



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 4, 2007
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TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Planning in consultation with the Co-Director of Development Services-Policy and Regulations, the Director of Planning and Operations for the Park Board, and the Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Everett Crowley and Jericho Park Earth Day Celebrations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize the disbursement of \$28,000 from the Tree Trust Account toward the purchase of trees for the 2007, 2008, and 2009 Everett Crowley and Jericho Park Earth Day Celebrations with the administration of this program to be managed by existing Park Board staff under the direction of the Director of Planning and Operations for the Park Board.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

In July 1998, Council approved the formation of the Vancouver Tree Trust to promote the role of trees in the city and to form a partnership between the City and the community to encourage the retention and planting of trees in the city.

PURPOSE & SUMMARY

This report requests authorization to allocate the remaining funds from the Vancouver Tree Trust Fund to two Park Board projects.

BACKGROUND

In July 1998, Council approved the formation of the Vancouver Tree Trust to promote the role of trees in the City and to form a partnership between the City and the community to encourage the retention and planting of trees in the city. The program used existing staff support and external donations to meet its objectives.

One program that was funded by the Tree Trust Account was the 1999 Tree Voucher Program. This program was the basis upon which the City received various donations. The City implemented the 1999 Tree Voucher Program, culminating in the planting of over 3,000 trees, provided at a highly subsidized cost. Continuation of the program in subsequent years ceased when the staff person responsible was assigned to other duties. The account therefore remained "dormant" until Financial Services sought advice as to its status. It was on the basis of this enquiry that staff contemplated whether the original program might be reinstated, or whether the remaining monies could be allocated to an existing community landscaping initiative to improve the environment.

DISCUSSION

Due to lack of staff resources to reinstate the original program, this option for allocating the funds was not pursued. Staff considered individual community programs under the ParkPartners program that might meet the original intent of the Tree Trust to form a partnership between the City and the community to encourage the retention and planting of trees. The Jericho and Everett Crowley Earth Day Celebrations could both benefit from funding in order to provide additional planting material. Both community groups that implement the celebrations work closely with Park Board staff to coordinate their efforts at restoring the remnant woodland areas within both Jericho and Everett Crowley Parks.

Since 2004, the Jericho Stewardship Group has been working to remove invasive plants from the park, restore native vegetation and improve natural areas for the enhancement of wildlife in the park. The Everett Crowley Park Committee (ECPC), a sub-committee of the Champlain Heights Community Association, is made up of park users and local residents who are working to see this green space protected and enhanced for the long term. Both volunteer groups direct planting activities in consultation with park staff during Earth Day Celebrations. This annual project is offered through the Park Board's ParkPartners program, and organized by the two volunteer groups.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Tree Trust account has a balance of approximately \$28,000. If Council allocates the funds as staff have recommended the funds would be managed by Park Board staff to purchase trees for planting at the Earth Day Celebrations in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that the remaining funds from the Tree Trust Account be allocated for purchasing planting materials for the Jericho and Everett Crowley Earth Day Celebrations in 2007, 2008, and 2009. The account would be managed by Park Board staff.

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