HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TRACK AND FIELD IN VANCOUVER!

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation wants to hear from you. Whether you are an aspiring Olympian or an evening stroller, we want to know what you think!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE
Visit our website and take our survey www.vancouver.ca/trackandfield
Sign up for our email list or write to us trackandfield@vancouver.ca
WE WANT TO KNOW: HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE TRACK+FIELD IN VANCOUVER?

The Vancouver Park Board is working with the Vancouver School Board to plan for the future of track and field sports and facilities in the city. This discussion guide provides an overview of the city’s existing track and field facilities and information on how you can get involved.

The discussion guide includes:

- Background
- How to Participate
- History and Trends
- Overview of Existing Track + Field Facilities in Vancouver
- Overview of Regional Track + Field Facilities
- Example Track + Field Systems
- Previous Survey Results
- Draft Vision + Principles
- Types of Track + Field Facilities

How feedback will be considered

The planning team will balance:

- Feedback from open houses + workshops
- Feedback from public surveys
- Technical information

This will be used to develop draft recommendations for the planning, design, and management of Vancouver’s track + field facilities.

WHAT’S ALREADY BEEN DONE

In addition to previous technical studies and assessments, from April to June 2018, the Vancouver Park Board undertook a preliminary round of engagement for the Strategy.

**Why?**

- Gather information on participation
- Identify barriers to participation
- Priorities for improving track and field facilities and programs/activities over the next 10 years.

**What?**

- TalkVancouver survey: 726 responses
- Kids survey: 165 responses
- Discussions with Park Board staff at track+field events: 695 people engaged
ABOUT THE TRACK+FIELD STRATEGY:

Vancouver track facilities need upgrading to improve the experience for users, including recreational, competitive and casual users of all ages and abilities. Currently, many track facilities are in need of upgrades and no site in the city offers all the elements needed for a track and field competition and training facility.

The Vancouver Track+Field Strategy will:

• Assess existing track+field facilities, current and anticipated use, and trends;

• Identify options for track+field facility improvements for competitive, recreational, and casual users;

• Establish priorities for track + field facility planning, improvements, and management;

• Outline a plan to guide implementation over the next 10 years, including competitive-level track + field facilities

PROJECT TIMELINE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring + Summer 2018</th>
<th>Fall + Winter 2018</th>
<th>Spring + Summer 2019</th>
<th>Summer 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round 1: Preliminary Engagement</td>
<td>Round 2: Draft Recommendations</td>
<td>Round 3: Final Recommendations</td>
<td>Strategy + final concept design presented to the Park Board</td>
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- Preliminary Engagement
- Site Visits + Inventories
- Draft Vision + Principles
- Draft Track + Field Facility Types
- Refined Vision + Principles
- Refined Designation of Facility Types
- Refinéd System + Facility Recommendations
- Draft Concept Designs
ENGAGING WITH YOU

Throughout the development of the Track and Field Strategy, the Park Board is committed to engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders, track users and the public to help shape the future of track and field in Vancouver.

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group includes representatives from a variety of sports and community organizations. The Advisory Group provides input on the public engagement process, helps share information with casual and competitive users, and provides feedback on draft recommendations.

Opportunities to Participate

Online Survey :
Nov. 21 - Dec. 15, 2018
Let us know what you think of the draft vision, principles and priority site features and considerations for track and field facilities by completing the survey on TalkVancouver.

The survey will be available in English, Chinese and Punjabi.

Please see the project website for the survey link: https://vancouver.ca/trackandfield

Open Houses + Workshops:
Dec. 1, 2018, 1:30-4:30pm
Presentation at 2:30pm
Eastside Family Place

Dec. 4, 2018, 5:00-8:00pm
Presentation at 6:00pm
Kitsilano Community Centre

Written Feedback:
Send your written feedback to: trackandfield@vancouver.ca

Schedule of Public Engagement
WHY IS A TRACK+FIELD STRATEGY NEEDED?

The Park Board, in cooperation with the Vancouver School Board, wants to encourage more participation in track and field sports by both competitive athletes and casual users.

Existing track and field facilities need to serve Vancouver residents better. With many facilities at the end of their useful life, a strategic approach is needed to plan for the future. This includes consideration for upgrading surfacing, accessibility, lighting and other amenities to improve the experience for users of all ages and abilities.

The quality of Vancouver track and field facilities ranges greatly, from the rubberized six-lane track at Point Grey Secondary to the gravel surface track at Strathcona Park. Some track sites like Camosun and Killarney are well used by athletes, while others like Empire and Balaclava are primarily used for casual sport. The tracks range in size from 250m to 560m. None have more than six lanes.

The City and the Park Board have identified the need for a competitive, 8-lane facility to support high-level competition and training for running, jumping and throwing track and field sports. Currently, no site in the city offers all the elements needed for a high-level track and field competition and training facility. This poses challenges for supporting the full spectrum of track and field sports, hosting events and limits the potential for Vancouver athletes to reach high-level competition.
TRENDS + CURRENT INVENTORY

LOCAL TRENDS
Facilities:
• More multi-use facilities, sometimes at the expense of jumping + throwing events
• Growing number of casual use tracks around sports fields, like Memorial South
• More walking loops of various distances & surface types
• Greater focus on universal accessibility

Participation:
• 90,000 BC students run track (2016)
• Growing participation in Masters age group (35+)
• Athletics participation grew from 13,600 (2013) to 14,425 (2016) per Athletics Canada

Growth areas:
• Track and field related activities
• Charity runs and fun runs
• Obstacle courses like Tough Mudder

NATIONAL + INTERNATIONAL TRENDS
Facilities:
• A small number of facilities are suitable for provincial + national track+field events
• Most facilities with approved track+field amenities are also used for other field sports (e.g. soccer + football)
• New facilities all include universal accessibility
• International events use a mix of permanent + temporary facilities
• Location + support amenities (e.g. accommodation, retail) are key for international events

Participation:
• 330,000 Canadian children + youth participate in track+field annually (Canadian Youth Sport Report, 2014)
• 187,000 student participants in “Run Jump Throw Wheel” (2016) with a goal of 350,000 by 2020

Growth areas:
• School and community programming, like the Harry Jerome Outreach Society’s track program (with 600 participants in 2018)
• Youth physical literacy remains a focus area - track+field is strongly aligned
• Expanding the types of activities that use track+field venues with fundraisers + festivals

CURRENT INVENTORY:
The first step of ensuring Vancouver has the right mix of different types of tracks and fields is to understand the different types of tracks and fields in Vancouver today.

![Diagram showing public track+field facilities, track+field facilities at public schools, and track+field facilities at parks.]
EXISTING VANCOUVER TRACKS+FIELDS
Where are Vancouver’s Existing Track+Field Facilities Located?

There are currently fourteen publicly accessible running tracks in Vancouver with 7 in parks and 7 on school grounds. The tracks range in size from 250m to 560m, are all six lanes or less, and have variable surface types and support amenities.

*Not included in strategy due to seismic upgrade project and reconstruction of secondary school.
VANCOUVER TRACK+FIELD FACILITIES

1 / BALACLAVA
- Up to 6 lanes
- Gravel surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- No spectator seating
- Field house in park

2 / BRITANNIA
- Up to 6 lanes
- Gravel surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to a community center, pool, ice rink, elementary and secondary schools

3 / BROCKTON OVAL
- Up to 6 lanes
- Gravel surface
- No throwing events
- Long jump
- Spectator seating
- Adjacent field house and restaurant

4 / CAMOSUN
- Up to 6 lanes
- Gravel surface
- No throwing events
- Long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to an elementary school
- Storage building on site

5 / CHARLES TUPPER
- 4 lanes
- Gravel surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to a secondary school

6 / CHURCHILL SECONDARY
- 6 lanes
- Asphalt surface with rubber strip for long jump
- Throwing events
- Long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to a secondary school

7 / ERIC HAMBER
- Not included in strategy due to seismic upgrade project and reconstruction of secondary school
VANCOUVER TRACK+FIELD FACILITIES

8 / EMPIRE FIELDS
- 4 lanes
- Rubber surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- Spectator seating
- Washroom facility

9 / KILLARNEY
- 6 lanes
- Asphalt surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to a community center, pool, ice rink and secondary school
- Lit facility

10 / MEMORIAL SOUTH
- 6 lanes
- Rubber surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- Some spectator seating
- Field house in park

