

NORTHEAST FALSE CREEK PARK DESIGN

STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT - SUMMARY REPORT

MARCH 2017

JAMES
CORNER
FIELD
OPERATIONS

PWL
PARTNERSHIP

MODUS

Prepared for: Northeast False Creek Project Office - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation - City of Vancouver

CITY OF
VANCOUVER





45+

Participated in two stakeholder workshops

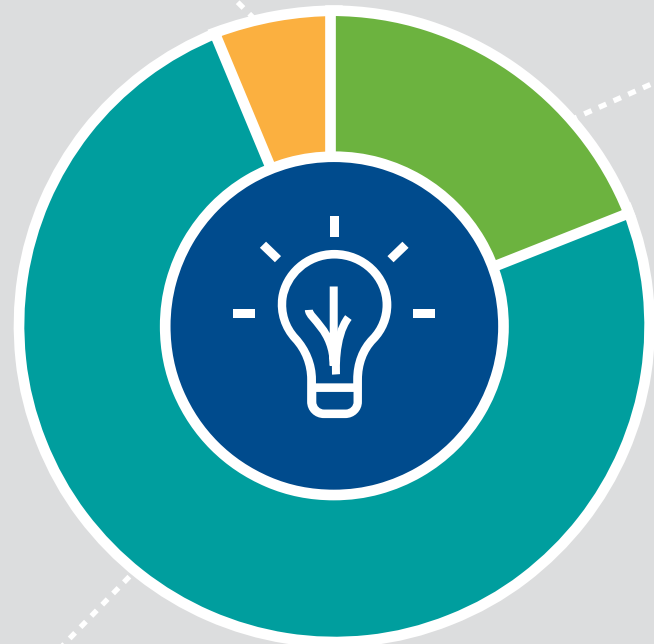
80+

Attended the **PARKS DAY OPEN HOUSE** and a further **600+** attended the two main open houses



