





CHAPTER 3: RECREATION

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE RECREATION CHAPTER?

This chapter focuses on the activities that activate our parks and community centres, from sport, art and play amenities—including tennis courts, playing fields, playgrounds and off leash dog areas—as well as the range of recreational programs and experiences.

The following facilities chapter explores recreation in spaces like community centres, pools, ice rinks, field house, VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory.

BACKGROUND	63
History + System Context	
Major Initiatives	
ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS	66
INVENTORY + ANALYSIS	70
Access Analysis	
Quality Analysis	
Inclusivity Analysis	
Outdoor Recreation Amenity Profiles	
OPPORTUNITIES + CHALLENGES	104
BASELINES + INNOVATION	106



Sailing on Lost Lagoon, 1920's | Handbook of Parks, Playgrounds + Bathing Beaches

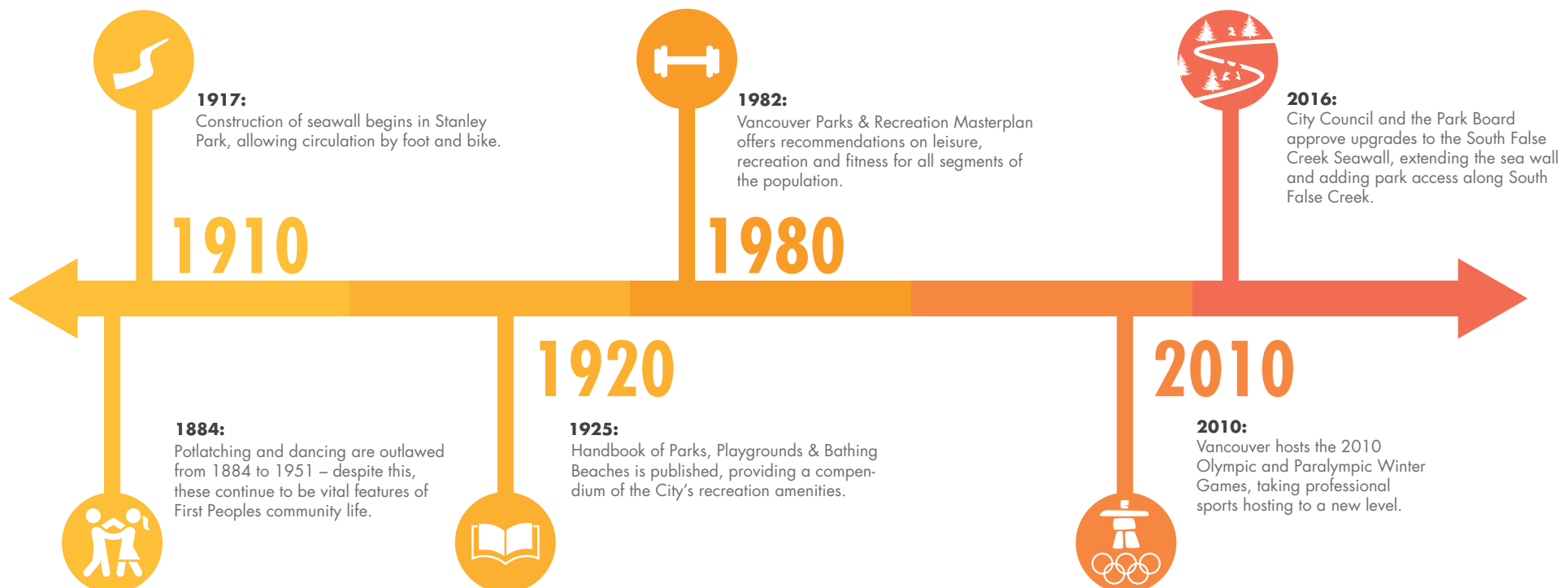


Tennis Net Repair, 1962 | CoV Archives



Olympic Day at Carnarvon Park, 1976 | CoV Archives

RECREATION TIMELINE



BACKGROUND

SYSTEM CONTEXT

Vancouverites are known for their healthy lifestyles and love of the outdoors due to unique weather that allows for outdoor recreation throughout the year.

Art, dance, music, sport, fitness, hiking, cycling and play are vital activities that enrich life in Vancouver. There is a wide array of leisure sports, culture and recreation programs at the neighbourhood community centres and parks to meet the needs of residents. The list of services is expansive, from mahjong to lacrosse, bird watching to curling. Sport, cultural expression and recreation provide positive rewards not only in the physical health of participants but in their sense of social connection, artistic expression, spiritual health and connection to nature.

In the early days of the Park Board (1880s), programming concentrated largely on leisure and informal activities. Postcards from that era speak to the popularity of weekend drives through Stanley Park and bandshell concerts by the beach.¹ By the early twentieth century, however, the Park Board and Community Centre Association (CCAs) shifted their focus to active recreation. Sports courts and children's playgrounds were built throughout the city through the first half of the twentieth century.²

In recent years, the Park Board has undertaken efforts to expand programming, to advance sport for recreation and to strengthen neighbourhood partnerships. Today the Park Board's recreational focus is not just to expand sport development, but also Sport for Life, through physical literacy and participation. Strategies and programs that align the True Sport Principles and the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L)'s Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) framework aim support lifelong engagement with sport. The Sport for Life philosophy, as articulated in the Park Board's Sport Strategy, advocates for facilities for participation of all ages and abilities right through to elite training and sport hosting venues.

¹ Harland Bartholomew and Associates. Plan for the City of Vancouver. Vancouver, BC: 1928.

² Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. Master Plan. Vancouver, BC: 1982.

KEY TERMS

recreation

An activity that people engage in during their free time, to relax or have fun.

sport

An activity involving physical exercise and skill in which an individual or team competes for entertainment.

play

An imaginative, intrinsically motivated, non serious and freely chosen activity done for its inherent pleasure.

sports tourism

Any activity in which people are attracted to a particular location as a sport event participant, an event spectator, or to attend sport attractions or business meetings.

secondary providers

Private and nonprofit recreation service providers autonomous of the Park Board.

BACKGROUND

SYSTEM CONTEXT CONT.

In addition to recreation programs and services, the Park Board maintains a network of active outdoor recreation amenities across the city. These facilities include tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, golf courses, baseball diamonds, playing fields (turf, gravel and artificial), playgrounds and dog off leash areas. Complementing these facilities the city's trails, bikeways and greenways support an array of sports and activities including running biking and tai chi.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

There are major projects currently shaping Vancouver's recreation services system, in addition to the related initiatives at right:

- The Leisure Access Program (LAP) provides low-income residents with access to recreation programs at a reduced cost. A simplified application process initiated in 2015 has further lowered the barriers to accessing this program.
- Park Board's Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion steering committee provides input on creating safety protocols, interpersonal communications protocols, working on Two-Spirit engagement. Park Board is working with CoV LGBTQ2+ advisory committee to guide initiatives, programs and events. The Trans and Gender Variant Inclusion (TGI) Working Group to assist the organization with identifying barriers citizens face in accessing parks and recreation services.
- The Park Board is improving access to adapted recreation amenities city-wide, including accessible playground features (Creekside playground), beach mats at English Bay in 2017 and Kitsilano Beach in 2018, floating water wheelchairs located at beaches and outdoor pools, indoor pool wheelchairs.
- The 11 Reconciliation Strategies include a "360 degree" approach to programming in culture, health and sport to increase public awareness and support for First Nations children, youth and elders in Park Board programs.

RELATED INITIATIVES

- Making Space for Arts and Culture: Cultural Infrastructure Plan – ongoing, 2018
- Creative City Strategy – ongoing, 2018
- OnWater: Vancouver's Non-motorised Watercraft Strategy – ongoing
- People, Parks and Dogs Strategy – 2017
- Assessment of Playspaces – 2015
- Healthy City Strategy – 2014
- Canadian Sport for Life – 2014
- Grass Field Renewal Plan – 2002
- Sport for Life: Vancouver Sport Strategy – 2008



Beach volleyball | VanPlay Video Photo



Downtown Skateboard Park, 2018 | Michael Schmidt



Soccer field | VanPlay Video Photo



Children looking at Heron nests | Park Board



5th and Pine Pop Up Park | VanPlay Video Photo



Biker in Stanley Park | VanPlay Video Photo

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Survey respondents most frequently used these amenities:

1. Dog facilities
2. Parks
3. Playgrounds

The top three themes of the Big Ideas we heard from survey respondents were:

1. Protect and expand green spaces, natural areas, wildlife, biodiversity – 15%
2. Improve, repair and upgrade existing amenities – 12%
3. Enhance social connections, sense of community and place-making – 8%

OPPORTUNITIES

- Play is not just for children! During the VanPlay Tour we heard lots of support for all-ages play spaces, including play equipment and monkey bars for adults.
- Pickle ball is a rapidly growing sport in Vancouver; many respondents highlighted the need for more outdoor (and indoor) Pickleball courts throughout the city to meet demand.
- During engagement for the North East False Creek Park and for the Marpole Community Plan, in addition to in the VanPlay survey, we heard great support for additional skate parks and spots.
- Amenities of interest to older adults like outdoor exercise equipment, looped walking trails and beautiful spots to sit and talk were regularly brought up on the VanPlay tour.
- Andy Livingstone Park Playground Renewal Engagement participants identified climbing (50%) and sliding (24%) as their favourite playground activities. This is supported by the Urban Explorers (Child & youth engagement in planning project): “traditional play

equipment continues to be important for children and they would improve these structures with bigger, faster, longer & higher slides and swings.”

- Water play continues to be hugely popular, with many mentions during the VanPlay Tour. Many of the student projects presented by the Urban Explorers featured swimming pools, water slides, a splash park, swimming fountains, creeks and a waterfall also open to swimming and playing.
- One of the most commonly suggested big idea heard during the VanPlay tour was for more adventure play and elements of risky play in playgrounds. Many residents cited Terra Nova in Richmond as being a great example. This call was heavily supported by the Urban Explorers, almost all of which included exciting play amenities like zip lines and treehouses in their projects.
- Access to drinking water and shelter (from the sun and rain) was a commonly requested area of improvement mentioned during the VanPlay tour.

CHALLENGES

- The most common challenges and barriers reported by survey respondents were a lack of available programs and activities of interest (23%) and inconvenient timing of programs and/or events (20%).
- As Aaron Licker articulated in his VanPlay Smart City Talk, a short walk isn't a short walk for everyone. His “grumpy toddler index” examined access to splash parks across the city and identified walking distance, major road crossings and washrooms as barriers to access for toddler and their parents.
- Many comments regarding challenges facing the future of parks and recreation for the city focused on broader stressors on Vancouver's recreation amenities and services including population growth, changing demographics and community needs, and social isolation.
- Parents commonly reported how important it is to have a continued focus on public safety. Survey and tour participants commonly requested more fenced playgrounds and safer street crossings.
- The tricky balance between quiet, passive recreation spaces and active outdoor amenities was apparent during conversations with VanPlay Tour participants. Many called for more shady spots, lush grass and benches and tables situated away from those undertaking more active pursuits.

COMMUNITY SURVEY TAKEAWAY

4% Limited accessibility
3% Lack of cultural sensitivity
3% Not feeling welcome
1% Language barrier

23%

Lack of available programs of interest

20%

Inconvenient timing

46%

Perceive no significant barriers to accessing recreation

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING RECREATION



Liked



PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

All three of the community plan engagement summaries reviewed listed "park connectivity" as an opportunity for recreation (creating trails) and for access to amenities.

A study of playground renewal in the downtown indicated priorities for playgrounds include canopy cover, public furniture for passive recreation and integration with natural elements.

EMERGING QUESTIONS

EQUITY, INCLUSION + ACCESS:

This was the top priority of the public to address in the next 25 years. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities regarding equity, inclusion and access in the recreation system? What are 'affordable' services for all? What populations currently feel unwelcome? What does the public perceive as barriers now?

ARTS + CULTURE: What are the biggest challenges and opportunities regarding enlivening our city with creativity, arts and culture?

EVENTS + SPORTS: How can we develop and enhance new and unique sports opportunities, community building events and sports tourism?

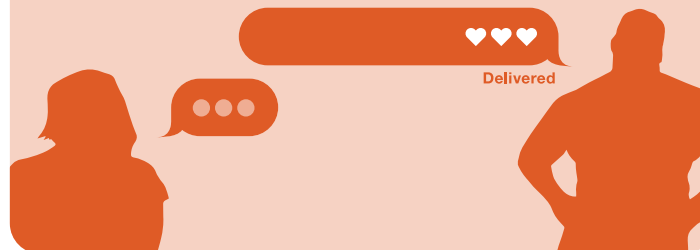
VANPLAY TOUR TAKEAWAY

"Recreation facilities and services, including playgrounds, outdoor sports facilities, indoor and outdoor pools and dog areas help people connect and play together."