11 / POINT GREY
- 6 lanes
- Rubber surface with synthetic turf infield
- Throwing events
- Long jump
- Spectator seating
- Adjacent to a secondary school
- Lit facility

12 / STRATHCONA
- Up to 8 lanes
- Gravel surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- No spectator seating
- Field house in park

13 / TEMPLETON
- Up to 4 lanes
- Asphalt surface
- No throwing events
- No long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to a secondary school and pool

14 / VAN TECH
- 6 lanes
- Asphalt surface
- No throwing events
- Long jump
- No spectator seating
- Adjacent to a secondary school
REGIONAL TRACK+FIELD FACILITIES

What Existing Track+Field Facilities are in Neighbouring Communities?

There are track and field sites in neighbouring communities that host competitive events and track and field training, including:

- Swangard Stadium, Burnaby – Seating for 4,200
- Percy Perry Stadium, Coquitlam – Seating for 4,000
- Minoru Sports Complex – Seating for 2,000
- UBC Dhillon Track – Seating for 300+, UBC students 1st priority
- Burnaby Central – Small seating area.

What Future Track+Field Facilities are Planned in Neighbouring Communities?

There are a number of track and field sites planned for neighbouring communities, including:

- Maple Ridge (Currently in early design phases);
- Delta (Under construction);
- Abbotsford (Anticipated 2024-2028);
- Chilliwack (Anticipated 2025);
- Surrey (Possible track and field facility in coming years);
- West Vancouver Secondary.
BENCHMARKING

Vancouver - 15 tracks

- 7 Parks Board tracks
- 7 Vancouver School Board tracks
- 1 University track at UBC
- Notes:
  - 4 are rubberized;
  - UBC Dhillon 8-lane track is highest quality, but UBC students are priority;
  - Pt Grey Secondary 6-lane track is highest quality of public tracks;
  - Empire Fields 4-lane track is a high quality community amenity;
  - Most Vancouver tracks are geared to casual recreational use and school physical education.

Burnaby - 9 tracks

- 3 City tracks
- 4 Public school tracks
- 1 University Track
- Notes:
  - 5 are rubberized;
  - 3 have 8 lanes;
  - Swangard is the largest track and field stadium in Metro Vancouver;
  - Confederation Park is a high quality community use rubberized track.

Surrey - 4 tracks

- 3 City tracks
- 1 Public school track
- Notes:
  - All City tracks are rubberized w/8-lanes.

Seattle - 23 tracks

- 7 City tracks
- 13 Public school tracks
- 3 University tracks
- Notes:
  - 20 are rubberized;
  - 6 tracks have 8 lanes;
  - 2 City tracks are competition-level 8-lane.
CURRENT USERS

MOST POPULAR TRACK+FIELD ACTIVITIES

**ADULTS**
1. Running distance (over 1000m) (cited by 67%)
2. Running sprints (under 1000m) (cited by 61%)
3. Jogging for leisure (cited by 46%)
4. Walking for leisure (cited by 34%)

**KIDS**
1. Running sprints (cited by 76%)
2. Long jump (cited by 59%)
3. Jogging (cited by 59%)
4. Shot put (cited by 49%)

MOST-VALUED ASPECTS OF TRACK+FIELD

**ADULTS**
1. Health (31%)
2. Recreation (27%)
3. Competition (23%)
4. Social Benefits & Community (19%)

**KIDS**
1. Having a good coach or teacher (96%)
2. Participating with friends (93%)
3. Being part of a team (91%)
4. Trying new sports (91%)

MOST POPULAR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

**ADULTS**
1. School teams (68%)
2. Competitive team/club (27%)
3. Informal group (19%)
4. Recreation program/club (19%)

**KIDS**
1. School teams (68%)
2. Solo (19%)
3. Competitive team/club (11%)
4. Community centre class (2%)

MOST-CITED BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

**ADULTS**
1. Running surface impacts on joints (58%)
2. Availability of space on the track/field (53%)
3. Lack of information about facilities (43%)

**KIDS**
1. Facilities are too far from home & school (24%)
2. Facilities are in poor shape (18%)
CURRENT USERS

Top Priorities for Vancouver Track+Field

Programs
1. Host local competitive Track+Field events (Adults: 44%/Kids: 49%)
2. Partnerships with Vancouver School Board (41%)
3. Improve communication for classes, clubs & teams (41%)

