

8.0 CONSERVATION AREA PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Programming relates to the operational management of the conservation area on a day-to-day basis including management and monitoring programs, as well as activities that make the conservation area experience interesting and unique. This section presents recommendations and guidelines for ensuring that use and development occurring within the conservation area remain in keeping with the vision and objectives as determined through the planning process.

A number of recommendations in Section 6.0 relate to program elements. These are elaborated on in more detail below.

8.1 Mountain Bike Conditional Review

Mountain bike use of selected trails will be conditional with regular review and renewal based on performance in accordance with Management Plan principles. A one-year conditional review period is proposed along with implementation of a program of public education, monitoring, patrol and enforcement. At the discretion of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the length of the review period may be shortened in response to public concerns or environmental considerations.

The evaluation will consider, but will not be limited to, the following criteria:

- respect for trail closures;
- extent of off-trail riding and creation of new trails;
- extent of erosion, drainage problems, and trail braiding that can be attributed to mountain bikes;
- reports of conflicts between mountain bikers and other users;
- respect for trail etiquette principles and posted trail regulations;
- ability to hold biking events responsibly and with minimum impact; and
- willingness to cooperate with the City of Burnaby to resolve conflicts and other trail issues.

Recommendations for education are provided below. Specific to mountain bike use on trails, Burnaby will work with the mountain bike community to determine the most appropriate methods to reach bikers and educate them on proper ride etiquette. Burnaby will also erect signage aimed at other trail users to inform them of current trail conditions and use allocations.

8.2 Public Advisory Committee

The City of Burnaby will establish a Public Advisory Committee made up of representatives from a range of community and interest groups. The role of this committee will be advisory in nature. Some of their tasks will include:

- bring forward issues to the City and engaging in discussions to identify solutions to these issues;
- assist in setting priorities for the implementation of management recommendations;
- assist in initiating and organizing conservation area programs and events; and
- assist in evaluating progress towards meeting the objectives of the Management Plan.

Meetings will be scheduled at the discretion of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in response to specific issues or public concerns, or to discuss the implementation or success of management programs. Burnaby should refer to other examples of park advisory committees in the Lower Mainland such as the Golden Ears Trail Preservation and Restoration Club (GETPARC), and the Wilderness Recreation and Parks Association (WRAPS) in the City of Anmore.

8.3 Interpretive Program

The Interpretive Program for the conservation area will make use of the extensive trail network to provide linkages between features and activity nodes. Displays and signs will be located in key areas (i.e., trail access points) and will depict environmental, scientific, historical or regulatory information. More detailed information will be presented in other areas of the conservation area which receive a concentration of users. In these areas, the City will make use of information kiosks and, potentially, a small nature interpretive centre, which is proposed as part of the redevelopment of the former target range sites. Potential interpretive themes include:

- natural history – geology, forest values, wildlife;
- regional significance – status of Burnaby Mountain as an ESA within Burnaby;
- scenic – interpretation of views over Burnaby and the Port of Vancouver;
- human history and culture – North Road Trail, logging history on Burnaby Mountain;
- Trans-Canada Trail – its history and significance; and
- regulatory – conservation area rules and regulations.

The Interpretive Program will also address the potential to link Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area with other natural areas and parks in the region. Signs and maps will be positioned at key locations directing visitors to complementary areas such as Barnet Marine Park, the Urban Trails System, or extensions of the Trans-Canada Trail.

8.4 Educational Programs

In addition to the Interpretive Program, the City of Burnaby will work with institutions, agencies and/or community groups interested in becoming involved in research or educational programs. Some of these programs may be recreation-

oriented, while others may address research issues or resource conservation. Where appropriate, educational programs should be organized and implemented with the assistance of local interest groups such as the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, the Stoney Creek Environment Committee, recreation clubs or naturalist groups. Examples include:

- guided nature walks;
- public participation in wildlife inventories, e.g., Christmas bird counts;
- skills development or training programs for mountain bikers led by experienced local riders;
- stream restoration or enhancement programs;
- detailed watercourse mapping needed for long-term monitoring of flows and aquatic habitats;
- operation of the salmon rearing facility at the former Burnaby Fish and Game Club;
- pilot projects for wildlife or vegetation enhancement; and
- school field trips.

