To: City Manager  
From: Acting General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture Services  
Subject: Mundy Park Forest Management Plan – Preliminary Concept  
For: Council-in-Committee  

Recommendation:  
That the Committee receive the report of the Acting General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture Services dated January 14, 2014 entitled "Mundy Park Forest Management Plan – Preliminary Concept" for information.  

Report Purpose:  
To present information and update Council on the progress of the Mundy Park Forest Management Plan, prior to proceeding with completion of a final Draft Plan.  

Strategic Goal:  
The initiative described in this report addresses the City's strategic goals of supporting sport, culture and recreation, enhancing community safety and developing sustainable assets. This project began in 2013 and is a "C" priority in the 2014 Corporate Business Plan Priorities.  

Background:  
On March 4, 2013 Committee received a report entitled "Mundy Park Forest Management Plan" that outlined a process for the development of a Forest Management Plan (the "Plan") for Mundy Park. Mundy Park is the City of Coquitlam's largest park at 440 acres, including 400 acres of forest dedicated as an Urban Forest Park through bylaw in 1993. This Urban Forest includes two lakes, three streams and a 16 kilometre trail network that provide tremendous recreational, environmental, aesthetic, and health benefits to the community. The breadth of public benefits offered by Mundy Park forest also means that there is potential for conflicts between uses that need to be managed as these evolve over time.  

Given the importance of Mundy Park as the premier natural forest in Coquitlam, development of an overall management plan for Mundy Park
forest was identified as a priority in 2013. The Plan, which is being developed in consultation with public stakeholders and park users, will lay out a road map for managing the 400 acres of dedicated Urban Forest to ensure that the full range of public benefits from these assets will be sustained and celebrated by current and future Coquitlam generations.

The project initiation and concept development stages have been completed and a draft Mundy Park Forest Management Plan - Preliminary Concept has been developed with input from the Community Focus Group (See Attachment 1).

**Discussion/Analysis:**

In October 2013 Diamond Head Consulting Limited (the “Consultant”) was retained to develop the Mundy Park Forest Management Plan. The Consultant has developed numerous similar plans for communities in BC and has also successfully completed a number of projects for the City in the past.

A Community Focus Group (the “CFG”) is working with staff and the Consultant to develop the Plan as per the attached Terms of Reference established in October 2013. (See Attachment 2). The CFG consists of eleven members, including six representatives of community stakeholder groups that represent park users, as well as five volunteer representatives of 2013 Committees of Council intended to represent the community at large:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Stakeholder Groups</th>
<th>Council Committees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Shelter Volunteers</td>
<td>Arts and Culture Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Disc Sports Society</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundy Mudthudders</td>
<td>Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Running Club</td>
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Parks, Recreation and Culture Services staff are also working with a Technical Working Group (the “TWG”) of interdepartmental staff to ensure the Plan is as comprehensive as possible and consistent with the work of other departments. The TWG includes representatives from Fire Protection,
RCMP, Engineering and Public Works (Environmental Services), and Corporate Communications.

The CFG met for the first time on November 6, 2013 to discuss and draft the preliminary Vision and Principles for the Plan. The discussion was very positive, cooperative and a broad consensus was reached by the CFG on the draft work. It is important to note that the scope of the Plan as articulated to the Consultant and the CFG is the area defined in the Urban Forest Dedication Bylaw (see Figure 1 in attached Preliminary Concept), which comprises 400 acres of the entire 440 acres that make up all of Mundy Park. The key objective of the Forest Management Plan is to maintain the ecological integrity of the Park by allowing natural processes to occur, with the intention of accommodating sensitive recreational uses while allowing the forest to reach the climax stage of maturity.

The Consultant has completed and compiled all of the required field data, including ecosystem mapping, forest health surveys, wildfire fuel assessments, and trail mapping. This field work has provided an accurate picture of the recreational opportunities, constraints and relative sensitivities of the distinct areas of the forest. While no comprehensive user data has been collected to date in Mundy Park, stakeholders in the CFG represent park users and it is also anticipated that the implementation of the plan may consider recommendations related to the creation of baseline user statistics to support forest management decisions and inform future public education priorities. The attached Preliminary Concept is intended to present a high level vision, principles, and goals for managing the distinct areas of the Park and provides a check-in point before the Consultant starts work on a complete draft of the Forest Management Plan.

Next Steps

The timeline for the remainder of the project is outlined below. A complete draft Forest Management Plan is expected to be ready to present to Committee in May 2014, with the target of presenting the final Plan to Council for approval in September 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Step</th>
<th>Timeline (2014)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Focus Group Meeting #2</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant and Staff Complete Draft Plan</td>
<td>January / April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Draft Forest Management Plan to Committee</td>
<td>April / May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Focus Group Meeting #3</td>
<td>May</td>
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File #: 12-6140-20/PG0150/2013 1 Doc.: #1596544.v1
Staff expects that the final Mundy Park Forest Management Plan will include an implementation strategy to establish priorities for future actions that are in keeping with the approved vision and principles. Financial implications related to the implementation plan will be identified in the draft Forest Management Plan as needed. Staff will be checking in with Council at various stages in the process prior to the completion of the Plan to ensure that it reflects Council’s views and priorities.

