

# Process

## Why are we Creating a Master Plan for John Hendry Park?

A park master plan will set directions and priorities for John Hendry Park over the next 10-15 years. It is an opportunity to understand the values of park users today and explore innovations that could create a healthy, thriving environment and destination for the future.

The objective of the planning process is to ensure the park continues to be a healthy and well-loved community space for years to come.

The master plan will support the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan goals to enhance biodiversity, improve ecological health, reduce combined sewer overflows, and increase access to nature and the Park Board Strategic Plan to connect people to green space, active living and community.

## Project Timeline



# What We've Heard



## Ideas Event

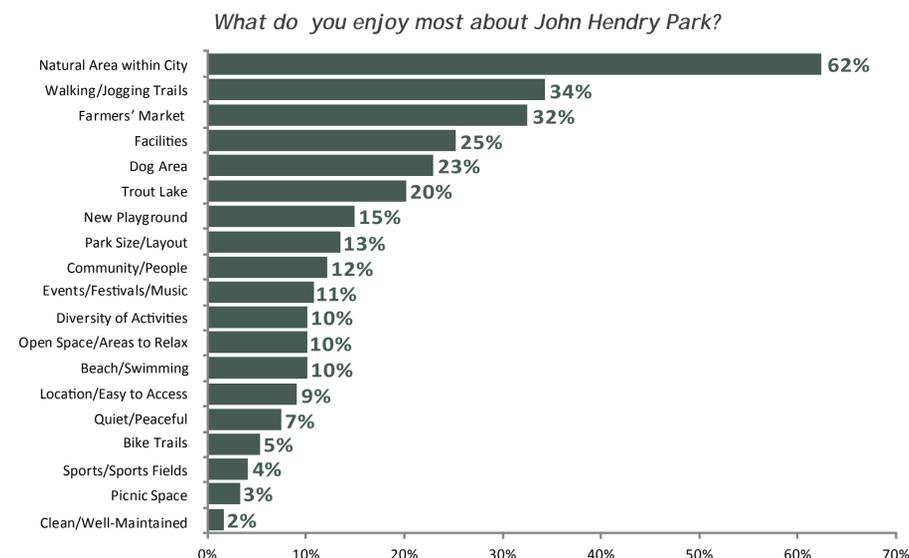
On Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> an Ideas Event was held at Trout Lake Community Centre. Over 500 people shared their input and ideas during this event and through the online questionnaire.

We heard that people love and value John Hendry Park because it provides access to nature within the city and a place to connect with the community. Some of key feedback we heard:



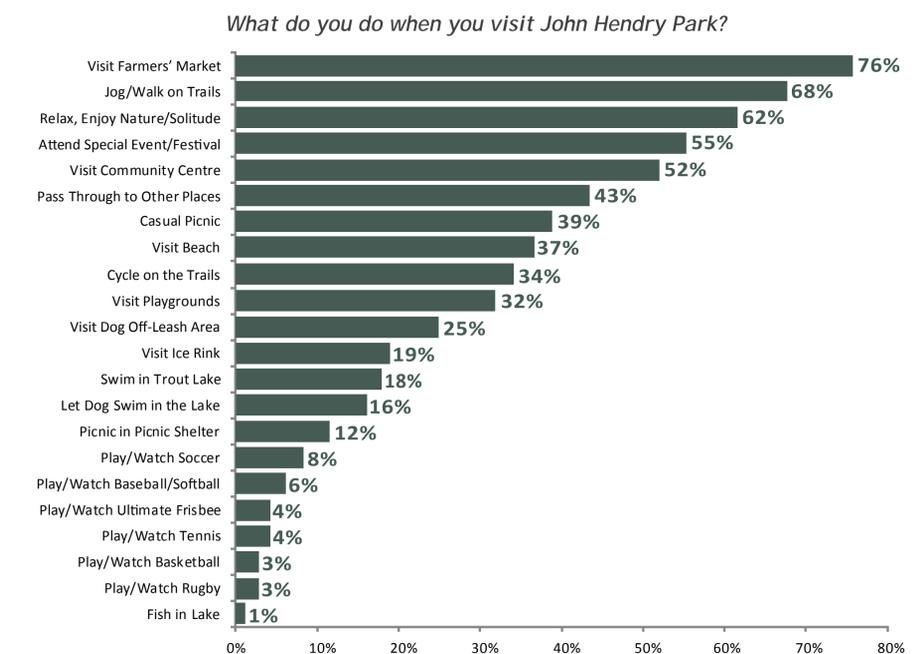
### THE TOP 3 THINGS PEOPLE ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE PARK TODAY:

