

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

Discussion Paper and Feedback Form



Beach at New Brighton Park



Detailed Design Public Consultation: May 2 – 27, 2016

From May 2 – 27, 2016, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are consulting 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.

This Consultation Includes:

- Discussion paper and feedback form
- Online feedback form
- A public information session

Discussion Topics:

- Project design
- Environmental studies
- Educational features
- Construction
- Project effects
- Proposed mitigation measures

The purpose of this discussion paper is to provide information regarding the proposed project and to seek your input regarding the discussion topics above. Input provided will be considered as part of the port authority's Project and Environmental Review Process.

How to Participate

Attend the public information session

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016

Time: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Hastings Room, Hastings Park
(2901 E. Hastings Street)

*Enter Gate 2 (Renfrew Street) and walk east past the Forum.
The Hastings Room will be on the right.*

Read the discussion paper and submit your feedback form

Online at vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh

Or in person at the public information session (see above)

Provide a written submission

By email: newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca

By mail: Attn: New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project,
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, 100 The Pointe,
999 Canada Place, Vancouver B.C. Canada V6C 3T4

Call for information

Phone: 604.665.9071

Please email newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca for additional information.

Permitting and Approvals

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

At a board meeting on April 18, 2016, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved the concept plan for the project.

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Project and Environmental Review Process

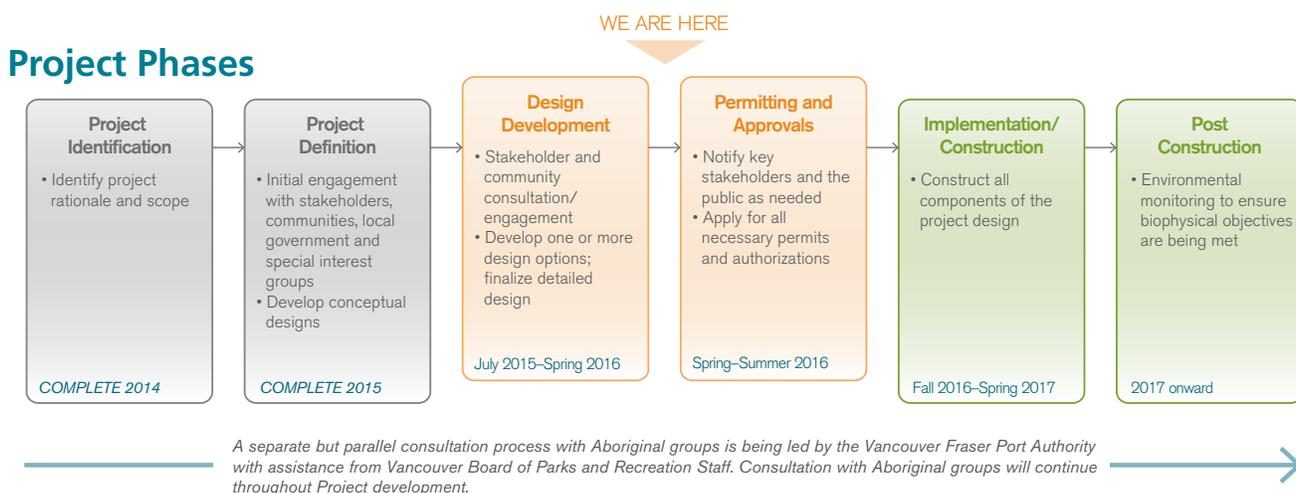
The proposed project is subject to review and approval under the port authority's Project and Environmental Review Process. Input provided will be considered as part of this review process. For more information about the port authority's Project and Environmental Review, please visit: portvancouver.com/development-and-permits/status-of-applications/.

Engagement Process – What We’ve Heard So Far

Three rounds of public engagement regarding the project have been completed to date: Conceptual Design Public Consultation (August 26 – September 9, 2015), Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2 – 18, 2015) and Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas (February 1 – 15, 2016). During Preliminary Design Public Consultation, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the Habitat Enhancement Program team (the project team) asked for input regarding two preliminary habitat restoration design options and two dog off-leash options.

Based on input received during Preliminary Design Public Consultation indicating that participants preferred the *Salt Marsh with Island Concept*, the project team has advanced this design. In consideration of feedback received during Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas, the project team proposes to relocate the dog off-leash areas to the west side of New Brighton Park.

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



Project Overview

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Habitat Enhancement Program and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (the project team) are working together to propose the restoration of habitat in New Brighton Park in Vancouver. If approved, the project will result in the restoration and enhancement of approximately 2 hectares of intertidal, instream and riparian habitat. The proposed project is currently in the detailed design phase.

