



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Establishment of a Reserve Account for Parks
Improvements
North Rosedale Ratepayer’s Association
North Rosedale Community**

Date:	August 24, 2007
To:	Executive Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer
Wards:	Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2007\Internal Services\Cf\ec07033Cf – et (AFS #5759)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain authorization to establish an obligatory reserve fund to receive donations from the North Rosedale Ratepayer’s Association in order to fund Parks and Forestry related capital projects and operating programs in the North Rosedale community (see Attachment #1). The report will also request authority for the City of Toronto to issue receipts for income tax purposes for eligible donations in accordance with the Income Tax Act.

The North Rosedale Ratepayers’ Association wishes to fund-raise for the enhancement of park facilities in the North Rosedale community and for Parks and Forestry programs within the North Rosedale community. The fundraising target for this reserve fund is \$500,000.00 and the fund will be reviewed every three years. Funds will be applied to capital projects and operating programs in the North Rosedale community as agreed to by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division in consultation with the North Rosedale Ratepayers’ Association and the Councillor for Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale.

The stated goals and objectives of the North Rosedale Ratepayers’ Association are generally in keeping with the mandate of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to provide active recreation opportunities and to steward the environment. Consequently, the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that the reserve fund be established.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer recommend that:

1. the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer be authorized to establish an obligatory reserve fund called the “North Rosedale Reserve Fund” for receiving cash donations toward enhancements of parks and publicly-owned and accessible ravines within the North Rosedale community, and for operating Parks, Forestry and Recreation programs within the North Rosedale community;
2. Municipal Code, Chapter 227 [Reserves and Reserve Funds] be amended by adding the “North Rosedale Reserve Fund” to Schedule 9 – Donations Reserve Fund;
3. all donations received by the North Rosedale Ratepayers’ Association and by the City for the North Rosedale Reserve Fund be held separately in the North Rosedale Reserve Fund designated for this purpose, and receipts for income tax purposes be issued by the City of Toronto to donors for eligible donations in accordance with the Income Tax Act and City policy in this regard;
4. authority be granted to Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into an agreement, if necessary, with the North Rosedale Ratepayers’ Association to allow the North Rosedale Ratepayers’ Association to fundraise on behalf of the City of Toronto for facility enhancements in the North Rosedale community and for operating Parks and Forestry programs in the community, in a form and content satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the City Solicitor;
5. the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and that leave be granted for the introduction of any necessary bills in Council to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

Capital projects will be implemented only when sufficient community donations have been received by the City to fully execute the work identified and as agreed to by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division.

Operating costs are already allocated for maintenance and operation of the existing children’s playground and wading pool in Rosedale Park. Those operating costs are not expected to increase due to the proposed enhancement of those two facilities.

Any operating costs associated with the proposed programs (e.g. implementing a possible tree canopy management strategy in the North Rosedale community) will be funded from the North Rosedale Reserve Fund to the extent that funds are available.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Rosedale Park currently contains a wading pool constructed in or around 1954. The Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division is actively replacing wading pools throughout the City with more versatile and efficient splash pads as funding becomes available.

The children's play equipment in the Park was last upgraded in the mid-1990s. The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division is actively replacing older play equipment in order to meet current Canadian Standards Association (CSA) guidelines. The existing play equipment in Rosedale Park does not meet the most current CSA guidelines and is not identified for upgrades in the five-year Capital Forecast.

The structures in Chorley Park are frequently the targets of graffiti, and enhanced planting may help prevent further graffiti and reduce on-going maintenance.

The extensive tree canopy throughout the North Rosedale community is aging and would benefit from a comprehensive management strategy.

The North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association has held several community meetings to share their suggestions and receive feedback with respect to proposed park enhancements and other North Rosedale community projects.

In January of 2007 representatives from the North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association approached the office of Councillor Kyle Rae, Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, and the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to request assistance in identifying the means for implementing park improvements and other related projects funded by community contributions.

The Parks Branch of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division attended a public consultation meeting with the North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association and is in support of the proposed improvements.

Corporate Finance has provided recommendations with respect to establishing a reserve fund and has provided guidelines governing the administration of the proposed fund.

COMMENTS

Cost estimates for the list of potential investments have not been completed, but it is likely that the fund raising target of \$500,000 listed below will not be adequate to accomplish the entire list of projects.

The North Rosedale Reserve Fund would be subject to the following rules:

- (a) Statement of Purpose:

to receive cash donations toward enhancements of parks and publicly-owned and accessible ravines within the North Rosedale community, and for operating Parks Forestry and Recreation programs within the North Rosedale community;

(b) Service Area or Beneficiary of the Program:

Parks, Forestry and Recreation shall have primary responsibility for the reserve fund.

(c) Contribution Policy:

Funds from donors will be deposited as received in the reserve fund and the City will provide income tax receipts to all donors pursuant to City policies.

(d) Withdrawal Policy:

Funds for capital enhancements will be withdrawn either as part of the normal capital budget process (allocation to projects) for the purposes of the North Rosedale community or through a specific report to City Council authorizing the elements to be funded, consistent with the purpose of the Fund, and amount of the withdrawal. Capital enhancements may include but are not limited to:

- the replacement of or upgrades to the children's play equipment and replacement of the wading pool with a splash pad plus all related, supporting elements (i.e. benches, fences) in Rosedale Park, as well as any consulting costs required to implement the work;
- consultant services to develop a tree canopy management strategy for the North Rosedale community;
- strategic planting in Chorley Park to discourage graffiti and vandalism; and
- planning and implementing trail improvements in the publicly owned and accessible North Rosedale community ravines.

Any new assets will be assumed by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division.

Funds for operating programs will be withdrawn either as part of the normal operating budget process for the purposes of the North Rosedale community or through a specific report to City Council authorizing the purpose and amount of the withdrawal. Operating programs may include but are not limited to:

- enhancement and maintenance of the horticultural planting in Rosedale Park;
- enhanced community clean-up days;
- enhanced management of woody and herbaceous vegetation in the publicly owned and accessible North Rosedale community ravines; and

- implementing operating aspects of any tree canopy management strategy that may be developed under the capital enhancements, as funding permits.

(e) Review Cycle:

The reserve fund will be reviewed once every three years, and closed when the fund is depleted.

(f) Fundraising Target:

The fundraising target for the North Rosedale Reserve Fund is \$500,000.00. The degree of enhancements, projects and programs will be solely based on the funds raised.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz, General Manager
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Joseph P. Pennachetti
Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial
Officer

ATTACHMENT

North Rosedale Neighbourhood

Attachment #1