As a related item for consideration, staff notes that the establishment of a nature interpretive centre in Mundy Park has been discussed in the past and this is likely to be considered as part of the Plan. There is an opportunity to evaluate the potential for this interpretive centre to be integrated into the planned lifecycle replacement of the Mundy Park Field House, which is in poor shape and needs replacement in the coming years. This capital replacement need may allow the City to leverage the investment and enhance the opportunities for ongoing public education and engagement in the Park. This possibility will be discussed and may be an implementation outcome to support the long-term management and use of the forest.

Financial Implications:
The development of the Mundy Park Forest Management Plan will cost approximately $60,000. These funds are included in the current capital budget. Potential cost implications related to the implementation of the Plan are expected, but these will be identified and presented for Council consideration at the completion of the Plan and as part of future budget processes.

Conclusion:
Mundy Park is a significant local and regional amenity that provides outstanding recreational, wildlife habitat, and educational opportunities. The Preliminary Concept Plan and ultimately the Mundy Park Forest Management Plan are being developed in consultation with the community to ensure that these values are all preserved and enhanced for current and future generations of Coquitlam residents. The Plan process is proceeding on
schedule and a draft plan will be presented to Council for consideration in May 2014. The final plan will ultimately be presented to Council for approval and will be integrated into the updated Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan which is underway and expected to be complete later in 2014.

Raul Allueva

Attachments:
Attachment 1 - Mundy Park Forest Management Plan – Preliminary Concept
Attachment 2 - Mundy Park Forest Management Plan – Community Focus
Group Terms of Reference

This report was prepared by Lanny Englund, Urban Forestry and Parks Services Manager and reviewed by Kathy Reinheimer, Manager Parks.
Mundy Park
Forest Management Plan
Preliminary Concept
January 7, 2013

Submitted to:
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1 Introduction

Mundy Park (Park) is the largest City-owned forested park in Coquitlam. The Park was dedicated as an Urban Forest Park in 1993 under bylaw number 2699. The bylaw states that the Urban Forest Park is:

"A large tract of wooded land located within a populous community, dedicated for the public's use and enjoyment and to the management, conservation and enhancement of native flora and fauna."

The dedication permits forest and lakes management, construction of such things as trails, picnic areas, washrooms, nature houses, boardwalks, docks, parking areas, and related recreation amenities to accommodate those individuals using the urban forest park.

With 390 acres of un-fragmented second growth forest, two lakes and several streams the Park is home to a variety of native plant communities and wildlife species. Thousands of people regularly use the trail network and facilities. Mundy Park is also subject to the typical impacts suffered by urban parks such as invasive plant infestations, yard waste, illegal fires, garbage dumping, and unsanctioned trails.

This report builds on the background summary report and incorporates findings from the biophysical inventory as well as information gathered at the initial Community Focus Group (CFG) and Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings. The purpose of this report is to provide a preliminary concept for the Mundy Park Forest Management Plan (FMP) including:

- Proposed Vision and Principles
- Draft Forest Management Zones and Goals
- Draft FMP Table of Contents
- Maps of information collected during field assessments

The Forest Management Plan pertains only to the dedicated urban forest shown in Figure 1.

The Forest Management Plan for Mundy Park will not address:

1. The sport field area located to the west of the forested area of the park
2. The BC Hydro right-of-way to the east of the forested edge
Figure 1 Urban forest park dedication: subject area of the Forest Management Plan.
2 Vision and Principles

A workshop was held in early November with the Community Focus Group. During the workshop, the group participated in several exercises aimed at the development of the Vision and Principles for the FMP. The resulting ideas (contained in Appendix A) in combination with the intent of the Urban Forest Park Dedication have been used to propose the following draft vision and principle statements.

2.1 Draft Vision Statement

The most popular words chosen to reflect the vision of the Park by the CFG are underlined in the vision below.

Mundy Park is a regionally significant nature refuge for people and wildlife and a defining landmark in Coquitlam. This sanctuary offers residents and visitors opportunities for recreation, nature appreciation and education. The City sustains the park for future generations by protecting its wildlife habitat, recreational values and heritage through environmental stewardship.

2.2 Draft Principles

There are six categories of proposed principles. These principles support the intent of the Urban Forest Park Dedication Bylaw and follow the vision drafted for the Park. They also summarize the principles discussed in the Community Focus Group meeting held in November.

