

2000 April 06

TO: CITY MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: BURNABY MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE
PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update about the design of the Coast Mountain viewpoint and text for the interpretive plaque on Burnaby Mountain.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information.

REPORT

At its meeting of 2000 April 05, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received the above noted report and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.



Kate Friars
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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Attachment

c:\data\wp\council report\PK-Burnaby Mountain Interpretive Plaque

cc: Director Planning and Building
Director Finance

SUBJECT: BURNABY MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the design of the proposed Coast Mountain viewpoint and text for the interpretive plaque on Burnaby Mountain be approved.
2. That a copy of this report be sent to Council.

REPORT

Council at its meeting of 1999 November 08, adopted a resolution recommending the placement of an informational plaque on Burnaby Mountain to educate Lower Mainland residents and visitors regarding one of the most significant and visible landscape elements in British Columbia, the Coast Mountains.

Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area provides an ideal location to view the southernmost Coast Mountains where they rise abruptly above the Vancouver metropolitan area. The Coast Mountains are a spectacular mountain range, and offer dramatic examples of geological uplift. The fiords of the Coast Mountains, including Howe Sound and Indian Arm, consist of some of the world's longest and deepest fiords.

The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department has collaborated with the Planning Department on the preparation and presentation of the plaque and its related visual and educational material, along with the vital assistance of Mr. John J. Clague, Professor, Earth Sciences, Simon Fraser University. Professor Clague wrote the text for the plaque and reviewed the plaque's design. The proposed plaque has also been reviewed by Mr. George Clulow from the Vancouver Natural History Society.

The proposed viewpoint on Burnaby Mountain has exceptional views of Burrard Inlet, the Coast Mountains and Indian Arm (Attachment #1). It will be located near the Centennial Pavilion in an area that is visited by thousands of tourists and local residents on an annual basis.

The proposed design of the viewing area and the interpretive plaque is shown on Attachment #2. The design repeats the use of natural elements found in the local mountains, most notably granite blocks. Granite is a reoccurring element in several of the visitor amenities on-site including the rose garden, Kamui Mintara and the Burnaby Mountain dedication plaque. The design provides a fully accessible viewing area off the main pathway so that visitors may study the interpretive plaque in comfort without interrupting the flow of pedestrian traffic.

Following Council's resolution, the proposed interpretive sign includes the following information:

- A description of the Coast Mountains
- How the Coast Mountains formed.
- How fiords form.
- How Ice Age glaciation sculpted the Coast Mountains.

The proposed design of the plaque is a 21"x54" etched aluminum sign on a raised pedestal. This type of sign material has been used successfully at Cooper Park in the City of Vancouver. The text for the plaque, which is detailed on Attachment #3, would be superimposed on an oblique black and white aerial photograph of the actual view seen up the inlet. The names of various mountain peaks would be highlighted and an inset map of Indian Arm would orient visitors as well as provide names of various features. The full sign image is shown on Attachment #4. This attachment is not representative of the quality of the final sign, and is only intended to give an indication of the plaque's graphic layout. The entire sign would be covered with Lexan to reduce vandalism damage.

The estimated cost for the viewing area complete with the interpretive plaque is \$20,000. A grant to cover half of the project cost has been applied for through the British Columbia 2000 Community Spirit grant program. The grant decision will not be made until the end of the summer. If the grant is awarded, the Commission will be requested to approve the expenditure of \$10,000 from the minor development account for implementation this year. If the grant application is unsuccessful, Commission's consideration should be give to include full funding for the project in the 2001 Capital Budget.

