

COMMISSION REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: PERIMETER TRAIL IN CENTRAL PARK

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the expenditure of \$1,900,000 from the 2016 Annual Financial Plan for the project outlined in this report be approved.
2. **THAT** Council be requested to bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$1,988,786. (inclusive of GST) from Capital Reserves to finance this project.

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

Central Park is located west of Metrotown and on the border of the City of Vancouver. Tens of thousands of residents in surrounding high-rises and Western Canada's second largest commercial mall are located next to Central Park. The Sky Train rail line and station sit adjacent to the park, making it the most accessible park in the region. This popular destination park features a second growth coastal Douglas fir forest which covers approximately 64 hectares, or 75% of the park. Besides the natural forest ecology, the park offers a wealth of recreational opportunities, including golf, swimming, tennis, group picnic, and accessible playgrounds. Central Park is one of the most visited parks in the City with over one-half of Burnaby's 250,000 residents visiting the park and attractions in a typical year.

Central Park currently has limited pedestrian or bicycle access to the park, and no opportunity for walking or bicycling around the park. The current paths are made up of materials which are not accessible and provide only limited and disconnected circulation along busy arterial roads. The proposed multi-use trail will create an accessible and safe access into the park as well as a recreational route for people to enjoy for walking and biking. The Burnaby resident Needs and Preference Study cited walking, hiking and recreational cycling as the most desirable recreational activities in the City.

To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission
From: Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Re: Perimeter Trails in Central Park

.....Page 2

CURRENT STATUS

The Central Park perimeter project will provide the first and most important of three multi-use trail segments to circumnavigate the perimeter of Central Park in Burnaby. The first project phase is 0.85 km. in length along the west perimeter of Boundary Road replacing an existing dirt roadside trail. The multi-use trail will be a separated walkway 4 m. or less in width depending on tree, roadside, and utility conditions. A double row of trees will be planted along this route to provide a spectacular and shaded setting. The surfacing will be porous, and resilient, offering comfort for walking and jogging while being cycling friendly. The porous surface will promote quick drying, as well as provide water and air percolation to important tree root systems nearby. Future phases will include the south perimeter along Imperial Street replacing an existing sidewalk and gravel path, and the east perimeter along Patterson Avenue replacing an existing sidewalk. The north perimeter is the existing 4 m. wide asphalt BC Parkway. The total future multi-use trail circuit will be approximately 4 km. in length and is estimated to cost \$4 Million to construct over the next 4 years.

Design work was initiated on the entire multi-use trail late in 2013. To this end, site analysis, topographical site survey, arborist review, and 90% design development has been completed. Any design issues with complications have been fully reviewed on site, and through an interdepartmental staff committee. A request for expressions of interest for porous, resilient surfacing suppliers has been executed, and is under current evaluation and testing.

SUMMARY

This project is the first phase of a longer continuous multi-use trail on three sides of the park that will connect on the north to the BC Parkway trail. The overall project cost is estimated to be \$4 Million, and the first phase of the project is estimated to be \$1.9 Million inclusive of a Canada 150 grant in the amount of \$500,000. The grant funding would be paid out upon completion of the first phase of the overall trail project which must be completed by March 2018. The completed project will provide a 4 km. loop trail which will circumnavigate Central Park, offering accessible, safe, and convenient access, enhanced recreational opportunities and a new venue for community groups to host fundraising runs and walks.

A yearly funding plan has been approved for Central Park including this work within the 5-Year Capital Plan 2016-2021 each year to continue the project to completion. It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the funding of \$1.9 Million (inclusive of WEDC funds) to complete the design and construction of Phase 1 and that Council be requested to concur.



DAVE ELLENWOOD

HE:tc

p:\admin\tc\wp\he\reports\Perimeter Trail in Central Park