

Donation from the Garden Club of Toronto for June Callwood Park and Amend Purpose of Reserve

Date:	April 1, 2011
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 19 – Trinity-Spadina
Reference Number:	P:\2011\Cluster A\PFR\PE03-042911-AFS#13585

SUMMARY

This report seeks Toronto City Council approval to enter into an agreement with the Garden Club of Toronto, and to accept a cash and/or in-kind donation from the Garden Club of Toronto to develop the gardens in June Callwood Park, in accordance with the Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits. The report also seeks approval to amend the purpose and the original target amount of the June Callwood Park Reserve.

The 2006 amendment to the Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits requires Council approval to accept donations from any individual or organization where the value of the donation exceeds \$0.050 million. The estimated financial value of this donation is up to \$0.275 million.

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division will pre-approve all plans, and provide oversight of the project through to completion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council accept the cash and/or in-kind donation from the Garden Club of Toronto, approximated at up to \$0.275 million, for the development of gardens in the new June Callwood Park;

2. City Council authorize the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into appropriate agreements with the Garden Club of Toronto in relation to fundraising and the development of gardens in June Callwood Park, on terms and conditions satisfactory in form and content to the General Manager and City Solicitor;
3. City Council authorize the installation of appropriate signage, plaques or other forms of recognition satisfactory to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to acknowledge the contribution of the Garden Club of Toronto and other donors, subject to compliance with the City's sign by-law and the federal *Income Tax Act* provisions relating to the issuance of tax receipts;
4. City Council amend Municipal Code Chapter 227, Reserves and Reserve Funds to change the purpose of the "June Callwood Park Reserve" listed in "Schedule No. 5 – Donations Reserves" from "Receives funds from public and private donors toward the operating, maintenance, programming and future re-development of June Callwood Park" to "Receives funds from public and private donors for, but not limited to, the operation, maintenance, programming, planning, design, development and revitalization of June Callwood Park"; and
5. City Council amend the reserve criteria to change the fundraising target for the "June Callwood Park Reserve" from \$0.250 million to \$0.350 million.

Financial Impact

The cash and/or in-kind donation from the Garden Club of Toronto, estimated at up to \$0.275 million, will be used to supply plant material for the gardens as well as the trees immediately surrounding the gardens in June Callwood Park. The funds will be used to supplement the existing capital budget for park construction.

Several June Callwood Park capital projects have been approved in the 2011 and 2012 Parks, Forestry and Recreation capital budgets. Existing funding for June Callwood Park capital projects consists of park levies from Fort York Neighbourhood developments. There is no debt funding for these projects.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on September 26 and 27, 2007, City Council adopted a report which requested approval to proceed with a design competition, designation of funds to support the design and development of June Callwood Park, and the establishment of a Donation Reserve to help offset costs for operation, maintenance, programming and future

redevelopment costs for the park. The original fundraising target for the Reserve was \$0.250 million.

City Council – September 26 and 27, 2007 – Item EX11.33

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/decisions/2007-09-26-cc12-dd.pdf>

City Council also adopted a report, at its meeting on January 27 and 28, 2009 to endorse the selection of gh3 as the winning landscape architectural team of the June Callwood Park Design Competition, and for authority to enter into an agreement with gh3 for professional landscape architectural services for June Callwood Park.

City Council – January 27, 2009 – Item PE21.4

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.PE21.4>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In 2008, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff and the Ward 19 Councillor met with the Garden Club of Toronto to discuss partnership opportunities for the creation of specialty gardens in the future June Callwood Park.

COMMENTS

June Callwood Park is a 0.4 hectare space, to be located at 636 Fleet Street at the foot of the historic Fort York area of Toronto. The site is to be designed and developed as a new park and significant addition to the public realm of the Central Waterfront. Situated northwest of the Fleet Street and Bathurst Street intersections, it will serve as the central public space for local neighbourhood activities in a new high-density, mixed-use community.

The Garden Club of Toronto (GCT), founded in 1946, is a registered charitable organization, and has provided over \$3.000 million to the community for planting projects for the City of Toronto and for major charitable institutions. The GCT has played a key role in designing and planting gardens that beautify the city and environs as well as providing outreach and educational programming. The GCT provides ongoing funding for the Toronto Botanical Garden and co-founded Canada Blooms with Landscape Ontario. Other partnership projects include the designing and planting of the 19th century garden at St. James Cathedral, the Edwardian gardens at Spadina House, the gardens of Casa Loma, and the Entrance Gardens and Children's Teaching Garden at the Toronto Botanical Garden. On all of these projects, the GCT has worked collaboratively with their partners to provide not only capital costs for the gardens, but also professional horticultural expertise.

The GCT requires a signed agreement with the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division prior to raising external funds for the project. The fundraising goal for this project is up to \$0.275 million. In addition to raising funds for the gardens, the GCT will work

collaboratively with Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff and the project's landscape architectural consultants (gh3) to design and implement the gardens, including hosting a one day volunteer planting event at the new park.

The City of Toronto will provide acknowledgment of the Garden Club of Toronto's contribution to the gardens and trees in a manner consistent with the City's Donations policies.

The June Callwood Park Reserve was created in 2007 to receive donations from public and private donors. At that time, it was expected that up to \$0.250 million may be received; however, the total amount for expected donations now exceeds the original goal. Municipal Code Chapter 227, Reserves and Reserve Funds, currently allows the funds to be used only toward the operating, maintenance, programming and future redevelopment of the park. Chapter 227 must be amended to allow the funds for June Callwood Park to be used towards capital costs as well as operating costs.

Existing funding for park construction comes from park levies generated by new development within the Fort York Neighbourhood. Donations received will supplement the capital budget for June Callwood Park construction.

Corporate Finance has been consulted on this report and agrees that the changes to the June Callwood Park Reserve are appropriate.

The GCT's donation to June Callwood Park represents a valuable contribution to the community, as well as promoting design and horticultural excellence in our parks. This initiative follows other successful Parks, Forestry and Recreation partnerships that encourage community engagement and participation in park stewardship.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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