

PART II – THE CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.0 CONSERVATION AREA VISION AND POLICY

4.1 Conservation Area Mandate

A strong conservation mandate has been defined not only for the new Covenant lands transferred to the City of Burnaby (Figure 1-2a) but to the existing Burnaby Mountain Park area as well. The two areas will adhere to the terms of the Covenant and collectively be known as the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. In accordance with the terms of the Covenant, as defined in Appendix A, the conservation area will be used only as public park within which the City may develop only a public trail system, small parking lots and other support facilities. The conservation area will otherwise be used for the purpose of conservation.

Some enhancement to existing cultural or recreational feature areas including the Centennial Pavilion area, and the Harry Jerome Sports Centre will be allowed, but only under the context of conservation principles and Burnaby's Environmentally Sensitive Areas Strategy. A third distinct area, that of the former target range sites which was transferred with the Covenant lands, will retain some parking and staging use for Burnaby Mountain, but otherwise be rehabilitated to a natural state. The framework for long-term protection and management of the conservation area is detailed in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 Guidelines, Objectives and Recommendations.

4.2 Conservation Area Vision

The vision statement outlines important values associated with the conservation area and sets the tone for discussing specific management objectives over the long-term. This statement will serve as a guide for reacting to changing demands for recreation or for incorporating new approaches to conservation management. The vision was developed in consideration of both the conservation and recreational values of the conservation area. Burnaby Mountain is Burnaby's largest dedicated open space and is primarily undisturbed and undeveloped. It is a significant ecological reservoir in the Lower Mainland in addition to its considerable recreational values.

The vision for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area reads as follows:

"Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area will be conserved in native forest cover and enjoyed through a system of public trails and related support facilities. Conservation area management will directly reflect the intent and principles of the City of Burnaby's Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Strategy and the recognition of Burnaby Mountain as an ESA of regional importance. The conservation area land will be managed to achieve the protection and enhancement of habitat for birds, animals, and fish in balance with trail-oriented and other recreational activities appropriate to the natural setting. The conservation area will be planned and managed to minimize conflicts among user groups, to serve as an educational setting regarding both natural and cultural history, and to monitor and mitigate environmental impacts from human use."

4.3 Appropriate Activities

Appropriate activities for Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area may include pedestrian, mountain biking and equestrian use on designated trails; nature study and observation; and use of the facilities of the Centennial Pavilion area for viewing, picnicking, walking and natural and cultural appreciation. All trail-based activities will be subject to monitoring of environmental impacts and user conflicts. Mountain bike use will be conditional subject to regular review. Approval of mountain biking as a permanent use will be contingent on performance in accordance with Management Plan principles.

4.4 Conservation Area Policy

The challenge of managing the conservation area for both conservation and recreation involves balancing the demands for recreational pursuits with the protection and enhancement of natural and heritage features. In addition to the city-wide policies which govern all parks in the Burnaby Parks and Recreation System, the following policies will be applied to the management and operation of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area.

4.4.1 Conservation Policy

Preservation of the natural forest character of Burnaby Mountain will be of primary importance in securing the long-term viability of the conservation area for habitat and human appreciation. Preserving important habitats and protecting environmentally sensitive areas may require limiting or eliminating public access and recreation in some parts of the conservation area. Where appropriate, Burnaby may also implement sound management practices or techniques for the purpose of enhancing natural conservation area values. All management activities in the conservation area will be subject to the City's Environmentally Sensitive Areas principles and review process and will be compatible with the Covenant for the conservation area.

4.4.2 Recreation Policy

It is the intent of the City of Burnaby to provide a variety of recreational opportunities within Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area that are compatible with the environmental sensitivities of the site and are in accordance with the Conservation Covenant. The conservation area will accommodate passive and active recreational activities, which may include hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use in designate areas. The overall goals of the recreation policy are to promote and provide opportunities that meet the following criteria:

- are compatible with the Conservation Covenant;
- do not cause unacceptable environmental impact;
- minimize user conflicts;
- encourage user cooperation;
- meet standards for public safety; and
- educate users.

4.4.3 Land Use Policy

Through implementation of the Management Plan, the City of Burnaby will designate appropriate land uses for the conservation area, formalize trails, and identify areas to be used primarily for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat. All trails and facilities will be designed to minimize environmental impacts. The City of Burnaby will reserve the right to temporarily or permanently close trails or facilities that do not meet design standards for drainage, erosion or the protection of adjacent forest environments and streams.