



Workshop #4 – Connections, Places & Character  
April 28, 2009, Vancouver Alpen Club  
Table Topic #5 Summary: Parks

The discussion for the two sessions was structured around three key questions:

1. **As the population of Norquay Village increases over time, should the focus be on increasing the amount of park land (by acquiring new park land) or making improvements to existing parks?**

Participants in both groups discussed and identified park land acquisition as an important outcome in Norquay Village, in addition to making improvements to existing parks.

2. **Park land acquisition: should the focus be on expanding the size of existing parks or creating new parks?**

**Group 1** stated that their top priority was the creation of the “Ravine Way”, a new greenway/linear park between Slocan and Norquay Parks located along the Still Creek corridor. There was some discussion in acquiring some parcels at the edge of Slocan Park in order to improve the edge conditions (much of the southern edge of the park is adjacent to lanes, with many garages facing the park).

**Group 2** stated that their top priority was the creation of the “Ravine Way” between Slocan and Norquay Parks. One participant felt it was important to create a new park in the block on the south side of Kingsway between Nanaimo and Slocan (site of two future major developments). There was some discussion in acquiring some parcels at the edge of General Brock Park in order to improve the edge conditions and pedestrian access to the park. One participant suggested acquiring more parcels along Renfrew Ravine Park, while another participant would like to explore a link between Norquay Park and Earles Park.

3. **Park improvements: what improvements can be made to the existing four parks (Earles, General Brock, Norquay, Slocan)?**

All participants received a handout to help them evaluate their neighbourhood parks. They were encouraged to take the handout home, use it next time they go to a park, or to complete it at the session. The handout was intended to get people thinking about certain elements of a park. It was not a survey or questionnaire.

**Group 1** stated that all parks in the neighbourhood need more benches. Members of this group mainly use Slocan and Norquay Parks and identified the following new activities or features for these parks:

Slocan Park: basketball court, fenced dog off-leash area, perimeter walkway/running track with fitness stations, additional pathways in the park, plaza/performance area.

Norquay Park: perimeter walkway (in addition to existing sidewalk), relocate fieldhouse so that it better serve the field users (south end of park) and playground/wading pool (north end of park), plaza/performance area, Tai Chi shelter, design solutions that help block noise from Kingsway without creating an unsafe space, water park in the existing wading pool.

**Group 2** only had a brief conversation about park improvements because participants focussed on the land acquisition question.