

17. Re: Request dated March 15, 1973 from
Burnaby Outdoor Education Association
To Build Nature Trail East of Piper Avenue
North of Burnaby Lake

ITEM 17

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 23

COUNCIL MEETING Mar. 26/73

The following is the report of the Planning Director dated March 22, 1973, regarding the above.

Since writing this report, the Planning Director has had an opportunity to discuss the matter again with Mr. Dawe to ascertain his feelings about this subject as he is specifically mentioned in the Outdoor Association letter attached. Mr. Dawe explained that his general endorsement of the concept was made without concern for such matters as land ownership, available capital funds and the like. He added that while a pre-planned approach to trailway development in the subject area might be preferable, he doubted that any ecological damage to wildlife or flora would result from the construction of the proposed trailway. Nevertheless, the staff feel strongly that a pre-planned approach is vital especially since the matter of the future jurisdiction over the Lake is not completely resolved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association be denied authority to develop additional trailways over Municipal properties in the area east of Piper Avenue; and

THAT a copy of this report item be sent to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT,
March 22, 1973.
Our File #10.250.

RE: NATURE TRAILS AROUND BURNABY LAKE -
BURNABY OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

A. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of November 27, 1972, Council resolved that the application submitted by the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association to establish nature trails in the area around Burnaby Lake be tabled until such a time as a team of naturalists from the Reifel Water Fowl Refuge was able to submit their findings of a field survey of the lake area. A further report dated February 15, 1973 was submitted outlining the principal conclusions of the survey and recommending that the applicants be authorized to develop the trailways on the north side of Burnaby Lake in accordance with the specific suggestions outlined in the Reifel report. Also indicated was the intent of the Parks and Planning Departments to meet with Mr. N. Dawe of the Reifel research group in order that the municipal staff might better assess the details of the trail system proposal as advanced by the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association.

B. SUBSEQUENT TRAILWAY CONSIDERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The above mentioned meeting was held with Mr. Dawe on February 22, 1973 at which time further consideration was given to the proposed trail extending from Still Creek along the lake edge to the Rowing Complex. The Reifel group had specifically recommended against this development and suggested instead that the new road from Sperling Avenue to the Rowing Complex be used as the sole pedestrian access to that facility. However, when it was suggested that this restricted pedestrian corridor might present certain crowd arrival and dispersal problems during the upcoming Canada Summer Games, Mr. Dawe explained that his recommendations were biased towards an ecological rather than an "active" recreational perspective, and conceded that the provision of an alternate trailway to the Rowing Complex along the lake edge would help deter uncontrolled pedestrian movements through the bog area. This indiscriminate movement, it was agreed, could do far more damage than the development of

an additional trailway, carefully located and developed. Mr. Dawe added, however, that any development of trailways in the birch grove area to the south of the Rowing Complex should be carefully preplanned and constructed under the close supervision of a naturalist.

Other matters such as the proposed floating boardwalk and its potential conflict with the rowing course were discussed, but it was agreed that this and other items could not be resolved until such a time as a development policy and plan for the lake has been prepared and adopted by the appropriate authorities.

Subsequent to this meeting the Parks Administrator advised that development of the additional Sports - Rowing Complex trailway had commenced on a closely supervised basis as had those over Municipal holdings in the area between Still Creek and Piper Avenue as previously authorized by Council.

C. PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TRAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

This department received a letter dated March 15, 1973 (see attached) from the Project Director of the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association which gave a brief progress report and requested permission to extend the trailways east of Piper Avenue into the area designated as future development zone "H" in the Reifel report (see attached sketch). The Parks and Planning Departments have reviewed this proposal and would recommend that Council not grant authorization for the trailway extension for the following reasons:

1. The proposed trailway would be situated in a future development area as designated in the Reifel report and as such should be based on a previously adopted development policy and plan for the lake as a whole.
2. Total municipal or regional park ownership of several properties immediately east of Piper Avenue and within the park has not yet been achieved which significantly reduces the trailway location options available in this area at the present time.
3. A trail east of Piper Avenue would necessitate the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Eagle Creek the funds for which are currently not available to the Outdoor Education Association or the Parks Department.

In the opinion of the Parks Department sufficient work remains to be completed in the area previously authorized by Council to keep the men employed creating useable trails until the available L.I.P. resources are depleted. That some of this work must be completed on a non-mechanized basis is to be expected in that the purpose of the project is to provide a useable pedestrian trailway in a traditionally inaccessible area.

D. RECOMMENDATION

In light of the above, it is recommended:

- 1) THAT the Burnaby Outdoor Education Association not be granted authorization to develop additional trailways over Municipal properties in the area east of Piper Ave.

Respectfully submitted,

A. L. Parr
A. L. Parr,

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

JSB:ew

att.

c.c. Parks and Recreation Administrator
Secretary, Parks and Recreation Commission
Municipal Clerk
Municipal Engineer
Land Agent

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COUNCIL MEETING Mar. 26/73

6176 Denbigh Ave.
Burnaby 1, B. C.
March 15, 1973

The Corporation of the
District of Burnaby
Municipal Hall
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby 2, B. C.

