

R096 : 2001 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"



Corporate NO: R096

Report COUNCIL DATE: April 30, 2001

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: **April 24, 2001**

FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: **4801-905**

SUBJECT: 2001 Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program: "SHaRP"

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the 2001 SHaRP program for watershed stewardship and environmental enhancement activities to proceed up to a total value of \$385,000.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to apprise Council and seek authorization for the activities to be undertaken by the students in the SHaRP program during the summer of 2001 with respect to watershed stewardship.

SALMON HABITAT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM (SHaRP)

Goal

The primary goal of the program is to mitigate urban impacts on streams through enhancement and restoration projects.

Funding

In previous years, this program has been funded primarily by the City's drainage budget with additional support from the Province. For the SHaRP 2001 program, we have successfully expanded our partnerships to include funding contributions from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and School District No. 36. The majority of the funding has been confirmed for this year's program, with DFO (HRSEP) and Youth Options BC being the only unconfirmed contributions. The total budget projected is \$385,000 which is envisioned to have the following contributions:

Engineering Department (Drainage Utility) \$211,500

Potential Funding Sources:

Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture Department (confirmed)	\$ 10,000
DFO (Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program)	20,000 +/-
B.C. "Environmental Youth Team" Program (confirmed)	111,300
Youth Options B.C. Program	7,200
Surrey School District (confirmed)	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL	\$385,000

BACKGROUND

The Salmon Habitat and Restoration Program started in 1996 utilizing 18 high school and post-secondary students during the summer for the purpose of rehabilitating fish habitat, including ravine clean-up, stream bank planting, spawning bed enhancements and minor erosion control works. Through the subsequent years, the program expanded to encompass a larger variety of environmental works. In 1998 and 1999, the student team was enlarged to include over 43 students and a broadened program delivery which included an environmental education campaign. The 2000 program took on a pro-active *watershed stewardship* approach which involved the establishment of three watershed teams in north, central and south Surrey. An entire watershed education team was initiated and numerous educational campaigns were developed and conducted. The watershed stewardship approach was highly successful and set the stage for our 2001 program.

Planning for the program began in January 2001, and involved watershed reviews and site inspections on City owned land and documenting, photographing and identifying sites appropriate for the SHaRP 2001 *watershed* program. The 2001 program has a very similar watershed stewardship focus which will broaden to include an agricultural stewardship component. The 2001 program has been designed to ensure quality control. The *watershed* approach promotes a more structured and area specific approach to community stewardship and will result in a higher level of community participation and awareness, particularly with the addition of the agricultural stewardship component that has been endorsed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee. In addition, review and maintenance of past works will be conducted.

The program is overseen by the Engineering Department with the day-to-day management being provided by an environmental engineering consultant. The environmental engineering consultant for the 2001 program is proposed as Dillon Consulting Ltd. who have successfully managed all previous SHaRP programs. A total of 42 students will be hired for the program comprising of 14 post secondary students as Team Leaders and 28 Surrey high school students. The students will be formed into 5 teams of 4-5 students to conduct the work and another team of two are once again assigned specifically to public and media relations, focussing on developing partnerships with existing environmental groups in the community.

The *watershed stewardship* approach for SHaRP 2001 includes the following activities:

- urban forest maintenance
- instream fish enhancement
- riparian planting
- ravine/greenway clean-up

- water quality sampling
- stream mapping (SHIM)
- invertebrate sampling
- industrial and residential education
- agricultural stewardship
- community events/public education

CONCLUSION

The SHaRP 2001 program once again proposes an ambitious schedule of projects aimed at restoring, protecting and enhancing the creeks and streams in the City; all in accordance with Council-adopted stormwater management/drainage policies. The focus of the student program for 2001 will once again be on *watershed stewardship*. This approach will result in area specific programming focussed at the community level. An important spin-off benefit are the employment opportunities and experience for Surrey secondary and post-secondary school students.

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