140+

Attended the **PARKS DESIGN PRESENTATION**



1000+

Engaged Participants



950+

Responses to Parks questions on Online Surveys



700+

Whiteboard Video views



1400+

Total video views



700+

Facebook Live views

INTRODUCTION

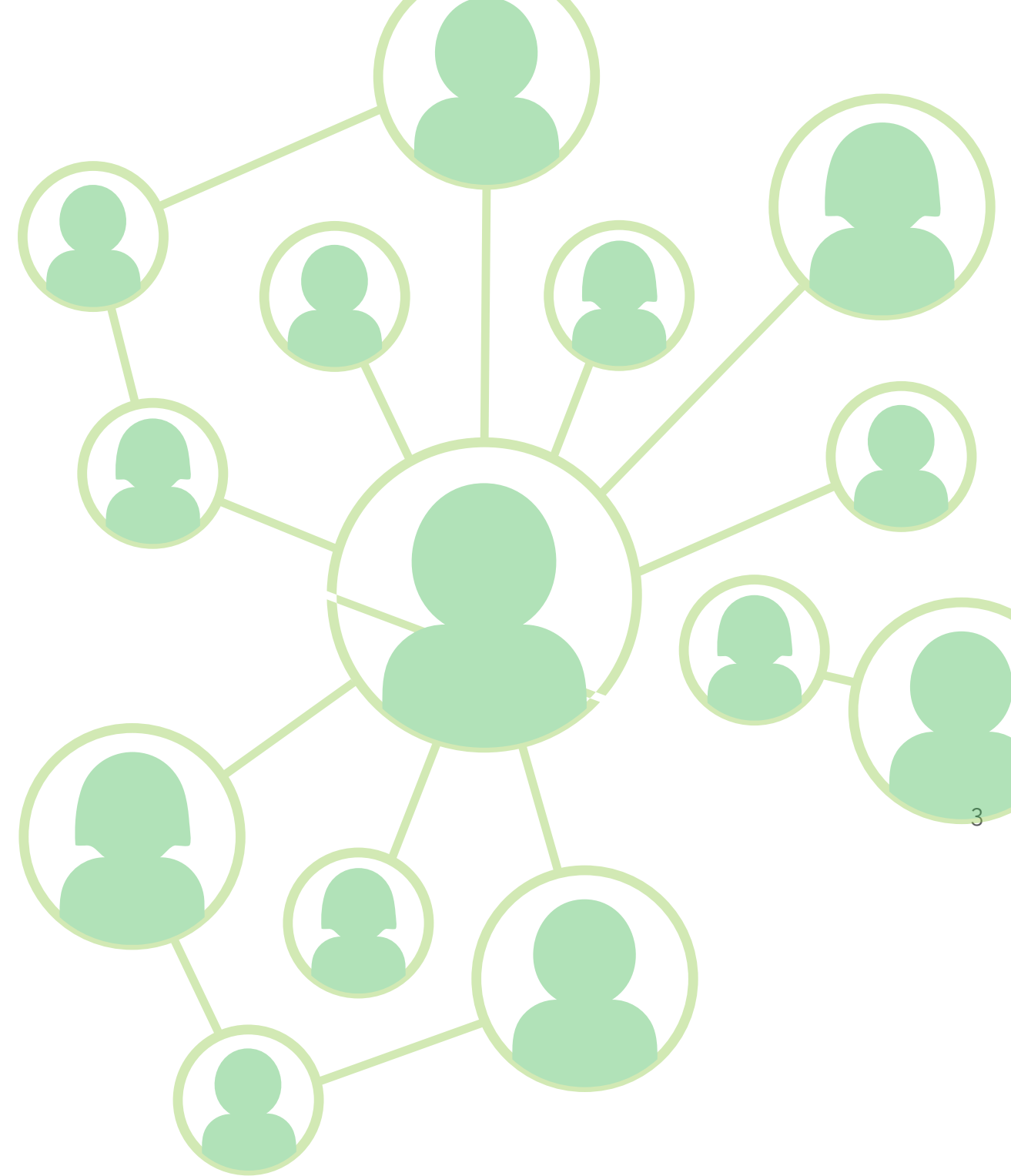
The Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Park Design process includes an extensive engagement program specific to the park design, set within the larger NEFC Area Planning process. The purpose of this summary is to present the feedback received from the public and stakeholders on the early directions for the park design. The phase 2 consultation summary on the emerging directions for the NEFC area plan will be available in the spring 2017.



At the core, the engagement process involves public and stakeholder input at all stages of the project. By providing diverse opportunities for participation, the process builds consensus and fully engages communities in the design process. This input is used to shape the design of the park spaces within this new neighbourhood area.

In Stage 1 of the NEFC Park Design process, we asked stakeholders to identify the issues, opportunities and ideas they had for the park. This feedback was used to identify priorities and to form guiding directions for the park design. In total, we spoke with over 200 people and received over 950 responses to the Parks and Open Space section of the online survey.

In the upcoming Stage 2, a conceptual design of the park will be prepared through a process that works with and reacts to stakeholder feedback. At the end of Stage 2, the conceptual design will be presented to the public for feedback. Stage 3 will bring a final concept and schematic plan for public input, which will lead to final adjustments to the park design.

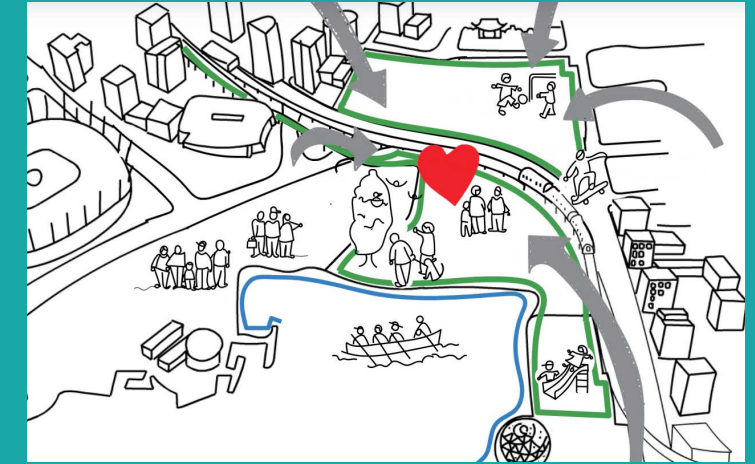


WHAT WE DID

STAGE 1 STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Between September 2016 and February 2017, the Stage 1 engagement process conducted two workshops, one open house, one presentation, one whiteboard video and an online survey. We also engaged with the community via the Vancouver Park Board's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram). Over 45 participants attended stakeholder workshops, over 80 people attended the Parks Day Open House and 140 attended the park design presentation. Over 1200 people filled out an online survey for the NEFC area plan, which asked participants to specify the topics they want to provide feedback on. Over 950 people responded to the Parks and Open Spaces questions. On social media, the NEFC park design whiteboard video and Park Design Presentation had a combined 1400 total video views.