Consistent with the City of Vancouver’s 2010 Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan and Habitat Enhancement Program objectives, the goal of the proposed project is to restore fish and wildlife habitat in Burrard Inlet, and to increase public access to nature. New Brighton Park was selected for its potential to benefit a broad range of fish, birds and other wildlife species and increase the overall ecological health of the area.

For more information about the proposed project, please visit vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh or portvancouver.com/new-brighton-park-shoreline-habitat-restoration-project/.

Background

About The Hastings Park Master Plan:

A major component of the Hastings Park Master Plan – approved by Vancouver City Council in 2010 – is the daylighting¹ of historic Hastings Creek between the Sanctuary Pond and Burrard Inlet. In 2013, a portion of the stream was daylighted just south of New Brighton Park at Creekway Park. The proposed salt marsh project was included in the Master Plan and is expected to tie into Creekway Park, completing a vital piece in the overall vision for the stream.

For more information about the City of Vancouver's 2010 Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan, please see vancouver.ca/home-property-development/hastings-park-pne-master-plan.aspx.

About The Habitat Enhancement Program:

The Habitat Enhancement Program is a Vancouver Fraser Port Authority initiative focused on creating and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. This program is a proactive measure intended to provide a balance between a healthy environment and future development projects that may be required for port operations.

For more information about the Habitat Enhancement Program, please see portvancouver.com/habitatenhancement.

Project Rationale and Benefits

The site has been selected based on its potential to benefit a broad range of fish and wildlife species and increase the overall ecological function of the area. The proposed project would restore and enhance a historically filled foreshore and upland area to provide high-value habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife, and increase public access to nature. The creation of a tidal wetland feature would also improve habitat in Burrard Inlet for juvenile salmon rearing.



Image of an existing Salt Marsh, Sidney Island B.C.

¹ Daylighting typically involves the redirection of a stream into an above-ground channel, restoring it to a more natural state.

Project Components

The proposed New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project would include:

- The creation of a **tidal wetland area with a salt marsh component**
 - Tidal wetlands provide critical habitat for juvenile salmon that migrate along shorelines as they head out to sea. They are also used by shorebirds as resting and feeding areas. Many tidal wetlands were lost during early development of Burrard Inlet.
 - Tidal wetlands also support the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
 - Two viewing areas would be provided on the west side of the salt marsh.
- The enhancement of **backshore/riparian habitat**
 - Backshore habitat is the upper shore zone, located between marine habitats (i.e., salt marsh) and terrestrial habitats (i.e., upland).
 - Riparian habitat is the interface between other aquatic habitats (e.g., rivers or streams) and terrestrial habitats.
 - Enhancement would involve planting native vegetation in the backshore/riparian zones.
- The creation of **stream habitat** at the southern end of the park, connecting to Creekway Park
- The use of **protective habitat fencing** in backshore planting areas
 - Based on input received during Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2 – 18, 2015), the proposed project would include some fencing to ensure that people and dogs do not disturb sensitive restored habitat.
 - The fencing would be wooden and designed to maintain views into the salt marsh.
- The incorporation of **bat roosting and bird nesting features**
 - Bat roosting and bird nesting features help a diverse range of species by compensating for a shortfall of habitat opportunities in urban areas.
 - Based on feedback received during Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2 – 18, 2015), the project team will work to ensure that there is a balance of hidden and visible bat roosting and bird nesting features.
- The incorporation of a **public access improvement area**
 - Access to the beach located east of the shoreline pier (east beach) will be improved by adding or upgrading stairs and providing benches and picnic tables upslope of the beach.
- The relocation of the **dog off-leash area** to the western portion of New Brighton Park, which would include the park's westernmost beach.

Selected Design – Consultation Topic #1

Based on input received during Preliminary Design Public Consultation indicating that participants preferred the *Salt Marsh with Island Concept*, the project team has advanced this design, shown in the illustrative concept below.

In consideration of feedback received during Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas, the project team is proposing a dog off-leash area located on the west side of New Brighton Park, shown in the illustrative concept below.



New Brighton Park today



Illustrative Concept at low tide

Dog Off-Leash Area and Beach Access Improvement

What has been done so far and what is changing?

The proposed shoreline habitat restoration project will change how the eastern portion of New Brighton Park is used, particularly related to the location of the dog off-leash area. During Preliminary Design Public Consultation (November 2 – 18, 2015) and through discussions with the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project stakeholder advisory group, the project team heard that:

- Some participants wanted an alternative option to what was presented as part of the public consultation, with off-leash use concentrated in the western portion of the park and which recognizes how off-leash activities occur in the park at present.
- The separation of off-leash use from the restored habitat area was important to participants.

