



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** May 10, 2010
From: Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks and Recreation **File:** 06-2345-20-
MCLS1/Vol. 01
Re: Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park Completion

Staff Recommendation

That the Paulik Park community gardens be located as per Option 2 shown in Attachment 4 of the staff report entitled "Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park Completion," dated May 10, 2010 from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation.

Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks and Recreation
(604-233-3350)

Att. 4

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
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

On April 27, 2010, Council made the following referral regarding Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park;

“That staff investigate and provide a written report at the next Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting on the most appropriate location for community garden plots in Paulik Park, 7620 Heather Street, and that a map be provided indicating land subsequently purchased since the initial garden plan was drawn up.”

Development of Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park began with Council approval of the Preferred Concept Plan in 2004 (Attachment No. 1). In 2005, approximately two-thirds of the park was developed with the remaining area continuing as residential use.

Some key events have influenced the timing of the completion of the park and will inform the remaining development:

- Removal of three (3) houses; the Paulik family house at 7620 Heather St., the former caretaker house at 7571 Ash Street, and the imminent demolition of the house at 7551 Ash Street.
- The land exchange with the School District No. 38 which has resulted in the inclusion of 7611 Ash Street in the park and the use of the house for a caretaker suite.
- The decision by the School District No. 38 not to locate an elementary school on their lands to the south of the park.

The elements of the Preferred Concept Plan still to be developed are:

1. Community garden with approximately 20 plots.
2. Open lawn area for informal games and active recreation. This has become a higher priority since the change in the School District's plans.
3. Strengthening songbird habitat throughout the park but especially in the northern half of the park.
4. A frog pond to interpret the historical use of part of the park as a nursery for water gardens and to support songbird habitat.
5. All-weather pathways through the garden to improve accessibility and a terrace/seating area interpreting the former Paulik home.

Park construction will begin in August and the work will be completed in the Fall of this year.

Analysis

The Preferred Concept Plan has been updated to reflect current influences and current uses (Attachment No. 2 Concept Plan Update). The addition of 7611 Ash Street through the purchase of 7651 Ash St. by the School District No. 38 (adding 0.44 acres to the park) is identified, as are two options for the location of the community gardens. The location options for the community garden under consideration both have the following attributes:

- at the street edge of the park to facilitate access by community gardeners, for materials delivery (soil, manure, etc.), and for City crews doing maintenance activities.
- good exposure to sunlight.
- enough space for approximately 20 plots and the associated storage and composting areas.
- adequate on-street parking.

The community garden will have a variety of plot sizes and configurations to accommodate gardeners of all abilities. It will also have a structured edge in the form of a low fence or a combination of fence and low hedge to give it a regular, orderly appearance from the street.

Option 1 – Heather Street between the forest and Paulik Gardens (Attachment No. 3)

This option focuses gardening activities on the west side of the park and takes advantage of the similar needs of the volunteer gardeners working in Paulik Gardens and the community gardens such as the existing water connection and materials delivery, storage and pick-up area. This location places parking for both user groups on Heather Street. Improvements to the road edge are needed to better facilitate parking for the current volunteer gardeners and would be expanded to accommodate community garden access.

In this option, the Ash Street side of the park would provide more active recreation opportunities at a distance from the Gardens to reduce the possibility of conflict between park users. The space required for groups to engage in informal sports and games can be accommodated in the area between the new caretaker house and the private properties to the north.

Some members of the Garden Club, who actively work the Paulik Gardens, have concerns about this location as they feel the look of the community gardens does not fit with the look of the more formal gardens.

Option 2 – Ash Street adjacent to private property, north of the caretaker house (Attachment No. 4)

This option locates the community garden at a distance from Paulik Gardens to create separation between the different aesthetics of the Garden and the community garden. This location would require an additional water connection and would have a separate materials delivery, storage and pick-up area. Improvements to the road edge would be made to both the Heather Street and Ash Street frontages to better accommodate parking.

In this option, the size of the active recreation area would be reduced and a buffer would be needed to mitigate potential conflicts between active uses and the garden plots. On the Heather Street side, the lawn area between Paulik Gardens and the forest would remain as is and can accommodate small scale play or more passive uses like picnicking. The area would be monitored over time to determine if buffers along the edges are required to protect the forest floor and the garden edges.

