Parks, Recreation & Sport 
Tourism Committee – 
Minutes

2E – Community Room A
City Hall
13450 – 104 Avenue
Surrey, BC
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015
Time: 5:30 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present: 
Councillor Hayne – Chairperson
Councillor Gill
T. Allen, School Board Trustee
C. Annable
R. Benson
M. Booth
B. Burnside
R. Gorman
G. Rai

Regrets: 

Staff Present: 
L. Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
T. Uhrich, Parks Planning, Research & Design Manager
L. White, Manager Community & Recreation Services
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

Youth Representatives: 
S. Gill
K. Grover

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by C. Annable
That the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee of April 15, 2015, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Mitch Sokalski, Director, Regional Parks, Metro Vancouver Regional District

Mitch Sokalski, Director, Regional Parks, Metro Vancouver Regional District, was in attendance to provide an overview of the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks programs and services within Surrey.

In addition to the handout providing a brief overview of Metro Vancouver’s Regional Parks System (circulated on-table), a PowerPoint presentation was also given, outlining the various facts and differences between regional and municipal parks.

Comments were as follows:

- Metro Vancouver Regional Park (MVRP) programs serve its 22 municipal members, one electoral area and one treaty first nation, in providing opportunities to connect with, enjoy and be active within and learn about natural environments within the context of natural area protection.

- Regional parks and other Metro Vancouver green space extends from Bowen Island to Abbotsford, totaling over 14,500 ha of parkland. The system is
composed of 22 regional parks, two ecological conservancy areas (environmentally sensitive lands not open to the public), four regional reserves (regional parks in waiting) and five regional trails which are linear features.

- Facilities and activities provided in Metro Vancouver regional parks include:
  - 350 km trails
  - 2 nature houses
  - 70 viewpoints
  - 4 beaches
  - 42 picnic areas
  - 1 equestrian center
  - 2 campgrounds
  - 4 group camp sites

- Last year 10.8 million visits were recorded at regional park and greenway sites (record breaking for many parks). This represents a 4.4% increase in visitor use across the park system over 2012 levels. The greatest increase in visitation occurred in the eastern part of the region at Brae Island, Derby Reach and Glen Valley Regional Parks. Average annual park visitor use increases at a faster rate (4.05%) than regional population growth (1.69%).

- A wide range of interpretive programs, day use facilities and community development services are offered. Last year there were 709 interpretive programs and events attended by almost 62,000 members of the public. These programs and services are delivered and coordinated by Metro Vancouver staff often in partnership with community groups.

- Volunteers play an important role; recording close to 24,000 hours last year, primarily around stewardship, boots on ground, removal of invasive plants and education.

- Today the value of Metro Vancouver land and assets is approximately $3 billion worth of land and $140 million in built assets (trails, facilities, roads, etc.).

- The 2015 budget is $33.3 million, paid for through municipal taxes (Surrey contribution just under $4.0 million), with capital components for land acquisition (Heritage Parkland Acquisition fund), capital replacement and development of park facilities and a capital maintenance budget.


Discussion ensued with respect to the development of Surrey Bend through various partnerships/agreements with the Province, Ministry of Transportation, Metro Vancouver and the City of Surrey. The highly anticipated opening of the park in Spring 2016, will have enhanced fish channels, walkways/bridgeways installed, a "nature play area" and three viewpoints looking toward the water.

In closing, Mr. Sokalski reiterated Metro Vancouver’s role in protecting and connecting people with nature; providing opportunities throughout the region to enjoy, respect and protect the natural environment.
On behalf of the Committee, the Chair expressed appreciation for the very informative presentation and requested that a copy of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Service Review report be provided to the Committee in due course. It was noted that the report can be found on the Metro Vancouver website at:

http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/ParksPublications/RegionalParksServiceReview.pdf

2. Kasia Nastalska (CEO), Scott Nelson (VP Sponsorship) and Moriah MacGregor (President), VeloFemmes Canada CCC Ltd.

Kasia Nastalska (CEO), Moriah MacGregor (President) and Peter Kraus (Director), VeloFemmes Canada CCC Ltd. (VeloFemmes), were in attendance to provide a presentation to propose bringing a Professional Women’s Cycling Race to Surrey in 2016.

As an overview of the proposed cycling race, and to demonstrate the calibre of athletes and enthusiasm generated, a short video of the highlights from the USA Pro Challenge event (Colorado) was shown. A PowerPoint presentation was also given to outline the proposed women’s event. Comments were as follows:

- The female athletes within the professional peloton deserve a world class stage race in a world class place.

- VeloFemmes is aggressively pursuing a professional women’s cycling race to take place May, 2016, over six days, 500 km, engaging communities from Whistler to the Fraser Valley. A number of school outreach events will also be provided throughout the event.

- This $4.5M annual event will play host to the greatest female cyclists from around the world, bringing their teams, staff and fans to the Lower Mainland every May.

- A case study of the success of the inaugural 2013 Tour of Alberta, a six-day professional stage race for men, was done. The following was noted:
  - over 200,000 on-site spectators;
  - $22 million in positive economic impact to Alberta;
  - broadcast live daily to over 160 countries;
  - watched daily by over 44 million viewers;
  - 480 media outlets provided coverage; and
  - 2.8 billion media impressions in print, radio, TV, and on-line.

