

Proposed Shared Use Sports Field with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) at McCowan Road Park

Date:	June 8, 2012
To:	Government Management Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 38 - Scarborough Centre
Reference Number:	P:\2012\Cluster A\PFR\GM15-062712-AFS#15810

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek authority from Council to enter into an Agreement with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to allow the TDSB to construct a soccer field on City-owned parkland to the immediate north of John McCrae Public School. (Appendix "A")

If Council approves the recommendation put forward in this report, the TDSB will be responsible for all costs associated with construction of the field and the ongoing maintenance throughout the term of the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council grant authority to enter into an Agreement with the TDSB for use of a shared use soccer field at McCowan Rd Park for a term of 20 years in a form and content acceptable to the City Solicitor;
2. City Council allow the TDSB, at its sole expense, to construct a shared use soccer field on city-owned parkland at McCowan Rd Park to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division; and,
3. City Council authorize and direct the appropriate City officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no impact on the Capital budget.

The demand for permitted use is unknown at this time. Therefore, any permit revenues realized at this location would be reported through the 2014 Operating Budget.

ISSUE/BACKGROUND

The TDSB approached the City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division (PFR) with a recommendation to build a shared use soccer field directly to the north of John McCrae Public School on City of Toronto owned parkland. In 2012, the TDSB, through the Toronto Lands Corporation, sold McCowan Rd Public School, which is located directly to the east of John McCrae Public School, to the Toronto French Catholic School Board (TFCSB), along with the school building itself. The sale also included a sports field that was shared between both schools.

The student population of John McCrae Public School has increased significantly due to this facility absorbing the students from McCowan Rd Public School. The population is expected to further increase at John McCrae as it will also be absorbing the student population from nearby Pringdale Gardens Public School. Due to this significant population increase, a lack of available sports fields exists, prompting TDSB to approach the City for use of the adjacent parkland to build a soccer field.

The City and TDSB have been in discussions on this matter and have agreed, in principal, on the following points:

- The TDSB will hold a public meeting in June to address any concerns the community may have.
- Estimated construction costs of approximately \$330,000 will be paid for by the TDSB.
- City staff will maintain the field and chargeback all costs to the TDSB (approximately \$13,000 annually).
- TDSB will have exclusive use of the space during school hours.
- The City will have exclusive use of the field after school hours, on weekends and during the entirety of the school board's summer break. The City will be able to permit the field during its exclusive use period.
- There will be no artificial lighting on the field.
- Parking will be provided for the general public in the adjacent TDSB lot.
- All existing trees affected by the construction will be relocated within the park at the sole expense of the TDSB.
- City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division's Technical Services Unit will grant approval prior to any work being undertaken on the site.

COMMENTS

The subject site along with John McCrae Public School sits on a retired landfill. The site is monitored by City staff on a regular basis. All work that will be undertaken on the site by the TDSB will be approved by the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Solid Waste Divisions.

The subject site was previously home to a baseball diamond which was used by both John McCrae Public School students along with the general public; the baseball diamond was removed a number of years ago.

Both Parks, Forestry and Recreation, as well as the TDSB anticipate that this field will see significant usage by the students and the community.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Appendix A



Proposed Shared Use Sports Field with TDSB at McCowan Road Park