

## COMMISSION REPORT

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE  
COMMISSION

**DATE:** 2019 May 07

**FROM:** DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION &  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**FILE:** 61100-20  
*Reference: Stoney Creek Trail  
System*

**SUBJECT: STONEY CREEK RAVINE – PROPOSED FORTIS BC  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPENSATION PLANTING SITE**

**PURPOSE:** To obtain approval for use of a site within the Stoney Creek Ravine for proposed environmental compensation planting related to the Fortis BC LMIPSU Project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** approval be given for Fortis BC's use of a 150 m<sup>2</sup> site within city-owned park land at Stoney Creek Ravine, for offset riparian habitat compensation planting required for the Fortis BC Lower Mainland Intermediate Gas Main Upgrade Project aerial crossing works proposed at Stoney Creek and Broadway, as outlined in this report.

**REPORT****INTRODUCTION**

The City is in receipt of a request from Fortis BC to use a 150 m<sup>2</sup> site within city-owned park land along the west bank of Stoney Creek for compensatory offset planting required for Fortis BC's proposed Lower Mainland Intermediate Gas Main Upgrade Project (LMIPSU) aerial crossing works on Stoney Creek at Broadway. The Offsetting Plan aims to improve the integrity and proper function of a riparian zone within an identified watershed containing Nooksack Dace critical habitat, in accordance with the Recovery Strategy for the Nooksack Dace, whilst also reducing sediment entry into the creek.

**POLICY SECTION****Goal**

- A Connected Community
  - Partnership –  
Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments

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- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy environment –  
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- A Dynamic Community
  - Community development –  
Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Fortis BC has proposed an aerial crossing of Stoney Creek to support the LMIPSU 762 mm. (NPS 30) gas main. The new bridge structure will be located 3 m. south of the existing Stoney Creek bridge located within the Broadway road right of way. To minimize environmental impacts to Stoney Creek, the bridge foundations will be located outside the creek channel and the tie-in work will occur in the roadway, away from the creek. The location of the proposed aerial crossing is illustrated in the attached sketch plan (Attachment #1).

The proposed foundation work is located below the top of the bank of Stoney Creek and within defined critical riparian habitat for Nooksack Dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*). The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has determined that due to this minor impact to the riparian vegetation in an area of Nooksack Dace critical habitat, an authorization is required. The DFO determination identified the total area of permanent impact to riparian vegetation as 11.3 m<sup>2</sup> of impacted vegetation (5.65 m<sup>2</sup> on each bank). Impacts to the riparian area are to be offset through replanting a degraded site downstream on Stoney Creek. As a requirement of the authorization application to DFO, Fortis BC prepared an Offsetting Plan, which details the proposed compensatory planting along a section of Stoney Creek also defined as Nooksack Dace critical habitat.

Fortis and DFO staff have selected a 150 m<sup>2</sup> site approximately 1 km. south of the project location on Stoney Creek within city-owned parkland. This site is located on the west bank of Stoney Creek, within the riparian area of the creek on a small floodplain. The location of the proposed compensation site is illustrated in the attached sketch plan (Attachment #1).

A combination of tree and shrub species will be used, and will include western red cedar, salmonberry, and thimbleberry. Willow stakes will also be included in the planting plan and will be field fit to the site, generally immediately adjacent to the creek. The intent of the willow stakes is to promote rapid establishment of vegetation, assist with bank stabilization, and provide overhanging vegetation. Split rail fencing and signage is proposed to be installed along the edge of the offset planting site to discourage access following planting. Access to the planting site for installation and monitoring will occur

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from Beaverbrook Drive along an existing utility service access. Fortis BC has submitted the Offsetting Plan to the utility companies and has obtained letters of clearance.

City staff has assessed the suitability of the requested site and reviewed the submitted Off-setting Plan and has found them acceptable. The offset riparian planting will enhance the habitat value of the ravine park lands along Stoney Creek which support aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species, including the Nooksack Dace and several species of salmonids found along this reach of Stoney Creek.

A temporary access and works agreement will be utilized to permit Fortis BC access to install and monitor the offset planting works until the plants have fully established. The temporary access and works agreement will address the city's standard liability and insurance requirements, terms and conditions for temporary access to undertake the planting works, and include a five year monitoring and maintenance period for the offset works.

## RECOMMENDATION

The city has received a request from Fortis BC to use a small 150 m<sup>2</sup> site of city park land along Stoney Creek for offset riparian planting, required as compensation for aerial crossing works at Stoney Creek as part of its Lower Mainland Intermediate Gas Main Upgrade Project. The proposed compensation planting is in line with environmental enhancement goals for this area and complements other riparian habitat and in-stream works undertaken along Stoney Creek. It is therefore recommended that Commission approve use of this site along Stoney Creek Ravine for the implementation of the proposed Fortis BC LMIPSU Offsetting Plan works.



Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR - PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

ATS:ats:tc

### Attachment

Commission REPORT\_Fortis BC Stoney Creek offset planting site

Copied to: City Solicitor  
Director Corporate Services  
Director Engineering  
Director Planning and Building





**Fortis BC LMIPSU Project:**  
**Proposed Offset Planting**  
**Site at Stoney Creek**

Drawing: OP #16-4-10s  
Date: 2019/05/05  
Scale: NTS  
Drawn: ATS