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

"It's important to consider the breadth of recreation opportunities that are and can be, offered by the Park Board. Considerations should be made for both passive and active programming, programming for different ages and abilities, among others."



VanPlay

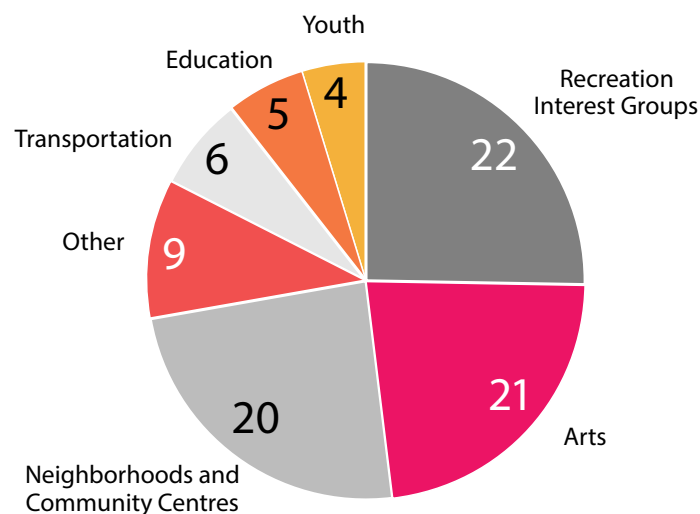
ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

VANPLAY DEEP DIVE

Between February and April 2018, key stakeholder groups were invited to engage in the VanPlay process through “VanPlay Deep Dives.” 345 members of key stakeholder groups completed 64 “VanPlay Deep Dive” workbooks. The goals of the VanPlay Deep Dive are:

- To better understand Vancouver’s parks and recreation system by mapping out and celebrating the diverse networks of amenities, programs, services and experiences to which stakeholders contribute in Vancouver.
- To identify who is involved in leading, sharing and supporting these diverse services
- To shape the future by setting principles and goals which reflect what a successful future looks like
- To identify the actions and resources needed to achieve goals

Groups Who Participated in Deep Dive Engagement



STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON CURRENT STATE OF RECREATION

Through the VanPlay Deep Dive, 774 comments were gathered on the current state of parks and recreation. The diagram on the facing page reflects findings from stakeholders on the current state of the recreation network, what broad topics are top of mind to these stakeholders. The lines map out who the Deep Dive stakeholders see as providers of these recreation services and facilities. Specific recreation programs of special interest to the Deep Dive participants include:

- Adaptive sport and recreation for persons with disabilities
- Art programming (pottery, painting, etc.)
- Cultural programming (concerts, festivals, etc.)
- Disc Golf
- Dog parks and amenities (recently addressed in People Parks and Dogs)
- Educational programs (after school programs, ESL, etc.)
- Elite sports and training
- Field Hockey
- Health and wellness (yoga, counseling, health monitoring, etc.)
- Paddle ball / pickleball
- Parkour
- Rugby
- Skateboarding
- Sport courts (e.g. tennis, basketball, pickle ball, volleyball)
- Sport fields (e.g. soccer, rugby, ultimate, cricket)
- Tennis

For the full Deep Dive report, please see the Appendix 7.

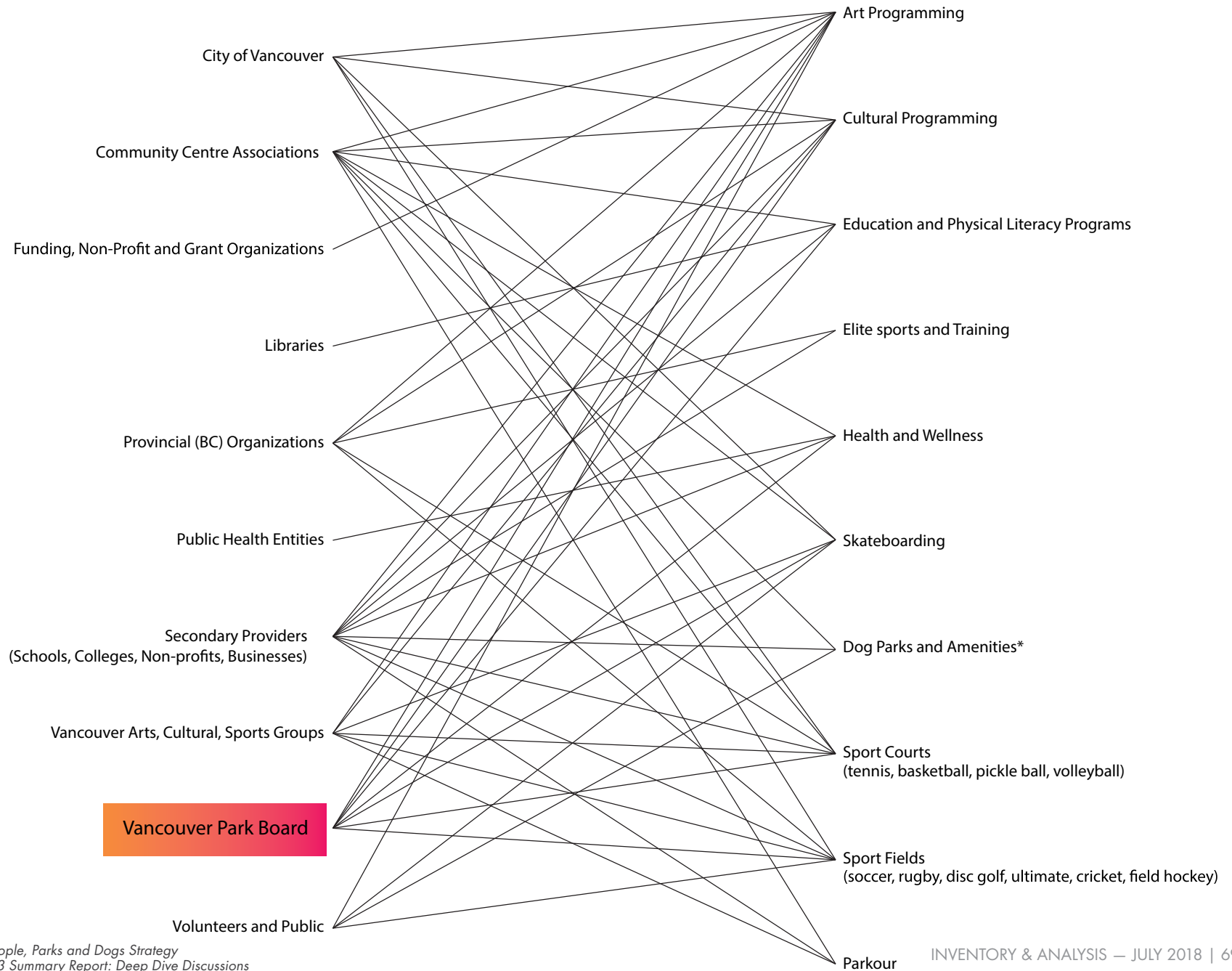
WHAT THIS DIAGRAM (OPPOSITE) TELLS US

For recreation, stakeholders identified the Park Board and Community Centre Associations as both playing lead roles in providing parks and access to parks among others in a complex network.

DEEP DIVE FINDINGS SUMMARY: RECREATION SERVICES AND PROVIDERS

SERVICE PROVIDERS IDENTIFIED BY STAKEHOLDERS

STAKEHOLDER SELECTED DISCUSSION TOPICS



*Addressed in the 2017 People, Parks and Dogs Strategy
 SOURCE: VanPlay Phase 3 Summary Report: Deep Dive Discussions

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: ACCESS

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The population of Vancouver is growing, aging and continuing to be more diverse.

- By 2041, Vancouver's population is predicted to grow by over 150,000 people, which puts increasing demand on our parks and recreation facilities.¹
- Vancouver's population over 65+ is expected to grow by 92% by 2041.²
- 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.

HEALTH TRENDS

If high-quality parks, recreation and social destinations are located within a five to 10-minute walk, people are more likely to grab their bikes or walk a trail than get into their cars. Walking, cycling and being outside provide long-term health benefits against obesity and heart disease. Recreational programming has become an important strategy in addressing the obesity crisis by promoting physical activity through means of organized sports leagues, outdoor fitness classes, interventions to encourage the use of walking paths and trails

and varied activities like yoga, Pilates and martial arts. Active, passive and sport recreation have tremendous potential to address health trends:

- Only 10% of children ages nine to 12 participate in after school sports activities but 50% would like to.³
- Rate of obesity in Vancouver is increasing at twice the rate of the rest of British Columbia.
- Only 46% of Vancouver adults are getting the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week.⁴
- 50% of estimated weekday trips are made by the more active options of walking, cycling or transi.

WELLNESS TRENDS

Well-being depends on feeling a sense of safety, belonging and inclusion in our communities. Feeling like part of a community can help shape identity and encourage societal participation. Stronger senses of belonging are associated with better mental health. Social networks are built up through community and are a critical support system. These social networks allow us to relieve stress and improve our mental health conditions. Social isolation is when there is a lack of these social networks or contact between an individual and their community or society. This is often an issue with populations such as aging individuals and immigrant groups, both of which are found in Vancouver. Programming that encourages community participation and social interaction has the possibility to address wellness trends:

- Only 52% of adults in Vancouver report having excellent or very good mental health
- Nearly half of Vancouver adults do not feel a sense community belonging
- Half of adults have four or more people to turn to for help in difficult situations

¹ City of Vancouver. *Diversity Dialogue*. March 31, 2016.

² City of Vancouver 2016 Projections

³ Sport for Life Strategy

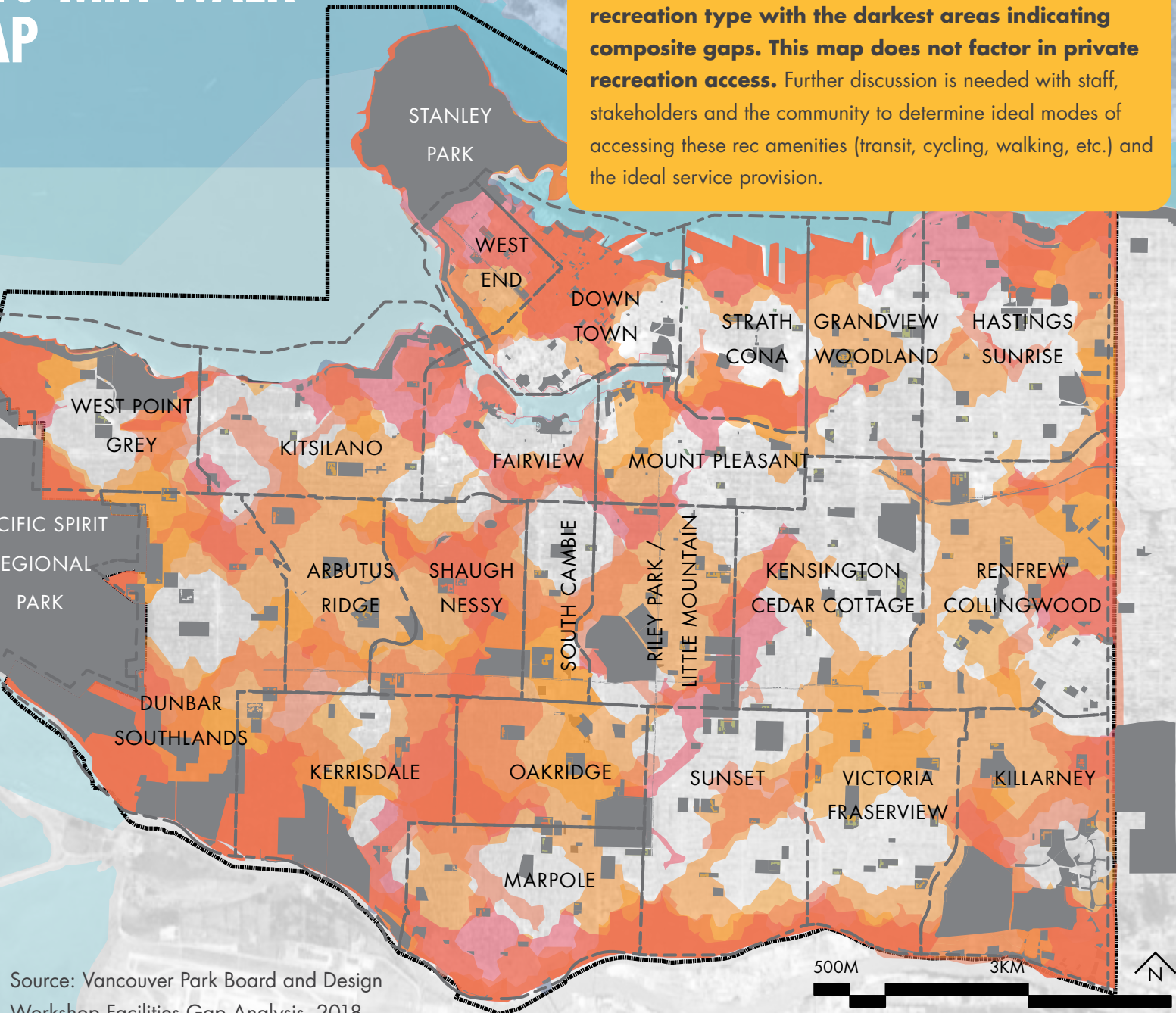
⁴ My Health My Community Survey 2013/2014

OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES: 10-MIN WALK BASELINE MAP

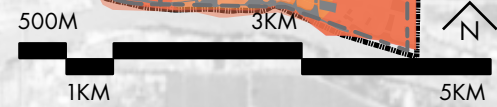
WHAT THIS MAP TELLS US: This is a composite map of service gaps for four recreation types. Using the sidewalk network, the VanPlay team mapped facilities within a 10-minute walk. **Coloured areas show gaps for each recreation type with the darkest areas indicating composite gaps. This map does not factor in private recreation access.** Further discussion is needed with staff, stakeholders and the community to determine ideal modes of accessing these rec amenities (transit, cycling, walking, etc.) and the ideal service provision.

