

CITY OF BURNABY

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FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: BURNABY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA ENVIRONMENTAL  
INITIATIVES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council approve the use of Casino Gaming Funds in the amount of \$250,000 (inclusive of 7% GST), to implement Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area recommendations including protection and enhancement of forest and stream habitat through closure of informal trails and development of a new trail.

REPORT

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2003 July 09, received and adopted a report from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommending the use of Casino Gaming Funds, to assist with implementation of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan recommendations including protection of forest and stream habitat through trail closures and trail development totalling \$250,000. The funds have been budgeted in the Commission's 2003 - 2007 draft Annual Capital Program to undertake these works.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Derek R. Corrigan  
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston  
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow  
Member

<p>COPY - CITY MANAGER - DIR. PARKS, RECREATION &amp; CULTURAL SERVICES - DIRECTOR PLANNING &amp; BUILDING - DIRECTOR FINANCE</p>
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**SUBJECT: BURNABY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT the Finance and Civic Development Committee request Council to approve the use of Casino Gaming Funds in the amount of \$250,000 (inclusive of 7% GST), to implement Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area recommendations including protection and enhancement of forest and stream habitat through closure of informal trails and development of a new trail.

**REPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

A Management Plan for the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area was approved in April 2000. This plan defined a vision statement and series of recommendations for protection and enhancement of environmental features while balancing the demands for recreational pursuits. Since this time, capital works have proceeded in accordance with priority recommendations of the plan. Priorities have included biophysical assessment of critical areas, closure of trails in habitat sensitive zones, installation of kiosks to inform the public of rules and regulations to protect the park and reconstruction of trails to lessen erosion and protect streams and forest habitat.

As trails are closed, it is advantageous to consider the construction of alternative routes or new trails identified by the Management Plan to help divert intensive use away from more highly valued blocks of habitat. Capital works recommended this year, include the closure of trails within the sensitive Stoney Creek watershed on the southeast precinct of the mountain, and the construction of a trail on the northeast side of the mountain offering the first phase of a desirable trail connection between the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area and Barnet Marine Park.

**TRAIL CLOSURES - TRIBUTARY THREE WATERSHED**

Historically, the southeast precinct of the mountain has been impacted by considerable informal trail development. Some of these trails pass through portions of the only large conifer-dominated stands on the mountain, or through the watershed of important tributaries leading to Stoney Creek. One such tributary, tributary three, has been found to contain large numbers of macroinvertebrates which are indicators of a quality fresh water supply, and serve as important food for coldwater fish. In fact, sampling did result in the discovery of emerging cutthroat trout fry.

A network of informal trails have appeared through the upper watershed of tributary three creating potential sedimentation and impact to riparian vegetation. These trails have limited recreational value, and show signs of loitering, including a fire pit, and garbage. Following the recommendations in the Management Plan to minimize habitat fragmentation, it is intended to close 2,200 metres of informal trails within the watershed of tributary three (see Attachment #1). Trail closure work includes barrier construction at entry points with informative signage, heavy redistribution of coarse woody debris to block the route, and planting with native trees and shrubs. One trail through the zone will be retained as an important east-west connecting route and receive improvements including the installation of culverts, proper drainage swales, and rehabilitation with planting of native tree and shrub species.

### **TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - PHASE ONE CONNECTOR TO BARNET MARINE PARK**

By creating a variety of long looping trail opportunities the recreational user receives greater satisfaction, and there are less incentives for excessive informal trail webbing that impact habitat blocks. With the closure of the target ranges there is an elevated desire for trails around the north side of the mountain and it is prudent to create a designated safe route with proper environmental planning in advance of informal trails appearing.

A very desirable trail route is proposed within the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan for a connection around the east side of the mountain to the former target range site, and signalized intersection to Barnet Marine Park. The route maximizes use of areas already disrupted along existing service road clearings to provide a very significant addition to the overall trail network. The proposed trail respects the boundaries of habitat blocks identified in the Management Plan.

The proposed trail will connect the Trans Canada Trail at the Northwest corner of the park to an existing Hydro service road leading to the former target range site (see Attachment #1). The multi-use trail will be built to accommodate pedestrians, cyclist and equestrian use. Due to budget considerations, it is recommended to construct this trail in phases over the next two years.

Phase one construction proposed this year will extend from the existing Trans Canada Trail six hundred metres west through woodland to the existing B.C. Hydro service road. Development includes a new three metre wide gravel trail, associated drainage works, installation of three large steel culverts, and a wooden bridge nine metres in length across the western tributary of Cougar Creek. An environmental consultant has been hired to study existing wildlife habitat, and guide planning and construction to minimize impacts. All watercourse crossings and any habitat compensation measures will be fully addressed with the Environmental Review Committee for approvals.

Phase two construction scheduled for 2004 will involve trail improvements on the B.C. Hydro service road and Right-Of-Way. The service road extends from the eastern edge of the former target range site to a ravine at the western tributary of Cougar Creek to a total of 1300 lineal metres. Development will involve reconstructing the existing Hydro service road to a suitable trail standard. Consent has been received from B.C. Hydro to proceed with trail development on the Right-Of-Way. Approval is also being sought from the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority regarding an easement over a provincially owned lot at 8654 Barnet Road situated mid way along the service road.

### FUNDING

It is recommended that the Finance and Civic Development Committee request Council to approve the use of Casino Gaming Funds, to assist with implementation of the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Management Plan recommendations including protection of forest and stream habitat through trail closures and trail development totaling \$250,000. These funds have been budgeted in the Commission's 2003 - 2007 draft Annual Capital Program to undertake these works.

Maintenance costs for the new trail are estimated at \$5,500 annually and will be included in the request for operating budget increases for 2004.

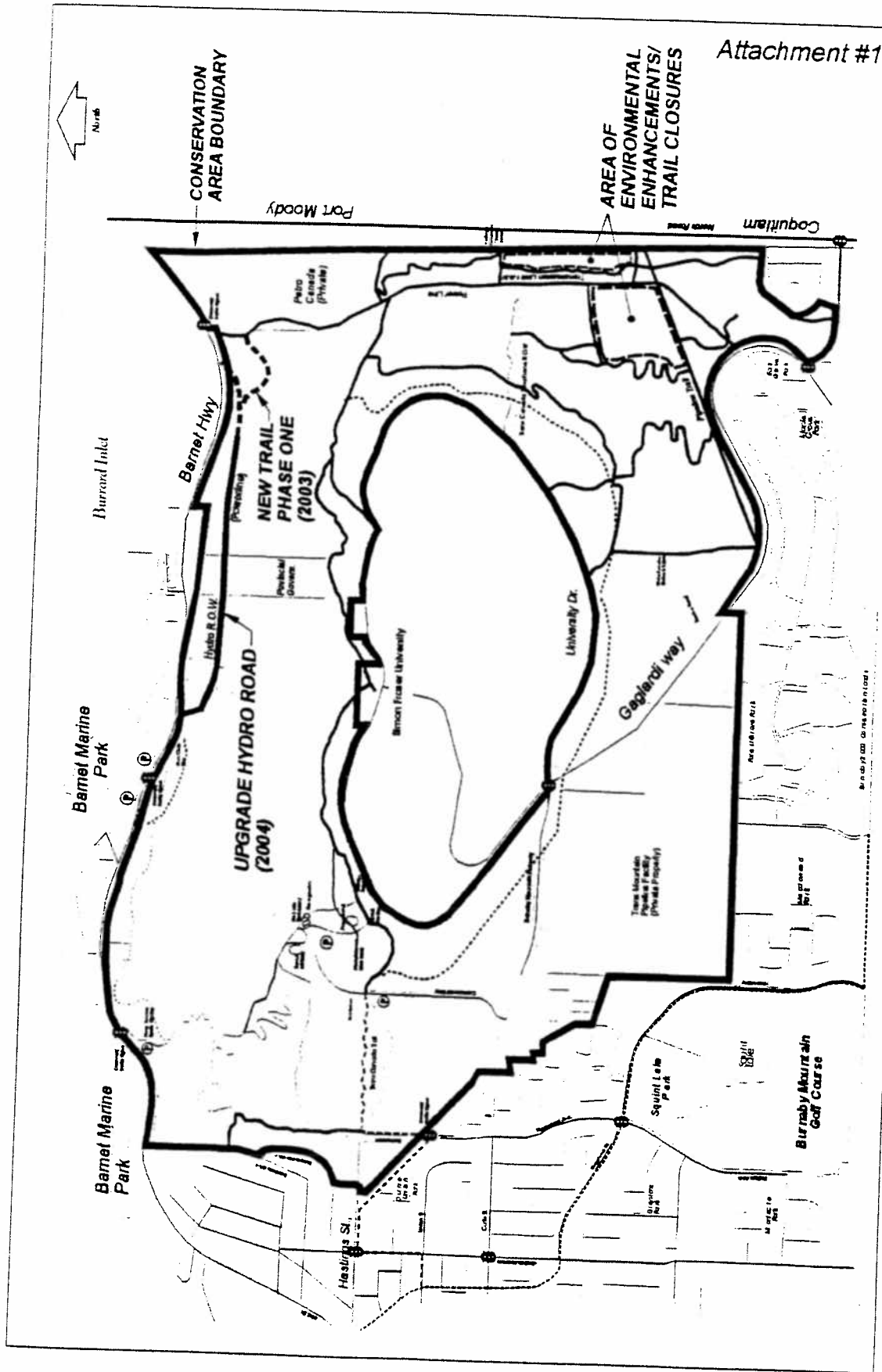
Pending approvals, trail closure and development work is scheduled to begin in early June, and in-stream works will be conducted during the August to September fisheries window.

HD:RS:JK:jl

Attachments (1)

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cc: Director Finance



Attachment #1

Dwg # O.P.14-4-17s  
 Date: April, 2003  
 Scale: nts  
 Prepared By: KC

# **Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area: Environmental Enhancements and Trail Improvements**