- To follow in the success of the partnership for the Tour of Alberta, VeloFemmes has partnered with Medalist Sports, LLC, who specializes in the successful planning, promotion and management of special events, ranging from professional competitions to amateur experiences, to cause-related/fundraising events.

- A broad spectator attendance is anticipated. Based on previous events, it is estimated there will be spectators (55% male and 45% female) of all ages (majority 26 – 50 years) from 20 countries, all provinces and 10 US states.

- There are 900 cyclists worldwide. All main sources of media will be utilized: TV (39%), internet (34%), Radio (14%) and Print (13%), to promote the event.
The "ask" of the City of Surrey at this time is an opportunity to connect with the City’s peers, continue to engage and meet with VeloFemmes to develop the event and explore specific opportunities to work together to bring the event Surrey.

To quote Jeffrey Hansen-Carlson, founder of VeloFemmes Canada CCC Ltd., “We want to give professional female cyclists from around the world a ‘Tour de France’ here. Now. The time has come. This is the place. A few short years ago we would not be having this discussion. A few short years from now we will have missed an opportunity to be a pioneer on the international stage.”

In response to the Committees questions, the following was noted:

- VeloFemmes is a community contribution company, relatively new to British Columbia and specifically incorporated for the lower mainland group, split 60% not for profit and 40% for profit.
- Surrey is large enough to host the entire event, but there is a price tag associated with that. The opportunity to have the finish line in Surrey can be discussed; several municipalities have expressed an interest.
- There will be athletes who are competing in the Tour de Delta who compete at this level.
- With respect to some of the local events that have been held in the past (e.g. Tour de White Rock), it is often spectatorship that has hampered success, whereas in Europe, it is a culture. With the recent success of cycling as an Olympic event in 2012, and building on the sport through school outreach programs, greater support of the sport is predicted.
- Stage racing, similar to Tour de France, is currently planned. The thought is to have the teams centrally located so they move once or twice. Some of the events will be point to point, there and back, or a big loop, which will offer a greater opportunity to see the athletes as they ride by.
- Entrance fees will be charged, not expected to be too expensive.
- At this time route planning has not fully been determined. Many routes have been discussed, but it is likely that the source(s) of financial support will be the determining factor.
- As far as there being a similar women’s event, there was a 5-6 day event held in Idaho in 2012. Since then, there has not been any women’s only events held in North America, that we know of. However, building on the success of the 2012 Olympics, it is encouraging to know that the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the world governing body for the sport of cycling recognised by the International Olympic Committee, is actively looking for events like this. (UCI’s commitment is to lead the development of cycling as a competitive sport and activity in all its forms, across the world.)
- With respect to student outreach programs, there is an "I Ride" program throughout BC that VeloFemmes is currently exploring potential partnership opportunities.
- The anticipated costs to produce the event, particularly with respect to road closures, will really depend upon the race itself. If it is a point to point race or a course, at least part of the way will be designated and will need road closure.
consideration. Meladalist Sports will be able to assist in determining the specifics as they have been successful in having groups go through cities as large as Los Angeles.

The Committee thanked the delegation for their presentation, noting that staff will follow-up with the delegation to review the logistics of the proposed event and discuss an outline of the levels of sponsorship for the City of Surrey that may be available.

C. STAFF PRESENTATION

1. Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided a presentation on the Arena Replacement Strategy.

A PowerPoint presentation was given, providing a review of existing facilities, the demand for ice, strategic arena planning principles, and the relocation of North Surrey Arena and future facility development.

Comments were as follows:

- Ice use and minor sport registrations are being monitored to evaluate ongoing demand for ice – consistent with PRC 10 year Strategic Plan.
- Current ice allocated to existing user groups is at capacity; groups are renting ice outside of Surrey for skill development; 100% of prime time ice is allocated.
- Overall there has been limited growth in minor sport registrations since 2009, however the City’s skating programs are growing and often at capacity.
- Existing demand plus population growth justifies one (1) more sheet of ice in 2016/17 (identified in Build Surrey).
- The North Surrey Arena has two sheets of ice; one built in 1966 and the other in 1988. The oldest sheet is very close, if not beyond, its life expectancy. The other sheet could last another 10+ years, with capital upgrades. It is felt, however, that it is time to move the arena itself out of the downtown core and look toward replacing it versus investing keeping it operational for an extended period of time, particularly before a major fail occurs at that location.
- The other sheet being monitored is at the Cloverdale Arena. Built in 1972, it has the potential life expectancy of another 10+ years. The ice is good now, but with the growth in the area, replacement of this facility is in the 5 Year Capital Program.
- Although there has not been an increase in the City’s inventory, we have been able to capitalize on more registered programs, which operate at a very high capacity and fill up immediately; learn to skate programs are as popular as swimming programs.
- Adult hockey has experienced quite a bit of growth, increasing from 18 adult teams in 2012/2013 to 42 teams expected 2014/2015. This is particularly due to
the change in the way the programs are delivered, playing primarily out of the Surrey Sport and Leisure facility where time is blocked specifically for adult use.

- Historically arenas have been single sheet located in the Town Centres. However, it is much more efficient and cost effective to operate a two (or optimal three) sheet facility; operating costs are lower and a much higher level of income can be achieved.

- When building a standard twin sheet arena, 80-84,000 sq. ft. is required and to support the facility, 240 parking stalls will be necessary. Altogether, a minimum of 5 acres of land (8 – 10 acres preferred to allow for future addition of 3rd and 4th sheets) is needed.

