

COMMISSION REPORT

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

**DATE:** 2019 August 29

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PARKS RECREATION AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES

**FILE:** 66000-01

**SUBJECT: BURNABY MEADOWS – POLLINATOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:** To introduce a pollinator habitat enhancement project in the City of Burnaby.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission authorize staff to undertake the development of a Burnaby Meadow Project to create habitat throughout the city that supports beneficial pollinators, including birds, bees and butterflies.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

There are vast tracks of land throughout the City of Burnaby dedicated for the use and support of utility services. These lands are typically a mono-culture of grass species and maintained to keep orderly control of any tall vegetation or seedlings that may establish. Maintenance is carried out by the utility companies (as part of the ROW agreement) and by the City of Burnaby ([Attachment #1](#)).

The following report outlines how these tracks of land can be partially adapted into a higher quality habitat for pollinators with the co-operation and involvement of the parties responsible for maintenance; BC Hydro, Translink and the City of Burnaby.

**2.0 POLICY SECTION**

The Burnaby Meadow Project is in line with the Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

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#### **A Connected Community**

- Social connection
- Partnership
- Geographic connection

#### **A Healthy Community**

- Healthy environment
- Community involvement

#### **A Dynamic Community**

- Community development

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

By collaborating with BC Hydro and Translink, there is potential to develop a series of ecological meadows that connect vast areas of our urban fabric. The meadow areas could provide the complex habitat needed to support pollinators and provide an opportunity for public education and awareness of the current decline of these pollinators. In addition, conversion of the mono-culture grass to complex habitat with interpretive signage will increase public awareness of the site and promote its use, thereby improving visibility and stewardship of a currently utilitarian and under-used green space.

Opportunities exist southwest from Robert Burnaby Park to the BC Parkway and along the BC Parkway from Boundary Road to Edmonds and Kingsway (Attachment #2).

### **4.0 MANAGEMENT ADAPTATION**

In order to improve the habitat of the utility corridors, a change in the existing maintenance practices will be required. Through the reduction of regular mowing practices in select areas of the right-of-way, naturally beneficial species will begin to grow and create habitat for native species (Attachment #3). The City of Burnaby, BC Hydro and Translink will continue to share maintenance of the site and will work together on the development of new approaches to its management.

In addition, volunteers through Burnaby's Environmental Stewardship Program can undertake the creation and distribution of native seed bombs (Attachment #4). The seed bombs would be scattered through the proposed meadow zones by volunteers on an annual basis, which will create educational opportunities for members of the public to learn about their neighbourhood's nature and experience plants and insects with site visits to the meadows.

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## **5.0 NEXT STEPS**

If directed to implement the Burnaby Meadows Project by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, staff would undertake the following work:

1. Develop the seed bombs program with the intent to involve volunteers in the process of making seed bombs.
2. Identify the zones to be transformed and replicated with the BC Hydro and Translink utility corridor.
3. Integrate the project into the volunteer environmental programme
4. Develop a communication and education plan.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the development of a Burnaby Meadow Project to create habitat throughout the city that supports beneficial pollinators, including birds, bees and butterflies.



