



Hear about the proposed actions, and share your thoughts with Park Board Commissioners and staff

VanPlay is the Park Board's new 25-year vision for the future of parks and recreation

Register at www.vancouver.ca/vanplay

SUNDAY
APRIL 7, 2019
1:00PM
CITYLAB
507 W BROADWAY



# VANPLAY imagine parks + recreation

Vancouver's stunning, world-class parks are the culmination of more than a century of committed effort by the Vancouver Park Board. From our world-renowned seawalls to our lush destination gardens to our network of vibrant neighbourhood parks, it's a legacy we're proud of.

What's next for parks and recreation in Vancouver? How do we respond to the challenges we are currently facing and thrive into the future?



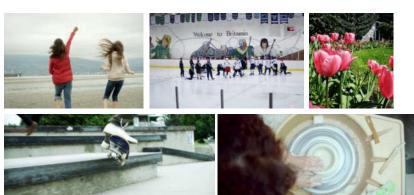
## Why do we need the Playbook?

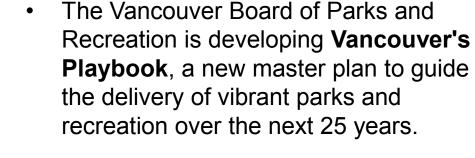


- To provide a 100-year vision, 25-year outlook and a 10-year implementation plan, aligned with the City of Vancouver's 10-year Capital Strategic Outlook.
- To define citywide, urban core and growth area service level standards
- To develop strategies to respond to increased demand on parks and recreation, as these services continue to increase in demand
- To provide a comprehensive policy framework regarding parks and recreation to advance health, wellness and social inclusion
- To prioritize the development and renewal of parks, recreation facilities and amenities.

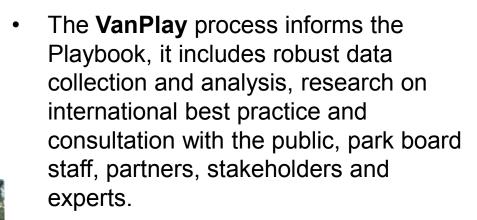
## VanPlay → The Playbook







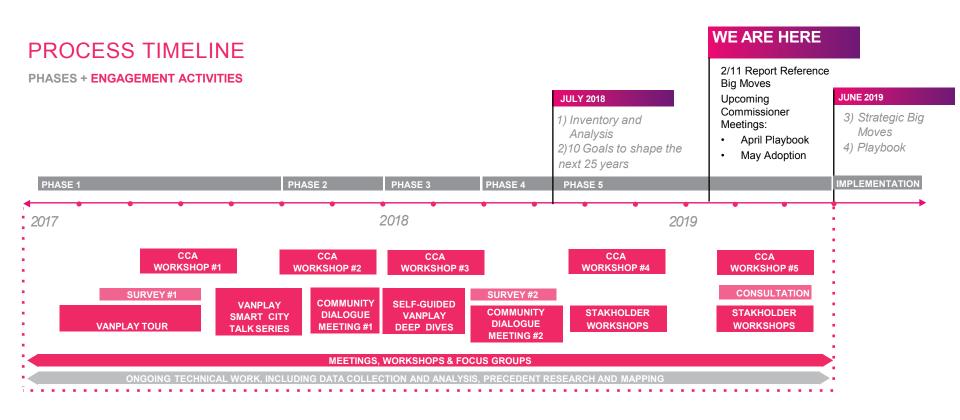












# Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan



The Master Plan will be delivered in four components:

#### Part 1:

Report 1 - Inventory and Analysis - a compendium to the current state of the City's parks & recreation system

8

Report 2 - 10 Goals to shape the next 25 years - a set of aspirational statements to set the course for parks and recreation into the future

These documents set the stage for the final two components of the Master Plan;

#### Part 2:

Report 3 - Strategic Big Moves – outlining strategies to meet the goals over the next 25 years (Q1 2019)

Report 4 - Playbook – the plan for implementation and operationalization of the big moves (Q1 2019)









## **Community Engagement**



Since June 2017 VanPlay has engaged over 30,000 residents and stakeholders in imagining the future of parks and recreation.

#### Engagement activities including;

- VanPlay Tour
- Smart City Talks
- Deep Dive workshops
- Community Dialogues
- Online Surveys
- Stakeholder & CCA workshops
- Review of previous engagement
- Partnerships e.g. Urban
   Explorers Project (Society for Children and Youth)



## Report 1 - Inventory & Analysis



International Best Practice

VanPlay Survey and Tour

Park Board Commissioner Motions and feedback from VanPlay Workshops (as described in Report References)

External Advisory Group Meetings

Previous Park Board community engagement findings

Staff interviews

VanPlay Deep Dives

Inventory

Trends analysis

SOPARC Study

Park Provision and Access Study

Literature Review

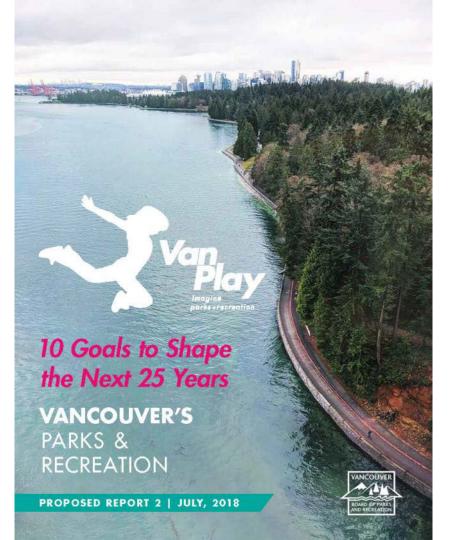
VanPlay Smart City Talks

Community Dialogue











## **Document Review**

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Second round, testing and feedback on 2<sup>nd</sup> DRAFT 10 goals;

