



## **Press Release**

July 31, 2009  
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### **George Little Park Spirit Square**

The Spirit Square project for the revitalization of George Little Park is about to move into active construction of Phase 1 with the construction tender closing on July 30, 2009. To date, a positive community consultation process was held and the overall park concept design (Phillips-Farevaag-Smallenberg) was prepared and presented. Overwhelming feedback from community members who attended the Open House favoured removing the existing band shell and construction of a multi-use performance stage as part of the new Spirit Square plaza at the corner of Park Avenue and Emerson Street. This facility will be named in honour of Jim Ryan and the Terrace Musicians Association who were instrumental in the mid 1980s in the fundraising and construction of the old band shell.

The 2009 project will include the construction of the Spirit Square and new performance stage. This new facility will provide flexible use throughout the year and will allow concerts and other performance events to be set up for large or small audiences. The new structure will also form part of the plaza space and will be useable on a daily basis by park goers.

The ActNow BC Seniors Community Fitness Park is being installed at this time, thanks to provincial funding, and will form a key component of the park improvements in 2009. The central pedestrian pathway will have upgrades to the surface and lighting will be installed in the plaza spaces.

Emerson Street will see some significant alterations as the south end of this "parking" street will be narrowed with wide sidewalks and street trees to create a new home for the Farmer's Market. This new "Market Street" will provide an attractive space adjacent to the park and Spirit Square plaza for the successful

local farmer's market. The market will also utilize the plaza on Saturday mornings with new performance stage and opportunities for vendor stalls within the plaza. The Farmer's Market executive and vendors have expressed their "excitement" at the enhanced and permanent home that is being developed.

The development of a permanent Farmer's Market home adjacent to the Spirit Square and George Little Park provides an excellent opportunity for the City to partner with the Provincial and Federal Governments in developing affordable senior's housing on the municipal property at 4620 Davis Avenue. The City is currently working with BC Housing to finalize the site layout and permitting for the construction of 20 or more affordable housing units for senior's and the disabled. These units will be constructed in the summer of 2010 and are fully funded through a Federal/Provincial infrastructure partnership with the site being provided by the City of Terrace.

The 2009 Spirit Square and Market Street improvements are jointly funded through the Provincial Spirit Square program, ActNow BC, Tree Canada/BCTC and City of Terrace 2009 capital budget. Additional improvements are proposed for the spring of 2010 to complete "Market Street" and add further enhancements to George Little Park. This additional work is pending approval of funding through the Community Adjustment Fund administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

***Attached is the overall concept design from April 2, 2009.***

**A. EMERSON STREET**

- market, park and play

**B. SPECIAL STREETScape**

- special paving, street trees, market kiosk frames

**C. ENHANCED CHILDREN'S PLAY/WATER AREA**

- add children's garden/nature play
- add new equipment
- add spray park
- contain edges with long benches
- adjacent picnic tables
- children's hill (1.8m high) summer slide, winter toboggan

**D. SKEENA WALK**

- central walkway through park
- references the meandering and braiding of the Skeena
- lit at night

**E. SENIORS' FITNESS**

- outdoor fitness centre
- funded under a Provincial grant

**F. THE GREEN**

- maintain open lawn
- for performances, informal play
- tree planting to define edges

**G. NEW BANDSHELL/SHELTER (option A)**

- open sided with roof and staging curtains
- to be hung on structure
- flexible: for large or small performances
- for park group/event sheltered space
- seating steps
- water and electrical supply for events
- timber and steel structure

**H. THE PERGOLA**

- timber structure to define edge of plaza
- seating
- possible cover
- water/electrical for market food kiosk
- lighting within
- place for hanging banners or setting up Market Day

**I. CHILDRENS' OUTDOOR READING CIRCLE**

- library garden

**J. SPIRIT SQUARE**

- social heart
- seating, gathering, events
- sculpture as focus, public art opportunity
- possible food ie, kiosk or cafe
- farmers market could occupy on Saturdays

**K. PROPOSED CAFE**

- offers outdoor dining services for plaza
- address on Park Avenue
- architecturally defines the eastern edge of Plaza