LEGEND

-  AREAS WITH AMENITIES WITHIN 10 MIN. WALK
-  COMPOSITE AREAS OF NEED
-  TENNIS GAPS
-  BASKETBALL GAPS
-  PLAYGROUND GAPS
-  PLAYING FIELD GAPS



Source: Vancouver Park Board and Design Workshop Facilities Gap Analysis, 2018.



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: ACCESS & QUALITY

PASSIVE, LEISURE + INFORMAL RECREATION TRENDS

Park Board venues from scenic beaches and seawalls to ornamental gardens offer the community destinations for passive recreation like hiking, picnicking, or taking in the view. The VanPlay survey results revealed that community health and wellbeing and passive recreation are important community priorities for the future development of the system. The BC Recreation and Parks Association reports that the province is seeing a trend in people choosing informal, individual activities that can fit into their daily schedules and travels. Experiential, adventure play, cultural and outdoor activities will likely increase in demand. Temporary art installations, public art and murals and cultural programs are important offerings to current and future populations of Vancouver. For example, the popular *A-maze-ing Laughter* sculpture in English Bay draws playful children, tourists and even a couple who staged their wedding at the park.

Metro Vancouver runs the regional parks system which is geared toward natural areas and passive recreation. It also has a regional

greenways program that is recreationally focused (not active transportation/commuter focused). Vancouver City Council approved a regional greenways vision plan in 1999 and there are future linkages planned between the local and regional systems.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

While Vancouver reports higher rates of physical activity than peer cities, the rate of obesity in Vancouver is increasing at twice the rate of the rest of British Columbia. This paired with digital entertainment as a proxy for outdoor recreation is creating a greater risk for obesity. 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 time¹.

Fitness apps and other technological advances will encourage recreation participation (e.g., apps to share equipment) while also creating potential management conflicts (e.g., permissibility of drones, electronic bikes, etc. on Park Board lands). Technology to capture, review and analyze movements with high performance cameras, multi-angle video and artificial intelligence is revolutionizing

¹ *Insights West. British Columbians Spend Nearly as much Time Using Smartphones as Watching their TV Screens. May 8, 2017.*



Latern Festival | Park Board



Dance Class | VanPlay Video Photo



Walking through Stanley Park | Park Board

sport training and play. Online coaching tools and live streaming connects players, coaches and supporters, which encourages learning, performance and motivation.

Wearable technology has come a long way since pedometers – technology to track performance, biometrics and routes can also be integrated with equipment on courts, fields and tracks.

RECREATION IN THE METRO VANCOUVER REGION

Vancouver's dramatic mountain backdrop is more than just stunning; it offers a wealth of recreation opportunities.

Spectacular skiing, snowshoeing, camping and hiking within an hour's drive (or less) of downtown make these activities accessible for many on a day-to-day basis. The gulf islands, the Indian arm and Salish Sea are wonderful venues for sea kayaking and sailing.

Leveraging this proximity to big nature experiences and enabling more Vancouverites to make the most of these assets is something the Park Board and Metro Vancouver can continue to work together on into the future.

MetroVancouver's regional parks system is managed with a focus on water quality protection and adventure recreation. It also has a regional greenways program that is recreationally focused (not active transportation/commuter focused), evidence of its strong "connect and protect" mission. MetroVancouver, in partnership with Pacific Spirit Park Society, also manage Vancouver's immediate neighbour to the West; Pacific Spirit Regional Park. This beautiful 750 hectare forest features over 54km of trails, many of them dog friendly and is much loved by Vancouver residents and UBC students and staff alike.

The University of British Columbia (UBC) offers a suite of amenities from aquatics, drop-in fitness, ice, rowing, sports clubs, tennis and summer camps to both students and the public. Simon Fraser University (SFU) offers public recreation amenities at their Vancouver and Burnaby campuses and offers recreation memberships in partnership with the Park Board.



Cleveland Dam at Capilano River Regional Park
Outdoor Rock Climbing at Murrin Provincial Park
Skiing at Cypress Mountain | Katherine Howard

HIGH PERFORMANCE AND SPORT HOSTING TRENDS

Vancouver's stunning natural setting, mild climate and outdoors culture make it a popular destination for sports competitions.

A 2011 study estimated sport tourism travel generates \$7.68 billion in visitor spending globally, with 19 million sports tourists in Canada each year. The 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games were an international success story of sports hosting and showed the world Vancouver's ability to host large scale events successfully. The Games built a relationship with host First Nations and spurred invaluable infrastructure improvements. As an example, the Olympic legacy of Hillcrest Centre is the Park Board's largest aquatics facility and also houses a regulation-sized hockey rink, a curling facility and two new public art installations. The Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund (and set of 37 commitments based on community input and supported by the Park Board and City) created a suite of community projects focused on cultural, recreational and affordable opportunities.

The Park Board supports a diverse mix of opportunities for people to pursue sport at any level and at any stage in life, including opportunities and spaces for high performance training.

Sport hosting and high performance training facilities play an important role in a comprehensive offering of Sport for Life. By keeping athletes engaged and supported, they in turn inspire the next generation to keep playing and strive for high performance.

The Vancouver to Whistler Gran Fondo, 122km into the mountains, is the largest in North America. Marathons and triathlons are a popular feature

of summers in Vancouver, notably the Vancouver Marathon is regarded as one of the most beautiful marathon routes in the world.

BC Place (owned and operated by BC Pavilion Corporation) and the Pacific Coliseum and surrounding grounds of the Pacific National Exhibition at Hastings Park provide the stage for hundreds of major sport, art and cultural events each year.

Vancouver's neighbours have extensive sport hosting and high performance training amenities which supplement Park Board recreation amenities.

Regional Olympic legacy venues in neighbouring municipalities Richmond, West Vancouver and Whistler offer world-class recreation venues to the community. Many sports leagues make use of facilities in the greater Metro Vancouver area, such as Softball City in Surrey and Swangard Stadium, or Canlan Ice Sports 8 Rinks in Burnaby.

University of British Columbia's 3,500 seat Thunderbird Stadium hosts local and international rugby, football and soccer games. Also on campus, Thunderbird Park with a new track and field facility, Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre has rinks in winter, tournament ready tennis in summer has competition hosting capacity for many sports.

¹ Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance. *Value of Sport Tourism*. Ottawa, ON: 2011.

² Canadian Sport for Life & the Vancouver Sport Strategy, 2016



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: FUNDING RECREATION

FUNDING OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

Capital funding is used for developing new recreation amenities, parkland acquisition and replacement of assets, whereas, operating funds look after maintenance, staffing and other costs for the ongoing care of these assets. Various sources and methods finance the City's capital and operating budgets. Recreation-related funding sources and mechanisms are described below.

OPERATING

Staff, operations and maintenance of existing assets are primarily funded through property taxes, revenues and in some cases grants and donations.

Revenue

The Park Board generates roughly \$42.4M (2017) of revenues from entities such as concessions and user fees, providing roughly 34.5% of the necessary funding to operate a balanced budget.

A portion of the \$9.8M (2017) received from golf user fees is directed into the Golf Reserve Fund, which sustainably funds management, maintenance and upgrades of the golf courses.

SOURCES:

Community Benefits from Development, 2017, City of Vancouver

2018 Operating and Capital Budget Report to Park Board Commissioners November 2017

Leisure Access Program

Providing Vancouverites subsidized recreation programs and services

vancouver.ca/leisureaccess

3-1-1



LEISURE ACCESS PROGRAM

The operations budget also supports the Leisure Access Program, which provides access to recreation programs at a reduced cost. In 2017 \$2.23M was provided in subsidies.

CAPITAL

New things, such as the development of new or enhanced outdoor recreation amenities, are funded primarily through developer and partner contributions.

Community Plans include a Public Benefit Strategy which identifies amenity needs such as parks and community centres, to support the projected density and urban form described in the community plan. Growth related recreation amenities are typically delivered via development cost levies (DCLs), density bonus zoning and other conditions of development or through negotiations with developers for community amenities contributions (CACs).

Development Cost Levies

DCLs are charges imposed on development to fund growth-related capital projects. They typically pay for new infrastructure and facilities to maintain service levels as city grows. The principle is that 'growth pays for growth' so that financial burden of the growth of the city is not borne by existing tax/rate payers. DCL funds (as per the Vancouver Charter) can only be used for acquiring park land, providing fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, restrooms, changing rooms, playground and playing field equipment on park land. So, DCLs don't fund upgrade works

needed to serve the existing population, or for operations and maintenance.

Outdoor recreation projects such as new playgrounds, spray parks or courts on an existing park are typically funded by DCLs.

Community Amenity Contributions

CACs are contributions provided by developers (either in-kind or payments in lieu), negotiated during rezoning, such as new parks, recreation centers, fire halls and libraries to provide amenities to service the new population. Park projects on lands being rezoned for development are typically community amenity contributions.

Partner contributions

These can include cash contributions from other governments (federal, provincial and regional), non-profit agencies, foundations and philanthropists. Partner contributions can fund existing or new amenities.

SOURCES:

Community Benefits from Development, 2017, City of Vancouver

2018 Operating and Capital Budget Report to Park Board Commissioners November 2017

CRITICAL CONDITION

Many of the City's recreation assets are aging; a recent Park Board assessment found that 30% of programmed activity areas (e.g. sports fields, courts and tracks) are in critical condition, requiring \$90M investment over the next 10 years.

DCL REDUCTION

The city occasionally re-assesses the rate at which DCLs are allocated to city services (parks, non-market housing, infrastructure etc.). Due to competing priorities, in 2017 the allocation for parks was reduced from 41% to 18%.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: QUALITY

ARTS AND CULTURE IN RECREATION

A wide variety of arts programming is offered through Vancouver community centres and in local parks.

Arts classes and workshops offered in community centres and parks give Vancouver residents the opportunity to build skills in drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, wood-working and a diversity of dance disciplines from ballet to aerial dance. In addition most community centres offer music classes—both instrumental and vocal – and several are home to community choirs. This skill development work complements a rich program of community-engaged artist in residence projects that enable participants to develop new understandings of creativity and the role of the arts in their everyday lives. A community-engaged practice is a working collaboration between professional artists and community members who may not think of themselves as artists. For example, Arts & Health: Healthy Aging Through the Arts, is an ground-breaking project that connects professional artists with seniors and Elders to work together for 1 to 3 years to dance, sing, write, paint, weave and more. This work gives creative expression to the life experience and knowledge of seniors and Elders and contributes to health and well-being. Artist in residence work is supported citywide through Park Board funding and staffing initiatives including The Artists in Community program and The Neighbourhood Matching Fund.

