



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Administration Office

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## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE DATE: 21 JAN 2020

FROM: DAVID O'CONNOR  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GOLF

SUBJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS – BURNABY LAKE

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We are thankful that Mr. Clulow has brought the issue of golf balls being washed downstream into Burnaby Lake to our attention. The management of the City of Burnaby's golf course lands is aligned with the City's progressive Corporate Strategic Plan with respect to offering a healthy lifestyle and environment for its citizens. Sustainability is a key part of the City's mandate which includes the management and operations of its golf courses. Staff have adopted a strong ethical agronomic-based program for its cultural practices to ensure that environment responsibilities remain a priority. Best Management practices are being utilized to enhance and develop the golf courses' natural ecosystems.

The Burnaby Mountain Golf Course has been in existence for fifty years and is located 2.7 kilometers upstream from Burnaby Lake. The Driving Range is not located near the Eagle Creek waterway system but two Fairways (#8 and #9) play adjacent to it. The boundaries and creek banks remain a forested area populated with dense brush which makes it more difficult for errant balls to reach the stream. Staff have inspected samples of the golf balls in question and they appear to be decades old and are a combination of both old range balls and standard balls. It has been our experience that some individuals have been known to use various open park spaces as their private practice areas for golf which is not a safe nor an acceptable practice.

We will investigate with our colleagues in Parks and Engineering about the possibility of developing a capture system at the mouth of the main culverts system at Broadway to mitigate any concerns of golf balls entering eagle creek from this location. We are intentional in our efforts to develop and promote both the enhancement of healthy greenspaces and the conservation of natural wildlife species. City staff are proud to be pro-active environmental stewards of our beautiful golf courses, parks, and green spaces within the City.

DOC:lmr