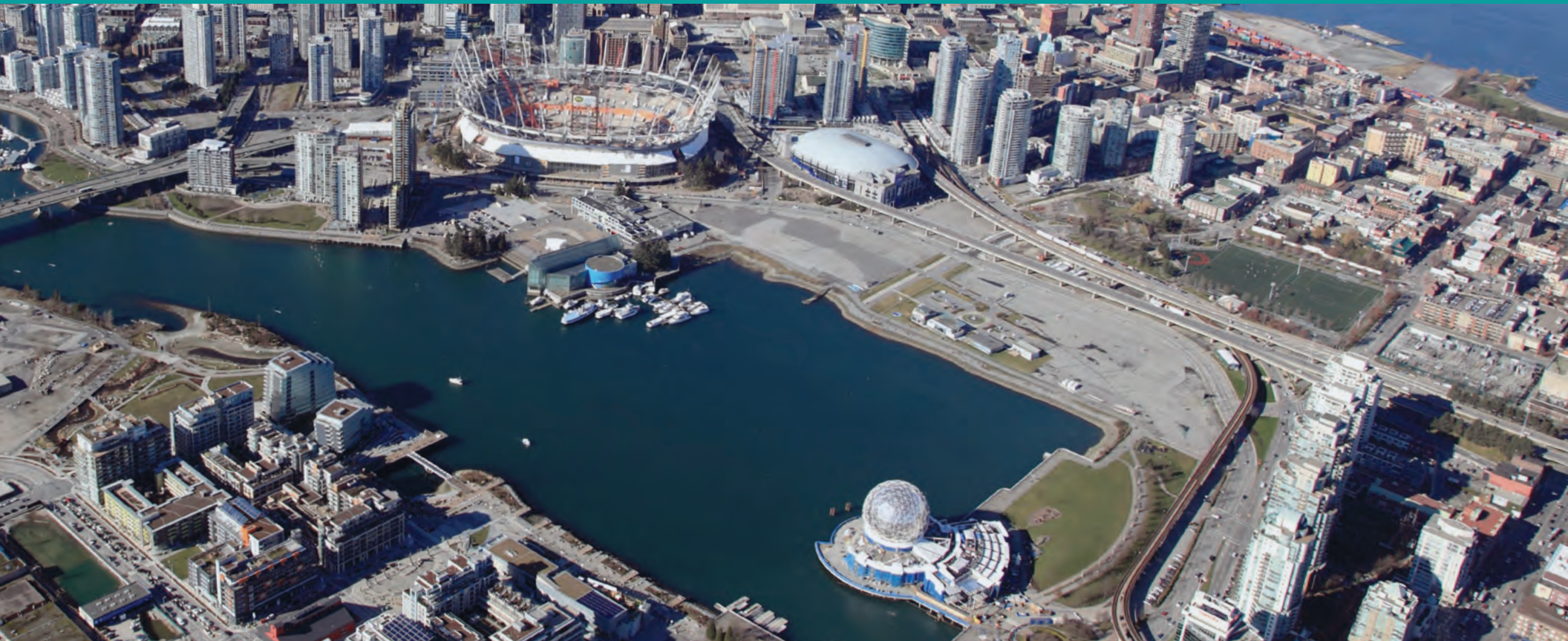


NORTHEAST FALSE CREEK PARK DESIGN

STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT - SUMMARY REPORT

OCTOBER 2017



Prepared for: Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation - City of Vancouver



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INTRODUCTION

The Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Park design process includes an extensive engagement program specific to the park design, set within the larger NEFC Area Planning process. The process to design a new major urban park in the last remaining site in the downtown and around False Creek has generated a very high level of interest from a range of stakeholders, advisory groups and the public. Over 5,000 people have been engaged in the park engagement process to date, generating valuable feedback that is helping shape the design of the park to best fit the needs of our diverse community.

The purpose of this summary is to present the feedback received on the draft concept for the park design in stage 2.

The engagement process involves public and stakeholder input at all stages of the project. The process provides diverse opportunities to fully engage community members. This input will be used to shape the design of the park spaces within this new neighbourhood.

In **Stage 1** of the NEFC Park Design process, we asked stakeholders to identify the issues, opportunities and ideas they had for the park. This feedback

was used to identify priorities and to form guiding directions for the park design. In total, we spoke directly with over 200 people and received over 950 responses to the Parks and Open Space section of the online survey. The Stage 1 Engagement Summary Report is available at www.vancouver.ca/nefc.

In **Stage 2**, a conceptual design for the park was prepared through a process that worked with and reacted to stakeholder input and feedback. The draft conceptual design was presented to the public for input. This report summarizes the Stage 2 engagement activities and feedback received.

We will bring a refined concept for public input in **Stage 3**, incorporating to the extent possible the feedback received to date.



WHAT WE DID: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES





OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

PARK DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP

Over three meetings held March 1, 29 and May 18, 2017, this 12-member advisory group provided input on the emerging design directions as well as the draft concept plan.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

A Design Explorations Workshop on April 19, 2017 included 28 participants representing arts and culture, public space design, event organizers, active transportation and accessibility, food advocacy, active recreation, heritage, community centres, non-profit groups, environmental design and residents. Participants worked through a series of focused discussions on the following topics:

- Continuous Park Experience and Cycling Experience
- Opening the Park and Andy Livingstone Park
- Water + Shoreline and Nature + Stewardship
- Open Table Discussion - for any other ideas people wanted to explore

MEETINGS WITH MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH & TSLEIL-WAUTUTH

As part of quarterly City of Vancouver meetings with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (MST), NEFC staff provided a project update in early May 2017. A more detailed conversation about the draft concept plan occurred in June 2017, with a focus on meaningful recognition of the MST in the park.

MEETINGS WITH URBAN ABORIGINALS

A meeting with the 12-member Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee (UAPAC) was held on May 15, providing an opportunity for input. A separate workshop with the UAPAC was held on June 8 for a more detailed conversation about the draft concept park design with a focus on meaningful recognition of Urban Aboriginal culture and needs that can be met by the park.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A presentation by James Corner on June 7, 2017 showcased the draft concept park design to a broader community of people in Vancouver. The sold-out event was organized in partnership with SFU City Conversations and gave almost 300 people an opportunity to learn about the evolving park design and to ask questions directly to the park design team and Park Board staff.