- Planning for the future, we want to look at 2, 3 or possibly 4 sheet facilities, preferably built adjacent to a pool or other facility which would provide the ability to share energy efficiency.

- Moving forward, locating arenas in 3 primary locations will serve the 3 largest minor sport users: Newton/North Surrey, Cloverdale and South Surrey.

- Currently, the short term goal is to build 2 replacement sheets in North Surrey, at a convenient location, minimizing capital and operating expenditures. An additional sheet will be added as per the Build Surrey program. This will meet ice demands of Surrey residents with minor sport being a priority.

- It will take approximately 2 years from design to completion of construction of a new facility, which must be fully operational prior to the existing facility decommissioning.

- Council has endorsed City owned land at Trouten Pitt as the future location for the North Surrey Arenas (128 Street and 110 Avenue). The site is large enough for two sheets of ice with the opportunity to expand an additional sheet. Replacement for the two sheets of ice is in the Five Year Capital Budget 2016/17. A Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) for a design build has been issued.

- A full traffic study will be performed as part of the development application for the facility to ensure the area can accommodate the anticipated traffic increase.

- A third sheet of ice as a spectator facility, to home a professional sport team, is now also being considered. The number of seats would depend on the response from the private sector in regard to the size and type of team they propose as an anchor tenant. The proposed location would be great with direct access to transit, and may be a catalyst for development in the area.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the prospect of a spectator facility and the opportunity to consider the potential for naming rights.

The status of an opportunity to bring a second YMCA facility to Surrey was also discussed. Staff reported that the YMCA have advised they are very interested in bringing a second YMCA to Surrey and have been looking at a couple of locations. A second YMCA facility in Surrey would further enhance recreation opportunities in Surrey and minimize costs to the City.
Comments continued:

- The City is in the process of securing future arena development locations in Cloverdale and Newton. Cloverdale Arena development, to replace two sheets, is currently in the Five Year Capital Plan for 2017/18.

- Subject to annual review by Council, the current long term ice plans include:
  - 1 – 5 yrs: - Build two replacement sheets in North Surrey
  - Build Cloverdale replacement two sheets
  - 5 – 10 yrs: - Secure land and capital for Newton Arena replacement
  - 10 – 20 yrs: - Build South Surrey ice at Grandview
  - Build Cloverdale replacement two sheets

In closing it was noted that an overview of ideas and opportunities available for the current North Surrey Arena will be provided to the Committee at a future meeting.

D. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Concept Plan for Three Parks in North Grandview Heights
   File No.6140-20/N

   The memorandum from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, dated May 6, 2015, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

   1. Receive the report as information;

   2. Endorse the concept plan for the three park sites attached as Appendix I to this report and recommend its adoption by Council;

   3. Recommend to Council that the names Mountain View Park for the park lots currently labeled 114L Neighbourhood Park and 114K Greenbelt, Wills Brook Park for the park lots currently labeled 114M Greenbelt and 114H Neighbourhood Park and Morgan Grove for the park lot currently labelled 114O Neighbourhood Park, be adopted; and

   4. That a copy of the report be attached to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.
It was Moved by C. Annable  
Seconded by G. Rai  
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the Manager, Parks Planning, Research and Design, dated May 6, 2015, entitled “Concept Plan for Three Parks in North Grandview Heights” as information, and that a copy of the report be attached to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.  
Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved by B. Burnside  
Seconded by R. Benson  
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee recommend that Council:

1. Receive the report from the Parks Planning, Research and Design Manager, dated May 6, 2015, entitled “Concept Plan for Three Parks in North Grandview Heights” (attached as Appendix 1) as information;

2. Endorse the concept plan for the three park sites attached as Appendix I to the report; and

3. Adopt the names Mountain View Park for the park lots currently labeled 114L Neighbourhood Park and 114K Greenbelt, Wills Brook Park for the park lots currently labeled 114M Greenbelt and 114H Neighbourhood Park and Morgan Grove for the park lot currently labelled 114O Neighbourhood Park.

Carried

2. Sport Tourism Report – March and April, 2015  
File: 6980-01

The memorandum from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated May 12, 2015, regarding the above subject line, was reviewed. It was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report as information.

It was Moved by R. Gorman  
Seconded by R. Benson  
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, dated May 12, 2015, entitled “Sport Tourism Report – March and April, 2015”, as information.

Carried

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL
G. CORRESPONDENCE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Surrey 2016 Women’s World Softball Championship – Funding Request
   File No. 1850-01

   Corporate Report F002, dated April 14, 2015, entitled "Surrey 2016 Women’s World Softball Championship – Funding Request", from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture and the General Manager, Finance and Technology, was provided for information.

2. Sport Tourism Grant Program
   File No. 1850-01

   Corporate Report R061, dated April 13, 2015, entitled "Sport Tourism Grant Program", from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture and the General Manager, Finance and Technology, was provided for information.

   Committee member R. Benson praised the program, noting that it is long overdue and will go a long way in helping to promote the hosting of larger events in Surrey.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Calendar of Events

   The calendar of upcoming Parks, Recreation and Culture and Community Events was acknowledged.

