

## **Entering into an Agreement with Artscape at Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park)**

**Date:** March 3, 2023

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Toronto Centre - 13

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to seek authority from City Council to enter into a non-exclusive nominal fee licence agreement with Toronto Artscape Inc., a registered charity. The agreement would initiate a community partnership to govern the use of park space and provide community programming at Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park) and the adjacent road allowance. These outdoor spaces were built as part of the Regent Park redevelopment to facilitate public programming and events. The proposed agreement would facilitate enhanced community programming through a collaboration with Artscape.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the General Manager, Transportation Services, to negotiate and sign on behalf of the City of Toronto a non-exclusive nominal fee licence agreement with Toronto Artscape Inc., for a term of three years with a renewal term of up to three years at the General Manager's discretion, for the purposes of providing community programming at Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park) and the adjacent road allowance, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and General Manager, Transportation Services, and in form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park) is a 1,289 square meter strip of hardscaping that includes street trees and benches, and is surrounded by sidewalk, either privately owned or part of the public road allowance. It has hosted permitted events in 2015 (3), 2017 (3) and 2018 (1), generating a total of \$415.21 in permit revenue. Several permits were under the free-of-charge Arts in the Park booking category.

The proposed licence agreement would be non-exclusive, meaning other groups could book the space when the Licensee is not using it.

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendation included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting on October 13, 2016, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted a recommendation for an official name (Spectrum Park) for the linear park at 81 Regent Park Boulevard.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2016.TE19.31>

At its meeting on July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2016, City Council authorized to replace the pedestrian crossover with traffic control signals at Dundas Street East at Regent Park Boulevard, connecting Regent Park's "big park" to Regent Park Boulevard to the south.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2016.MM20.4>

At its meeting of March 20, 2014, City Council adopted the Final Report which recommended approval of the Regent Park - Phase 3 - Development Context Plan which described the provisions for the linear park as public space on the east side of Regent Park Boulevard.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2014.TE30.10>

## COMMENTS

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In the recent past, the Regent Park neighbourhood has undergone revitalization and the development of various public spaces as social infrastructure to serve the community. In 2014, the community's central park, also called Regent Park (known locally as the "big park") was completed. In the same year, a new public space was completed on the east side of Regent Park Boulevard, Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park).

This 1,289 square meter plaza, also referred to as a linear park, was part of Phase 2 construction for the Regent Park development and features paver hardscaping, pedestrian lighting, outdoor furniture, seating areas as well as street trees. Toronto Community Housing Corporation was responsible for the construction of the park, which has been subsequently transferred to the City of Toronto as parkland, and is now managed by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park) is located at 81 Regent Park Boulevard and was built to facilitate public programming and events. This vision has yet to be fully realized, in part due to challenges created from overlapping jurisdictions. The proposed agreement would establish a collaboration with Toronto Artscape Inc., which already manages the nearby Daniels Spectrum and outdoor Daniels Spectrum Courtyard for community benefit. The agreement would also provide authority to Artscape to facilitate enhanced community programming, including the ability to hold community events in the space, under terms and conditions acceptable to the General Managers of Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Transportation Services, with adequate notice to staff and area residents and businesses.

The proposed licenced area would include the road allowance immediately adjacent to the linear park, as outlined in Attachment 1. The entire licenced area shares the same paver surface treatment.

In addition to programming in the licenced area, the community has expressed a desire to occasionally expand the programming space by closing Regent Park Boulevard. The road (one-way southbound) was designed with this purpose in mind, through both the choice of a paver substrate that continues the look and feel of the plaza area, and a modified curb that channels water and delineates the space but allows for easy accessibility. The proposed agreement cannot include the road in the licenced area due to City requirements for road closures. However, the agreement would outline a clear path for submitting road closures applications through the standard Transportation Services process, to facilitate community programming. Closing the road would also create a contiguous event space with the outdoor Daniels Spectrum Courtyard on the west side.

The north end of Regent Park Boulevard has traffic signals to promote safe crossing at Dundas Street East, between Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park) and Regent Park ("the big park") and the Pam McConnell Aquatic Centre. This would help knit together these key pieces of Regent Park's social infrastructure.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Janie Romoff  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 – Proposed Licenced Area, Regent Park Boulevard Park

# Attachment 1 – Proposed Licenced Area, Regent Park Boulevard Park

## Schedule A – Licenced Area

### Red Border – Licenced Area

- Green Border – Spectrum Park (Regent Park Boulevard Park) (PFR)
- Yellow Border – Road Allowance (Transportation)

