



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 02, 2008
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Meeting Date: December 16, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services and Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Still Creek Enhancement Project - 2900 Nootka Street

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT \$100,000 be allocated from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund for the portion of Still Creek located along 2900 Nootka Street.
- B. THAT \$17,000 be allocated from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund for the final costs of the Still Creek enhancement project located along 3400 Cornett Road.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

In July 1988, Council endorsed Still Creek to be maintained as an open water course, and to pursue day-lighting, enhancing the Creek, and providing public access to a continuous pedestrian/bicycle pathway linking Burnaby Lake to the B.C. Parkway at 29th Avenue Station.

In July 2000, Council established the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund with contributions from the Vancouver Film Studios for the lease of Cornett Road.

In July 2002, Council adopted the *Grandview Boundary Industrial Area Rezoning and Development Policies and Guidelines* which contain specific guidelines to protect and enhance Still Creek. At that time, Council also adopted the ten year actions and endorsed in

principle the long-term (10 - 50 year) enhancement plan contained in the Still Creek Rehabilitation and Enhancement Study.

In May 2005, Council approved the first Still Creek Enhancement project at 3003 Grandview Highway.

In December 2006, Council endorsed the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) for the Still Creek Watershed which identifies private and public actions to improve stormwater management, recreational opportunities and Creek health.

In July 2007, Council approved the second Still Creek Enhancement project at 3400 block Cornett Road.

In April 2008, Council authorized that the annual income from the lease of a 2500 Skeena Street be held in the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund for ongoing initiatives.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval to use an estimated \$117,000 from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund to develop an enhancement plan for the portion of Still Creek along Nootka Street south of Grandview Hwy (See Appendix A - Plan view of Area) and to fund completed works at the 3400 block Cornett Road.

This project will accomplish actions described in the Still Creek Enhancement Plan adopted by Council in July 2002 (further supported in the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan for the Still Creek Watershed adopted by Council in December 2006).

BACKGROUND

In 2002, Council adopted the Still Creek Enhancement Plan. The long-term actions (10 to 50 years) of the Plan propose full day-lighting of the creek, educational public art along the creek-side, as well as enhanced recreation opportunities. A number of improvements have occurred along Still Creek:

- Enhancement project at 3003 Grandview Highway;
- Enhancement project at 3400 Cornett Road;
- Daylighting of approximately 75 metres of the creek (2820 Bentall Street);
- Enhancement of Falaise Park; and
- Interpretive signage.

The most significant are along Cornett Road where the day-lighting of Still Creek and extension of Cornett Road (3300 block) were completed as part of the new Canadian Tire development at 2820 Bentall Street.

Last year, the second enhancement project was completed at 3400 block Cornett Road through the cooperative efforts of City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, Still Creek Stewardship Society and local property owners. The total project cost was \$502,000 (\$315,000 allocated from the Still Creek Enhancement Fund, \$170,000 contributed by Metro

Vancouver and an outstanding amount of \$17,000). Community groups, including the Still Creek Stewardship Society, Evergreen and students from Vancouver Christian Academy, provided in-kind support to the project through community planting and education efforts.

Staff are now working on the third major enhancement project for Still Creek at Nootka and Grandview Highway.

DISCUSSION

The section of the creek along Nootka Street south of Grandview Highway was identified by City staff and Metro Vancouver as the next portion of the creek most in need of repair and enhancement. Metro Vancouver has approved \$200,000 towards improvements at this location and will work in collaboration with the City to repair and enhance this area of the creek. The first step is to develop an enhancement plan in consultation with Metro Vancouver and City staff.

The Still Creek Enhancement Plan calls for the following measures for this portion of the creek:

- Creation of a pedestrian trail along the East side of the creek;
- Potential water quality treatment ponds;
- Potential viewing/educational opportunities at Grandview Highway;
- Replacement of invasive species with native vegetation; and
- Improvements to the stream bed and riparian area.

The estimated cost for the design work is \$100,000. Staff propose that this amount be allocated from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund. The Enhancement Fund was approved by Council in 2000 and collects approximately \$105,000 per year through street leases to the Vancouver Film Studios (Cornett Road and Skeena Street). The current balance of the Fund is \$148,465.40.

The project detailed in this report will build on efforts of City staff and the Still Creek Stewardship Society towards the realization of the Still Creek Enhancement Plan and the ISMP. The timing of this project in relation to other on-going initiatives will greatly increase public awareness of this valuable urban waterway. These improvements will offer an enhanced recreation opportunity for the public and will generate momentum for future initiatives.