Community Dialogue event – 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 31 participants Park Board Staff Survey – May/June, 46 responses Online Community Survey – May/June, 946 responses

1023
Participants



#### GOAL

## GROW AND RENEW PARKS, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND OTHER ASSETS

to Keep Pace with Population Growth and Evolving Needs

GOAL 2:

### PROTECT EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION SPACES

from Loss, Encroachment & Densification

GOAL 3:

#### PRIORITIZE THE DELIVERY OF RESOURCES

to Where They are Needed Most

GOAL 4

#### FOCUS ON CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

of The Park Board, and be a Supportive Ally to Partners

GOAL 5:

### ADAPT OUR PARKS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

to a Changing Climate

#### **CREATE A GREEN NETWORK**

That Will Connect Our Parks, Waterfront and Recreation Areas

GOAL 7

## RESTORE VANCOUVER'S WILD SPACES

and Vital Biodiversity

GOAL 8

#### FOSTER A SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION SPACES

That Are Safe and Welcoming to All

GOAL 9

### SEEK TRUTH AS A FOUNDATION FOR RECONCILIATION

With Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh Nations

GOAL 10

#### SECURE ADEQUATE AND ONGOING FUNDING

for The Repair, Renewal and Replacement of our Aging Parks and Recreation System











#### VanPlay Report 3

Aims to creates a powerful, legacy vision.

Offers a flexible, toolbox, approach to allow for innovation and growth.

# DRAFT 3 Strategic Big Moves



"Tool Box"

Interconnected Network

**Asset Targets** 

**Equity Initiative Zones** 

**Agenda for Action** 

## DRAFT 3 Strategic Big Moves



"Tool Box"

How do we connect it all together?

How many, of what, should we consider?

Interconnected Network

**Asset Targets** 

How should we go about it?

**Equity Initiative Zones** 

Where should w look first?

**Agenda for Action** 

# DRAFT 3 Strategic Big Moves "Tool Box"



#### A tool box approach to strategic planning is useful;

- not prescriptive, so allows for innovation, problem solving and inevitable uncertainties
- It's bold and focused on compelling 'big ideas'
- It's flexible, tools can be used in combination on stand-alone as the situation requires

## **DRAFT 3 Strategic Big Moves**



The following slides will present each of the 3 draft big moves <u>concepts</u>; their intention, purpose and function.

Equity Initiative Zones

2. Interconnected Network

3. Asset Targets



## Big Move 1 - Equity Initiative Zones



## The Equity Challenge



Examining parks and recreation through an equity lens reveals the inherent privilege in access and enjoyment of parks and recreation held by some populations, and opens up opportunities to provide support and welcome to populations without this privilege.

## The Equity Challenge



Due to patterns of development and investment over the history of the city, the distribution of trees, parks, lot sizes, land use, transit and other infrastructure is **uneven**.

These patterns have been tightly tied to class, race, gender and other systems of power

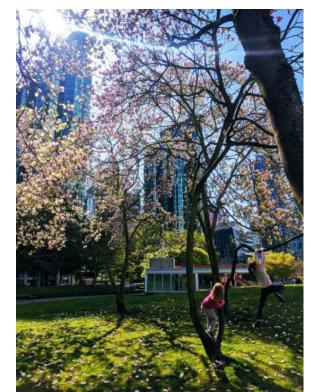
Consequently, the conditions of **social and environmental injustice** persist.

## The Equity Challenge



For example, a recent article by researchers at UBC found that;

"access to urban vegetation is generally associated with traditional markers of privilege in US cities and that there is widespread evidence of green inequity, supporting theories of environmental justice and political ecology that suggest that environmental amenities are inequitably low in communities with lower social and economic power"





## Bill of Rights

All people and communities in Vancouver, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, race, class, sexual orientation, disability/ability, or age, deserve the right to quality parks and recreation and the opportunity to use them; and partake in the social, cultural and recreational programs at community centers to acquire physical literacy skills, express and enjoy culture, and connect with community.

## Why Equity Initiative Zones?





- "Equity, Inclusion & Access" top priority area for action
- Stakeholders perceived inequities in resources throughout the city and where unsure about how the Park Board assigns priority to projects



Cities like San Francisco & New York have found that **equity based decision-making frameworks** help create transparency & increased funding for priority areas

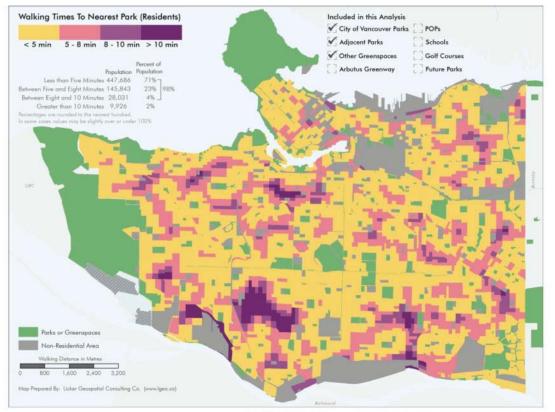


PROBLEM SOLVING

- Many projects, opportunities and investments to consider and limited resources
- "Growth pays for growth" development funded investment does not address historically underserved areas or aging infrastructure
- We inherently know which areas of the city have been historically underserved but it's complex to demonstrate

## Why Equity Initiative Zones?





RESIDENTIAL

We are getting better at measuring walking distance to parks.