OPEN HOUSE BLOCK PARTY

The presentation was followed by an open house block party, held in conjunction with the Northeast False Creek Area Plan and the rezoning applications in the area. This event closed a block of Carrall Street at Andy Livingstone Park on June 10, 2017 so the public could learn about and provide feedback on the draft concept design, as well as the draft Area Plan and rezoning applications. Over 3500 people attended the event.





HEALTHY OPEN SPACE WORKSHOP

On June 29, the Park Board hosted the second Healthy Open Space workshop with 23 participants representing a mix of City and Park Board staff and community stakeholders with an interest or expertise in healthy, safe, inclusive open spaces. The discussions focused on three questions:

1. What do you believe are the most important qualities that will make the NEFC Park a healthy open space?
2. What do you believe are the most important elements of a public park that contribute to its health?
3. Do you have any other suggestions that we've missed that will help make the park feel welcoming, safe and inclusive?

PUBLIC ONLINE SURVEY

The public online survey on the draft concept plan for the NEFC Area Plan and Park ran from June 9 to June 30, 2017. A total of six questions focussed on the topic of Parks and Open Spaces. 1,403 people responded to the survey and of those, 923 (66%) shared their thoughts about the park. The detailed survey questions are provided in the next section. A summary of the input received is provided in this document.

KEY THEMES FROM ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:



FEEDBACK SUMMARY

This section summarizes key findings based on the feedback gathered between March and July 2017. Feedback includes comments received through the public online survey as well as stakeholder meetings and workshops.



STAKEHOLDER & ADVISORY GROUP FEEDBACK

Participants at the Design Explorations Workshop [DEW], Park Design Advisory Group [PDAG], and Healthy Open Space workshop [HOS] worked through a series of focused discussions on several key topics. The following provides a summary of ideas raised during those discussions.



PARK FEATURES

NATURAL HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY

The themes of ‘habitat and biodiversity’ and ‘creating pocket habitats and habitat for pollinators’ [PDAG] was heard throughout the process. Creating natural areas and enhancing the natural landscape [DEW] was also raised as an opportunity for the park design.

Design Explorations Workshop participants also wanted to see a balance between the natural environment and the built environment. They want sea level rise addressed, opportunities for stormwater retention, green infrastructure and other sustainability measures included.

SEASIDE GREENWAY: SAFE CYCLING AND WALKING

Stakeholders were concerned about people on bicycles competing with pedestrians and expressed a desire to have cycling routes located further from the water [PDAG]. This was supported by comments at the Design Explorations Workshop where participants wanted to see a hierarchy of cycling pathways to accommodate different traveling speeds of people on bicycles [DEW].

The need to reduce collisions between pedestrians and people on bikes through design was also noted [HOS].

RECOGNIZING HISTORY OF THE AREA

Needing to recognize the history of the area and using public art to address the history and diversity of the surrounding neighbourhoods was suggested [PDAG].

PASSERELLE AND DUNSMUIR CONNECTION

Feedback was split about the Passerelle as a design feature. People enjoy the idea of it, but think it is too steep (at 8% grade) for those with mobility issues [PDAG and HOS]. People were concerned about safety issues with the Passerelle being so close to the SkyTrain guideway [PDAG]. People also want to see a greener Dunsmuir Connection [DEW].

PROGRAMMING FLEXIBILITY

On several different occasions, the Park Design Advisory Group members mentioned the need for a diverse range of both active and passive programming opportunities as well as designing buildings and landscapes that are flexible to serve multiple functions.

PLAYING FIELDS

Stakeholders are interested in seeing two new playing fields replace the current fields [PDAG]. However, the design should ensure the safety of both field and park users [DEW] and reduce the potential incidence of balls flying into adjacent fields, pathways or streets [HOS].

LARGE-SCALE EVENTS

People are concerned that there is not enough space in the park design for the Dragon Boat Festival and other large events [DEW], while others are concerned that an abundance of large-scale events will reduce park usage by community members and may ruin grass surfaces [HOS]. More information about the anticipated scale of proposed events in the park was desired.

SKATE PLAZA

Throughout the engagement process PDAG members were generally supportive of the skate plaza, also suggesting a partial cover so it can be used year-round in Vancouver's wet climate.

ANDY LIVINGSTONE ASSETS

Stakeholders are interested in retaining existing assets in the northwest corner of the park, including the water feature in Andy Livingstone Park, open space, historic alleyways, and corridors nearby [DEW].

WATER FEATURES

Stakeholders would like to see water features and a splash plaza that are suitable for children [HOS].



SAFETY AND STEWARDSHIP

SAFETY IN THE PARK

Stakeholders expressed concern about the need for a safe and inclusive park. Because problem behaviour may be displaced by the new park, the design should foster a welcoming and inclusive park for all users [HOS].

There were suggestions about design features that limit the number of quiet or hiding places [HOS] as well as being aware of opening sightlines and having a full-time park ranger patrolling to prevent illegal behaviour in public places [DEW and HOS].

STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

Stakeholders want to see opportunities for stewardship [DEW and HOS], including an ecology centre to enhance environmental education [DEW], ranger station and other stewardship programs [DEW], and programs that specifically work with groups from surrounding communities [HOS].

Maintenance was identified as a park priority at the Healthy Open Space Workshop. Participants suggested exploring different models to take care of the park such as an endowment from developers or other benefactors, a common model in the United States.

CONNECTIONS

WATER CONNECTION

A water-to-water connection from C.R.A.B. Park to False Creek is largely supported [PDAG].

