



Corporate Report

NO: R232

COUNCIL DATE: November 20, 2006

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: October 26, 2006
FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 0870-20/348C
SUBJECT: Ecologically Gifting of 11775 and 11776 - 98 Avenue

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the gifting of two lots located at 11775 and 11776 - 98 Avenue to the City under the Environment Canada Ecological Gift Program for the expansion of the Tom Hopkins Ravine Park.

BACKGROUND

The two privately-owned lots located at 11775 and 11776 - 98 Avenue are undevelopable lands comprising $\pm 14,070$ ft.² in total site area. The owners wish to gift these lots to the City under the Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program (EGP), inception in 1995. The EGP is an income tax incentive program designed to encourage the conservation of ecologically sensitive lands. Environment Canada's role in the gifting of lands under the program is to certify the ecological sensitivity of the lands being gifted, approves the recipient, and certifies the fair market value of the lands. The City (a qualified recipient under the program) must ensure that these lands' biodiversity and natural heritage values are conserved in perpetuity. The City must also issue income tax donation receipts to the donor at the end of the gifting process.

DISCUSSION

The two subject lots located at 11775 and 11776 - 98 Avenue are within the ravine of Delta Creek, adjacent to properties held by the City for the Tom Hopkins Ravine Park. The Tom Hopkins Ravine Park is a natural area park that is inventoried as a mature, coniferous forest to be managed to protect, preserve, and enhance the native vegetation communities, and to provide for both wildlife habitat and worthwhile recreational opportunities. The two subject lots when gifted will be added to the Tom Hopkins Ravine Park. This gifting will represent the second gifting to the City toward the valued expansion of the Tom Hopkins Ravine Park.

Environment Canada has issued the necessary Certificates of Ecologically Sensitive Land and Notices of Determination of Fair Market for the two subject lots. The owners can therefore now proceed with the freehold transfer of the lots to the City. Following the transfer of the lots, Environment Canada will issue the owners the statements of fair market value, and the City will thereafter issue the owners the income tax donation receipts.

CONCLUSION

The owners of the properties located at 11775 and 11776 - 98 Avenue propose to gift these properties to the City under the Environment Canada's Ecological Gift Program. The gifting will form a valued expansion toward the Tom Hopkins Ravine Park properties and will be at minimal cost to the City.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

AW/mpr

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Appendices

I. Aerial Photograph of Subject Properties