2. Verbal Update

   L. Cavan, GM, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided the following update:

   • **Cross walk at South Surrey Athletic Park** (20 Avenue) – Parks’ have had a concept for a crosswalk at this location that was planned as part of future works. Staff are currently working with Engineering staff to complete a detailed design for a crosswalk and coordinate the timing of the installation for the fall, 2015. It is believed that the crosswalk would be the best short and long term solution as compared to an overpass as it is much less costly and it is felt that most users in situations like this, and at this location in particular, are not willing to go up and over a road via an overpass if they think they can cross at grade more easily and quickly.

   • **Gypsy Moth Spraying at Mound Farm Park** - During the week of May 10th to 15th, the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations completed the 3rd and final ground spray treatment at Mound Farm Park in their effort to eradicate gypsy moth from the area. The ground spray program
at Mound Farm Park was focused on the deciduous trees, blackberries, and other bushes around the periphery of the mound, and also included the understory vegetation in the forest on the mound itself. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is continuing to monitor gypsy moth populations to determine the success of the program this spring.

- **Newton Tennis** - Staff received an email from the members of the Newton Seniors Tennis Club to say congratulations and thanks for a job well done on the new tennis courts at Newton Athletic Park. They appreciated parks cooperation and consideration.

- **Covered Soccer Practice Facility at South Surrey Athletic Park** - The Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) for proponents interested in partnering with the City to deliver a covered sport practice facility has closed. There was quite a bit of interest in the RFEOI but only one submission, from Coastal FC, was received. The RFEOI process satisfies the requirement to publicly advertise potential partnering opportunities. The results will be communicated to Council and negotiations with Coastal FC will proceed. The RFEOI was beneficial in further defining the project and measuring Coastal FC's commitment to the project.

- **Bid to Pavco re BC Place Turf** - The City took possession of approximately 70,000 sq ft. of used “PolyTan” synthetic turf with BionPro infill from BC Place stadium, as it readies itself for the 2015 FIFA World Cup Women's Soccer with a new surface. The three year old carpet and infill system will be temporarily stored in a storage shed at Sullivan Park. The inert properties of the BionPro infill make it a highly desirable product for indoor practice facilities that Surrey is envisioning at its major athletic parks in the near future.

  Other uses for the turf are as warm-up/practice surfaces. Newton Athletic Park currently has two grassed areas in the southern portion of the park that would be ideal for this use.

  There was no cost to purchase this used material, however the City paid for the transportation to Sullivan Park and will require additional funds to install the used product at a yet to be determined location.

- **Party for the Planet, April 25th** - Surrey’s Party for the Planet was a great success and continues to grow with over 15,000 people attending. This FREE community event featured activities and environmental programming for families and children. There were over 30 exhibits, a tree sale with native plants, the new solar-powered enviro bungee, the solar powered bike smoothie, plus many other activities focused around sustainability. Entertainment and green speakers included Charlotte Diamond, Green Mama, Urban Safari, a Raptors Birds of Prey demo, Kiki the Eco Elf, Mad Science, Peter G-G, Ta Da Lady and our famous Curious George who planted a monkey tree with the help of Mayor Hepner!

- **Tree and Native Plant Sale** - Held at the Party for the Planet event, the tree and native plant sale was very successful with 273 deciduous and evergreen trees and 576 native plants (new this year) sold to the public during the event.
• **Arbor Day** - Over 350 members of the community attended Surrey’s 11th annual Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, May 2nd to plant 70 large shade trees at the newly renovated Newton Athletic Park. This free family event also featured a backyard tree sale (59 trees and 13 native plants were sold), tree-themed activities, rock climbing and live entertainment.

• **Mother’s Day at the Glades** - Another successful Mother’s Day event occurred at the Glades Garden on May 10th. This special woodland garden is home to many species of rare and unusual rhododendrons, azaleas and fine heritage trees. Organized by the Partners In Parks team, ”Mother’s Day at the Glades” was attended by more than 1,300. Guests were entertained throughout the day by a number of musicians, including cellists, violinists, and a stringed quartet. Stacey Rosa, Park Partnerships, played the lead role in planning the event and working closely with Jim and Elfriede De Wolf to ensure the event was a great success.

• **Bucci Park Event, April 28th** - Over 550 people attended (282 Adults, 265 Children) an event aimed at getting more families using the park. The event was co-hosted with the Partners In Parks, Surrey School District #36, the local Parent Advisory Committee, RCMP and HASTe BC (Hub for Active School Travel). Games for kids were available and food was served (603 burgers, hot dogs and veggie dogs and 400 samosas were given out).

• **Summer Hiring for Summer Camps** (0-18) – The process is near completion, with the CRS division hiring approximately 120 part-time staff to fill the positions for summer day camp leaders, assistants and early childhood educators.

• **Outdoor Pools** - Greenaway, Sunnyside and Bear Creek Outdoor Pools opened as of Monday, May 18th. Admissions to public swims are free to the public. The remaining pools, Holly, Hjorth Road, Ports Kells, Kwantlen and Unwin are scheduled to open to the public on July 1st.

• **Guildford Recreation Centre – The Aquatics Grand Opening** is taking place on Saturday, May 30th from 12pm – 3pm, including a free swim, refreshments and prizes. Ribbon cutting will be at 1:30pm, with the unveiling of “Splash”, public art by artist Michael Krondl, who will be in attendance for the unveiling.

• **Clayton Community Festival** – Held at Clayton Crossing/Hillcrest Shopping Centres on Saturday, May 9th, the festival welcomed approximately 3,000 attendees. This is a community lead festival primarily supported by the business community of Clayton Heights. CRS (Cloverdale) provided a variety of activities to enhance the festival.