Building on the robust schedule of classes, workshops and artist in residence work in community centres, are arts initiatives that support the development of big picture creative thinking and the celebration of creativity outdoors in parks. Participatory community dance, pop-up theatre performances and visual arts interventions take place outdoors in parks and public spaces. For example, Poetry in Parks is an annual program that invites community to join professional poets in writing and reciting poetry in public parks.



Top to Bottom:

Poetry in Parks | Park Board - Arts, Culture & Engagement Team

Ceramics class | VanPlay Video Photo

Vancouver is a city that has embraced its diversity of culture and this shows in recreational programming.

From Dragon Boating in False Creek to the international cooking classes found in many community centres, recreation programming reflects the cultural diversity of the city and its' neighbourhoods. Programming based in cultural traditions is offered at many locations throughout the city, including mah jong clubs, martial arts classes, belly-dancing, Iyengar yoga, Tai Chi and Qigong and more. There are also a wide variety of language and culture camps and classes for all ages at many community centres. The Park Board is also host to vibrant cultural festivals offering workshops and performances, including Vancouver Celebrates Diwali and Sound of Dragon Chinese Music Festival.



Top to Bottom:

Yoga Class | VanPlay Video Photo

Dragon Boating | VanPlay Video Photo

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR A WELCOMING SYSTEM

The Vancouver Park Board is committed to being a leader in parks and recreation by connecting people to green space, active living and community. Recognizing that Vancouver residents represent a diverse mix of socioeconomics, religions, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnicities and cultural groups from all over the world, the Park Board strives to ensure that the parks, facilities, programs and services under its jurisdiction are accessible and inclusive to all. Access and Inclusion Services creates accessible and

inclusive opportunities for Vancouver's diverse population through community engagement, policy development and system change.

The reduction of barriers to recreation is the key to inclusivity. As such, It is important to track and continue outreach to Vancouver populations who experience less choice, access and capacity and warrant special consideration of their recreation needs.

The purpose for grouping by demographic attributes is not to label, but to identify lack of privilege in accessing recreation and ensure these voices are explicitly heard during the VanPlay process of determining needs and priorities.

GROUP	KEY STATISTIC(S)	RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS
Diversity	<p>52% of Vancouver's population identifies as a minority population (Census, 2011)</p> <p>7% of 2011 Vancouver population immigrated to Canada from 2006-2011(Statistics Canada)</p>	<p>Inclusive recreation reshapes policies, programs and services so the needs of diverse and minority populations are reflected. The 2006 BC Recreation and Parks Association trends report found that implications of increased cultural diversity include reflecting these groups' needs in policies, programs, services, staffing and marketing approaches.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of flexible spaces - eg. spaces that can accommodate large gatherings with adequate shelter and washrooms. • Translated documents Provision of spaces/amenities for non-mainstream Canadian sports (such as Padel tennis), • Park Board staff – front line representation – “Do I see myself in our front line staff teams?” • Park Board Staff and Volunteers - Recruitment process – identify barriers and new outreach methods
LGBTQ2S+ Community	<p>Tourism Vancouver states that the city has one of the largest LGBTQ2S+ communities in Canada. In general, this group may be under-represented in available statistics.</p>	<p>Actively engaging gender diverse communities in creating inclusive and caring spaces , reflective programs and initiatives has been critical in the identification and removal of systemic barriers in parks and recreation services. 2018 designated as Year of the Queer as many Queer organizations in the City of Vancouver have reached significant anniversaries.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating welcoming spaces including signage and universal change spaces or stalls in gendered spaces. • Providing inclusive programming - e.g. Trans Swim , Trans Fitness, creating opportunities for diverse families to engage • Park Board Staff – Awareness training - at community centres and with staff groups, workshops for external recreation systems and at the BC Recreation and Parks Association. • Community awareness and welcome - media campaigns emphasizing personal stories and experiences of TGD2S community members; • Park Board Hiring Practices – Front line representation, inclusive recruitment processes. • Resources – Ensuring information to aid in access are readily available e.g. creation of vancouver.ca/tgd2s-inclusion website listing activities and community resources

GROUP	KEY STATISTIC(S)	RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS
Persons with Disabilities	<p>14.8% of adult population in Canada are persons with disabilities (Statistics Canada, 2012)</p> <p>The 2017 VanPlay SOPARC study found that 33% of the time at least one park user was in a wheelchair or mobility chair. This statistic is an average of the parks observed in the study.</p>	<p>Accessible facilities, outdoor spaces and program services continue to be of paramount importance for those who face mobility challenges, hearing or sight impairments and physical and mental disabilities. Community agencies play an important role in assisting parks and recreation in being subject experts for accessibility audits and creative inclusive solution making.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapted recreation programming - e.g. sports, aquatic, beaches, exercise and social and recreational activities. Adapted recreation amenities – e.g. accessible playground features, beach mat , floating water wheelchairs Accessible facilities – e.g. ceiling lifts for indoor pools, audio loops in large rooms Resources and signage- e.g. Site maps showing accessibility, consistent signage Customer Service - an Accessible / Inclusive Customer Service Standard based on the Ontario Accessible customer service policy template to set facility, communications and registration standards. Park Board Staff – Awareness training e.g. Building Inclusive Communities proposal to offer Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) awareness training Park Board Staff and Volunteers – Recruitment process - HR training e.g. partnership with Canucks Autism Network, Open Door Group and BC Partners in Workforce Innovation to identify and reduce barriers to employment to create long-term work opportunities for people of diverse abilities.
Females	<p>51% identified as female in Vancouver (Census, 2011)</p> <p>Between 4 and 86 yrs old, female participants are outnumbered by male participants at every age (ViaSport BC)</p>	<p>Girls and women continue to be under represented in sport and physical activities. Women across all income, education levels and ethnicities are far less likely to participate or volunteer in sport including coaching at all levels (Vital Signs Sport & Belonging Report 2016, Community Foundation of Canada). If a girl doesn't participate by age 10, there is only a 10% chance she will be physically active at age 25 (Canadian Health Measure Survey 2007-2011) Finding ways to engage this demographic and keep them activated is the challenge facing recreation.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <p>Welcoming spaces – e.g. gym programs and fitness centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equitable allocation of resources – e.g. Sport field allocations and facilities booking policies Recreation programming –e.g. identification of barriers and the development of accessible programming for women and girls Identification of barriers – work with partners such as ViaSport BC, BCRPA, Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity, Vancouver Field Sport Federation, to identify barriers to participation
<p>Persons of Low Income</p> <p>1 person \$ 25,516</p> <p>2 persons \$ 36,084</p> <p>3 persons \$ 44,194</p> <p>4 persons \$ 51,031</p> <p>5 persons \$ 57,054</p> <p>6 persons \$ 62,500</p> <p>7 or more persons \$ 67,508</p> <p>*Low Income Measure (before – tax) is set by Statistics Canada</p>	<p>21% of Vancouver population qualifies as low income (2013); which is the highest rate among Canada's eight largest metro areas.</p> <p>82% of renter households (2011) are under 24</p>	<p>Affordability was a key concern during VanPlay Phase I outreach and many of these demographic groups' most pressing needs intersect with locations of low income in the city. Of vulnerability indicators, low income intersects with the largest cross-section of vulnerable groups characteristics and will act as a core characteristic in this study. The Vancouver Park Board through the Leisure Access Program (LAP) is a leader in removing economic barriers limiting access to recreation for residents of Vancouver.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of recreation equipment on site so storage and transportation barriers are limited Ensuring facilities and amenities are accessible by transit, walking and biking Arts and cultural events –free/low cost events in parks makes these important community building activities are available to all Park Board Staff – Awareness training to support use of LAP and sense of welcome for participants without stigma Work with partner agencies to further subsidize programming at recreation centres

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR A WELCOMING SYSTEM

GROUP	KEY STATISTIC(S)	RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS
Indigenous People	Vancouver has the third largest Aboriginal population of any city in Canada, after Winnipeg and Edmonton. Yet Aboriginal peoples account for only two percent of the total population of Vancouver (Census, 2011)	<p>The 11 Reconciliation Strategies include a “360 degree” approach to programming in culture, health and sport to increase public awareness and support for First Nations children, youth and elders in Park Board programs.</p> <p>The term ‘urban indigenous peoples, refers primarily to First Nation, Inuit and Metis individuals currently residing in urban areas. According to 2011 Census data, off-reserve Indigenous people constitute the fastest growing segment of Canadian society (7% increase between 1996 and 2011).</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging Indigenous communities in the planning and development of recreational programs • Ensuring programs and services have a lens that is inclusive of Indigenous world views and perspectives • Acknowledge that Indigenous communities in Vancouver are diverse (e.g. urban indigenous) and can represent many nations from across the country so identity, culture and traditions will vary.
Children up to 12	<p>15.3% of 2011 Vancouver population is under 14 years old</p> <p>25% of the 18,229 observed persons during the VanPlay SOPARC study were youth under the age of 12</p>	<p>Children in this age group mostly rely upon their parent’s ability to access social and recreational programs and services on their behalf. It is important to ensure that systems listen to what children want and need for programming and assist parents in accessing services for their children.</p> <p>Partnerships with groups like Moresports and Kidsport (the charitable arm of Sport BC) will be critical.</p> <p>The Urban Explorers – Child & youth engagement in planning project (Society for Children and Youth BC, 2018) found that “by far the most common theme for young people that emerged was their desire for ample opportunities to play and have fun in all parks/public spaces around the city.”</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the HIGH FIVE principles for healthy child development when designing quality programming for children • Use sliding scales for payment to ensure programs are accessible for children who face financial barriers • Place based activities –e.g. work with school districts to offer joint programming where children are to eliminate the barrier of transportation • Having fun, age appropriate equipment and the opportunity to make friends are key to success for this age group

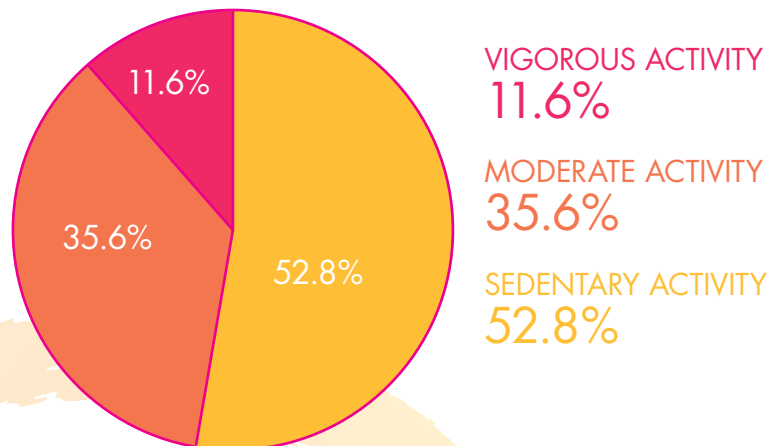
GROUP	KEY STATISTIC(S)	RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS
Youth 13 – 19	82% of renter households (2011, census) are under 24	<p>Youth friendly spaces, programs, services and staff are important ingredients in engaging youth in their local communities. Recreation centers and staff play an important role in facilitating community connectedness and social belonging for this demographic. Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure programs and services are ‘youth driven’ e.g. Citywide Youth Council • Make sport programs accessible e.g. Night Hoops • Catch youth doing something right e.g. Positive ticketing • Offer a wide vary of meaningful volunteer opportunities where youth can learn valuable skills <p>Youth need specific and dedicated spaces to feel a sense of belonging e.g. youth dedicated room</p>
Persons over 65 years old	14% of Vancouver is currently over 65 years in age; this group is projected to grow 92% or more by 2041	<p>As the community ages, shifts in recreation trends may lean towards more cultural and outdoor activities and popular social recreation like Pickle Ball will increase in demand. This group could also represent an important pool of highly-skilled volunteers for the Park Board. This age group will also be more likely to walk to destinations within a 5-minute walk rather than longer destinations as mobility decreases.</p> <p>Only 8% of the 18,229 observed persons during the 2017 VanPlay SOPARC study (see Appendix 3) were noted as persons over 65 years old. Relative to the citywide population, this represents only a 50% participation in parks by this group.</p> <p>Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is huge variation in recreation aspirations and ability amongst this broad demographic. Programming and facilities should reflect this to ensure all older adults can participate in recreation. • Providing Seniors centres and lounges within community centres, while providing dedicated space for programming, activities and connection. Balanced with intergenerational spaces. • Provide more looped footpaths and trails and outdoor exercise equipment in parks as these are particularly valuable for older adults. • Work towards offering more daily meal programs for seniors throughout the city.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: INCLUSIVITY

SOPARC KEY RECREATION FINDINGS

The System for Observing Play + Recreation in Communities (SOPARC) is an observational survey tool that was used in the summer of 2017 to acquire data on physical activity in community, neighbourhood and local park use.

