

## **Beaver Lake Enhancement Plan: Summary of Comments Received**

Two open houses were held: on Thursday, November 21, 4 - 8 pm, at the Coal Harbour Community Centre and on Saturday, November 23, 12 - 4 pm, at the West End Community Centre. The presentation panels and the comment sheet were available on line prior to the first open house. The four option panels were also on display at 2099 Beach Avenue from November 25, 2013 until January 2, 2014. People were asked to review the panels and fill out a comment sheet. The comment sheet was available on line until December 31, 2013. **570 comment sheets were received by January 10, 2014.**

### **Demographics: Who Responded**

- More men (55%) than women (42%) responded
- The majority (67%) were between the ages of 30 and 64, 12% were 29 or younger, and 21% were 65 and older
- A majority (83%) had no children at home
- Approximately a third of all respondents lived on the downtown peninsula (33%), the inner city (31%) and the rest of Vancouver or outside Vancouver (25% and 8%)

### **Section 1: Existing Park Use**

#### **1.1 How often respondents visit Beaver Lake**

The number of visits was higher in summer (45%) than winter (25%). A majority of respondents rarely (45% summer/45% winter) or never (8% summer/24% winter) visited Beaver Lake.

2% Visited every day in summer, 1% in winter  
10% Visited once or twice a week in summer, 6% in winter  
33% Visited at least once a month in summer, 18% in winter  
53% Visited rarely or never in the summer, 70% in winter

#### **1.2 What people did when they visited Beaver Lake**

73% Were there to enjoy nature  
65% Walked or jogged on the trails  
48% Were there to enjoy solitude  
39% Were there to relax with friends or family  
35% Passed through on the way to other destinations  
28% Cycled on forest trails  
10% Were involved in or volunteering for Stanley Park Ecology Society programming  
7% Were walking their dog(s)

14% Cited other activities or reasons to be there; the most common were photography, watching for beavers/beaver activities and watching wildlife in general.

## **Section 2: A Vision for the Future of Beaver Lake**

### **2.1 Describe Your Ideal Future for Beaver Lake**

92% of respondents wrote a simple description of their ideal future for the lake. The following are a typical sampling of the responses received which generally supported keeping the lake as a lake and making it as natural as possible:

- Maintain/restore Beaver Lake to a sustainable and ecologically harmonious site
- Clean, pristine and healthy and vibrant
- Natural
- See more water!
- Naturally-functioning ecosystem
- I would like the lake to be preserved so that future generations can enjoy it
- Natural but weed-free
- An inspiring example of forest lake ecosystem in an urban environment
- Leaving nature take its course
- As natural as possible
- Preserved as a lake
- As natural as possible, supporting (native) flora and fauna - build for nature first, people second
- Foster biodiversity and opportunities for connecting with nature

Only one respondent expressed a radically different vision:

- Giant water slidepark with interactive dolphin exhibit and individual size submarines.

#### **2.2.a Amount of Open Water in Beaver Lake**

The majority of respondents (76%) supported a balance of open water and islands while 16% supported as large an area of open water as possible. The suggestions from the other 6% were mainly whatever's best for local ecology, not too many islands, the cheapest, and let nature take its course.

#### **2.2.b How to Deal with Invasive Plants**

A majority (66%) supported attempting to control the worst of the invasive non-native plant species and embracing higher levels of diversity of habitat while 26% wanted to try to eliminate all non-native species and accept higher levels of ongoing maintenance to

keep it invasive free. 5% of respondents had other suggestions typical of which included: just make the ecosystem as robust and diversified as possible, do the minimum, and leave it alone.

### **2.2.c How to Deal with Water Lilies**

In response to a question about water lilies, 78% supported deepening the lake at greater initial cost to limit the spread of water lilies that now cover most of the lake while only 10% supported maintaining the current shallow depth of the lake and accepting higher levels of and costs for on-going maintenance to continually remove them. 9% of respondents had other suggestions typical of which included: concerned how either option affects the other plant and animal life, didn't know, and let nature take its course.

### **2.2.d Accommodate Salmon**

A large majority (74%) felt it was better to deepen the lake to accommodate salmon moving through the lake while 14% supported maintaining the current shallow depth that isn't appropriate for salmon. 9% of respondents had other suggestions typical of which included: didn't know, only if they were there originally, and yes if it benefits a diverse spectrum of species.

