
6. PARKS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

ISSUES

- Parks and other public open spaces in various configurations, amounts, locations and sizes could be provided in False Creek. Some arrangements and quantities will serve residents, workers and visitors and contribute to the quality and delight of the place better than others.

FACTS

- The existing average provision of neighbourhood park space in the city is 2.75 acres/1000 population.
- The overall provision of all park space, excluding golf courses, in the city is 6.18 acres/1000 population.
- The provision of park space on the southwest shore of False Creek is 3.6 acres/1000 population. The major park in this area was conceived as a city-wide serving park and was also intended to serve Fairview Slopes via the land bridge link. If the population and other park space in Fairview Slopes is considered, the provision of park space overall is approximately 3.0 acres/1000 population.
- Based upon population projections of the past, neighbourhood park provision in the amount of 2.75 acres/1000 population, a 25 foot wide shoreline walkway and other park linkages, in the order of 45-50 acres of public open space would be needed on the north shore of False Creek in addition to plazas and other private and semi-public open spaces associated with development.

PAST POLICY

- 1972-73 - 140 acres basin-wide; neighbourhood standard of 2 acres/1000.
- 1981-82 - 50 acres total; neighbourhood standard of 2-3 acres/1000.
- 1983 (Staff Response to B.C.Place) - 45 acres total; 3.1 acres/1000 (includes walkway).
- North Park - 22.8 acres total; 3.1 acres/1000 (includes walkway).

POLICY - PRINCIPLES

- Parks and other public open spaces of the highest quality must be an integral part of each False Creek community.
- Parks and other public open spaces should be of a size, location and configuration to meet the needs of residents and workers, provide attractions for visitors in ways which are compatible with local residential environments and take full advantage of the waterfront setting.
- Land designated for park should be inherently suited to park use. Land should not be designated park simply because it is unsuited to other uses.
- Neighbourhood parks should be of a size and configuration which lend themselves over time to a variety of functions required to meet the changing community demands. These parks should accommodate activities ranging from active to passive enjoyment.
- Some parks should be situated to enhance and reinforce access opportunities from the surrounding areas.
- Private and semi-public open spaces should be sufficient in size and configuration to provide adequate spaces between buildings, play spaces for young children, circulation and commercial plazas. Dedicated park space should not generally be depended upon to satisfy these needs nor should these spaces generally be considered in fulfilling neighbourhood park requirements.
- The development of parks and public open space should occur concurrently with the residential development which they are intended to serve.

POLICY - SPECIFIC TARGETS

- Neighbourhood park space should be provided at a minimum of 2.75 acres/1000 population in addition to the waterfront walkway.
- Two of the neighbourhood parks on the north shore should be large enough (about 10 acres each) to accommodate a range of activities which can co-exist without conflict.
- In the order of 45-50 acres of parks and public open spaces should be provided on the north shore of False Creek in addition to the plazas and other private and semi-public open spaces normally associated with development.