Please see Appendix 3 to find the full report.



Source: UD4H, SOPARC: System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities.

Physical Activity by Park Type*

- Largest parks have the most users
- Levels of physical activity vary substantially by park type.
- Largest parks have the most sedentary, passive activity
- Community Parks typically had 60% of park users engaged in sedentary activity
- Neighbourhood Parks including Adanac Park, Bobolink Park and Winona Park had highest level of moderate to vigorous physical activity (55-75%)

*See parks chapter for park type classification framework

Park User's Physical Activity

- Men are more active than women with 10.3% participating in vigorous activity, compared to 6% for women
- Most common active activities were: playgrounds (14%), walking (13%), baseball (8%) and soccer (4%).
- Most common passive activities were: sitting (31%), standing (12%) and picnicking (6%)
- The most vigorous and moderate activity were found in local parks (47.9% of all activity versus 40.4% for community parks and 42.2% for neighbourhood parks)

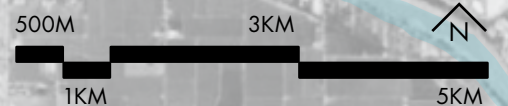
SOPARC MOST PHYSICALLY ACTIVE PARKS*

*PINK LABELED PARKS INDICATE THOSE WITH THE HIGHEST AMOUNTS OF VIGOROUS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OBSERVED, ACROSS ALL PARKS SURVEYED.



LEGEND

- PARK WITH MOST VIGOROUS ACTIVITY OBSERVED
- PARKS
- ▲ COMMUNITY CENTRES
- GREENWAYS
- - - SKY TRAIN
- - - LOCAL AREA BOUNDARIES
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: OUTDOOR RECREATION AMENITIES

OVERVIEW OF OUTDOOR ACTIVE RECREATION AMENITIES

This next section provides an overview of a selection of outdoor active recreation amenities. Each includes an inventory count, a city wide map and a description of some trends and issues impacting delivery of these into the future.

These descriptions will set the scene for discussions regarding metrics and target levels of service over the next 25 years which will be determined through consultation with the user groups, stakeholders and staff and an appraisal of international best practice.

Vancouver's parks and recreation system is extensive, so this section is not an exhaustive list of available outdoor active recreation amenities, however, it does provide a primer to:

- Court Sports
- Basketball
- Ball Diamonds
- Field Sports
- Golf
- Playgrounds
- Skateparks and
- Dog off-leash areas

It does not introduce other park amenities such as splash parks (as these are addressed in VanSplash 2019), our six cricket pitches, two lacrosse boxes, four outdoor roller hockey rinks or the two bike parks, to name just a few.

For information regarding indoor recreation pursuits (including pools, community centres and rinks) and other built amenities (such as docks and washrooms), please refer to Chapter 4 - Facilities.

THE POPULATION OVER
65+

IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY 192% BY 2041. AS SUCH, PROGRAMMING IS SHIFTING TO INCLUDE SENIORS OF ALL ABILITIES WITH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PICKLEBALL, GARDENING, AND OTHER LEISURE ACTIVITIES.



VFSF

(VANCOUVER FIELD SPORTS FEDERATION IS A UNIQUE GROUP OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS FROM 12 AMATEUR FIELD SPORT GROUPS WHO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR SPORTS INCLUDING:

BASEBALL

FOOTBALL

CRICKET

FIELD HOCKEY

FIELD LACROSSE

RUGBY

SOCCER

SOFTBALL

TOUCH/FLAG FOOTBALL

TRACK/FIELD

ULTIMATE/DISC SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

OVER
150

PLAYGROUNDS HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD SINCE GRACE CEPERLY DONATED THE FIRST IN THE 1920S.



VANCOUVER'S
**SEASIDE
GREENWAY**

IS 28KM OF CONNECTED WATERFRONT FOR A WALK, CYCLE, ROLLERBLADE, OR JOG.



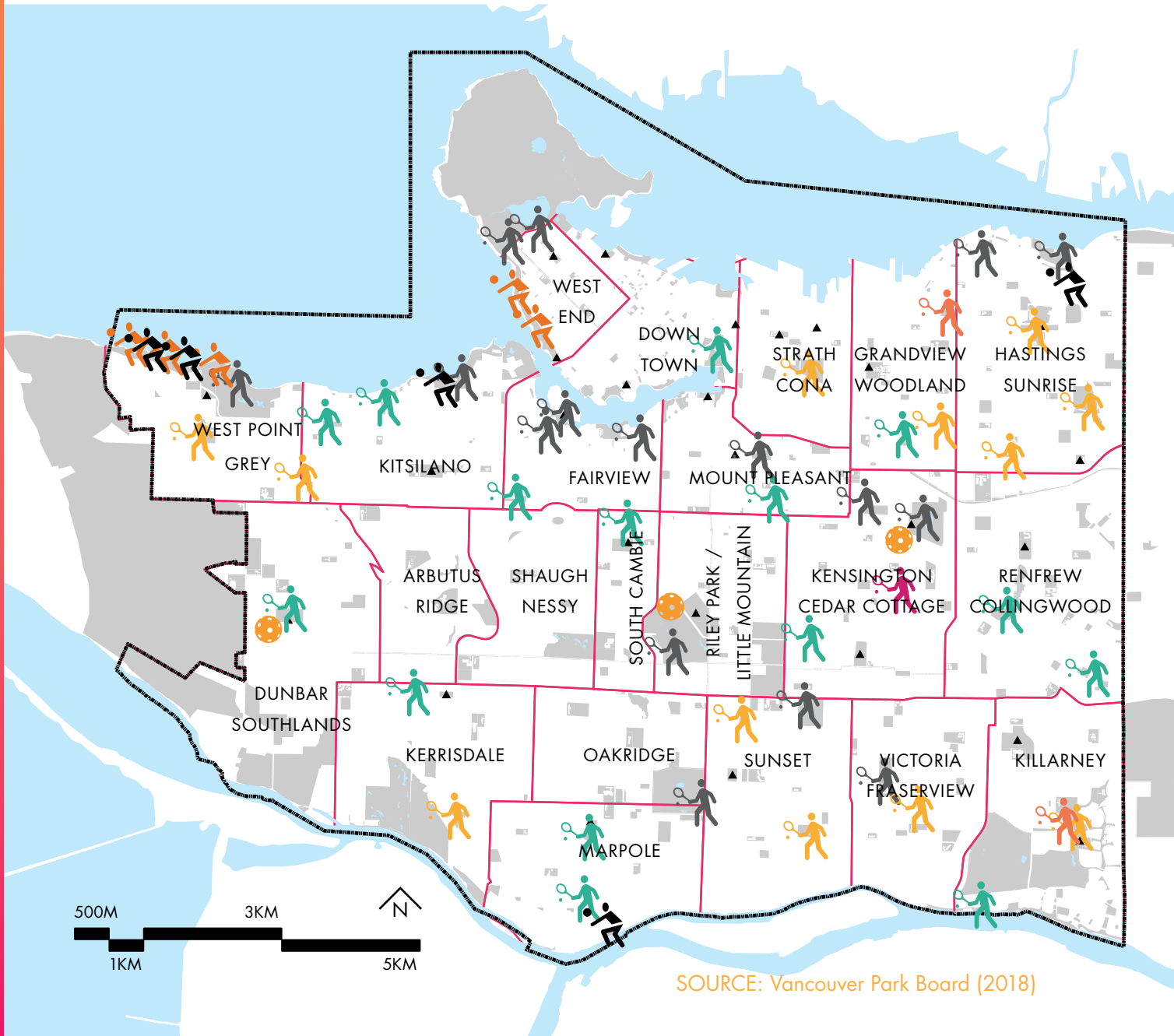
70%

OF VANCOUVER RESIDENTS ARE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE (COMPARED TO 49% NATIONALLY)



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: COURT SPORTS

COURT SPORTS INVENTORY



LEGEND

- ▲ COMMUNITY CENTRES
- 🏐 BEACH VOLLEYBALL SPACES
- 🏐 PERMANENT VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- 🎾 TENNIS COURTS: GOOD CONDITION
- 🎾 TENNIS COURTS: FAIR CONDITION
- 🎾 TENNIS COURTS: POOR CONDITION
- 🎾 TENNIS COURTS: CRITICAL CONDITION
- 🎾 TENNIS COURTS: NO DATA
- 🏓 PICKLE BALL COURTS

SOURCE: Vancouver Park Board (2018)

COURT SPORT ANALYSIS

Tennis courts are distributed well across the city, whereas volleyball tends to be located near beaches.

Both tennis and volleyball courts are available on a first-come, first-served basis with exceptions made for the tennis courts in Stanley Park and organized tournaments. There is a mixture of public access volleyball and permitted access to beach volleyball. There are eight indoor racquetball / squash courts in facilities across Vancouver and nine pickleball courts. Schools and community centres also operate tennis courts that fill many of the Park Board service gaps.

- An assessment of the existing tennis courts revealed that 33% were in good condition, 26% in fair condition, 7% in poor /critical condition and 35% unknown.¹
- There is low inventory of public tennis courts in Oakridge, Shaughnessy, Arbutus Ridge and Dunbar Southlands.
- The Park Board has a tennis court management assessment underway to look into programming, access and reservation options for tennis courts citywide.
- Presently, volleyball courts locate near beaches and at large parks.

COURT SPORT PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Tennis Courts	169	1 court per 3,737 people	1 court per 4,595 people	44 sites city wide, 21 sites with four or more courts situated together, no covered/all-weather tennis courts.
Volleyball Courts	65	1 court per 9,715 people	1 court per 11,946 people	34 permanent courts
Pickleball Courts	9	1 court per 70,165 people	1 court per 86,278 people	Three locations with these courts

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.



Women at tennis tournament | Tennis BC

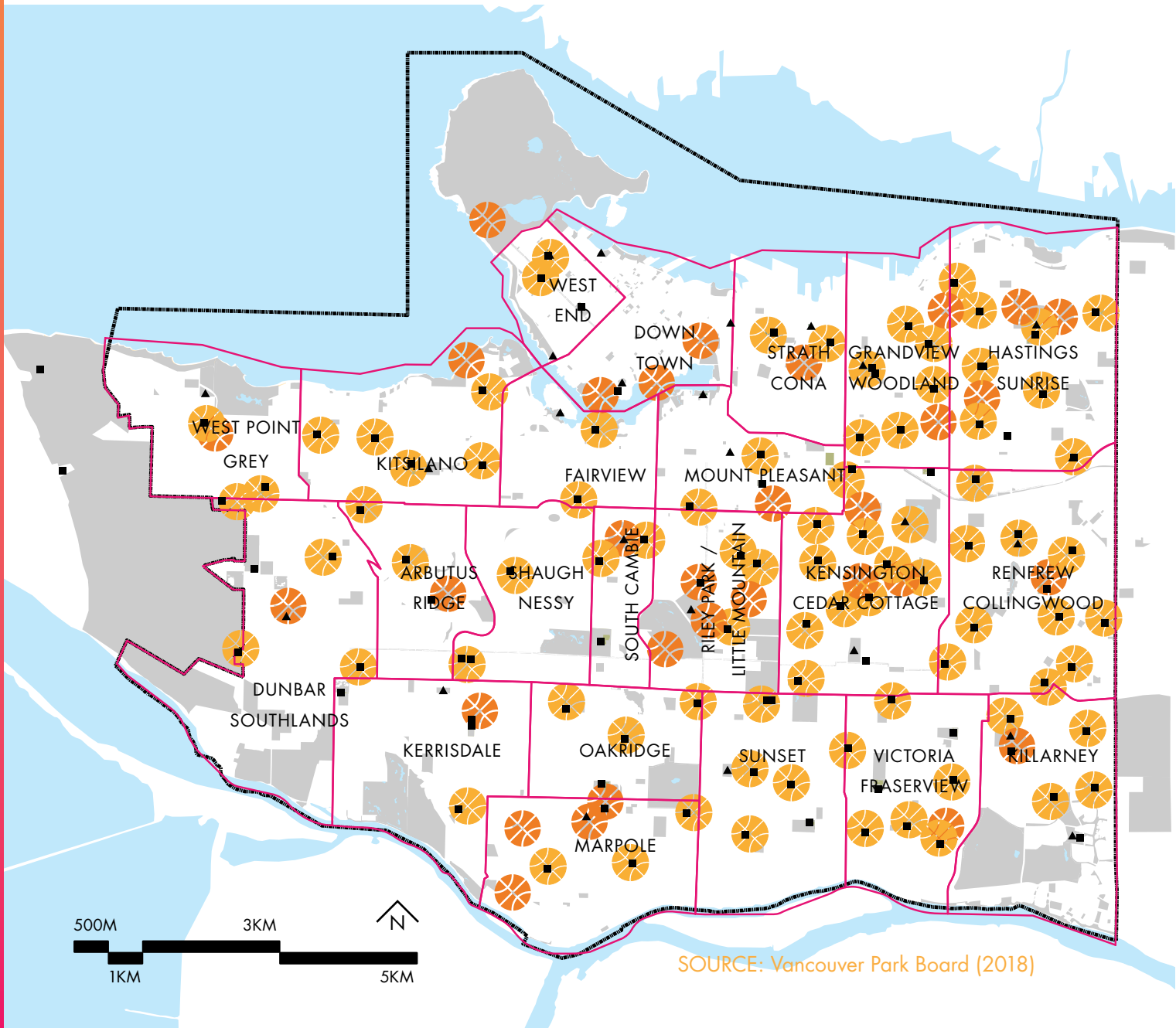
court sports

Outdoor sports requiring a hard surface court, such as tennis, basketball + volleyball.

