



Date: April 8, 2004

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: West Nile Virus**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Board endorse recommendations A, B, C, D and E of the attached City Council report "West Nile Virus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Procedures for 2004" dated April 22, 2004.

## **POLICY**

The Board in May 2003 endorsed a citywide monitoring and surveillance program as well as Council granting authority to the City Manager to undertake a larvicide program, should circumstances warrant it.

## **BACKGROUND**

The attached Council report describes the findings of last year's surveillance and outlines a response program for 2004.

The major findings of the year 2003 are that one of the principal potential carriers of the disease showed up extensively in larval samples taken in catch basins throughout the city. Sampling of water bodies in parks showed variable vector species presence in temporary and semi permanent water bodies.

In permanent water bodies vector species were also identified, but so were well established mosquito predators. As a result populations were usually low, except for one location.

## **DISCUSSION**

Provincially the effort to deal with this public health issue is coordinated by the B.C. Centre for Disease Control. On March 26, 2004 the GVRD adopted a regional policy framework and the action plan described in the report is consistent with that framework and directives from provincial health authorities. Surveillance and monitoring will once again take place both in

catch basins and parks, with an emphasis on the latter.

Should the Medical Health Officer issue an order, a larval control program would go into effect. Catch basins would be treated with methoprene and water bodies in parks and on city land would be treated with Bti a biological pesticide.

Staff are putting the finishing touches on an implementation plan and the efforts by Parks and Engineering will be coordinated by the Board's Integrated Pest Manager.

## **SUMMARY**

This report outlines a response plan to manage City/Park Board lands and infrastructure in order to reduce the public health risks associated with West Nile Virus.

Prepared by:

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PR/vs