

EAST PARK ADVISORY GROUP (EPAG)

Terms of Reference

Help us design a new park in Olympic Village!



Summary

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is currently recruiting participants for an advisory group to support the community engagement and design process for a new waterfront park, unofficially called **East Park**. See project site, shown in red, on the image above.

The advisory group will help with the process of creating a concept plan that celebrates shared values and can be supported by Indigenous Rights-holders, stakeholders, and residents. The East Park Advisory Group is expected to meet virtually four times in 2021 on Tuesday evenings from 6-8pm.

Together, we have an exciting opportunity to design a new type of park in the Olympic Village and to reimagine how this section of the waterfront can help us all replenish.

1. Introduction

East Park is located on the shared, ancestral and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔt̓ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Naming of the park will be part of a separate public process.

The project area includes new parkland at the east end of the Olympic Village and a portion of the False Creek waterfront between the Creekside Community Centre and Science World.

The public engagement process for this project is an invitation to envision a new kind of park and to reimagine this section of the False Creek shoreline. This is an opportunity to create a place that celebrates Indigenous values, supports a diverse ecosystem resilient to climate change, and reconnects us to the land, to the water, and to each other.

Working together, and through engagement opportunities with Indigenous Rights-holders, stakeholders, and residents - a concept plan for East Park is expected to evolve over the course of a three-phased design process, described below:

- **Phase I: ‘Daylighting’** (to bring to light, to raise awareness) - listening and learning to understand context, and to start to identify constraints and opportunities.
- **Phase II: ‘Weaving’** - bringing various learnings together to start to imagine how the project vision might take physical shape on the site.
- **Phase III: ‘Reflecting’** - learning from all previous phases to generate a refined concept design that reflects an aligned vision for the future of East Park.

2. Background

The value of parks and open space is gaining increasing attention as we look for outdoor places to connect with others and to support our physical and mental well-being. The Park Board is hearing from residents that parks also need to be places that enhance biodiversity, improve the health of ecosystems, and connect us to nature.

East Park is one of three major parks as identified in the [2007 Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan](#). This plan has played a key role in transforming False Creek from an industrial waterway into a walkable community with high-density residential areas and a strong network of pedestrian and bicycle pathways, to help connect open spaces and amenities, while providing access along the waterfront. Situated directly east of Olympic Village, East Park will link existing and emerging neighbourhoods surrounding the project area.

The project site is part of the East False Creek area, and part of the larger False Creek floodplain. The area was once a tidal mud flat supporting a diverse ecosystem, where Indigenous peoples stewarded healthy relationships with the land and water. But since the 1900s, more than a third of the land was filled in for construction and industry, together drastically altering the shoreline, burying thriving ecosystems, and depleting the health of the land and water. Using the [Guiding Principles](#) and [Belonging Statement](#) developed for parks in Northeast False Creek, the design process for the East Park project will explore how we can protect the area from flooding, support a living shoreline, improve biodiversity and replenish and reconnect with this place, ourselves and each other.

There has been extensive public engagement and collaborative learning over the past few years as part of the [Northeast False Creek \(NEFC\) park design process](#), as well as more recent engagement for the [False Creek Coastal Adaptation Plan](#) (both still in progress). The engagement process for East Park will build on this work, while reaching out to the local First Nations, stakeholders, and the public to learn more about overlapping community values related to this site. Through this process a vision for East Park will be generated to guide the concept design phase.

3. Mandate

The East Park Advisory Group (EPAG) will support two-way communication between the project team, key stakeholder communities, and the broader public as part of the community

engagement and design process for East Park. Specific roles and responsibilities are described in Sections 5 and 6 (below). EPAG feedback will help the project team in refining public engagement materials, and in developing the concept plans.

The project timeline includes three public engagement opportunities in 2021, beginning early in the spring. A final concept plan is expected to be presented to the Park Board for approval by early 2022; this timeline may shift in response to what emerges during the process. The mandate of the EPAG will conclude when the three design and engagement phases listed on page 1 are complete, and the Park Board has approved a concept plan for East Park.