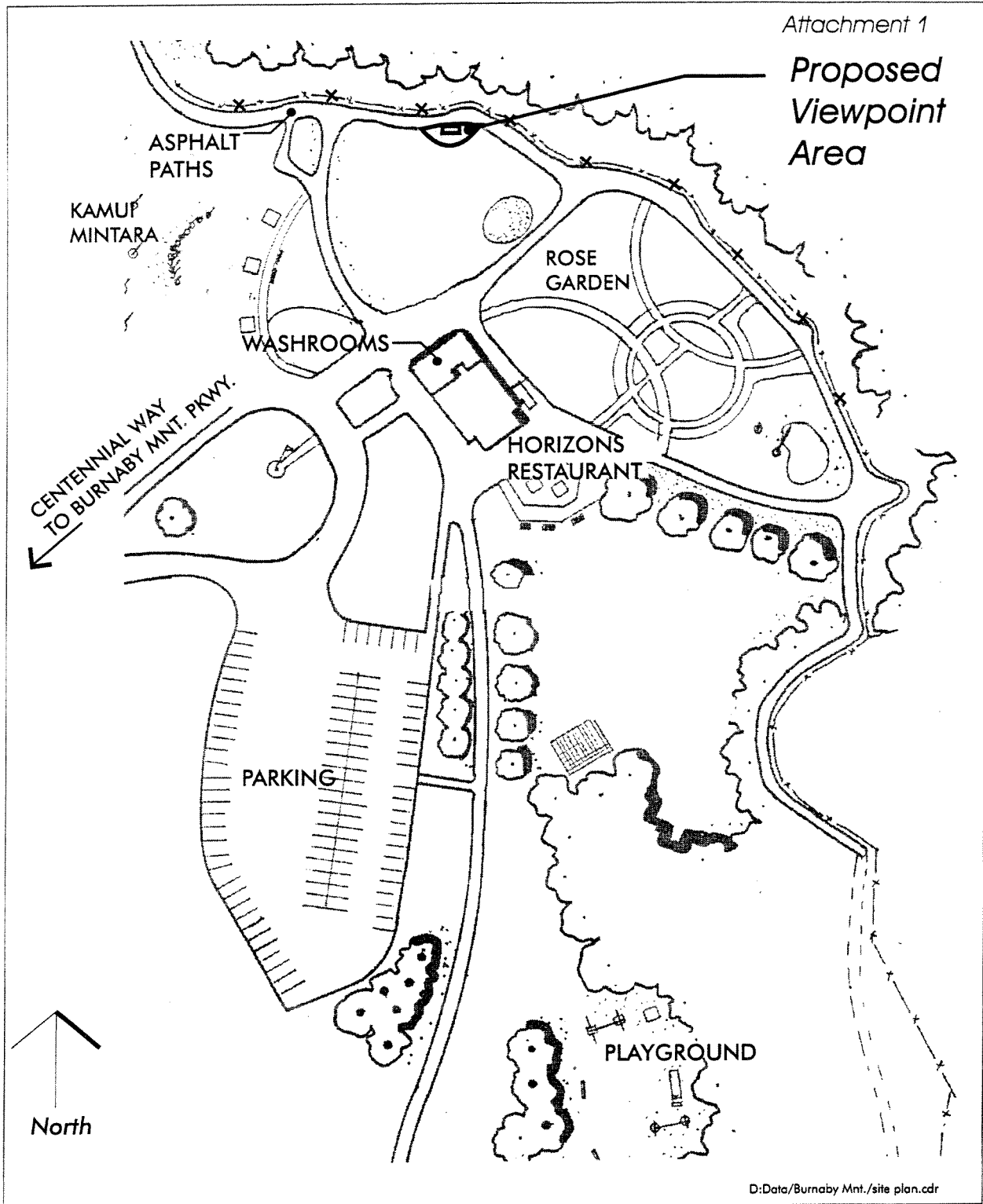


HIB:hib:dl

Attachments (4)

d:\Inglis\sign report

c.c. Director Planning
Director Finance
Dr. Vernon C. Brink
Professor John Claque
Mr. George Clulow, Vancouver Natural History Society