- 1 Nature in the City
- 2 Walking/jogging trails
- 3 Farmer's Market



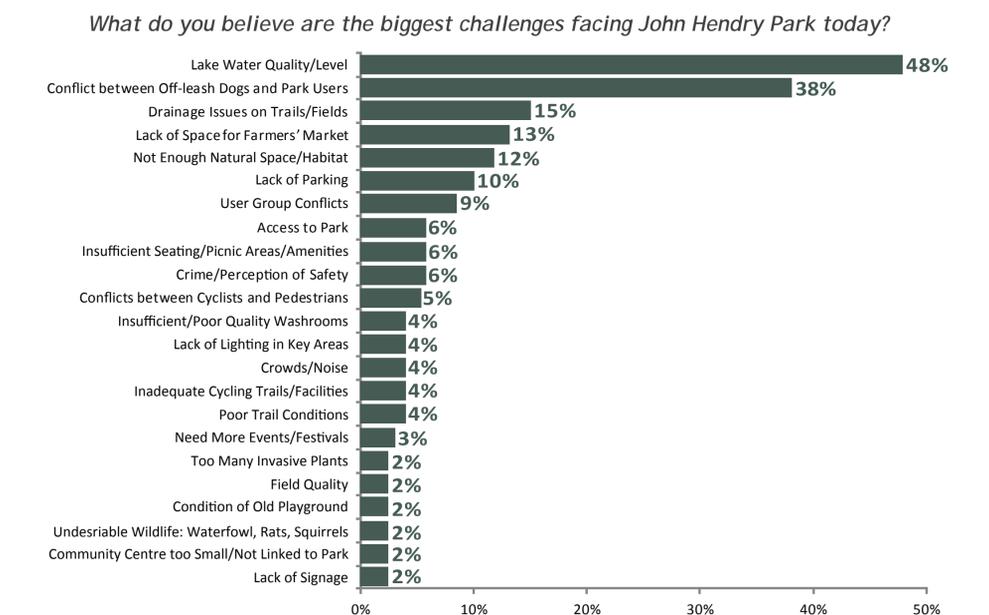
### THE TOP 3 ACTIVITIES PEOPLE DO IN THE PARK TODAY:

- 1 Visit the farmer's market
- 2 Jog/walk on the trails
- 3 Relax, enjoy nature and solitude



### THE TOP 3 CHALLENGES IN THE PARK TODAY:

- 1 Water quality and level of water in the lake
- 2 Conflicts between off-leash dogs and park users
- 3 Drainage issues on trails/fields



# What We've Heard



## THE TOP 3 THINGS THAT COULD ATTRACT PEOPLE TO THE PARK:

- 1 A clean, swimmable lake
- 2 A covered farmers' market (year-round)
- 3 More natural areas and green space

