

GOAL 5:

ADAPT OUR PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITIES to a Changing Climate

Our rapidly changing climate can already be felt in Vancouver, with warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. These changes will have numerous implications for people, parks and infrastructure. So how do we prepare for the difficult road ahead? At the Park Board, we have already begun to protect our population and our green spaces, both for today and the decades ahead.

Scientists predict that sea levels in Vancouver may rise by a meter in the next 80 years⁴. Now consider that those rising waters will threaten some of our most precious shoreline parks and beaches. The Park Board is working to safeguard our waterfront by rebuilding aging seawalls to withstand more powerful storm surges, and helping to restore our coasts' natural resiliency by re-establishing the wetlands and salt marsh that helped protect them.

Robust, drought tolerant vegetation is also key to adapting our green spaces to a changing climate. By changing our palette of plants and trees, our parks and green areas can thrive despite reduced rainfall and increasingly warmer temperatures. These measures are allowing us to significantly decrease

our water use, while continuing to provide beautiful park spaces.

Helping the people in our communities deal with climate change is also integral to the Park Board. Planting additional and more adaptable trees in neighbourhoods that lack green canopy provides shade and reduces temperatures. And by opening up our community centres during periods of extreme heat or cold, we can provide vulnerable residents with a comfortable and secure place.

These measures will not only work to protect and preserve our environment, they will help maintain the safety of our citizens and the health and beauty of our parks.