### **2.2.e Extent of Accommodation**

In response to a follow-up question that, if they supported having conditions suitable for salmon in Beaver Lake, almost half (46%) supported deepening the lake more significantly at greater initial cost to accommodate salmon throughout the year compared to about one-third (31%) who only supported deepening the lake enough to accommodate salmon seasonally. Most of the other 13% of respondents either didn't know which was better or didn't support salmon.

### **2.2.f Beavers**

When asked about beavers, the majority (70%) supported temporarily relocating them during lake enhancement and return them when complete with some design changes to limit the negative impacts of their activities. Fewer respondents (16%) supported relocating the beavers elsewhere. Most of the other 10% of respondents wanted the beavers left in place during enhancement, didn't know, would choose beavers over salmon, or suggested we let the beavers engineer their own solutions to the lake's problems.

### **2.2.g Structures**

In response to a question about viewing structures, which are expensive to build and maintain but can provide a variety of viewing opportunities, a majority (66%) supported having more viewing platforms around the shore of the lake while only 10% supported installation of a two-storey tall viewing tower. Of the other 20%, most said to not build any more, limit the number to the existing number of platforms or limiting them to a small number more (1, 2, 3 and 4 suggested), ensure they are small and have low impact on the overall natural aesthetic, and no more infrastructure that will require long term maintenance.

### **2.2.h Boardwalk on the Lake**

The majority (74%) of respondents supported having more viewing platforms around the shore of the lake that allow wildlife viewing with less impacts on wildlife over the idea of a floating boardwalk which was only supported by 5% of respondents. Of the other 18%, most said they didn't support either.

### **2.2.i Boardwalk on the Lake or Viewing Tower**

In response to the question as to whether they would prefer the idea of a floating boardwalk to viewing platforms, there was very little support for either. 13% said they would prefer a floating boardwalk and 20% said they would support a two-storey tall viewing tower. A majority (39%) did not answer this question which probably indicates a lack of support for either.

### **2.2.j Viewing Tower Location**

Of those who supported the idea of a viewing tower, 32% supported it set back from the water's edge to minimize impact on habitat while only 7% supported it at the water's edge to maximize viewing potential. Virtually all of the other 22% said they supported neither. 39% did not answer this question which probably indicates a lack of support for either.

### **2.2.k Beaver Lake Bog**

A question was asked about the small area of bog has been carefully restored at the south-west end of the lake that currently isn't accessible to the public, which means most respondents have never seen it. A majority (68%) supported keeping access to the bog restricted to protect its fragile vegetation from people and dogs. A smaller percent (22%) supported building a boardwalk into the bog to allow people to experience this unique habitat and have views over the bog to the lake. Of the other 7%, most said to build it but restrict dogs or build it to, near or around the bog to prevent negative impacts on the bog.

### **2.2.l Benches**

When asked about the 14 benches around the lake, which get a lot of use in good weather, a majority (54%) supported keeping the existing number of benches while over a third (35%) supported having more benches around the lake. Of the other 6%, most supported more varied seating opportunities, more complementary furnishings like tables and waste receptacles, and more benches but not too many more.

### **2.2.m Washrooms**

It was noted that the closest washroom to Beaver Lake is over 700 m from the outfall. A majority (50%) supported installing a composting toilet for greater convenience while a slightly smaller number (42%) supported keeping the area as natural as possible and not installing a toilet. The majority of the other 5% supported a toilet but not near the lake, closer to the entrance to trails.

### **3. Ranking Attributes Beaver Lake Should Have**

Respondents were asked to rank the **top five** of 13 attributes the lake should have in order of highest priorities (the numbers are totals of the number of people who included this as first priority plus the total in number included in their top 5)

597 (212/385) - Have areas of open water with some islands for a more diverse lake experience and habitat for birds and turtles undisturbed by human proximity

376 (37/339) - Provide nesting sites and ponds around the trails suitable for species that need extra support to thrive in Stanley Park

372 (35/337) - Improve the creeks flowing into and out of Beaver Lake for fish habitat

283 (16/267) - Maintain and possibly increase the unique bog habitat at the south-west end of the lake

272 (95/177) - Maintain as large an area of open water as possible

269 (25/244) - Encourage richer aquatic life in the lake to increase diversity

268 (33/235) - Support salmon species moving into and through the lake

219 (39/180) - Attempt to remove all invasive plant species from the lake

170 (12/158) - Accept some level of non-native plant species in the lake

165 (20/145) - Install lots of woody debris (snags) and large logs in the lake for birds and turtles

118 (12/106) - Install a composting toilet near the lake

106 (11/95) - Install more opportunities to view wildlife (e.g. viewing tower, boardwalks and viewing platforms) around the lake

79 (2/77) - Expand the amount of interpretive signage around the lake

### **4. Preferred Option**

This question was intended as a “straw poll”. People were asked which of the four options would they say most closely resembles their ideal future for the lake, noting the

ultimate plan will likely be a hybrid design incorporating various features from all four. The majority 58% preferred Option I with islands and viewing platforms. 77% supported an option with a mixture of open water and islands. There was very low support for options with no islands and structures.

