




To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee **Date:** February 23, 2012

From: Dave Semple, General Manager, Parks and Recreation **File:** 06-2345-20-WOOD1/Vol 01

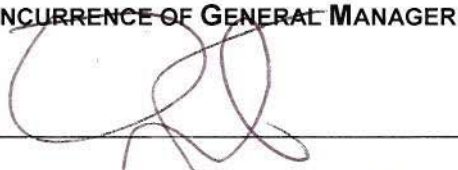

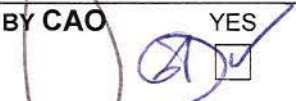
Re: **Woodward School/Neighbourhood Park Characterization Plan**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the “Woodward School/Neighbourhood Park Characterization Plan” (as detailed in the report dated February 23, 2012, from the General Manager, Parks) be approved.
2. That staff seek approval for implementation of the plan from School District No. 38 (Richmond).
3. That the funds held for Thomas Kidd School/Neighbourhood Park be transferred to Woodward School/Neighbourhood Park, and be included in the 5 year Financial Plan (2012-2016).
4. That the plan be forwarded to the School Board Liaison Committee for information.


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

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Budgets.....	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 purpose of this report is to present a plan for proposed improvements at Woodward School/Neighbourhood Park.

In the fall of 2011, the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and administrative staff at Daniel Woodward Elementary School approached the Parks Division to investigate if approval could be obtained to do park characterization work at their school/neighbourhood park site. Following thorough consultation with the PAC group, the Woodward School principal, and School District Operations staff, a potential park upgrade program that would benefit school children and neighbourhood residents alike, was developed.

Analysis

Woodward School Neighbourhood Park is approximately 9 acres in size, and is the home of Daniel Woodward Elementary School. It is located in the area bounded by Williams Road and Steveston Highway to the north and south, and by No. 5 Road and Shell Road to the east and west. Although the properties of the site are owned entirely by School District No.38 (Richmond), this land also serves as the neighbourhood green space for the local residents. There are a few trees and some playground features but the site lacks walking pathways and a storm drainage system, features which are typical of most school/park sites.

A plan for renewal of the open space at the site has been prepared. See Attachment 1. Proposed basic improvements include:

School District Improvements

Play structure: The main play structure, owned and maintained by the School District, reached the end of its lifespan last year, and was removed in the late summer 2011. It is scheduled for replacement this summer, with funding provided by the provincial government, the Woodward School Parent Advisory Committee, and School District No.38 (Richmond). A local developer has also been approached for financial assistance. This work will be managed by School District staff.

Proposed City Improvements

Asphalt walkway: An asphalt walkway will be constructed within the south portion of the park. Parts of this circuit will be marked by distance markers, serving as a useful recreational amenity for walkers and joggers, and for the school's physical education program. Connections will also be made to existing pathways that extend to surrounding streets, which will encourage students and park users to walk to the site. Estimated cost: \$ 69,300;

Storm drainage: A drainage line will be installed around the south part of the park's perimeter, and within some high use areas of the park. This will help keep pathways dry, direct water away from adjacent residences, and extend the season of use of playfields, the playground, and informal lawn areas. Estimated cost: \$ 58,500.

Trees: Trees will be planted throughout the grounds, a double row aligning the pathways, and in groves within the gathering spaces and picnic sites. Healthy trees bring natural beauty into the park, and also provide benefits to the community by absorbing carbon dioxide; replenishing oxygen; filtering particulate pollutants; preventing soil erosion; creating shade from the sun's rays; and providing food and shelter for wildlife. Estimated cost: \$ 30,000

Sports fields: The site is large, and space has been reserved for active sports use. A senior soccer field and two junior fields have been included in the plan, as well as two ball diamonds. These two facilities will serve neighbourhood residents and the school physical education program, and may be used on occasion by organized sports groups. Two new backstops for community use are proposed to be installed at the park this summer. Estimated cost: \$ 6,000.

Social Gathering/Informal Recreation area: A large area within the park, next to the existing playground, has been set aside for informal recreation. The concept includes groves of shade trees and landscaped berms, and provides seating and picnicking areas for park users. The playground will also be able to expand into this area, in necessary. Phase one will include berm construction, using fill excavated from the new pathway areas. Estimated cost: included in pathway construction.

Next Steps

Council approval will permit staff to present the proposed park improvements to School District No. 38 (Richmond) for approval, as the proposed works occur on school district property. Subject to School District No. 38 (Richmond) approval, construction would be completed prior to the start of the school season in September 2012.