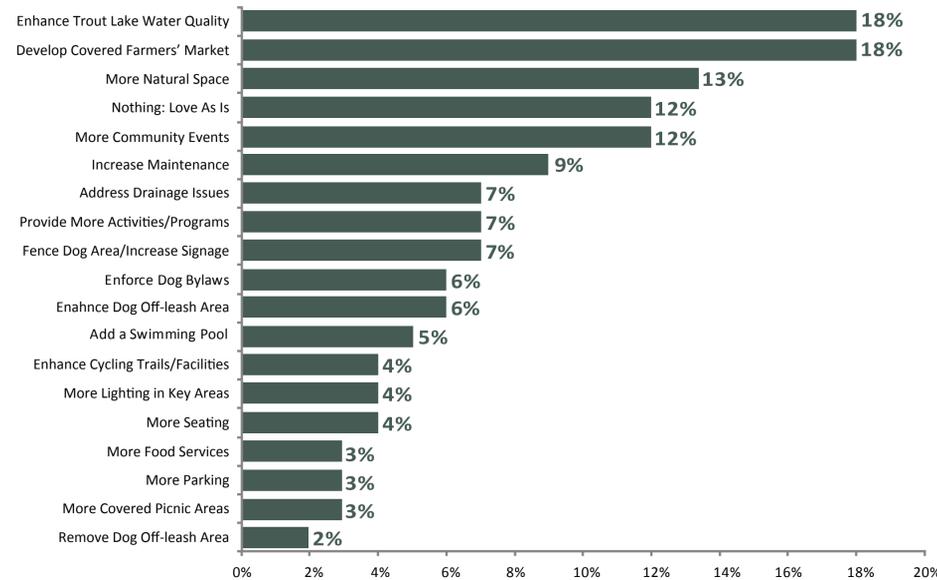
## THE TOP 3 EXISTING AMENITIES PEOPLE WOULD LIKE IMPROVED:

- 1 Farmers' market
- 2 Dog off-leash area
- 3 Walking trails

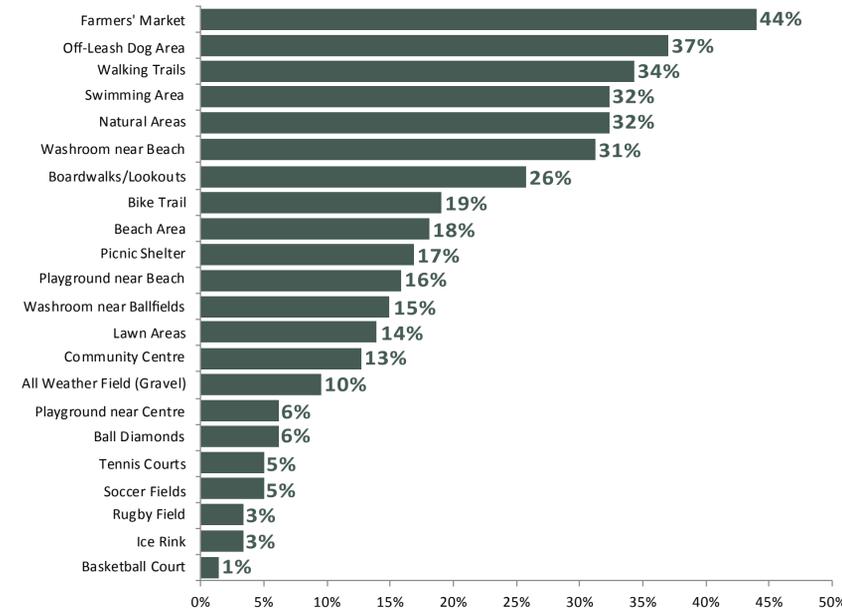
## TOP 3 NEW FEATURES PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PARK:

- 1 More trees and native plantings
- 2 Stormwater management features
- 3 Community-based food production

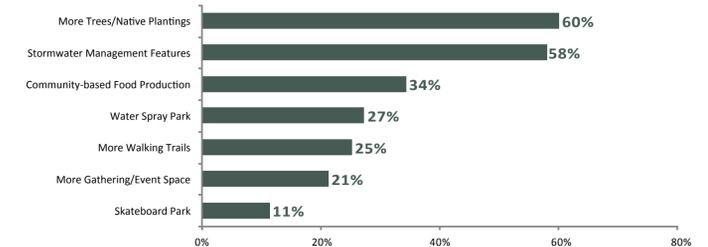
What could attract you to go to John Hendry Park for often?



What existing park amenities would you most like to improve?



What additions would you suggest for John Hendry Park?



1

Respondents ranked the following value statements in order of importance.

John Hendry Park should be...

...a park with natural areas, healthy ecosystems and habitat for native plants, birds and wildlife.

2

...a quiet location for relaxation and passive enjoyment.

3

...a destination for arts and culture experiences.

4

...a centre for sports and active recreation.

5

...an urban swimming and beach destination.

