

Parks



Mount Pleasant

City of Vancouver
Community
planning program

Vancouver has more than 221 municipal parks adding up to 1,295 hectares (or 11% of City's land). Of these parks, 130 are larger than 1 hectare (2.5 acres) in size (which is the size of a typical city block). Stanley Park is our largest park with 391 hectares. In these parks, you'll find natural areas, flower gardens, children's playgrounds, sports fields, golf courses, beaches, pathways, bikeways, cultural and recreational facilities, and much more.

Park Board

All municipal parks are under the care and custody of the Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board). The Park Board also maintains and operates recreational facilities such as community centres, swimming pools, and ice rinks. The Park Board also cares for Vancouver's street trees.

Unlike other City departments, the Park Board is governed by its own political body consisting of seven Park Commissioners elected at large every three years by Vancouver voters.

For more information on the Park Board, call 257-8400, or refer to: <http://vancouver.ca/parks/>

Goals for the Future

The Park Board has policies setting long-term goals, such as acquiring sufficient amounts of park land for a growing population, expanding parks in neighbourhoods that have a park shortage, upgrading older substandard parks, creating more

public access along the waterfront, and protecting important natural areas.

How Much Park is Needed?

The Park Board divides its parks into 2 categories: 'city-wide' parks and 'neighbourhood' parks. The Park Board aims to provide 1.1 hectares of "neighbourhood park" for every 1,000 residents. "City wide parks" include three public golf courses and VanDusen Gardens, as well as most of Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Hasting Park and the public beaches. All other parks are counted as "neighbourhood parks". In 2001, the provision of "neighbourhood parks" across the entire city averaged 1.1 hectares per 1,000 residents. In 1981, we had 1.3 hectares of "neighbourhood park" for every 1,000 residents.

Park Board remains challenged to meet their target of 1.1 hectares of neighbourhood park per 1,000 residents in the face of recent and ongoing population growth in Vancouver. During the 1981-2001 period the City's population grew by 130,000 while about 55 hectares of new "neighbourhood parks" were added to the inventory.

How New Parks Are Acquired

Parks are acquired in a variety of ways:

- the Park Board can purchase land from a private property owner and convert the land to park;
- developers are required to dedicate a portion of their land for parks in large-scale subdivisions;

- developers can be required to dedicate a portion of their site for parks when they rezone their lands for higher density uses (alternatively, the City can accept a cash payment to be used to buy land for parks);
- developers in Vancouver are required to pay the City a fee (called a "development cost levy") based on area of new construction – A portion of this money is used to buy land for parks; and
- land can be given or donated to the Park Board.

Parks in Mount Pleasant

Parks in Mt. Pleasant offer plenty of recreation opportunities from tennis and field sports to picnic areas, trails, and a skate park. Mt. Pleasant also has views of downtown, the north shore mountains, and Vancouver's working industrial yards.

Mt. Pleasant has nine parks, for a total of 9.96 hectares. These parks are all considered "neighbourhood parks".

According to the Park Board's 2006 Draft Land Acquisition Strategy, Mt. Pleasant is identified as a "park deficient" community with a high priority for park land acquisition. In 2006, Mt. Pleasant had a ratio of 0.44 hectares of park per 1,000 residents, the second lowest ratio in the City after Fairview.

Mt. Pleasant contains the following parks:

China Creek North Park	3.16 ha
China Creek South Park	1.47 ha
Guelph Park	1.04 ha
Jonathan Rogers Park	1.4 ha
Major Matthews Park	0.06 ha
Mt. Pleasant Park	1.12 ha

Robson Park	1.56 ha
Sahalli Park	0.06 ha
Tea Swamp Park	0.09 ha

North Park [2], Jonathan Rogers Park)
 - 1 swimming pool (Mt. Pleasant Park)

In 2009, the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre at 16th and Ontario will be demolished and the construction of a new community centre at 7th and Kingway will be completed. The footprint of the old community centre will be returned to park space.

In these Mt. Pleasant parks, you will find:

- 7 childrens' playgrounds (China Creek North Park, Guelph Park , Jonathan Rogers Park, Major Matthews Park, Mt. Pleasant Park, Robson Park, and Tea Swamp Park)
- 1 wading pool (Robson Park)
- 2 basketball courts (Robson Park [2 half courts])
- 2 field houses (Jonathan Rogers Park, Robson Park)
- 5 tennis courts (Guelph Park [2], Robson Park [3])
- Jogging trails (China Creek North Park)
- 1 skate park (China Creek South Park)
- 3 soccer fields (China Creek North Park, Jonathan Rogers Park, Robson Park)
- 3 soft ball fields (China Creek

For additional information on these parks including their location, visit the Vancouver Park's Board Parkfinder site at:
http://vancouver.ca/parkfinder_wa/index.cfm?fuseaction=FAC.FacilitySearch

China Creek South Park and Mt. Pleasant Park are currently under redevelopment. In 2007, redesign plans for China Creek South Park were approved to include a new children's playground, a new daycare building, and new landscape planting which will highlight the original path of China Creek. Reconstruction of China Creek South Park began in June 2008.

For current information on either of these two developments, visit the Parks Board Planning and Construction website at:
<http://vancouver.ca/parks/info/planning/projects.htm>

