

2.0 A CONTEXT FOR THE DEER LAKE PARK BOUNDARY

As Council is aware, the adopted Deer Lake Park boundary was first proposed in the Oakalla Citizen's Committee Report to the Provincial Government dated 1978 July 20. In their considerations, the Citizen's committee sought extensive input from both individuals and groups having an interest in the lake and park.

The Provincial Government subsequently used the recommendations of the Citizen's Committee as the basis for the provisos associated with the conveyance of 158.34 acres of the former Oakalla lands to the Municipality. One of the provisos in the conveyance document included the following as a subject condition:

"Burnaby irrevocably set aside both the land and the adjacent municipal land as presently owned and that designated for acquisition for purposes of a park in perpetuity, for the benefit of all citizens of B.C."

One of the important sources of information considered by the Oakalla Citizens' Committee was the comprehensive Deer Lake Park Plan prepared by Torrence et. al. for the Municipality. The Torrence report emphasized the importance of including the entire bowl-shaped area in the park site in order to minimize residential intrusions within the park and to maximize views, recreation and natural landscape experiences.

Since the time of its adoption, the Deer Lake Park boundary has become recognized and accepted by the Municipality and the community. The Deer Lake Park boundary has provided the framework for policy work (including measures to improve lake water quality), design work, and property acquisition related to Deer Lake Park. Provincial and Municipal commitment to the Deer Lake Park boundary also formed the basis for a recent application for a Crown Grant to the Provincial Government for land located within the boundaries at Willingdon and Moscrop, that has subsequently been approved.

3.0 PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REVIEW

As Council is aware, in the last year the Parks and Recreation Department has been undertaking a thorough analysis of the Torrence report with the objective of creating a Master Plan for Deer Lake Park. With the review process for the Deer Lake Park Plan in mind, the Parks and Recreation Department has prepared the following statement regarding the importance of reaffirming the Deer Lake Park boundary with particular reference to Deer Lake south shore area.

Municipal Manager
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"Deer Lake Park, central to the municipality, is a feature component of Burnaby's park system. It is to be Burnaby's 'town park', a center offering a variety of active and passive leisure activities to be shared by all residents now and in the future. The existing boundaries of the park ensure a balance between ecological preservation and park development by including a variety of natural habitats and recreation building sites.

One of the treasures of Deer Lake Park is this variety of existing habitats. The conceptual park design reflects the most appropriate use for each of these areas. Contained within the southeast section of the park, which includes existing private residences, is one of the only two mixed coniferous forests left within the boundary. The other is a smaller area located east of Royal Oak. Retention of the southeast forest is essential to ensure the balance of habitats which maintain wildlife, provide vegetative diversity of interpretive value and continue additional recreational trails through the forested slopes for public enjoyment. The natural vegetation assists in intercepting and filtering out urban runoff prior to entering the water system and will help to insure that the funds expended on improving the water quality of Deer Lake are cost effective. Council will recall that the improvement of the water quality was one of the conditions of transfer of the Oakalla lands from the Province to the Municipality. The southeast forested backslopes are equally important in providing a physical and visual buffer from surrounding residential encroachment allowing park users to escape urban congestion and find relief in the natural environment.

The foreshore portion of the southeast corner of the park is also critical in providing complete public access and circulation around the lake waterfront. The southeast waterfront, including some residences further inland, occupies the only regions within the park where there is deep water for boat access, soils most suitable for building development and backslopes which are not flooded. It also provides desirable vehicular and trail access. These factors collectively make this one of the best opportunities for developing an active recreational facility with such components as boating access, tennis courts or lawn bowling. It is also the only area where such activities can be physically and visually separated from more passive uses in the park by location and by terracing activities into the slopes.

The existing park boundary has been well publicized through an Open House attended by approximately 1,000 residents. Approximately 900 questionnaires related to park design were distributed at the meeting and afterwards and 230 have been returned to date.

Any reduction of the boundary would result in a decreased opportunity for existing and future residents to benefit from a diverse park development that blends people-oriented recreational opportunities with the outstanding natural components of the site."

4.0 CONCLUSION

Considering the above factors, staff conclude that there is no benefit to the Municipality in amending the adopted boundaries of Deer Lake Park and that in fact, it would be prejudicial to the overall development and quality of the Deer Lake Park area. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will continue to negotiate with Dr. and Mrs. Medlock for acquisition of the property located at 6466 Deer Lake Drive for inclusion in Deer Lake Park.


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B-11-11

Director Recreation and Cultural Services
Municipal Solicitor