

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF WILDLIFE AND PLANTS FROM BURNABY PARKS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the strategy for protection of wildlife as outlined in this report be approved.
2. THAT Council be asked to approve the program.

REPORT

The Commission at its meeting of 1996 January 03 received Attachment #1 from Council, with a staff notation that it would be reviewed and a report submitted.

The Burnaby Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 7331 and the G.V.R.D. Parks Regulatory Bylaw No. 745, both contain sections that protect wildlife and plants in Burnaby and G.V.R.D. Parks, and prohibit their removal, unless special written permission is granted by the respective authorities. Any infractions are reported to the R.C.M.P., who then prosecute offenders under the respective bylaws. In addition, the Federal and Provincial Wildlife & Fisheries authorities have regulations under which they carry out enforcement and prosecute offenders.

For a period of two weeks in 1995 September/October, Parks Patrol and Janitorial staff checked all the parking lots in Deer Lake Park at various times from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. No people or vehicles were seen in Deer Lake Park. Parks Patrol still continue their inspections regularly until 11:00 p.m. Most of the trails in Burnaby Lake Park are under the jurisdiction of the G.V.R.D. and their staff report that they regularly talk to visitors and educate them about the park regulations, and that they have not encountered serious infractions.

The Provincial and Federal Fisheries and Wildlife authorities have been contacted to express concerns of poaching and removal of wildlife and plants from Burnaby Parks. The two authorities state that licenses are issued for fishing and trapping crabs. Licenses for trapping crabs were only instituted in 1995. At the time that licenses are purchased, regulations are also provided to the licensee. The Provincial authorities state that since they stock Deer Lake with fish, they also patrol the area even though it is sporadic. The Western Painted Turtles are recognized as wildlife and there is no open season for them; They are in the Blue-list of B.C. Environment and are considered to be vulnerable or sensitive and are protected. Both the Federal & Provincial authorities confirm that they do respond to citizen complaints and reports of illegal poaching. The Federal Fisheries confirm that the recent fines imposed for exceeding the daily limit and being in possession of undersized crabs at Barnet Marine Park will create public awareness of the seriousness of the offenses committed and hopefully act as a deterrent to poaching. The Federal Fisheries confirm that they do patrol the waters and have signs at Barnet Marine Park indicating crab fishing regulations. They have agreed to provide staff with additional signs for Barnet Marine Park.

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Both the Provincial and Federal authorities have explained that with limited resources they try and patrol as many areas as they possibly can, but are unable to get to some areas as frequently as they would prefer. The Ministry of Environment Lands & Parks (M.O.E.L.P.) has a wildlife reporting line (1-800-663 WILD (9453) 24 hours a day. Staff from M.O.E.L.P. advised that this number is available for residents or park users to report poaching infractions and that it is an effective way of getting their Conservation Officers to the site of the reported infraction. The Provincial authorities suggested contacting the B.C. Wildlife Federation who have a Wilderness Watch Program and who have an excellent working relationship with the Provincial Fisheries and Wildlife Departments.

The Wilderness Watch Program mandate is to observe, report and record infractions of environmental legislation e.g. fish or wildlife poaching, pollution, vandalism, etc. Wilderness Watch members who conduct periodic patrols (with a minimum of two people at any one time) have no powers to confront or apprehend violators beyond those of any other citizen. Rather they are the extra eyes and ears so desperately needed by resource agencies of Federal and Provincial governments. While on patrol, all vehicles within the location are approached by the watch program volunteers. The owners of the vehicles are spoken to, offered assistance if required and explained the Wilderness Watch Program. If the vehicle is unoccupied the Wilderness Watch members leave a completed form on the windshield notifying the owner that the Wilderness Watch members were around and request the occupant to report any violations against wildlife, public and private property to the local detachment of the R.C.M.P., or the 24 hour 1-800 number of the Ministry of the Environment Lands & Parks.

In the Lower Mainland, the Wilderness Watch Program has been in operation for a couple of years at Seymour Demonstration Forest, Seymour River and Capilano River Regional Park. The Wilderness Watch Program have yellow plastic signs which are installed in various high profile locations of the parks being patrolled by the volunteers. The wording on the signs are contained in Attachment #2. G.V.R.D. staff spoke favourably about the program. Burnaby Parks Staff discussed with the Chairman of the Wilderness Watch Program the possibility of implementing a similar program for Deer Lake, the City's section of Burnaby Lake, Burnaby Mountain Park and Barnet Marine Park. The Chairman would be prepared to have members who are Burnaby residents involved in the program. Staff would sit down with the volunteers and provide guidelines and identify locations to be patrolled and signed. The R.C.M.P. have been contacted and they support the program.

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In order to make park patrons and residents aware of the program the following will be undertaken.

1. An information item will be included in the next issue of Information Burnaby, asking residents to report any violations they notice to the M.O.E.L.P. 1-800 number.
2. A copy of this report will be distributed to all residents immediately adjacent Deer Lake Park, to make them aware of the reporting procedures and to ask their assistance in watching and reporting any violaters.

The Commission is asked to endorse the B.C. Wildlife Federation's Wilderness Watch Program for Deer Lake Park, Burnaby Mountain Park, Barnet Marine Park, and the City's trails on Burnaby Lake Park. The G.V.R.D. staff at Burnaby Lake Park propose initiating their own volunteer programs for areas under their jurisdiction. Relevant sections of the Parks Regulation bylaw will be posted at the kiosks at Deer Lake Park, Burnaby Mountain Park and Barnet Marine Park. At Deer Lake, Parks Patrol will increase their patrols to ensure no infractions occur.

N.M.
BF:dm
Attachments (2)
A/main/1818

ATTACHMENT #1

COMMISSION AGENDA

DATE : 96/01/03

CORRESPONDENCE : (d)

CITY OF BURNABY
INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ITEM 9

DIRECTOR'S REPORT NO. 3

COMMISSION MEETING 96/02/07

TO: DIRECTOR RECREATION AND
CULTURAL SERVICES

DATE: 1995 DECEMBER 05

FROM: CITY CLERK

OUR FILE NO:

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF WILDLIFE AND PLANTS FROM BURNABY PARKS

At the regular Council Meeting held on 1995 December 04, Council referred the following resolution to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review:

"THAT Whereas there have been citizen complaints and inquiries regarding late night pit lamping in parts of Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake and individuals seen with wading boots, fishing nets and large buckets in the vicinity of Deer Lake, the catching of cooking of undersized crabs at Barnet Beach and harvesting of bales of ferns on Burnaby Mountain;

THERE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Staff be asked to develop a strategy, including signage, to prevent unauthorized removal of wildlife and plants from our waterways and park system, and
2. The strategy begin with our waterways, particularly Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake, and
3. Information on the signs include reference to the appropriate legislation and bylaws and provide telephone numbers for concerned citizens to report unauthorized or suspicious activities."



D. R. Combs
CITY CLERK

ERC:rf



WILDERNES WATCH

THIS AREA IS PATROLLED BY MEMBERS
OF THE B.C. WILDLIFE FEDERATION

OBSERVE, RECORD AND REPORT

Call Local R.C.M.P. Detachment or
Phone TOLL FREE 1-800-663-9453
-WILD

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