

# What is Vancouver's Playbook?

## INTRODUCTION

Vancouver is home to world-class parks, beaches, aquatic facilities, recreation centres, public art, bike trails and more!

These amenities provide services for more than 630,000 residents. With a growing population and changing community needs, it is important we plan for the future of our parks and recreation system.

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is developing Vancouver's Playbook, a new master plan to guide the delivery of vibrant, healthy and livable parks and recreation that meet the diverse needs of the population and address critical trends and issues. Vancouver's Playbook will provide a road map to maximize access to high-quality parks and recreation experiences that connect people with themselves, each other and nature.



## BACKGROUND

For thousands of years, the area we now call Vancouver supported a temperate rainforest full of towering red cedar, Douglas fir and hemlock trees that exceeded 100 meters in height and a thousand years in age.

First Nations, Inuit and Metis people have been living here since time immemorial. Vancouver is within the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations who still live here today.

An early industrial settlement, Gastown, was renamed Vancouver and incorporated as a city in 1886. In 1888, the City opened Stanley Park, an area originally home to villages of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations people as well as indigenous people from other regions. Two years later, in 1890, Vancouver City Council set up an autonomous and separately-elected Park Board, the only of its kind in Canada. This cemented the City's dedication to parks and later to recreation.



*VanPlay is a year-long conversation with you, our staff, partners, stakeholders, and other subject matter experts to make this the best plan it can be.*



# What is Vancouver's Playbook?

Known now as the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, it remains committed to its mission of connecting people to green space, active living and community.

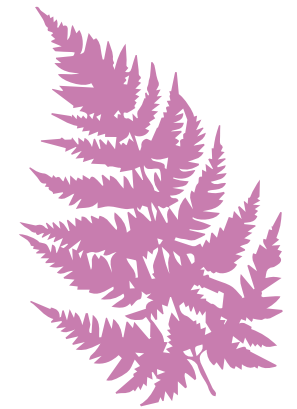
In its early years, the Park Board championed passive recreation and ornamental gardens. As the 20th century approached, a public desire for active sport amenities and children's playgrounds shifted the focus in parks to recreation. The early 20th century saw several prominent beaches designated as open spaces and weekend excursions through Stanley Park increased as a popular pastime. Harland Bartholomew and Associates' 1928 Plan for the City of Vancouver introduced neighborhood parks every square mile, as well as greenways, pleasure drives and protected play areas.

Post-World War II, Vancouver's Park Board saw a major boom in building recreation centres and setting aside land for parks in all Vancouver neighbourhoods. The 1982 Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Master Plan expanded the city's parks and recreation and formalized many social services those facilities still provide today.

Vancouver boasts more than 240 public parks, many destination gardens, 24 community centres, swimming pools, arenas and playing fields, multiple cultural landmarks, works of public art, and three golf courses. Stanley Park is North America's third largest urban park with an estimated eight million people visiting the ancient cedars, wildlife, rainforest ecology, vibrant art and seawall each year.

The Park Board is committed to providing inclusive and equitable parks and recreation. For example, the Park Board works with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and urban Aboriginal peoples. In 2016, the Park Board was the first municipal government body in Canada to endorse eleven ambitious strategies in its programs and facilities to advance the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that were within its ability to implement.

In moving forward, **Vancouver's Playbook will respond to a rich legacy of environmental planning and community engagement.**



*Your participation in this plan is vital to its success!*



# What is Vancouver's Playbook?

## STUDY AREA AND THEMES

The Playbook will explore how parks and recreation are distributed citywide with focused studies of the downtown core and growth areas (Marpole Neighbourhood, Cambie Corridor, Broadway Corridor, Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood, Norquay, River District). When complete, the Playbook will provide a **100-year vision, 25-year outlook and a 10-year implementation strategy** to guide the development and redevelopment of parks, and the development, renewal and replacement of recreation facilities.

Vancouver's Playbook will honour the past and the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan, while imagining the future through the lens of **six key themes** – each detailed in a separate brief:

### INNOVATION + VISION

Examines the impact of trends like climate change, redevelopment and sustainability initiatives on Vancouver's parks and recreation now and into the future.

### PLACES + ACCESS

Delves into the importance of place-making and building a network of parks, open space and cultural destinations and how these destinations connect to active modes of transportation, like walking and cycling.

### RESILIENCE + WELLBEING

Expands upon how equitable access to parks and recreation make Vancouver more resilient to broad issues of social justice, social isolation and disasters.

### CELEBRATION + TOURISM

Assesses the role of parks and recreation in sport hosting, public art, tourism, events, education and celebration of Vancouver's diverse communities.

### RECREATION + COMMUNITY

Explores recreation, such as art, music, dance, sport, fitness, hiking, cycling and play, and how they are vital activities that enliven Vancouver's community.

### ECOLOGY + NATURE

Looks at the connections between Vancouver's parks, urban forests and beaches, access to nature and opportunities for re-wilding, environmental education and enhanced stewardship of nature.

