

TO : CITY MANAGER
DATE: 1996 DECEMBER 05
FROM : ACTING DIRECTOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT : **DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BURNABY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA**
PURPOSE : To provide information of the proposed process for the development of a management plan for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1996 December 04, the Parks and Recreation Commission received the attached staff report on the above subject and adopted the five recommendations contained therein.



HUGH MONROE
ACTING DIRECTOR RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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Attachment

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cc: Director Engineering
Director Planning and Building
Environmental Health

**SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
BURNABY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Commission approve the proposed process for the development of a management plan for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area.
2. THAT copies of this report be sent to the landowners within the Burnaby Mountain Conservation area and that they be asked for approval for access to conduct biophysical inventory on their property.
3. That a copy of this report be sent to all stakeholders listed within the report.
4. THAT the Burnaby Mountain Biking Club be advised that their request to have all trails designated for bike use will be considered through the master planning process.
5. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Council for information.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

On 1996, September 9, the City of Burnaby and Simon Fraser University, with the assistance of the Province's Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Project, finalized an agreement to protect the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as parkland in perpetuity. This agreement transferred 313 hectares (773 acres) below the university campus to the City, establishing a total conservation area of 578 hectares (1,428 acres).

The newly acquired land was dedicated as park land by referendum on 1996 November 16.

At the meeting of 1996 November 20, the Commission approved a notice of motion proposing that a master plan be put in place for Burnaby Mountain Park. The notice of motion recommended that:

- 1) THAT a comprehensive master plan be formed ensuring responsible stewardship of City owned, Burnaby Mountain Lands. Said plan would ensure the preservation of habitat along with natural plant and animal species, in keeping with appropriate use by the public.
- 2) THAT a staff report addressing processes and time line for the Burnaby Mountain Park Master Plan be generated.

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INTRODUCTION

The addition of 313 hectares of Simon Fraser University lands to the Burnaby Mountain Conservation area resulted in the creation of one of the largest contiguous blocks of municipal conservation land within the region. The new park boundaries and private lands remaining within the conservation area are shown on attachment #1. This prominent landmark exists largely in a natural state and possesses many natural attributes worthy of protection; extensive forest resources, diverse wildlife habitat, and many creeks which form the headwaters for two watersheds including Stoney Creek, which is likely the most productive salmon and trout stream in the City. These natural attributes complement other natural areas in the City, such as Burnaby Lake, Burrard Inlet and other conservation lands on the north shore by providing corridors for wildlife movement. The City recently initiated a planning process for the Burrard Inlet foreshore and upland areas. As part of this process, an inventory and assessment of the fisheries habitat is being undertaken for the northern slopes of Burnaby Mountain.

The park also provides a setting for outdoor recreational opportunities oriented to appreciation of the natural landscape such as, hiking, jogging, view appreciation, photography and cycling. Here again, these opportunities are enhanced by recreation/wildlife corridors such as the Urban Trail, Park Trail System and proposed River, Lakes and Mountain Trail, all of which connect recreational sites and promote access to the mountain.

In addition, Burnaby Mountain has throughout the history of Burnaby been the focus for a variety of uses and there remains a number of heritage resources within the conservation area that require further inventory and evaluation. These diverse cultural resources include potential native archaeological sites, the historic 1858 North Road Trail and the 1912 Barnet School Teacher's Cottage.

In order to protect the mountain's natural ecosystem and to continue to provide appropriate quality recreational opportunities, a comprehensive management plan is required. The objective of the plan would be to inventory and assess the state of these resources and to develop a mission statement and list of objectives and recommendations that direct future management actions to preserve, protect and enhance the conservation area. A fully integrated ecological approach is necessary to ensure the goal is met.

MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

An extensive and detailed process is proposed for undertaking the management plan. A thorough process is warranted in order to ensure an accurate inventory and evaluation of the resources and to research all the issues facing management of the newly acquired lands. The separate steps to be undertaken in a six phase program are outlined on attachment #2.

A multidisciplinary team of staff from Parks and Recreation, Planning, Engineering and Environmental Health will be formed in order to direct the management plan process. Some of the issues raised through the process will undoubtedly have implications outside of the park and will relate to all City departments. This interdisciplinary team approach has been advocated by the

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Environment and Waste Management Committee for managing complex environmental projects.

