



Date: May 15, 2002

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Creating a Sustainable City**

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## RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Board endorse the attached City Council report “Creating a Sustainable City” as a guide to advocate and advance sustainability initiatives both within the Board and among its partner organizations.**

## POLICY

There is no applicable policy.

## BACKGROUND

Both the City and the Board have over the years a number of initiatives that fell under the Sustainable City agenda.

In September 2001 the City Corporate Management Team began to prepare a strategy for addressing sustainability. The findings and recommendations from the working group are described in the attached City Council Report.

## DISCUSSION

The Park Board has long been involved in a variety of initiatives which contribute to the city’s sustainability, these include:

**Integrated Pest Management:** In 1987 the Vancouver Park Board adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM), which has resulted in significant reductions in the use of chemicals. For the past decade no pesticides have been used on any Vancouver playground, sports field, or turf area. Biological control and other practices have greatly reduced the need for chemical pesticides at the Sunset greenhouses, Bloedel Conservatory, and Van Dusen Gardens. While significant progress has been made, further IPM initiatives on public lands and extension of IPM to include private property could result in significant reductions in the use of chemicals in the city.

**Biofiltration:** The Park Board and Engineering Services have cooperated on the creation of two biofiltration systems to cleanse stormwater. The Hastings pond collects storm water from the 300 acre residential area to the south of the park, cleans it, and eventually discharges it into Burrard Inlet. Previously this storm water ended up in the sanitary sewage system and was treated at the Iona plant. The Lost Lagoon facility collects runoff from the causeway, cleans it, and discharges it into Lost Lagoon. The water previously ran, untreated, into Beaver Lake and Lost Lagoon. Both facilities offer aesthetic as well as environmental benefits. This approach can also be applied to other locations such as South East False Creek.

**Urban Forestry:** The trees in parks and streets are estimated to number about 1.6 million. Stewardship of the urban forests not only adds aesthetic value and wildlife habitat to the city, it also enhances the ability to absorb air pollutants, including particulate matter, ground level ozone and CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Social Sustainability:** The Board also contributes to social sustainability through the delivery of neighbourhood based recreation programs, extensive public involvement in decision making and providing countless opportunities for community building in its community centres and parks.

## **SUMMARY**

Endorsement of the “Creating a Sustainable City” report demonstrates leadership and affords staff an opportunity to advocate for or advance a variety of sustainability initiatives throughout the Board and among its partner organizations.

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