

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mill Woods Park has long served as a community focal point, supporting many family activities throughout the year and on special occasions. It is important that the park site receives the attention it deserves and that it generates positive feelings of ownership and pride in the community. The quality of the sport fields is very important, but the functionality of the site and the aesthetics are equally important.

The park is located on a 40 ha site in south Edmonton and contains many amenities including: two high schools and the Mill Woods Recreation Centre at the northeast corner; a large stormwater management facility and spray park at the east side of the site; and a number of sport facilities throughout the site including: ball diamonds, soccer and football fields, track and field facilities, tennis courts, a cricket pitch, and a skateboard park. A Parks operations yard and regional staging area for maintenance crews is centrally located in the park.

This study was funded by the Parks Branch of Asset Management and Public Works to assess various proposals received for development within the park, and specifically to:

- review and refine the current concept plan with input from the stakeholders
- prepare an implementation strategy including budget estimates for construction and proposed staging for improvements

The Master Plan was developed through a physical site review and a series of stakeholders meetings and open houses. Some of the key elements which will help maintain and strengthen the park's role in Mill Woods include:

- an attractive central amenity building which is shared between the various sport groups and the public which will foster pride and a feeling of ownership in the park.
- a small amenity building with public washrooms which will be a welcome addition for the many families who use the spray park
- provision of additional parking, located to serve sportfield user groups which will improve efficiency of use and help prevent congestion on the internal park road.
- expansion of the current high standard of landscaping throughout the park.
- a functional trail system which will encourage walking and cycling through the park instead of driving.

A five year time frame has been suggested for completion of the park upgrading. Full development will require a partnership between the City of Edmonton and the sport groups who use the site. The City will be responsible for all components that serve the general public and that relate to the parks operation and maintenance; the sport groups will be responsible for components which are specifically related to their own needs. Costs for components which serve both the public and the user groups will be shared. The proposed schedule is flexible and could be tightened with additional funding from the City and / or the sport groups.

The total budget estimate for completion of the Mill Woods Sports Site upgrading program in 2007 dollars is \$8,200,000. Expenditures in the five phases would be \$1,150,000 for phase one; \$1,150,000 for phase two; \$1,300,000 for phase three; \$3,400,000 for phase four; and \$1,200,000 for phase five. A more detailed breakdown of the funding allocation for each of the proposed five phases is included in the Implementation strategy section of the report, beginning on page 19.