Environmental protection

• Biodiversity will be protected through preservation, restoration and enhancement of important habitat that supports a variety of wildlife.

Balanced values

• Management will be guided by a strong commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship, balanced with low impact recreation activities.

Education

• Educational opportunities will foster community awareness and a sense of stewardship.

Diverse Opportunities

• Passive recreational and education opportunities will be provided for a range of ages, physical mobility and income groups.

Collaboration

• Collaborative management will be supported by open communication and engagement between the City, park user groups and volunteers.
Adaptive Management

- An adaptive management approach will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives and emerging best practices will be considered for park management.

3 Management Zones

The objective of the Forest Management Plan is to maintain the ecological integrity of the Park by allowing natural processes to occur with the intention of reaching the climax forest community. The last major disturbance experienced by the forests in Mundy Park was logging in the early 1900s. Following this disturbance, the vegetation has been changing over time through a process called natural succession. Baring no other significant disturbance, they will eventually reach their most stable climax stage (mature conifer forests with well-developed understory vegetation). This process can take several human lifetimes.

The Park has been divided into five management zones to enable management of the Park that will achieve the vision and follow the guiding principles while allowing natural succession to occur.

Recreation Zone

Scope: Existing gravel and paved sanctioned trail system; existing disc golf course
Intent: To provide low impact, safe recreation opportunities
Permitted Uses: non-motorized recreation where the surrounding environment is not impacted by its use (e.g. walking, jogging, cycling, disc golf)
Management: maintain the existing trail network; maintain infrastructure (culverts, signage, hydrants etc.), enhancement through restoration where degradation has occurred.

Riparian Zone

Scope: Within 15m of all watercourses; within 30m of lakes and ponds, and associated wet ecosystem types (site series 12)
Intent: Ensure the integrity and ecosystem function of creeks, lakes, ponds, and their associated riparian zones
Permitted Uses: non-motorized recreation on existing sanctioned trail system where trails intersect the riparian zone
Management: maintain and enhance trail-side fencing to prevent disturbance, enhancement through restoration where disturbance has occurred, sediment and erosion control measures.

Interface Zone

Scope: Within 50m of the perimeter of the urban forest park dedicated area
Intent: To manage the risk associated with the urban interface
Permitted Uses: non-motorized recreation on existing trail system where trails intersect the interface zone
Management: risk management pertaining to fire, tree hazards, invasive plant species, illegal dumping, encroachment, human/wildlife conflicts, and other interface issues.

Nature Conservation Zone
Scope: Contiguous inner core of the urban forest park dedication which includes majority of wetter ecosystem types (site series 07/12)
Intent: Protect the core of the park from preventable disturbance. Provide a contiguous linkage for wildlife between the two lakes and their associated riparian areas, and the northern and southern park edges. This zone contains the majority of wetter ecosystem types which are more sensitive to disturbance (such as repeated human and domestic animal traffic).
Permitted Uses: non-motorized recreation on existing trail system where trails intersect the nature conservation zone
Management: research and enhancement through restoration where disturbance has occurred.

Nature Interpretive Zone
Scope: Drier, mature conifer ecosystem types which are less sensitive to low level disturbance.
Intent: Protect the ecological integrity of the forest while allowing for minimal impact, nature interpretive activities.
Permitted Uses: non-motorized recreation on existing trail system where trails intersect the nature interpretive zone; minimal impact nature interpretive activities with obtained permission from park managers (e.g. orienteering, school groups)
Management: education and enhancement through restoration where disturbance has occurred.
Figure 2 Proposed Forest Management Zones.
4 Proposed FMP Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary

2. Introduction (includes overview of the FMP process)

3. Vision and Principles

4. Context
   a. Regional (discuss GIN, connectivity hubs)
   b. Municipal (discuss urban forest dedication)

5. Description
   a. Natural features
      i. Climate and Physiography
      ii. Forest stand characteristics
      iii. Specimen trees
      iv. Understory vegetation characteristics
      v. Forest health: Pests and Diseases
      vi. Invasive plant species
      vii. Watercourses: Lakes, ponds, streams and riparian areas
      viii. Wildlife and critical habitat features
      ix. Wildlife, Plant and Plant Communities at Risk
   b. Recreation resources
      i. Trails
      ii. Disc Golf

6. Park management zones & goals
   a. Recreation zone
   b. Nature conservation zone
   c. Nature interpretive zone
   d. Riparian zone
   e. Interface Zone

7. General management guidelines
   a. Natural features
      i. Wildlife
      ii. Fish and aquatic systems
      iii. Species and ecological communities at risk
      iv. Invasive and non-native species
   b. Access and Recreation Management
      i. Trail planning and maintenance
      ii. Off road cycling
      iii. Disc golf
      iv. User group conflicts
c. Forest Management
   i. Forest succession
   ii. Maintenance programs
   iii. Restoration and enhancement

d. Risk management
   i. Hazardous trees
   ii. Windthrow management
   iii. Wildfire fuel management
   iv. Human-wildlife conflict
   v. Hydro Right of Way
   vi. Social influences and public safety

