



Corporate Report

NO: R102

COUNCIL DATE: May 2, 2005

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 20,
2005**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning
and Development & General
Manager, Parks, Recreation
and Culture** FILE: **6140-20
(Holland Park)**

SUBJECT: **Holland Park – Refinements to the Master
Plan and Construction Schedule**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

BACKGROUND

In July 2004, Council approved the conceptual Master Plan for the renovation of Holland Park, the City's first urban park. The approved plan is attached as Appendix I. Since plan adoption, City staff and the consultants have refined the design to better suit the project budget and to ensure the protection of significant trees. The Parks Recreation and Culture Department arranged tree transplanting and a community plant salvage event in January 2005, following the groundbreaking ceremony. Approximately 75 large specimen trees were removed by tree spade and transplanted to another park in north Surrey, where they provided an instant landscape effect. Up to 100 shrubs were transplanted at the same time. Many local residents participated in the community plant salvage day at the end of January. Park Operations North staff helped local residents dig and pot shrubs, perennials and spring bulbs for re-use.

DISCUSSION

The revised Master Plan for Holland Park is attached as Appendix II. It maintains the spirit of the original design, but better integrates existing trees into the design. Key changes include a reduction of pavement and concrete works to reduce costs, removal of the proposed creek bed to ensure tree protection and integration of newly acquired lots along the south limit of the Park. The revised Plan includes:

- A central focal point water feature, including a stage and landform seating;
- "Roseholly Gardens", commemorating the Holland family homestead;
- Formal tree lined promenades, approaching the water feature and garden;
- A gravel walking loop, one kilometre in length, with distance markers;
- A major plaza, including a public art installation (pebble mosaic) and a sign identifying the Park at King George Highway and 100 Avenue;

- Vertical and sculptural artwork integrated into the Surrey Parkway entry;
- An events lawn for public gatherings and passive use;
- Preservation of many valuable trees, with low branches limbed up and crowns thinned to allow low native shrub and ground cover growth underneath;
- Space for a future playground and neighbourhood amenities; and
- An enhanced parking lot.

A horticultural theme is surfacing through the design process. Staff has been in contact with a specialty dahlia grower and a new variety of dahlia is being created especially for this project. It bears a very large, bright yellow, freestanding flower that will be named the "Holland Park Dahlia". The intention is to unveil the Holland Park Dahlia in large numbers in pots, planters and gardens in a colourful display for the park opening next year. A dahlia design will be integrated into the public art and site signs.

Updated construction information signs will be posted on site in the next few weeks and construction information will be provided by direct mail to immediate neighbours of the park and open house participants. The first stage of construction is selective site clearing, with the exception of protected trees. Construction is expected to commence during the last week of July 2005, after the bird-nesting season is over.

SUMMARY

This report provides information to Council, regarding revisions to the Master Plan for Holland Park that, among other things, will act to protect more of the mature trees on the site while still allowing for the redevelopment of the park as a first class City Centre amenity. Construction of the first phases of the park redevelopment will commence in late July 2005, after the nesting season for birds has concluded.



Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Murray Dinwoodie
General Manager,
Planning and Development

TAM:dlg:saw

Attachments:

Appendix I Approved Plan
Appendix II Revised Master Plan

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Appendix I



Appendix II

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