The Park Provision Study (2018) mapped walking routes to improve on the 400m "as the crow flies" measure of walking distance.

What does this tell us about service gaps? Can we tell the story better?

## What indicators to use to map



## equity?

The VanPlay team explored many options to best represent access to parks and recreation geographically.

The intention is to highlight <u>areas in need of resources</u> so that projects, programs and resources can be focused. Over time provision will become more equitable.

In order to act as a priority setting tool to aid in transparent decision making indicators must be **simple and powerful** – a method to show patterns geographically and start conversations.

"Where"
not "what" or
"how"

## **Equity Initiative Zones**



Equity Initiative Zones for parks and recreation is one component of a larger social infrastructure effort to address systemic barriers and justly provide Park Board services on the long road to equity.

The City, Park Board and Community Centre Associations work together to reduce barriers to health and well-being experienced by individuals and communities.

## **Equity Initiative Zones**

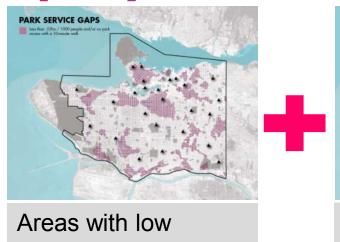




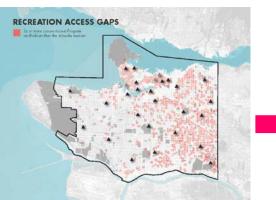
# What indicators to use to map



equity?



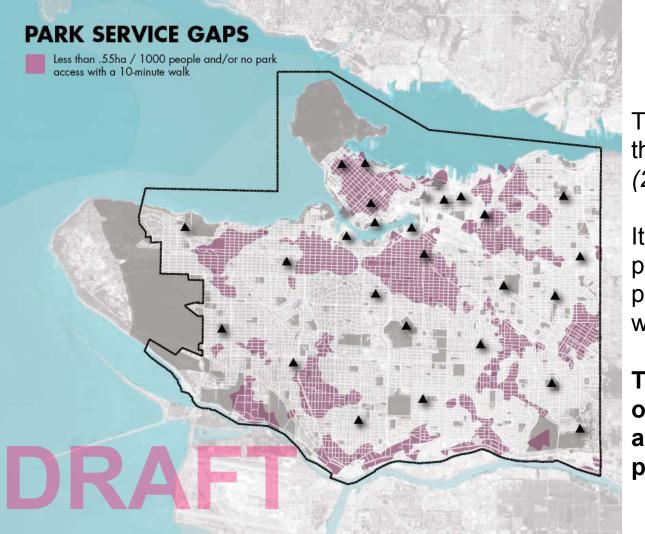
access to park space



Areas where there is higher demand for recreation services with reduced barriers



Areas of the city with a less-robust urban forest

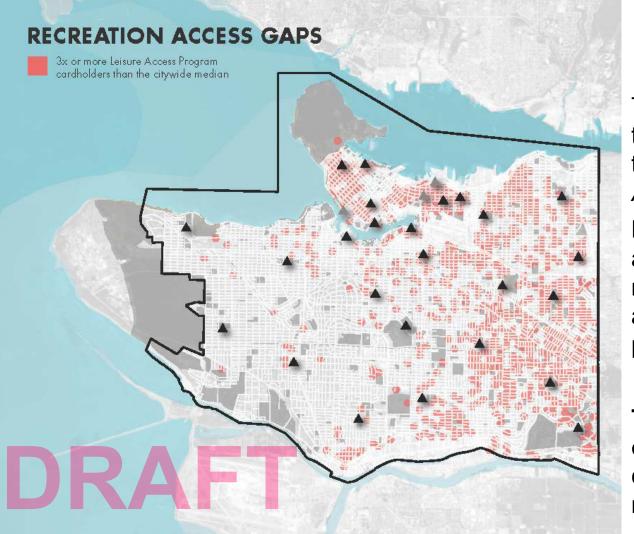




This map was created using the *Park Provision Study* (2018 – VanPlay Report 1).

It considers distance to parks and the density of population within 10 min walk of each park.

This indicator shows areas of the city with low amounts of park space per person.

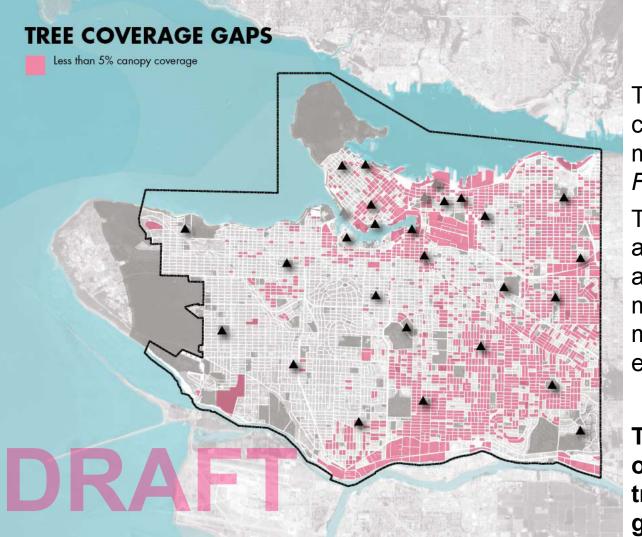




This map was created using the registration numbers to the Park Board's *Leisure Access Program*.