Notes:

- The advisory group does not take the place of nor restrict participation of Indigenous Rights-holders¹, stakeholders or the broader public.
- Indigenous Rights-holders engagement is part of an inter-governmental process, respecting and honoring the Nation-level status of local First Nations¹.

	Project management	Outreach	Help uncover opportunities & challenges	Advise on design & process	Draft design & programming options	Plan approvals	Plan implementation
Indigenous Rights-holders, local First Nations		✓	✓	✓			
Committees of Council		✓	✓	✓			
East Park Advisory Group		✓	✓	✓			
General Public		✓	✓	✓			
Project Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Other Regulatory Agencies (e.g. Ministry of Air, Land and Water, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada)			✓			✓	
Park Board						✓	

¹ The lands East Park occupies were never ceded, so their development is also an issue of national sovereignty engaged as part of a parallel intergovernmental process.

4. General Roles & Responsibilities

Advisory bodies play an integral role in the City’s design and development efforts by focusing on a particular topic or project that has an impact on the city, its people, and the Indigenous territories it seeks to respectfully co-inhabit.

The East Park Advisory Group (EPAG) will be responsible for supporting the concept design of East Park, respecting the significant contributions by rightsholder² and stakeholder communities through recent and ongoing engagement processes. The EPAG will play an important role in encouraging collaboration; growing shared understanding; and identifying and aligning the diversity of perspectives and opportunities involved, in ways that promote equitable and meaningful inclusion, so that we can, together, care for the health of this place for future generations.

The EPAG will support the project team in expanding, deepening, translating and bringing insights and perspectives from across communities/organizations/groups/ and networks into harmony. This input will be considered together with input from other public engagement efforts (e.g. public events, online surveys); as well as other criteria and considerations, including: cultural values, practices and wisdom of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations; Park Board and City of Vancouver strategic goals and objectives; applicable Provincial and Federal guidelines and regulations; and technical and financial feasibility.

5. Specific Roles

- **share insights from** your communities/organizations/groups/networks to help deepen the understanding of this place;
- **provide feedback** during the park planning and concept design development process, responding to ideas presented and identifying opportunities, constraints and other considerations;
- **share learnings** back to your communities/organizations/groups/networks to help:
 - raise awareness;
 - gather additional feedback and input;
 - stay informed of progress and updates;
 - support equitable, transparent and meaningful inclusion of your communities/organizations/groups/networks and the broader public.

² ‘Rights-holder’ refers to the local First Nations who have rights and title as recognized by the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#) and legislated in BC through [Bill 41](#). The xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations have shared and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their rights to continue to do so exist at a level distinct from stakeholder interests.

6. Specific Responsibilities

1. **Attend** all* regular meetings (as identified in Section 7 below) and maintain active correspondence. (*If you need to miss a meeting, arrange for another member of your organization / community to attend and inform the Chair. Share your learnings with them before the meeting to help them prepare, and ask them for their learnings afterwards so you can stay caught up.)
2. **Share** your ideas and learnings with your communities/organizations/groups/ networks, and help promote public engagement opportunities.
3. **Support** the project team in developing project-specific goals and strategies for the design and process, building on the work established by the NEFC Guiding Principles.
4. **Stay up-to-date** and knowledgeable on related planning and design processes. (Refer to East Park on [Shape Your City](#)).

7. Meetings

EPAG members will be required to attend at least four (4) meetings during this design process:

1. Introductions to the advisory group members, project team, project and process. Help to identify preliminary considerations and ideas for the project site, prior to Phase I Public engagement.
2. Prior to Phase II Public engagement, review Phase I public feedback summary to help guide preliminary concept designs.
3. Prior to Phase III Public engagement, review Phase II public feedback summary to help guide the final concept design.
4. Prior to the final presentation of the concept design to the Park Board, review Phase III public feedback summary to help gauge level of support for the recommended concept plan.

Meeting details:

- Meetings will run for 2 hours (maximum) and will likely take place weekday evenings.
- Based on current Provincial Health Officer (PHO) COVID-19 Orders and Guidance, we anticipate all meetings will be held virtually. If you are interested in participating but are not able to participate virtually, we will work to provide alternative access. When PHO Orders are lifted and we are able to safely host in-person meetings, the meeting venue will be near the project site and food will be provided (details to be confirmed).