WHITEBOARD VIDEO



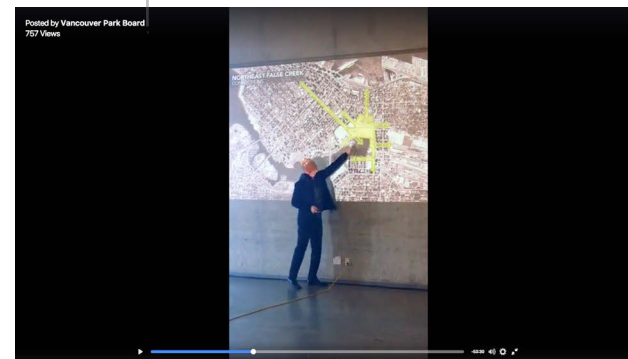
A video for the Northeast False Creek park design was created and released on the Vancouver Park Board YouTube channel on January 26, 2017. The video has been viewed over 700 times as of March 2017 and shared via Facebook and Twitter.

*PDAG is the Parks Design Advisory Group, appointed by council to provide advice to the project team throughout the park design process.

NEFC PARK DESIGN ENGAGEMENT:



Parks and open space workshop. December 2016.



Lunch Presentation. January 2017.

Shared on Facebook Live. Over 700 views.



OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



Parks & Open Space Workshop – This workshop was part of the larger Area Planning process but specific to parks and open spaces. A range of stakeholders were invited to explore five different themes for the park and open spaces and generate inspiring ideas for each. A report on the input received for this workshop can be seen in the Appendix.

Healthy Open Space Workshop – The focus of this workshop was how to create an inclusive and welcoming park for all communities and individuals. A report on the input received for this workshop can be seen in the Appendix.

NEFC Pop-up Storefront – The first open house to present and receive feedback on the emerging directions for the NEFC area plan took place from Jan. 31 to Feb. 8, 2017. This first pop-up storefront was also an opportunity to present and receive feedback on the early directions and guiding principles for the NEFC park design. The two main open houses happened on Feb. 2 and 7. Feb. 3, “Park Day” was dedicated to parks and open space as a specific topic of interest.

Park Design Presentation – On February 2, James Corner from Field Operations, lead park designer, gave a presentation. The presentation summarized work completed to date, generated excitement for the park and was an opportunity for direct engagement between the design team and the public. In addition, the presentation was broadcasted on Facebook Live and questions were received through Facebook and Twitter.