Recommendation B of this report relates to a completed enhancement project at 3400 Cornett (approved by Council in July 2007). Due to required modifications at the time of construction, staff seek Council approval to allocate \$17,000 from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund to cover the additional costs incurred.

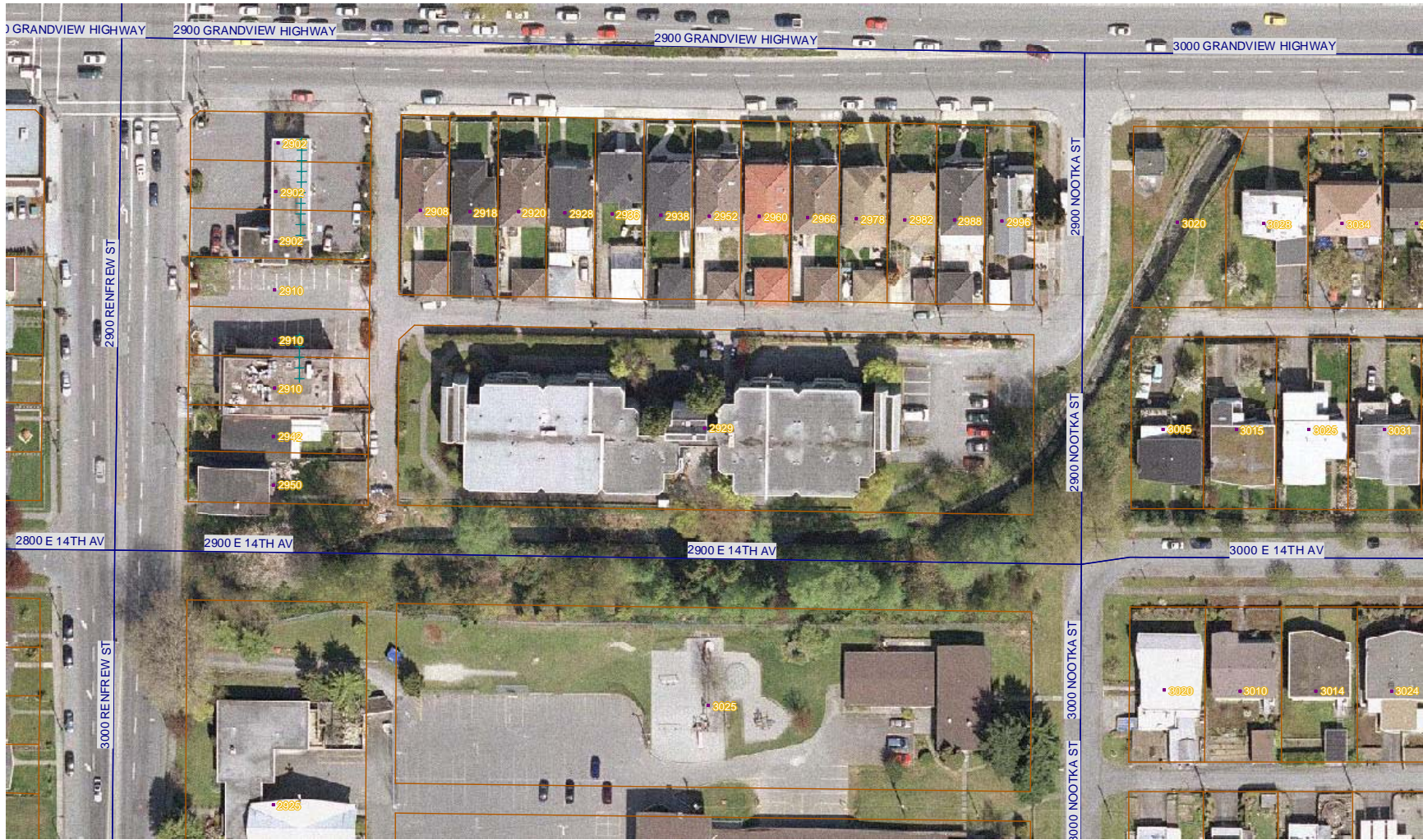
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding in the amount of \$117,000 will be used from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund, which has a current balance of \$148,465.40.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend the development of an enhancement design for the portion of Still Creek along Nootka Street south of Grandview Highway at an estimated cost of \$100,000, and the completion of enhancement work along 3400 Cornett Road at an estimated cost of \$17,000. Once a design for the Nootka Street portion is finalized, City staff will report back to Council with a project design and estimated construction costs. The enhancement project would be constructed in phases using funding from the Still Creek Greenway Enhancement Fund and from Metro Vancouver, which has allocated \$200,000 for this work.

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Site for Still Creek Enhancement - 2900 Nootka Street