

MOTION ON NOTICE

6. Shore to Core: Vancouver's Watershed Revival Plan

Submitted by: Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. As part of the Investing in Canada plan, Infrastructure Canada will deliver \$3.917 Billion through a bilateral agreement with the Province of British Columbia under four funding streams, including a green infrastructure, over the next ten years. The City of Vancouver has an opportunity to apply for funding for major watershed and greenway projects;
2. Metro Vancouver's Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan has a target to eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSO) by 2050. Clark Drive CSO pipes release over 10 million cubic meters a year of combined sewer overflow into Burrard Inlet alone; this can be reduced with better watershed management;
3. The Vancouver Rainwater Management Plan target is for 90% of our annual average rainfall to be captured, infiltrated or treated, before discharge into the marine environment, with only extreme storm events to rely on pipes and road-side gutters;
4. Georgia Straight Alliance's State of the Waterfront Plan aims to increase the number of residents who can access the shoreline within a 10 minute walk, which is currently only 25%;
5. New local area plans, such as the Northeast False Creek Plan, establish high standards for habitat creation and enhancement of biodiversity in marine and intertidal zones to developed areas;
6. The Vancouver Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy has a target to restore or enhance 25 ha of natural areas by 2020 and emphasizes connecting habitats for biodiversity such as through the daylighting of creeks. The Vancouver Park Board is also working on a strategy to foster a greater understanding of past and present use of local waterways, from pre- to post-colonization, and impacts on the future of local waterways;
7. Vancouver City Council unanimously approved on February 13, 2019, that staff report back in Q3 of 2019 with recommendations from the Waterfront Initiative to create an action plan to improve water quality. This includes restoring aquatic and riparian ecology and traditional First Nation's food sources along major natural waterways, such as Burrard Inlet, False Creek, Lost Lagoon, Fraser River and Trout Lake, by engaging with communities, industry, local First Nations, adjacent municipalities, regional, provincial and federal governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back with a scope of work to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan that includes:

- i. Goals to recognize cultural importance and use of waterways, to increase water quality and biodiversity, to naturalize waterways, to increase flood and storm water management, to increase community access to waterways, including the creation of surface water features, and to reduce utility costs;
- ii. Prioritized strategies, including for new land acquisition, protecting existing waterway and habitat connection, daylighting streams (in particular China Creek, Musqueam Creek, Tatlow Creek, Still Creek, Vivian Creek, Hastings Creek), intergovernmental coordination with local First Nations and neighbouring municipalities, and citizen science data collection; and
- iii. Integration with the Rain City Strategy, Healthy City Strategy, Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, Integrated Water Management Plan and the Vancouver Green Infrastructure Strategy.

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