



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Dave Semple
Director of Parks and Public Works Operations
Re: Garden City Community Park - Play Environment Concept Plan

To Parks, Rec and Culture - Mar 27, 2007
Date: March 13, 2007
File: 06-2345-20-MNOR1/Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That the concept plan for the Garden City Community Park – Play Environment be approved.

Dave Semple
Director of Parks and Public Works Operations

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Community Recreation		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO
			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Garden City Play Environment has long been identified as a key component of the Garden City Community Park master plan, which was approved by City Council in 1998. Conceptual planning for the play environment, which was approved to begin in the fall of 2006, is now complete (see attachment 1) and the consultants are ready to proceed to the detailed design stage. The purpose of this report is to bring the concept plan forward for approval by City Council, so that the design may be used as the basis for construction documentation, and the work scheduled to begin in June 2007.

Analysis

Garden City Community Park is the southeast “jewel” of the City Centre’s necklace of parks, that will also include Minoru Park, the Olympic Oval site, the waterfront along the Middle Arm, and potentially the Garden City lands. This park will provide essential recreational and open space opportunities to a rapidly growing population living within Richmond’s City Centre.

A Project Committee comprised of City staff and community and local school P.A.C. representatives was formed to work with the consultant team of landscape architects (space2place design inc.) and play specialists (POD Design) to undertake the design of the play environment. This committee has met on a regular basis since October 2006, and its work program has included extensive consultation with children, staff, parents from Anderson School, Cook, and General Currie School in workshops held in the classroom, and display settings within the schools, and with residents of the City Centre at a Public Open House held at Richmond City Hall on January 25, 2007.

The vision for the play area is for it to provide children (and adults) with a rich diversity of creative play opportunities and learning experiences, and that it reinforces Garden City Community Park as a great place unto itself for community activities and celebration. The concept selected for refinement has been called the “Green Heart Discovery Park” (see attachment 1), which focuses on a play environment that is more natural in character, where play and social areas are integrated throughout the site, connected by meandering pathways and organized around a central common play area. Natural elements such as logs, sand, rocks, water, and plantings will offer opportunities for discovery, mystery and adventure, while other play structures will be selected to provide unique and lasting play value.

The Park Committee; Anderson, General Currie, and Cook School communities; and other City staff members have all enthusiastically embraced this approach to the design of the site. Choices have been made so that the play environment will:

- encourage children to connect and interact with nature and the outdoor world;
- provide places to learn;
- stimulate the senses;
- offer creative and social play opportunities;

- provide physical challenges;
- contain settings for gathering, socializing, and performing; and
- be inclusive of all age groups

Implementation of this design plan will represent a bold departure from conventional playground development, and will result in a playground that will be unique within Richmond, and perhaps the surrounding region.

Financial Impact

The approved 2006 and 2007 Parks Capital Programs together include \$1,000,000.00 for the construction of this play environment project.

Conclusion

The conceptual design process for the Garden City Community Park - Play Environment has concluded after a very successful collaborative effort amongst City Centre community and school representatives, City staff, and the consultants (see attachment 2). The plan is largely a result of direct input received from the school children of three City Centre based schools, and City Centre residents, and will provide for an exciting mixture of natural and traditional play features.

Approval of the concept plan prepared by the project team will ensure that construction can begin as scheduled in June 2007.




Clarence Sihoe
Park Planner
(3311)

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GARDEN CITY PLAY ENVIRONMENT

