation services on line as a priority of waterfront regeneration. A multi-pad arena/sports complex (including ice hockey and lacrosse) is proposed for a site along Unwin Avenue. The City has a \$20,000,000 financial commitment from the Federal Government towards this estimated \$35,000,000 proposed project. Additional contribution sources are being pursued to close the funding gap.

### *Transition Sports Fields in the Port Lands*

The Toronto Waterfront Regeneration Corporation is also working with the City to develop a sports field complex with artificial sports turf in the Port Lands area. Two fields are being constructed with anticipated use in 2007.

Details on the Toronto Waterfront Regeneration Corporation's five-year plan can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060725/pof6rpt/cl008.pdf>

### *University of Toronto Scarborough Campus*

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and the University of Toronto are exploring a possible partnership opportunity to develop an Athletics Complex at the Scarborough Campus. Although preliminary discussions are on going, the complex could include, subject to funding, gymnasias and indoor track, sports fields, outdoor tennis courts, indoor ice rinks, and an Olympic-sized pool. A Working Group has been initiated to discuss construction and operating cost considerations, user group access and associated agreements.

Parks Forestry and Recreation continue to work with community and sports groups, including the Toronto Sports Council, to achieve the goals and targets set out in Our Common Grounds to enhance and improve sport and recreation opportunities in the City. Collaboration with other service providers and a range of partners is fundamental to providing residents with the opportunity for quality facilities, as well as development of innovative funding models.

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## **SIGNATURE**

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