This is the preferred option as it does not create concerns for frequent park users including the Garden Club.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with the referral. The implementation of the updated plan is included in the current Capital Plan.

Conclusion

Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park is well used by the neighbourhood and other community members. The completion of the park will expand the range of opportunities for people to enjoy visiting the park and to participate in recreational and wellness activities. The inclusion of community gardens will be a benefit to the neighbourhood and to City Centre.



Jamie Esko
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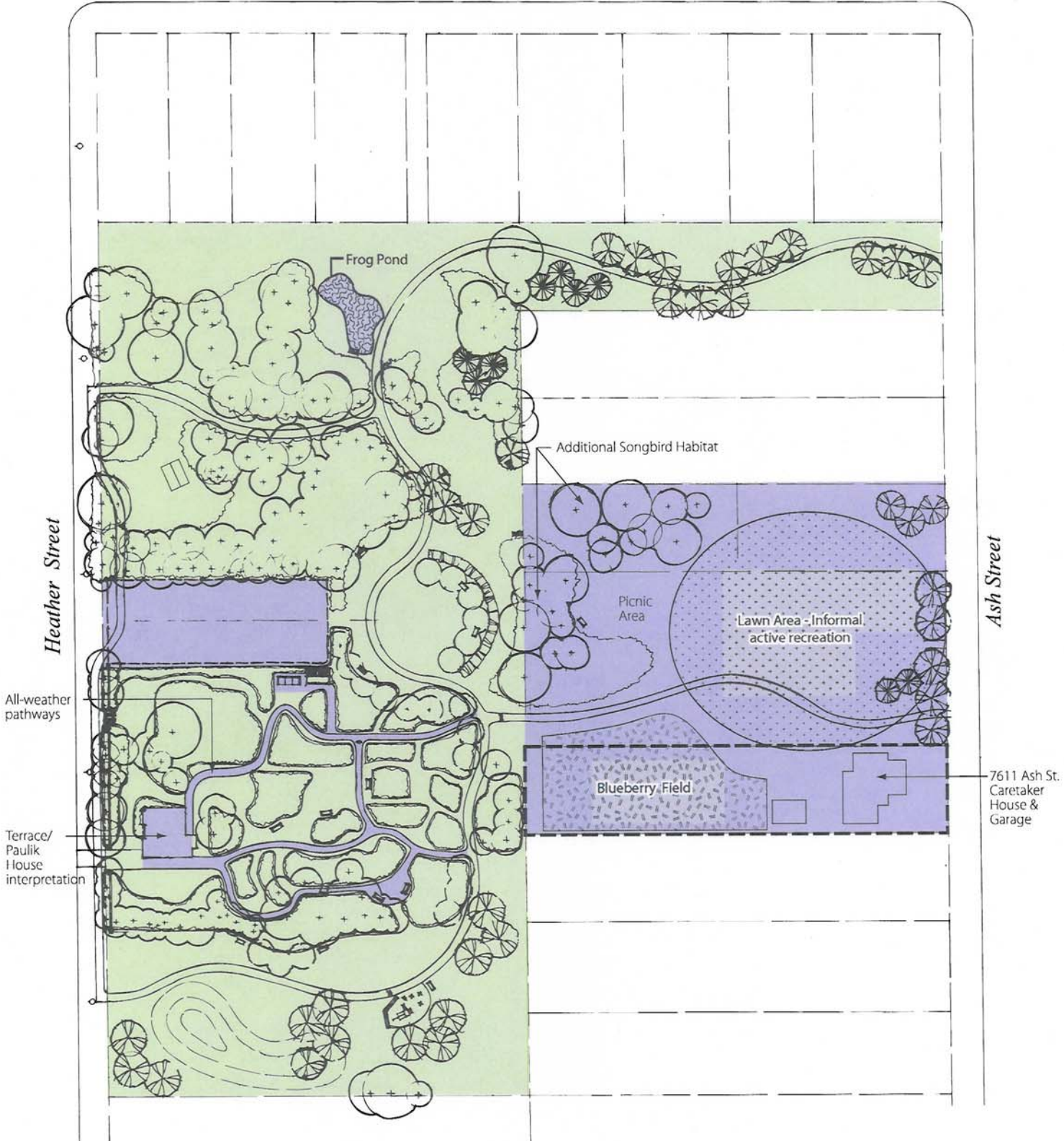
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General Currie Road



