



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Cathryn Volkering Carlile, General Manager Parks Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: GVRD Regional Parks Service Conversion

To Parks, Recreation & Culture - May 25/05
Date: May 13, 2005
File: 01-0157-01

Staff Recommendation

That consent be given to the Greater Vancouver Regional District supporting the GVRD regional parks service conversion and amendment Bylaw No 1024, 2005.

[Handwritten signature]

Cathryn Volkering Carlile
General Manager - Parks Recreation and Cultural Services
(4068)

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY
ROUTED TO: CONCURRENCE
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY TAG YES NO
REVIEWED BY CAO YES NO

Staff Report

Origin

In late April 2004, the City received correspondence from the Greater Vancouver Regional District requesting the City to support the GVRD regional parks service conversion and amendment Bylaw No 1024, 2005 (Attachment 1).

Findings Of Fact

The GVRD regional parks service provides services to member municipalities. The former District of Matsqui and District of Abbotsford amalgamated into the City of Abbotsford. The District of Matsqui had three regional parks service areas. The City of Abbotsford had none in the GVRD. The City of Abbotsford when amalgamated, decided to unite these parks and its eastern area under the GVRD service area. There is an increase in GVRD park management responsibilities and increase in costs as a result of this transition.

A GVRD bylaw is required to support this amendment and this requires two thirds of the GVRD members supporting the bylaw.

Analysis

The GVRD has received a request from the City of Abbotsford to increase the GVRD parks service to include the entire City (formerly in the two districts and now amalgamated). To enable this, the GVRD requires a bylaw to convert and amend the regional parks service and have two thirds of the service participants support the bylaw.

Richmond currently provides the GVRD (\$2.8 Million in total through the GVRD Levy) with \$1.7 million for Regional Parks. Adoption of this bylaw will increase the regional parks budget by \$100,000. This increase will be contributed through the GVRD levy to Abbotsford residents with no impact to Richmond taxpayers.

Local citizens benefit from GVRD parks system. In a recent survey, 80 per cent of people questioned said they had visited a GVRD regional park at least once in the previous year. There are no statistics on how many Richmond citizens benefit from the GVRD park system. However, in Richmond, Iona Beach is well used locally and is a part of the GVRD network.

Financial Impact

There is no impact to the City of Richmond.

Conclusion

The GVRD has indicated that there are many benefits to supporting this proposal and there will be no cost to the citizens of Richmond. Citizens of Richmond receive the benefits of the regional parks system both within Richmond and the region. Given this, staff recommends that consent be given to the Greater Vancouver Regional District supporting the GVRD regional parks service conversion and amendment Bylaw No 1024, 2005.



Cathryn Volkering Carlile
General Manager Parks Recreation and Cultural Services
(4068)



Building A Sustainable Region

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Greater Vancouver Regional District

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April 26, 2005

File No. CR-04-01-RD

Mr. J. Richard McKenna
 City Clerk
 City of Richmond
 6911 No. 3 Road
 Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

0157-01

Dear Mr. McKenna:

Re: Bylaw to Add Part of City of Abbotsford as Participant in Regional Parks Service

On January 1, 1995, the area of the former District of Matsqui, now within the City of Abbotsford, was made an extraterritorial municipal participating area for the regional parks service of the GVRD. GVRD has received a request from the City of Abbotsford to add the remaining area (formerly the District of Abbotsford) of the City of Abbotsford as a participant in the regional parks service.

In order for the GVRD to do this, the regional parks service function must, by bylaw, be converted to a service exercised under the authority of an establishing bylaw pursuant to section 774.2 of the *Local Government Act* (the Act). The bylaw creating that service must then be amended to add the remaining area of Abbotsford as a participant in that service.

Before the bylaw creating and amending the regional parks service in this way can be adopted by the GVRD Board, consent from at least two-thirds of the service participants (including the proposed municipal participating area of the City of Abbotsford) must be received.

Under section 801.4 of the Act, a participating area municipal council may consent on behalf of its electors and notify the Board of its consent. If the bylaw receives the consent of two-thirds of the participants, it is sent to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval [s. 802(3)] and then adopted by a majority of the GVRD Board (by way of weighted vote).