¹ Vancouver Board of Park and Recreation. Tennis Court Inventory. 2018.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL COURT INVENTORY



LEGEND

-  VSB BASKETBALL COURTS
-  VPB BASKETBALL COURTS
-  COMMUNITY CENTRES
-  SCHOOLS

SOURCE: Vancouver Park Board (2018)

BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Basketball leagues play year-round in Vancouver with outdoor courts popular in the summer months. The majority of outdoor public courts are managed by Vancouver School Board.

All Park Board outdoor basketball courts are drop-in only with no reservation system. In addition to the courts that the Park Board manages, there are also basketball courts at schools and in community centres. Drop-in hours are available at several community centres.

- A condition index is needed to assess the quality and renewal of outdoor basketball courts as well as how to coordinate renewal with the courts maintained by Vancouver School Board.
- An initial study of walk access gaps showed facility gaps in neighbourhoods along the Fraser River, including Dunbar Southlands, Kerrisdale and Killarney and in Downtown.
- There are 77 basketball courts that are owned and maintained by Vancouver School Board. These courts are publicly accessible after school hours and on weekends.



Basketball game | Park Board

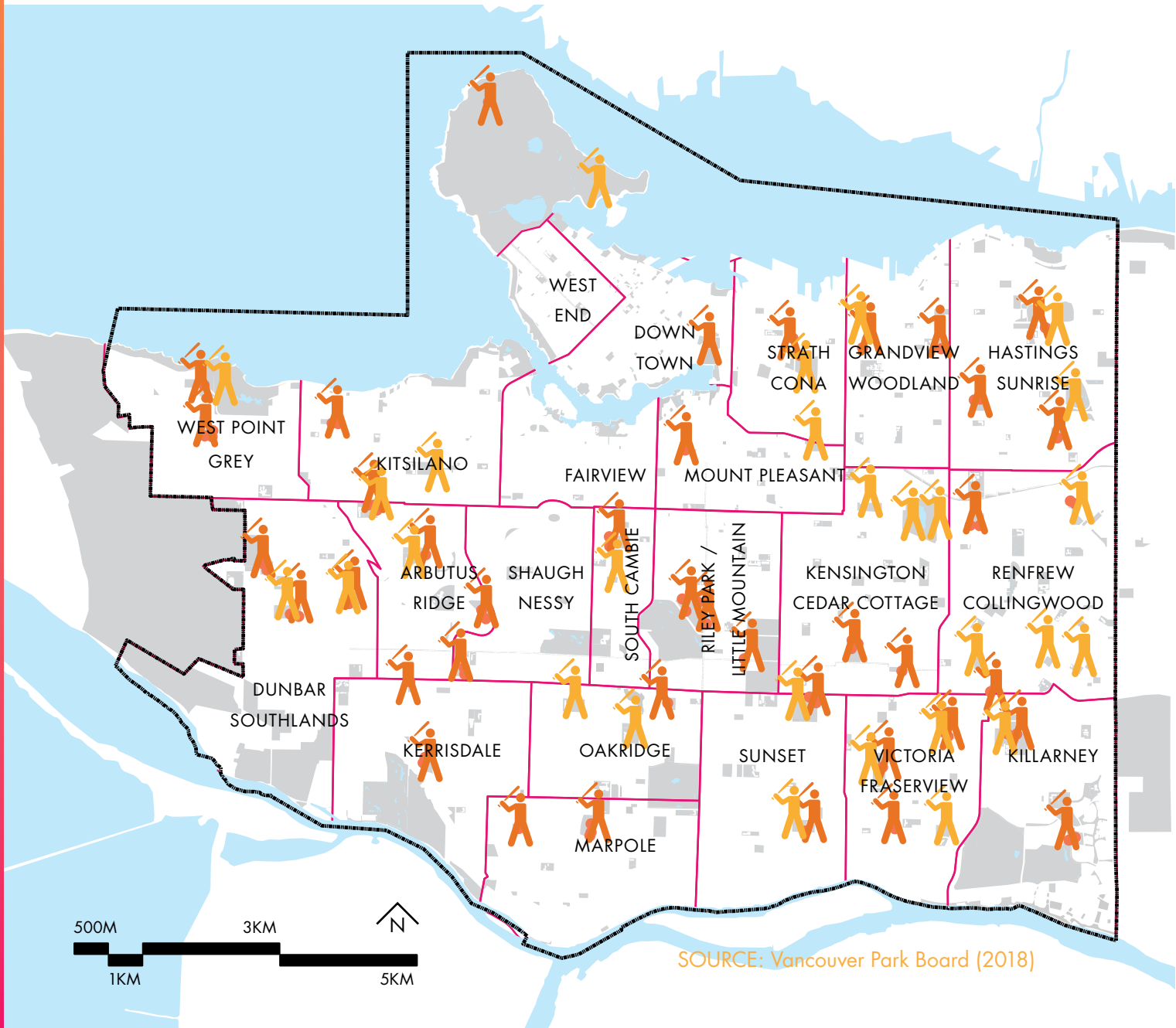
BASKETBALL COURTS PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Basketball Courts	42	1 court per 15,035 people	1 court per 18,488 people	12 half-courts, four junior hoops, two junior courts

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: BALL DIAMONDS

BALL DIAMOND INVENTORY



LEGEND

-  BASEBALL DIAMONDS
-  SOFTBALL DIAMONDS

SOURCE: Vancouver Park Board (2018)

BALL DIAMOND ANALYSIS: BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

The network of ball diamonds that the Park Board manages support a broad range of play, from little league to the Vancouver Canadians.

Of the 119 ball diamonds, 67 are softball diamonds, which can also be used for T-Ball, which open the sport to a wider population, as well as facilities that can be used for t-ball. Baseball and softball leagues and all sport amenities, are allocated and permitted by a facility booking office assisted by ActiveNet, a cloud-based reservation/registration and point-of-sale system.

- Walkability analysis based on a 10-minute walk show that neighbourhoods along the Fraser River, such as Dunbar Southlands, Marpole and Killarney, have significant service gaps, as well as the West End, Downtown and Fairview.
- In 2017, the Park Board and its partners opened Challenger field at Hillcrest Park. It is the first fully accessible, all weather facility in Western Canada to cater to children with physical and cognitive disabilities.
- Further analysis is needed to study demand, calibre, suitability for types of play, competition level, latent demand, distribution, condition and the ratio of softball pitches to regulation sized diamonds.
- These ball sports primarily play from April 10th to September. A number of diamonds convert to fields for winter due to competing demand for space.



Richard Saunders Field | Park Board

BALL DIAMONDS PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

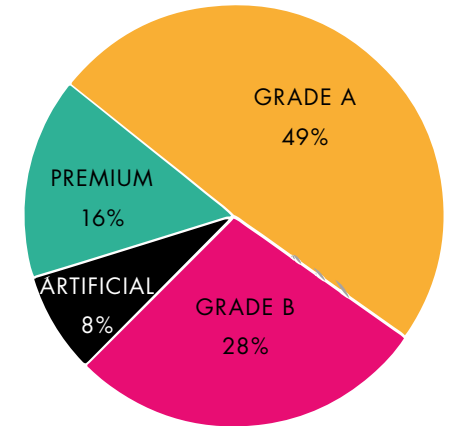
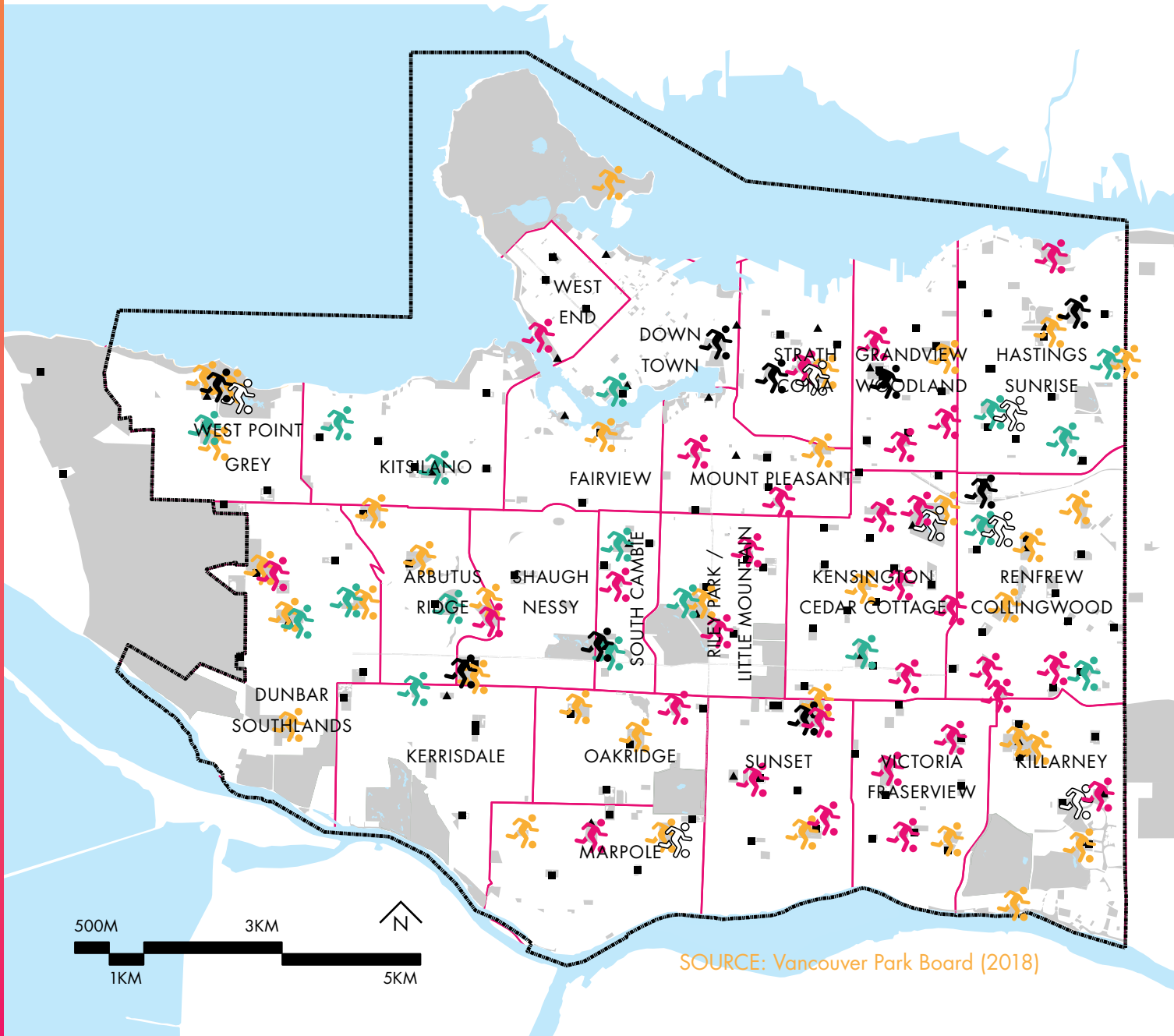
TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Baseball	51	1 diamond per 12,382 people	1 diamond per 15,225 people	One all-abilities diamond at Hillcrest Park. 50 diamonds at 24 sites.
Softball	68	1 diamond per 9,287 people	1 diamond per 11,419 people	68 softball diamonds at 45 sites that can also be used for T-Ball
Total Diamonds	119	1 diamond per 5,307 people	1 diamond per 6,525 people	66 permitted

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.


INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: FIELD SPORTS

SPORTS FIELD INVENTORY

TURF COMPOSITION



LEGEND

-  PREMIUM TURF PLAYING FIELDS
-  GRADE A TURF PLAYING FIELDS
-  GRADE B TURF PLAYING FIELDS
-  ARTIFICIAL TURF PLAYING FIELDS
-  ALL-WEATHER PLAYING FIELDS
-  SCHOOLS
-  COMMUNITY CENTRES

SOURCE: Vancouver Park Board (2018)

Source: Turf and Horticulture Study

FIELD SPORTS ANALYSIS

The Vancouver Park Board partners with the Vancouver Field Sport Federation to maintain public playing fields.

The Park Board operates over 150 playing fields that support a broad range of sport play from soccer to lacrosse. It also manages eight all-weather gravel fields, six cricket pitches and two lacrosse boxes. The Park Board meets quarterly with the Vancouver Field Sport Federation (VFSF). Vancouver School Board hosts additional playing fields.

- Natural turf fields face a number of management issues. Recent infestation by European Chafer Beetles has caused unforeseen replacement costs and climate change is bringing wetter winters and drier summers. Year round use leaves little time for regrowth.
- Neighbourhoods in South Vancouver, including Sunset, Victoria Fraserview, Marpole and Killarney, have access to the lowest quality fields. Downtown and the West End have the greatest shortages per population.
- Further analysis needed as grades used here are based purely on turf /soil rating and not based on the sport facility classification.



Rugby Game | Park Board

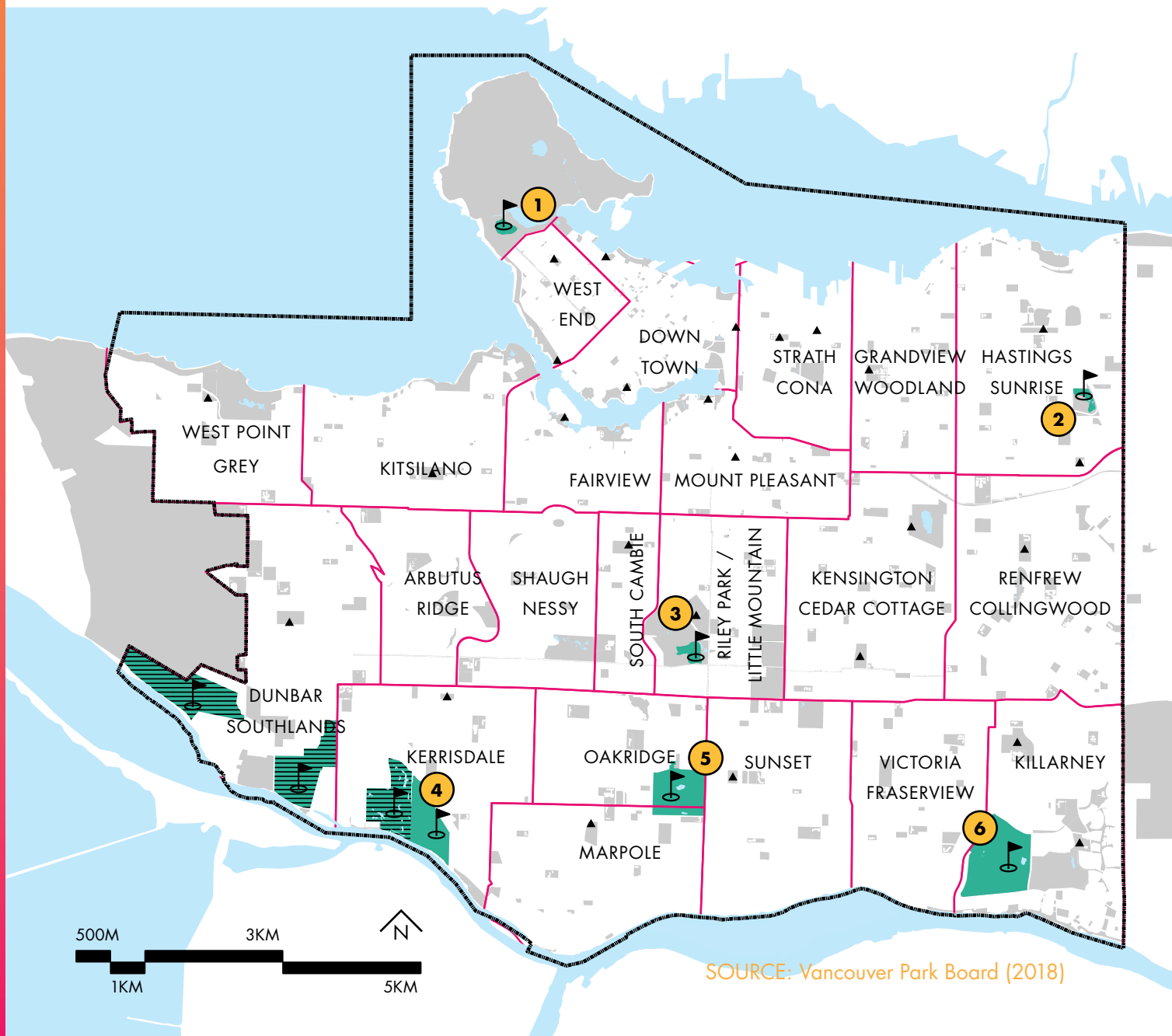
FIELDS PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Turf Playing Fields	143	1 field per 4,416 people	1 field per 5,430 people	66 A Grade Fields, 51 B Grade Fields, 22 Non-regulated fields
Synthetical/Artificial Turf Playing Fields	13	1 field per 48,576 people	1 field per 59,731 people	
All Weather Fields (Gravel)	7	1 field per 45,106 people	1 field per 55,464 people	

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: GOLF

GOLF INVENTORY



LEGEND



PUBLIC GOLF FACILITIES



PRIVATE GOLF FACILITIES



COMMUNITY CENTRES

PUBLIC FACILITIES

1

- STANLEY PARK PITCH + PUTT
- 18 Short Holes
 - 1,100 Meter Course Length

2

- RUPERT PARK PITCH + PUTT
- 18 Short Holes
 - 1,130 Meter Course Length

3

- QE PARK PITCH + PUTT
- 18 Short Holes
 - 1,250 Meter Course Length

4

- MCCLEERY GOLF COURSE
- Ted Baker-designed Course

5

- LANGARA GOLF COURSE
- Thomas McBroom-designed Course

6

- FRASERVIEW GOLF COURSE
- Thomas McBroom-designed Course

SOURCE: Vancouver Park Board (2018)

GOLF ANALYSIS

Approximately 64 million rounds of golf were played in Canada in 2017, an increase of 7% in the past three years.¹

Vancouver's mild climate makes golf attractive year round. The Vancouver Park Board offers a gamut of affordable and accessible golf experiences from driving ranges and golf lessons to special events and tournaments. Golf operations are the Park Board's second largest source of operating revenues, generating roughly \$9.8M in revenues (16% of Park Board total) in 2017. Golf operations and maintenance are self-sustaining thanks to the Golf Reserve Fund.

- Golf is a lifelong sport and is attractive to all ages. 31% of all golfers in BC are over the age of 65.
- More women play golf than any other sport in Canada. Women comprise the fastest growing segment of new golfers and typically prefer local public golf courses.
- Many golfers are new Canadians. Signage and communication welcome players in multiple languages.
- In partnership with the golf courses, the Park Board developed VanGolf, an app to allow easy registration. Courses and clubhouses host over 200 events a year and provide affordable events spaces to the community.
- The golf courses also offer sizeable open spaces and naturalised areas that are important to the sustenance of the city's urban forest and wildlife.
- All Park Board golf courses are Audubon certified. This co-operative sanctuary program helps the golf course staff protect the environment. This award-winning education and certification program offers support and training for golf course employees.



Queen Elizabeth Park Pitch & Putt | Park Board

¹ Golf Canada, PGA of Canada and National Golf Foundation. *Golf Facilities in Canada 2017*. Toronto, Canada, 2017.

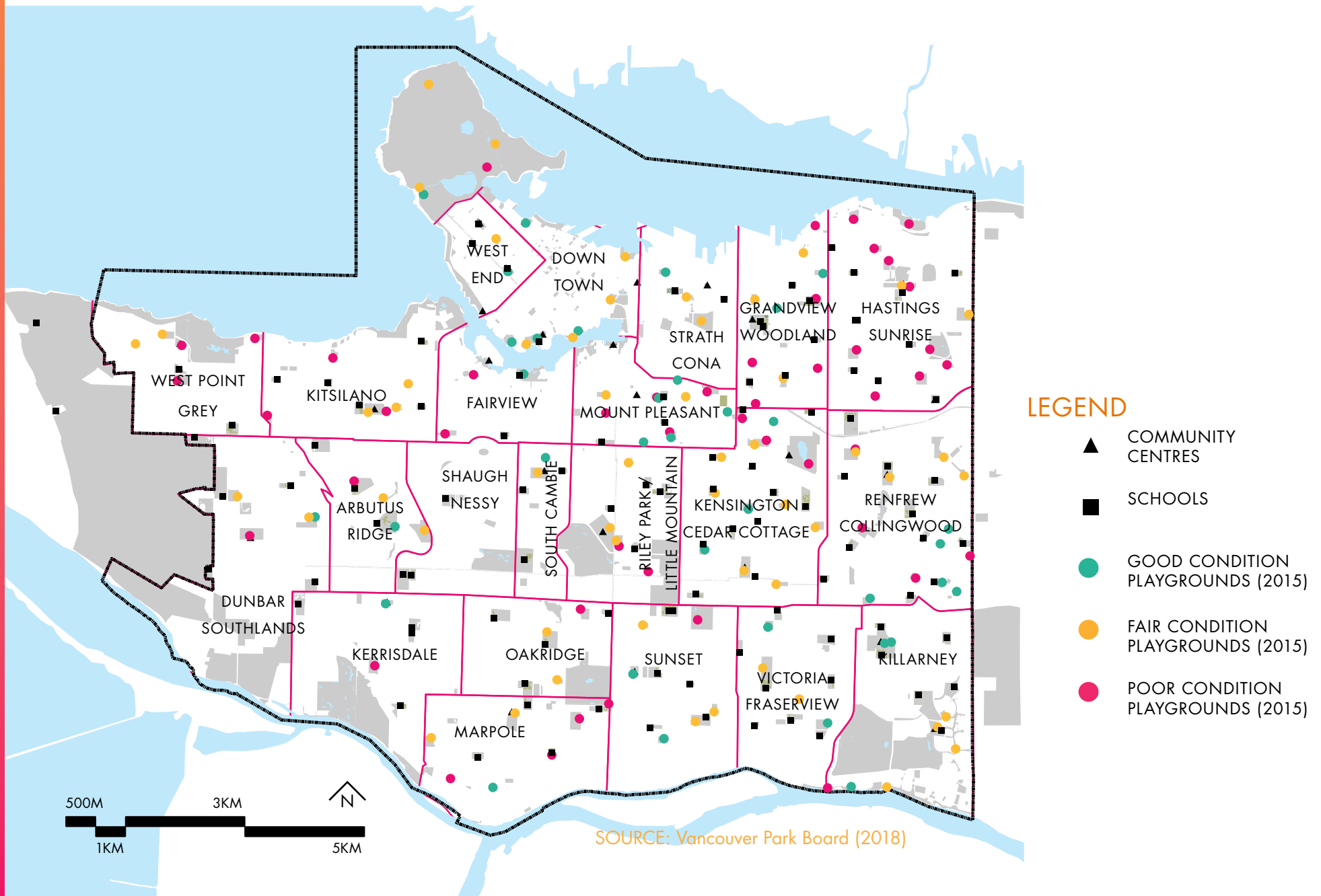
GOLF COURSES PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
18 Hole Championship Courses	3	1 course per 210,496 people	1 course per 258,833 people	Courses have driving ranges and club houses
Pitch and Putt Courses	3	1 course per 210,496 people	1 course per 210,496 people	Free in winter

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: PLAYGROUNDS

PLAYGROUND INVENTORY



PLAYGROUNDS ANALYSIS

Both the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board own and maintain playgrounds that are vital neighbourhood amenities.

Although the proportion of children as part of the general population is expected to decline, the total population of children is set to increase from 75,000 to 100,000 by 2041. In addition to play areas for children, there is increased interest play equipment, like monkey bars, for all ages.