58% - Concept 1 - Islands and Viewing Platforms (maximizes habitat creation and biodiversity with highest enhancement capital cost)

19% - Concept 4 - Islands and View Tower (balances habitat creation and biodiversity with cost considerations)

10% - Concept 3 - Open Water and View tower (low habitat creation and biodiversity but lowest enhancement capital cost)

6% - Concept 2 - Open Water and Floating Boardwalk (increases passive recreation but reduces wildlife)

## **5. Other Activities at the Lake**

People were asked if there are any existing activities or amenities currently available at Beaver Lake that you would like to see changed or improved in the future and to tell us what you would like to see changed or improved and why. The following is a representative sampling of comments that aren't reflected in previous questions or express an idea well. They are grouped by general category. A special note on runners: there was clearly a large runner contingent concerned their recreational use was not considered in the comment sheet. The 1 km running loop around the lake was expressed in many unrelated questions as well as in this section.

### **General**

- It's an amazingly lovely spot. Please don't change too much. It will just be nice to continue having a lake there. Please don't feel the need to "hit it out of the park" as it were. We don't need to impress anyone. It's already amazing.
- Don't overdo the access piece, i.e., people should accept that enhancing the ecological function of the lake trumps their 'right' to have big viewing platforms, invasive boardwalks, etc. (and this is coming from someone who LOVES boardwalks, e.g., the one on Cathedral Trail).
- Restrict existing access and use for racing bicyclists and dogs - they really disturb the wildlife, disruptive to relaxation, and compromise safety for people (especially children and the elderly; restrict large jogging groups).
- Whatever expands the ecosystem, species range or returns species previously extirpated from the lake and park itself. The streams around beaver lake are also an integral part of lake ecosystem, especially where Beaver Creek exits into the Burrard Inlet. This creek entrance/exit needs to be significantly modified to allow species such as salmon to return and spawn in the creek and creek that feed into Beaver Lake. To do that, you would need to modify multiple pathways by expanding the creeks ability to flow naturally (rather than through a pipe).

- Beaver creek needs to be maintained/restored by keeping water running through obviously a long term solution has to be found to stop resident beavers from blocking water exit to the creek. Maybe more under water pipes from lake to creek.
- The best part of the lake is that it is a little rough around the edges. It certainly doesn't need to be as manicured as other parts of the park.
- I always feel restricted to the edge. If we spend lots of money renewing the area, pedestrian access into the improved areas should be a high priority. This is a park, not an ecological reserve. People need to see the plants, birds and critters.
- I would love to have a boardwalk into the bog and interpretive signage to highlight this unique ecosystem.
- Keep activities to a minimum so this haven is there to be enjoyed
- Your "vernal" ponds aren't really vernal at all; they're there virtually all year round, thanks to the drainage barrier provided by the walkway.
- I would like to see the large parking lot adjacent to the works yard and stables reduced in size mad forest replanted to increase buffer zone around Beaver Lake. I prefer Beaver Lake as a remote haven and prefer it with very little amenities and attractions other than wildlife and serene setting.

### **Beavers**

- Beavers in the lake sound nice in theory, but 6 beavers will one day be 6+ beavers. You've already had trouble with them migrating to Lost Lagoon and logging trees along the shoreline. Rather than getting ready to wrap various trees there and at the lake in unsightly wire mesh, why don't you just bite the bullet and accept that there is no place for beavers in an urban park. You've got your hands full with salmon as it is; first things first.
- Given their presence in the lake I'd like to see more information about the beaver.

