

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: BURNABY LAKE SYSTEM PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve an \$8,000 grant to the Burnaby Lake System Project in 1998 to undertake the projects outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** Council approve in principle a \$7,000 grant to the Burnaby Lake System Project for 1999 with final approval subject to an assessment of the 1998 program and the proposed projects for 1999.

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 1998 February 24, adopted the *attached* report reviewing the Burnaby Lake System Project including recent works, the proposed 1998 program and a request for project funding. The Committee advised that the proposed 1998 program will benefit watercourses, fish, wildlife and recreational opportunities in the Central Valley watershed in a cost effective and meaningful way. Accordingly, the Committee supported the funding request.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Member

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.
- ENVIRONMENTAL SERV. SUPERVISOR

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS, February 19, 1998
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 10.250

SUBJECT: Burnaby Lake System Project Funding Request

PURPOSE: To respond to a funding request from BCIT's Burnaby Lake System Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council be requested to approve an \$8,000 grant to the Burnaby Lake System Project in 1998 to undertake the projects outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** Council be requested to approve in principle a \$7,000 grant to the Burnaby Lake System Project for 1999 with final approval subject to an assessment of the 1998 program and the proposed projects for 1999.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the 1998 January 13 meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Committee, the Committee received correspondence (*attached*) from Mark Angelo and Bob Gunn, BCIT - Burnaby Lake System Project (BLSP) requesting financial support of \$15,000 for the project over the next two years (\$8,000 in 1998 and \$7,000 in 1999). The City is a partner in the BLSP and has provided \$10,000 in funding annually for the project from 1994 - 1996 inclusive. The purpose of this report is to review the BLSP including recent works, the proposed 1998 program, and the request for funding.

2.0 THE BLSP - 1996/97 INITIATIVES

In 1994, BCIT proposed a five year program of community projects to help protect, enhance and rehabilitate fish, wildlife and recreation resources in the Central Valley/Brunette Basin watershed in Burnaby. The City was invited to be a partner in this project - the Burnaby Lake System Project (BLSP). Other partners in the BLSP include the Province of BC, GVRD, Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks (MOELP) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

On the recommendation of the Environment and Waste Management Committee, Council in 1994 supported in principle BCIT's BLSP and approved a \$10,000 grant for work in 1994. In addition, Council adopted a recommendation that similar grants for 1995 and 1996 be considered subject to an annual review of work accomplished in the previous year and work proposed for the grant year. Grants of \$10,000 were approved by Council in 1995 and 1996.

Since its initiation, the BLSP has contributed extensively towards increasing community awareness and participation and enhancing the Central Valley/Brunette Basin watershed in Burnaby. As well, the project has contributed towards the biophysical information base on the watershed. Since 1991, the BLSP has estimated that it has contributed over \$175,000 to community environmental enhancement work and coordinated more than 25 community events that contributed over 6,000 hours of community volunteer service. In addition, BCIT students have contributed thousands of hours of project work within Burnaby.

2.1 BLSP 1996/97 INITIATIVES

Since the last report to Council and the Environment and Waste Management Committee reviewing the BLSP in April of 1996, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

Applied Research and Enhancement Works

- Riparian enhancement plantings at two locations along Still Creek (in partnership with the GVRD and the City) as well as Beecher Creek (in partnership with the 8th Northview Scouts and the City) and Eagle Creek (as part of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways' compensatory work);
- Purple loosestrife control program involving inventorying, monitoring and removal in Deer Lake Park (ongoing);
- Conducting fish surveys and biophysical assessments of creeks in Deer Lake Park;
- Conducting visitor use surveys for Deer Lake Park and Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area for incorporation into both park management plans;
- Providing technical support, training and serving to help coordinate biophysical inventory and assessment work by the Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC);

Environmental Education and Stewardship

- Completion of an educational brochure on best management practices and an interpretive poster promoting the protection of Still Creek;

- Installation of an interpretive kiosk on Still Creek at the mouth of the creek in Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park;
- Coordinating and providing technical support for the Burnaby Streamkeepers program in partnership with the City and Burnaby Streamkeepers Community Coordinator, Elmer Rudolph (ongoing);
- Coordinating and implementing community stewardship events for BC Rivers Day, Environment Week and other community events with the City and community partners.