• **Surrey Youth Basketball Breakdance Showcase – May 2** - Last year it was called Youth Fest but the name was changed to be more reflective of the event. The popular event featured a city-wide youth basketball tournament, breakdance battles, youth focused resource tables (14 in total), a hip-hop showcase and wheelchair basketball.
25 teams registered for the city-wide youth basketball tournament, open to junior boys (ages 13-15), senior boys (ages 15-18) and girls (ages 13-18), and there were 180 participants in the breakdance and hip hop showcase, including a few youth from the Yukon and one youth from Toronto who flew in to participate in the breakdancing.

- **Early Years Festival at Chuck Bailey April 11th** - Approximately 850 - 1,000 families came out to the event. The Preschool room had children potting plants/hammering exercise into tree stumps with string/open play in the classroom; the Multi-purpose room had children and families going through an obstacle course with Physical Literacy as the focus. The main stage had Chris Hamilton & The Sticky Jam Band as well as an interactive drumming session for the children.

Many non-profit agencies that serve the North Surrey community (Options, CCRR, School District #36 Strong Start) and many City departments (Parks, Libraries, International Children’s Festival) were represented.

- **British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Symposium** – Staff presented on physical literacy and Surrey’s "I AM Game" programming at the 2015 BCRPA "Activate Communities For Healthy Living" Symposium, held in Victoria May 6th to 8th. The presentation was very well received, noting that Surrey is leading the way in this regard!

J. **NEXT MEETING**

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, however the Committee was advised they will be contacted further regarding a potential meeting date change.

K. **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was Moved by T. Allen
Seconded by R. Gorman
That the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee do now adjourn.

Carried

The Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk
Councillor Bruce Hayne, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee
TO: Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee
FROM: Manager – Parks, Planning, Research and Design
DATE: May 6th, 2015
FILE: 6140-20/N

RE: Concept Plan for three Parks in North Grandview Heights

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive this report as information;

2. Endorse the concept plan for the three park sites attached as Appendix I to this report and recommend its adoption by Council;

3. Recommend to Council that the names Mountain View Park for the park lots currently labeled 114L Neighbourhood Park and 114K Greenbelt, Wills Brook Park for the park lots currently labeled 114M Greenbelt and 114H Neighbourhood Park and Morgan Grove for the park lots currently labelled 114O Neighbourhood Park be adopted; and

4. Attach a copy of the report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

BACKGROUND

North Grandview Heights is a rapidly growing neighbourhood in South Surrey. New development west of 160th Street and north of 28th Avenue is expected to bring 1,600 new residents to that area alone. Three new park sites were identified through the Neighbourhood Concept Plan planning process and conveyed to Parks through the subdivision of the surrounding lands and through parkland acquisition in 2014-2015. The Parks Division has planned the three park sites in conjunction to deliver the requisite amenities for a new neighbourhood while also preserving forest and riparian areas for biodiversity conservation.

Park site #1 was secured primarily for tree protection and as a natural area. Park site #2 consists of a pond and a grassy, open space. The pond and surrounding riparian area are subject to a license agreement with the adjacent developments for habitat compensation. Park site #3 consists of Wills Brook, a fish bearing watercourse and riparian area as well a grassy open space with several trees. A portion of the Wills Brook riparian area is subject to a license agreement for
habitat compensation while other riparian areas have the potential for future habitat compensation projects.

DISCUSSION

The concept plan prepared for the three parks proposes a variety of neighbourhood level amenities. The concept plan showing all three park sites is attached as Appendix I to this report.

Park Site #1 – Morgan Grove Park

Morgan Grove Park will be managed as a natural area and will be planted with native trees and shrubs. The site will also have natural area trails to improve pedestrian connectivity in the area and provide opportunities for accessing nature by local residents.

Parks Site #2 – Mountain View Park

Mountain View Park is an important local park in a new neighbourhood with a playground and large lawn area with connecting paths to the surrounding neighbourhood. The playground will be designed for children ages 0-6 to complement the existing playground at Sunnyside Elementary that is designed for children ages 6-12. There is also a viewpoint proposed at the habitat ponds for views to the North Shore Mountains. The habitat ponds have been constructed through adjacent development and will be maintained as a natural area.

Park Site #3 – Wills Brook Park

Wills Brook Park is primarily for the protection of Wills Brook and its riparian area. An environmental report including a Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) assessment was completed in 2015. The report established the RAR boundary, detailed additional restoration opportunities and determined which areas were available for active park amenities. Approximately 0.8 hectares (2.0 acres) are outside the riparian area and a dog off-leash area is proposed fronting 160th Street. The off-leash area will be entirely fenced off which is Surrey’s standard practice for dog off leash areas. There are also planned pedestrian connections crossing Wills Brook to connect sites #2 and #3 and construction of a path to the intersection of Mountain View Drive and 160th Street and north to 28th Avenue to promote walkability and connectivity in the neighbourhood.

Consultation Process and Feedback

The consultation process for these three park sites was completed in a two-step process. First, a CitySpeaks survey was sent to residents of the North Grandview Heights NCP area. 108 residents replied to the CitySpeaks survey.

