

TO: CITY MANAGER

1997 APRIL 16

FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL AT OCEAN VIEW CEMETERY

PURPOSE: To respond to concerns raised regarding tree protection and removal at Ocean View Cemetery.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Darrin Clarke, 3776 Victory Street, Burnaby B.C., V5J 1P3 and Mr. Johnathon Chapman, Manager, Ocean View Cemetery, 4000 Imperial Street, Burnaby, B.C., V4J 1A4.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its regular meeting of 1997 April 14, Council received correspondence from Mr. Darrin Clarke of Burnaby expressing concern regarding protection of the forested area located east of Joffre Street approximately between Arbor street north to Hurst Avenue within Ocean View Cemetery. Reference is made to recent tree removal activities and concerns are raised regarding the potential loss of further trees if the cemetery is to develop its property fully in this area. Concerns are also identified regarding the potential loss of wildlife habitat and potential impacts such as noise and pollution currently modified by the presence of the forested area. The purpose of this report is to respond to Mr. Clarke's concerns.

**2.0 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT OCEAN VIEW CEMETERY**

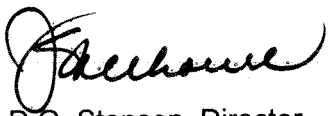
Staff reviewed the recent tree removal at Ocean Park Cemetery in response to several calls from residents and contacted the Cemetery for information regarding current and future development plans. An area approximately 20 meters wide by 90 meters long immediately north of the mausoleum site (east of Joffre) along the internal edge of the forested area has recently been cleared for the development of grave plots. Trees removed were primarily mature poplars, many with rotting evident. Ocean View has indicated that the cleared area represents the extent of what they are presently planning to develop. However, the cemetery's intent is to develop the whole site in the future although no plans are currently in place. To this end, Ocean View has indicated that they plan to develop a conceptual master plan to guide future development of their facility in a manner that is sensitive to the community and wish to involve the City in reviewing this initiative. There are no immediate guidelines prohibiting tree removal on the Ocean View site and the Burnaby Tree Protection Bylaw applies only to single and two family developments.

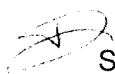
**3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF TREE RETENTION**

As identified in the correspondence to Council, the environmental benefits of trees in urban areas are numerous. The forested area at Ocean View Cemetery provides habitat for a host of wildlife including songbirds, raptors, squirrels, raccoons, coyotes as well as insects for animals to feed upon. The retention of such areas or portions thereof, can greatly assist in enhancing biodiversity in urban areas which is impacted by growth and development and the loss of green space. The retention of substantial tree buffer areas along the edges of developments can provide habitat and enhance "green links" or wildlife corridors between large open spaces and environmentally sensitive areas such as Central Park and Kaymar Creek. Other important benefits associated with trees at this site include providing a visual buffer to the cemetery facility while enhancing both the neighbourhood environment as well as that of the cemetery aesthetically. The presence of mature vegetation is known to help create a "sense of place" or identity for areas within the City. Trees assist in moderating the effects of air and noise pollution as well as temperature in urban environments. In principle, the City supports the retention of trees on development or redevelopment sites as well as throughout the Municipality where feasible and appropriate.

**4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ocean View Cemetery has recently cleared a relatively small area within the forested area along the western edge of their site to facilitate the development of additional grave sites. In the future, the cemetery sees the need to fully develop their site in response to the projected need for grave sites. Further to this end, Ocean View Cemetery plans to develop a conceptual master plan to guide future development in a manner that is sensitive to the community and has indicated they wish to consult with the City. The City welcomes the opportunity to input into this master plan and will encourage the cemetery to retain a portion of trees within the forested area to provide a buffer along Joffre Street. The benefits of tree retention are outlined in this report and include providing habitat for wildlife, visual and aesthetic values as well as the moderation of air and noise pollution and temperature. Within an urban context of growth and development, the retention of trees will become increasingly important to the livability and value of our community.

  
D.G. Stenson, Director  
PLANNING & BUILDING

  
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cc: Director of Recreation and Cultural Services  
Chief Environmental Health Officer  
Director of Engineering