Dave Ellenwood  
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

JT:km

Attachment #1



**UNMOWN ENTRY PATHWAYS**



**MAINTAINED PARKLAND AREAS**

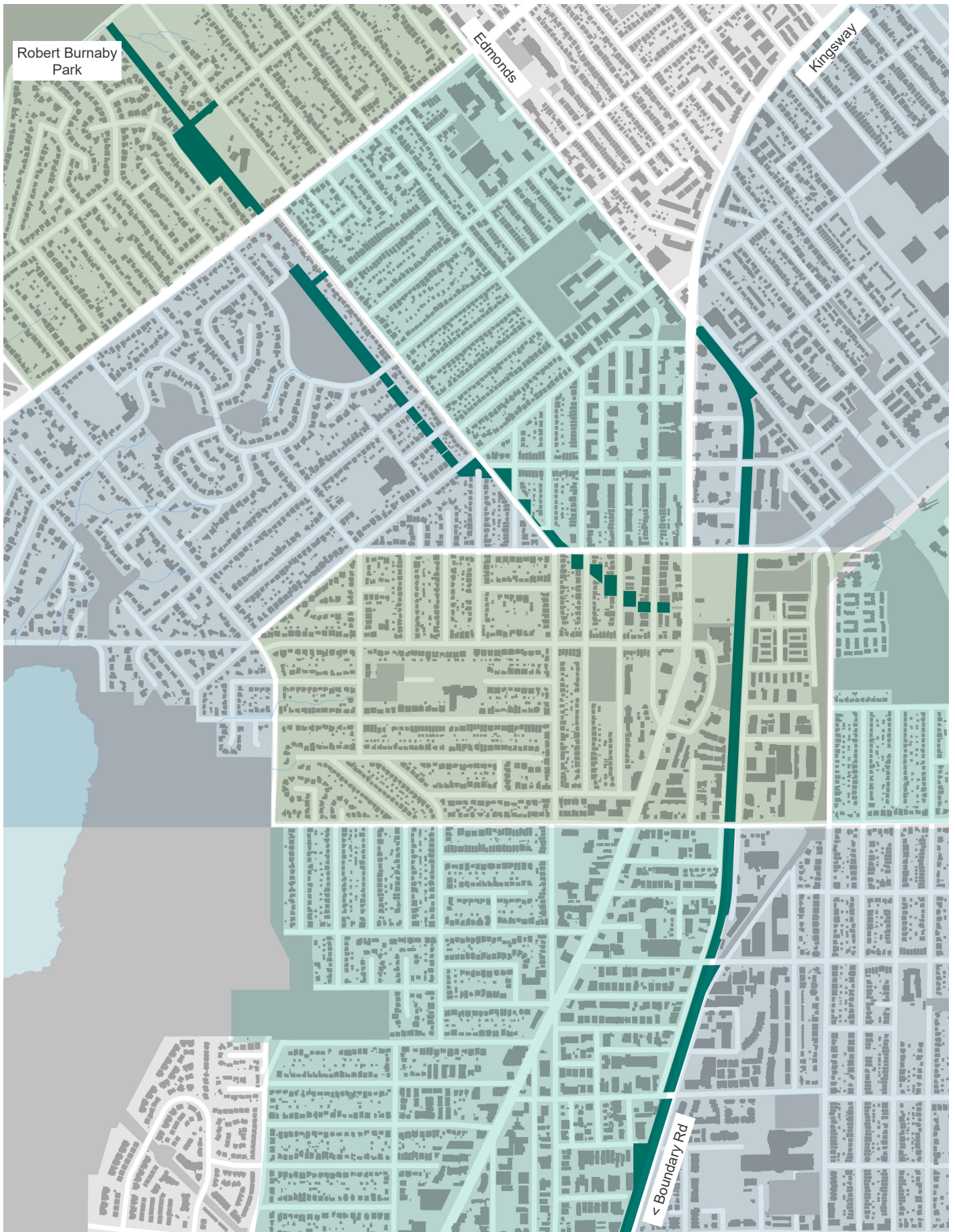


**DEGRADED ROAD INTERSECTIONS**



**UNMOWN RESIDENTIAL LOTS**





SCALE 1:5,000



Attachment # 3



**MASON BEE**

*Leucanthemum vulgare* - Oxeye Daisy



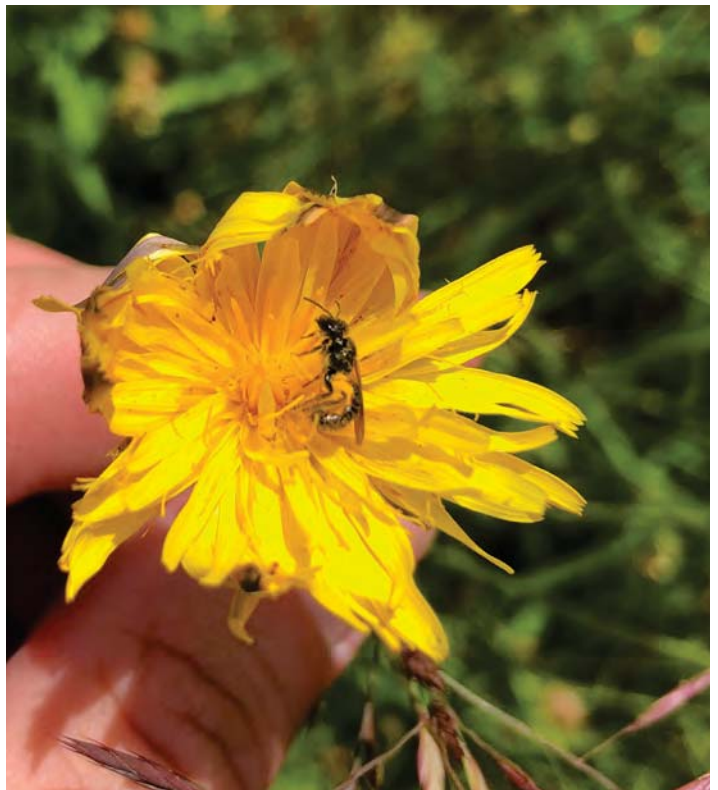
**SMALL CARPENTER BEE**

*Crepis capillaris* - Smooth Hawksbeard



**SMALL CARPENTER BEE**

*Crepis capillaris* - Smooth Hawksbeard



**SWEAT BEE**

*Crepis capillaris* - Smooth Hawksbeard





Fig.1 - Local schoolchildren in a workshop rolling clay & seeds into 'Seed Bombs'



Fig.2 - Schoolchildren distributing seed bombs on new meadows



Fig.3 - Education opportunities such as pollinator counts, identification etc.



Fig.4 - Signs created and distributed in the City of Vancouver Pollinator Project