Not all eligible Vancouverites are registered however registration indicates where access to recreation is perceived to be lower.

This indicator shows areas of the city with a high demand for recreation with reduced barriers.

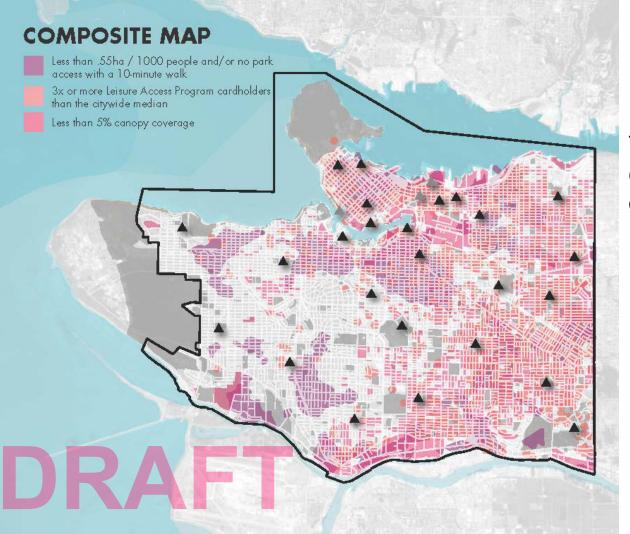




This map was created using canopy cover data (LiDAR) maps prepared for the *Urban Forest Strategy, 2016*.

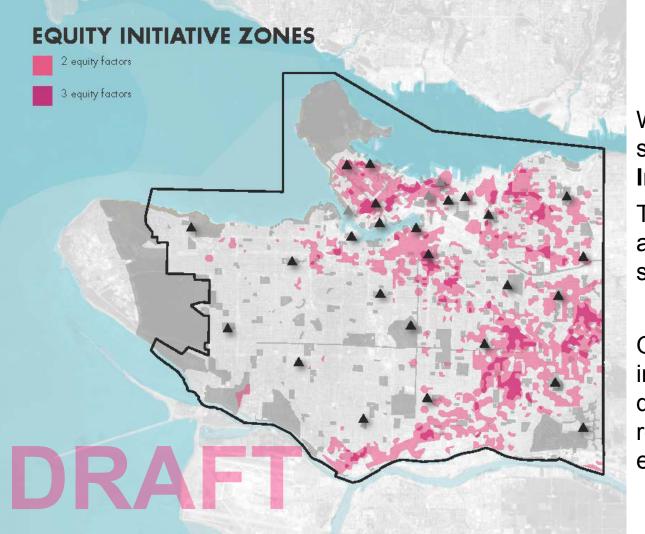
The urban forest provides access to nature, cleaner air/water, climate change mitigation, reduces heat & more walkable, beautiful environments.

This indicator shows areas of the city with less street trees, park trees, and green private open space.





These three core indicators can then be layered atop one another...





Which can then be simplified, to identify "Equity Initiative Zones".

The intention is to use this as one tool for priority setting.

Over time, by targeting investment and updating this data, provision of parks and recreation will become more equitable.

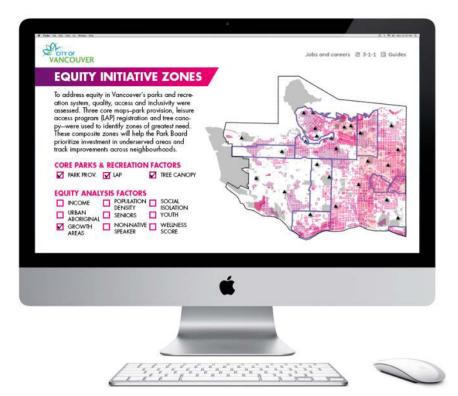
## **Equity Analysis Factors**



There are many, many factors in "equity" and "need", each are unique to individuals and situations.

We want to create a tool which can be both either broad or granular, or simple and complex when it needs to be.

The long-term vision is for an online map which allows staff and the community to overlay various "Equity Analysis Factors" on top of the base zones.

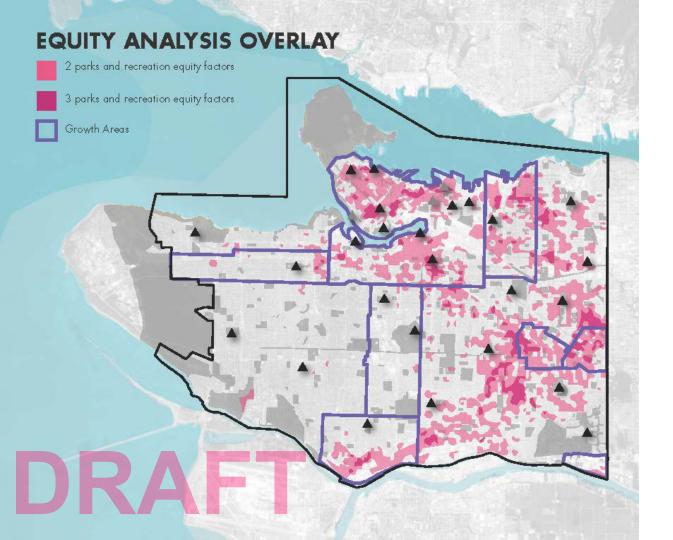


## **Equity Analysis Factors**



Layers showing geographic patterns could be added over time, such as;

