



February 21, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Shauna Wilton
Deputy General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Northeast False Creek Park – Project Update**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Northeast False Creek (NEFC) park planning processes that have occurred over the past year, as well as provide information on the size and configuration of the park.

Background / Overview

In February 2018, City Council approved the NEFC Plan to enable the removal of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts and development of the future NEFC neighbourhood. In June 2018, Council approved the NEFC implementation strategy, which includes the financial strategy for the Viaducts Replacement Project, work plan, and staffing until December 2019.

The NEFC Plan envisions the development of a 25-acre destination park comprised of the new and renewed Creekside Park, Andy Livingstone Park, and the Downtown Skateboard Plaza. Following Council's initial approval of the NEFC Conceptual Plan in October 2015, Park Board staff began developing the design and engagement process for the NEFC park, with support from a multi-disciplinary consultant team led by James Corner Field Operations starting in October 2016. To date, 17,000+ people have engaged in the NEFC planning process at more than 30 events -- the park was the focal point for many of these discussions. A high number of the participants live and/or work in the surrounding area.

The park design and engagement work progressed to a draft concept design that was first presented to the public in June 2017. At that time, staff heard that the park size and configuration was inadequate and that it was important to meaningfully engage with local First Nations and to recognize the rich cultural heritage of the area. As a result, staff spent the following year and half carrying out more in-depth engagement with the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee (UIPAC), the Chinatown communities and, more recently, the Hogan's Alley Society (HAS). The Squamish Nation was actively involved in early discussions held through the City led quarterly updates and staff will continue to explore opportunities for further in-depth engagement.

Engagement

Highlights of engagement activities since January 2018 include:

First Nations: Staff completed a [summary of the NEFC indigenous engagement](#) in June 2018. This work was made public on the project website and shared with the UIPAC, Vancouver City Planning Commission, and other stakeholder groups upon request. Staff met with the Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh to discuss identity and cultural expression in the park, habitat, rainwater management, and public art.



Park Design Advisory Group (PDAG): The PDAG met four times in 2018 and welcomed four new members in July. The group had the opportunity to comment on the findings of the Indigenous engagement and emerging park design principles.

Chinatown: In January 2018, 110 stakeholders from the Chinatown community attended a workshop to learn about updates to the NEFC Plan and to provide input. In July 2018, staff hosted another workshop where members from the Chinatown community were invited to hear and comment on the findings of the Indigenous engagement and emerging park design principles.

Hogan's Alley Society (HAS): In November 2018, the HAS hosted a workshop to discuss the experience of the Black Community members in public space, with cultural and physical safety, and on the connections between design and inclusion. Staff were invited to attend, listen, and document this event. The findings from this event highlighted changes that would make park planning and programming more inclusive and diverse.

Key Stakeholders: Over 250 people participated in a stakeholder online survey to gauge the level of support for the emerging design principles. Key stakeholders included people who live in the area, as well as people who have expressed an interest to be kept up-to-date on the park design. Overall, comments were supportive of the revised design principles and nature in the city.

Design and Engagement Ahead

Building on the feedback received to date, the project team is currently exploring two design approaches to the park. Work-in-progress will be shared with the NEFC Park Design Advisory Group and First Nations groups prior to being brought to the public and stakeholders in early summer. Input gathered will be used to shape the final design concept which is expected to be presented to the public in late 2019.