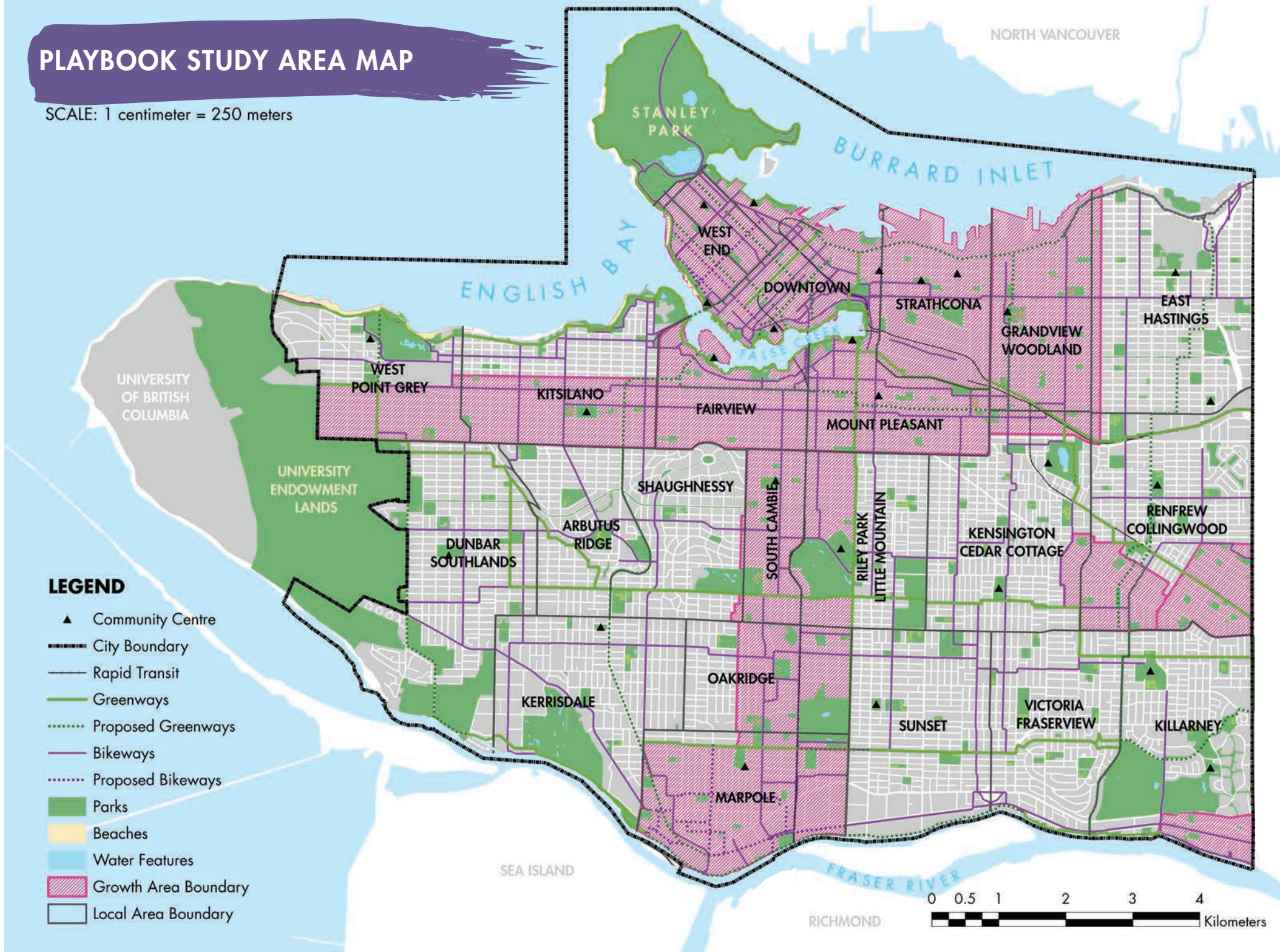


# PLAYBOOK STUDY AREA MAP

SCALE: 1 centimeter = 250 meters

## LEGEND

- ▲ Community Centre
- ▬ City Boundary
- ▬ Rapid Transit
- ▬ Greenways
- ⋯ Proposed Greenways
- ▬ Bikeways
- ⋯ Proposed Bikeways
- Parks
- Beaches
- Water Features
- ▨ Growth Area Boundary
- ▭ Local Area Boundary



# What is Vancouver's Playbook?

## WHO IS CREATING

### VANCOUVER'S PLAYBOOK:

The Park Board has thus recruited a team of local and global experts, skilled local consultants and dedicated volunteers to engage Vancouver's diverse communities in VanPlay, a public conversation about the future of parks and recreation. A cross-departmental team of Park Board and City of Vancouver staff are overseeing the project, with Park Board Commissioners providing leadership and guidance throughout the process. An External Advisory Group—composed of key parks and recreation partners and service providers whose mandates are closely linked to ours—will provide insights and opportunities to the team. Residents, visitors, service providers, non-profit organizations, businesses, user groups and non-users, the general public, local First Nations governments and the urban Aboriginal population will have many opportunities for input throughout the planning process. The Playbook consultant team is led by:

- **Design Workshop** – An internationally-recognized landscape architecture and planning firm that has assembled a team of local and international experts including:
- **Modus Planning, Design and Engagement Inc.** – A group of community planning and engagement professionals who will help ensure a visible, local Vancouver understanding.