Based on this input, the project team refined one option presented in the fall and developed a new option, which were presented in Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas (February 1 – 15, 2016). During this Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas, participants were supportive of the dog off-leash area that concentrates off-leash use in the western portion of New Brighton Park.

Consistent with current Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation policy, the off-leash area would include a barrier to reduce conflicts with other park users. In consideration of feedback requesting that fencing maintain views and be made of natural materials, the project team proposes wooden rail fencing for the dog off-leash area. To see previous consultation materials and input, please visit vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh.

What will happen to the beaches?

During Public Engagement Regarding Dog Off-Leash Areas, some participants expressed that the use of the beach in the western part of New Brighton Park is important for people who like to picnic with their family and/or sunbathe, and that a dog off-leash beach would disrupt these uses.

Based on this feedback, the project team proposes to improve public access to the east beach, so that park users can better access and enjoy this beach. Access to the east beach will be improved by adding or upgrading stairs and providing benches and picnic tables upslope of the beach.



Dogs playing in the water at New Brighton Park

Educational/Interpretive Signage – Consultation Topic #2

During Conceptual Design Public Consultation (August 26 – September 9, 2015), the project team sought feedback regarding the establishment of new educational features, such as interpretive signage on the cultural, historical, and ecological features and benefits of biodiversity and habitat restoration. The project team heard that consultation participants and members of the stakeholder advisory group were supportive of the installation of educational or interpretive signage.

Based on this feedback and on consultation with Aboriginal groups, the project team is working with the Musqueam First Nation, Squamish Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation regarding plans for the educational/interpretive signage. We are also seeking further input from the public and members of the stakeholder advisory group regarding content for educational/interpretive signage. Some of the components being considered by the project team for educational/interpretive signage include cultural and historical components (pre-and post-contact), ethnobotanical aspects, and the contemporary significance of the site to the three Nations. Aboriginal content for the signage will be determined through consultation with the Musqueam First Nation, Squamish Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation.

The project team is also considering the inclusion of ecological or geographical information for educational/interpretive signage. Ecological information could include: descriptions or images of the species of vegetation planted and the species of fish and wildlife expected to use and benefit from the restored habitat area; and overall ecological benefits of tidal marsh habitat. Geographic information could include a map showing New Brighton Park in relation to the surrounding region.



Biologist conducting an environmental study for the Habitat Enhancement Program



Soil sampling at New Brighton Park

Environmental and Technical Studies

The following studies have been undertaken by the project team as part of project development.

Ecological Conditions Report (Spring 2015)

The Ecological Conditions Report included both on-site field assessments and desktop studies in order to characterize the existing biophysical conditions at the proposed project site.

This included:

1. **Site history** (desktop study):
 - This study involved background research, including a review of current and historical aerial photographs.
2. **Study of existing biophysical conditions**, which included a general site description, descriptions of the physical characteristics and an assessment of fish, wildlife and habitat values at the proposed project site in the context of New Brighton Park and Burrard Inlet.

This involved a desktop review of existing information and several different on-site field assessments, including:

- Backshore and Intertidal Survey
 - Type and composition of substrate² was visually observed and described.
 - Type and characteristics of marine vegetation in the intertidal and upland vegetation (e.g., grasses, shrubs and trees) in the backshore were determined.
- Subtidal SCUBA Survey
 - SCUBA survey results described sediment types, vegetation (i.e., seaweed) cover, invertebrates and fish present in the nearshore area.
- Upland Bird Surveys
 - Bird species using the proposed project area and nearshore waters were observed during two one-hour point count surveys.³

²Substrate refers to material that rests at the bottom of a marine habitat, including the intertidal zone, and the backshore.

³In a point count survey, a trained observer records all birds seen or heard from a stationary site, or point count station, during a set period of time.

Limited Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (May 2015)

The Phase 1 study included a desktop review to identify areas of potential environmental concern and contaminants of potential concern associated with present and/or historical activities at the project site.

Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment (May 2015)

The Phase 2 study included physical investigation of the soil and groundwater conditions at the site through drilling and groundwater sampling, to ensure the soil and groundwater quality and conditions are suitable for the proposed project.

Supplemental Site Assessment (September 2015)

This study included additional soil and groundwater investigation (drilling and groundwater sampling) at the project site.

Archaeological Monitoring for the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project (May and September 2015)

Archaeological monitoring was conducted while drilling was undertaken for soil and groundwater investigations.

To read the studies noted above, please visit portvancouver.com/development-and-permits/status-of-applications/new-brighton-park-shoreline-habitat-restoration-project/.

Construction

The key components of project implementation include earthworks, park feature construction and planting. If approved, it is anticipated that most of the earthworks would take place over a two- to three-month period beginning in early fall 2016. Construction is planned following the closure of New Brighton Park pool for the season to minimize disruption to park users. With the exception of clearly marked construction areas, the park will be accessible to the public during construction. It is anticipated that planting activities would take place during spring 2017.