### **Bicycles**

- Bikes are using the pedestrian path and going into surrounding forest.
- No bicycles allowed, walking only.
- Ensure that bike access to beaver lake trails circling the lake remains.
- I am a cyclist and pro photographer... I would like to see more restrictions on cyclists, e.g. speed bumps, slower speeds etc. People ride far too fast in the park. This needs to stop. If they want to race, they can ride on the streets.
- Concerned about the cycle paths and the way cyclists are often off the designated paths.
- Cyclists should treat the trails as sensitive areas, with respect, for speed, etc. and hopefully some pathways around the lake will be cycle free as well, quiet, for pedestrians only.

## **Dogs**

- Maintain the tranquility. Dogs must be leashed.
- Better policing of off leash dogs especially in spring. Although I am a dog lover this area is for wildlife and I've seen dogs bother ducks, perhaps when they are nesting.

## **Education and Awareness**

- More school field trips focussing on natural versus constructed environments, biodiversity and life-cycles.
- Wild life viewing. Encourage a wilderness experience.
- I like the idea of enhanced viewing areas so long as they don't disturb the fauna so much that we lose them.
- The nesting box program of SPES seems useful here. There should be an interpretive sign about this, and birding generally.
- Wild berries. It is one of the only places in the city to teach kids to recognize native berries including salmonberry, huckleberry and salal. Please plant more native berry species along the lake and trails. They are important for birds and people.

## **Hydrology**

- The outflow of the lake into Beaver Creek needs to be upgraded to ensure trails don't flood and the creek is supplied with enough water to support fish downstream.
- Improve the quality of the trail around the lake e.g. improve drainage below the trail, remove a portion of the trail. We don't need a loop trail so close to the water's edge if we could remove it and improve the hydrology of the lake.

## **Pathways**

- The path along the north edge should be widened, benches added, bushes cut back, maybe a plaza there. It's the sunny side and it's where amenities should be concentrated.
- I'm surprised that you make no mention of the negative impact of the walkway on the hydrology of the lake. I feel it plays a major part in the sedimentation of the lake and its shrinkage. I'd like to see it replaced with an elevated boardwalk. This needn't be done all at once; it could be phased in over a few years as funds become available. It would enhance the natural environment of the lake, and provide a wonderful work project for a community or aboriginal group. We already have the Aquarium hell-bent on covering the park with tar and cement;



let's see the Park Board endorse a Beaver Lake concept that aims for a natural experience, one as free as possible from the incursions of the worst invasive species of all, man.

- Minimize flooding of the path around the lake.
- Observing the tranquility and the birds could be enhanced by moving the pathway and platforms back from the lake's edge. That might require a slight increase in the platform heights over that of the path. The pathway should not be continuously in contact with the edge on the lake.
- Regardless of which option is chosen, the north side trail should be widened a bit, if it's possible to do so without significantly impacting the lake.
- Wider perimeter path for walking and biking.
- The last bridge over north creek as it enters beaver lake is really poorly done. It sticks up too high out of the ground and just looks odd. By far the nicest bridge over north creek is the old arched one near the top of the creek.

### **Runners**

- There is a running loop used by many local running clubs around the lake which is exactly 1 km. Please do not change the length. On a busy Saturday in summer, several hundred runners use the loop for this purpose.
- Several run clubs use Beaver Lake to train, which is a fantastic place to be, it would be great if some areas of the path were slightly wider so they can more easily pass people enjoying the serenity of the lake. The area by Beaver Creek can be particularly challenging. The groups provide an element of safety in the park.

### **Washroom and Amenities**

- Just the addition of a toilet as we are an aging population and perhaps a water fountain.
- Just add a few more benches, most times I am there, there are not enough people to need many more of them.
- Because I am an old woman the composting toilet is the most important to me. Benches are second and also important.

### **Wayfinding and Interpretation**

- The signs aren't very good. More bilingual, better information.
- Additional signage warning visitors to avoid feeding the raccoons.
- Signage (for walking, biking, and nearby attractions) is very poor - it's very difficult to figure out where you're going or what routes are available (and where you can or cannot take a bicycle)... more signs, and clearer signs, would be helpful.

- The interpretive signs should be set back, not in front of seats: if someone wants information they can turn around to read it rather than having INTERPRETATION in their face.

## **6. Ideas for New Activities or Amenities**

People were asked for their ideas for new activities or amenities not available at Beaver Lake today. Most said to not add anything new, to leave it as natural as possible or variations on providing more or better display and explanation of wildlife. But there were a few suggestions that aren't reflected in previous questions or were more specific. They are grouped by general category.