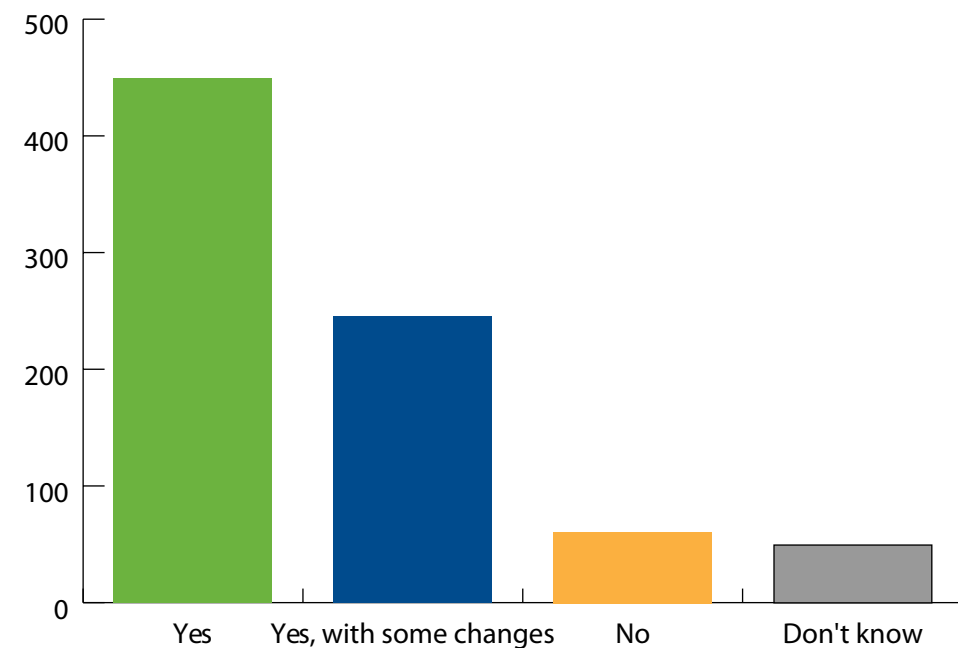
Public Online Survey – The Talk Vancouver survey ran from January 25, 2017 to February 17, 2017. This was an opportunity for the public to provide their feedback on emerging directions for the Area Plan, which includes the parks and open spaces chapter, the entire NEFC area, as well as the early directions and guiding principles for the NEFC park design.

PUBLIC ONLINE SURVEY

The public online survey on the emerging directions for the NEFC Area Plan ran from January 25, 2017 to February 17, 2017 and was distributed through the City of Vancouver's public engagement platform, TalkVancouver. Over 950 people filled out the Parks and Open Space section of the online survey. A total of five questions focused on the topic of Parks and Open Spaces, two on the emerging directions for the parks and open spaces in the NEFC neighbourhood, and three specifically on the park in relation to the 3 main themes of design (Destination, Community and Nature). The questions were:

1. Do you feel that the Emerging Directions for Parks and Open Spaces in NEFC reflect the current and future needs of the community?
2. Is there anything else you would like to add about the Emerging Direction for Parks and Open Spaces?
3. What do you see yourself doing in a Northeast False Creek park?
4. What do you think should be celebrated in a Northeast False Creek park?
5. What does nature in the City mean to you?

The comments for questions two through five are incorporated in the "What We Heard" section.



Results from public online survey to question 1, "Do you feel that the Emerging Directions for Parks and Open Spaces in NEFC reflect the current and future needs of the community?"

WHAT WE HEARD



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WHAT WE HEARD

SEVEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES AROUND THE THREE MAIN THEMES AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS

A number of key themes emerged from the many conversations, workshops and discussions conducted in Stage 1. From the three main themes, seven guiding principles were identified that will form the directions for the park design in Phase 2.

The following summarized the key highlights and ideas that emerged within each guiding principle.

A DESTINATION PARK

1. Distinct. The park should have a unique identity and innovative elements not offered in other parks that make it a destination space.

2. Authentically Vancouver. The park should be created with residents in mind and celebrate the history of the site, honouring First Nations. Spaces should create a sense of belonging, and provide shared/gathering spaces for all.

A COMMUNITY PARK

3. Open, Safe, and Inclusive Park. The park should have strong physical and historical connections to the diverse cultures and neighbourhoods surrounding it. Park design should welcome users of all ages and abilities.

4. Flexible. Park design should have both passive and active spaces that can be multi-use and manipulated. Maximize programs and allow them to easily change between day and night, over the years.

5. Stewardship. Park design should cultivate a feeling of trust and ownership.

NATURE IN THE CITY

6. A Diverse and Healthy Waterfront. Park design should bring people closer to the water, creating accessible ways to experience waterfront. Ensure an ecologically resilient waterfront.

7. Ecologically Rich Park Spaces. Incorporate diverse natural elements that represent the coastal ecology of the area and create visually rich spaces. Maximize views of water, mountains and open spaces.