8. Public Education and Awareness
   a. Environmental programming: outdoor and nature-based education
   b. Community engagement, volunteers
   c. Interpretive opportunities and signage

9. Monitoring Program
   a. Monitoring protocol
   b. Community, ecological and management indicators
   c. Adaptive management

10. Implementation Plan
   a. Recommendations (prioritized and time frame)
5 Appendix A. Vision and Principle Ideas from the Community Focus Group

Words for Vision Statement: proposed by CFG

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Word</th>
<th>Number of Votes</th>
<th>Word</th>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Relaxing</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fresh air</td>
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<td>dog people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call of raven/owl</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Seasons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evolution</td>
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Principles Statements: proposed by CFG

Group 1

1. Ensure that Mundy Park is preserved in its natural state, so that it continues to be a prime wildlife habitat and a peaceful sanctuary for future generations.

2. Promote a collaborative balance between recreational opportunities and sustainable habitat management for future generations.

3. Harmonize ideas from all user groups, because Mundy Park has brought together families and community groups for generations.

Group 2

1. Recreational activities within the park will respect natural features and practice a "leave-no-trace" code of conduct providing park access, interpretive and passive recreational opportunities for a range of ages, physical mobility and income groups, for generations.

2. Through education and cooperative management, the community, volunteers and other organizations will work collaboratively to achieve park initiatives.
Group 3
1. A strong commitment to conservation, biodiversity and environmental stewardship will guide management initiatives.
2. Recreational activities within the park will respect natural features and practice a "leave-no-trace" code of conduct, protecting the park for all generations.

Group 4
1. A strong commitment to conservation, biodiversity and environmental stewardship will guide management initiatives.
2. Recreational activities within Mundy Park will respect natural features and practice a "leave-no-trace" code of conduct, protecting the park for all generations.

Group 5
1. Maintain, manage and enhance the qualities of a natural forest.
2. Practice a "leave-no-trace" code of conduct, protecting the park for all generations.
MUNDY PARK FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Issue Date: August 22, 2013
Revision Date:

MANDATE

The mandate of the Mundy Park Forest Management Plan Community Focus Group is:
- To provide input on the principles and goals for the Plan;
- To provide input to staff on the processes to engage the public; and
- To provide input on and support recommendations for the preservation and enhancement of the forest in Mundy Park and the benefits it provides for the community.

COMPOSITION

The Community Focus Group is an advisory body, composed of representatives of stakeholder groups and existing Advisory Committees of Council intended to represent the community at large. All Members will be committed to working in a collaborative manner for the creation of a Plan that will ensure the long term sustainability of the forest in Mundy Park.

The Community Focus Group will consist of eleven Members only, including six members representing stakeholder groups and five members appointed from Advisory Committees of Council as follows:
- Phoenix Running Club
- BC Disc Sports Society
- Mundy Mudthudders
- Animal Shelter Volunteers
- Friends of Mundy Forest Heritage Society
- Burke Mountain Naturalists
- Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
- Multiculturalism Advisory Committee
- Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee
- Sport Council
- Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee

Each Member must be appointed to the Community Focus Group by their respective group or Advisory Committee and notice of the appointment must be provided to the City in writing.
CHAIR AND STAFF SUPPORT

The City of Coquitlam Urban Forestry and Park Services Manager will serve as the Staff Liaison and Chair of the Task Force.

City of Coquitlam staff will prepare and distribute the agenda, notice of meeting and minutes.

QUORUM AND PROCEDURES

A quorum will be a majority of the appointed members.

The meetings are scheduled as necessary to complete the work and may be cancelled or re-scheduled at the call of the Chair.

DUTY OF MEMBERS

Members representing stakeholder groups are appointed to represent the interests and opinions of their respective groups. Members are expected to resolve any conflicts in order to support the overall well-being and mandate of the Community Focus Group.

Members are expected to attend approximately four Community Focus Group meetings between fall 2013 and spring 2014. Members are also expected to participate fully in these meetings in order to apply their full range of skills, experience and diversity.

COMMUNICATION

No Member of the Community Focus Group may speak for or represent the opinion of the Community Focus Group. Any communication that a Member may have with the media cannot be on behalf of the Community Focus Group and is expected to be respectful of all Members and the process.

Communication with staff is to be through the Staff Liaison.

REIMBURSEMENT

There is no financial reimbursement to Community Focus Group Members.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Term of duty is expected to be from September 2013 until completion of the Forest Management Plan in 2014. Once the Forest Management Plan is completed, the Community Focus Group will be disbanded.