



February 25, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

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

SUBJECT : **Vanier Park Pump Track Expansion**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with background information and upcoming plans for the Vanier Park Pump Track Expansion.

The Vanier Park dirt jumps were [approved by the Park Board in 2009](#) and the first phase opened in 2010. In February 2016, Vancouver Dirt Jump Coalition (VDJC), the stakeholder group that stewards the existing amenity, submitted a preliminary proposal to expand the dirt jump bike facility to include an earthen pump track, approximately 20m x 40m (65ft x130ft) in size, within the wooded area to the south of the existing dirt jumps.

The intent of the proposal is to provide a developmental pump track area for young riders as the existing facilities cater to expert riders. The proposal also identifies opportunities for stewardship of the existing woodlot, including the removal of invasive species and planting longer living successional tree species. A conceptual plan of the pump track is attached (see Figure 1).

To support the provision of expanded youth recreation opportunities, Park Board staff began to implement the design and construction with funding that was available for skateboard and bike parks in the 2015-18 Capital Plan. Joyride Bike Parks Inc., known for projects such as Whistler Crankworx, was retained to lead the design-build process and to construct the new pump track. Joyride also retained an arborist to assist in designing a low impact facility and to identify high-risk trees along with any removals and pruning required for safety.

Prior to starting construction in February 2018, a new bald eagle nest was identified within a cottonwood tree above the proposed pump track construction site. The eagles that previously occupied a nest above the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station built this new nest. The locations of the “original” and “new” nests are identified in the attached map (see Figure 2). Consequently, construction was delayed until after the nesting window (Mar 1 – Aug 31).

During this time period, the new nest was damaged by a summer storm. In September 2018, under the guidance of the Park Board staff biologist, provincial permits to repair the damaged new eagle nest were acquired. Staff commissioned the Hancock Wildlife Foundation (HWF) to lead this work. Bike park construction was to commence immediately after the nest was rebuilt, however, community members continued to express concerns about potential eagle habitat impacts. In light of these concerns, staff paused work on the pump track project to allow time for a fulsome technical and engagement process before commencing construction.



In December 2018, staff hired an independent professional biologist, Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI), to assist in determining the best manner to proceed in balancing recreation and wildlife. To better understand concerns, staff met with stakeholders on the following dates:

- November 5, 2018: HWF
- December 10, 2018: VDJC
- January 21, 2019: HWF, VDJC and Kits Point Resident's Association (KPRA)
- February 1, 2019: KPRA and HWF

The primary concerns heard thus far have been related to impacts to wildlife and the incremental loss of natural area green space within Vanier Park.

An alternate location for the facility within the woodlot to the northwest of the existing dirt jumps is currently being explored (as shown in Figure 1), and stakeholders continue to monitor the eagles to see where they will decide to nest this season as this will inform expansion plans.

Staff have committed to further dialogue with the stakeholder groups and a public open house will be held in spring of 2019. Following this engagement, recommendations will be brought forward for the Board's consideration. If the Board approves proceeding with the project, it is anticipated that construction would take approximately two weeks and that this work could take place this fall, outside of eagle nesting and fledging seasons.

Regards,

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

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

jm/tm/dh/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications
Park Development

Figure 1: Pump Track Concept

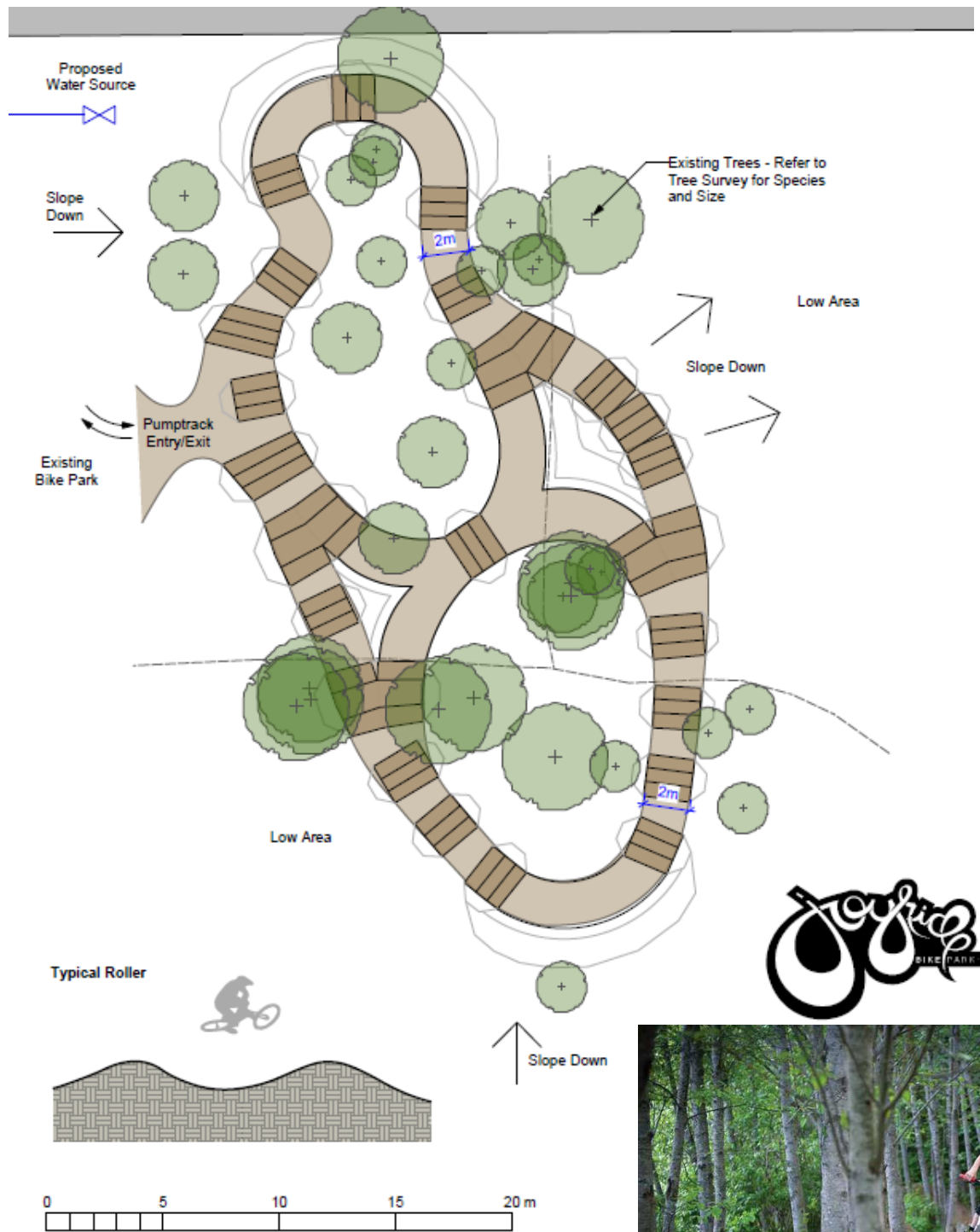


Figure 2: Map of Nests, Pump Track and Proposed Pump Track Locations