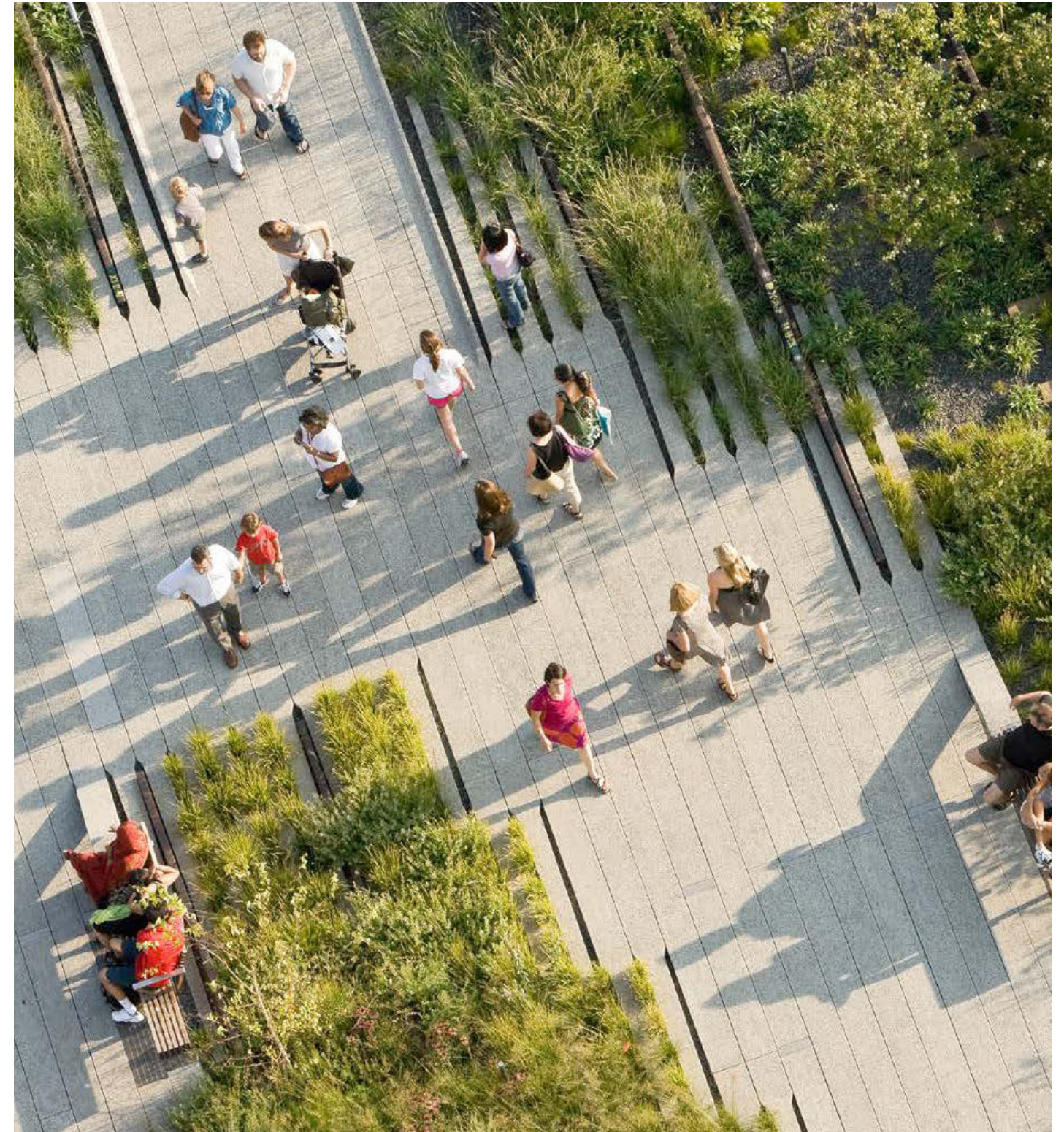
DESTINATION

1. DISTINCT

The park should have a unique identity and innovative elements not offered in other parks that make it a destination space.

The park should:

- have an innovative design approach
- focus on activities appropriate for a city-wide destination park
- offer unique/innovative program experiences not currently found in Vancouver (e.g. floating/natural pool),
- have an iconic design
- be unique, bold, beautiful
- considering building a grand, iconic art symbol for the City
- cover a large area
- use height/elevation/leftover viaduct as focal point
- be creative, artistic
- feature natural spaces and wildlife
- be simple



High Line, NYC

2. AUTHENTICALLY VANCOUVER

The park should be created with residents in mind and celebrate the history of the site, honouring First Nations. Spaces should create a sense of belonging, and provide shared/gathering spaces for all.



