

Kitsilano Beach Park Access and Seaside Greenway Improvement Project

Temporary Safety Improvements

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1.0 General Project Questions

1.1 What is the project?

- The Seaside Greenway in and adjacent to Kitsilano Beach Park is one of the most popular sections of the City's walking, rolling, and cycling network. It is also one of the only sections of the 24km-long Seaside Greenway connecting the Vancouver Convention Centre to Spanish Banks that does not provide separate paths for cycling and walking/rolling.
- This project will establish a separated bike path that connects Balsam Street to Ogden Avenue across the park and improve entryways into the park.
- The Project is being led by the Park Board. City Engineering staff will be providing their active transportation design and construction expertise, including looking at possible reallocation of street space.

1.2 What are the project goals?

- Specific goals include:
 - Making walking, rolling, and biking safer, more comfortable, and more convenient
 - Making the paths accessible for users of all ages and abilities, including children, families, the elderly and those who use mobility aids
 - Increasing capacity to accommodate a growing number of users
 - Not compromising the many uses that already occur in the park

1.3 What city policies support this project?

- This project aligns with the Park Board's VanPlay initiative which looks to "Weave the City Together", "Welcome Everyone" and "Deliver Services Equitably".
- By allowing the separated pedestrian and bike paths of the Seaside Greenway to connect across Kitsilano Beach Park, addressing known points of conflict in the park, and involving the public and stakeholders in the design decision-making process, this project delivers improved amenities that provide a safer, more accessible park experience.
- In 2020, Vancouver City Council approved the [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#), which seeks to expand and improve the City's sustainable transportation network so that more people across the city will be connected with major destinations in safe and space-efficient ways. The focus is on making it safer and more convenient for people of all ages and abilities to walk, roll, bike, and take transit. This project improves the City's sustainable, low carbon transportation network.
- The project is broadly supported by **Transportation 2040**, the City's transportation plan approved by Council in October 2012. It includes specific directions to make walking and cycling safe, convenient, and comfortable for all ages and abilities. Improvements to older parts of the seawall are identified as a specific priority.

1.4 What is the Park Board and City Council direction for this project?

- In October 2013, the Park Board approved a preliminary alignment for a separated cycling path and capital funding for Seaside Greenway improvements in Kitsilano Beach Park.

However, implementation of the path was put on hold due to concerns raised by the public about impacts on Kitsilano Beach Park.

- Staff presented a few alignment options for a separated cycling path to the Board in March 2018 (see the [2018 Report](#)).
- The Board expressed concerns over the apparent lack of detail and directed staff to undertake further analysis and design work, and conduct more public engagement, and then report back with more detailed information (a summary of the feedback can be found in the [October 2019 Board Briefing Memo](#)).
- Staff worked to develop more detailed design information and provided an update to the Board in March 2020 (see the [March 2020 Board Briefing Memo](#)), but with staff turnover and the onset of the pandemic, Park Board priorities changed.
- A [February 2021 Board Briefing Memo](#) provided an update on the project, including temporary safety improvements and upcoming public engagement.

2.0 Temporary Safety Improvements Questions

2.1 What are the temporary safety improvements?

- There are two parts to the improvements:
 - A temporary separated cycling path will be installed through the Kitsilano Beach Park south parking lot near Cornwall Avenue in spring 2021,
 - A temporary crushed aggregate path will be installed along the existing diagonal dirt pathway at the southwest corner of the park near Balsam Street.
- These temporary modifications are expected to be in place until 2023 and are intended to improve safety for all park users until a fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue is identified through public engagement.

2.2 Why are you constructing a temporary bike path?

- To address short term safety concerns while planning for a longer term solution.
- Because of the high numbers of people biking through the park and the growing numbers of people cycling due to the pandemic, keeping people who are walking/rolling and people who are cycling separated will improve the experience of all park users.
- The changes in the parking lot will reduce conflicts between people on bicycles and people driving.
- The changes to the dirt path near Balsam Street will:
 - Prevent it from becoming muddy and slippery in wet conditions and further damaging the ground surface
 - Create better transitions between the pathways at this corner of the park, reducing the tripping hazards,
 - Divert people riding bicycles away from the busy Balsam/Cornwall intersection,
 - Make bike movement and crossing points clearer and more predictable in this part of the park.

2.3 Why haven't you consulted the public about the temporary bike path / safety improvements?

- The current Seaside Greenway cycle path goes through the south parking lot of Kitsilano Beach Park. Because of the known conflicts between people riding bicycles and people

driving in the parking lot, our priority is to make safety improvements as quickly as possible.

- Staff consulted with the City's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and Transportation Advisory Committees on the safety improvements to the parking lot.
- Many people walking, rolling, and on bicycles are using the diagonal dirt path near Balsam Street already; making temporary improvements to this path will make it safer to use and prevent further degradation of the ground.
- Parks will be conducting public engagement on several alignment options for a fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue in summer 2021.

