

MOTION

9. Rewilding Vancouver: Ecosystem Restoration Action Plan 2030

At the Council meeting on March 10, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on March 11, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

Moved by: Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. Faced with the climate and biodiversity emergencies, the United Nations has declared 2021-2030 as the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). The goal is to ramp up efforts to reverse centuries of damage to forests, wetlands and other ecosystems;
2. Council has supported the ideas of new blue-green networks to connect our communities, schools, parks, green space, waterways and natural areas with vibrant natural creek corridor. These connections provide many benefits, including increasing the urban forest, reducing urban heat, increasing biodiversity, climate adaptation, flood mitigation, providing pollinator and bird corridors, and connecting us to each other and to active and safe ways of moving around the city;
3. Council has passed a number of strategies aimed at increasing and protecting our ecosystems including, the Urban Forest Strategy, the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, the Urban Forest Strategy, the Raincity Strategy, the Vancouver Bird Strategy, the Watershed Revival Plan, the Healthy City Strategy and the Climate Emergency Action Plan;
4. The City of Portland became the first Salmon-Safe city in North America on October 26, 2016, when Portland City Council accepted the findings of the Salmon-Safe science team's third-party assessment of city operations, along with specific commitments to improve operations and prioritize capital investments across bureaus. The Mayor of Portland sent a challenge for Vancouver to work towards certification as well;
5. The City of Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan has a priority action to develop and implement enhanced water education, incentive and conservation programs while increasing our natural spaces to provide homes for millions of organisms that help filter pollutants from our air and water;
6. Council has adopted the target that restoration work will be completed on enough forest and coastal ecosystems in Vancouver and the surrounding region to remove one million tonnes of carbon pollution annually by 2030;
7. The Vancouver Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy has a target to restore or enhance 25ha of natural areas by 2020 with an emphasis on connecting habitats for biodiverse plants and animals; and

8. The Vancouver School Board approved the first ever Environmental Sustainability Plan in 2019 to promote outdoor learning, access to nature and active transportation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back by fall 2020, in conjunction with the report back from staff on Big Move 6: Restored forests and coasts, with a scope of work for the development of a 10-year Ecosystems Restoration Action Plan that:

- i. Incorporates all relevant ongoing City of Vancouver strategies into one Action Plan including, the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan 2.0, the Urban Forest Strategy, the Raincity Strategy, the Vancouver Bird Strategy, the Watershed Revival Plan, the Healthy City Strategy, and Big Move 6 (Restored forests and coasts) from the Climate Emergency Action Plan;
- ii. Includes a commitment for Vancouver to work towards being certified as a “Salmon-Safe” city;
- iii. Includes a commitment for Vancouver to work towards being certified as a Bird city;
- iv. Includes the creation of a natural asset management plan;
- v. Will be incorporated as part of the Vancouver Plan; and
- vi. Supports a regional ecosystem advisory council that could include the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Park Board, Metro Vancouver and the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, industry and more.

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