



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Jane Fernyhough
 Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services
Re: Richmond Nature Park Washrooms

Date: January 16, 2003
File: -

Staff Recommendation

That Council receive this report for information.

Jane Fernyhough
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 Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Budgets and Accounting	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Facility Management.....	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

At the General Purposes meeting of December 23, 2002 a request was made for information regarding the capital project request for washrooms at the Nature Park. This report provides this information.

Analysis

A capital project request was submitted to build a freestanding washroom building with water and electricity. Included in this building would be a visitor and interpretation kiosk with a small storage room.

Currently there are no wheelchair accessible washrooms at the Nature Park. The Nature House and the inner boardwalk are wheelchair accessible and are advertised as such. Richmond has an accessibility policy and has been working to ensure that facilities are welcoming to all. Availability of washrooms is an integral part of ensuring a service or facility is accessible.

In addition, the public washrooms that are currently available for public use from the outside are attached to the Kinsmen Pavilion. They are in a bad state of repair. The inside washrooms in the Kinsmen Pavilion are not accessible to those in wheelchairs. The building of new accessible washrooms outside will allow the opportunity for the Kinsmen to renovate and expand the inside washrooms to become wheelchair accessible.

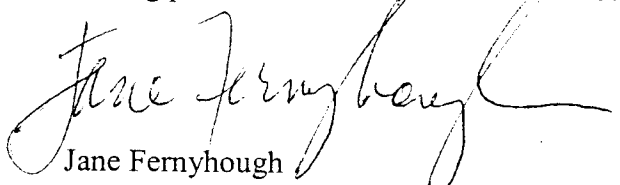
The visitor and interpretation kiosk will establish a defined starting place for the trails and Nature Park features and provide information and interpretation on the natural environment when staff are not available or the Nature House is closed.

Financial Impact

The budget submission for this project is \$150,000. It was approved as part of the 2003 Capital Budget at the General Purposes meeting on January 20, 2003.

Conclusion

Over 100,000 people visits were recorded in 2002 as drop in visitors, program participants, school groups and special event attendees. Providing washrooms that are accessible outside and that can be accessed by those with mobility impairments will increase the enjoyment of all visiting public and contributes to the livability of the community for all citizens.



Jane Fernyhough
Manager of Heritage and Cultural Services

JF:jf