

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

PROPOSER: The Friends of Bruce Park
PROPOSAL NAME: Truro Creek Riffle Construction
CLASS OF DEVELOPMENT: Two
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Water Development and Control
CLIENT FILE NO.: 4152.00

OVERVIEW:

The Proposal was received on March 15, 1996. It was dated March 12, 1996. The advertisement of the proposal was as follows:

“A Proposal has been filed by the Friends of Bruce Park for the construction of 19 fieldstone riffle structures on Truro Creek between the south side of the Winnipeg International Airport and the Assiniboine River. The structures would range in height from one foot to 2.5 feet above the natural bottom of the stream, and would stabilize the bed and banks of the stream while providing additional spawning, nursery and pool habitat for fish. Ten structures would be constructed between the Assiniboine River and Portage Avenue, seven structures would be located between Portage Avenue and Ness Avenue, and the final two structures would be located between Ness Avenue and Winchester Street. Construction would take place in the fall of 1996.”

The Proposal was advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, April 6, 1996. It was placed in the Main, Centennial, and Eco-Network public registries. It was also distributed to TAC members on April 2, 1996. The closing date for comments from members of the public and TAC members was May 2, 1996.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No public responses were received.

COMMENTS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Manitoba Environment - Winnipeg Region No objection to the Proposal.

Manitoba Environment - Water Quality Management The project will not adversely impact upon water quality. Riffles have been placed in streams in several areas of

Manitoba and are ultimately considered to be a benefit to water quality because they help reduce suspended sediment, create pool areas for fish and aquatic invertebrates and can help increase oxygen concentrations in water. The Friends of Bruce Park are working with various agencies in order to revitalize the creek. The project is being undertaken with the experience and cooperation of the Fisheries Branch. Construction will take place in the fall which is considered better than in spring or early summer.

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Historic Resources Branch No concerns.

Highway Planning and Design No concerns. The proponents should consider that that the riffles will pond water upstream and during spring runoff large sheets of ice from these pools will be swept downstream. Experience has shown that these ice pans are capable of exerting enough force to damage downstream structures. While the Department has no structures downstream that are likely to be affected, it may be worthwhile to consider the possibility of damage to other downstream structures.

Disposition:

As the riffle structures are intended to pond water within the primary banks of the creek, ice pans should not be significantly larger than under present conditions. Ten riffles are proposed between Portage Avenue and the Assiniboine River. Ice pans in this reach would pass into the Assiniboine River. Further upstream, all road crossings are culverts or arch culverts. These crossings should be capable of withstanding ice pan pressure.

Mines Branch No concerns.

Medical Officer of Health - Winnipeg Concern for safety, especially for children. Does this technique raise the level of the creek? Are there structures which rise above the surface level which might invite children to play dangerously on them? No other health impacts are anticipated. More comments may be made following a site visit.

Disposition:

Safety concerns were identified during the assessment of a similar project on Sturgeon Creek in Woodhaven Park. Because the structures are low, it was considered that the risk to children and others was low. Under moderate and high flow conditions riffle structures are completely submerged and so are inaccessible. Under low flow conditions they appear as a short rocky section of creek shoreline.

Natural Resources No concerns.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to this project will not be required. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans would like to participate in the provincial review. The Canadian Coast Guard has provided Navigable Waters Protection Act permit application requirements.

Fisheries and Oceans The project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat after taking into account the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The proposed works will have a number of positive impacts, including improved riparian habitat condition, stabilized stream bed and banks, enhanced and/or restored fish spawning habitat and improved water quality. It is noted that a 2:1 upstream riffle slope is proposed; normal riffle designs call for a 4:1 slope. This design feature

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should be re-examined. The following mitigation measures are recommended to control erosion and sediment runoff from the sites: 1. No instream construction should take place between April 1 and June 15. Every reasonable effort should be made to minimize the duration of instream works and construction activity should be halted during heavy precipitation events. 2. Where clearing of streambank vegetation is necessary for equipment access, the location and width of the access lands should be designated beforehand by the project manager. The extent of clearing should be minimized and erosion control measures should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of the works. 3. Refueling and servicing of construction equipment should be conducted at least 100m away from watercourses and appropriate precautions should be taken to ensure that deleterious substances do not enter watercourses.

Disposition:

The proposed upstream slope of the riffle structure will be verified with the designers. The recommended mitigation measures can be incorporated as licence conditions.

Canadian Coast Guard The project will require an application under the Navigable Waters Protection Act, but will not be a formal approval.

Disposition:

The need for a Navigable Waters Protection Act application will be brought to the attention of the Proponent's representative.

PUBLIC HEARING:

As no public concerns were identified, a public hearing is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

All comments received on the Proposal can be addressed as licence conditions. Therefore, it is recommended that the Development be licensed under The Environment Act subject to the limits, terms and conditions as described on the attached Draft Environment Act Licence. It is further recommended that enforcement of the Licence be assigned to the Winnipeg Region.

PREPARED BY:

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Environmental Approvals - Environmental Land Use Approvals
May 6, 1996

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