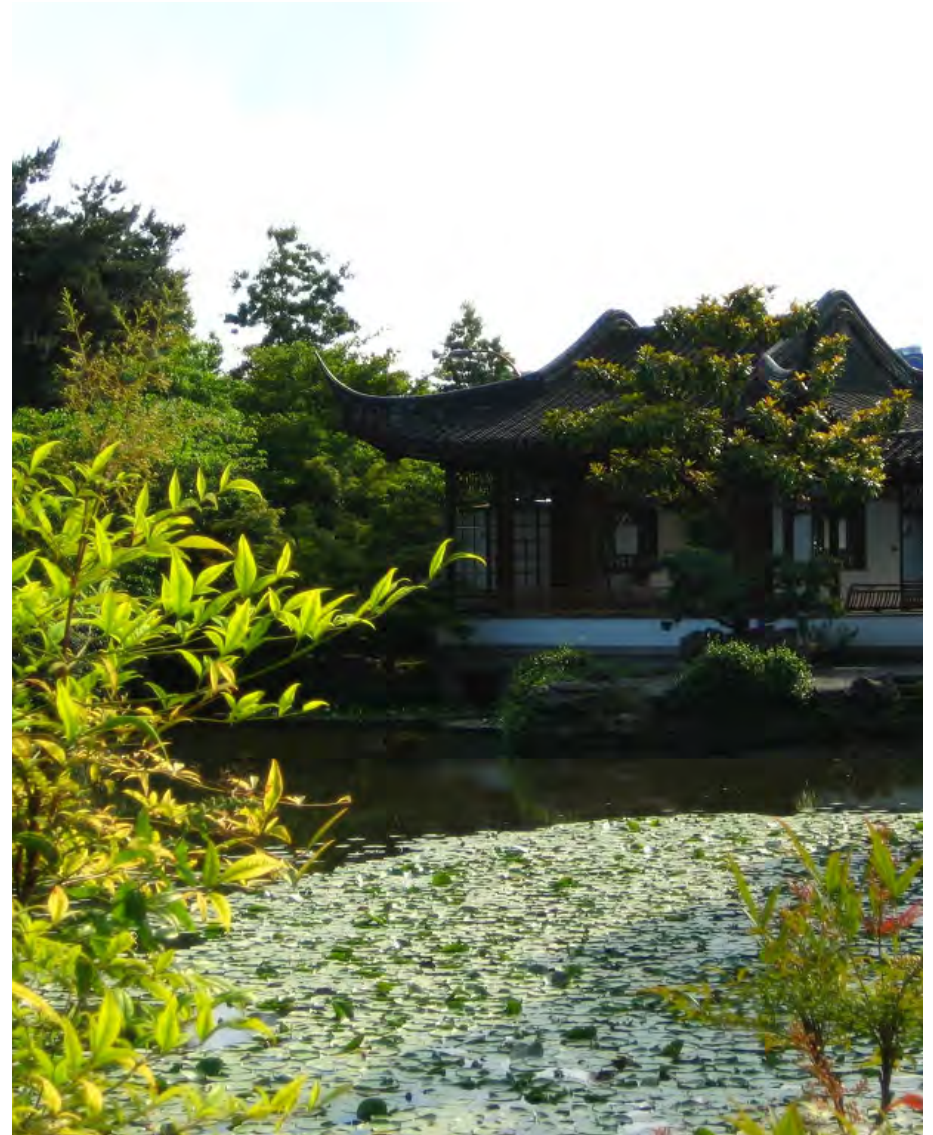
CONNECTING TO SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Strong connections to surrounding neighbourhoods is important [PDAG], as well as integrating surrounding neighbourhoods into the park [DEW] and the idea of 'knitting' neighbourhoods back together [PDAG].

MST AND UAPAC

Key themes that emerged from this preliminary consultation are:

- Access to waterfront
- Indigenous gathering space
- Harvest garden
- MST presence/visibility
- Healing - support cultural practices





PUBLIC PRESENTATION

James Corner of James Corner Field Operations gave a public presentation on the draft concept design on June 7, 2017. Attendees were encouraged to join the conversation and ask questions or provide comments during the discussion period. The top themes from the public presentation were:

FIRST NATIONS CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Attendees were interested in how First Nations culture and heritage was going to be incorporated into the design given we are in a period of reconciliation.

"Beyond acknowledgment of being on unceded First Nations territory where does First Nations culture and heritage find its place in this design?"

CARRALL STREET ALIGNMENT

There were concerns expressed about the realignment of Carrall Street and the resulting loss of parkland on the waterfront.

"Why is Carrall Street being re-aligned and developed instead of park space as promised?"

SAFETY

Personal safety was another theme that emerged in the presentation discussion. People wanted to know how intravenous drug use and resulting waste would be addressed in the park. As well, people were concerned that the Passerelle may create safety concerns.

"Passerelle will diminish "eyes on the street" and create safety concerns."

ADDITIONAL THEMES

Other common themes included: inclusion of Downtown Eastside residents, concerns about how the design responds to sea level rise, creating connections to adjacent neighbourhoods and celebrating local food.

ONLINE SURVEY

There were five questions specific to the park design included in the survey. There was an additional question about the draft park policies. The results of this question can be found in the upcoming Phase 2 and 3 Consultation Report as part of the NEFC Area Plan. The following provides a summary of the results of ranking questions as well as an overview of open-ended comments.

QUESTION 1: ANDY LIVINGSTONE PARK

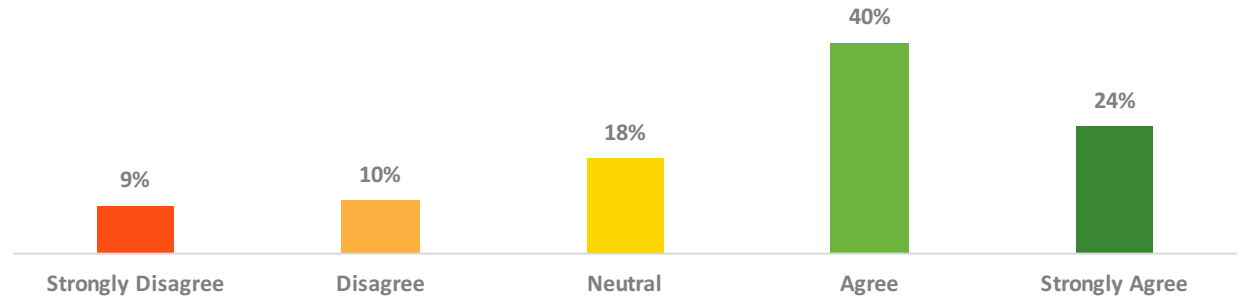
Survey respondents were asked to review the approach for **Andy Livingstone Park**, rank their level of agreement, and tell us why they felt the way they did.

We heard that the playground, mature trees and water feature at the west side of Andy Livingstone Park are important park elements for the local community.