Full public input will also be key to success. Public consultation will be sought early in the process and at critical key stages throughout the evolution of the management plan. Submissions of issues from stakeholder groups will help focus the research on critical items. A tentative list of possible groups would include:

- B.C. Cycling Association (velodrome site)
- Barnet Rifle Club
- Burnaby Fish and Game Club
- Burnaby Lake Systems Project (B.C.I.T.)
- Burnaby Mountain Biking Club
- Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society
- Burnaby Streamkeepers program
- Coast Marksman
- Lougheed Area Advisory Committee
- Sapperton Fish and Game Club
- Simon Fraser University
- Stoney Creek Environment Committee
- Vancouver Natural History Society
- Landowners:
 - B.C. Hydro
 - B.C. Tel
 - G.V.S.&D.D.
 - Ministry of Transportation & Highways
 - Trans Mountain Pipeline

Currently the City has very little information of the newly acquired land. An accurate base plan or maps of existing facilities need to be created as a first step. A detailed inventory and assessment of the biophysical resources are needed to assess the existing trail system, future trail options and a survey of current use patterns. Such background research is essential in order to identify the management issues and assemble a management plan.

In order to undertake the work, supplemental staff and specialized consultant expertise will be required. Partnership programs with B.C.I.T. and S.F.U. will be sought to supplement the research. The Commission currently has \$81,000 allocated in the 1997 Provisional Capital Budget which was proposed in anticipation of needed work as a result of the new land acquisition. It is recommended that this funding be allocated for completion of the management plan. This will limit our ability to respond to emergency maintenance needs should they arise and will delay installation of identification signage completion of the master plan is regarded as a first priority. The work will be supplemented by staff on operating accounts. A request for funding approval will be brought forward to the Commission in January.

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FINAL PRODUCTS AND SCHEDULE

The final products will include a document that summarizes the inventory and assessment of the park's resources, a discussion and recommendations on the issues and management strategies, and definition of the mission statements and objectives for the new park. Recommendations will be made on areas where further action may be required. It is envisioned that a forest management plan, a wildlife management plan and recreation management plan would form components of the final report.

In addition, a park masterplan drawing will be produced to show graphically how the land-use recommendations and park programming requirements can be achieved. The plan would present the park boundaries, road network, utility corridors and location of existing and proposed facilities.

A comprehensive plan of this magnitude will require a full year or more to complete, particularly to allow ample time for collection of information on biophysical resources and allowance for ample opportunities for public input. The goal has been set to complete the study within one year so that it will be available to assist with Capital budget allocations in 1998. Current review of the departmental budgets and staffing levels may also affect scheduling. The project will be managed effectively by ensuring the study proceeds with sufficient detailed information and without timely delays.

DELEGATION FROM THE BURNABY MOUNTAIN BIKING CLUB

At the meeting of 1996 August 21, the Commission received a delegation from a spokesman from the Burnaby Mountain Biking Club, requesting that all trails on Burnaby Mountain presently being used by cyclists be designated as multi-use (hike/bike) and to be considered as a stakeholder in the masterplanning process.

Such decisions on the designation of trail use must be considered as part of the overall management plan for the park which has to consider the diverse recreational needs as well as compatibility of the activities with the biophysical resources.

The cycle club is listed as a stakeholder and will be invited to participate in the masterplanning process.

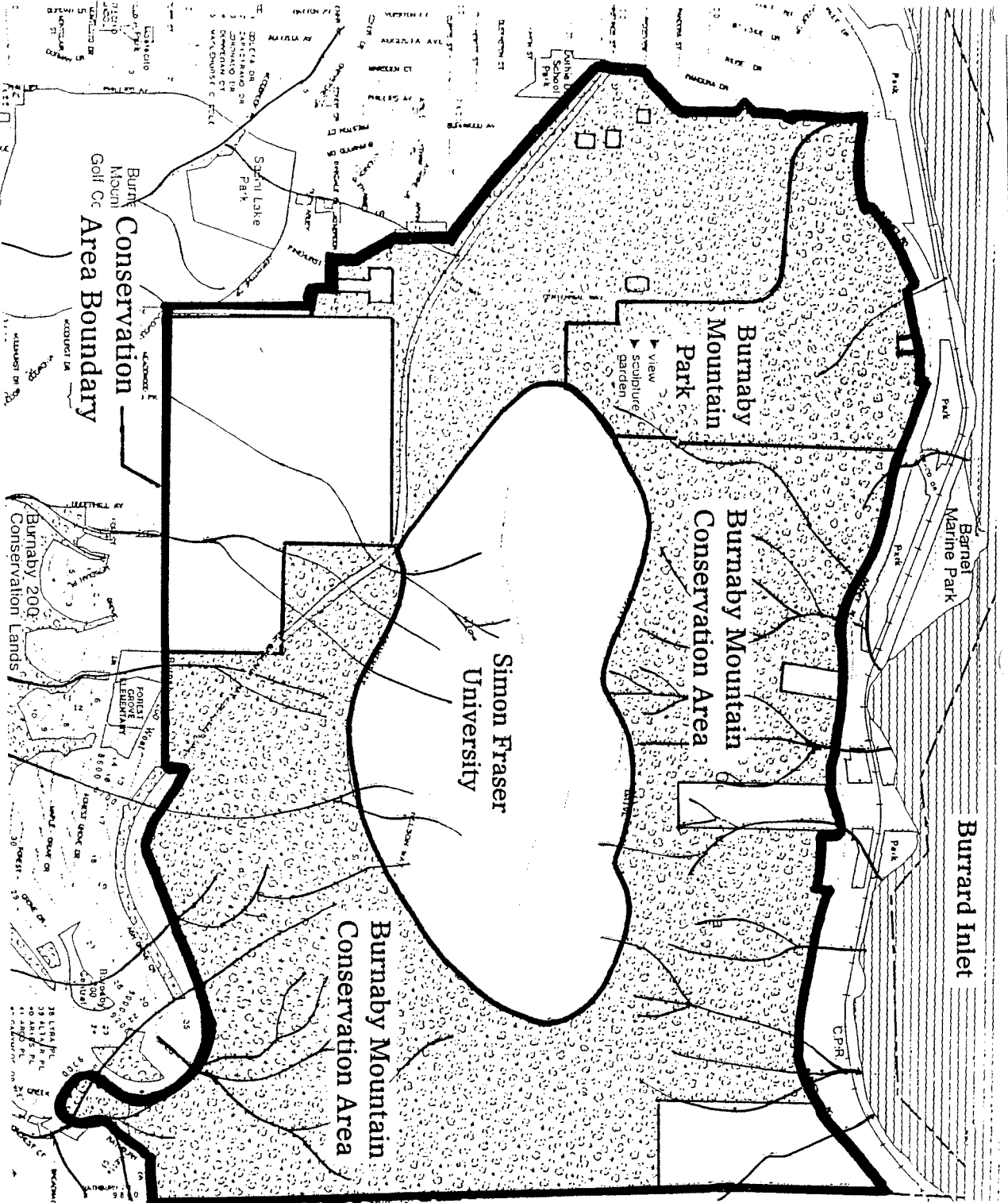
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Attachments (2)

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cc: Director Engineering
Director Planning
Environmental Health

Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area



Port Moody

ITEM	4
DIRECTOR'S REPORT NO.	22
COMMISSION MEETING	96/12/04

Dwg. # O.P.15-1-76s

Date: November 1996

Scale: nts

Prepared by: Hd

ATTACHMENT #1

BURNABY MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

<u>PHASE I</u> Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Development of base plans • Inventory and assessment of park facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - context and linkages to other areas - trails - access points/corridors - built features - signage - support amenities • Survey of recreational use patterns • Inventory and assessment of biophysical resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forestry/vegetation - fish & wildlife - views - soil/geotechnical - streams - topography - heritage/cultural resources • Land ownership map • Inventory of infrastructure and utilities • Coordination of volunteer research assistance
<u>PHASE II</u> Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public open house workshops • Public interest groups and meetings
<u>PHASE III</u> Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biophysical/cultural resources • Recreational facilities & recreation use survey • Completion of issues document
<u>PHASE IV</u> Management Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource management recommendations • Land use proposals • Park programming • Concept alternatives • Maintenance/Management Options
<u>PHASE V</u> Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public open house workshop of management options
<u>PHASE VI</u> Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Management Plan • Completion of master plan • Implementation Strategy

