

June 19, 1997

SUBJECT: MUSQUEAM PARK BIOFILTRATION WETLAND PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the construction of a small biofiltration wetland in Musqueam Park (south of the Crown St. & West 46th Ave. intersection), subject to no complaints being received from residents living within a 2 block radius of the park by July 23, 1997, and subject to all design details being to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks and Recreation.

BOARD POLICY

There is no Board Policy regarding the creation of biofiltration wetlands in parks. The Board has, however, approved in principle biofiltration wetlands for storm water cleansing in Musqueam Park (in a different location of the park) on June 10, 1996 and in Hastings Park on March 10, 1997.

BACKGROUND

In October 1996, the Musqueam Creek Committee began discussions with City of Vancouver staff about the creation of a biofiltration wetland in Musqueam Park (see Appendix A) that would clean storm water originating from a storm sewer under Crown Street.

The purpose of the biofiltration wetland is to clean the storm water prior to it entering Musqueam Creek, so that the water quality in this salmon-bearing stream is improved.

In January 1997, the Musqueam Creek Committee applied for funding under the provincially-run Urban Salmon Habitat Program. In May 1997, the B.C. Ministry of Environment approved a \$10,000 grant for this project.

DISCUSSION

The proposed biofiltration wetland (see Appendix B) would cover about 100 m² in Musqueam Park, a 24 hectare park. There would be a shallow upper pond and a deeper lower pond. No trees are to be cut down.

The wetland will improve the water quality in Musqueam Creek, one of only two salmon-bearing streams in Vancouver.

The project has been reviewed and is supported by Engineering Services at City Hall. Park Board staff support the wetland since it will improve Musqueam Creek, and the project does not appear to have any significant

negative impacts. The Southlands Ratepayers Association also supports the project.

Park Board staff still recommend that a pamphlet describing the project be delivered to all residences within a two block radius of the park, so that we determine if any citizens are opposed to this project. If there is any opposition, staff will report back to the Board immediately.

PROJECT TIMING AND CONSTRUCTION

Due to the sensitive nature of salmon-bearing streams, the project must be completed by September 1997, or alternatively be delayed for 1 year. Provincial funding is dependent on the project being completed this year.

Consequently, the following schedule is proposed:

- July 9: distribution of pamphlets to residents;
- July 23: last day for residents to comment on the project;
- July 28: if complaints are received, staff will report back to the Board;
- August 1: if no complaints are received, construction of the wetland will begin;
- September 1: construction of the wetland is complete.

The proposal by the Musqueam Creek Committee is to use volunteer labour to build the biofiltration wetland, except for the volunteer coordinator whose salary will be paid from the provincial funding. Park Board staff will ensure that the Committee is properly insured and that all volunteers indemnify the Park Board prior to any construction getting underway.

CONCLUSION

The biofiltration wetland will improve one of the central features in Musqueam Park (i.e. the stream) without any significant negative impacts. Park Board staff recommend approval of the project.

Prepared by:
Planning and Development Division
Board of Parks and Recreation
City of Vancouver
MD
Attachment.

**FOR A COPY OF THE ATTACHMENT CONTACT
MICHEL DESROCHERS AT 257-8402**