City of Richmond

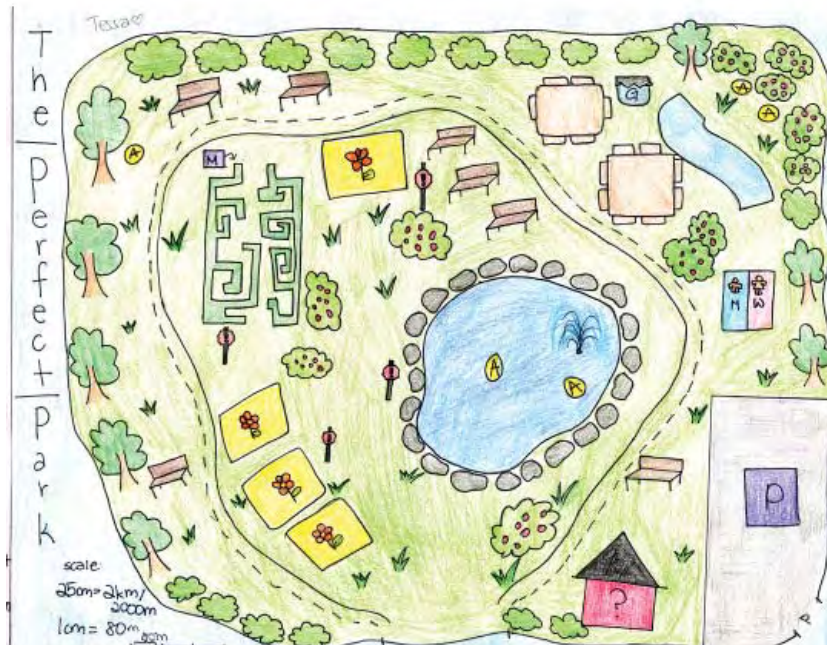
March 2007

space  place











Character



Connectivity



Chance



Challenge



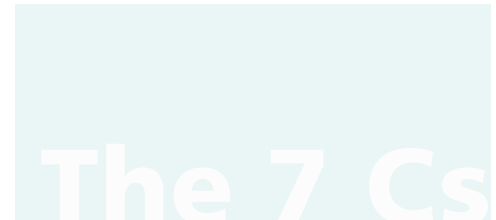
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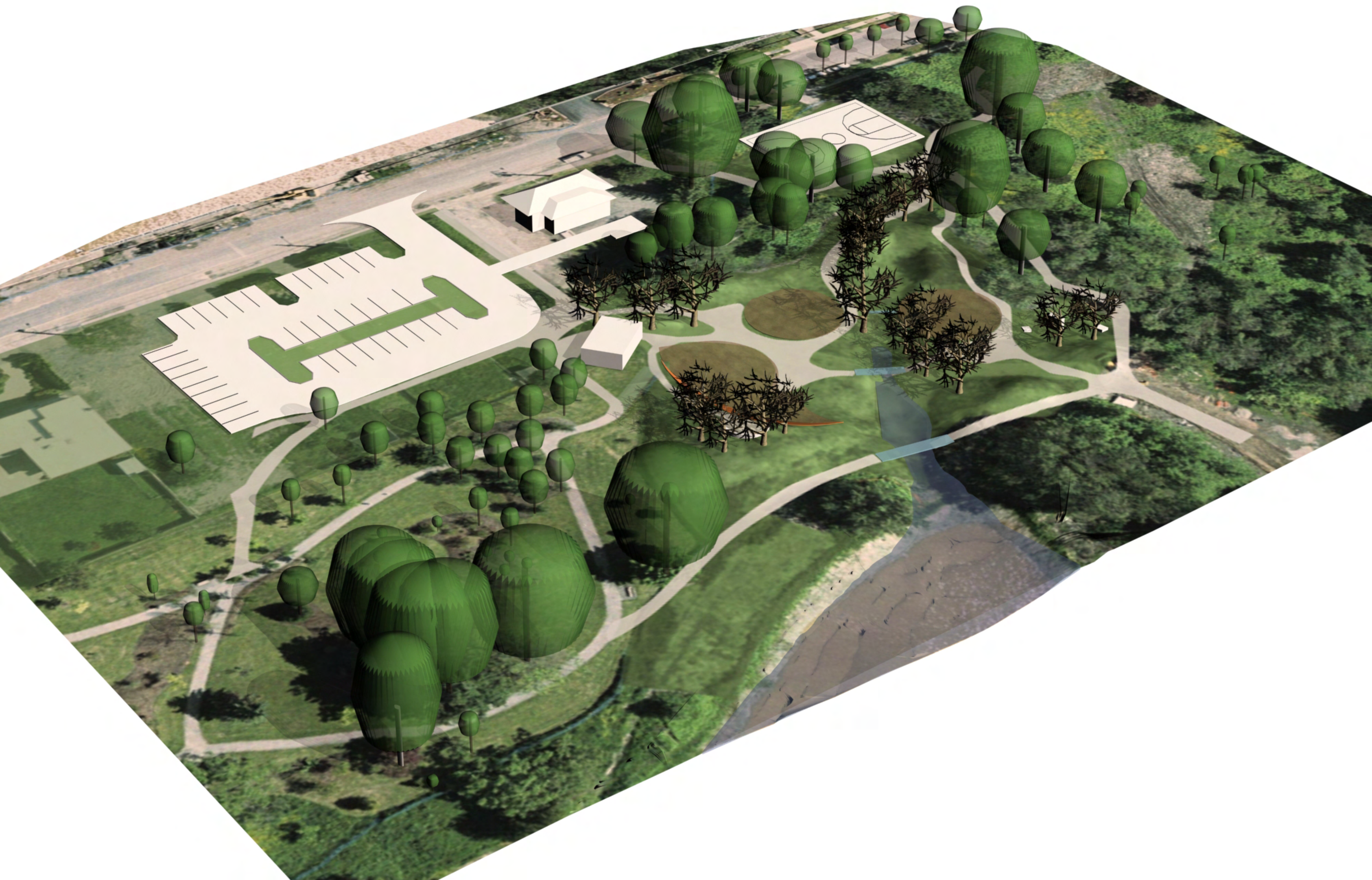


Change



Clarity







EXISTING FOREST

ENTRY FEATURE

WASHROOM

ENTRY PLANTING

MOUND

BOULDERS

LAWN

0-5 PLAY AREA

SEATING

STEPPING STONES

VALLEY

REFLEXOLOGY PATH

MOUNTAIN

SAND

MOUND

WATER SOURCE

PLANTING MAZE

WATER CHANNEL

SKATE LEDGE

BOULDERS

ROPE BRIDGE

WATER PLAY FEATURE

TIRE SWING

6-10 PLAY AREA

RUBBERIZED CLIMBING SLOPE

HILL SLIDE

LOG FINGERS

BRIDGE

11+ PLAY AREA

BEACH

SAND

SAND

MASSIVE TREE STUMP

BOULDERS

MOUND

LAWN

MOUND

EXISTING UTILITY KIOSK

EXISTING FOREST

GARDEN CITY PARK
PLAY ENVIRONMENT
RICHMOND BRITISH COLUMBIA

EXISTING VEGETATION

POND

ARBORETUM

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

TERRACES

MOUND

LAWN