Dear Sirs:

Re: Mature trails around Burnaby Lake (file 1819). Work is progressing satisfactorily in locations C and D west of Piper street, (see attached sketch from the Neil Dave Ecology report). Hog fuel can only be placed on the trails from the Piper end of the project.

We have hired a "Bob-cat" tractor for hauling the hog fuel at a cost of \$13 per hour. We will have exhausted our permissible LIP budget by the time we reach Phillips Street. At the moment locations A and B are out of the question to work in because there is no way of getting hog fuel across Still Creek from the Sports Complex area.

For the above reasons we request permission to develop trails in area H on the sketch. This is an excellent evergreen area with a contrasting vegetation to that found closer to the Lake. Trail construction can be managed without needing very much hog fuel. I have checked with Mr. Neil Dave and he was very pleased that we would consider putting trails into area H at this time.

We are currently employing twelve unemployed men and by next week we will have fifteen.

We want to be able to keep these men employed so I would appreciate this matter to be considered at the earliest opportunity.

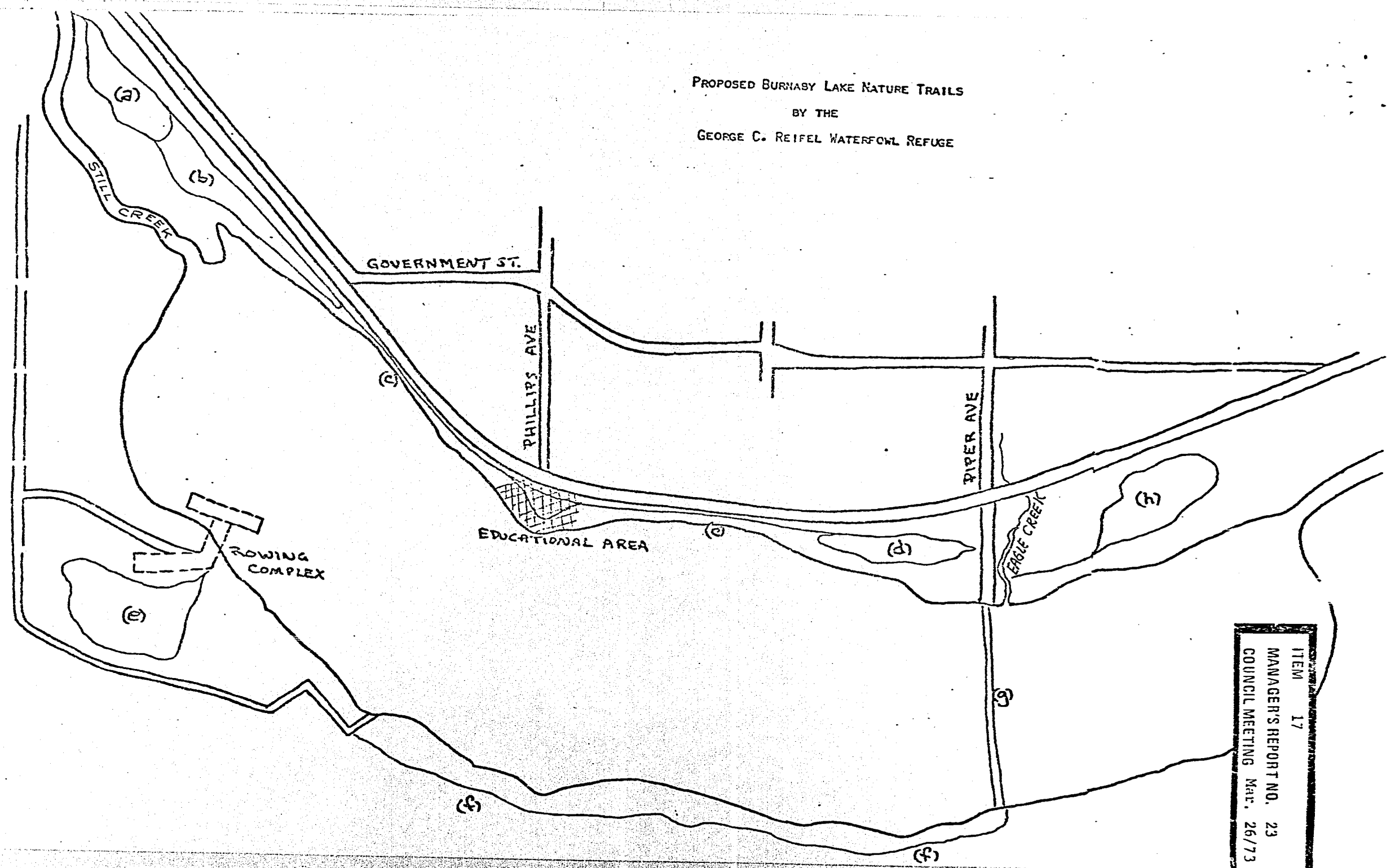
Thank you for the Consideration which this letter will receive.

Yours truly,

R. R. Gardner

R. R. Gardner
Project Director
The Burnaby Outdoor
Education Association.

PROPOSED BURNASY LAKE NATURE TRAILS
 BY THE
 GEORGE C. REIFEL WATERFOWL REFUGE



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