



Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Habitat Enhancement Program
and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

Detailed Design Public Consultation
May 2 – 27, 2016

Consultation Summary Report
July 2016



Prepared by
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Proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project

Detailed Design Public Consultation Summary Report

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Appendix 1 – Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

Appendix 2 – Notification Materials

The views represented in this report reflect the priorities and concerns of respondents. They may not be representative of the views of the public and other stakeholders as a whole because respondents self-selected into the public consultation, and therefore do not reflect a random sample. The data used in this report has been provided to Kirk & Co. by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

1. Background

From May 2 – 27, 2016, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (the project team) consulted with communities, stakeholders and the public regarding the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project. The detailed design phase builds on three previous rounds of consultation.

A separate but parallel consultation process with Aboriginal groups is being led by the port authority with assistance from Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff.

2. Engagement to Date

Prior to public engagement, initial meetings were held in May and June 2015 with Aboriginal groups and key stakeholders, including the East Vancouver Port Lands and Liaison Committee. The project team also established and engaged with the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project stakeholder advisory group.

The proposed project is within the East Vancouver Port Lands Area Plan study area. The project team met with the East Vancouver Port Lands and Liaison Committee on May 26, 2015, December 8, 2015, and April 12, 2016. The purpose of these meetings was to inform the group about the proposed project plans and status, as well as provide an opportunity for the group to participate in a question and answer period.

The stakeholder advisory group is made up of members representing Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, BCIT Rivers Institute, Wild Research, Burrardview Community Association, Hastings Community Association, Hastings Park Conservancy, Evergreen BC and park users and the general public. The purpose of the advisory group is to provide a forum for individuals and representatives of organizations with an interest in New Brighton Park's ecology, recreation, and general use to gather input and share information about the development of the proposed project.

Three previous rounds of public engagement regarding the project have been completed. Conceptual Design Public Consultation was conducted from August 26 to September 9, 2015, to provide project information and gather feedback from community members, stakeholders and the public about features of the proposed project and general park usage. Preliminary Design Public Consultation was conducted from November 2 to 18, 2015 to provide project information and gather feedback from communities, stakeholders and the public about preliminary design options for the proposed project. Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas was conducted from February 1 to 15, 2016, to provide information and to gather feedback from the public about two options for dog off-leash areas.

A Consideration Memo, summarizing key input from the first two rounds of engagement (Conceptual Design Public Consultation and Preliminary Design Public Consultation) and demonstrating how that input has been considered, is available at:

portvancouver.com/new-brighton-park-shoreline-habitat-restoration-project/.

To see previous consultation materials and input, please visit vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh.

3. Detailed Design Public Consultation

3.1 PURPOSE

From May 2 – 27, 2016, the project team consulted with communities, stakeholders and the public regarding the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project. The detailed design phase builds on three previous rounds of consultation. The purpose of the consultation was to provide project information and seek input regarding project design, educational features, potential effects and proposed mitigation measures. Input provided will be considered as part of the port authority's Project and Environmental Review Process.

A separate but parallel consultation process with Aboriginal groups is being led by the port authority with assistance from Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff. Local Aboriginal groups were also invited to provide feedback through this public and stakeholder engagement process.

As part of Detailed Design Public Consultation, the project team presented information regarding the following topics:

- Project Overview
- Project Rationale and Benefits
- Project Components
- Selected Design
- Dog Off-Leash Area and Beach Access Improvement
- Educational/Interpretive Signage
- Environmental and Technical Studies
- Construction
- Potential Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures
- Construction Updates

To read about these information items, please see the Discussion Paper and Feedback Form available at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh.

How Input Will Be Used

The input gathered during this consultation, along with technical and economic information and information provided by Aboriginal groups and stakeholders, will be considered to inform further project design and reviewed as part of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Project and Environmental Review of the proposed project.

A Consideration Report will be developed, showing how input from public consultation was considered in refining project designs.

3.2 CONSULTATION TOPICS

During Detailed Design Public Consultation, the project team presented information and sought feedback regarding the following topics:

- **Selected Design:**
 - Feedback was sought regarding the selected design for the project.
- **Educational/Interpretive Signage:**
 - Feedback was sought regarding proposed content for educational/interpretive signage to be included at the project site.
- **Potential Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures:**
 - Feedback was sought regarding potential project and construction effects and the proposed mitigation measures.
- **Construction Updates:**
 - Feedback was sought regarding methods to receive information regarding important construction milestones for the proposed project.

To read about these consultation topics, please see the Discussion Paper and Feedback Form available at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh.

3.3 CONSULTATION PARTICIPATION

There were a total of **191 participant interactions** as part of Detailed Design Public Consultation.

