

2000 April 06

TO : CITY MANAGER  
FROM : DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES  
SUBJECT : **BYRNE CREEK RAVINE PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT**  
PURPOSE : To request Council's approval to expand the Byrne Creek Ravine Park boundary.


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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT approval be given for the expansion of Byrne Creek Ravine Park boundary to include the City-owned Byrne Creek properties at 6012 Marine Drive, 8838 and 8855 MacPherson Avenue, and 5825 Byrne Road as outlined in this report.

**REPORT**

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

  
Kate Friars  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION  
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

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Attachment  
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cc: Director Engineering  
Director Planning & Building

## **SUBJECT: BYRNE CREEK RAVINE PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Byrne Creek Ravine Park be expanded to include the City-owned Byrne Creek properties at 6012 Marine Drive, 8838 & 8855 MacPherson Avenue, and 5825 Byrne Road as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council be requested to concur.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Vancouver Fish and Game Club and the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers.

## **REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

At the Council meeting of 1999 October 18, the official opening of the Byrne Creek Salmon Spawning and Rearing Habitat was announced. Arising from the announcement, the following motion was made and carried unanimously; "THAT the area bounded by Marine Drive, Meadow Avenue, Byrne Road and private property which has spawning and rearing channels be included in Byrne Creek Ravine Park and that the matter be REFERRED to staff for report." This report has been prepared in response to Council's request.

### **BYRNE CREEK WATERCOURSE**

Byrne Creek is a major natural watercourse traversing South Burnaby. Byrne Creek, along with its tributaries, commences in the core of the Edmonds Town Centre and proceeds southward to the Fraser River through a major south slope ravine and the Big Bend flats. On its way south the watercourse crosses under several major roads, the primary ones being Marine Drive, Byrne Road and Marine Way, and through a number of parks including Byrne Creek Ravine Park, Riverway Golf Course and Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park.

Prior to 1980 the Byrne Creek watercourse had experienced a general deterioration of its aquatic environment. The lower portion of the watercourse south of Marine Drive was contained in a ditch at the west side of Byrne Road. Despite the constrained conditions, a small fish population remained, consisting primarily of cutthroat and coho. Upstream of Marine Drive, Byrne Creek is a spring fed, year round creek and has retained the basic attributes of a natural watercourse.

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In the early 1980's the City developed and implemented a program to relocate the lower portion of the creek some 135 metres west of Byrne Road to a 50 metre wide linear park extending from the Fraser River north to Marine Way, resulting in the re-establishment of Byrne Creek as a small salmonid stream, the development of the creek as a link in the City's open space network and the incorporation of storm drainage requirements.

With the exception of a few privately owned properties in the upper tributaries of the creek, Byrne Creek is contained within City owned lands. The property at 6012 Marine Drive, in which the new salmon spawning and rearing habitat was recently constructed as part of Phase II of the Marine Way /10th Connector Road Project, was purchased by the City in January 1991. It is the only city-owned property within this corridor which is not designated as park.

### **BYRNE CREEK SALMON SPAWNING AND REARING HABITAT**

Phase II construction of the Marine Way / 10<sup>th</sup> Connector included the relocation of Byrne Creek and the construction of a sedimentation trap, maintenance access and work platform, spawning and bypass channels (including berms, landscaping, fish habitat, and fencing) and construction of bridges on Byrne Road and the new Meadow Avenue alignment. The majority of the works are located within the 1.48 hectare City owned parcel of land (6012 Marine Drive) located at the southeast corner of Byrne Road and Marine Drive. Legal road dedications required for Byrne Road, Meadow Avenue and Marine Drive have yet to take place. Once these road dedications are complete, a final land parcel will remain which will be split into two portions by the new Meadow Avenue road allowance. The southern portion will be primarily comprised of the Byrne Creek channel itself.

The works, which will encumber the entire City-owned land parcel in its final configuration are maintained by the Engineering Department. Due to the extensive existing works at the site there are no further opportunities for park development, however, the Engineering Department plans to carry out additional planting within the fish rearing habitat area in future to complete the project. Public access to the site is restricted for protection of the fish habitat and for safety reasons, however, controlled access to the site is being provided through ongoing Environmental Education programs offered through the Engineering Department and local Streamkeeper Groups. To date, Clinton and Glenwood Elementary School students have been given guided tours of the site and the eventual involvement of other schools is planned. An interpretive sign has been installed at the Meadow Avenue gate to educate the public about the site.

### **PROPOSAL TO EXPAND BYRNE CREEK RAVINE PARK BOUNDARY TO THE SOUTH**

As noted earlier in the report, with the exception of the City property at 6012 Marine Drive, the Byrne Creek channel is contained within parkland between Griffiths Drive and the Fraser River. The section between Marine Drive and Marine Way is comprised of four city owned properties, 6012 Marine Drive, 5825 Byrne Road, 8838 and 8855 MacPherson Avenue as illustrated on the attached sketch. The later three properties, comprising 1.48 hectares, have been designated park in the city land inventory for some time but have never been formally named.