2.4 Will there be any impact to motor vehicle travel?

- There will be no changes to the roads adjacent to Kitsilano Beach Park. There will be changes to the south parking lot that will prohibit people driving to the park from turning off Arbutus Street into the north bay of the south parking lot. The south parking lot's remaining two access points are not impacted and remain as they currently are.

2.5 Will there be any impact to car parking?

- To accommodate the short term pathway improvements, parking will be removed from the north side of the south parking lot, adjacent to the tennis courts. Furthermore the north bay of the south parking lot will be turned into an exit only. Access into the parking lot will continue to occur in the middle and south bays of the south parking lot. No changes are anticipated for the park's north parking lot.

2.6 Will any trees be cut down? Will any green space be impacted?

- No trees will be cut down for the temporary safety improvements.
- In order to create a temporary separated cycling path, four existing accessible parking stalls have to be relocated and a temporary asphalt path will be constructed that connects these stalls to the park's main pathways. Approximately 100m² of grass will be removed to accommodate this new temporary asphalt path

2.7 Why don't you put a fence up near Balsam Street to protect the grass and prevent people from walking/rolling/cycling on the grass (like there was a few years ago)?

- We are concerned that if we put fencing up, people will find another way around it to create a new dirt path. (See 2.2 for reasoning behind gravel path.)

3.0 Fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue: Engagement, Design, and Construction

3.1 When will the public engagement happen? What will it involve?

- Public engagement on a fully-separated cycling path connecting Balsam Street to Ogden Avenue will begin this summer (2021).
- Engagement Round #1 (summer 2021) will focus on Priorities and Possibilities and will ask people to: Describe what they consider to be priorities, opportunities and challenges with respect to integrating a cycling path into Kitsilano Beach Park; and, provide people with a variety of alignment options to review and assess their opportunities and challenges. Feedback will be used to develop a preferred alignment for the cycling path.

- Engagement Round #2 (winter 2021) will focus on the Preferred Alignment determined by the first round of engagement. We will ask people to assess the opportunities and challenges of the preferred alignment for the cycling path. Feedback will be used to finalize alignment that will be presented to Board for decision
(See Feb 2021 Board Briefing Memo:
<https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/files/MEMO-SeasideGreenwayImprovementsKitsBeachPark-20210208.pdf>)

3.2 Who will you be talking to?

- We hope to talk to anyone and everyone who uses the seaside greenway, including residents, commuters, and visitors.

3.3 How much will this project cost?

- Once we receive public input on the different alignment options and determine the preferred alignment, we can begin doing the detailed design work required to develop an accurate cost estimate.

3.4 Will this go back to the Board for a decision?

- Results of the first round of public engagement will be presented to the Board of Parks and Recreation in fall 2021. The results of the second round of public engagement regarding a preferred alignment for a fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue are expected to be presented to the Board in early spring 2022 .

3.5 When do you expect to complete construction?

- Temporary safety improvements are expected to be in place until 2023, when construction is expected to begin on the fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue.

3.6 Will there be any impacts to motor vehicle travel / parking / green space / will trees be cut down?

- The temporary safety improvements will:
 - remove 50 parking stalls in the north bay of the south parking lot
 - prohibit vehicle access from Arbutus Street into the north bay of the south parking lot
 - require existing accessible parking stalls to be relocated into another part of the south parking lot
 - require a new paved pathway that will safely connect the relocated accessible stalls with the park's main pathways. This new path will require the removal of approximately 100m² of grass. No trees will be removed
- Any impacts associated with a fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue have yet to be determined and will depend on the preferred path alignment, which will be determined through public engagement in summer and winter 2021.

3.7 What about parking and loading zones? What about access to my home or business?

- The impact of a fully separated cycling path between Balsam Street and Ogden Avenue on parking and loading zones has not yet been determined and will depend on

the preferred alignment. We do not expect this project to impact access to neighbouring homes or businesses.

3.8 What about past consultation on this project?

- This work is building on engagement activities that took place in 2013 and 2016, and in 2018 with key stakeholders, including HUB Cycling, Kitsilano Point Residents Association, and The Boathouse Restaurant.

3.9 What about the future of Kitsilano Beach Park?

- Kitsilano Beach Park is much loved and is a regional destination park and beach. The park has not been the focus of any comprehensive master planning or significant renewal for decades. The most recent improvements were localized around and included The Boathouse (then Watermark) Restaurant (2005) and the accessible playground (2010). Much has changed since these last improvements; beach areas and other park facilities and amenities are in need of renewal, and the significant amount of park use warrants a fulsome review and plan.
- [VanSplash Aquatic Strategy](#) provides direction on the renewal of the significant number of aquatic elements in the park (pool, spray-park and beach).
- It is anticipated that a new Master Plan for Kitsilano Beach Park will be developed during the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, pending the outcomes of Board decisions made through the capital planning process. The Master Plan will include an assessment of the park's current condition as well as provide direction for future park improvements, in association with a comprehensive public engagement process.