The park will retain these elements as much as possible but will remove the bridge over Carrall Street and change the topography and trees east of Carrall Street.



Do you agree or disagree that this is an appropriate balance between what is being kept and what is being proposed?



The following provides a summary of participants' level of agreement along with key themes and quotes from comments:

- Removing bridge over Carrall Street is a good idea
- Appreciate that unique areas of Andy Livingstone Park will be retained
- Would like to see more ecologically and socially beneficial spaces (food gardens, learning gardens, community amenities)
- Like the considerations for sea level rise
- Practice areas and buffer areas around playing fields are appreciated
- Retain current Carrall Street alignment to have more park space on the waterfront
- Design needs more enticing gateways with historical or cultural artwork
- Design needs better incorporation of arts and culture
- Concern about loss of programmed sports spaces such as tennis courts

“How will needle use and their safe disposal be addressed throughout to protect everyone’s safety?”

“Keeping some open spaces to run, play, or relax is great, along with some dedicated sports fields.”

“Really glad the skate park is being kept (and covered) - it’s a great space for kids to do something collective and not destructive”

“There seems to be a great balance as long as walk ways and elevated parks include being disability friendly.”

“I hope the plantings will be selected to be well-adapted to Vancouver’s climate.”

“The highest lookout point in Andy Livingston park is one of my favourite viewpoints into the city; want specific mention that this height and view will be kept or enhanced.”

QUESTION 2: A CONTINUOUS PARK EXPERIENCE

Survey respondents were asked to review the approach for **a continuous park experience**, rank their level of agreement, and tell us why they felt the way they did.

In Phase 1, we heard that the park should be continuous and feel connected from north to south.

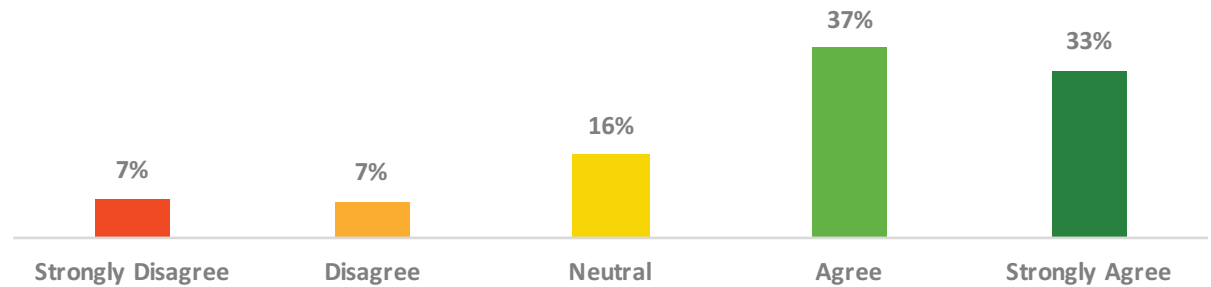
The Passerelle is a light and slim pedestrian bridge that allows people to go up and over Pacific Boulevard and the SkyTrain and connects both sides of the park.



Do you agree or disagree that the Passerelle supports the goal of making the park feel more connected?

The following provides a summary of participants' level of agreement along with key themes and quotes from comments:

- Pedestrian bridge over Pacific Boulevard will improve safety and connections to the parks
- Passerelle will help people avoid traffic on Pacific Boulevard
- Opportunity for the Passerelle connection to become a destination because people love bridges
- Some feel it may be easier to cross the street than use the Passerelle
- Concerns about accessibility and seniors' access
- Concerns about safety at night and feeling trapped on Passerelle
- Design needs to address safety at night with lighting



“Why not make Carrall Street a lovely curved pedestrian way, with green areas on both sides?”

“Make the bridge feel like it is also part of the park. The city has done this well on the Bridge going over 6th Avenue near Laurel Street.”

“Allowing the park to be continuous is a benefit for users of this area and will provide greater access to more recreational space.”

“I think we can make the Pacific Boulevard inviting and people friendly. Controlled crosswalks are much nicer than over passes.”

“I live in Gastown and love the idea of eventually connecting False Creek to Burrard inlet for pedestrians. I hope that the Passerelle is a first step in that direction.”

QUESTION 3: SEASIDE GREENWAY (SEAWALL)

Survey respondents were asked to review the approach for the **Seaside Greenway (Seawall)**, rank their level of agreement, and tell us why they felt the way they did.

The Seaside Greenway (Seawall) is a walking and cycling path that lines Vancouver's waterfront from Stanley Park to Kitsilano Beach.

The Seawall at Northeast False Creek Park will complete the continuous loop around False Creek.

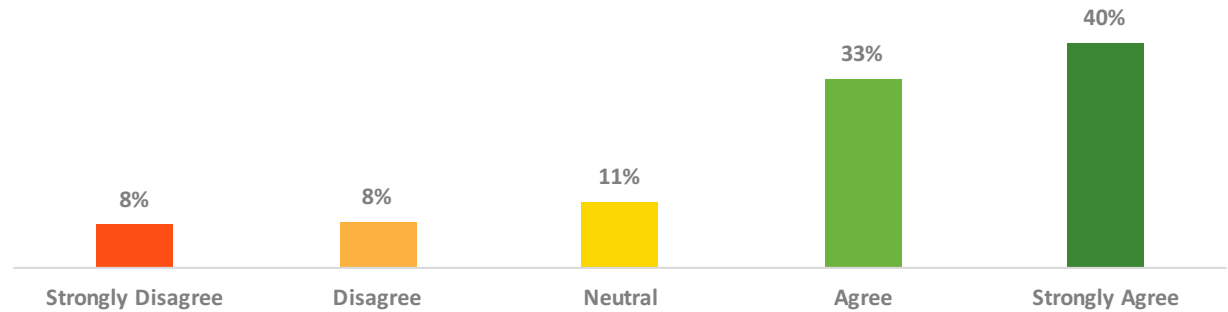
The draft concept plan proposes that the walking path remain along the waterfront while the cycling path go further inland. This allows for a unified and safe park space for pedestrians closer to the water.



Do you agree or disagree with the proposed location of the cycling path of the Seaside Greenway (Seawall)?

