



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: October 12, 2022
Submitted by: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Bert Flinn Park Forest Decorating – Management and Recommendations

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a policy to evaluate holiday decorations in parks and accompanying education and investigate a pilot pop-up park in an urban setting to invite holiday decorations.

Recommended Resolution

THAT the report dated October 12, 2022 from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding Bert Flinn Park Forest Decorating – Management and Recommendations be received for information.

Background

At the October 12, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission received a presentation from the Environmental Technician regarding Bert Flinn Park Forest Decorating – Management and Recommendations (**Attachment 1**). The Commission expressed concerns regarding the environmental issues that may occur from decorations that may be left behind, inclusivity, diversity, and equality, expenses, and suitable use of resources. Following discussion, the Commission passed the following resolution:

PRC22/020

THAT a policy to prohibit holiday decorations in parks and accompanying education be developed;

AND THAT a pilot pop-up park option in an urban setting to invite holiday decorations be investigated.

Discussion

Staff has observed ongoing and increasing annual winter holiday decorating in natural off-trail areas of Bert Flinn Park since 2016. The issue has drawn out strong opinions on social media and does not appear to be part of a larger organized community initiative. To date, decorating has been relatively minor, but is a growing trend that gained traction during Covid-19. Decorations are generally hung off of trees and shrubs along the pedestrian pathways, but extend into wetland and sensitive habitat areas. Decorations are typically installed through

December and largely cleaned-up after New Years. Growing participation is concerning due to materials used in decorating that may persist in the environment, potential attractant issues, and ecological concerns from off-trail foot traffic.

Opportunities for public engagement and education, options for minimizing environmental impacts, and recommendations for managing public decorating in Bert Flinn Park have been identified by staff (**Attachment 2**). Recommendations are classified as follows: Option 1: Do Nothing (Low Cost, Low Staff Effort); Option 2: Prohibit Decorating in All City Parks (Low Cost, Medium Staff Effort); Option 3: Provide Decorating Guidelines and Outreach (Medium Cost, Medium Staff Effort); and Option 4: Develop a 2022 Pilot Event in Bert Flinn Park (Medium Cost, High Staff Effort).

Other Options

1. THAT the report dated October 12, 2022 from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding Bert Flinn Park Forest Decorating – Management and Recommendations be referred to staff for information.
2. THAT the report dated October 12, 2022 from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding Bert Flinn Park Forest Decorating – Management and Recommendations be referred to staff for action.

Financial Implications

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Further information on communication and civic engagement requirements would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Considering the development of a policy for park spaces aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objectives of:

- expand and make the most of our parks and green spaces and design them to create positive and diverse experiences throughout the community;
- ensure City assets are optimized, maintained, and funded for current and future needs; and
- bring people together by activating public spaces.

Attachment

1. Presentation, Environmental Technician, dated October 12, 2022.
2. Memo, Environment Division, dated October 4, 2022.

Report Author

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Committee Coordinator

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Bert Flinn Park Forest Decorating - Management and Recommendations.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Presentation, Environmental Technician, dated October 12, 2022.pdf - Attachment 2 - Memo, Environment Division, dated October 4, 2022.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 14, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jennifer Mills, Legislative Services Advisor - Nov 3, 2022 - 11:54 AM

Angie Parnell, General Manager of Corporate Services - Nov 10, 2022 - 2:43 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Nov 10, 2022 - 4:58 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Nov 13, 2022 - 10:45 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Nov 14, 2022 - 12:21 PM