



Corporate NO: R158

Report COUNCIL DATE: July 10, 2000

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: July 4, 2000**

FROM: General Manager, Engineering **FILE: 8380-257**

SUBJECT: Application for Acquisition of Crown Land (12660, 12991, 13030 Highway #99 and 4675 Rail Road) (Map Page 80, 81 & 91)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the Real Estate Section to make application to British Columbia Assets Land Corporation (“BCAL”) for the acquisition of crown land for park purposes.

BACKGROUND

A. Property Location (12660, 12991, 13030 Highway #99 and 4675 Rail Road)

These provincially owned properties are located along Mud Bay just south of Highway #99 and west of the Burlington Northern railway tracks. The total combined area of the proposed acquisition area is 14.91 hectares.

B. Zoning, Plan Designations and Land Uses

The subject properties are currently zoned A-1 (General Agriculture Zone) and are designated as Agriculture under the Official Community Plan. These lands are undeveloped at this time.

C. Purpose of the Acquisition

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has identified these properties for inclusion in the City's overall Parks and Greenways Plan. A greenway is a pathway which connects major parks, and natural and built amenities. Its purpose is to expand the opportunities for recreation, to provide alternate ways to move through the city, and to enhance the experience of nature and city life.

Currently, within the subject area, there is a meandering dirt and gravel trail on top of the existing dike that is used for recreation by City residents. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department wishes to formalize this use by providing and maintaining the trail and integrating it with a nature park. Other than the provision of a small staging/parking area, it is intended to preserve the natural state of these undeveloped lands.

D. Status of Application

Staff have been in discussions with BCAL regarding the proposed purchase of the subject properties. Staff have been informed that before BCAL will entertain the possibility of disposing of these lands to the City, a resolution by Council approving the Real Estate Section to make application to BCAL for the acquisition of crown land is required.

CONCLUSION

The subject area has been identified as an opportunity for the City to pro-actively participate in the preservation of one of the region's most beautiful assets. In an even larger context, the subject area forms a connector to the Trans Canada Trail linking Surrey to the neighbouring Delta municipality. Overall, the area will give the City of Surrey a tremendous natural amenity to be enjoyed by all residents.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department supports the application for acquisition of the subject crown lands and is anxious to proceed with negotiations with BCAL as soon as possible.

Jorgen Johansen, P.Eng
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Appendices

- I. Location Map
- II. Application Area
- III. Aerial Photograph