The following provides a summary of participants' level of agreement along with key themes and quotes from comments. Even though quantitative data shows strong support for the design, qualitative data demonstrated public concern about the design and expressed different suggestions for their desire for pedestrians and cycling facilities.

- Separating pedestrians and people on bicycles makes sense to reduce conflicts with the increase of cyclists in the city
- Need to integrate the Seaside Greenway with the cycling network connections in the area
- A straighter pedestrian path would support those who walk to work along this route
- The Seaside Greenway could be wider to accommodate both pedestrians and people on bikes - this could address tourist desires to bike near the water too
- Maintaining cycling along the seawall would be great as it completes the city-wide water access route
- Concerns that the cycling route's distance from the water may lead to cyclists using the pedestrian pathway



“As a cyclist, I'd prefer to stay closer to the water but understand that it's safer for pedestrians if the bike path is further away”

“The cycling path needs to be kept away from the pedestrians with rails to protect pedestrians where paths intersect.”

“A continuous park will benefit users of this area and provide greater access to more recreational space.”

“I tend to only cycle in that area and will miss the view of the water.”

“There needs to be some areas where cyclists can lock/store bikes if they want to stop and visit the park.”

“I particularly agree that the walking path should be on the seawall and the cycling path further inland.”

QUESTION 4: WATER ACCESS

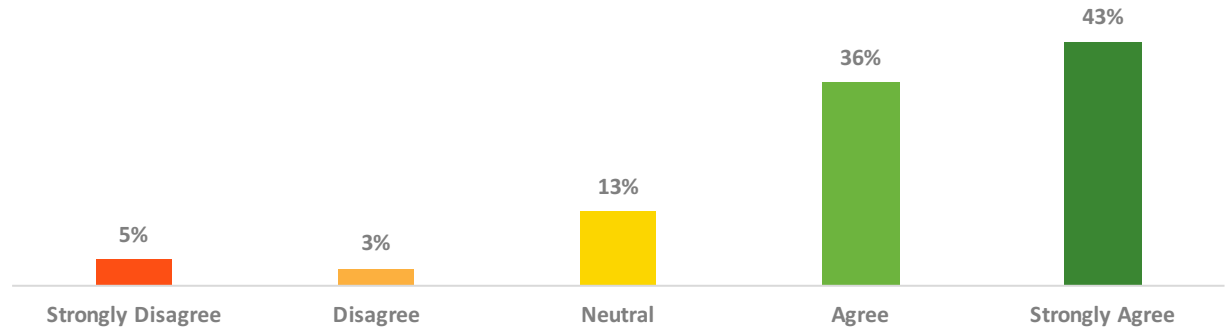
Survey respondents were asked to review the approach for public **water access**, rank their level of agreement, and tell us why they felt the way they did.

We heard that providing public access to the water for non-motorized boating activities (e.g., kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding) is important.

The draft concept plan for Northeast False Creek Park provides access for individuals to bring their canoes, kayaks, etc. down to the water on a gradual slope.



Do you agree or disagree with providing public water access for non-motorized boating activities?



The following provides a summary of participants' level of agreement along with key themes and quotes from comments:

- More non-motorized use of False Creek would be great
- This is an important Indigenous cultural activity to continue. Canoes could be launched here
- Public access to the water encourages nature education, habitat and recreation to happen
- Important to keep motorized and non-motorized boating activities separate
- Motorized boating access should also be considered
- Access for non-motorized boats should be provided on Olympic Village side where facilities already exist
- City is encouraged to work with Federal Government to make east of Cambie Bridge non-motorized
- Concerns about parking access to launch boats into False Creek
- Concern about water quality
- Concern about proximity of supportive facilities for non-motorized boaters, e.g., access to water to hose equipment after use

“Good idea, provided people lugging boats to the water don’t interfere with pedestrian and cycle paths”

“Please keep space for Dragon Boat events.”

“A nice, calm, central spot to launch non-motorized boats. Let’s encourage fitness, and use this great natural resource sustainably!”

“Should provide access for potential future swim areas once False Creek is clean enough.”

“This is all lovely in the summer but in the winter, these areas tend to be icy, slippery, and somewhat treacherous.”

“I love the water access. Let’s expand it to include a sloping intertidal area at the end of Georgia street for wildlife to access the water.”

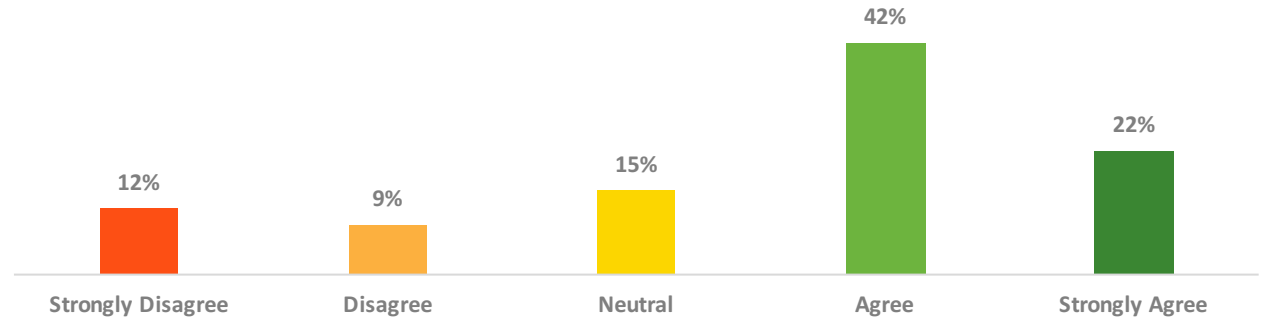
“Not through the intertidal marsh; that area should prioritize wildlife use.”

QUESTION 5: OVERALL PARK DESIGN CONCEPT

Survey respondents were asked to review the approach for the **draft park design concept**, rank their level of agreement, and tell us why they felt the way they did.



Do you agree or disagree with the draft park concept plan as shown?



The following provides a summary of participants' level of agreement along with key themes and quotes from comments:

- Wetlands are an exciting addition to the area
- Happy to see skate park remain
- Connections and rehabilitation is great
- All-weather space is a great feature
- Desire for a sandy beach and swim area
- Expand natural areas for wildlife
- Need for better connections to neighbourhoods
- Incorporate more local arts and culture
- Incorporate more covered areas to promote different programming
- Concerns about where traffic will go
- Concerns about the road being a barrier
- Concerns about accommodating larger events and demonstrations
- Concerns that original east-west configuration is fragmented in the north-south design

“Like the varied height of the sea wall that offers views but also connections to the water. The water fountain park is a great feature for play and the steps are nice for seating.”