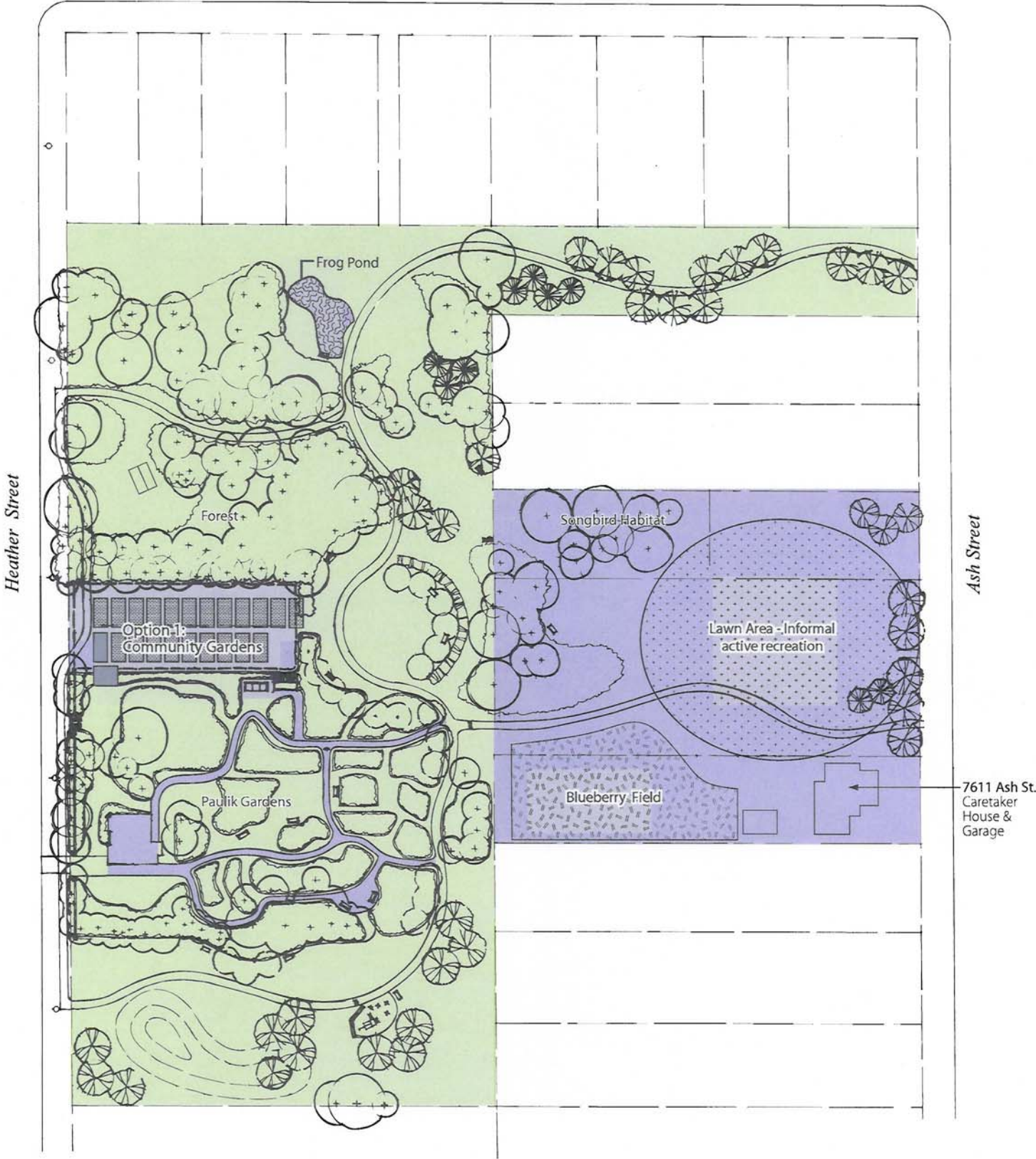
Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park
2004 Original Concept Plan

General Currie Road



Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park
2010 Concept Plan Update

General Currie Road



Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park
2010 Community Garden Location | Option 1

General Currie Road



Paulik Gardens Neighbourhood Park
2010 Community Garden Location | Option 2