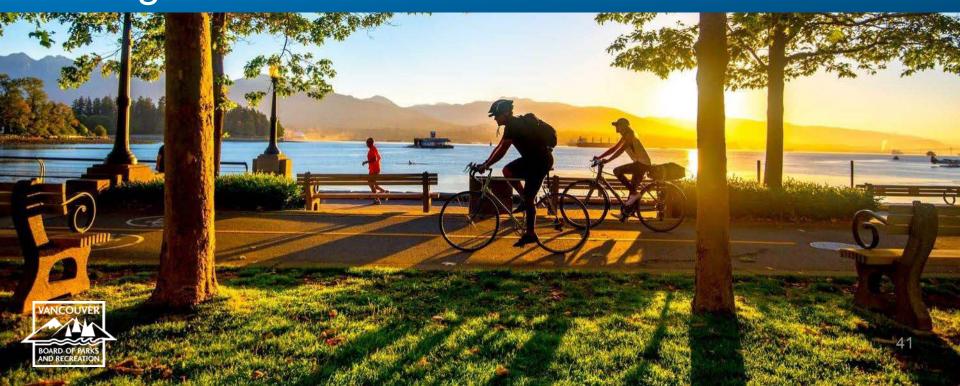
- **Population patterns** children, youth, older adults, seniors
- Equity seeking groups and vulnerability indicators
- Data from surveys such as potential annual **satisfaction surveys**, or the "My Health, My Community" survey which reports levels of physical activity levels, wellness, sense of community etc.
- Distribution of capital investment
- Access indicators such as car ownership, people with disabilities, languages spoken at home





For example,
Projected Growth
Areas are a useful
overlay that could
be used during the
capital planning
process

### Big Move 2 – The Interconnected Network







- Parks and community centers are part of every day life for many barriers are access, integration and availability
- "Access to Nature" most common theme of big idea for the future
- Vancouverites are proud of the sea wall, and would like to this kind of connected experience available throughout the city



- Sea level rise adaptation acquisition of water front land to secure access to the water for current future generations
- Urban forest improve air/water quality & flow, reduce urban heat, connect biodiversity corridors



A city-wide vision like this, supports **collaboration** with the City and excellent access to parks and recreation while achieving many other goals at once.



Connectivity, access to the water, proximity to a park and attractive streets supports better health and wellbeing



A 2017 study found that the perception of access to;

- a medium/large-size park
- beach/water access
- higher street connectivity
- neighborhood aesthetics increased recreational walking by 9 mins/week (12% increase in frequency) on average, for each additional factor above.



#### Access to nature is important to Vancouverites

According to the 2016 Vital Signs report by the Vancouver Foundation, "natural beauty" is the number one reason people give for choosing to live in BC.







"There is a profound tie to the water that is expressed through the orientation of the coastal villages to the waterfront."

"This physical and spiritual connection is a key Indigenous design principle."

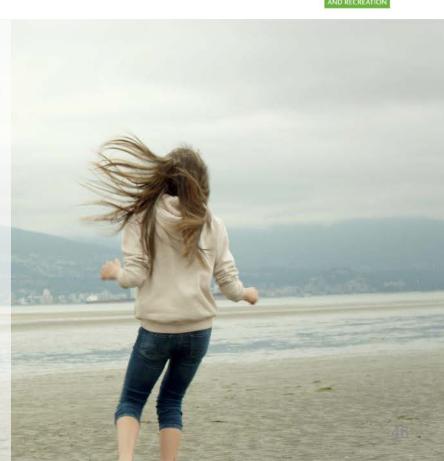
Indigenous Engagement
Summary Report
Northeast False Creek Park
Design, June 2018

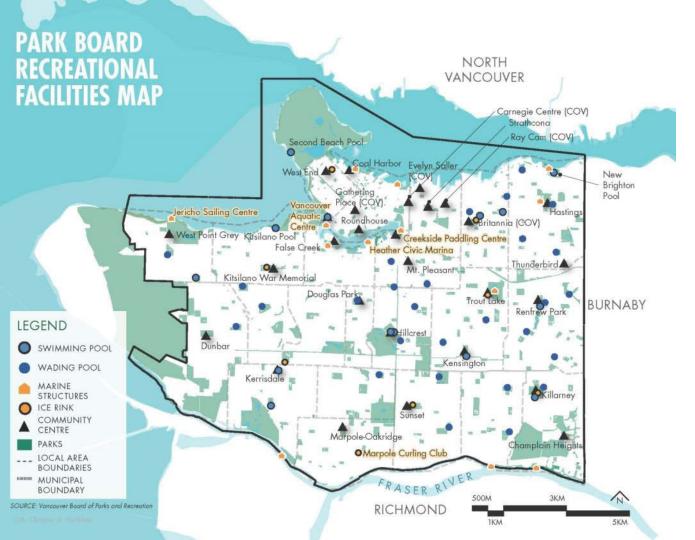
### What can we connect?