Attachment 1

Proposed
Viewpoint
Area

North

D:\Data\Burnaby Mnt.\site plan.cdr



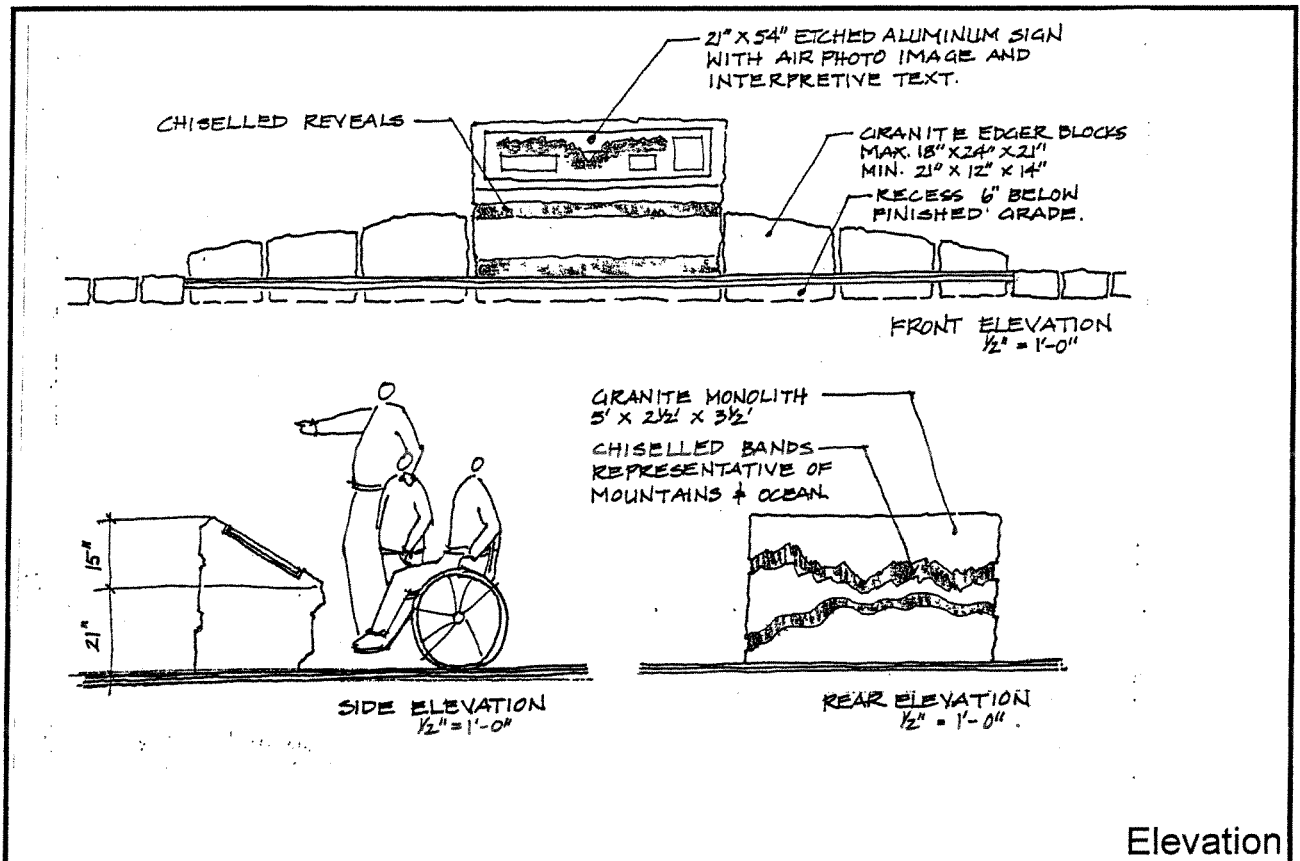
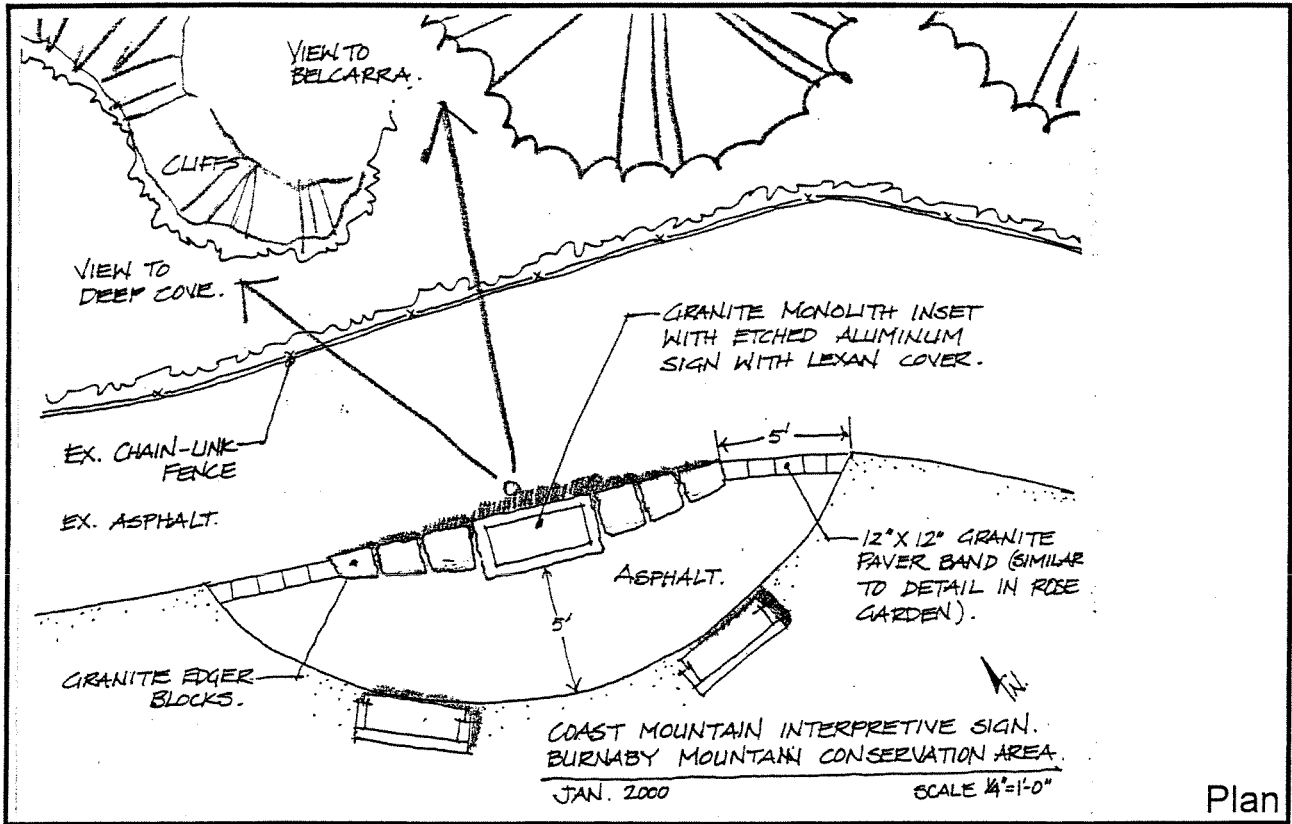
Burnaby Mountain Park: Site Plan

