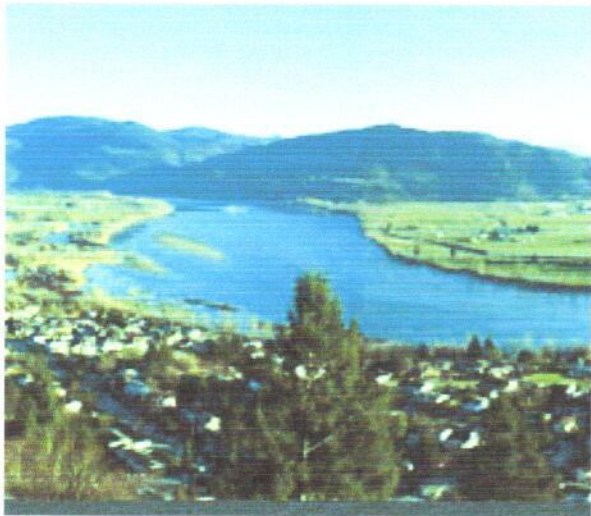


Sumas Mountain Environmental Management Plan



The purpose of the Sumas Mountain Environmental Management Plan is to balance future development with the protection of natural areas and ecosystems located within the Sumas Mountain area. It will identify areas that can be developed and those that need to be preserved or managed carefully, thereby protecting valuable ecological and recreational resources and creating increased certainty for the development community. This plan will serve as a template for undertaking similar plans in other environmentally sensitive areas of the **City**.

The plan's policies will also directly inform revisions to the **City's Official Community Plan (OCP)**, including the integration of the former **Area H Official Community Plan (OCP)** into the City's OCP. The **SMEMP** includes the following tasks/deliverables:

- Delineate a Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) (create an interconnecting network of cores, sites, and corridors).
- Develop an environmental management areas (EMA) plan, with ecosystem management objectives and identified land uses for each EMA classification.
- Summarize the ecological goods and services provided by Sumas Mountain.
- Prepare an implementation plan for the **City** and its partners.

Work to Date

Data has been compiled and analyzed, and research has been conducted on the ecosystem goods and services of Sumas Mountain. The **SMEMP** Advisory Group provided input into the GIN map in February and March. The resulting conceptual GIN map was presented to the Community Sustainability Steering Committee in April, where it was well received. It was also presented to several Committees of Council this spring. In April, the Advisory Group met a third time to discuss the management objectives and implementation strategy. An external stakeholder workshop was held in early May to discuss the GIN, management objectives, and implementation strategy. The Community Sustainability Steering Committee reviewed the management objectives and implementation strategy in mid-May.

Next Steps

Over the next two months, **City** staff and Stantec will work on the draft report, which will be reviewed by the Community Sustainability Steering Committee in July and presented to Council in late August. Staff will continue to have meetings with stakeholders, including developers on McKee Peak, the aggregate industry, First Nations, and MVRD Parks. The draft report will be brought out to wider public consultation in September, including online surveys and a public open house (tentatively September 19). In the fall, the draft will also be brought back to the four committees of council that reviewed it during the spring. The final report will be presented to council in November.

For more information about the Sumas Mountain Environmental Management Plan call 604-851-4186 or email sustainability@abbotsford.ca.