“I am really excited for this redesign! I will be living in Mount Pleasant and can't wait to get full use of the area with my husband and child.”

“Nice concept, I like it very much but worry about not enough un-programmed spaces room for spontaneous use and flexibility to change over time.”

“Wonderful opportunity to make a Vancouver-specific, amazing park.”

“Connecting the seawall with the greenery and beach space is a great way to enhance pedestrian experience.”

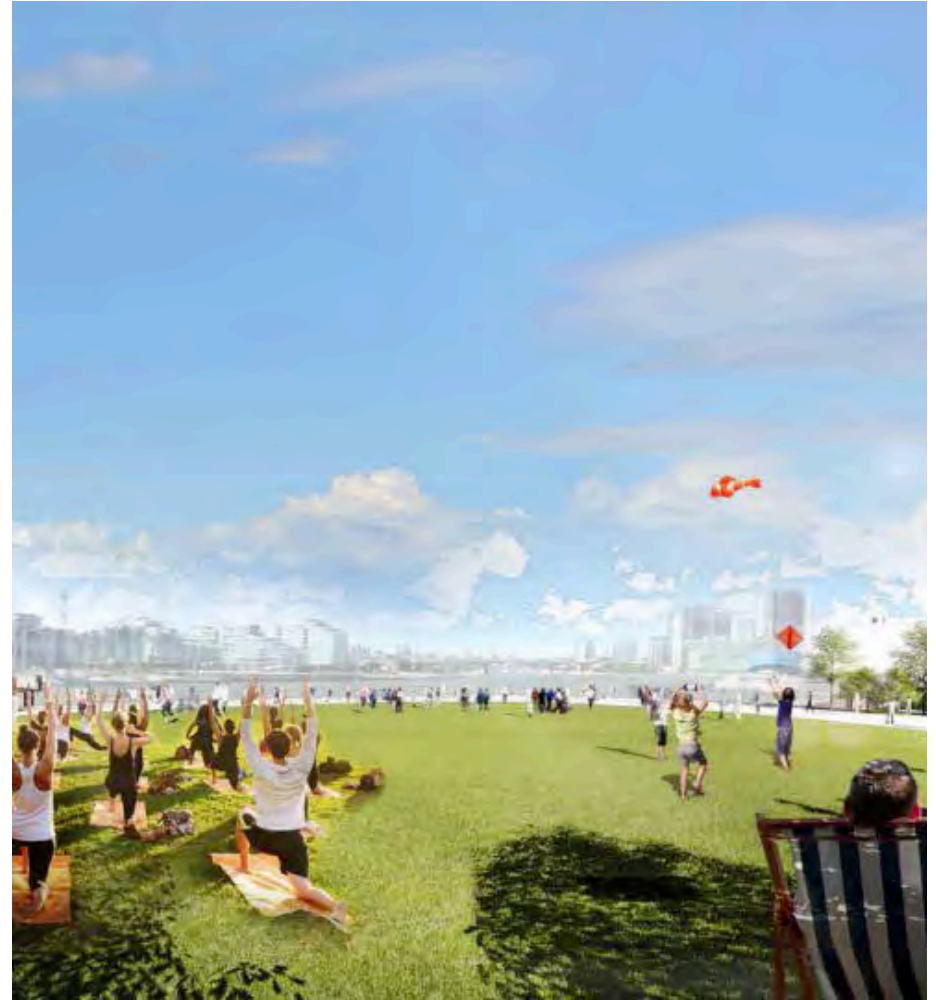
“Way too much lawn. Let's plant ferns, cedars, and create a native place reflective of the forests and our native ecosystems.”

KEY THEMES FROM SURVEY FEEDBACK

Over 1,400 comments from open-ended survey questions were individually coded and grouped into categories to identify overarching themes. Comments focused on the four key themes of:

- **Park Design:** comments on the overall design or specific elements like green spaces, amenities, and the Passerelle.
- **Activities & Uses:** a wide variety of uses people would like to see in the park, including comments on the seawall and public access to the water.
- **Transportation & Connectivity:** how people access key destinations and move through the site on foot, by bike, and by car.
- **Park Experience:** how different people will experience the park, including views, noise, safety, inclusion, and social issues.

Note: Because some comments addressed multiple topics, the total number of theme 'mentions' may exceed the total number of comments.



PARK DESIGN

The majority of comments related to the park design were in support of the overall design or proposed specific ideas for improvement.

