

# Innovation + Vision

## INTRODUCTION

Vancouver is increasingly becoming a globally recognized city for innovative, creative and sustainable urban design, parks and recreation.

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is developing Vancouver's Playbook, a new master plan to guide the delivery of vibrant parks and recreation over the next 25 years.

The Playbook will have a bold vision and ambitious strategies to help foster innovation in parks and recreation in the face of emerging trends and issues. Looking 25 years into the future and beyond, Vancouver's Playbook will explore how to accommodate a projected 150,000 new residents living, working and playing in the city by 2041, as well as the innovative technologies and systems that help respond to increasing populations, density and climate change.

## BACKGROUND

Vancouver has a history of visionary and innovative plans, policies and actions to advance parks and recreation.

The 1928 Harland Bartholomew plan outlined neighbourhood parks every square mile, while the 2016 Parks Provision Standard and Metric Study analyzed park access through the street and sidewalk network.

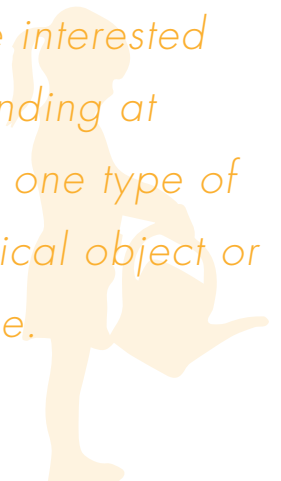
The world has changed since Park Board's last master plan in 1992. What will the next 25 years bring? To start imagining, the VanPlay team is looking holistically at the City's parks, beaches, community centres and trails to test out a 10-year, 25-year and 100-year vision of the future of Vancouver with the community.

## OBJECTIVES

- To identify inventive ways to provide parks and recreation that leverage the Park Board's resources to meet demand and **deliver outstanding parks** and recreation services into the future



*Through surveys, interviews and focus groups on altruism, the Sharing Project revealed that 78% of Vancouverites were interested in lending at least one type of physical object or space.*



# Creating a Legacy

For Over a 100 Years



1940 | English Bay Beach



1898 | Picnic on the Fraser



1930 | Musqueam Lacrosse Team



1920 | Children at the Beach in Dunbar

Source: All photos courtesy of the City of Vancouver Archives



**Van  
Play**



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## OBJECTIVES CONT.

- To reflect on the recreation implications of **projected population growth**, climate change and technology developments
- To seek ways **technology** can help connect the diverse voices of Vancouver's community to inspire engagement and participation in the future of parks and recreation
- To position upcoming **large-scale developments** and projects, like the Arbutus Greenway and Northeast False Creek, as opportunities for creating vibrant parks and recreation destinations and enhancing the city's connection to nature
- To set and implement **a bold and ambitious citywide vision** for the network of Vancouver's parks and recreation while considering the City's diverse and changing perspectives and needs

## CHALLENGES

- **Future technologies:** Adapting to changes in technology will rely on looking beyond the here and now. Smartphone ownership in British Columbia is at 68%, with users logging in more phone screen time than TV screen time.

- **Serving a growing population:** By 2041, Vancouver's population is predicted to grow by over 150,000 people, which puts increasing demand on our parks and recreation facilities. The Playbook will deliver affordable and innovative parks and recreation services to new and existing residents will be a priority. Developing infrastructure that is flexible and resilient in the face of demographic changes, particularly an aging population.
- **Serving a diverse and multilingual population:** The 2011 Census reported that only 50.2% of Vancouverites were native English speakers, and 1.5% spoke French only. 45.4% of people in Vancouver speak a language other than English or French, such as Chinese, Tagalog, Punjabi, or a Coast Salish language. In comparison, the BC average is 70.3% for English only, 1.3% French, and 26.5% for other languages.
- **Climate change:** The Province of British Columbia predicts sea level rise to hit 1m by 2100. With it will likely come higher temperatures and increased rainfall. Adapting to climate change means understanding what climate we are likely to experience in the future, and creating proactive plans, like the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, to take advantage of opportunities and prepare for impacts.



*Housing development reached an all-time high over the past two years, peaking at over 7,500 new dwelling units in 2015 and over 7,100 in 2016.*

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## CHALLENGES CONT.

- **Residential growth:** Housing development reached an all-time high over the past two years, peaking at over 7,500 new dwelling units in 2015 and over 7,100 in 2016. Currently, there are 1,458 residential new construction projects, or ~11,000 units, with applications to construct in process and ~32,320 more units planned in Rezoning and Pre-application stages.
- **Rising housing costs:** Home values have soared in single family neighborhoods, putting them out of reach to many and, correspondingly, condo prices continue to increase. Rental vacancy rates are near zero and rents are increasing.

## OPPORTUNITIES


### Living

- **Sharing economy:** Digital sharing platforms could change the way Vancouverites meet, connect and / or share resources in the face of smaller, denser living spaces and a lack of storage for recreation gear, like paddleboards.


- **Lower car ownership:** Increased use of car share services and lower car ownership is reducing parking needs. A reduction in private car ownership may have a positive effect on the sharing economy as our ability to transport and store recreation gear, art supplies, and musical instruments decreases.
- **Nurturing a thriving social infrastructure sector:** In collaboration with the City of Vancouver's future assets and investments, there is exciting potential in social infrastructure projects, such as the Arbutus Corridor and Northeast False Creek redevelopments.

### Working

- **Technology sector:** Our Digital entertainment and interactive industry generates more than 40,000 jobs in Vancouver, contributing billions in direct GDP to the Vancouver's economy.
- **Green economy:** The number of green jobs and companies in Vancouver has grown exponentially in less than a decade. Our burgeoning success in this industry inspired the City's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan to call for doubling the number of green and local food jobs.



*The Vancouver Economic Commission identifies technology, digital entertainment and interactive, and the green economy as the industries which are attracting global talent, companies, investment and buzz to Vancouver.*



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## OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

### Playing

- **Integrated technology:** More Wi-Fi and charging stations in parks could welcome more youth to our parks whilst improving safety. ActiveNet, the Park Board's online recreation registration platform has allowed residents to sign-up for activities at home rather than queuing up at a community center overnight to secure a child care spot or space in a popular program. What could be next?
- **Public Engagement:** There is an opportunity to use technology to communicate more profoundly with the community. The City of Vancouver application platforms, like VanConnect and TalkVancouver, provide direct lines of communication for the community to report issues and provide visions for the future of parks and recreation.

## RELATED INITIATIVES

- Biodiversity Strategy – 2016
- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan – 2011
- Urban Forest Strategy – 2014
- Integrated Stormwater Management – 2016
- Green Economy Plans

- Social Infrastructure Plan – ongoing
- Park Board Management Plan – 1992
- Park Provision Standard and Metric Study – 2016
- Transportation 2040 Plan – 2012
- Healthy City Strategy – 2014
- Metro Vancouver 2040 Regional Plan – 2011
- British Columbia: Provincial Transit Plan – 2008
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – 2011
- Downtown Transportation Plan – 2002
- Vancouver Bicycle Plan – 2008
- Vancouver Transportation Plan – 1999
- Vancouver Greenways Plan – 1991
- City of Reconciliation Framework – 2014
- Park Board 11 Reconciliation Strategies – 2016

Learn more at:

[www.vancouver.ca/vanplay](http://www.vancouver.ca/vanplay)



*The number of summer days (above 25°C) may rise from 18 days/year to 43 days/year on average by 2050s*