David Lam Park, Vancouver

The park should:

- be a centre of history and culture of the site, including honouring the First Nations and being a site for reconciliation
- respond to the existing and new neighbourhood residents' needs
- celebrate history, both recent and past, through public art, interpretive educational (e.g. a "living lab", such as sustainable features, demonstration of storm water)
- not forget the industrial history of the site
- be designed for locals as well as tourists
- put diverse types of artwork on display (e.g. graffiti, First Nations)
- feature artwork from local artists
- have artwork that authentically represents full spectrum of emotion and experiences good and bad
- have a community centre
- reflect a culture of health, wellness and exercise in natural areas
- be an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of immigrants to Vancouver's history and current culture

COMMUNITY

OPEN, SAFE, AND INCLUSIVE PARK

The park should have strong physical and historical connections to the diverse cultures and neighbourhoods surrounding it. Park design should welcome users of all ages and abilities.

The park should:

- create a place of connection between neighbourhoods, culture and histories in the area
- have open and welcoming spaces for gathering
- connect people
- create a sense of belonging for all communities
- be a safe place for all, including children, youth and seniors
- encourage play for all ages (e.g. giant slide, sky gondola, water park slide)
- encourage recreation for all abilities
- provide opportunities for outdoor learning and partnership between groups
- provide spaces that are inclusive of users from all income-levels
- provide spaces that support wellness, sports/exercise (e.g. walking routes, basketball/volleyball/bocce/frisbee)
- ensure active transportation routes and commuter routes are abundant, comfortable, safe, and well-coordinated (i.e. adapts to growing demand/capacity, well-maintained)
- separate lingering spaces and high-speed commuting spaces
- work with skateboard park and non-motorized communities, including dragon boat
- consider gateways to the park from the different, connecting neighbourhoods
- have spaces for dogs, but separate from people as much as possible



DOWNTOWN SKATEBOARD PLAZA USER SURVEY

In October 2016, 2248 individuals participated in the Downtown Skateboard Plaza User Survey. The full report can be accessed at: <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/downtown-skate-plaza-survey-report.pdf>

- be well lit, be safe for night time use
- have programming such as free events, outdoor movies, live entertainment
- offer late night programming
- more opportunities for music
- celebrate diverse cultures
- have safe, clean accessible washrooms
- be equipped to navigate the socio economic issues of the community in a way that prioritizes safety and access for all

FLEXIBLE

Park design should have both passive and active spaces that can be multi-use and manipulated. Maximize programs and allow them to easily change between day and night, over the years.



The park should:

- focus on a multi-use, grand, but informal approach
- feel shared and layered (multi-use)
- include both passive and active opportunities
- be adaptable and multi-use
- provide options for many
- be a “living lab”
- have both covered and open spaces/all weather spaces
- have simple spaces as well
- provide opportunities for manipulation of spaces, interactive spaces
- provide event spaces, live entertainment spaces
- provide plaza space
- have small stages for performances
- have picnic, firepit, small group/social use areas
- have small, flexible venues/kiosks for artists, tourist goods, small businesses, food/snacks/drink, etc.
- have spaces to observe park uses, events
- accomodate fitness opportunities for all ages
- consider tiny houses as a form or art or as a place for vendors

STEWARDSHIP

Park design should cultivate a feeling of trust and ownership.

The park should:

- include spaces that people can manipulate, are interactive, offer flexible programming for variety of groups and foster a sense of ownership
- encourage users to care for the park
- provide opportunities that encourage park stewardship (for example, peer positions and user self-management)
- ensure high level of maintenance and operation of the park is feasible
- consider incorporating urban farming
- include a physical connection to the proximal residences
- have a high level of maintenance



NATURE

A DIVERSE AND HEALTHY WATERFRONT

Park design should bring people closer to the water, creating accessible ways to experience waterfront. Ensure an ecologically resilient waterfront.



Existing Seawall at NEFC site.