- **Lees + Associates** – A Vancouver-based landscape architecture and planning firm providing parks, recreation and trails planning, policy and design services for public sector clients.
- **HCMA Architecture + Design** – A local full service architectural practice recognized nationally and internationally for sustainable, integrated and innovative architecture as well as extensive experience with recreation-related analysis and feasibility studies.
- **Urban Design 4 Health** – A local firm specializing in the interactions between land use, built environment, transportation, air quality, behavior and public health. UD4H is working with the **RAND Corporation** to conduct a park study using the System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC).
- **ETM Associates** – A New England-based firm specializing in operations and maintenance planning with international experience, including New York's High Line and Central Park.
- **Urban ecology and local food** experts including Applied Ecological Services and British-Columbia based urban ecologist, Dr. Val Schaefer, and Urban Food Strategies' Janine de la Salle.



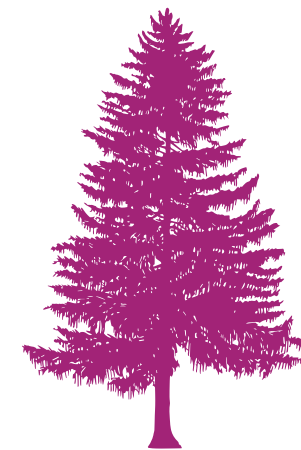
*Vancouver has a rich social, economic and environmental tapestry that is supported by robust policies, plans and studies.*



# What is Vancouver's Playbook?

## THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES WILL HELP INFORM VANPLAY:

- 1. City of Reconciliation:** Park Board endorses the 11 strategies to advance the work of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**.
- 2. City of Reconciliation Framework:** The City of Vancouver is designated a **City of Reconciliation** with the adoption of the framework.
- 3. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:** The City of Vancouver endorses the declaration.
- 4. Vancouver Park Board**
  - Arts Policy – 2003
  - VanSplash Aquatics Strategy – ongoing
  - People, Parks and Dogs Strategy – ongoing
  - Urban Forest Strategy – 2014
  - Urban Forest Study – 2015
  - Biodiversity Strategy – 2016
  - Bird Strategy – 2015
  - Rewilding Vancouver – 2014
  - Sport for Life: Vancouver Sport Strategy – 2008
- 5. City of Vancouver Community Services**
  - Healthy City Strategy – 2014
  - High-Density Housing for Families with Children Guidelines – 1992
  - Housing and Homelessness Strategy – 2011
  - Social Infrastructure Plan – ongoing
  - Cultural Facilities Key Gap Update – 2008
- 6. City of Vancouver Engineering: Public Space and Street Use**
  - Downtown Places and Spaces – ongoing
  - Plaza Stewardship Strategy – ongoing
- 7. City of Vancouver Public Library**
  - Libraries Strategic Plan – 2013
- 8. Community Resilience**
  - Disaster Support Hub Initiative – ongoing
  - City of Vancouver | Sustainability Group – ongoing
  - Greenest City 2020 Action Plan – 2011
  - Renewable City Strategy – 2016
  - Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – 2011



*International, national, provincial and local policies and initiatives will inform the Playbook.*



# What is Vancouver's Playbook?

## VANPLAY AND THE RESULTING PLAYBOOK WILL UNFOLD AS FOLLOWS:

**Phase 1** – “Discovery” focuses on exploring the community’s satisfaction with current amenity and program offerings. The planning team also needs community input to help discover the most critical issues and priorities that will impact the future of Vancouver’s parks and recreation.

**Phase 2** – “Direction - Urban Core” delves into recommendation preferences and public engagement for communities in the Downtown Vancouver Urban Core study area to collectively define goals for future access to and quality of parks and recreation in the heart of the City.

**Phase 3** – “Direction - Citywide and Growth Areas Analysis” focuses on recommendation preferences and public engagement for the communities citywide and in growth areas to collectively define goals for future access to and quality of parks and recreation.

**Phase 4** – “Draft” will offer opportunities for stakeholder comment on the draft Playbook and celebration of next steps to connect people with each other, nature and themselves.

## GET INVOLVED

This is an important opportunity for all of us to collectively imagine the future of Vancouver’s parks and recreation.

Visit us at [vancouver.ca/vanplay](http://vancouver.ca/vanplay)

- Come to a **VanPlay Tour event** and check out the Imagination Playground
- Tell us what you think in a **TalkVancouver survey**
- Join the conversation, get inspired, and tell **@ParkBoard** how you play! **#VanPlay**
- **Help spread the word** to as many parks and recreation enthusiasts as possible. Invite your friends, family and colleagues to join VanPlay.



Email the team at **vanplay@vancouver.ca** with any questions.