Facilities
1. Improve running areas & surfaces (42%)
2. More 8 lane running tracks (Adults: 40%/Kids: 44%)
3. More lit track + field facilities (40%)
4. Better maintenance (29%)

Improvements
1. Improve existing facilities & amenities (Adults: 37%/Kids: 39%)
2. Ensure track+field facilities are welcoming, inclusive, accessible (36%)
3. Provide more track+field facilities & amenities (33%)
USE OF EXISTING TRACK+FIELD FACILITIES

The map below shows how many survey respondents used each of the track and field sites.

Other sites used in Vancouver:
1. Dhillon Track - UBC

Other sites used outside of Vancouver:
1. Burnaby Central Track - Burnaby
2. Swangard Stadium - Burnaby
3. Minoru Oval/Clement Track - Richmond
WHERE PEOPLE LIVE COMPARED TO TRACK+FIELD FACILITIES USED

Legend:
- Respondents from area
- Users of area facilities
DRAFT VISION + PRINCIPLES

Building on the first round of engagement, the project team developed a draft vision and principles to guide the decision-making around the strategy. In the Round 2 survey, the project team is looking for feedback on these draft statements.

Draft Vision

• “Vancouver’s exceptional track and field facilities and activities attract and elevate all levels of track and field users, helping Vancouver athletes grow to their fullest potential.”

Draft Principles

• Inspire All Athletes: Attract and host events to showcase track and field athletic participation and achievement.

• Celebrate the Past & Foster the Future: Celebrate the legacy of track and field accomplishment and foster the aspirations of current and future athletes.

• Support Growth of Track + Field: Increase participation in the full range of track and field sports from grassroots to competitive and foster a culture of inclusiveness through open access for people of all abilities.

• Provide Equitable Access: Aim for equitable distribution and access to quality facilities for all Vancouverites.

• Complement City-Wide Services and Recreation Strategies: Compliment and align with other city-wide strategies and initiatives.

• Strengthen Partnerships: Work together with key school and community groups to support track and field programs and compatible activities.
DRAFT PROPOSED TRACK+FIELD FACILITY TYPES:
To ensure we’re considering the full range of facilities needed, the project team is proposing three facility categories, serving casual to competitive users.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

RECREATIONAL FACILITY:
Geared to casual fitness and recreational activities. It has a track or loop and, if possible, compatible amenities.

TRACKS:
• Can be non-standard track shapes & loops
• Rubber or asphalt surface

FIELD EVENTS:
• Standard long/triple jump areas where possible

FACILITY USES:
• Not reservable
• Informal running, walking, athletics, fitness, cross-training, and leisure activities
• Related recreational programs
• School fitness activities and training
• Informal para-athletic training

SEATING:
• Not required

AMENITIES WHERE POSSIBLE:
• Washrooms
• Facility lighting
• Climbing wall, stairs, parkour, outdoor fitness equipment, play areas

LOCAL EXAMPLES:
• Balaclava (Vancouver)
• Empire Fields (Vancouver)
• Memorial South (Vancouver)

SITE CONDITIONS:
• Layout can vary to accommodate site conditions or complement other fitness training or activities

ACCESS:
• Primarily serves users in walking distance
• Bike route connections, if possible
• Parking optional and location dependent

PROXIMITY TO SERVICES:
• Site is multi-functional, for a variety of complementary recreational & leisure activities

PRIMARY USERS & DISTRIBUTION EQUITY:
• Serves local leisure users
• Sites selected for equitable access city-wide
COMMUNITY

TRAINING FACILITY:
Venue for athletic training that can host local events and competitions. It has a rubberized or asphalt track, and, if possible, throwing and jumping areas.

