

Donation to build an outdoor court in Woolner Park

Date:	May 16, 2007
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 11 - York South-Weston
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Raptors Foundation, the charitable arm of the Toronto Raptors Basketball Club, has committed to donate the complete funds required for the City of Toronto to build a new outdoor sports court in Woolner Park. The court is to be built before August 2007 and is valued at approximately \$75,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council accepts with thanks the contribution of \$75,000, via the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, from the Raptors Foundation, for an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park; and
2. the 2007 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget be amended to add a subproject to construct an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park, for \$75,000 gross, funded by the \$75,000 donation from the Raptor Foundation.

Financial Impact

The recommendations will have no net financial impact on the 2007 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget.

The proposed sports court is valued at \$75,000.00 and will be built in Woolner Park, located on a segment of an Ontario Hydro Corridor leased to the City of Toronto for park and recreational purposes.

A donation equal to the City's construction costs for the proposed sports court will be made by the Toronto Raptors Foundation and directed to the City of Toronto by the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation.

Operating costs for day-to-day maintenance and supervision of this facility will be nominal, as the facility will be included as part of the existing park monitoring routes. No additional programming costs are anticipated, as this facility will be incorporated in the Division's normal spring-summer programming for young people. Any sweeping/cleaning necessary for the courts would be included in the normal work of parks maintenance crews who routinely service the park. Thus, no additional Operating Budget funding will be required to service this facility.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Board of Directors of the Raptors Foundation, the charitable arm of the Toronto Raptors Basketball Club, has approved the complete funding of an outdoor sports court in Woolner Park, valued at \$75,000, with construction to begin in July 2007 and to be completed before August 2007.

COMMENTS

As the Toronto Raptors Foundation can only make donations to registered charities, the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation, a registered charity committed to supporting and enhancing public park spaces for sports, will accept this donation from the Raptors Foundation and direct it to the City of Toronto to coordinate the construction of the outdoor sports court.

Woolner Park is located just south of the intersection of Jane Street and Woolner Avenue, adjacent to two large Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) apartment complexes. The neighbourhood surrounding the proposed site is a heavily populated area with low income and lone-parent families. Nearly a quarter of the Jane-Woolner neighbourhood are youth between 16 and 20 years of age. The site is also easily accessible by youth from the Weston-Mount Dennis Priority Neighbourhood.

The proposed site has an existing multi-use paved court that was built in 1982. The existing multi-use paved court has had very little improvements since 1982 and its deterioration has had a significant negative impact on its use. Combined with a shortage

of local recreational facilities, this outdoor court donation represents a welcome improvement for the Jane-Woolner and Weston-Mount Dennis neighbourhoods.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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