Financial Impact

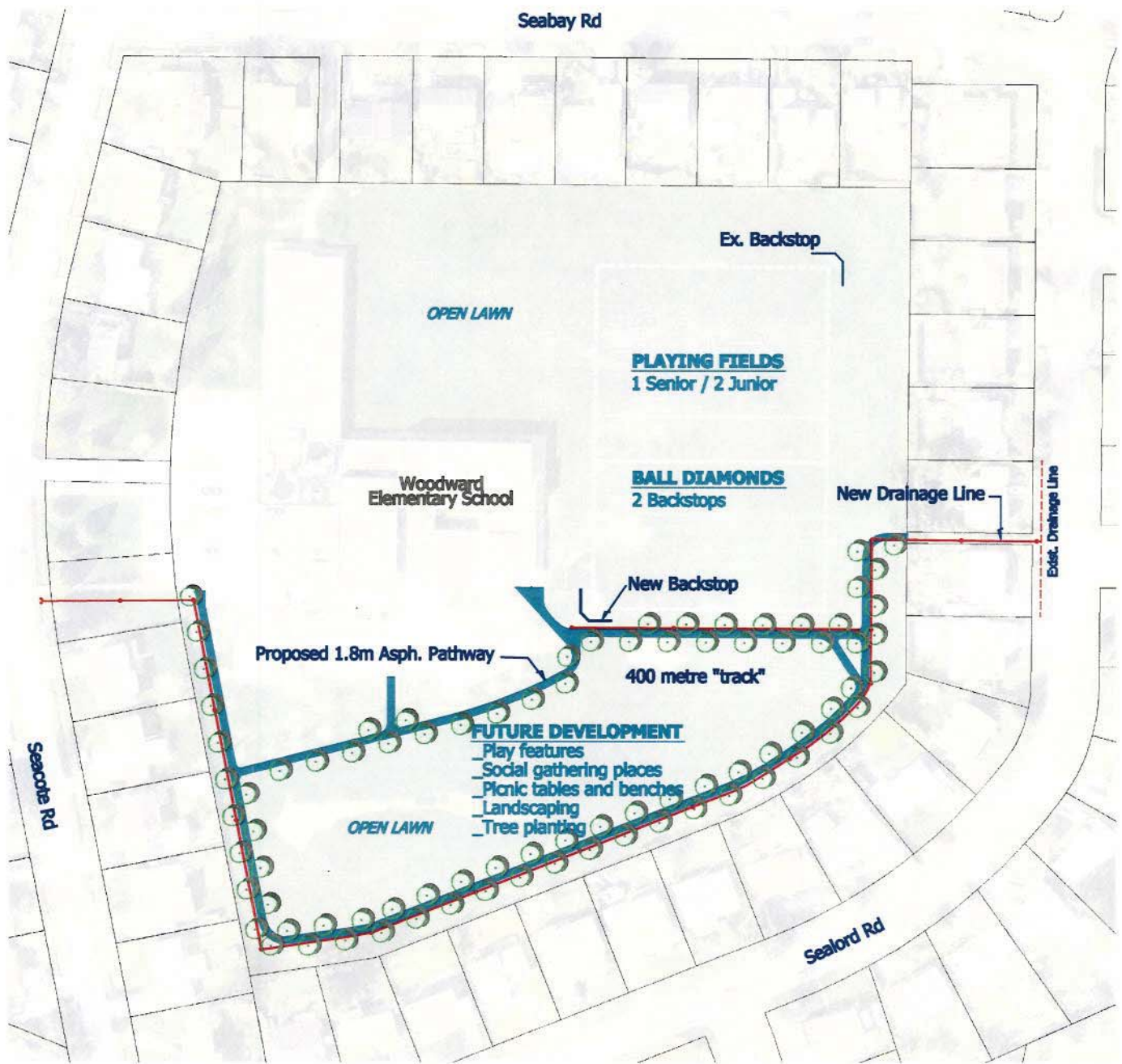
The budget estimate for construction of the site works to be coordinated by City work forces is \$ 163,800.00. The funding for the asphalt walkway, storm drainage and sports fields (\$133,800) is from a developer contribution that was originally intended for improvements at the Thomas Kidd site. However, due to community demands these improvements were made prior to receiving the monies from the developer and were funded from the 2007 Parks Characterization Capital account. Staff recommend that these developer contributed funds be transferred to the 2012 Parks Characterization account for use at Woodward School/Neighbourhood Park. Costs of \$30,000 for tree planting will be funded from the Tree Compensation fund.

Conclusion

This report details a proposal to expand the range of park and recreation services offered at Woodward School Neighbourhood Park. The site will be improved by the addition of trees, a pathway system, and storm drainage lines, and the park experience for the local residents and school children will be greatly enhanced. Woodward School/Neighbourhood Park will become a place of greater sociability, comfort, access and activity.



Clarence Sihoe
Park Planner



Woodward School / Neighbourhood Park - Characterization Plan

JAN. 2012 - NOT TO SCALE