Environmental Initiatives and Processes

- Participation in the Still Creek - Brunette Basin Work Group involving the City, GVRD, UBC Westwater Institute and BCIT to prepare the *Still Creek - Brunette Basin Issues and Actions* draft report;
- Participation in the Brunette Basin Task Group involving municipalities associated with the Brunette Basin, GVRD, DFO, MOELP, UBC Westwater Institute and community stakeholders in preparing an integrated watershed management plan for the Brunette Basin (ongoing);
- Participation in the Stoney Creek Environmental Work Group involving the City, GVRD, DFO, MOELP, community stewardship groups, Stoney Creek Community School, BC Hydro and TransMountain Pipelines which facilitates coordinated environmental action associated with the Stoney Creek corridor (ongoing);
- Participation in the Burnaby Lake Regional Park Partnership Association Steering Committee with the GVRD and community stakeholders with the objective of helping protect and enhance the park (ongoing);

3.0 1998 PROPOSED PROGRAM

In 1998, the BLSP is proposing to work on a number of initiatives currently underway and additional new projects throughout the watershed in partnership with the City and other relevant partners (subject to appropriate approvals) as follows:

- Purple loosestrife control through continued removal efforts and through the propagation of biological control agents (i.e. European leaf beetles) within BCIT's greenhouse facility as well as development of a strategy for greater public involvement in loosestrife control;
- Riparian planting along Beaver Creek in Deer Lake Park to improve fish habitat;
- Additional riparian planting along Still Creek;
- The development of suggested guidelines and management objectives for the Still Creek corridor, including raising awareness and encouraging stewardship among adjacent land owners. This work would support and complement the work of the Brunette Basin Task Group (under the GVRD Liquid Waste Management Plan) in developing a watershed management plan;

- Facilitation and development of a suggested strategy for the design and implementation of biofiltration ponds along the Still Creek corridor. This work would support and complement the work of the Brunette Basin Task Group and the City's efforts to manage sediment and improve water quality within the Still Creek/Burnaby Lake system;
- Ongoing biophysical inventory, assessment and monitoring projects throughout the watershed;
- Continuing to support other community stewardship groups and initiatives including the Burnaby Streamkeepers Program, Environment Week and BC Rivers Day.

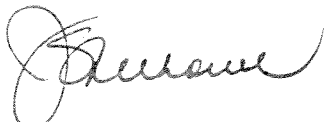
4.0 PROPOSAL REVIEW

The City has had a long and continuous history of recognizing the environmental importance of the Central Valley/Brunette Basin watershed. The work undertaken by the BLSP has been complementary to many of the City's initiatives and policies and is not presently part of the City's work program. The BLSP initiatives also support the State of the Environment goals relating to environmental stewardship and protection and enhancement of environmentally sensitive areas.

The efforts undertaken through the BLSP are enhancing the waterways of the Central Valley/Brunette Basin watershed in Burnaby and improving fish habitat. The community has become more aware of the sensitive habitat and ecological value of the watershed and has become more involved in protecting and enhancing it as a result of the BLSP. The applied research of the project will continue to assist in defining environmental issues and opportunities for restoration and enhancement, while providing biophysical information to assist in environmental decision making in the City.

The 1998 proposed program by the BLSP builds on the foundation established in previous years and represents projects which are not part of the City's planned work program. Staff are of the opinion that the proposed program will benefit the watercourses, fish, wildlife and recreational opportunities in the Central Valley watershed in a cost effective and meaningful manner. Based on its previous performance, the BLSP has proven to be highly successful in working towards achieving the City's environmental goals identified in the SOER, including encouraging and supporting environmental stewardship and protecting and enhancing environmentally sensitive areas. It continues to enjoy community wide support. It is therefore recommended that the Environment and Waste Management Committee support the request for funding by the BLSP and that Council approve a grant of \$8,000 for 1998 and, subject to a review of the project's annual performance and proposed program, a \$7,000 grant for 1999.

