



April 29, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **VanPlay – Approach to Recreational Cycling**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide Commissioners with an update on how VanPlay, the upcoming Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, proposes to address the issue of recreational cycling in parks.

VanPlay does not intend to make recommendations for the design of any individual park or park feature. Instead, its focus is on big ideas and tools to enable strategic decision making.

Providing bike paths in parks is determined on a case by case basis, in combination with thorough community consultation, in order to consider best practice, design, and function appropriate to the location. New bike paths **to and through** parks can be, and are, considered during any park renewal project, as are end of trip facilities such as bicycle parking areas and bicycle racks.

New and expanded bike paths within parks are also provided in collaboration with the City's Engineering Department and other organizations. Recent successful examples of collaborative works approved by the Board include the 2016 Stanley Park Causeway safety upgrades for pedestrians and cyclists, and the 2018 expansion of the South False Creek greenway through Sutcliffe and Charleson Parks.

However - in terms of overall policy direction, this important issue is captured within the following VanPlay measures:

Interconnected Network Concept

"Imagine a connected public realm that links places, such as community centres, trail systems and large parks together and an inlet to river public shoreline that expands access regionally and protects ecosystems. A network of, parks, places, paths and green corridors will create places to play, exercise and socialize, and allow for the movement of urban wildlife, rainwater, and Vancouverites of all ages and abilities."

This concept brings to the fore the importance of being able to move through the city and park spaces using your preferred transportation mode. This idea was born from the success of the Stanley Park Seawall, Seaside Greenway, False Creek Seawalls and the Arbutus Greenway.



In order to achieve this vision we will work with First Nations, Community Centre Associations, community organizations, and City of Vancouver departments (primarily Engineering Services and Planning, Urban Design and Development) and the broader community for shared visioning and implementation throughout the city.

For example, to implement this vision during a park renewal, staff consider adjacent connections in streets and with transit, and determine how best to continue the flow of movement to and through the park itself, based on the best outcome for the park as supported by the community. (e.g. the Hastings Park Greenway at Empire Fields and Slidey Slides Parks in East Vancouver.

Asset Target for “trails and paths”

This proposes the following recommendations to support the target of a continuous, accessible path in every destination, neighbourhood and community park;

- *“Create loops within parks and cohesive linkages between community destinations to encourage more walking and cycling for recreation, exercise and transit.*
- *Design and construct park pathways and trails to be accessible and functional for a **wide range of users**. Support amenities such as benches and rest areas, viewpoints, distance markers, and drinking fountains.”*

In addition to these VanPlay directions, staff continue to work with the community and interest groups, through park design processes, to identify and implement appropriate cycle paths and end of trip facilities in parks. Examples include:

- **Stanley Park Cycling Plan - Implementation**

Commissioners received a memo dated March 22, 2019 providing an update on this project. Work is expected to commence in the fall of 2019.

- **Kitsilano Beach Park**

Recently, Park Board and Engineering staff met to discuss their shared process of responding to the Park Board Motion of March 12, 2018 “ *THAT the Committee refers the report back to staff to provide more detailed information on the proposed concept.*” Work will be underway over the coming months and given the need for thoroughness it cannot be rushed. This work will enable Commissioners to make an informed decision on the staff recommendation regarding the proposed concept plan later this year.



Staff are arranging a meeting with representatives of HUB during the week of April 29, 2019 to share and discuss the information above.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcolm Bromley".

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications