

**TO:** CITY MANAGER 1994 APRIL 06

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**SUBJECT:** BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY (PAS)

**PURPOSE:** To provide Council with information about the province's Protected Areas Strategy and to nominate Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as a candidate site.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to nominate the public land in the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area (see Figure 1) as a candidate site for protection under the province's Protected Areas Strategy, subject to detailed delineation of the site boundaries in consultation with the Burnaby-SFU Liaison Committee.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to President John O. Stubbs, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the GVRD.

**REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

On the agenda of the regular meeting of 1994 March 07, Council received correspondence from the Province of British Columbia on the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). This report outlines the intent of the process and proposes Burnaby Mountain as a candidate for inclusion in the Protected Areas Strategy, subject to detailed delineation of site boundaries in consultation with the Burnaby-SFU Liaison Committee.

**1.0 PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY (PAS)**

British Columbia's existing system of protected areas consists of ecological reserves, provincial parks and national parks. These areas include land, freshwater and marine areas that are representative of British Columbia's diverse natural, cultural and recreational values. Land and resources in protected areas may not be sold nor is resource extraction or industrial development permitted. Presently approximately 6% of the province's land base is included in designated protected areas.

British Columbia has established a target of expanding the provincial system of protected areas to 12% of the province by the year 2000. The Protected Areas Strategy is the process the province is following to achieve this target. The province is currently identifying provincially significant areas of interest for evaluation for inclusion in the protected areas system. Areas of interest will be evaluated according to how well they contribute to the two PAS goals:

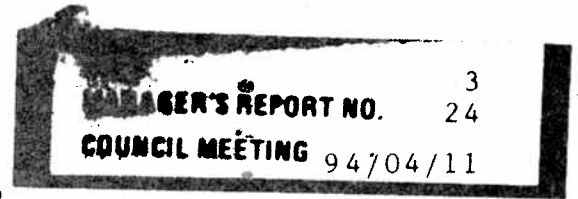
- 1) "To protect examples of major terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, characteristic habitats, hydrology and landforms, characteristic "backcountry" recreation and cultural heritage values."
- 2) "To protect examples of special natural, cultural heritage and "backcountry" recreation features including rare and endangered species, critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features and outstanding backcountry outdoor recreation features."

Lower Mainland municipalities and the Greater Vancouver Regional District have been invited to nominate candidate sites for evaluation. The deadline for nominations is 1994 April 15. Nominated sites will be reviewed and approved (or not) by an interagency committee of senior staff from many provincial ministries. A list of approved sites will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration regarding designation.

## 2.0 BURNABY MOUNTAIN

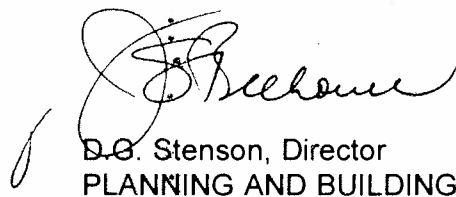
Approximately 19% of Burnaby is park or conservation area. The majority of these sites are protected through a variety of mechanisms including city ownership, park dedication by public referendum, and/or registered covenants. The public portion of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, the City's most conspicuous landmark and largest open space (approximately 800 hectares or about 8% of the City's area - see **attached** Figure 1), is of local and regional significance from a natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreational perspective. Both the City and Simon Fraser University own land in the public portion of the Conservation Area.

The conservation lands are well forested with maturing deciduous and coniferous forest. In addition to its function as a "green lung", this area provides varied habitat for a wide range of wildlife species including deer, coyotes, and raptors such as bald eagles and great horned owls. As well the conservation area is an important groundwater recharge area that protects watercourses flowing into Burrard Inlet and Burnaby Lake. Many kilometres of trails on Burnaby Mountain are enjoyed by residents of Burnaby and the region for hiking, birdwatching, and other recreational activities.



Most importantly, the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, through its prominence, location and size, is an ecological oasis in the most densely populated area of the province. This will become more important given the expected population growth for the region over the next thirty years. The Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area is identified in Burnaby's Official Community Plan (1987). The City also included the conservation area as a Green Zone site in its submission to the Greater Vancouver Regional District's Creating Our Future process. In spite of the local and regional significance of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, only a portion of the conservation area is protected as dedicated park. In order to ensure the long term protection of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, the site should be nominated as a candidate for inclusion in the province's system of protected areas. Details of the site boundaries will be resolved through discussion by the Burnaby-SFU Liaison Committee.