### **General**

- Attraction that celebrates the nature of Vancouver.
- No new activities let's keep it as natural as possible; no cafes or hot dog stands.
- Do not try to make a lake into a rec centre.
- Poetry reading, storytelling.
- Plant more willows and alders for the beavers to chew on.
- Meeting ground for diverse religious or non-religious groups that go there to meditate and pray.
- Stocked lake for fishing.

### **Beaver Creek**

- Better access to the streams would be good.
- Would like to see fish in Beaver Creek.
- If salmon habitat is improved, it would be good to include a viewing platform over one of the creeks so people can see the fish swimming into Beaver Lake.

### **Education and Awareness**

- One of those walking podcast where you listen to a specific bit at different points as noted by a post and accessible through an app to learn about the area's history and biodiversity.
- More advertised opportunities for the ecological society to do tours for families of all ages; this could be a fabulous intergenerational activity and tourist.
- Partnerships with schools to adopt areas of the lake for educational purposes.
- Boardwalk into the Bog - it is a rare to have such an ecosystem in an urban setting and has unique species that people may otherwise not see. The educational value of being able to see sundews would greatly enhance the recreation and enjoyment of the area.
- More interactive and engaging signs, make it fun and interesting.

- Perhaps incorporate a scavenger hunt or other game using clues around the lake. Make is easy enough for children, but interesting enough for adults as well.
- I am a strong supporter of washroom facilities to support educational access to Beaver Lake by school groups. It would actually be more practical for school groups if it was closer to Pipeline Road. I would also love to see an outdoor teaching space, for example a grouping of logs for seating under the nearby tree canopy. Wildlife biodiversity and habitat conservation are paramount, but if we don't make it feasible for young people to connect with nature we risk long term environmental degradation.
- Interpretive centre open to public with regular hours.
- I did a tour during the Stanley Park anniversary celebrations in the summer time with a Native woman who knew all about the different plants and their medicinal and cultural significance. I would like to see this as a free, ongoing tour available in the summer time. More tours of Stanley Park that are free for residents (maybe charge the tourists that do not have a local address).
- Maps and information fliers available at entrance points.
- Signage for information about the habitat, wildlife, and Indigenous peoples' history with the space.
- Make Beaver Lake central to Stanley Park. Have people or kiosk there for interaction.

### **Pathways**

- Improve the quality of the existing trails.
- Pave the trail around Beaver Lake with separate bike and pedestrian paths.
- Pave the trails immediately adjacent to the lake and the main trail from Pipeline. This would serve two purposes: 1. Reduce the intrusive "crunching" noise from people and bikes using the trails which interferes with the "peaceful, natural setting" vibe; 2. Provide better access for both mobility-impaired users and those on inline skates.
- A canopy walk that starts level at the causeway overpass and extends out to the edge of the lake (there's a fairly steep elevation drop so the walk itself could be quite level). I don't see it happening but I can always dream.
- I would like to see a bog walk. I have seen these near Tofino, and at Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park; no dogs on the boardwalk!

### **Signage and Wayfinding**

- It would be nice to have distance markers every 100m or 250m on the path.

### **Structures and Amenities**

- Perhaps a bike rack should be installed at a central location and cyclists encouraged to park their bikes rather than riding around the lake. Pedestrians are much less disrupting than cyclists and anything that would reduce conflicts is welcome.
- Maybe lighting?
- If salmon are restored to the lake, vending machines for organic aquatic biologist approved fish food, proceeds going to the Stanley Park Ecology Society.
- No buildings such as restaurants or coffee shops.
- The toilets could be away from the lake near the equestrian/pedestrian bridge and/or the seawall entrance.
- Maybe coin operated or free binoculars so folks can view wildlife.
- More recycle bins...often see plastic bottles around.
- Install viewing binoculars to better see wildlife, as at Jericho beach.
- Two wet-weather shelters of timber (or timber-like) construction for walkers. Fire-resistant bins for garbage and recycling.
- Picnic area/tables at north end?
- Can acoustic barriers be considered for the causeway near Beaver Lake to minimize traffic noise?
- Climbing structures or paths for children to explore.

## **7. Other Ideas or Comments**

People were asked if they had any other ideas or suggestions to share about the future of Beaver Lake. Most reiterated their choice of option and why and to keep it natural. But there were some suggestions, ideas or observations that aren't reflected in previous questions or were stated from a different perspective. They are grouped by general category.

