

2001 SEPTEMBER 20

TO: CITY MANAGER

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: GVRD SECTOR REGIONAL GREENWAY PLAN

PURPOSE: To provide Council with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission's concurrence to approval in principle of the Burrard Peninsular/Richmond Sector Recreational Greenway Plan in principle as it applies to Burnaby, and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Brunette Fraser Greenway.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT concurrence be received from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for approval in principle of the Burrard Peninsular/Richmond Sector Recreational Greenway Plan in principle as it applies to Burnaby, and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Brunette Fraser Greenway.

REPORT

At its meeting of 2001 September 19, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received correspondence from the Deputy City Clerk regarding the GVRD Sector Regional Greenway Plan. The Commission was requested to concur with Council's approval in principle for the Burrard Peninsula/Richmond Sector Recreational Greenway Plan as it applies to Burnaby and for the Memorandum of Understanding for the Brunette Fraser Greenway.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission also received the attached report in response to the above correspondence and adopted the three recommendations contained therein.



Kate Friars
PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

tc

Attachment

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- cc Director Engineering
Director Planning & Building
City Clerk

SUBJECT: GVRD SECTOR REGIONAL GREENWAY PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Burrard Peninsula/Richmond Sector Recreational Greenway Plan as it applies to Burnaby be approved in principle.
2. THAT the Memorandum of Understanding for the Brunette Fraser Greenway as discussed in Item No. 07, Manager's Report No. 21, 2001 August 27 be approved.
3. THAT Council be advised of the Commission's concurrence to the above two recommendations.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Appearing under correspondence on this agenda is a report referred from Council seeking Council and Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission concurrence with the Burrard Peninsula/Richmond Sector Recreational Greenway Plan as it applies to Burnaby and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Brunette Fraser Greenway. This report summarizes for the Commission the aspects of the Sector Recreational Greenway Plan and Memorandum of Understanding for the Brunette-Fraser Greenway which relate to the Burnaby Park System.

BURNABY PARKS PROPOSED TO BE LINKED BY REGIONAL GREENWAYS

The Sector Plan identifies a number of regionally significant recreational greenways that overlap with and are complementary to the City's Urban Trail Plan. Many of these existing and proposed Urban Trails are routed through Burnaby's parks and conservation areas. These include Barnet Marine Park, Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park, Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, Burnaby Mountain Golf Course, Byrne Creek Park, Capital Hill Conservation Area, Cariboo-Brunette River Conservation Area, Central Park, Confederation Park, Deer Lake Park, Kensington Park, McGill Park, Montrose Park, Squint Lake Park and Taylor Park.

Although little impact is anticipated to the Burnaby parks system improved regional connections provided through the Burrard Peninsula/Richmond Sector Regional Greenway Plan will attract users from neighbouring communities resulting in increased use of our trail system and providing opportunities to showcase Burnaby parks. As a reciprocal benefit Burnaby residents will also have improved access to trails and parks in New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Vancouver and Richmond.

Additional parks proposed to be linked via the Sector Plan are Robert Burnaby Park, the George Derby Conservation Area and Malvern Park. This new route is being explored by the City as the alignment for a proposed Rivers/Lakes/Mountains Urban Trail. Details of the proposed route through Robert Burnaby Park and the permitted uses on this section of the Greenway have yet to be established and will be presented to the Parks Recreation and Culture Commission for review and approval at a future date.

GREENWAY POLICY, STANDARDS & IMPLEMENTATION

An important component of the Sector Plan is the recognition that appropriate recreational use of the greenways depends upon the environmental values of a particular corridor and the policies of the community through which it passes. Where trails traversing parks are proposed as regional greenways, use will respect the policies of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and City and Park Bylaws. In cases where user restrictions are placed upon particular sections of a greenway a bypass route directing non-permitted users around a particular sensitive area would be employed.

Urban Trails that are identified as part of a regionally significant greenway would see little change in their appearance and would continue to be developed and maintained to established City of Burnaby standards. The only anticipated change would be the inclusion of standardized regional greenway logo signage which would identify the regional connectivity of a particular greenway.

