



Corporate

NO: R212

Report

COUNCIL DATE: October 28, 2002

REGULAR COUNCIL			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	October 21, 2002
FROM:	General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture	FILE:	0870-20/T
SUBJECT:	De Wolf Property Donation (The Glades) for City Park		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council instruct the City Clerk to introduce the attached By-law.

BACKGROUND

James and Elfriede De Wolf have owned approximately 5.0 acres of land located at 561 – 172nd Street since 1994. The De Wolfs purchased the property because of its gardens that contain a regionally important collection of more than 1600 Rhododendrons displayed in a pastoral woodland setting. The gardens that make up *The Glades* were created in the 1950's by Murray Steven and his wife Lydia, but had become somewhat rundown by the 1980's and early 90's. After purchasing the property, the De Wolfs spent considerable time and resources restoring the gardens and the primary residence to their earlier glory. *The Glades* is renowned in the Pacific Northwest, and has received considerable attention from the press over several decades. For the last few years, The Glades has been host to charitable fund-raising special events such as the Peach Arch Hospital's Mother's Day Tea, which attracted approximately 3000 people in May 2002.

The De Wolfs approached the City in 2000, indicating an interest in donating the *The Glades* property for park purposes. Following this, negotiations toward accepting the gift of land took place, resulting in Council acceptance of the recommendations contained in Corporate Report CC015 on July 23, 2002. At that time, Council directed staff to prepare the necessary by-law to complete the transaction. In accordance with Council instructions, the appropriate by-law has been developed, and is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

DISCUSSION

By-law Summary

The key elements contained within the attached by-law are as follows:

- Formal transfer of the lands from the De Wolfs to the City in accordance with the conditions of the 999 year Trust Agreement, with the lands being set aside and used as a public park and center for the preservation and development of horticultural specimens;
- The granting of a Life Estate to the De Wolfs in order that they may live in the residence for the duration of their lives with no rent payable; and
- Agreement that the City will issue the De Wolfs a charitable receipt in the amount of \$850,000.

Additional Required Capital Works

Corporate Report CC015 provided a value for capital improvements required within the grounds of *The Glades*. Since July, however, staff have determined that there will also be a need for some short-term, modest, road improvements on the west side of 172nd Street adjacent to The Glades property, and longer term ½ road improvements as a result in the change in status from private residence to public park. Consistent with other recent land acquisitions, these capital works, valued at a total of \$125,000, will be funded from the Park Land Acquisition Fund.

CONCLUSION

The Glades is a valuable addition to the City of Surrey's park inventory. Over time, *The Glades* will serve as a destination, City-wide park, creating further opportunities for garden-based tourism in Surrey. In the future, the close proximity to Darts Hill Garden Park and to Redwood Park will allow tourists to plan an entire day of garden sightseeing at these three world-class sites in South Surrey. Efforts will be made to enhance the gardens in such a manner that they are a place of horticultural learning for residents and visitors alike. It is recommended that Council direct the Clerk to introduce the attached by-law.

Don Hunter, General
Manager of Parks, Recreation
and Culture

cc -Legal Services
-General Manager, Finance, Technology and Human Resources

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Appendix 1

By-law to be Introduced