- **31 people** attended a public information session
- **151 feedback forms were received** at the public information session and through the online feedback form:
 - 146 were received online and 5 in hardcopy
- **9 written submissions** were received via email

3.4 CONSULTATION METHODS

The consultation included:

- A Discussion Paper and Feedback Form – (Appendix 1), which were available in hardcopy at the public information session and online at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh
- An online Feedback Form. (vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh)
- A public information session:
 - May 12, 2016, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM, in the Hastings Room at Hastings Park (2901 E. Hastings Street)

Notification of opportunities to participate in consultation included:

- An email to approximately 1,850 stakeholders in advance of the consultation period.
- A localized postcard mail drop sent out in advance of the consultation period to 7,874 residences and businesses in the area between Clark Drive and Boundary Road, north of Hastings Street.
- A newspaper ad, which ran in the April 28, 2016 issue of the *Georgia Straight*, inviting members of the public to participate in consultation.
- An email to all members of the East Vancouver Port Lands and Liaison Committee (nine members) and to all members of the stakeholder advisory group (11 members) in advance of the consultation period.
- Three reminder emails to approximately 1,850 stakeholders during the consultation period.
- Two signs with general project information were installed in New Brighton Park near the project site on May 2, 2016, which included information about Detailed Design Public Consultation, and how to participate in consultation.
- Notification posters placed in public spaces/community boards in the following locations:
 - East Village Business Improvement Association Office
 - Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
 - Hastings Community Centre
 - Hastings Racecourse
 - Hastings-Sunrise Community Policing Office
 - Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
 - Laughing Bean Café
 - New Brighton Park (various locations)
 - PNE Administration building
 - Roundel Café
 - Vancouver Public Library – Hastings Branch
- Social Media:
 - A series of tweets from @portvancouver to approximately 9,500 followers and from @ParkBoard to approximately 17,800 followers. 10 tweets were sent during the consultation period.
 - Two Facebook posts from Port of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation during the consultation period

Notification samples can be found in Appendix 2.

4. Key Results

4.1 PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

31 people attended the public information session

The Discussion Paper and Feedback Form was provided to all attendees at the information session, and display boards summarizing the consultation materials were set up. Project team members circulated the room and engaged attendees in one-on-one and small group discussions. Attendance included two stakeholder advisory group members and two members of the East Vancouver Port Lands and Liaison Committee.

4.2 FEEDBACK FORMS

151 feedback forms were completed as part of the Detailed Design Public Consultation period, of which **146** were submitted online and **5** were submitted in hardcopy at the public information session.

Please note that the number of comments may exceed the total number of participants commenting, as individuals may have commented on more than one topic.

SELECTED DESIGN

Q1. Design options for the restored habitat area and the dog off-leash area were selected and refined based on feedback from three rounds of public and stakeholder engagement. Is there anything else that the project team should consider as project designs are finalized? Please provide any comments or suggestions you may have regarding the selected design, as shown on page 5 of the discussion paper.

Themes from comments regarding the selected design	
<i>The following is a summary of additional ideas, interests or comments regarding the selected design.</i>	Number of Mentions
1. Concern that one of the only sandy beaches in east Vancouver is being taken away or closed off from park users for the use of dogs, and concern that this will deprive children and families.	35
2. Support for the selected design.	18
3. Comment that the beach that will be left for people to use is not a good replacement for the sandy beach: it is rocky, shadier, less accessible, closer to the terminal, and is fully inundated during high tide.	18
4. Opposition to fencing off-leash areas, particularly the beach off-leash area, and requests to keep fencing low or to a minimum.	9

Themes from comments regarding the selected design (Continued)	
5. Request to keep the west beach as an on-leash area, or to set aside a small portion of the west beach for off-leash activities, leaving the rest of the beach for other park users.	9
6. Request for additional amenities (e.g., more washrooms, bike path/racks, and picnic or BBQ facilities) and/or trees to be planted in the park.	5
7. Request to connect the off-leash areas.	3
8. Support for the proposed design for the restored habitat area.	3
9. Request to incorporate public/community art in the project.	3
10. Support for the dog off-leash area design.	3
11. Concern that the off-leash area is too small/request to have a larger off-leash area.	2
12. Request to remove restrictions for the dog off-leash area.	2
13. Request to keep dogs away from the restored habitat area or to fence the restored habitat area.	2
14. Concern regarding a lack of compliance with/enforcement of on-leash areas and cleaning up after pets.	2
15. Request for additional educational opportunities including community installations, or history/science educational opportunities.	2
16. General support for the project.	2
17. Questions regarding the function and accessibility of the tidal island.	2
18. Support for the separation of the off-leash area from other parts of the park.	2
19. Request to include community gardens or food producing plants in the project.	2
20. Request for improved parking at New Brighton Park.	2
21. Request for improved viewing areas or a more immersive/interactive experience for park users.	2

n=106

EDUCATIONAL/INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Q2. The project team is considering the installation of educational/interpretive signage at the proposed project site following construction. Is there anything else that the project team should consider as plans for educational/interpretive signage are finalized? Please provide any comments you may have regarding proposed content for educational/interpretive signage to be include at the project site, as described on page 7 of the discussion paper.