The network can create linkages to and between:

- Foreshores, beaches, rivers, waterways
- Biodiversity corridors and zones
- Destinations;
  - Community centres, rinks, pools, neighbourhood houses
  - Parks, fields, courts, playgrounds
  - High streets
  - Schools, childcare
  - Transit hubs

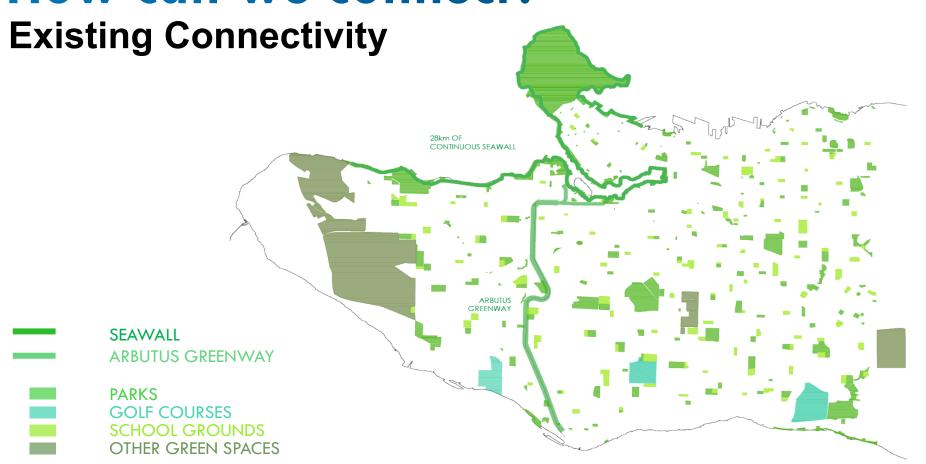






Community centres, pools, rinks, and parks are **nodes** in the interconnected network

How can we connect?

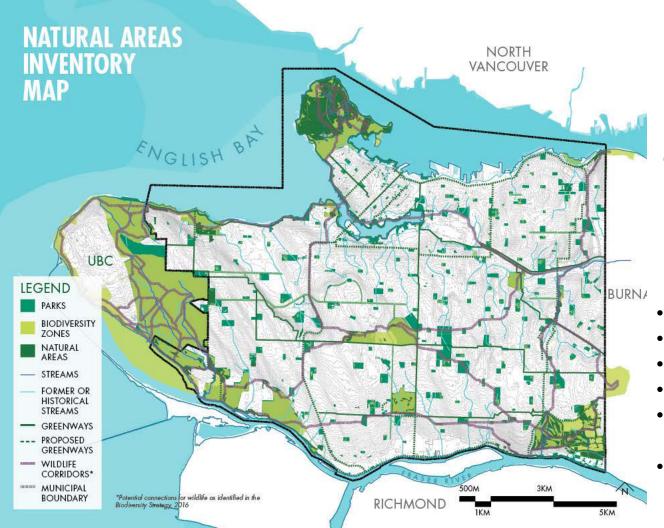


### How can we connect?



- Connections can be achieved in many ways, for example:
- Trails, paths
- Linear, waterfront parks
- Street trees
- Public art, wayfinding, interpretative signage
- Co-location of community centres with park space
- Day-lit streams, green infrastructure
- Greenways for active transportation
- Transit connections

Collaborations with city's planning, sustainability and engineering departments, partners, and neighbouring municipalities will be key to it's success.

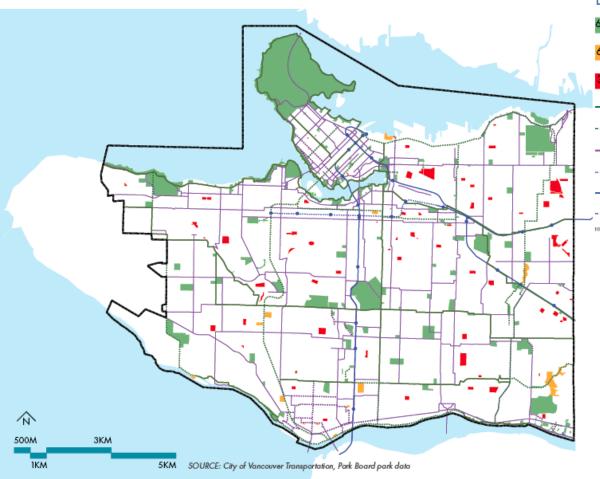




The network is inspired by and enhances the city's existing green network.

- Access to nature
- Storm water management
- Improve air quality
- Reduce urban heat
- Movement of fauna via biodiversity corridors
- Beautiful urban forest

#### PARK CONNECTIVITY MAP



#### LEGEND



PROPOSED SKY TRAIN LINE

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

Transit connection is important for low barrier and green **accessibility** to community centres, pools, and other recreation amenities.

VANCOUVER

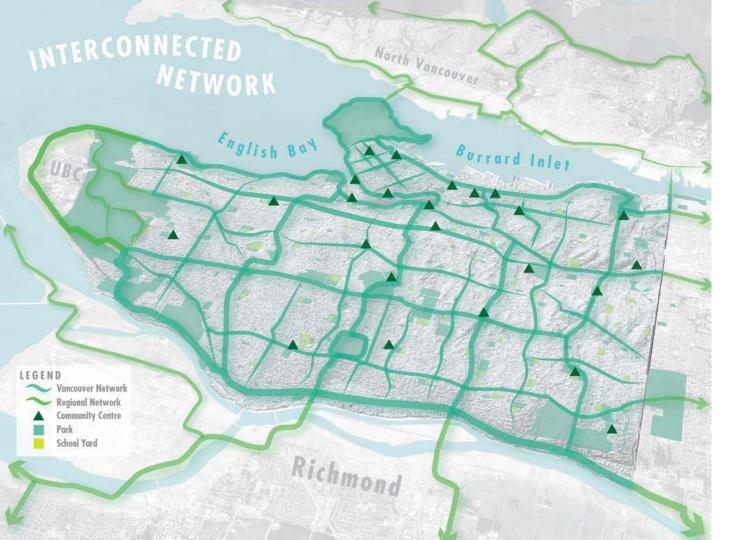




"...we envision a vast network of running and walking paths, bike routes, and green corridors.

