



February 23, 2022

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Park Inventory & Designation Review Project - Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the [Park Board Jurisdiction – Joint CoV/PB Review Project](#), in relation to the ongoing work to inventory and review the legal and operational status of all park lands in Vancouver as the first phase of this project. On March 1, 2022, Council is scheduled to receive a [report](#) clarifying the status of these areas according to the public park designations outlined in the Vancouver Charter: (1) permanent public parks; (2) temporary public parks; and (3) custody, care and management areas. As per the Charter, Council has exclusive jurisdiction to designate parks.

This joint review project was initiated to ensure Vancouver parks and greenspaces remain protected, that matters that fall under Park Board governance and jurisdiction are clarified, and that processes to improve operational relationships are identified. The first identified priorities were to complete an updated park inventory, confirm the status of all existing park sites, resume the practice of regularly bringing park designation recommendations to Council, and clarify internal processes to ensure that new parks are designated when first acquired or established.

The upcoming [Council report](#) contains the following three recommendations:

- A. THAT Council receive for information the inventory of parks with validated records of designation pursuant to section 488(2) and (5) of the Vancouver Charter (attached as Appendix A).
- B. THAT Council designate, pursuant to section 488(5)(a) of the Vancouver Charter, the following additional seven parks (see Appendix B for maps and parcel identifiers) as permanent public parks:
 1. Alice Townley Park – 1775 Woodland Drive
 2. Gaston Park – 3470 Crowley Drive
 3. Major Matthews Park – 2627 Manitoba Street
 4. McGill Park – 2305 McGill Street
 5. Park site on Trinity Street – 2303 Wall St
 6. W.C. Shelly Park – 1500 E 8th Avenue
 7. Willow Park – 802 W 7th Avenue
- C. THAT Council determine that any existing parks, or land used as parks and which are actively maintained and cared for by the Board of Parks and Recreation, but which have not been granted status pursuant to section 488(2), (3) or (5) of the Vancouver Charter and are not governed under another agreement between the City and the Board of Parks and Recreation, shall be determined to be under the custody, care and management of the Board of Parks and Recreation for park related purposes in accordance with section 488(3) of the Vancouver Charter.



The report also describes the process for designating parks when new parks are acquired or established, specifically clarifying department accountabilities and processes. Clarification of park status is important because it impacts land use change decisions as well as the Board's jurisdiction and authority to: enter into leases and licences for the land; make physical improvements; and manage, control and facilitate recreational and commercial activities, including by enacting by-laws.

City and Park Board staff will continue to review the remaining ~90 parks lacking evidence of designation and will bring forward further recommendations to Council for park designation as work progresses. In the interim, subject to Council approval of Recommendation C, any parks lacking clear evidence of permanent or temporary public park status will be officially considered to be under the custody, care and management of the Park Board.

Further Board updates will be provided as this project progresses.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donnie Rosa *(they/she)*
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/ee/clc

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
COV/PB Project Team
PB Communications