Minute No. 411
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development - February 28, 2006

Item No. 16 **Acceptance by the City of an Ecological Gift of Natural Lands at the Mouth of the LaSalle River**
File G-7

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

1. That the City accept a donation of natural land at 200 St. Pierre Street, identified as Pollack Property on Misc. Plan No. 12805, for the purpose of parks and open space from Ms. Iris Pollack under the Federal Ecological Gift Program, subject to terms and conditions satisfactory to the Director of the Planning, Property and Development and the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development - February 28, 2006

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor De Smedt,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 15, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 28, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in administrative recommendation No. 1 and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Further, on February 28, 2006, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in administrative recommendation No. 2 and submitted the matter to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

Re: **The City's Acceptance of an Ecological Gift of Natural Lands at the mouth of the LaSalle River**

For submission to: **Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development**

Original report signed by: **Director of Planning, Property and Development**

Report date: February 21, 2006

Recommendation(s):

1. That the City accept a donation of natural land at 200 St. Pierre Street, identified as Pollack Property on the attached Misc. Plan No. 12805, for the purpose of parks and open space from Ms. Iris Pollack under the Federal Ecological Gift Program, subject to terms and conditions satisfactory to the Director of the Planning, Property and Development Department and the City Solicitor.

2. That the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development recommend to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services that the subject property be named after the Pollack family.

REPORT SUMMARY

Key Issues:

- Ms. Iris Pollack has agreed to offer an ecological gift of the parcel of land, appraised at $128,000, at the mouth of the LaSalle River where it enters the Red River under the Federal Ecological Gifts Program (a type of charitable donation).

- Mrs. Pollock's condition of donation is that the subject property be named after her family. The Public Works Department currently has delegated authority to recommend park names to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

- The acquisition of the Subject Property through the Ecological Gifts Program represents the second example of a novel technique that allows the acquisition and protection of ecologically significant land at small cost to the City.

- The Public Works Department would manage this parcel according to Ecological Gift Program guidelines to protect its ecological integrity. This natural land, which would be taken into the park natural areas inventory and managed within the existing current budget, will help to protect and preserve this historic entrance of the LaSalle into the Red River.

- Funding to cover the WLTO charges, realty tax adjustments and Finance and Administration charges in the amount of $4,500 has been identified in the Public Works Department operating budget.

- The remnant burned shell of the house needs to be demolished and the site remediated. However a local residents group on St. Pierre Street are willing to partner on the house disposal and site restoration with the Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department to cover costs through a joint fund raising approach.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General implications:

X	**None**
	For the organization overall and/or for other departments
	For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg
	Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

-

Policy implications:

X	**No**
	Yes

Comment(s):

-

Environmental implications:

X	**No**
	Yes

Comment(s):

- Plan Winnipeg 5C-04 directs the City to protect environmentally sensitive lands.

Human resources implications:

X	**No**
	Yes

Comment(s):

-

Financial implications:

X	**Within approved current and/or capital budget**
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

- **Comment(s):**

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

The Planning, Property and Development Department has an offer of a donation of land to be used for parks and open space purposes. Council's approval is required for land acquisitions when a previously approved Council land acquisition program does not exist.

HISTORY:

In the autumn of 2005 the Pollack Estate expressed an interest in donating the parcel of riverbank land on the LaSalle River at 200 St. Pierre Street to the City of Winnipeg. The City Naturalist assessed the land and recommended that it was ecologically significant and therefore qualified as an ecological gift.

DISCUSSION:

The Pollack property at 200 St. Pierre Street is a 16.04 acre parcel comprised mostly of river bottom forest with a centrally located yard and former house. The house burnt down in the summer of 2005. The lane leading to the house extended from the end of St. Pierre Street. In recent years this lane has been under water for portions of the year and has had its integrity compromised by slumping and floodwaters. The Pollack family ceased living in the house prior to 2005 and has since determined that they would like to donate the parcel through the Ecological Gifts Program. Mrs. Pollock's condition of donation is that the tract of land be named after her family The Public Works Department currently has delegated authority to recommend park names to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

The Ecological Gifts Program was first introduced in the late 90's as a type of charitable gift program, which was designed to preserve and protect ecologically sensitive lands in Canada. Donors receive federal tax credit benefits, which can carry over up to five years. Qualified recipients include a municipality such as the City of Winnipeg. The Canada Revenue Agency is responsible for implementing this program under the Income Tax Act.

For land to be gifted through the Federal Ecological Gift Program it must meet criteria to be considered ecologically sensitive. The property in question was assessed by the City of Winnipeg, Naturalist Services Branch in May 2005. It was found to have an intact river bottom forest with a species composition reflecting the natural heritage of this region. Through the site assessment and consultation with the Canadian Wildlife Service the site has been determined to meet Ecological Gift Program criteria.

The Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department protects and manages ecologically sensitive natural lands within the City of Winnipeg. The City Naturalist has had consultations with the Pollack Estate and agreement was been reached that the Pollack Estate will seek to turn the property over to the City of Winnipeg through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program.

The remnant burned shell of the house needs to be demolished and the site remediated. However a local residents group on St. Pierre Street are willing to partner on the house disposal and site restoration with the Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department to cover costs through a joint fund raising approach.

Environment Canada has appraised the property and with a Notice of Determination of Fair Market Value dated February 10, 2006 has valued the property at $128,000.

Acquisition of this site will help to preserve an important ecological and historic site. It will also become an important part of the LaSalle River pathway.

Ecological Gift Program guidelines for acquiring and maintaining the integrity of the property will need to be followed. However, maintenance of the property under these guidelines is not a departure from the way natural areas on Parks land are currently managed.