The park should:

- bring people to the waterfront
- have a strong connection to the water
- include water features (e.g. pond, stream, fountain, etc.)
- ensure water access for everyone
- provide a variety of activities to experience the water
- explore the idea of water as a venue
- connect water and land
- improve water quality in False Creek
- be mindful of climate change and sea-level rise
- be mindful of water flow and runoff due to weather in the area
- incorporate solar operated equipment for park functions
- consider a swimming pool
- ensure that transit options and parking are well thought out to bring people to the park in a way that is manageable (especially during events)

ECOLOGICALLY RICH PARK SPACES

Incorporate diverse natural elements that represent the coastal ecology of the area and create visually rich spaces. Maximize views of water, mountains and open spaces.

The park should:

- have more green spaces
- focus on ecosystem revitalization/rehabilitation
- balance natural greenery and built space
- be a place of relief from built spaces or noise
- integrate with natural elements (e.g. native plants for landscaping, spaces for wildlife)
- plant tall/mature trees intended for a long lifespan
- bring back animals, wildlife and plants
- use plants, root system to focus on climate adaptation measures
- consider marine biodiversity
- preserve ecological integrity, honouring the location
- not have lawns
- use natural elements for windbreak and relief space (e.g. habitat island)
- explore the idea of a marine biology education centre
- provide opportunities for education/plant identification/ecosystem learning
- consist of livable outdoor space
- showcase the views that are a part of the Vancouver landscape
- include interaction with beachfront



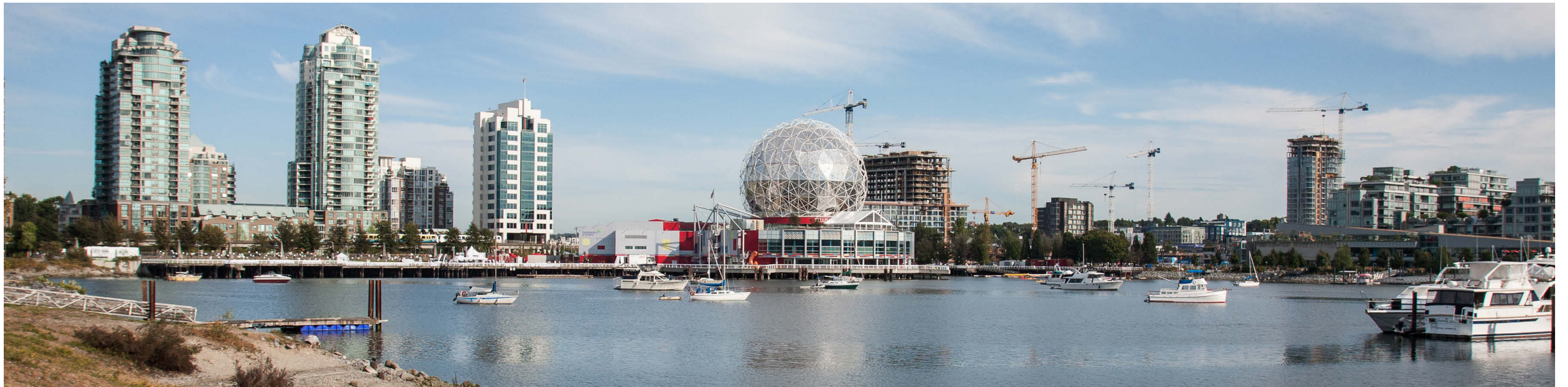
Hinge Park, Vancouver

OTHER COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND IDEAS

- Some program elements could be provided elsewhere; do not try to put everything in the park
- There is support for a distinct Carrall St. spine
- Explore potential for a streetcar, zipline, gondola
- Non-smoking areas

COMMENTS ON PROCESS

- Information provided was not enough
- The process was very informative
- Distrust of process, feel that plans will benefit developers
- More concrete examples needed
- Park should have been bigger



WHAT'S NEXT? FROM INPUT TO CONCEPT

In Stage 2 (Q2 2017), input from the first stage of the NEFC Park Design process will be used to develop concepts for the park. Stage 2 integrates public feedback throughout the concept development process. Stay connected:



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APPENDICES