### **General**

- I will always remember the first time that, as a boy, I walked up Beaver Creek from the walk around Stanley Park and the spectacular vista of the lake largely covered in water lilies opened up before my eyes on a gloriously bright summer day.
- We only have one chance to do this right - don't stint on the funding. I love Beaver Lake. I am sure a fundraising appeal would be success.
- I would really like to see First Nations heavily involved in consultation and rehabilitation of the lake. This would be a great opportunity to involve First Nations youth in rehabilitating the land and providing opportunities to examine their heritage and future in the community.
- The park makes large amounts of money from parking in the park, they should spend less on the aquarium and more on other places in the park to keep it a

very natural retreat in the centre of the city. Don't ruin it like other parts of the city.

- Survey had a lot of technical questions.....I don't think I'm qualified to answer....
- For at least 30 years I have been distressed to see the apparent decline of the actuality and the significance of this rather special body of water and wildlife. I am delighted to realize that you and experienced individuals are planning a constructive and beautiful future for Beaver Lake.
- I personally like the lily pads and flowers in the lake; where else do you see that in Vancouver? Or in the park? I would like to see more of the lily pad/flowers, less worries about salmon and fish, that is enhanced everywhere else in the lower mainland, Beaver Lake can be more about the lily pads/flowers and whatever goes along with that.
- The first time I saw Beaver Lake it was like arriving at a place from my dreams. It was so magical that this natural place, almost untouched (at least visibly) by humans existed in the city.
- Appreciate these strong efforts. Open House boards much too dense with text and technical for average person (even specialists!) to read and ponder, esp. in on-line versions.
- Suggested action as follows: Cutting of some high vegetation along the perimeter trail to improve viewing across the lake. Make budgetary provision for employing a part-time ranger to do maintenance work and prevent inappropriate use of the lake area.
- Long-term ALWAYS is the better plan. Short term solutions usually fall through and don't work out.
- Once it has been cleaned up and returned to its original size continue to maintain it so it does not get into this condition again.
- This should remain a quiet area that people can discover for themselves and treasure. There should not be lots of notices and encouragement for more foot traffic. Joggers should not be allowed.
- Open water with improved biodiversity and habitat. Remove lilies, but sell them as a fundraiser (we pay \$40 plus per plant at the store).
- Being able to see the lake - and into the surrounding park - from an elevation is very important. We don't value what we can't see - and both the lake in context and the tree canopy are always under-appreciated by those only able to stand on the ground.
- I am sorry to say that all pets should be kept out of the northern part of Stanley Park all together. The lake especially, as it is a sanctuary for many species of animals and humans. Peace and quiet are hard to find, with a little thought we need not imagine it being lost at Beaver Lake.
- Do what is best for the lake ... not what the public wants.
- The lake doesn't have to be dressed up as a fake copy of ideal nature. Put things there to draw people, don't be afraid to manipulate the landscape around the lake, especially on the north side, to make it more attractive for people.

- Let's not lose by bickering over costs!
- There is an argument to be made about limited intervention, but I have seen the big improvement in Wascana Lake in Regina following the complete excavation and it looks much better, is cooler and less weedy, and more inviting to walk around.
- I live in the area - it is a beautiful place to visit and I fully support tackling the problem now. Fund raise - ask users to contribute. It might not get a lot of money but will help people understand that it costs money to have access to such beautiful places.
- Why do the float planes have to fly overhead? Can they shift course somewhat... to make it quieter for the animals, birds and people?
- When I was there with my young granddaughter this summer a darling bird undertook to keep her from falling in the water by never leaving her side.
- The lake should be a demonstration of humanity, as stewards, cooperating with nature. As stewards however it's our duty to 'trump' nature and have the 'final' say rather than let nature do its natural thing and turn the lake into, eventually, a forest.
- The plans are well thought out and provide a broad range of options. Thank you, this is very exciting.

### **Beavers**

- Send the beavers packing. Despite being the lake's namesake, they are simply too destructive to a managed ecosystem like this.
- I'm disappointed the beavers' activities aren't being put to better use. They'll deepen the lake for you - for FREE! Yet you seem to consider them a nuisance (ripping down their dam and covering trees in wire). Build an elevated boardwalk around the lake, get out of their way and let the beavers do their thing. If I'm not mistaken beaver ponds and fish have co-existed for millions of years. True, their damming would sporadically change the outflow slightly and flood some of the forest but you get a deeper, healthier, more interesting lake with a functioning beaver dam. Tourists get excited about seeing mangy raccoons and squirrels - imagine how excited they'd be about seeing a real beaver dam.
- It is really important to me to respect what nature is trying to achieve here. That would mean do nothing. For the idea of "installing" wood debris for habitat... beavers can do that. And there are lots of ways that beavers can live in the area with causing what we perceive as damage (see colony farm). Nature WILL do what it wants no matter how much money we pour into it.