Second, a public open house was held. The open house was held on April 13th, 2015 at Sunnyside Elementary. The open house was advertised in local newspapers, on the City’s website and social media, signs posted in local parks and shops and a notice was sent to approximately 600 homes in the surrounding neighbourhood. The information displayed at the open house was posted on the City’s website the following week and feedback was collected. 31 people signed in to the open house. The presentation boards from the open house are attached to this report as Appendix II.
There were several consistent messages from the survey and open house. Walking trails and paths, natural area planting/enhancement and a playground were ranked first, second and third through both engagement opportunities. These three elements are key components of the plan as proposed. A dog off-leash area and passive grass/open space were the next most requested amenities. The concept plan for all three parks deliver these top 5 requested amenities, all within walking distance of this growing neighbourhood. Feedback from the CitySpeaks surveys and the open house is attached as Appendix III.

A secondary question was asked of those who chose a dog off-leash area, whether they support one large area for all dogs or a separate, fenced area for small and large dogs. It was noted that the size of the area could not accommodate both. Nearly 70% of respondents preferred one large area. The proposed off-leash dog area will be designed as one larger area to allow for longer runs.

At the open house, a comment frequently made by residents was regarding traffic and walkability in the neighbourhood. Many residents have safety concerns regarding the pedestrian environment between their houses in the neighbourhood south to the shopping centre at 24th Avenue and 160th Street as well as to Sunnyside Elementary and Southridge Schools. Through the design of these parks, we are improving pedestrian connectivity between sites with a proposed connection across Wills Brook as well as completion of a gravel path north along 160th Street to 28th Avenue. The ultimate widening of 160th Street that will include formal sidewalks is in the Engineering 10 year plan as a medium term priority.

For parking in the neighbourhood, Parks typically does not include onsite parking in neighbourhood parks. The intent is that these parks are walk-to destinations serving the immediate neighbourhood. In Wills Brook Park, due to the size of the proposed off-leash area, a parking lot would require too much area to make an off-leash site functional. Additionally, adjacent local streets, Mountain View Drive and 159th Street, provide approximately 70 on-street parking spaces. A similar approach was taken at Panorama Park recently and has been very successful.

**Park Naming**

In addition to providing feedback on park amenities, residents were also asked if they support the suggested names for the parks. The names that were forwarded were supported by the residents. The recommended park names are in compliance with the City Policy on ‘Naming of Parks and Facilities,’ attached to this report as Appendix IV.

**Next Steps**

Parks has collected adequate funding through the Neighbourhood Concept Plan Amenity Contributions to construct all three park sites starting in 2015. The park sites should be fully operational in 2016 as new residents continue to move into the neighbourhood.
SUMMARY

Three new parks sites in North Grandview Heights have been planned and designed to provide the requisite amenities for a new neighbourhood. The final concept plan for the three park sites includes trails and paths, natural area enhancements, a playground, open grassy area and a dog off-leash area. Given the support from the community for the concept plan attached as Appendix I to this report, Parks, Recreation and Culture staff recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Sport Tourism Committee:

1. Receive this report as information;

2. Endorse the concept plan for the three park sites attached as Appendix I to this report and recommend its adoption by Council;

3. Recommend to Council that the names Mountain View Park for the park lots currently labeled 114L Neighbourhood Park and 114K Greenbelt, Wills Brook Park for the park lots currently labeled 114M Greenbelt and 114H Neighbourhood Park and Morgan Grove for the park lots currently labelled 114O Neighbourhood Park be adopted; and

4. Attach a copy of the report to the minutes of the meeting for Council reference.

Ted Uhrich
Manager Parks Planning, Research and Design

Attachments:
Appendix I – North Grandview Heights Park Sites Concept Plan
Appendix II - North Grandview Heights Park Open House Boards
Appendix III - Open House and CitySpeaks Feedback Summary
Appendix IV - Park Naming Policy
Appendix I – North Grandview Heights Park Sites Concept Plan
Appendix II – North Grandview Heights Park Open House Presentation Boards

1 Welcome!

Background Information

This open house focuses on the first stage of planning and design for three new park sites in the neighbourhood. Please share your ideas and comments to help shape these new parks!

1. Place a coloured dot to indicate where you live on the map on board #2.
   If you live outside the area shown on the map, please place your dot in the white space around the map.

2. Sign in, take a comment form and view the displays.
   We encourage you to provide your ideas and input by completing the comment form.

Project team members are available to provide you with information and answer your questions about the project.
INTRODUCTION

Show us Where you Live

Place a coloured dot to indicate where you live on the map. If you live outside the area shown on the map, please place your dot in the white space around the map.
Neighbourhood Context

The North Grandview Heights neighbourhood does not yet have any active park sites, although there are several natural area parks to protect sensitive habitats and streams.

**Nearby Parks**

- **Oliver Park**
  - Amenities: playground, forest area and trails, open space

- **Morgan Creek Park**
  - Amenities: soccer field, tennis courts, playground, open space

- **Blumsen Park**
  - Amenities: playground, forest area and trails, open space

- **Sunnyside Park**
  - Amenities: outdoor pool, tennis courts, soccer field, baseball diamonds, playground, forested areas, open space

The City strives to have a playground within walking distance (400m or less) for all Surrey residents.

