





Enhanced picnic and play areas

# 31 Greening Parks, Streets, and Public Places

## Parks

This Vision recognizes that parks are very important for recreation, beauty, and refreshment. VFK is fortunate in having a wide variety of park spaces, including a major park, naturalized areas, woodlands, river shore, and more conventional play grounds and play fields. Taken as a whole, VFK has 95 hectares (235 acres) of park (not including Fraserview Golf Course) and exceeds the City standard for neighbourhood parks. However, the Killarney area is better endowed than the Victoria-Fraserview area. School grounds totalling 24.3 hectares are also important public spaces.

## Streets

Streets and lanes typically make up about 30% of a community's land area, and make an important contribution to the image of an area. The City provides and maintains street trees, and has a program to plant them in all suitable locations. The City has also instituted a 'Green Streets' program which encourages residents to landscape traffic circles and corner bulges that are installed for traffic calming.

## Public Views

In 1989, the City began to protect selected public views which development threatened to block. The protected views are mainly from within the downtown looking outward, or from the Central Broadway and False Creek area looking over the downtown. Public views are not protected elsewhere in the city.

### 31.1 More Usable Parks and School Grounds

#### *Approved*

Park design, appearance, and activities should be more varied in order to serve a more diverse population. Parks should be better maintained. School grounds should also be transformed into attractive, usable community spaces.

**Percent agree 88%/89%**

#### People's Ideas

- include more natural landscaping and habitat areas in more parks; provide interpretive and directional signage; education about Everett Crowley Park
- provide night lighting for a soccer field in Champlain area
- include heritage artifacts in parks; allow more community gardens
- incorporate water play at Fraserview, Killarney, Bobolink Parks; provide more benches; garbage bins; drinking fountains; more public art, restrooms, and special bins for dog waste
- daylight or create other references to local streams; consider railway tracks in Fraserlands as an opportunity for a future greenway
- allow the community to name school grounds



Green Streets Program: landscaped corner bulge

### 31.2 Parks on the Fraser River

#### *Approved*

There should be mini-parks on the street ends at the Fraser River with access to the water, even in areas where industrial uses will remain. If any land along the river is taken out of river-related industrial use, redevelopment should include a continuous waterfront walkway, with parks located along it.

**Percent agree 88%/87%**

### 31.3 Safety in and Around Parks

#### *Approved*

Park design and maintenance should take account of safety. Accessing parks across arterials should be easier and safer.

**Percent agree 93%/94%**

#### People's Ideas...

- add night lighting; limit bush areas; separate incompatible activities such as off-leash dogs and fishing; add resilient surfaces in play areas; provide pedestrian signals to cross arterials; provide fire hydrants

### 31.4 Community Involvement in Parks

#### *Approved*

Public involvement in the design and stewardship of parks should be encouraged.

**Percent agree 83%/82%**

#### People's Ideas...

- encourage clean-up days; involve students in naming trails and creating public art in parks; provide park and wildlife education

### 31.5 Greening Public Streets

#### *Approved*

Streets should continue to be pleasant green links that connect the neighbourhood, including:

- protect existing boulevards and street trees, and plant new trees wherever possible
- encourage residents to extend private gardening into the space between the sidewalk and the curb
- encourage residents to landscape traffic circles and curb bulges through the 'Green Streets' program.

**Percent agree 85%/86%**

#### People's Ideas...

- ensure sidewalks have adequate lighting as trees mature

### 31.6 Public Views

#### *Approved*

Views to the North Shore mountains; the Cascades and Mount Baker; and the Fraser River from public places, like parks and streets, should be protected.

**Percent agree 88%/90%**

#### People's Ideas...

- identify, map, and protect the key public views
- make viewpoints in Everett Crowley Park and along the Fraser more accessible
- make viewpoints on public land enjoyable places to be



Fraser River: create more street-end parks



Play area: Bobolink Park



Parks: community gardens



Street trees: protect and plant new trees wherever possible



Scenic view: Killarney Park