In previous years, grant monies for the BLSP have been drawn from the Council's Committees and Boards Donation and Grant Expenditures budget. Should Council concur with the recommendations of this report, the 1998 grant will be drawn from the same account unless otherwise directed.


D.G Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

Attachment
SH\sk

cc: City Manager
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Engineering



December 18, 1997

Mr. Lee Rankin, Chair
Environment and Waste Management Committee
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B. C.
V5G 1M2

BURNABY CAMPUS
3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, B.C.
Canada V5G 3H2
Tel. (604) 434-5734

Dear Lee:

Burnaby Lake System Project Funding Request

BCIT's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program has been involved in environmental project work within Burnaby since 1969. In 1991, BCIT initiated the Burnaby Lake System Project (BLSP) to foster greater environmental stewardship and management of the Brunette River Watershed through cooperative partnerships. The project continues to be recognized by all levels of government as a "model" for community watershed stewardship and as one of the original partners, the City of Burnaby has played a key role in the success of our work.

As you know, the City of Burnaby made the last of three major contributions to the BLSP 2 years ago. The support of Council was very much appreciated and was instrumental in initiating additional partnerships and support for the project. Since 1991, the BLSP project has contributed over \$175,000 to community environmental enhancement work and coordinated over 25 community events that contributed over 6,000 hours of community volunteer service. In addition, BCIT students have also contributed thousands of hours to project work within Burnaby.

The BLSP continues to grow, and in the past year alone, a great deal of work was undertaken throughout much of Burnaby. Projects included the installation of the new Still Creek kiosk, riparian planting along both Beecher and Still creeks, purple loosestrife removal in Deer Lake Park and visitor-use survey reports (conducted for the Parks Department) for Deer Lake Park and Burnaby Mountain.

In the coming year the BLSP will continue to work on a number of initiatives currently underway and we plan to initiate a several new projects (subject to approvals) throughout the watershed. Among these are:

1. Purple loosestrife control through continued removal efforts and through the propagation of biological control agents (i.e. European leaf beetles) within our greenhouse facility. We will also continue to work with staff on the development of a strategy for greater public involvement in loosestrife control efforts.

(2)

2. Riparian planting and the establishment of thermal cover along Beaver Creek.
3. Additional riparian planting along Still Creek.
4. The development of suggested guidelines and management objectives for the Still Creek Corridor, including fostering additional support from adjacent land owners. This work will support and compliment the Brunette Basin Management Plan initiative currently underway by the Brunette Basin Task Group through the GVRD Liquid Waste Management Plan process.
5. Facilitate the development of a strategy for the design and implementation of bio-filtration ponds along the Still Creek Corridor. This work will be compliment current initiatives related to Burnaby Lake dredging and water quality improvements.
6. Ongoing inventory, assessment and monitoring projects.
7. Continuing to support other community stewardship groups and initiatives, including the Burnaby Streamkeepers Program, Environment Week and BC Rivers Day.

In 1998, we will continue to work with and support our project partners to further enhance the ecological values and stewardship of the Brunette River Watershed. This includes working with the City of Burnaby, GVRD and other levels of government, local businesses, UBC's Institute of Resource Management, local schools, other community stewardship groups and local citizens

Given the cost associated with these endeavors as well as the ecological benefits to our community, we are writing to ask if the City of Burnaby might once again consider a contribution to the BLSP. We are requesting a grant for \$15,000.00 to be provided over the next two years: \$ 8000.00 for 1998 and \$ 7000.00 for 1999.

We thank you for considering our request and would be happy to provide you with any additional information. Once again, thank you for the continuing support.

Sincerely,



Mark Angelo
Program Head

Robert Gunn
Projects Coordinator

cc: Doug Drummond, Mayor
Basil Luksun, Planning Department
Susan Haid, Planning Department