In conclusion, this is an opportunity to acquire a unique river bottom forest natural area at the mouth of the LaSalle River for park expansion and protection of our ecologically significant natural lands at a small cost to the City.

Financial Impact Statement

Date: February 14, 2006

Project Name:

The City's Acceptance of an Ecological Gift of Natural Lands at the mouth of the LaSalle River

First Year of Program 2005

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Identify)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus, Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 4,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 4,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	4,500	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

The estimated funding requirements of $4,500 to cover the WLTO charges, realty tax adjustments and Finance and Administration charges has been identified in the Parks and Open Space, Public Works Department operating budget.

"Original signed by"
Mike McGinn, CA
Manager of Finance

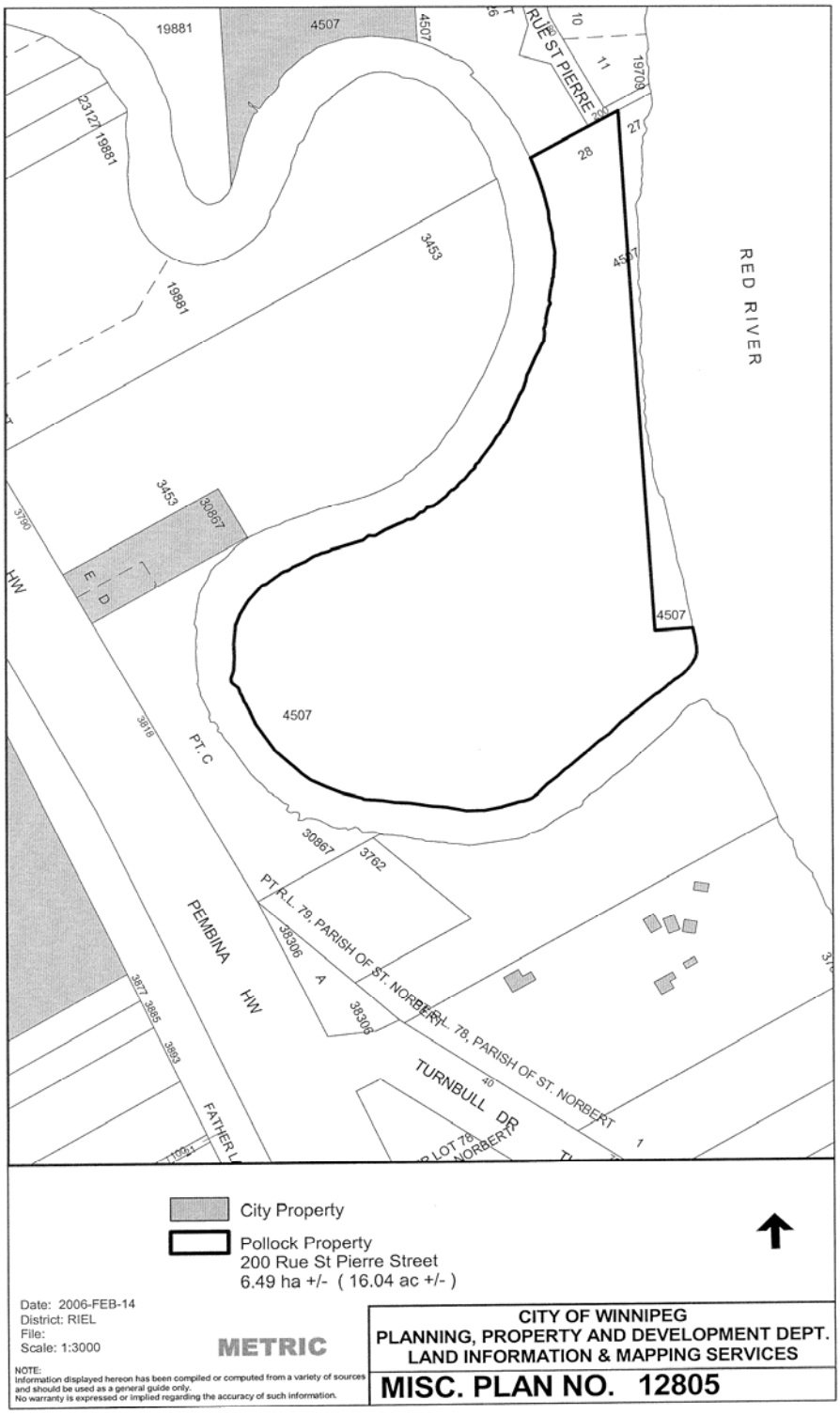
IN PREPARING THIS REPORT, THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH AND CONCURRENCE BY:

Public Works Department, Parks and Open Space Division

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Planning, Property and Development Department
Division: Planning and Land Use
Prepared by: Kevin Nixon, Parks Strategic Planner
PPD File #: 6971

Document name: 0:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Parks, Riverbanks and Community Initiatives\Kevin Nixon\Ecological Gift Report – 200 St. Pierre Pollack Estate..doc


19881
4507
RUE ST PIERRE
19709
23127
3453
RED RIVER
30867
3790
HW
E D
3818
PT. C
3762
PT R.L. 79, PARISH OF ST. NORBERT
38306
A
PEMBINA
HW
3877
3885
3893
TURNBULL DR
FATHER L
City Property
Pollock Property
200 Rue St Pierre Street
6.49 ha +/- (16.04 ac +/-)
Date: 2006-FEB-14
District: RIEL
File:
Scale: 1:3000
METRIC
NOTE:
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CITY OF WINNIPEG
PLANNING, PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT.
LAND INFORMATION & MAPPING SERVICES
MISC. PLAN NO. 12805