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# Parks, Environment, and Foreshore

## Introduction

### Fraser River Foreshore

East Fraserlands' location on the Fraser River will make it a desirable place to live and the development will provide an opportunity to restore the foreshore environment to a more natural state after decades of industrial activity. These policies promote shoreline improvements that can play a part in conserving this salmon-bearing river and increase people's awareness of its environmental significance.

### Parks and Open Space

New parks are to be included in East Fraserlands to meet the needs of new residents. The amount and location of the park land is to be determined at the ODP Phase, and the programming and design of those parks will occur at later stages. The Policy Statement establishes general directions for future park planning work.

## Comments from the 2003 Open Houses

### Park Area

Residents generally supported a residential future for the East Fraserlands provided that adequate parks and open space are provided for the target population of 10,000.

The majority of residents felt that the park and open space plan did not adequately meet the needs of the proposed population.

### Existing Environmental Conditions

The loss of naturalized and forested areas south of Marine Way, including existing beaver habitat, was identified as a concern.

### Riverfront Condition

The proposal for a waterfront walkway was widely supported. Some residents expressed a desire for a naturalized waterfront that provides habitat for wildlife and seeks to repair environmental damage done by the former industrial uses.


### Site Ecology / Fish-Bearing Watercourses

Some local citizens were interested in creating opportunities to improve the site ecology and to form new fish-bearing watercourses as part of the East Fraserlands development.


## Draft Policy Highlights


### Fraser River Foreshore (section 3.1)


Provide a continuous riverfront recreational path connecting Kerr Street Pier with Burnaby's Foreshore Path.

 Red-coded shoreline areas - protect and enhance existing ecological productivity.





 Yellow-coded areas - enhance ecological productivity while allowing some recreational use.

 Green-coded areas - consider areas for more active use of the shoreline (seawalls, docks, platforms, etc.) and seek opportunities to improve ecological productivity.


 Given that the historical foreshore ecosystem extended across the flats of East Fraserlands, consider landscape treatments in the riverfront parks that draw that ecosystem into the site, e.g. a small channel that provides refuge for fish from river currents; providing plant material that supports the foreshore ecology.


### Parks and Open Space (section 3.2)

 Parks should primarily be located along the riverfront to maximize their recreational appeal and the livability of East Fraserlands.

 The amount of park space to be provided will be determined at the ODP stage after a needs assessment has been completed. The level of service desired by the local community and the Park Board is the city-wide neighbourhood park standard of 2.75 acres per 1,000 residents.


Parks and open space should provide for a range of activities that are appropriate for all age and cultural groups. Particular attention should be given to facilities for youth such as play fields and courts, skateboard/BMX areas, etc.


 The feasibility of protecting the small pond west of Kinross Street for ecological diversity and passive recreational use should be investigated.

 Design the open space system to incorporate water courses that benefit stormwater management, habitat creation and scenic improvement, including:

- tying into existing upland flows where feasible, such as the restored creek in Everett Crowley Park;
- designing the stormwater facilities to improve the quality and usefulness of the water prior to its release into the Fraser River and integrating water features into parks and public open spaces;
- supporting the productivity of the Fraser River as a major fish-bearing river by adding more diversity of fish habitat in the parks along the riverfront, and also introducing a demonstration fish-bearing stream in the eastern park fed by stormwater sources.



 A symbol of the earth marks policies that promote sustainability.

 The red star marks policies that will be further informed by studies during the next phase - The Official Development Plan - please refer to Board 2 for more information or ask City Staff.

City of Vancouver