8.5 Enforcement Program

An enforcement program, made up of City staff and volunteers, and coordinated through the Public Advisory Committee, will be implemented to ensure that conservation area regulations are adhered to by users. The enforcement program will focus on promoting safe and enjoyable use of the conservation area by all user groups. Success of the program will depend upon the following factors:

- a strong commitment by the City of Burnaby to maintain a "presence" in the conservation area;
- implementation of recommendations for education and interpretation, such as the installation of adequate signage;
- use of volunteer patrols (on foot or on bicycle) to provide verbal and written information;
- use of City of Burnaby enforcement officers with the authority to issue warnings or other deterrents to users found violating regulations; and
- cooperation with frequent conservation area users and organized recreation clubs who can act as stewards and distribute messages to other users.

8.6 Public Safety Program

The City of Burnaby is in the process of preparing a Risk Assessment Process for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area as part of the management planning process (Burnaby 1998b). The process is based on the premise that the best time to reduce visitor hazards is at the planning and design stage. The following objectives are outlined in the Risk Assessment Process, which should be implemented in conjunction with the Conservation Area Management Plan.

Design Goals:

- design and construct safe trails;
- design and construct safe buildings and facilities; and
- install barriers where needed to restrict access.

Operational Goals:

- inspect and maintain trails and facilities regularly;
- regulate trail use appropriately;
- patrol trails;
- monitor hazardous conditions; and
- manage special events.

Risk Communication Goals:

- install regulatory signs and bulletins;
- install warning signs as necessary;
- install guidance signs;
- distribute information and brochures; and
- work with the media.

Emergency Preparedness Goals:

- provide emergency communication stations;
- prepare for emergencies by coordinating with other agencies; and
- develop procedures for responding to emergencies.

8.7 Research Programs

In some cases, it will be necessary to work with professional consultants, graduate students, non-profit organizations or individuals committed to conducting more detailed studies on Burnaby Mountain. Research programs at this level would be designed to meet high standards for data collection and accuracy. These studies may be short- or long-term in nature. Examples include:

- water quality monitoring;
- detailed studies on wildlife species populations;
- studies on human disturbance to wildlife;
- mapping wildlife migration corridors;
- inventory of wildlife trees;
- monitoring changes in the distribution or age of forest communities;
- human use counts on selected trails; and
- detailed visitor opinion surveys.

8.8 Special Events

In some cases, it may be appropriate to organize or permit special events in the conservation area. The appropriateness of such events will be assessed on an activity-by-activity basis. A formal permitting mechanism is recommended whereby

Burnaby can review and approve events proposed for the conservation area to ensure they are compatible with the vision and objectives set out in the Management Plan. In particular, events that have the potential to adversely affect important environmental components should be discouraged. Examples of events that may be considered appropriate include:

- cultural programs, public art appreciation and theatre (generally focused in the Centennial Pavilion area);
- organized walks or hikes including the creation of more challenging routes (e.g., with steep stairs similar to the 'Grouse Grind');
- mountain bike events, in certain areas, that are aimed at educating young riders or teaching low-impact riding skills;
- trail maintenance days; and
- educational programs as outlined above.

The draft City of Burnaby Risk Assessment Process outlines the following considerations for special events held on trails within Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area:

- event sponsors will be required to demonstrate they have obtained the appropriate liability insurance;
- prior to the event, organizers must inspect the trails for their suitability;
- Burnaby will develop a generic guide on safety and environmental protection and require all event participants to adhere to the guidelines; and
- Burnaby will close the involved trails to other users during an event.

8.9 Maintenance Program

Maintenance of the conservation area will vary seasonally, and over time as use patterns change or as facilities are developed or decommissioned. Ongoing activities will include:

- routine maintenance and repair of trails with respect to drainage and surfacing;
- monitoring trail conditions in more sensitive ecological areas;
- ensuring that off-trail routes and informal trails are immediately closed;
- alerting city officials to any problems or concerns with respect to trail users or their safety.

Specifications or "levels" of maintenance may be assigned to individual trails based on criteria such as location, amount of use, type of use, or safety considerations. A more complete summary of suggested maintenance activities is presented in Appendix K.