Dwg. # O.P. 15-1-80s

Date: March, 2000

Scale: nts

Prepared By: HD



The Edge of a Continent

From this point on Burnaby Mountain, about 280 metres above sea level, there are breathtaking views of the edge of a continent. The lofty peaks of the Coast Mountains rise abruptly across the waters of Burrard Inlet. This great mountain range extends north to Alaska and has many peaks more than 3,000 metres high. Glaciers and snowfields cap the tallest.

It is a landscape of mountains and fiord valleys. All along this coastline, from Vancouver to Alaska, are some of the world's largest and deepest fiords. These valleys, sculpted by glaciers and filled by the sea, can reach inland up to 190 kilometres with sheer sides more than 2,000 metres high.

The Coast Mountains

The Coast Mountains first formed about 100 million years ago in the time of the dinosaurs, but the uplift that gave the Coast Mountains their present height began about 10 million years ago and continues today.

The Coast Mountains are made up mainly of granitic rocks that formed from molten "magma" deep within the earth's crust. As the mountains rose, erosion slowly wore away great thicknesses of rock capping the granite.

The Ice Ages

Glacier ice has covered British Columbia from time to time during the Ice Ages of the last two million years. Only 15,000 years ago, ice up to two kilometres thick still covered this area, and only the highest peaks in the distance projected above the icy surface. The glaciers retreated back to their mountain sources about 13,000 years ago. Streams flowed from the melting glaciers to the sea, depositing their load of sediment as deltas and beaches in North Vancouver and Coquitlam. At that time, the sea was as much as 200 metres higher than it is today because the ice sheet had pushed down the earth's surface. As the ice melted and that weight was removed, the land rebounded, leaving old shorelines high in the hills of the North Shore.

Why Does Burnaby Mountain Look Different from the Coast Mountains?

The two have very different geological makeups and histories. Burnaby Mountain consists of sedimentary rocks (mainly sandstone and conglomerate) of Eocene Age, making them about 50 million years old. The layering in the rocks dips gently to the south giving the mountain its striking asymmetry—a steep north face and sloping south face. The granitic rocks of the Coast Mountains are about twice the age of the sedimentary rocks forming Burnaby Mountain.

The Edge of a Continent

From the 22nd to the 24th century, the city of Burraby Mountain was a major center of the Burraby Mountain region. The city was built on the edge of a continent, and its location was strategic. The city was built on the edge of a continent, and its location was strategic.

The Coast Mountains

The coast mountains are made up of mostly of granite and gneiss. They were formed from magma, which was pushed up from the mantle of the earth. The mountains are made up of mostly of granite and gneiss. They were formed from magma, which was pushed up from the mantle of the earth.

The Ice Age

During the last ice age, the Burraby Mountain region was covered in ice. The ice was pushed up from the mantle of the earth. The mountains are made up of mostly of granite and gneiss. They were formed from magma, which was pushed up from the mantle of the earth.

Why Does Burraby Mountain Look Different from the Coast Mountains?

The Burraby Mountain region is different from the coast mountains because of its location. The Burraby Mountain region is made up of mostly of granite and gneiss. They were formed from magma, which was pushed up from the mantle of the earth.

