

BACKGROUND

METHODOLOGY

With significant pressures on the parks and recreation system, the Park Board needs a strategic approach to ensure demand continues to be met in Vancouver. The City has limited resources to fund and maintain infrastructure and needs to set realistic provision goals. In some cases, the same number of amenities may have to 'work harder,' i.e., the same asset serves more people.

HOW ARE THEY USED?

The outlined service and asset needs, and subsequent asset targets support:

- The capital planning process, by identifying new assets required and renewal needs for existing amenities.
- Community and/or area planning processes, by acting as a starting point for a recreational needs assessment.
- Measuring progression and improvement over time by stating current service provision and challenges.
- Clear and consistent decision-making by providing a citywide context for service provision.
- Ongoing strategic planning by identifying need for deeper analysis or investigation of innovative management and operation initiatives.
- Comparison and benchmarking across other municipalities and nationally.

These targets give us a tool to track demand citywide but do not determine projects for specific locations. The targets are to be used in conjunction with public engagement and other planning tools, such as asset management systems, neighbourhood plans, other citywide strategies, as well as with more detailed plans for specific amenities, parks, and community centres.

Community involvement in planning at the local level will further inform the outcome at specific locations and wisdom of those systemically excluded are heard, represented, and valued in dialogue and decision-making around equity.

HOW DID WE CREATE THE ASSET TARGETS?

The asset targets and recommendations were determined through thorough consideration of trends, benchmarking against other cities, population projections, and service needs identified by the community, partners and staff.

As the population is anticipated to grow by nearly 150,000 people over the next 25 years, it is challenging to make assumptions around the needs and demands of that future population. Unpredictable trends, new sports and entirely new ways to use our leisure time may emerge over the next 10 years.

The asset targets—both current and future—use population-based ratios primarily because of the ability to compare service levels across numerous different amenities and facilities. Population-based estimates help highlight where the most significant gaps in amenities will be in the future and are best used in conjunction with other analyses, such as use data, participation rates, and demand indicators from public and stakeholder feedback.

Future planning studies and strategies will include more detailed needs assessments, which may result in additional asset targets being added. The Park Board will engage the public and stakeholders as an integral part of this important work.

VANCOUVER RESIDENT POPULATION

Asset targets track the quantity of a given amenity, usually per 1,000 residents. Different measurements are included here due to unique characteristics of each asset. The population numbers used in this analysis are:

2016 631,487 residents

2041 776,500 residents