Park Size and Configuration

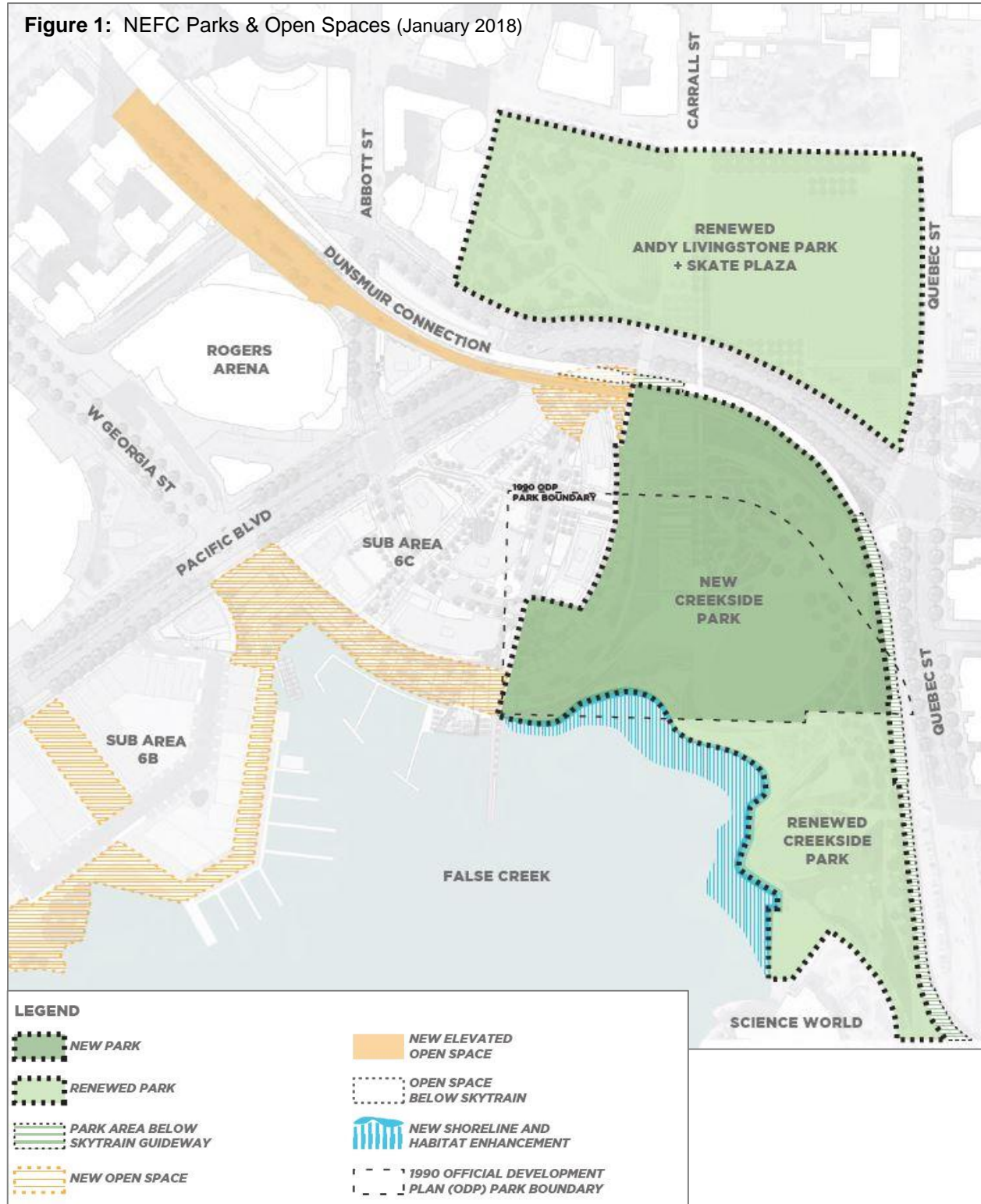
Based on the [NEFC Plan](#) approved by Council in February 2018, the total area of the new and renewed park spaces amounts to approximately 25 acres:

- 11 acres for new Creekside Park Extension;
- 3 acres from renewed Creekside Park;
- 11 acres total from the renewed Andy Livingstone Park, renewed Downtown Skate Plaza and, subject to Council consideration and approval in a future separate report, the conversion of Carrall Street to park space.

The future Creekside Park Extension is bound by False Creek, the Skytrain guideway, and the new Carrall Greenway (see *Figure 1*). Staff proposed the realignment of Carrall Greenway in the [2013 Council report](#), as a way to improve the connectivity and proximity between Andy Livingstone Park and the new park spaces on the waterfront.

The development lands to the west of the new Creekside Park Extension are owned by the City of Vancouver and Concord Pacific. The eventual development and ownership of those lands is subject to negotiations and an agreement between Concord Pacific and the City. The value

generated by the development of these lands will contribute to realizing the objectives of the NEFC Plan, including the construction of the new parks and open spaces, as well as other community amenities such as childcare, a community centre, ice rink, and affordable housing.





Next Steps

Staff will provide a progress update to the Board ahead of the next round of public consultation, and another update once feedback has been analyzed on the two park design approaches. The consultant team will use the input from this process to generate a final park design concept that will go through another round of public engagement. Staff expect that the final concept plan will be ready to present to the Board for consideration in late 2019.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauna Wilton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shauna Wilton
Deputy General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/CG/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications
Kevin McNaney – Special Projects Director, CoV