- Meeting agendas and minutes will be prepared by the project team and distributed to the EPAG. There will be an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for EPAG members to request revisions.
- Meetings will be chaired by the project team.

8. Membership Composition

The EPAG will be comprised of local stakeholders, including members who represent larger communities, multiple perspectives, and members-at-large. Group size is anticipated to be 10-12 members. Additional members may be added if the project team identifies that additional participants are needed.

Members are to have direct experience, or expertise within their respective communities/organizations/groups/networks. The EPAG may include representatives from a broad range of key stakeholder groups, such as:

- Urban Indigenous Peoples
- Youth
- Children and Families, Early Childhood Educators / Care Providers
- Seniors / Elders
- Local residents (False Creek / Flats / Olympic Village / Mount Pleasant)
- Hogan's Alley Community, Black Community
- Chinatown Community
- Accessibility
- Downtown Eastside Outreach
- Planetary Health, Environmental Stewardship, Climate Justice
- Place-Based Education
- Science World
- Public Space
- Urban Agriculture
- Festival / Events
- Arts / Culture
- Active Transportation, Cycling, Water-based Recreation, Sports
- Local Businesses, Business Improvement Associations, Tourism Vancouver

9. Term

The mandate of the advisory group shall be complete when the design process for the conceptual design phase is complete (anticipated for the end of 2021). The Park Board reserves the right to extend the term of the East Park Advisory Group if / as required to respond to changing circumstances.

10. Application and Selection Process

EPAG applications will be evaluated based on the following considerations, which are informed by the City of Vancouver's [Diversity on Advisory Bodies Policy](#):

1. EPAG to include at least 50% of people of equity-seeking groups³;
2. EPAG to include at least 50% of people who self-identify as women;
3. Relevance of the communities/organizations/groups/networks represented in relation to the East Park project; and
4. The applicant's role within their respective communities/organizations/groups/networks (e.g. how long you have been involved; how you help engage, support and communicate with others; how you demonstrate collaborative leadership, etc.)

11. Supporting Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Park Board is committed to justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and as such, is committed to decolonization and anti-racism as part of supporting a healthy city for all. A diversity of media will be used to support different learning and communication styles. Additionally, we are working to support advisory group members by way of the following:

- living wage honorariums;
- childcare stipend to support virtual attendance;
- access to quiet space with computer and internet;
- site tours organized in consideration of barrier-free site circulation;
- translation services.

To apply to be a member of the East Park Advisory Group, please complete the online Application Questionnaire at [Shape Your City](#) by **January 25, 2021**. Successful applicants will be notified approximately 2 weeks in advance of the first virtual meeting to be held February 23, 2021 from 6-8pm.

For more information, reach out to the East Park team at east-park@vancouver.ca. Thank you for your interest in joining the East Park Advisory Group!

³ **Equity-seeking groups** are communities that face significant barriers to equal access, opportunities and resources due to disadvantage, discrimination and marginalization; created by attitudinal, historic, social or environmental barriers based on ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, etc. These barriers may be further compounded by the intersection of more than one of these factors (i.e. 'intersectionality').

APPENDIX A - Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Parks GUIDING PRINCIPLES

(the full report on the 2019 adoption of the **NEFC Guiding Principles** is available [here](#))

IDENTITY



ROOTED IN LOCAL FIRST NATIONS' CULTURES

- Make apparent in the park the long and continued presence of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples in their own lands
- Reflect Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh values and principles
- Create a place inspired by and supporting Indigenous cultural practices



BELONGING

- Reconnect people to land and water
- Create a place to connect with each other
- Design a space that supports diverse cultural expressions
- Nourish a sense of belonging by connecting people to place

COMMUNITY



OPEN, SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

- Develop welcoming park edges, and entrances from land and water
- Balance active sport and recreation, leisure and cultural activities
- Design for all ages and abilities, especially with seniors in mind
- Welcome and support people with less social or economic privilege
- Ensure safe use of the park and respectful interaction between park users



