

March 7, 2017

City and property owner confirm plan to restore infilled wetland south of Jubilee Parkway

Restoration of an infilled wetland south of Jubilee Parkway will advance thanks to a plan that meets provincial restoration requirements and has been agreed upon by both the City and the property owner.

In December 2016, Council supported a compensation/restoration solution as part of the remedial action requirement for the northern portion of the infilled fen wetland south of Jubilee Parkway, owned by Parkway Properties. The compensation land totals 3.8 hectares for a 2:1 replacement ratio.

The solution is in keeping with the City's remedial action requirement, the Soil Removal and Deposition Bylaw and the City's environmental development permit process. It is also consistent with direction provided by the Province and best practices.

The solution includes creation of:

- 1.16 hectares of non-fen wetland in roughly the same location as the original wetland
- 0.54 hectare retention of two existing provincially red-listed (endangered) trembling aspen forested wetlands on the perimeter of the former fen wetland
- 2.1 hectares retention of existing forest land on the west side of the property bordering the Woods Creek wetland complex
- The southern portion of the infilled wetland (0.52 hectares) must be restored as a fen to bring the owner into compliance with the Provincial Water Act.
- The Open Standards framework for the restoration plan requires clear conservation targets (including strategies to reduce threats to targets) as well as ongoing monitoring and measurement of key ecological attributes against scientific literature.
- A key part of the remedial action includes the establishment of an implementation and monitoring plan, a phased financial security from Parkway Properties and a covenant to prevent future development in the restored area and buffer zones.

"The Province is relying on the City to manage the restoration process, and staff's work with Parkway Properties will continue to be transparent, results-oriented and science-based. We have a detailed timeline worked out, with regular check-ins with the property owner to get us to a completed Development Permit package in time to meet the 2017 summer window for the restoration work to begin," says Ron Neufeld, the City's general manager of operations and deputy city manager. "The upfront process of defining conservation targets and the key ecological attributes to be measured is a transparent process that helps everyone understand what choices are being made and why. And, together, we will regularly report out on the restoration project's progress."

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Contact: Ron Neufeld, Operations General Manager and Deputy City Manager 250-286-5765