Soil and groundwater tests completed at the proposed project site indicate that the majority of the soil that would be removed to create the salt marsh is of suitable quality to remain on site. Most of this material is planned to be placed in berms surrounding the salt marsh, and some is anticipated to be placed on the far west edge of New Brighton Park.

This placement of fill near the salt marsh would not affect view corridors from the centre of the park, as the height of the berm would remain low (one to two feet). It is anticipated that a small volume of soil would need to be removed from the park site, due to contaminants from historic fill. Final soil management (placement and removal) will be determined at the end of the detailed design phase.

A description of construction activities would be prepared prior to the start of construction, and would include the proposed construction period, hours and method of construction, as well as a description of the staging activities and work areas.



Planting for a Habitat Enhancement Program project in the South Arm of the Fraser River

Potential Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures – Consultation Topic #3

The following table describes potential project and construction effects, and the corresponding proposed mitigation measures.

Topic	Potential Effects	Proposed Mitigation Measures
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction activities could result in some noise effects to park users, surrounding residences and industrial operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction activities will be planned in accordance with applicable municipal noise bylaws. Noise mitigation measures will be developed and the public will be notified.
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During construction, an increase in local traffic may result due to the presence of construction vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Traffic Management Plan will be developed, with an objective of ensuring unimpeded access and exit for public vehicles and tenants (i.e., Viterra grain terminal). The Traffic Management Plan will be subject to review and approval by the port authority's Project and Environmental Review. The proposed project is not anticipated to alter existing access points (e.g., roadways, driveways, or parking) to New Brighton Park.
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction activities will include the use of heavy equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During construction, signage posted on-site will notify the public of the works and clearly mark construction boundaries. Throughout the construction period, all emergency and fire access routes surrounding the proposed project site will be kept open.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The salt marsh feature will convert existing low-value habitats in the park (grass area) to higher-value wetland habitat. Construction activities could cause effects to existing park habitat, vegetation, fish, wildlife, surface water, groundwater, or soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an overall gain in the habitat values and fisheries productivity at the project site by implementing this project. A Construction Environmental Management Plan will ensure that any potential construction-related effects are minimized. Construction will be undertaken with appropriate mitigation measures, such as erosion and sediment control measures, and spill prevention planning. During construction, an environmental monitor will be on-site to ensure the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures. Construction is planned to occur outside of the bird nesting season. Any potential high-risk in-water activities will be undertaken during the applicable least risk work window,⁴ as appropriate. A proposed Soil and Groundwater Management Plan (February 2016) has been developed and will be used to guide the project through construction.

⁴ Least risk work windows are designed to protect fish and wildlife species, and are often based on avoiding periods when fish are spawning or wildlife are breeding and/or raising their young.

Construction Updates – Consultation Topic #4

The project team recognizes that New Brighton Park is a popular park and is considering several options for communicating with park users, stakeholders, local residents and businesses, and the public regarding major construction milestones and access to the park's facilities during construction in order to minimize disruption from construction activities.

The project team would like your feedback on the following methods for providing more information regarding construction and access to New Brighton Park's facilities during the proposed construction period:

- Information signage or posters in the park (e.g., near the concession, at the pier, and/or at the boundary of the construction site)
- Web updates
- Community notices
- Email updates

Potential Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures

3. 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 this discussion paper. Is there anything else that the project team should consider in planning for project construction?

Construction Updates

4. 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.

- Informational signage or posters in the park (e.g., near the concession, at the pier, and/or at the boundary of the construction site)
- Web updates
- Community notices
Please provide any ideas you have for locations to post community notices:

- Email updates (to register now, please fill out information on back page)
- Other, please specify:

- I am not interested in receiving construction updates

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.

Receive Project Updates

To receive email updates about this project and the Habitat Enhancement Program, please provide your contact information (optional):

Name:

Mailing Address:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Email:

- Please check this box if you would like to receive general project updates and Habitat Enhancement Program updates.
- Please check this box if you would like to receive construction updates for the New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project.

Personal information collected relates directly to the engagement process and will not be shared for any other purpose. If you have questions about the engagement process or the information collected, please contact the port authority by telephone at 604.665.9071 or by email to habitat.enhancement@portvancouver.com.

Please return your feedback form by May 27, 2016.

Online: vancouver.ca/newbrightonsaltmarsh

Email: newbrightonsaltmarsh@vancouver.ca

Mail: Attn: New Brighton Park Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project,
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, 100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place,
Vancouver B.C. Canada V6C 3T4