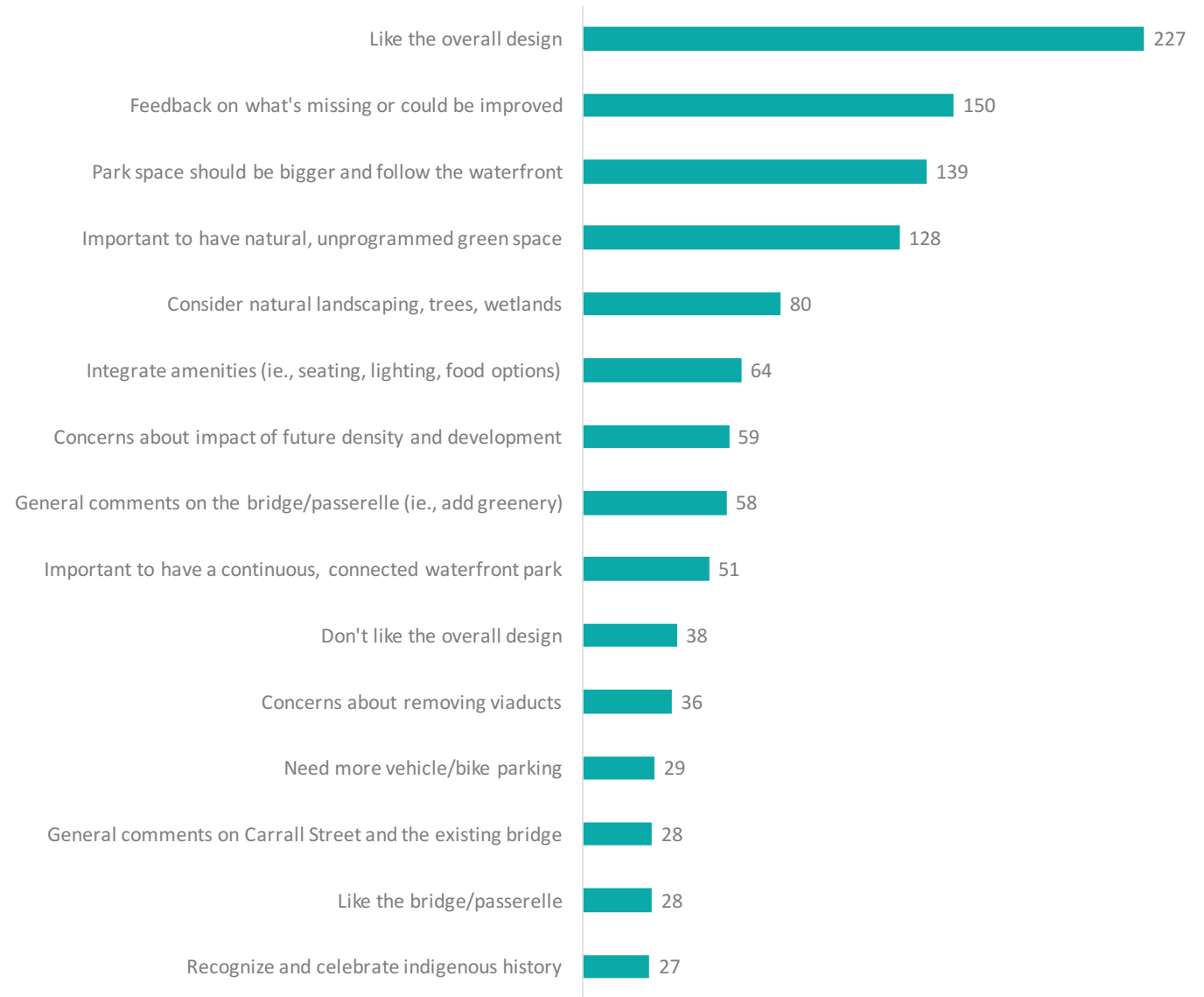
Many respondents suggested the park should be larger and wrap all the way around the waterfront. Others stressed the importance of natural, unprogrammed green spaces and natural landscaping.

Other comments focused on specific amenities, concerns, or elements of the design like the Passerelle, removal of the viaducts, or the Carrall Street connection.

"Good mix of active and passive spaces and programmed activities."

"I like the additions of the skate plaza and cover, the terracing and the natural development of the shoreline."

"While the park design looks like it has many interesting aspects, I am so concerned that the amount of open green space is so small."



Number of mentions in comments

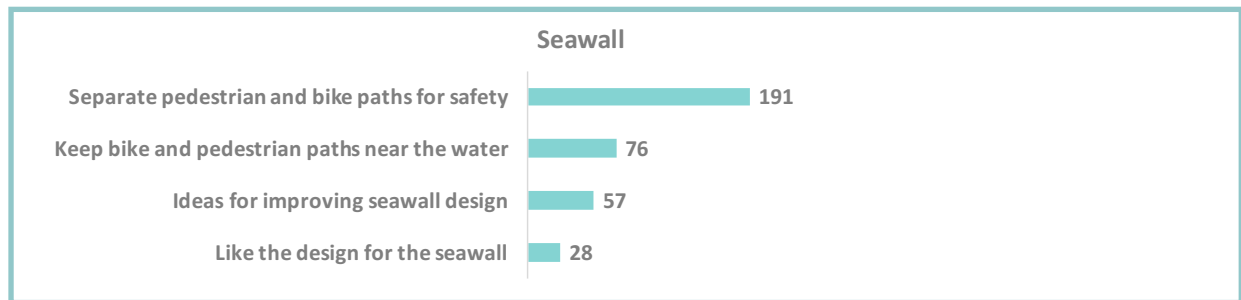
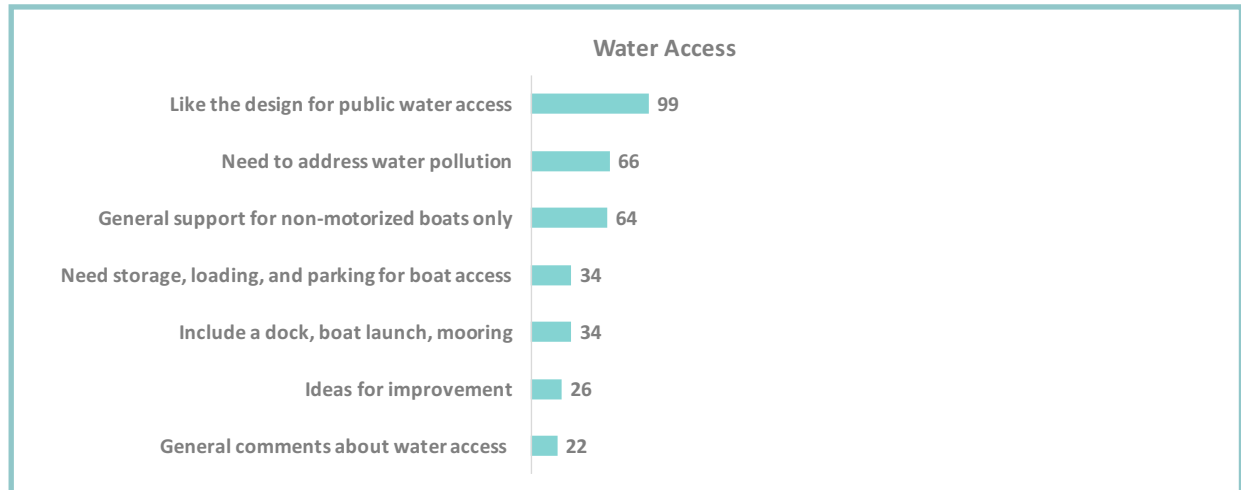
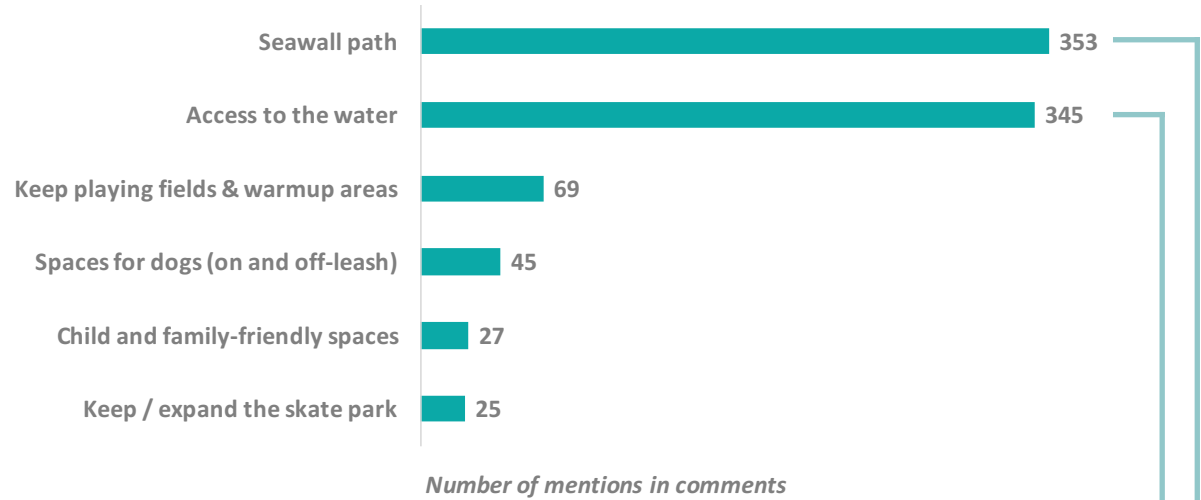
PARK ACTIVITIES & USES