The Sector Plan also identifies a number of Staging Areas. These are places where greenway users can access trail heads, parking, support facilities and other recreation opportunities. In Burnaby all staging areas identified within the Plan currently exist and are located within parks. These include Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park, Burnaby Lake Park, Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park, Cariboo-Brunette River Conservation Area, Central Park, Confederation Park, Kensington Park and Squint Lake Park. The only change to these areas would be the possible addition of a map board indicating the larger greenway network. Staff will seek Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approval for all signage prior to GVRD sign production.

As the Sector Plan builds upon the City's adopted urban trail plan with the majority of the system overlapping the existing and proposed urban trail system, no significant draw on park operations, maintenance or capital budgets is anticipated. By respecting local policies and trail standards, the plan complements the park, trail and open space system within Burnaby and provides some impetus for the completion of linkages between existing trails and park sites without obligating the City to commit to a set implementation schedule and capital program.

BRUNETTE FRASER GREENWAY PILOT PROJECT

The GVRD's Brunette - Fraser Greenway pilot project utilizes the existing GVRD utility corridor service roads along the Brunette River, the proposed Lake City Sewer Interceptor which will traverse North East Burnaby, and the existing Burnaby Mountain Urban Trail. Parks sites along the route of the greenway and sewer interceptor projects include Burnaby Mountain Golf Course, Stoney Creek Trail System, Cottonwood Park and the Cariboo-Brunette River Conservation Area.

Statutory rights of way over City land at Burnaby Mountain Golf Course and Cottonwood Park, in favour of the GVRD for the sewer and compensatory environmental works, were required for Phase I of the pilot project. An amended statutory right-of-way will also be required for sewer and public access purposes over the Cariboo-Brunette River Conservation Area for Phase II. Given the complexity and close relationship between the Brunette-Fraser Greenway and the Lake City Sewer Interceptor projects, a review of right of way acquisition and proposed compensation requirements for the projects was considered as a package by the City. Execution of the right of way agreements for the completed Phase I of the pilot project is dependant on the GVRD entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for Phase II of the pilot project.

PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the GVRD is required at this stage to clarify property acquisition, greenway construction, maintenance/operations responsibilities, and to target time lines for overall completion of the Brunette-Fraser Greenway. Parks staff have worked with staff from the Planning, Engineering and Legal Departments to ensure that Parks Department interests are represented.

The GVRD is to be responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of the Pilot Greenway sections between East Lake Drive and Government Road (Phase I - completed) and Cariboo Place and North Road (Phase II). Detailed sewer and greenway design for Phase II is anticipated to commence in autumn of 2001. The GVRD will utilize the existing Brunette River gravel service road for Phase II of the Brunette-Fraser Greenway. The present width, gravel surfacing and character of the service road will be maintained with greenway signage, benches and waste receptacles added. Several opportunities for riparian planting, view enhancements and interpretive signage have been identified along the service road. It is anticipated that the GVRD will incorporate some of these opportunities into its design for the greenway.

The City will construct a sidewalk or urban trail along Government Road, Cariboo Road and Cariboo Place to connect the GVRD's portions of the greenway with a target date of 2004. The City will manage the remainder as a component of the City Urban Trail system.

SUMMARY

The Sector Plan is an overall guiding document for the implementation of regional greenways within the Burrard Peninsula and Richmond. With the exception of the BFG Pilot Project, adoption of the BPRS Greenway Plan does not commit the City to any additional financial responsibilities or an implementation schedule outside of the normal Urban Trail Capital Plan. Greenway design characteristics and exact alignments have not been determined. These responsibilities will lie with the appropriate Municipality or agency and will be examined in detail as part of each proposed greenways's implementation process. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding will formalize the City's partnership with the GVRD to ensure the successful implementation of Phase II of the Pilot Greenway and to clarify the maintenance/operation responsibilities for the existing Phase I and proposed Phase II sections of the Brunette-Fraser Greenway. It is therefore recommended that the Commission concur with Council's recommendations.

JK.

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cc. Director Engineering
Director Planning
City Clerk