- Playground location (see adjacent map)

In 2012, the City adopted a new dog off-leash strategy. This strategy noted the need for a new off-leash area in the growing Grandview Heights neighbourhood. The site chosen in the strategy was not viable due to BC Hydro issues, so we are looking for an alternative site to provide this needed park amenity. There are currently no off-leash areas in the Grandview Heights area. The closest off-leash area is in Dogwood Park on 20th Ave and 136th St, over 7 km away.
Site Descriptions

Each of the park sites present unique natural features and opportunities for public amenities. Here is a brief description of each site:

**Park Site #1**
Located on Wills Brook Way and adjacent to the Grandview Greenway, this park measures an area of approximately 0.3 hectares (.76 acres). The park is forested, featuring mature second growth Douglas Fir, Hemlock and Cedar trees.

**Park Site #2 (Mountain View Park)**
Located on Mountain View Drive, this park is mostly open space with views of the north shore mountains. There are two adjacent ponds that provide habitat for several species. The area around the ponds has already been planted with shrubs and trees to enhance fish and bird habitat. The park site, not including the pond and habitat areas, measures 0.5 hectares (1.35 acres).

**Site Site #3 (Wills Brook Park)**
Our third park site is located along 160th Street, south of 30th Avenue. The park is predominantly a natural area which protects Wills Brook, a fish-bearing creek that flows from Oliver Park to the Nicomekl River. The natural area is predominantly forested, with Douglas Fir, Cedar and Big Leaf Maples. The park includes 0.6 hectares (1.5 acres) of open space that includes an old house, illustrated in the adjacent image. This portion of the park is suitable for more active amenities.

Board #5 describes in detail the Wills Brook Park area.
An environmental report was completed identifying all the features on site as well as opportunities for riparian area improvements in the park.

The report delineated what areas were available for the off-leash area and what should be protected for its natural values.

Existing vegetation on site is a mix of native and invasive species with a large area of mown grass.

Wills Brook is a fish bearing creek and there are a number of areas for potential habitat improvements to support biodiversity.

The thick red line represents the boundary between the riparian area and non-riparian area. This was determined through a riparian areas regulation report.

Land west of the red line will be protected and enhanced as riparian area. This will help to ensure Wills Brook remains an important fish bearing creek into the future.

The area east of the red line is available for neighbourhood level park amenities.

Regardless of the amenities chosen for the park, Parks will remove invasive species throughout and maintain the riparian area as a natural area.
Prior to this open house, the City conducted an online CitySpeaks survey. 108 residents in the Grandview Heights area replied and gave their opinion on potential park amenities. Here are the highlights of what they had to say.

**Top 5 ranked Park Amenities:**
- 33% Trails & Paths
- 14% Playground
- 19% Natural Area Enhancements
- 11% Dog-off Leash Area
- 6% Open Space & Picnic

**Dog-Off Leash Area Format:**
Must include one large area rather than separate large and small dog areas.

**Some quotes from the survey:**
- ‘Nature playground, logs, large rocks etc’
- ‘Leave as many trees as possible’
- ‘Bird-watching hides’
- ‘Interconnected with paths and walkways’
- ‘A restful, peaceful green sanctuary’
- ‘Dog park with a water fountain and space to run’
- ‘An area of undisturbed nature...’
Proposed Park Amenities

These new parks are all neighbourhood level parks, meant to be walkable and small scale. Here are our preliminary ideas for the parks based on our survey:

**Park Site # 1 (Help us name this park)**
This park site is small and forested. To protect the trees, only a trail or two are proposed. The main focus here is tree preservation and creating an small escape into nature. Any trails would be designed to limit impact.

**Park Site # 2 (Mountain View Park)**
This park has lots of open space. This is a good location for a playground and picnic area. There is also a great opportunity to create a viewing platform next to the ponds to view the ducks and other wildlife, as well as the views to the North Shore mountains. The ponds and habitat areas will be fenced off for their protection.

**Park Site # 3 (Wills Brook Park)**
Most of this park will be set aside as a natural area for the protection of Wills Brook and the habitat it provides. Similar to park # 2, the creek and habitat areas will be fenced off for protection. The area next to 160th Street is flat and mostly existing lawn. This location would make a nice dog-off-leash area, with opportunities for pathways to connect with the surrounding neighbourhood.

*Why are dog off-leash areas important?*
In addition to providing an amenity for dog owners, setting aside dog off-leash areas helps limit dogs running off-leash in other parks. Fencing off-leash areas reduces conflict between dogs and other park users as well as creates great social opportunities for dog owners.
What are some ideas for these parks?

Write your comments on a sticky pad and post them here. Tell us what amenities you'd like to see, or your thoughts on what we've got so far. Remember to also fill out the comment form!

Park Site # 1 - What about a name for this park?
(small, forested park)

Park Site # 2 - Mountainview Park
(open space with ponds and a proposed playground)

Park Site # 3 - Willis Brook Park
(Wills brook creek, lots of protected natural area and a fenced in dog off-leash areal)
Some ideas for different amenities

Here are some ideas to think about—what other amenities might make these parks great?

Separate areas for big and small dogs?
Appendix III – Open House Feedback Summary

North Grandview Heights Parkland Open House & CitySpeaks Feedback Summary

Feedback for these three park sites was completed in a two-step process. First, a CitySpeaks survey was sent to residents of the North Grandview Heights NCP area. 108 residents replied to the CitySpeaks survey. Second, an open house was held where 31 people signed in. The summarized results of those two feedback opportunities are below.