Accordingly, we request that you bring forward the attached form of GVRD bylaw for consideration and consent by your Council at the earliest opportunity and subsequently advise us of the result.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Johnny Carline', written over a large, stylized flourish.

Johnny Carline,
Chief Administrative Officer, GVRD

JC/EA/mlt

Attachment (1)



Parks Committee Meeting: 11 February 2005
GVRD Board of Directors Meeting: 25 February 2005

To: Parks Committee

From: Ed Andrusiak, Manager Regional Parks

Date: February 1, 2005

Subject: **Change to Regional Parks Service: City of Abbotsford**

Recommendation:

That the GVRD Board:

- a) Give leave to introduce "Greater Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Service Conversion and Amendment Bylaw No. 1024, 2005" and that it be read a first, second and third time; and
 - b) Direct staff to seek the approval of the inspector, and participating area approval pursuant to section 801 of the Local Government Act.
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1. PURPOSE

To introduce Bylaw No.1024 (Attachment 1) to extend GVRD Regional Parks Service to part of the City of Abbotsford previously comprising the District of Abbotsford and receiving Regional Parks service from Central Fraser Valley Parks, under the jurisdiction of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD).

2. CONTEXT

History

When the GVRD began its Regional Park Service in 1967 it assumed service to member municipalities of the former Vancouver-Fraser Park District, including the former District of Matsqui not within the GVRD. In 1995 the District of Matsqui and District of Abbotsford were incorporated as the City of Abbotsford. The former District of Matsqui service area containing three regional parks, Aldergrove Lake, Matsqui Trail, and Glen Valley continued to contribute to GVRD Parks. That part of the City made up of the former District of Abbotsford remained in the Central Fraser Valley Parks function and contains no regional parks.

In 2004, when the FVRD began the process of amalgamating its three park functions into one service, the City of Abbotsford decided to unite its remaining eastern area with the GVRD Parks

function and proceeded with a bylaw to withdraw from the FVRD park's function. Three-quarters of its tax base already went to the GVRD and it had built a good working relationship around the existing three GVRD regional parks in the City. To provide park services to the remainder of the City the proposed bylaw must be adopted by the GVRD Board and receive the consent of two-thirds of the service participants.

Future

While there are no regional parks presently in the extension area there is potential over the long term to cooperate with the City to expand greenways along the dykes forming the Trans Canada Trail, investigate a park on Vedder Mountain (significant mountain bike and hiking terrain), and acquire key wetlands along the Sumas River for habitat preservation and public enjoyment. People from across the region and particularly the rapidly growing communities south of the Fraser River will seek these rugged outdoor experiences and trail corridors that are close and easily accessible.

Relationship of Sumas Mountain Regional Park

The 1966 vision for the Vancouver-Fraser Parks District included a larger wilderness park on Sumas Mountain. It was only in 2002 as an outcome of the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy that some 1,500 ha of provincial lands were designated for park use. GVRD and FVRD collaborated on studying and promoting this site for years and recognize its potential to offer significant trail-based recreation and protection of unique and at-risk species, biodiversity and landscapes. FVRD was granted a lease from the Province in 2002 and has begun operations and developed a Park Plan. The City of Abbotsford and GVRD own additional lands that will be added to the park.

The City of Abbotsford has petitioned the Province to extend its boundary over FVRD Electoral Area-H, encompassing much of Sumas Mountain and it is expected that a majority of this land base will be added. With the proposal that all of the City's area become part of the GVRD parks service area, the question of the future governance of Sumas Regional Park has been raised. With the City's withdrawal from FVRD park services, there is an awareness of the financial challenge to expand and operate this phenomenal wilderness area on the urban doorstep, which will attract many visitors from outside the municipal boundaries.

While only the current extension bylaw is before the Board, members can anticipate that a proposal may be forthcoming seeking extension of GVRD park services to include Sumas Mountain and management of the regional park. FVRD, GVRD and City of Abbotsford staff and representatives appreciate the responsibility and obligations of caring for this special site and realize that the large population base, which will enjoy this site, will need to contribute to its development and stewardship.

3. ALTERNATIVES

Option 1: The Board can extend the Regional Parks Service to Add Part of the City of Abbotsford as a Participant. This will result in adding approximately \$100-

130,000 additional requisitions to the \$400,000 already submitted by the City to GVRD for regional parks; or

Option 2: Delay, or not extend GVRD park services to the remainder of the City of Abbotsford resulting in the affected residents not contributing to, but using, regional park services in both the GVRD and FVRD.