Nomination of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area will be reinforced by a complementary submission that the GVRD has indicated it intends to make to the PAS. Using the Green Zone as a framework, GVRD staff are preparing a submission, subject to GVRD Board approval, that will nominate Green Zone sites that are "threatened" due to inadequate or incomplete protection through ownership or land use designations that are incompatible with the Green Zone objectives. The GVRD has identified the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as the only "threatened" Green Zone site in Burnaby. The GVRD nomination of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area will emphasize the ever increasing regional significance of the open space and recreational values of the site in a highly urbanized and growing area.

  
D.G. Stenson, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

  
SG/gi

Attach. - 1

cc. Director Recreation and Cultural Services

ITEM 3  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 24  
COUNCIL MEETING 94/04/11

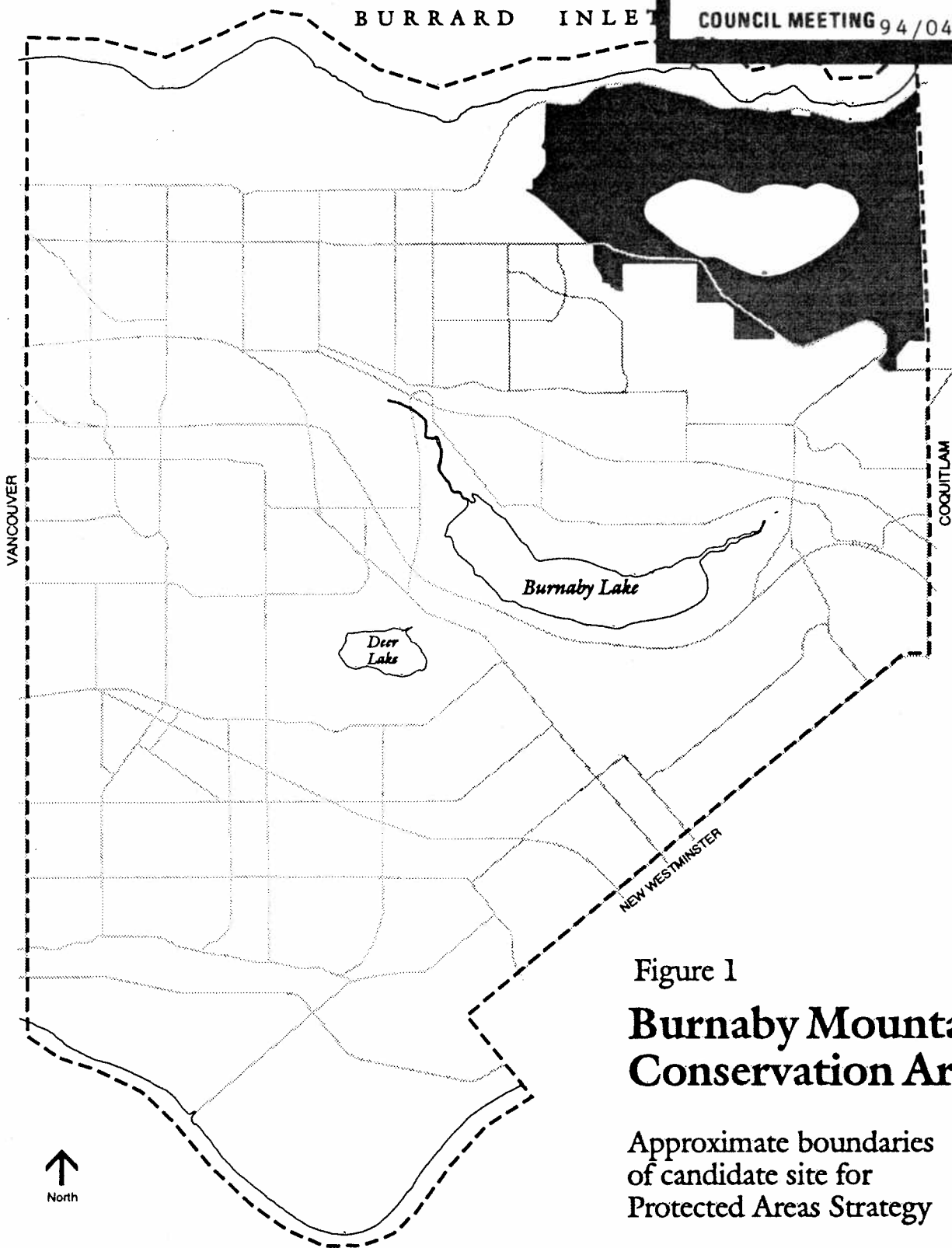


Figure 1  
**Burnaby Mountain  
Conservation Area:**

Approximate boundaries  
of candidate site for  
Protected Areas Strategy