TRACK:
• Standard track shape with less or more than 8 lanes
• Rubber surfacing if possible

FIELD EVENTS:
• Jumping areas: Long/triple jump, high jump (steeplechase, hurdles and pole vault if possible)
• Throwing: Javelin, hammer, discus, shot-put (if possible)
• Field event areas should be located together at track site where possible

FACILITY USES:
• Track+field athletic & para-athletic training if possible
• Reservable facility
• School training and fitness activities
• Destination for elementary school track+field events

SEATING:
• Ideally space for permanent or temporary seats

AMENITIES WHERE POSSIBLE:
• Adjacent indoor facilities with washrooms, change rooms & storage
• Facility lighting, timing, public announcement & communication systems
• Space for warm up, weight training, event admin & staging

LOCAL EXAMPLES:
• Point Grey (Vancouver)
• Churchill Secondary (Vancouver)
• Van Tech Secondary (Vancouver)

SITE CONDITIONS:
• Meets, or can be upgraded to meet, some technical standards for competitive athletic and para-athletic training and to host high school athletic events
• Compatible for track+field uses and small events

ACCESS:
• Easily accessible by transit, cycling, and walking
• Consideration of parking for events in line with seating capacity
• Serves nearby schools, user groups and residents active in track+field or related activities

PROXIMITY TO SERVICES:
• Ideally close to community facilities to allow multi-use, training & complementary activities

PRIMARY USERS & DISTRIBUTION EQUITY:
• Serves competitive athletes (individuals, teams, clubs), the larger community & leisure users
• Sites selected for equitable access city-wide
DRAFT FACILITY TYPES

DESTINATION

COMPETITIVE FACILITY

Venue for athletic and para-athletic training that can host high level competitions. It includes an 8-lane rubberized track built to international standards, jumping and throwing areas, and spectator seating.

TRACK:
- 8-lane track, international standard
- Rubberized surface to meet international standard

FIELD EVENTS:
- Jumping: Long/triple jump, high jump, steeplechase, hurdles & pole vault
- Throwing: Javelin, hammer, discus, shot-put
- Located on-site or adjacent to track

FACILITY USES:
- Competitive track+field athletic & para-athletic events & training
- Reservable facility with priority for track+field training & competition
- Destination venue for club, high school or possibly provincial or national athletic events

SEATING:
- Up to 1500 seats, more with temporary seating

AMENITIES:
- Washrooms, change rooms, equipment storage
- Facility lighting, timing, public announcement and communications systems

AMENITIES WHERE POSSIBLE:
- Access to indoor facilities
- Space for warm up, weight training, event admin, staging
- Serviced for broadcast capabilities

LOCAL EXAMPLES:
- Minoru Park (Richmond)
- Burnaby Central Secondary School (Burnaby)

SITE CONDITIONS:
- Meets, or can be upgraded to meet, technical standards for international athletic & para-athletic competition

ACCESS:
- Easy access by transit & walking, facilities for cyclists
- Consideration for parking for events in line with seating capacity
- Easy access for local and non-local users & visitors

PROXIMITY TO SERVICES:
- Optimally located near community centres or schools for space for indoor training, event staging & admin

PRIMARY USERS & DISTRIBUTION EQUITY:
- Serves competitive athletes (individuals, teams, clubs) & local leisure users
- Site(s) selected strategically to provide equitable access city-wide
IF THERE’S A NEW COMPETITIVE-LEVEL FACILITY, WHERE COULD IT BE LOCATED?

Part of developing the Track + Field Strategy is identifying location options for a new competitive level facility. We are doing this by looking at the existing track locations, available space and gathering input from athletes, organizations, casual users and the public.

**Important considerations for location will include:**

- Size of sites & where it could fit;
- Existing topography, buildings and soil conditions on possible sites;
- Neighbouring land uses;
- Community preference;
- Local and regional demand;
- Transportation networks;
- Accessibility;
- Environmental factors;
- Financial factors;
- Technical considerations.

**BENEFITS + CHALLENGES:**

The recommendations of the Vancouver Track and Field Strategy will need to balance different benefits and challenges. Some of the trade-offs of a new competition-level track and field facility are listed below:

**Benefits include:**

- Promoting lifelong health and wellness;
- Encouraging tourism, economic development;
- Encouraging pursuit of athletic excellence;
- Running, walking and wheeling are some of the most low-cost and accessible types of physical activity;
- Opportunities for personal improvement;
- Opportunities for community connections.

**Challenges include:**

- Ongoing maintenance;
- Neighbourhood effects (e.g. concerns about lighting and parking);
- Finding adequate space;
- Potential environmental impacts;
- Balancing walking, casual running and biking use with competitive uses;
- Significant costs to build a facility.