# Connections & Access



## Connections & Access Today

- John Hendry Park is on a designated bike route (BC Parkway)
- The lakeside perimeter path is a popular pedestrian route
- Parking areas are located at key destinations throughout the park

## What We Heard

- Pathways are poorly drained and are often flooded.
- Access issues exist for cyclists, pedestrians and people with limited mobility due to unsafe road crossings, poor bike connectivity and trails that are not accessible
- Conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists have been reported on the BC Parkway trail
- Conflicts between pedestrians and dogs have been reported where the lakeside trail crosses through the dog off-leash area
- Parking is insufficient; however mixed input was received whether parking should be expanded in the park

## Potential Ideas

### TRAILS

- Address drainage issues on the trails by raising the level and installing culverts
- Increase trail maintenance to fix potholes and uneven grades
- Provide more trails throughout the park
- Add lights along key trail routes
- Pave key walking trails
- Provide more seating along trails

### PARKING

- Expand parking in key locations to support park activities

### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Provide more safe access points to the park (road crossings)
- Provide secure bike parking
- Develop a new separated bike route along the park boundary to reduce conflict between pedestrians and commuter cyclists



Installing boardwalks along the waters edge and in sensitive areas can help protect vegetation and wildlife



Access should be safe and universally accessible



Informal trails can inspire exploration



Trail lighting in key areas can help extend hours of use and increase safety



Dedicated cycling routes help reduce conflict between cyclists and pedestrians

# Nature & Environment



## Nature & Environment Today

- There are many mature, semi-mature and young trees including maples, weeping willow, oak, birch, cherry and spruce
- Many different bird species have been recorded in the park
- Two bird species at risk, barn swallow and great blue heron, have been recorded in the park
- Trout Lake is used by bird species for breeding and by waterfowl for foraging along the edges
- Invasive plants, including bindweed and Himalayan blackberry are present, especially around the lake

## What We Heard

- A priority for the future is natural areas, healthy ecosystems and habitat for plants, birds and wildlife
- Enhance the natural areas of the park
- Add more trees and native plants
- Conserve existing wildlife habitat

## Potential Ideas

- Plant more native trees
- Reduce manicured green space to expand natural green space
- Enhance existing habitat areas for increased biodiversity
- Daylight watercourses for stormwater management and biodiversity
- Create natural wetlands with native wetland plant species
- Restore and improve the existing bog: enhance bog vegetation, including potential removal of trees that do not fit bog ecology
- Remove invasive species
- Provide educational signage and tours to inform visitors of the park ecology
- Create barriers (natural fencing or vegetation) to keep dogs and people out of habitat areas
- Move trails away from wetland edge
- Install bat & bird boxes



*Educational signage for plant species*



*Creative bird and bat houses can provide interest*



*Example of a daylighted stream in East Vancouver*



*Camosun Bog, in Vancouver, is an example of a restored bog*



*A small portion natural bog remains in the park*



*Example of a constructed wetland in Portland*



*Willow barrier keeping dogs and people out of habitat areas*

# Water



## Water Today

- Trout Lake is the only accessible freshwater lake within the City of Vancouver and the south side of the lake is a popular swimming destination in East Vancouver
- There is a popular dog off-leash area that includes access to the water on the north side of the lake
- Because the lake is disconnected from its watershed potable water is added during the summer to maintain water levels and to improve water quality for swimming
- In the past, poor water quality has led to swimming closures during the summer

## What We Heard

- Improve water quality of the lake for swimming, aesthetics and ecological health
- Too much potable water is being pumped into the lake every summer
- Using the park for natural stormwater collection and treatment would be supported

## Potential Ideas

### OBJECTIVE: NATURALIZE LAKE

- Reconnect the lake to its watershed, storing 0.3m of winter stormwater to reducing need for potable water input during the summer
- Filter and treat stormwater to improve its water quality prior to entering Trout Lake using systems like constructed wetlands, swales and catch basin cleaning
- Install floating lake mixing devices (e.g. solar bee) to reduce algae blooms

### OBJECTIVE: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY FOR SWIMMING

- Move water inlets and outlets to improve lake circulation
- Increase “poop-scoop” education, compliance and maintenance
- Accept potential occasional closure to public swimming or create a separated public swimming area with an in-lake curtain