This network will provide pathways for the movement of urban wildlife, and a place to showcase rainwater management, while allowing pedestrians and cyclists to travel safely from park to park."

VanPlay Report 2, Goal 6





"Creating a citywide network of parks, trails, greens spaces, shorelines and recreation areas will dramatically change the way we experience our city and enhance our commutes to work, school and recreation."

#### VanPlay Report 2 Goal 6

#### The Interconnected Network experienced at human scale

DAY IN THE LIFE

#### YOUNG FAMILY



6:30am Dawn Tennis Match



7:45am Walk Home through Renfrew Rayine Park



4:00pm Drop off Daughter at Hockey Practice at Trout Lake Rink



7:30pm Family Workshop: Cooking on a Budget at Hastings CC

#### SENIOR



9:30am Morning Swim



11:15am Vancouver Farmer's Market at John Hendry Park



4:45pm Pick up grandkids from Afterschool activities at Renfrew CC



9:00pm Moon Festival on Still Creek

BIG MOYES DECEMBER 2018 | ix

VANCOUVER

### The Interconnected Network experienced by a rain drop, and a bird



#### DAY IN THE LIFE

#### RAIN DROP



9:42pm Hit the Roof of Bloedel Conservatory



10:15pm Run Downhill between Trees at Queen Elizabeth Park



1:12am Release into the Fraser River Estuary Marshlands



6:37am Lapped up by an urban adapted Coyote

#### YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER



6:26am Morning Song in Nest in the Quarry Garden



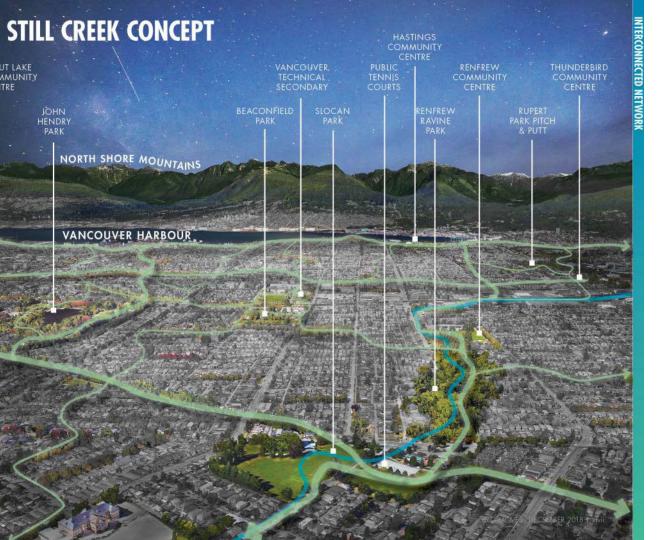
8:42am Flyover Langara Golf Course



7:12pm Hunt for Insects Along Banks at Fraser River Park



9:02pm Rest on Flight Home at Oakridge Centre Roof Garden





# LITTLE MOUNTAIN TO BIG RIVER CONCEPT HILLCREST MOBERLY ARTS & CENTRE CULTURE CENTRE PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS QUEEN ELIZABETH OAKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE FRASER RIVER





### Big Move 3 – Asset Targets



## What are Asset Targets?





Asset Targets establish the standard by which parks, recreation, nature, and facilities are provided, operated, and maintained over time to best meet the needs of the community.

## What are Asset Targets?



Targets describe <u>current state</u> as well as an <u>aspirational</u> standard for the future.

Each is defined through <u>qualitative</u> and <u>quantitative</u> measures such as number of amenities, distribution of amenities, access, or public satisfaction.

#### Asset Targets provide;

- clear measures to track progress over time
- a tool, for use in conjunction with other planning tools
- a city-wide perspective, not specific locations
- a starting point for further detailed studies and integrated planning that supports implementation at a more detailed level across the city
- clarity and consistency in decision-making

## Why Set Asset Targets?





Stakeholders and partners asked that the master plan reflect where there are current, **known service gaps** in recreation assets.



Typical parks and recreation services master plan include metrics and targets. These **benchmarks** provide a way to measure change over time, prioritise investments and recognise changing needs.



- Asset targets are a reference point for negotiations and planning new developments, facilities and parks.
- Because needs and wants are unlimited, set targets for aspects of service such as renewal timelines, condition and use help us define and advocate for appropriate funding.

## How do we meet the targets?



The following techniques can be use to improve asset levels;

- Increased renewal rates
- Design to enhance resilience
- Maintenance matched to use/demand
- New assets to fill gaps and target equity zones
- Renewal to repurpose, transition, build in multi-functionality
- Partnerships



## What targets should we set?



#### **ASSET TARGET PROCESS TIMELINE**









Example – Access to Nature





Throughout VanPlay community engagement we heard how important "access to nature" is to Vancouverites.

In this example we'll consider actions using the VanPlay tools which help us improve access to nature for humans.

A separate section of the report will consider biodiversity and habitat enhancement in more detail.





