



March 19, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Tiina Mack – Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **Douglas Park Spray Park – Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Board with an update regarding the request from the Douglas Park Community Centre Association (CCA) to advance the conversion of the Douglas Park wading pool to a spray park through donated funds. Staff resources are currently allocated to projects in equity deserving areas where facilities are at the end of their service life as determined by staff, as well as a Board directed project at Ross Park. The Douglas Park spray park initiative can begin after the current projects are complete.

Background

Senior leadership staff met with the Douglas Park CCA in June 2023 to discuss the CCA's interest in converting the existing wading pool into a spray park. The CCA expressed an interest in providing partial funding to aid in the delivery of this initiative. Staff shared information about current projects, staff resources required for project management, equitable delivery considerations as per VanPlay, cost, and process and technical considerations.

In the discussion around equitable delivery considerations, Douglas Park CCA did note a willingness to support another spray park in an equity initiative zone.

Current Projects

Staff are currently prioritizing projects within the available 2023-2026 Capital Plan funding envelope for new and renewed playgrounds and spray parks of \$7.4M, and the Growing Communities Grant funding of \$2M for spray parks and wading pools, that align with the [VanPlay](#) direction to deliver services equitably, by using the equity initiative zones to prioritize resources and service delivery. This is also in alignment with the October 30, 2023 Board approved motion titled "[An Inclusive Children's Water Park at Ross Park - Bridging the Gap in an Underserved Neighborhood](#)" to advance a spray park at Ross Park. These projects include Collingwood Park spray park (as part of the full park renewal) and MacLean Park and Ross Park spray parks which will be bundled under one contract.

Although not in an equity initiative zone, Memorial South Park is identified as an opportunity for a fully accessible and inclusive playground and splashpad. This project aligns with VanPlay's first 'Approach to Action' for Parks, which is to improve the safety, cleanliness and physical accessibility of all parks to increase access for all. This action is supported by the following initiative:

(P.1.3) Design and build five additional fully accessible destination play areas throughout the city, in addition to the already in progress project of integrating accessible play features in parks.



This will be included in a report back to the January 22, 2024 Board approved motion titled [“Creating Vancouver’s First Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park for Children”](#).

Staff have committed to the Douglas Park CCA that the Douglas Park spray park will be considered as the next priority after the delivery of the current projects and may be considered as a bundle with another project for Planning and Scoping to begin in 2026. Targeted timelines are provided below.

Project Timelines

Project	Status	Funding Source	Targeted Timelines
Collingwood Park	Tender	2019-2022 Capital Plan	Construction complete Q1 2025
Ross and MacLean Spray Parks	Planning and Scoping	Community Grant Funding (Ross) and 2023-2026 Capital Plan (MacLean)	Construction complete Q3 2026 (<i>staggered delivery Ross first, MacLean second</i>)
Memorial South Fully Accessible and Inclusive Playground and Splashpad	Planning and Scoping	2023-2026 Capital Plan	TBC pending staff resourcing
Douglas Park Spray Park	Planning and Scoping	TBC	Commence planning and scoping Q3 2026

Staff will be meeting again with the Douglas Park CCA to discuss this project and share this updated information on June 11, 2024.

Regards,

Tiina Mack (*she/her*)
Director, Park Planning and Development – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

tm/nt/vt

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
Susan Mele, Manager of Recreation Services
Kate Perkins, Manager of Partner Relationships
Ian Stewart, Manager of Park Development
PB Communications