Questions

1. What is the top ranked amenity for these park sites?

   Paths/Trails  48
   Natural Area replanting  27
   Playground  22
   Dog Off-Leash Area  17
   Passive Grass  12
   Viewpoints  6
   Tennis  6
   Outdoor Fitness  5
   Interpretative signs  2

2. Do you support a dog off-leash area?

   Yes 48
   No 8

3. If yes, do you support a separate (small dog/large dog) or one larger area?

   Large 40
   Small 16

4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for these parks?

Verbatim Comments

- I like that one will be for off-leash dogs. We really need that around here! I like that one will have a pond, I like that one will be in the middle of housing subdivisions, to break up the mass of buildings.
- Park #1—We like the idea of the trees being saved in this spot and that there will be walking trails thru it.
- Park #2—Having the ponds with walking rails around gives the feeling of nature in our back yard.
- Park #3—Protecting the area along Wills Creek is excellent and using part of the area or off leash dog park is good.
- I like that each park is different than the others and provide residents with different options. I find the current proposals satisfactory for each park.
- Site #1—Tree preservation, this is a small patch of trees, should have minimal paths.
- Site #2—Ponds should be enhanced for nature wildlife, no dogs.
- Site #3—Restoration of the creek is great, keep dogs out!
- Dog off leash is great and would like to see something more than just a flat fenced space. Some agility opportunities, seating for owners and water source.
- Playground should meet development stages that other parks are not yet meeting.
- Appreciate the intentional planning process.
- Preserve large trees!
- I'd like the 3 parks to be connected by a greenway (ideally) but 158th will have to do.
- Need to preserve habitat for wildlife. Involves areas off limit to active use, dogs. Also consider universal access and some parking on street.
- Retention of large trees, promise of replanting around creek. Need firm plans for connectivity, wildlife/people, and corridors between green areas.
- Yes, I do like the new parks. Too many new houses have been built, cut too many trees. Need Parks!
- Children need space to play, especially near the smaller lots and townhomes.
- I’d like to see stinging nettle and hardhack planted with rhododendrons in the butterflies Wills Brook site.
- Connecting neighbours with their local parks, open spaces and community activities is core to a healthy, walkable community.
- No dog park. No attempt to build a cohesive community based plan!
- Natural areas left with trees! And wildlife.
- Park #3—Large! Area needs an off-leash park.
- Dog friendly spaces. For example trails that are dog friendly to walk off leash.
- A dog friendly, multiuse, off leash dog area. For example Quarry Rock trail in Deep Cove. In dog area, a dog agility obstacle course/equipment.
- Could be linked, with existing street sidewalks, into a larger running loop.
Appendix IV - Park Naming Policy

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT

POLICY MANUAL

SUBJECT: PARKS & FACILITIES NAMING

INTENT

To establish a clear Policy for naming parks as well as Parks, Recreation and Culture buildings, assets and amenities.

1. Park and amenity categories.

   A. City parks and amenities tend to be used by a great number of people and whenever possible should bear names, which identify their general location or key site features. They could also be named after benefactors or sponsors who have made an extraordinary contribution to the community. (Examples: Bear Creek Park, Stewart Farm House, and Surrey Arts Centre)

   B. Community parks and amenities tend to be used by the next greatest number of people and should, whenever possible, be given names which identify:

      (a) The community in which they are located (i.e.: Cloverdale Athletic Park, Fleetwood Community Centre);
      (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (i.e.: Lionel Courchene Park);
      (c) Major donors or sponsors (XYZ Company Youth Park);
      (d) Names arising from a community-based selection process (i.e.: The Garage-South Surrey Youth Centre).

   C. Neighbourhood parks and amenities tend to be used by fewer people than City and community parks, are more difficult to name for their location, and therefore should be given names recognizing:

      (a) Special features or major plant life indigenous to parks (i.e.: Cottontail tot lot);
      (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (i.e.: Moffat Memorial Park);
      (C) Local street and subdivision names, excluding real estate and development companies (i.e.: Strawberry Hill Park);
      (d) Significant donors or sponsors, including real estate and development companies who make a significant donation in excess of normal development cost charges;
      (e) Former property owner who donated the land (i.e.: Bell Park).

   D. Greenbelts, linkages and conservation areas may never be developed as parks and should be assigned numbers for reference purposes in accordance with the grid system used to identify planning/engineering map detail. Where community groups
propose to name a greenbelt, these areas may also be treated as neighbourhood parks.

2. Whenever a park has come to be known traditionally but not officially by a name which is not so familiar to the name of an existing park to be confusing, then serious consideration should be given to formal adoption of the traditional name.

3. Consideration may be given to naming parks and amenities after outstanding community volunteers. Consideration may also be given to naming parks and amenities after retired City employees, if the employee has given outstanding service to the City and/or has made a noteworthy contribution to the well-being of the City.

4. Consideration should be given to naming donated park sites and facilities constructed on donated land after the donor.

5. Parks immediately adjacent to existing school sites should bear the same name as the school (neighbourhood and community parks).

6. The preferred methods for selecting a name are:
   - through popular choice either via a petition, school contest, or other form of community involvement;
   - as a result of donation and/or sponsorship.

7. Naming parks or amenities after sponsors can only be done in accordance with the city's Sponsorship Policy.

**PRACTICES WHICH SHOULD BE AVOIDED**

1. Naming a park after a current politician.

2. Naming a park or facility after a nearby but not immediately adjacent school or institution that may lead to confusion regarding their respective locations.

Integration with school sites to be carried out where possible.