Park Board can increase access to nature for the community via:

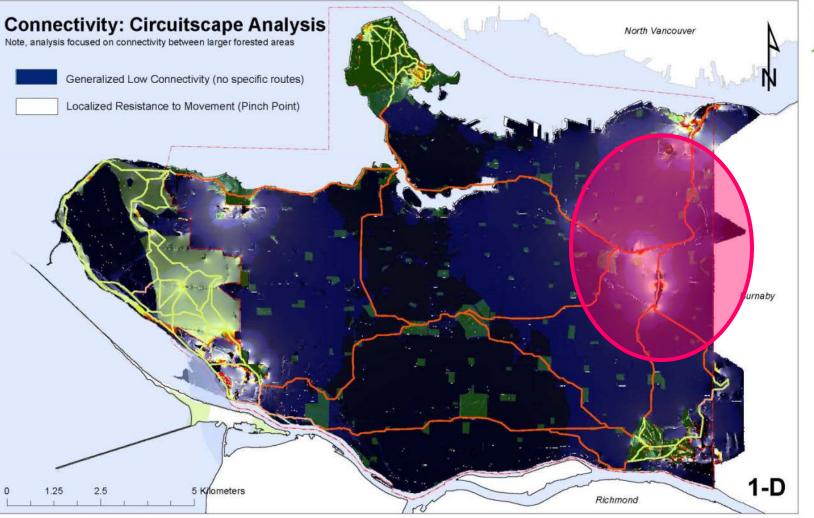
- stewardship programs
- horticulture and urban forestry in parks and streets
- ops/maintenance techniques
- park development incorporating natural areas
- urban wildlife management
- biodiversity enhancement projects



#### **Interconnected Network**





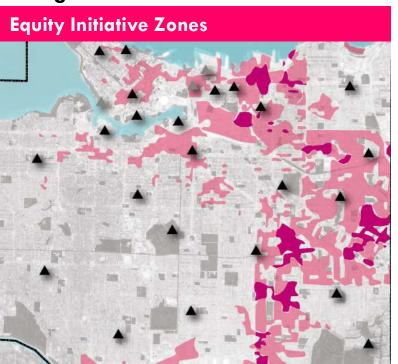








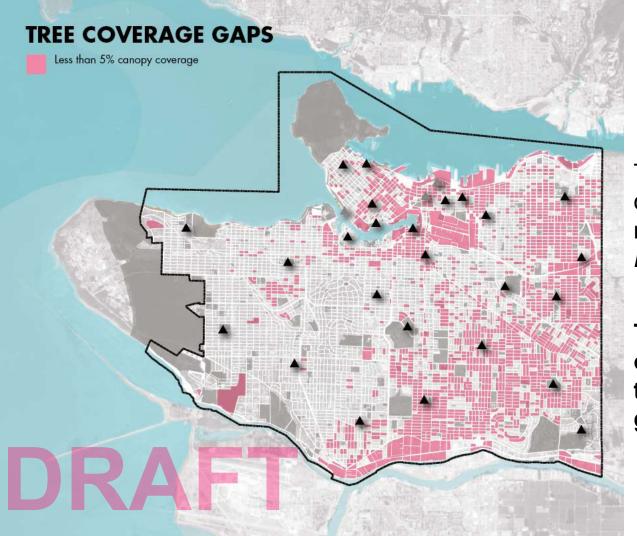
#### **Using the Tools**



The urban forest provides access to nature, cleaner air/water, climate change mitigation, reduces heat & more walkable, beautiful environments.

#### **Priority areas for investment**

One of the three contributing factors to the Equity Initiative Zones is Urban forest canopy cover





This map was created using canopy cover data (LiDAR) maps prepared for the *Urban Forest Strategy, 2016*.

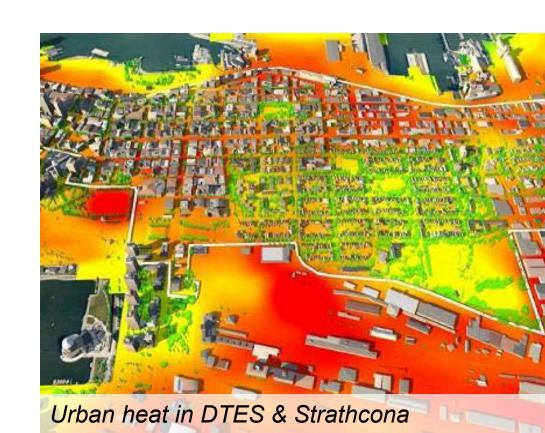
This indicator shows areas of the city with less street trees, park trees, and green private open space.



#### **Using the Tools**

#### **Equity Initiative Zones**

- Priority tree planting to reduce urban heat impacts.
- Changes to tree selection (and procurement) to tolerate summer drought and future climate.
- Enhanced soil volume to maintain tree health, and supplemental watering during establishment.





#### **Asset Targets**

#### **Proposed Targets:**

- Restore on enhance 1ha of natural area each year
- A substantial, naturally managed park space within a 10 minute walk
- Add 1 site for bird and pollinator habitat each year
- Grow environmental stewardship (volunteers and advocates) by 25%



#### **Supporting Tasks**

#### **Example recommendations:**

- Increase quantity and expand landscape types to integrate more natural areas into all park typologies.
- Identify appropriate locations for more natural management of park space.
   Consider safety/sight lines, operations/maintenance requirements, habitat connectivity, and human interaction.
- Align skills, capacity and quantity of operations and maintenance staff to respond to the current and future mix of horticulture and management area types.



#### **Supporting Tasks**

#### **Example recommendations:**

- Comprehensive watershed planning to guide the strategic daylighting of streams, green infrastructure, natural management of green spaces
- Advocate for and explore opportunities for conservation focused management of foreshores, waterways and beaches
- Collaborate with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh to learn land stewardship, planting and resilience approaches and incorporate these learnings into park management



### Park Board Commissioners:

How do you see the Interconnected Network and/or the Equity Initiative Zones influencing a project or priority that is important to you?