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It would be appropriate, given the opportunity presented by Council's motion, to consider the extension of Byrne Creek Ravine Park south to include all four of these city owned creek properties. The designation of the newly developed city property containing the salmon spawning and rearing habitat as park would complete this linear park corridor.

### **CONCLUSION**

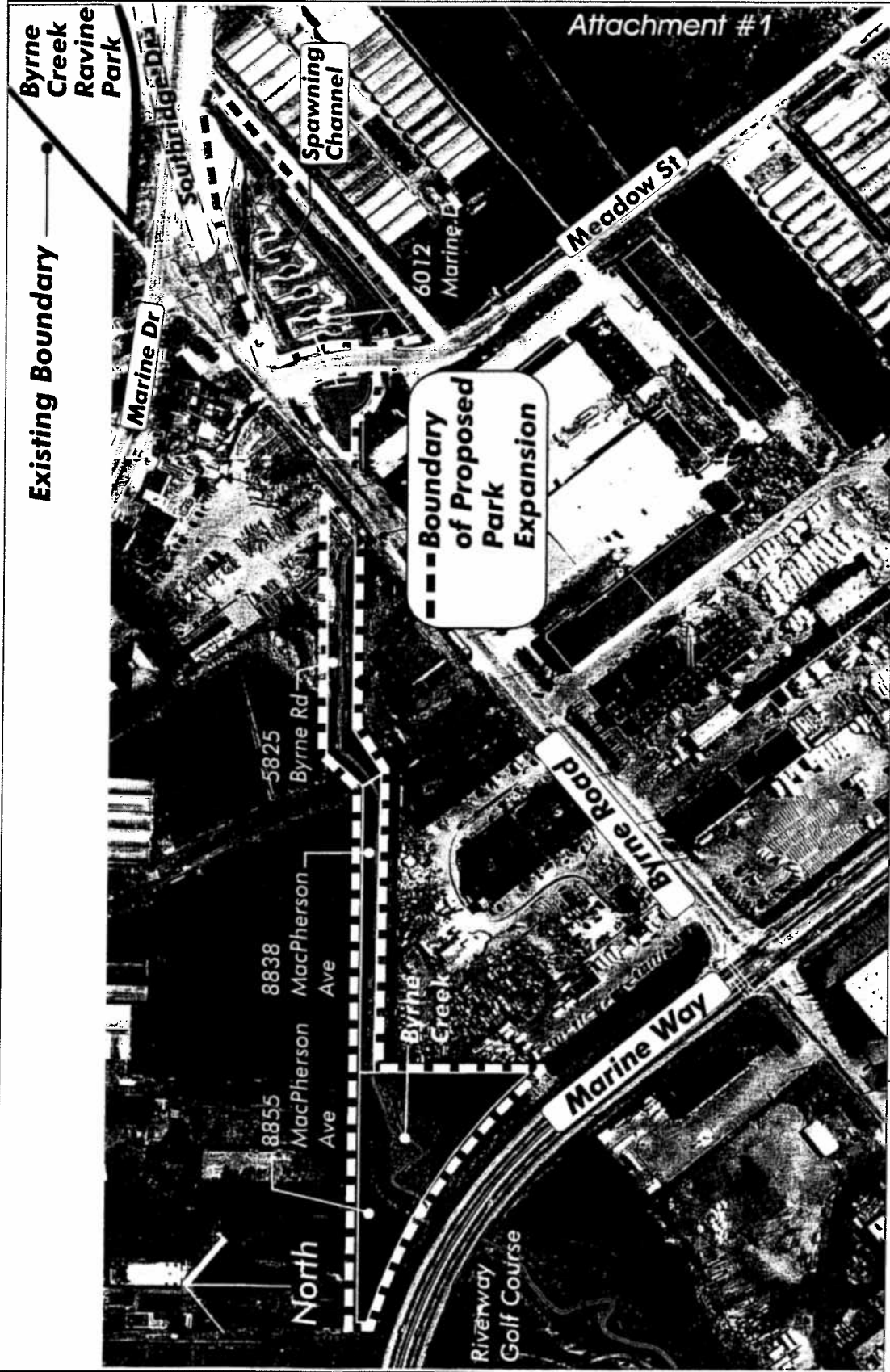
At Council's request, staff have reviewed the benefits of expanding the boundaries of Byrne Creek Ravine Park to include the City owned property at 6012 Marine Drive, encompassing the newly constructed spawning and rearing channels. Given the City's efforts in the early 1980's to establish a linear park extending from the Fraser River to Marine Way and the position of the 6012 Marine Drive property as a missing link in a corridor of park lands containing Byrne Creek, staff support the proposed designation of 6012 Marine Drive as park. Staff also support the expansion of the Byrne Creek Ravine Park boundary south to include 6012 Marine Drive and recommend that the adjacent three un-named linear park properties, 5825 Byrne Road, 8838 and 8855 MacPherson Avenue, through which the creek also flows also be included.

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Attachment

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cc. Director Engineering  
Director Planning & Building



Dwg. # O.P.22-6-4  
 Date: March 2000  
 Scale: nts  
 Prepared By: HD

## Byrne Creek Park: Proposed Park Boundary Expansion