ACKNOWLEDGING RACIAL AND CULTURAL INEQUITIES

- Redress exclusion by designing for racialized communities
- Design park spaces to accommodate a variety of cultural programming
- Mark entryways to Chinatown at Carrall Promenade, at Pacific Blvd & Quebec St.
- Create lively pathways between adjacent communities and the waterfront



FLEXIBLE

- Design multi-purpose spaces that serve daily functions and special events
- Allow program to easily change throughout the day and night, over the seasons and throughout the years
- Layer uses and activities so that they can happen concurrently
- Explore use of modular design features



CARED FOR

- Learn from indigenous models of stewardship
- Cultivate a feeling of ownership and stewardship from park users
- Provide robust and durable park elements
- Ensure support for a high level of on-going care, maintenance and operation of the park

NATURE



LIVING SHORELINE

- Nurture conditions that would allow for future water access to the park
- Create a green and lush habitat at the shoreline
- Enhance the ecological quality of the water's edge
- Create a resilient landscape that is adaptable to sea level rise and climate change



ECOLOGICALLY RICH

- Explore an Indigenous approach to planting
- Represent a coastal ecology that reflects the False Creek basin
- Enhance the variety of species to create ecologically and visually rich environments
- Balance human use and habitat creation

DESTINATION



DISTINCT

- Create a common place to meet, mingle and celebrate
- Create a park that provides local amenity and regional waterfront destination
- Create a vibrant place to host civic celebrations and a variety of gatherings
- Maximize long views of water and the mountains
- Balance destination park uses with community needs



AUTHENTICALLY ROOTED IN PLACE

- Recognize the full history of the site and all its contributors
- Celebrate arts and integrate public art
- Create casual spaces that allow for informality
- Maximize the use of natural materials
- Celebrate the rain

APPENDIX B - Related Park Board / City of Vancouver Policies and Projects

- Advisory Group conduct
 - [Guidelines for Advisory Bodies](#) (Feb 2020)
- False Creek
 - [False Creek Coastal Adaptation Plan](#) (ongoing)
 - [Northeast False Creek Park Design](#) (ongoing)
- Decolonization and Reconciliation Policies and Initiatives:
 - [Park Board Reconciliation Update](#) (May 2020)
 - Park Board adopted [Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values](#) (April 2018)
 - Park Board adopted [Eleven Reconciliation Strategies](#) (January 2016)
 - [City of Vancouver City of Reconciliation](#)

The Vancouver Park Board is committed to the work of reconciliation. We value the opportunity to learn the true history of Vancouver and acknowledge the unjust treatment of the people whose lands we occupy, and we encourage others in their work on the path of decolonization. The following resources are offered to further support this work:

- xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation) [website](#)
 - Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation) [website](#)
 - səlílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) [website](#)
 - Ḫáywá7esks as mapped on [Squamish Atlas](#)
 - [Vancouver Park Board: Why Reconciliation?](#)
 - [City of Vancouver: Why Reconciliation?](#)
 - [BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(Bill 41, November 2019\)](#)
- Van Play
 - [Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#)
 - [Strategic Bold Moves](#) (Fall 2019)
 - [The Playbook: Implementation Plan](#) (Fall 2019)
 - [10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years](#) report (July 2018)
 - Other relevant Park Board / City of Vancouver policies
 - [Climate Emergency Response](#) (April 2019)
 - [Vancouver Plan](#) (ongoing)
 - [Rain City Strategy](#) (November 2019)
 - [Culture|Shift](#) (August 2019)
 - [Resilient Vancouver Strategy](#) (June 2019)
 - [On Water: Vancouver's Non-motorized Watercraft Strategy](#)
 - [One Water](#) (ongoing), [Aquatic Environments Action Plan](#) (February 2020)
 - [Vancouver Urban Forest Strategy](#) (2018 Update)
 - [Healthy City Strategy](#)
 - [Greenest City Action Plan: Access to Nature](#)
 - [Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy](#) (January 2016)
 - [Vancouver Bird Strategy](#) (January 2015)
 - [Rewilding Vancouver Action Plan](#) (July 2104)
 - [Park Board Urban Agriculture Policy](#) (2015)
 - [Park Board Local Food Action Plan, Vancouver Food Strategy](#) (2013)