

COUNCIL REPORT

**TO:** CITY MANAGER

**DATE:** 2012 April 19

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

## SUBJECT: HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

**PURPOSE:** To request that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

# REPORT

At its 'Open' meeting of 2012 April 18, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received the <u>attached</u> report and adopted the three recommendations contained therein.

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Dave Ellenwood DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

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COMMISSION REPORT

# TO:CHAIR AND MEMBERS<br/>PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

## **FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

## SUBJECT: HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **1. THAT** approval in principal be granted for the proposed habitat restoration projects along Stoney Creek and Eagle Creek as outlined in this report.
- **2. THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Alan James, Secretary of the Stoney Creek Environment Committee and Nick Kvenich of the Eagle Creek Streamkeepers.
- **3. THAT** Council be requested to forward a copy of this report to the Environment Committee for information.

#### REPORT

#### Background

The Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC) and the Eagle Creek Streamkeepers have been active in Burnaby promoting habitat protection and enhancement projects to facilitate salmon returns to the upper reaches of the watershed. To undertake their many initiatives these volunteers actively seek financial and advisory partners to work with them on larger restoration projects. With technical support from Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) staff, in the Ecosystem Management Branch, three conceptual improvement projects are proposed for the Central Valley watershed. Each of these projects would be funded from outside resources at no cost to the City of Burnaby. The total value of the works is estimated to be \$75,000.

The concept plans have been discussed with several supporting organizations including Metro Vancouver, DFO, Kinder Morgan, and City of Burnaby staff from Engineering, Planning and Parks. Conceptually, <u>Attachment #1</u> shows the preliminary siting for the intended works. Pending approval to proceed in principle, DFO will be the lead agency for the project and will be responsible for the design of the projects and their construction. It is intended that the works be constructed during the 2012 window for in-stream works (August - September). Each of the projects will have a letter of understanding between the three lead parties: DFO, Metro Vancouver and the City of Burnaby to outline issues of maintenance, indemnity and liability. All development work will be subject to review and approval by the City of Burnaby through the Environmental Review Committee.

# **Project 1 - In Stream Weirs**

One of the limiting factors for spawning fish is the loss of mainstream channel diversity. Presently returning spawners face difficulty navigating a steep part of Stoney Creek where the water has eroded the streambed to bedrock. The installation of three weirs (<u>Attachment #2</u>) is proposed to provide resting points for the fish on their upstream journey. In addition, the areas above the weirs will fill with gravel and provide some spawning habitat not currently available on the bedrock.

## **Project 2 – Off Wintering Channel Improvements**

Currently, an off wintering channel exists along Stoney Creek. This channel was built several years ago and it is not functioning due to a clogged intake channel. When it is cleaned out, the intake continually reclogs so an alternate method for providing a recharge source to the pond is required. The installation of a new 8-inch pipe for water intake and a release channel are proposed to solve the problem (<u>Attachment #3</u>)

## **Project 3 - Eagle Creek Rearing Pond**

The Eagle Creek rearing pond is proposed north of Lougheed Highway in Eagle Creek Ravine Park (<u>Attachment #4</u>). The pond will be 300 sq. m. on surface and 1.5 m. in depth. All side slopes will be naturalized and interpretive signage will be posted. The excavation of the pond will produce soil material to be disposed of.

## Summary

The SCEC and the Eagle Creek Streamkeepers have proposed three habitat improvement projects along Stoney Creek and Eagle Creek for 2012. They are currently applying for funds to support these projects and the work would proceed once the funding is secured. No City funds have been requested or will be required for the projects. The works are both in-stream Stoney Creek and Eagle Creek and on ground in Cottonwood Park and, therefore, require approval by Commission. These projects will utilize recognized technologies and have a high predictability of success. It is recommended that these projects be approved to proceed under the guidance of a DFO as the project manager.

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Dave Ellenwood DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

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