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Stephen Godwin
Environment Manager
City of Surrey
13450 104th Ave,
Surrey, BC, Canada V3T 1V8
SGodwin@surrey.ca
nicomeklriverfront@surrey.ca

Dear Mr. Godwin,

Re: Support for a Biodiversity Preserve within the proposed Nicomekl Riverfront Park

We the undersigned congratulate the City of Surrey for proceeding with the proposed Nicomekl Riverfront Park. The Nicomekl and Serpentine riparian areas are some of the last intact riparian habitat to be found within the Fraser River Estuary Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. As a migratory stopover site of international importance we are always encouraged to see local government taking actions such as this to secure the conservation of habitat for birds and biodiversity. The protection of riparian areas along the Nicomekl will contribute to the protection of habitat within the park and also help maintain the clean water and nutrient loads required by birds and shellfish in the Nicomekl/Serpentine estuary.

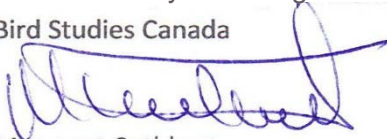
Given the sensitivity of wildlife to disturbance from activities such as dog walking and the known challenges with enforcing on-leash behaviour, we further encourage every effort be made to identify locations within the park that are off limits to human use. We recommend the identified areas be designated as Biodiversity Preserves within the park plan and incorporated into the design principles so that traffic flow within the park can be designed as to limit public access to some portions of the park. For instance, perhaps the area identified as the Bluff within the planning documents is an area where public safety and wildlife interests would both benefit from limited public access?

Again, congratulations on this important effort, we offer what support we can towards the successful implementation of this new park. To identify ways we may be able to help you achieve the implementation of this proposed park we would be happy to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



James Casey
Fraser Estuary IBA Program Manager
Bird Studies Canada



Margaret Cuthbert
President
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society



Alan E. Burger
President – BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)

CC'd

Robin Landucci, Manager Natural Areas, Parks, City of Surrey

Neal Aven, Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, City of Surrey

Doug Merry, Senior Parks Planner, City of Surrey