The majority of comments related to park uses involved the Seaside Greenway or public access to the water.

Other comments addressed playing fields (and warm-up areas), spaces for dogs, family-friendly spaces, or the skate park.

Of the comments that focused on the seawall, the majority emphasized the need to separate people on bikes and pedestrians to avoid collisions, but also stressed the importance of having both bike and pedestrian paths near the water.

Of the comments that focused on public access to the water, the majority liked the proposed design while others had comments or concerns around water pollution, and motorized and non-motorized boats.



"I like the focus on access to the waterfront."

"I like big lawns with views down the creek. I also like the attention to stormwater treatment and access to foreshore."

"Access to water for recreation should be a top priority -but also need to clean False Creek pollution so the water is safe and can be used for additional recreation."

"Bike path should stay closer to pedestrian path, people may walk bikes. Families use scooters and other wheeled transportation at different pace, closer bike and pedestrian pathway is better."

"The sport fields need proper adjacent facilities that are safe, clean and big enough for teams."

Grassed in dog parks would be ideal! Dogs are essential to people's well-being and mental health.

"I love the idea of promoting non-motorized water activities - less noise, air, and water pollution."

"Pedestrians and cyclist facilities need hard separation- not simply a painted line."

"As a cyclist, I'd like to be closer to the water. Could the path be wider and divided?"



TRANSPORTATION & CONNECTIVITY

The majority of comments related to the transportation and connectivity emphasized the need to consider multi-functional paths (i.e., separating pedestrians from people on bikes).

Other comments included concerns about traffic, ideas for integrating bike paths and providing connections to the broader cycling network, and the need to provide connections to adjacent neighbourhoods, as well as key sites within the park.

Consider overlap of bike and pedestrian paths and crossings

54

Concerns about transportation flow and traffic

46

Integration of bike paths with existing network

42

Need to connect neighbourhoods and key sites

11

Number of mentions in comments

"Separating the pedestrians and cyclists is smart. Much safer and allows bicycle traffic to flow better."

"People love parks. Unfortunately, not all people walk or cycle to parks. Especially soccer fields. Safely dropping off kids at the soccer fields is already a challenge."

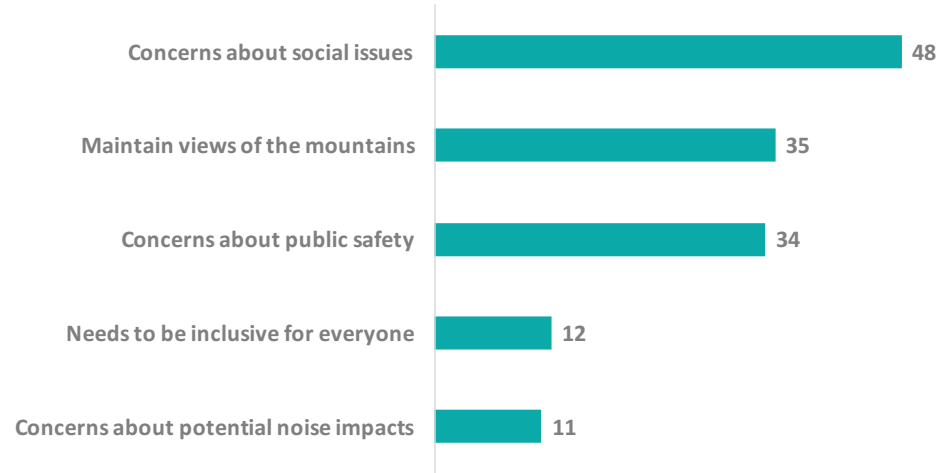
"It connects several neighbourhoods efficiently, and provides much needed social and cultural spaces while strengthening Vancouver's 'green' identity."



PARK EXPERIENCE

The majority of comments related to park experience raised concerns about social issues (such as homelessness, drug use, etc.).

Other comments noted concerns around public safety (especially at night) and potential noise impacts (from traffic and events), and stressed the importance of protecting views of the mountains and creating a space that is inclusive for everyone.



Number of mentions in comments

"The design maintains views, provides ecological and environmental learning opportunities, showcases culture and hosts large events year-round."

"Pacific Boulevard is a large, busy road. A pedestrian bridge would improve safety and connect the park."

"Safety at night must be addressed with bright lighting."

"How will needle use and their safe disposal be addressed?"





For more information, please visit: vancouver.ca/nefc

