



Date: May 26, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Strathcona Gardens Pond - Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding regarding the development of a pond within the Strathcona Community Gardens Society dated June 8, 2004.

POLICY

The Board approves arrangements on significant development projects undertaken with partner organizations on parks.

BACKGROUND

On May 4, 2004 the Strathcona Gardens Society made a presentation to the Board's Planning and Environment Committee with a proposal to construct a pond within the area leased by the Strathcona Gardens Society, and primarily used for community gardens (see attached plan).

DISCUSSION

The Committee was supportive of the concept but wanted to ensure that the project would meet water conservation and solid waste management objectives and regulations. A two phase approach was suggested: feasibility and development.

The pond is intended to be fed by storm water supplemented by water from an aquifer. The feasibility of the latter needs to be tested. The gardens are located within an area that has a history of fill and thus potential contamination. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for water and soil testing prior to the Board considering the proposal for a final decision to proceed.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed by the Society and they concur with its

provisions, subject to receiving an acceptable cost estimate from an environmental consultant. It is anticipated that they will have that in hand prior to the Board meeting.

Following the Board's approval the Memorandum of Understanding will be executed and the project will then move into its feasibility stage.

Prepared by:

Planning and Operations
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PR/vs