

Request for Decision



To: Committee of the Whole
From: **Development and Engineering**
Date: August 20, 2018
Subject: Nature Park Dedication Bylaw
Recommendation: **THAT Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to give first, second, and third readings of "Nature Park Bylaw No. 2052" at the September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

Background

In 2017, staff and consulting biologists EcoLogic Consultants undertook the classification of different ecosystem types within City limits using the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) methodology. It is useful for identifying potential areas to prioritize for conservation and areas more suitable for disturbance. Development can be directed to non-sensitive lands and varying degrees of protection could be brought into place for sensitive lands.

Staff presented the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory at the March 12, 2018 Committee of the Whole. At the March 26, 2018 Regular Meeting, Council passed this resolution:

THAT Council directs staff to develop the implementation of the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory by drafting amendments to the Official Community Plan and associated bylaws.

The bylaws identified in the staff report were:

1. Zoning Bylaw – refinements to zone locations, boundaries and setbacks;
2. Tree Bylaw – protection for sensitive ecosystems on private lands;
3. Tree Policy – management of City trees in or near sensitive ecosystems; and
4. Nature Park dedication bylaws.

Item 3. "Tree Policy" was adopted at the May 7, 2018 Regular Meeting as Urban Forest Policy No. 1105. In the context of implementing the values from the SEI, the policy's statements are:

The City will manage its urban forest for the public benefit including, but not limited to:

- Reduction of air pollution
- Dust control
- Wind breaks
- Noise control
- Rainfall interception
- Shade
- Habitat improvement
- Aesthetics
- Biodiversity

- Soil stabilization and improvement
- Riparian area improvement

Staff are now bringing forward item 4. “Nature Park dedication bylaws” to protect sensitive lands that are both not suitable for disturbance and that are difficult to develop because of their topography. The areas under consideration are Observation Mountain, the grasslands, hillside and area in the north east portion of City limits in between the landfill and Valley Heights, and a part of the oxbow beneath Valmar. All land is owned by the City. Figures 1 and 2 show the proposed nature park areas and the SEI classes.

The mechanism for dedicating the nature parks is the same as was used for dedicating the Johnson Flats Wetland Nature Park in Bylaw 2035. The proposed Bylaw No. 2052 will repeal and replace Bylaw 2035 to include the additional areas.

Protection of the sensitive ecosystem areas will ultimately involve amendments to the OCP land use designation and zoning in future updates of the OCP and the Zoning Bylaw.

Bylaw No. 2052 is now being introduced at the August 20, 2018 Committee of the Whole. Staff propose the first three readings for the September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting and adoption at the September 24, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Benefits or Impacts

Strategic Impact



Economic Growth

- Ensure that all development is in line with visions and guiding principles of the SCP and current best practices.
- We will develop a sustainability charter.



Fiscal Responsibility

- We will continue to retain our natural assets as a public trust.

Policy/Legislation

Bylaw 2052

Bylaw 2035

Attachments

Bylaw 2052

Bylaw 2035

Figure 1: Proposed nature parks and sensitive ecosystem inventory

Figure 2: Proposed nature parks and sensitive ecosystem inventory

Recommendation

THAT Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to give first, second, and third readings of “Nature Park Bylaw No. 2052” at the September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Options

1. THAT Committee of the Whole accepts the report.
2. THAT Committee of the Whole does not accept the report.
3. THAT Committee of the Whole refers the matter back to staff for further information.