Daylighted streams return water to its natural habitat and captures stormwater



A solar bee could help clean the lake by mixing the water



Raingardens at the edge of parking lots and pathway capture water runoff



Constructed wetlands as stormwater and biodiversity features



Beach is occasionally closed due to poor water quality



Existing swale connecting rainwater from the Community Centre roof to the park

# Active Spaces

## Recreation Today

John Hendry Park is a popular destination for a wide range of recreation pursuits, drawing people of all ages and interests. Visitors to the park participate in:

- Competitive and recreational sports including baseball, softball, soccer, rugby, ultimate frisbee, basketball and tennis
- Relaxation and informal activities like picnicking, walking, cycling and playing
- Enjoyment of Trout Lake including recreational swimming and playing in the dog off-leash area
- Indoor activities at the Trout Lake Community Centre including fitness, ice sports, arts and crafts and recreation

## What We Heard

- Poor drainage on the fields
- More activities and programs are desirable
- Improve tennis courts
- Upgrade fields: they are overused and require better maintenance

## Potential Ideas

### FIELDS

- Review maintenance schedule for existing fields
- Improve field drainage - consider wells to draw down playing field groundwater

### FACILITIES

- Update the playground near the beach
- Upgrade concession building, including washrooms/change rooms
- Add a water park/spraypark for children
- Provide more tennis courts with lighting
- Add a skateboard park
- Add an outdoor fitness circuit
- Add disc golf
- Add community-based food production

### ACTIVITIES

- Provide more programmed activities in the park such as canoeing, beach volleyball, activities for seniors, outdoor yoga classes



Interactive children's water park



Active spaces can include outdoor gathering areas



Community-based food production is a great way to build community



Disc golf courses can be set up within the existing park setting



Natural areas for children to play and explore can be included informally throughout the park



# Culture & Events



## Events Today

John Hendry Park is a popular destination for a range of cultural events, drawing people of all ages and interests. Popular events today include:

- Arts & Culture celebrations like the Lantern Festival, Latin Summer Festival and music events
- Shopping and mingling at the farmers' market

## What We Heard

- Mixed input on whether the farmers' market should be a covered space for year-round use
- Not enough suitable event space is available directly adjacent to the Community Centre
- Not enough food choices within the park



Mixed feedback was received on whether the farmers' market should have a covered location in John Hendry Park



Improved event space around the Community Centre was an idea



More programs in the park are desirable



A covered event space may be an asset within the park



Events like the lantern festival are supported

## Potential Ideas

### FARMERS' MARKET

- Move & expand farmers' market within the park but keep it outdoors (seasonal)
- Move & expand the farmers' market to a location outside the park
- Develop a covered multi-use structure for year-round farmers' market & other events
- Keep the farmers' market as existing

### COMMUNITY EVENT SPACE

- Provide a covered venue for events
- Expand and improve the outdoor area near the Community Centre
- Provide/improve amenities to support events including washrooms, shade and seating

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Encourage more events to take place in John Hendry Park. Examples include:

- Festivals
- Outdoor movie nights
- Food related events
- Gardening seminars
- Parades
- Jam nights/drum circles
- Pet adoption events

# Dogs



## Dogs Today

- An official dog off-leash area exists at the north end of the park. Dogs are free to swim, run and play in this area
- The lakeside pathway currently goes through the dog off-leash area



## What We Heard

- Dog owners value the dog off-leash area as a place to socialize, swim and recreate
- In some cases dogs are reported off-leash throughout the park, including outside the off-leash area boundaries
- Conflicts have been reported between park users and off-leash dogs
- Dog waste (owners not picking up) is an issue



## Potential Ideas

- Enforce on-leash areas
- Complete fence/enclose off-leash area
- Use low fencing or vegetation buffers to better delineate off-leash area
- Move lakeside pathway so it does not cross through off-leash area
- Provide better signage to clearly identify on/off leash areas
- Provide lighting at the off-leash area



Example of an enclosed dog off-leash area



Lakeside trail crossing through the dog off-leash area



Dog off-leash area today

