

CITY OF BURNABY

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ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: COMPOST DEMONSTRATION GARDEN - STILL CREEK AVENUE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the transfer of the compost demonstration garden including the environmental classroom and all other structures from the GVRD to the City in 2001.
2. **THAT** Council authorize the City to assume the responsibilities of operating the garden as a City facility starting in 2001 as outlined in this report and to incorporate the garden as part of the City's comprehensive Integrated Waste Reduction Education Program.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be provided to the GVRD, Policy and Planning Department.

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 2000 April 11, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking approval of the transfer of the compost demonstration garden on Still Creek Avenue to the City in 2001. The Committee noted that the GVRD recently undertook an evaluation of the compost garden operation and education program delivery. The evaluation revealed that the demand on regional training and tours has declined in recent years and several municipalities now operate their own compost demonstration gardens. Based on the foregoing, the GVRD has approached the City with a proposal to transfer the garden facility including the classroom structure to the City at no cost. The Committee advised that it would be beneficial for Burnaby to continue with the operation of the compost garden and classroom as part of the integrated waste reduction program.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor C. Redman
Member

Councillor B. Der
Member

COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- CITY SOLICITOR

TO: CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2000 04 05

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 65-04-05

SUBJECT: COMPOST DEMONSTRATION GARDEN - STILL CREEK AVENUE

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval of the transfer of the compost demonstration garden on Still Creek Avenue from the GVRD to the City in 2001

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee recommend to Council that:

1. the City accepts the transfer of the compost demonstration garden including the environmental classroom and all other structures from the GVRD in 2001.
2. the City assumes the responsibilities of operating the garden as a City facility starting in 2001 as outlined in this report and incorporates the garden as part of the City's comprehensive Integrated Waste Reduction Education Program.
3. a copy of this report be provided to the GVRD, Policy and Planning Department.

R E P O R T

BACKGROUND

As part of the regional compost training and research program, the GVRD in 1991 established a regional compost demonstration garden in Burnaby located across from the City Recycling Depot. The garden was established to provide public tours and workshops and to increase organic waste diversion through composting.

During the period from 1991 to 1999, the facility had received approximately 32,000 visitors and delivered over 600 workshops. Slightly over half of the visitors were residents outside of Burnaby. The garden facility is located on City lands on Still Creek Avenue and includes a compost garden and a modular environmental classroom. The GVRD entered into a lease agreement with the City for the use of the City lands for \$1 per annum and the current lease is due to expire at the end of July, 2000.

CURRENT SITUATION

The GVRD has undertaken an evaluation of the compost garden operation and education program delivery recently. The evaluation concluded that the demand on regional training and tours has declined in recent years and several municipalities now operate their own compost demonstration gardens hence, it may be appropriate for the GVRD to terminate its involvement in the sole regional compost demonstration garden in Burnaby.

Based on the foregoing, the GVRD has approached the City with a proposal to transfer the garden facility including the classroom structure to the City at no cost. The transfer would take place in 2001 however the GVRD would continue to operate the garden in 2000. The normal operating period for the garden in 2000 is March 23 to October 31, Tuesday to Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm.

DISCUSSION

The total number of visitors in 1999 to the compost garden was approximately 2,170 of which 40% were Burnaby residents. The City has an integrated waste reduction program and yard waste/composting is a key component of this program. In order to support the organic waste diversion initiative, it is important that the compost garden be retained in Burnaby as part of an educational experience for Burnaby residents and school children. Staff are of the opinion that the garden can be integrated as part of Burnaby's outreach and education program on environmental sustainability and community stewardship.

According to GVRD's calculation, the depreciated value of the garden facility including the classroom is approximately \$19,000. If Burnaby were to establish its own compost garden elsewhere in the City, the initial capital investment required would be significantly higher than \$19,000.

With the realignment of the regional garden to a Burnaby garden, the hours of operation for the garden starting in 2001 could be structured as follows:

- Open Wednesday to Saturday only from May to October
- One person staffed from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm (same as the Yardwaste Drop Off Centre)
- Group tours outside of above schedule may be booked separately

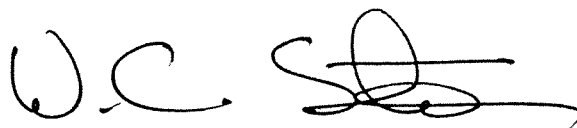
The additional cost premium to the City to operate the garden facility would be approximately \$20,000 per year. Subject to Council's approval of the proposed transfer, the additional fund allocation would be included in the 2001 budget submission. It is expected that no additional Burnaby staffing requirement will be needed in the balance of 2000 to learn the garden operations and to prepare for the garden transfer.

CONCLUSION

With the gradual decline in the need for regional composting training and research and the increase in municipally operated compost gardens in the Lower Mainland, the GVRD has proposed to refocus its compost education program and to transfer the garden facility to Burnaby.

Having discussed the proposal with the GVRD and evaluated the need of a local facility to support the City's comprehensive community outreach and education program, it is concluded that it would be beneficial for Burnaby to continue with the operation of the compost garden and classroom as part of the integrated waste reduction program. The transfer of facility would take place in 2001 which would allow the City time to prepare the necessary promotion of the composting workshops and tours as part of the public education program.

Based on the foregoing, it is recommended that the City accepts the terms of transfer of the GVRD compost garden facility as outlined in this report and a copy of this report be provided to the GVRD.



W.C. Sinclair, P. Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC;jh

cc: City Manager
Director Finance
City Solicitor