Themes from comments regarding proposed content for educational/interpretive signage	
<i>The following is a summary of additional ideas, interests or comments regarding content for educational/interpretive signage.</i>	Number of Mentions
1. General support for the proposed content.	12
2. Support for the inclusion of ecological information on educational/interpretive signage, including information and images regarding fish, flora, fauna and birds.	10
3. Support for the inclusion of cultural information on educational/interpretive signage.	7
4. Support for the inclusion of historical information on educational/interpretive signage.	4
5. Request for ecological information to include the benefits and importance of rewilding, biodiversity and wetlands, such as the proposed salt marsh.	3
6. Suggestion to include information about the project, including its partners, purpose and benefits.	2
7. Request for additional educational opportunities (e.g., educational programs/tours).	2
8. Request to keep the area child-friendly with no off-leash dogs.	2
9. Request to keep signage visible but unobtrusive so park users can enjoy the salt marsh.	2
10. General support for the inclusion of educational/interpretive signage.	2
11. Request for signage to be durable and vandalism-proof.	2
12. Support for collaboration with First Nations regarding educational/interpretive signage content.	2
13. Suggestion to include signage reminding dog-owners to leash dogs.	2
14. Suggestion to include plant/animal species' names and names for the area in First Nations languages.	2
15. Request for historical information to include historical photographs of/from the site.	2
16. Request for educational signage to be more interactive (e.g., by using plastinated samples of plants, QR codes or links to videos or additional information, or riddles/treasure hunts to engage people).	2

n=57

POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

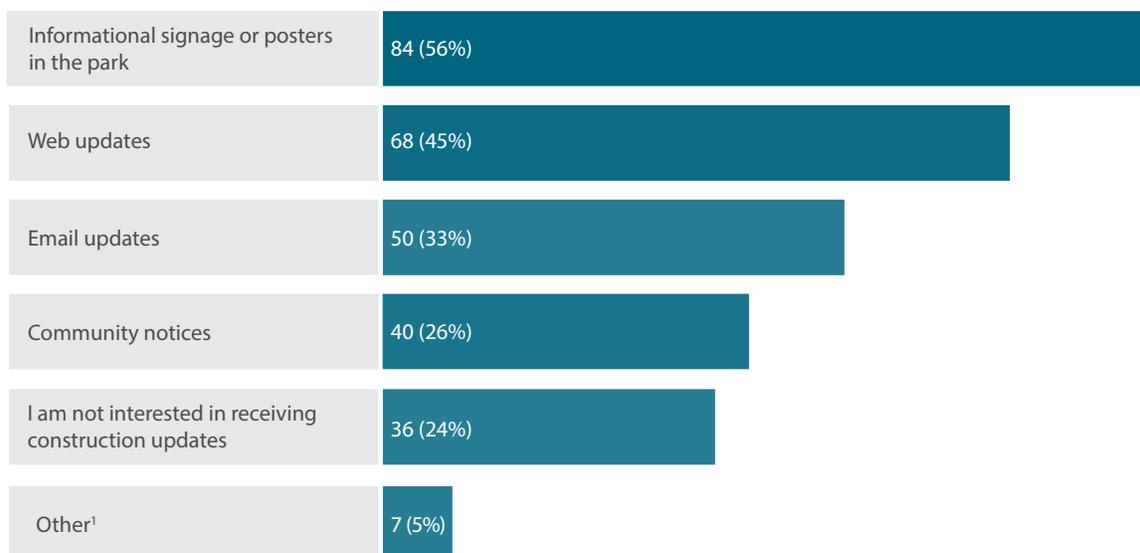
Q3. Please provide any comments you may have regarding potential project and construction effects and proposed mitigation measures described in the table on page 10 of the discussion paper. Is there anything else that the project team should consider in planning for project construction?

