



Preserving Green Space in the Grandview Cut

Excerpted from Minutes May 17, 2022

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MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. The Grandview Cut is one of the most significant habitat corridors in Vancouver's highly urban context. Due to its length (approximately 2.5km) - the Cut offers rare east-west habitat connectivity along with key ecological functions of water filtration, room for urban forest canopy that provide cooling, and natural carbon sequestration. It is land owned by the City of Vancouver, and is referenced as a natural asset in the [Grandview Woodland Community Plan](#).
2. The current proposal for redevelopment of the Safeway site at East Broadway and Commercial Drive (1780 E Broadway rezoning) includes plans that would result in destruction of a key section of the Grandview Cut forest and greenspace between Victoria Drive and Commercial Drive. These plans call for excavation, shoring, and two permanent vehicle access ramps that would traverse into the Cut and serve this development alone.
3. The Grandview Cut has been identified as a priority greenspace for more than 25 years. Per [VanPlay](#), Grandview-Woodland (along with Fairview) has the lowest areal cover of parkland per capita of any neighbourhood in Vancouver. Wooded parts of the Grandview Cut, including the proposed ramp location were identified as priority habitat for protection, restoration, and connectivity as part of the city's overall ecological network in the Park Board's [Biodiversity Strategy](#).
4. The proponents' own [Environmental Impact Assessment Update Report](#) dated September 24, 2021, prepared by Envirowest Consultants Inc., found "*[r]amp construction will remove part of the tree canopy from the south side of the Cut, thereby reducing the urban tree canopy in Grandview-Woodland and reducing associated ecological functions as a green corridor within the citywide ecological network, as well as carbon sequestration, rainfall interception, and heat mitigation*", but does not include commitments to mitigate these impacts.
5. According to the Council and Park Board approved [Vancouver Bird Strategy](#) (updated December 2020), habitat loss is the leading cause of bird population decline in British Columbia – "*35% decline in characteristic bird species in the Pacific Coast region of Canada since 1970*" and "*estimated that approximately 87% of the forest cover has been replaced with urban development since the 1850's.*"
6. "[Healing the Cut-Bridging the Gap](#)" was in 1993 a City commissioned public art installation undertaken by artist Oliver Kellhammer, with artist Janis Bowley. The installation was an ecological restoration of the Cut. The intention of this living art installation was to repair the damage incurred to the Cut by bridges recently built across it. This installation, on the south slope of the Grandview Cut, between Victoria Drive and Commercial Drive, and the rehabilitation of lost forest would be lost, should the proposal and the ramp go ahead.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board communicate to the City of Vancouver its concerns about the climate, bird habitat, forest canopy, connectivity, and cultural impacts of the proposed redevelopment of the Safeway site at 1780 East Broadway; especially the impacts of the proposed ramps through the Grandview Cut, and request that the City direct the applicant to relocate or redesign the proposed access points to the development to mitigate these impacts.
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board support preserving the publicly owned Grandview Cut and its ecological and community benefits from further encroachments associated with future adjacent redevelopments along the length of these City lands.

DEFEATED

(Commissioners Barker, Coupar, Irwin and Mackinnon opposed)