



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 13, 2011
Contact: Brian Crowe
Contact No.: 604.873.7313
RTS No.: 9211
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 26, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Still Creek Enhancement Project - 2900 Nootka Street

RECOMMENDATION

THAT \$365,265 be allocated from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund for construction of the portion of Still Creek located along 2900 Nootka Street.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

In July 1988, Council endorsed Still Creek to be maintained as an open water course, and to pursue day-lighting, enhancing the Creek, and providing public access to a continuous pedestrian/bicycle pathway linking Burnaby Lake to the B.C. Parkway at 29th Avenue Station.

In July 2000, Council established the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund with contributions from the Vancouver Film Studios for the lease of Cornett Road.

In July 2002, Council adopted the *Grandview Boundary Industrial Area Rezoning and Development Policies and Guidelines* with specific guidelines to protect and enhance Still Creek. Council also endorsed the enhancement plan contained in the Still Creek Rehabilitation and Enhancement Study.

In December 2006, Council endorsed the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) for the Still Creek Watershed to improve stormwater management, recreational opportunities and Creek health.

In April 2008, Council authorized that the annual income from the lease of a 2500 Skeena Street be held in the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund for ongoing initiatives.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to use an estimated \$365,265 from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund to construct an enhancement plan for the portion of Still Creek along Nootka Street south of Grandview Hwy.

This project will accomplish actions described in the Still Creek Enhancement Plan adopted by Council in July 2002 (further supported in the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan for the Still Creek Watershed adopted by Council in December 2006).

BACKGROUND

The long-term actions (10 to 50 years) of the Still Creek Enhancement Plan propose full day-lighting of the creek, educational public art along the creek-side, and enhanced recreation opportunities. A number of improvements have occurred along Still Creek:

- Enhancement project at 3003 Grandview Highway (2005);
- Enhancement of Falaise Park (2005);
- Enhancement project at 3400 Cornett Road (2007); and
- Daylighting of approximately 75 metres of the creek at 2820 Bentall Street (2009);

The most significant improvements to date are along Cornett Road where the day-lighting of Still Creek and extension of Cornett Road (3300 block) were completed as part of the new Canadian Tire development at 2820 Bentall Street.

In 2007, the second enhancement project was completed at 3400 block Cornett Road through the cooperative efforts of City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, Still Creek Stewardship Society and local property owners. The total project cost was \$502,000 (\$315,000 allocated from the Still Creek Enhancement Fund and \$170,000 contributed by Metro Vancouver). Community groups, including the Still Creek Stewardship Society, Evergreen and students from Vancouver Christian Academy, provided in-kind support to the project through community planting and education efforts.

DISCUSSION

Staff are now working on the third major enhancement project for Still Creek at Nootka and Grandview Highway. This project will include contributions from Metro Vancouver (\$200,000), a Trees for Tomorrow provincial grant (\$30,000), Friends of Still Creek Society (\$10,000), and Still Creek Stewardship Society (\$3,700).

The section of the creek along Nootka Street south of Grandview Highway was identified by City staff and Metro Vancouver as the next portion of the creek most in need of repair and enhancement. Metro Vancouver has approved \$200,000 towards improvements at this location and will work in collaboration with the City to repair and enhance this area of the creek. In 2008, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants were hired to develop an enhancement plan for this portion of Still Creek in consultation with Metro Vancouver and City staff.

The Still Creek Enhancement Plan calls for the following measures for this portion of the creek:

- Creation of a pedestrian trail alongside of the creek;
- Water quality treatment ponds;
- Viewing/educational opportunities;
- Replacement of invasive species with native vegetation; and
- Improvements to the stream bed and riparian area.

Staff propose that \$365,265 be allocated from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund to fund the construction work. The Enhancement Fund was approved by Council in 2000 and collects approximately \$105,000 per year through street leases to the Vancouver Film Studios (Cornett Road and Skeena Street). The current balance of the Fund is \$423,813.66.

The project detailed in this report will build on efforts of City staff and the Still Creek Stewardship Society towards the realization of the Still Creek Enhancement Plan and the ISMP. This project will also increase public awareness of this valuable urban waterway. These improvements will offer an enhanced recreation opportunity for the public and will generate momentum for future initiatives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding in the amount of \$365,265 will be used from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund, which has a current balance of \$423,813.66.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend the construction of an enhancement design for the portion of Still Creek along Nootka Street south of Grandview Highway. The enhancement project would be constructed in most part using funding from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund and from Metro Vancouver, which has allocated \$200,000 for this work.

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