Themes from comments regarding potential effects and proposed mitigation measures	
<i>The following is a summary of additional ideas, interests or comments regarding potential effects and proposed mitigation measures.</i>	Number of Mentions
1. General support for proposed mitigation measures.	20
2. Request to ensure that access to the park will be maintained and disruption minimized, particularly during the summer.	3
3. Request to ensure good communication with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and that fish work windows are observed; concern regarding construction effects on the tidal zone.	3
4. Request to ensure open and engaging communications, including telling the 'big picture' about the project and fostering excitement and involvement.	2
5. Request to keep work between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday, and concern regarding noise and traffic on weekends.	2
6. Request for the inclusion of additional trees and additional amenities in the rest of the park, including picnic shelters.	2

n=52

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Q4. How would you like to receive information regarding important construction milestones for the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project? **Please select all that apply.**



¹ Suggestions included: TalkVancouver, notices posted at McGill Street Market, Twitter updates, local mailing, citizen champion, fair at the PNE, and drugstores.

n=151

Please provide any ideas you have for locations to post community notices:

Ideas for locations to post community notices	
<i>The following is a summary of ideas for locations to post community notices.</i>	Number of Mentions
1. Community Centres, particularly Hastings Community Centre, or neighbourhood houses in the area.	8
2. Libraries, particularly the Hastings Branch, as well as book exchanges.	6
3. Local businesses, including cafes.	4
4. Public spaces near the Nanaimo-Hastings intersection.	2
5. New Brighton Park entrance(s).	2
6. Local schools or post-secondary campuses.	2

n=19

Q5. Please provide any additional comments you may have regarding any aspect of the proposed project.

Themes from comments regarding any aspect of the proposed project	
<i>The following is a summary of additional ideas, interests or comments regarding any aspect of the proposed project.</i>	Number of Mentions
1. General support for the project.	19
2. Concern that one of the only sandy beaches in east Vancouver is being taken away or closed off from park users for the use of dogs, and concern that this will deprive children and families.	16
3. Suggestion that this project should be a pilot for similar shoreline/rewilding/green infrastructure projects that create more contiguous habitat and resilient ecosystems, and take advantage of synergies with food security, art and community.	4
4. Questions and comments regarding the status of daylighting the stream through Hastings Park, and the opportunity of joining the Sanctuary and New Brighton Park by pathway.	4
5. Request to avoid fencing the off-leash areas.	4
6. Appreciation for the opportunity to provide feedback.	4
7. Support for the project's balance of habitat, dog off-leash activities and other park use, and comments that the project will make New Brighton Park a destination for visitors.	3
8. Comment that there is a need for additional parking and amenities in the rest of the park.	3
9. Suggestion that feedback should be solicited from those who live nearby or use the park, not from people who do not use it.	2
10. Concern that dog owners do not pick up after their dogs.	2
11. Concern that the shoreline restoration project is being used to hide the removal of the beach from public use; opposition to the project due to loss of recreational waterfront area.	2

n=71

4.3 OPEN SUBMISSIONS

In addition to feedback forms, **9 submissions** were received during the consultation period via email. Comments from these submissions are summarized below:

Comments regarding the proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project	
<i>The following is a summary of additional ideas, interests or comments regarding the proposed project.</i>	Number of Mentions
1. Concern that one of the only sandy beaches in east Vancouver is being taken away or closed off from park users for the use of dogs and concern that this will deprive children and families; it is unfair to prioritize dogs.	5
2. The beach that will be left is not a suitable replacement for the sandy beach: it is rockier, smaller and unsafe.	2
3. Suggestion for interpretive signage to indicate changes post-contact, to promote heritage of logging mills, the hotel, and prominent persons of the area.	1
4. Request to increase fencing around the construction site and inspect it daily during long weekends, to increase safety for children.	1
5. Request to ensure parking enforcement during the PNE fair.	1
6. Request to receive information regarding important construction milestones by email.	1
7. Request to spend more of the budget on attracting people to the park and its new features.	1
8. Request to use natural materials or topography for additional seating or picnic areas.	1
9. Concern regarding access to the park, including foot access, access for elderly or disabled people, and concern regarding use of the beach during the night.	1
10. Support for the shoreline restoration.	1
11. Suggestion to reduce the fenced dog off-leash area to one large area and move it next to the street, south of the playground, which would leave the west grassy circle and beach open for picnicking.	1
12. Question regarding the inclusion of a kayak launch.	1
13. Concern regarding floating logs/debris, as well as water currents at the west beach.	1

5. Next Steps

Input provided during Detailed Design Public Consultation will be considered as part of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Project and Environmental Review Process. The project team will develop a Consideration Report, summarizing key input received during Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas and Detailed Design Public Consultation, and demonstrating how the input has been considered to inform further project design.

Kirk&Co.

About Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd.

Kirk & Co. is a recognized industry leader in designing and implementing comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation and engagement programs. Utilizing best practices, consultation and engagement programs are designed to maximize opportunities for input. Kirk & Co. independently analyzes and reports on public and stakeholder input.