4. CONCLUSION

Extending GVRD regional parks services will ensure continued financial contributions from citizens benefiting from regional park services and foster a good working relationship with the City of Abbotsford. Discussions with the City and FVRD around this action and the management of Sumas Mountain Regional Park point to a growing need to work together across the Fraser Valley to manage and provide for outdoor recreation in a rapidly growing urban area now and in the future. While expanding GVRD's involvement will require additional resources, not participating leaves natural areas at great risk from human impact, poses safety and comfort concerns for people, undermines tourism strategies and places an unfair burden on small rural communities to support even basic recreation services.

Attachment - Bylaw 1024

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 1024

A Bylaw to Convert and Amend the Regional Parks Service to Add Part of the City of Abbotsford as a Participant

WHEREAS:

- A. By Division V of Letters Patent issued June 29, 1967, as amended by further Supplementary Letters Patent, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (the "GVRD") was granted the function of regional parks (the "Service") and the participating areas for the Service were deemed to include not only GVRD member municipalities, but also member municipalities of the former Vancouver-Fraser Park District not within the GVRD;
- B. One of the member municipalities of the former Vancouver-Fraser Park District not within the GVRD was the former Corporation of the District of Matsqui;
- C. On January 1, 1995, the former District of Matsqui and the former District of Abbotsford were incorporated as the City of Abbotsford and, by, Supplementary Letters Patent issued November 24, 1994 and effective January 1, 1995, the area of the former District of Matsqui was made an extraterritorial municipal participating area for the Service;
- D. The GVRD Board has received a request from the City of Abbotsford to add as a participant in the Service, the remaining area of the City of Abbotsford (being the area within the boundaries of the former District of Abbotsford) (the "Remaining Abbotsford Area"), such that the whole of the City of Abbotsford will be a municipal participating area for the purposes of the Service;
- E. The Service is a continued service and pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a bylaw must be adopted in order to convert a continued service and amend that service or the participants in that service;
- F. Consent from at least two-thirds of the Service participants (including the proposed municipal participating area of the City of Abbotsford) to add the Remaining Abbotsford Area as a participant in the Service such that that the whole of the City of Abbotsford is a municipal participating area for the Service, has been received;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the GVRD in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

Conversion of Service

1. The Service is hereby converted to a service exercised under the authority of an establishing bylaw.

Addition of Part of City of Abbotsford as a Participating Area

2. The Remaining Abbotsford Area is added as a participant in the Service such that the whole of the City of Abbotsford is a municipal participating area for the Service and must share in the cost of the Service.

Participating Areas

3. The participating areas for the Service are:

City of Abbotsford; Village of Anmore; Village of Belcarra; Bowen Island Municipality; City of Burnaby; City of Coquitlam; Corporation of Delta; Electoral Area 'A'; City of Langley; Township of Langley; Village of Lions Bay; District of Maple Ridge; City of New Westminster; City of North Vancouver; District of North Vancouver; District of Pitt Meadows; City of Port Coquitlam; City of Port Moody; City of Richmond; City of Surrey; City of Vancouver; District of West Vancouver; and City of White Rock,

(the "Participating Areas").

Service Area

4. The service area for the Service consists of all that land within the boundaries of the Participating Areas.

Cost Recovery

5. The annual costs for the Service may be recovered by the following:
 - (a) the imposition of fees and other charges that may be fixed by separate bylaw;
 - (b) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 4.3 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (c) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise.

Cost Apportionment

6. The costs of the Service after deducting the revenues (if any) received under subsections 4(a) and (c) above, shall be apportioned among the Participating Areas by the method established by section 804(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act*.

Citation

7. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Greater Vancouver Regional District Regional Parks Service Conversion and Amendment Bylaw No. 1024, 2005".

READ A FIRST TIME this ____ day of _____, 2005.

READ A SECOND TIME this ____ day of _____, 2005.

READ A THIRD TIME this ____ day of _____, 2005.

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES this ____ day of _____, 2005.

RECONSIDERED, PASSED, AND FINALLY ADOPTED by an affirmative vote this ____
day of _____, 2005.

CHAIR

SECRETARY