### **Biodiversity**

- I believe that developing this area as a rich ecological system within the heart of Vancouver is important. To have a flourishing natural aquatic system within the

city is something that Vancouverites will grow to be proud of. Being able to see and experience iconic species like the beaver and salmon here is important to developing this sense of pride in our natural heritage.

- I believe that trying to include salmon in the ecosystem leads to much more expense (dredging deeper, etc.) and it leads to less flexibility in adapting to climate change and the enhancement of other aquatic species like salamanders and frogs.
- I feel that biodiversity should be a main priority with emphasis on aquatic species (blue listed fish); I feel that perhaps culverts or raised portions of the paths would help to reconnect the broken watershed connections.
- I frequent the lake for bird photography and right now it isn't that bad for this purpose as the lake looks fairly natural. Also, the small open water area funnels the birds closer to the lake edge for easier photography. While I support removing the invasive plants, I would love to see logs and such put back into the lake near the lake edge for birds to perch on. A boardwalk through the centre of the lake is a bad idea as well if you want to keep birds in the area. If people are walking through the lake by boardwalk access it will scare the birds off in my opinion. More smaller viewing platforms around the lake and removing a lot of the bush obstructing the lake view from edge would be appreciated.
- I am concerned about the existing amphibians that live there; will they be killed if you dredge the lake?
- Keep restoring the bog. Vancouver needs more of its former bogs restored.

### **Bicycles**

- Place posts and bollards to discourage inappropriate cycling.

### **Education and Awareness**

- I would like to see more interpretive signs that detail First Nations use or appreciation of Beaver Lake.
- Beaver Lake is the jewel of Stanley Park biodiversity, education and nature connection. All efforts should be put in place to ensure that those attributes remain.
- Keep any new signage as unobtrusive as possible and maintain the natural look of the lake as much as possible. It is one of the truly spectacular locations in the city at first snowfall and during a morning mist.
- There should be attempts to naturalize Beaver lake but we need to recognize this is not the wildness, it's a tourist location in the heart of Vancouver should provide good access for people to closely experience a naturalized lake so they have some empathy when we're trying to save real lakes in the real wilderness. It should be a teaching tool, not a sacred piece of wilderness.

- I quite like the water lilies, and I imagine others do, too. Something to explain their history and why they're a bad idea might be good.

### **Hydrology**

- Explore possibility of restoring the lake's pre-development hydrology by re-establishing the natural watershed of the lake. This might mean filtering road runoff for input to the lake, and/or re-establishing hydrological connections across the causeway.
- I also protest the use of potable water into a drain when restrictions are being placed upon residents of the Greenest City in the World.
- More biodiversity in the city and everywhere is my priority. Respecting the watershed flows we've historically inherited, and reconnecting this fragmented and gridded watershed will be an important part of the paradigm shift needed to make our whole culture ecologically literate.
- Vernal ponds - brilliant idea. Have even more than in concept.

### **Pathways**

- Consider improving width and accessibility of paths as well as raising level of paths in anticipation of rising water levels due to beaver damming. Take the opportunity to do this when the lake dredging contract is under way.
- Please do not add any slippery boardwalks around the perimeter, we have a wet climate and it would be a very great slipping hazard for people.

### **Runners**

- Many competitive runners use the 1 km loop for training on any given day, rain or shine, warm or cold. They add a huge element of security to the lake.
- Beaver Lake is used by many local running clubs for workouts on Saturday mornings and Thursday and other evenings, For us, it would be important that the path around the lake continue to have enough room for runners as well as pedestrians to be able to travel around the lake safely.
- Arrange better cycling and walking paths; jogging could be rerouted to maintain a less hostile area.

### **Structures and Amenities**

- Viewing towers/boardwalks would just become condos for the homeless.
- Think the riparian habitat along Beaver Creek should be protected better through the installation of wood split rail fencing to keep people from damaging sensitive habitat. Low cost and long-term benefits.



- Please consider storm fall logs for future benches around the lake; like the old ones they will last much longer and are esthetically pleasing in the surroundings.