- Hastings Sunrise neighbourhood has the highest concentration of playgrounds needing renewal with 10 in poor and two in fair condition.
- Beyond the playgrounds listed for renewal, there are 62 playgrounds over 15 years old with an average timeline for renewal of 45 years.
- Nature play and risky play movements are regarded by experts as crucial to a child's development, especially since the neighbourhood play space can often be the extent of urban children's outdoor experience. These spaces are cost and maintenance intensive so designs must be balanced with other play amenities.
- Universally accessible playgrounds are welcoming and engaging for children and caregivers across a wide range of age, mobility and sensory abilities. As a minimum play spaces need to be physically accessible, but should also provide for auditory, visual and tactile learning experiences.

PLAYGROUNDS PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Playgrounds	166	1 playground per 3,804 people	1 playground per 4,678 people	

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.



The new Creekside playground in False Creek is universally accessible and provides for auditory, visual and tactile learning experiences. | Park Board

nature play

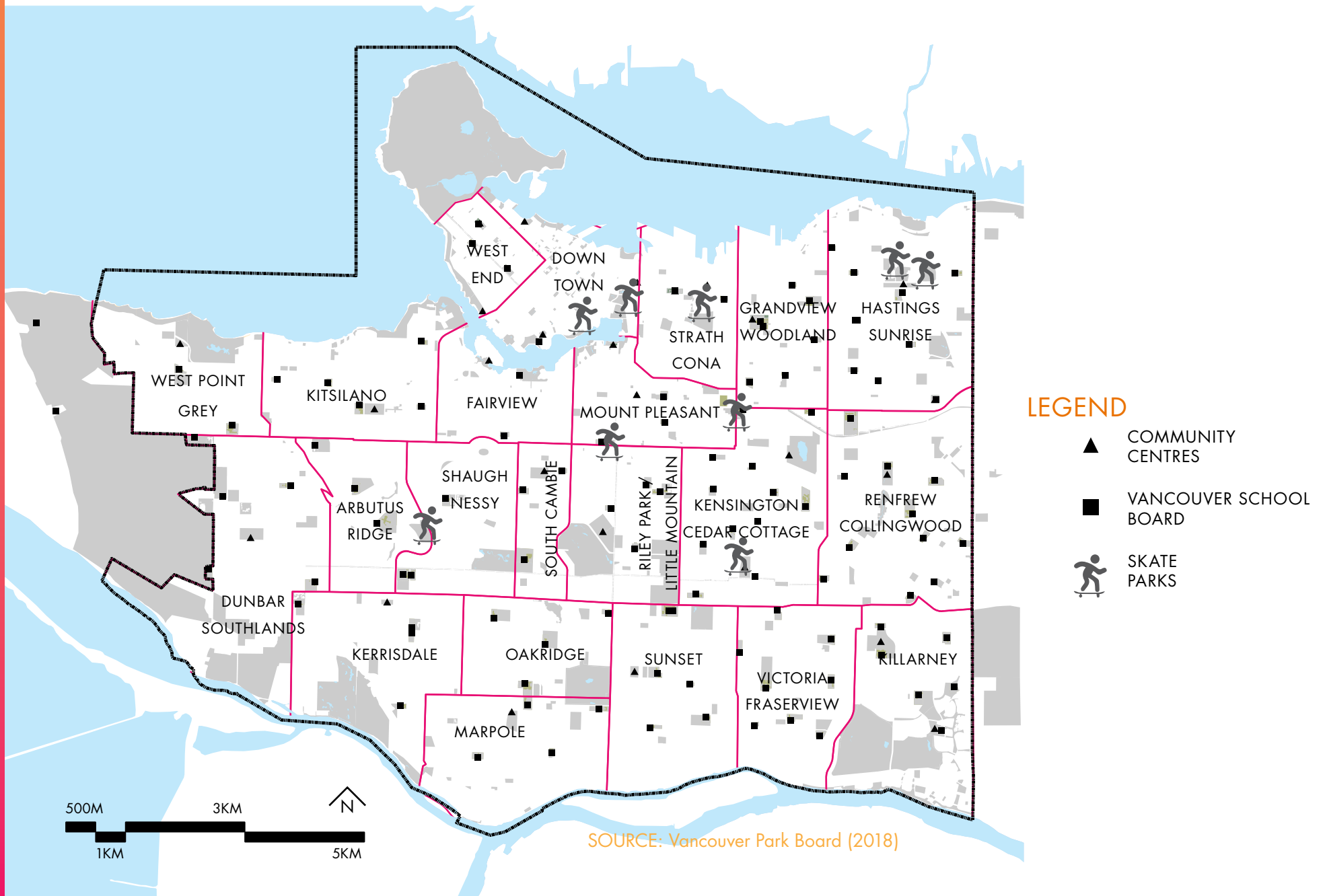
Nature play spaces are constructed of natural building materials and include elements that children can physically manipulate such as sand and water. They typically also incorporate quiet reflective spaces to support more introverted behaviours such as a planted nature path.

risky play

Risky play acknowledges that risk is inherent in play and learning and that risk-taking opportunities are an integral component of a well-functioning play space and essential for child development.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: PLAY AREAS

SKATE PARK INVENTORY



SKATE PARK ANALYSIS

Currently there are nine skate parks and one skate spot in the City, concentrated on Vancouver's east side.

Of Vancouver's nine skate parks, two were built since 2005 and two are outside of the Park Board's jurisdiction. In comparison, the City of Toronto has 13 skate parks and Calgary has 11. Half (3) of Vancouver's skateparks are under 600m² which is roughly the size to accommodate approximately 10 individuals at a time. These smaller parks are currently not meeting the needs of local users as they are often overcrowded and not big enough to have multiple skateboarders skating simultaneously. According to statistics gathered from a 2017 skateboard survey of 2,248 users of the Downtown Plaza Skate Park:

- 25% of skaters are 20-24 year olds, 22% are 25-29 years old and 20% are 14-19 years old.
- 42% of skaters skate more than once a week and 22% skate daily.
- 81% use skate parks on both weekdays and weekends.

Skateboarding is a growing sport which appeals to individuals, many of whom are youth, who are not involved in other organized sports. It is a multi-generational sport, where learning is based largely on mentorship and community building since lessons are generally not associated with it.

For the first time ever, skateboarding will be included in the 2020 Olympics in Japan. Vancouver does not have adequate facilities for athletes to train or to bring up future prospects.



Skate Park | Michael Schmidt

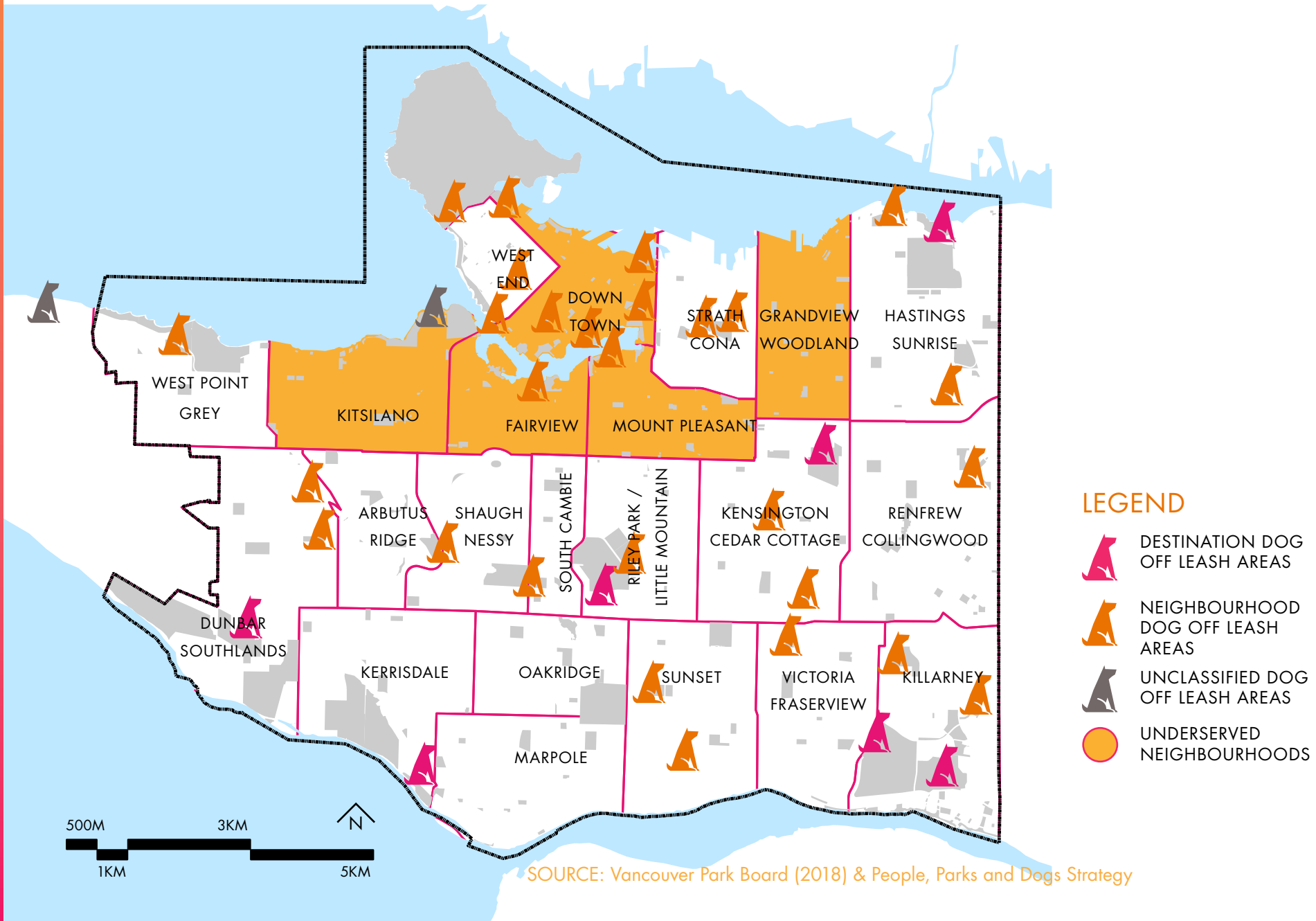
PLAY AREAS PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Skateparks	9	1 skatepark per 70,165 people	1 skatepark per 86,278 people	

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS: DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS INVENTORY



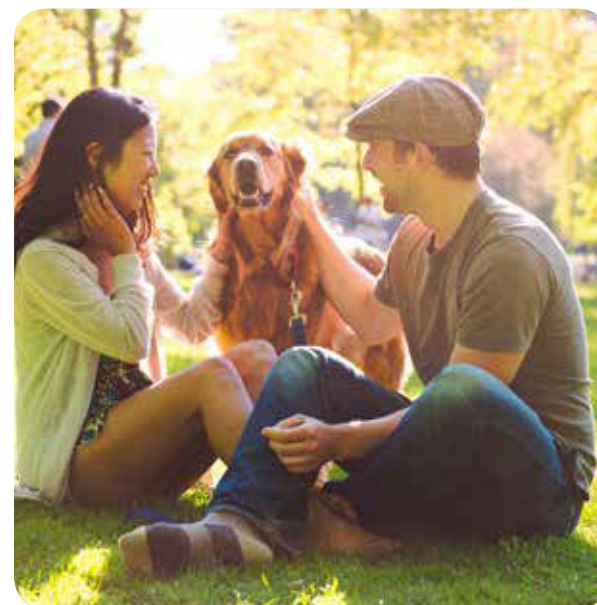
SOURCE: Vancouver Park Board (2018) & People, Parks and Dogs Strategy

DOG AREA ANALYSIS

An estimated 30,000 to 55,000 dogs live in Vancouver.¹

In 2017, the Vancouver Park Board undertook a comprehensive study of dog activity in parks citywide and made recommendations regarding quantity, distribution and design of off-leash areas. Some of the key findings and metrics of the plan are summarized below:

- Demand for off-leash areas falls into two categories: smaller, simpler neighbourhood facilities to serve residents daily needs and larger destination spaces with more amenities like trails in a more natural setting.
- Hours of use for off-leash areas vary across the City with half of all dog parks restricting hours of operation to select morning and evening hours. This is challenging for both dog owners and other park users, so the Park Board will be phasing out these restrictions over time.
- The environmental impact of dog areas is a key public concern and education and stewardship is needed on the part of dog owners to ensure compliance.
- Neighbourhood dog areas vary in both size and amenities. In the future, site design will reflect the need for dog relief areas and dog runs in high density parts of the city, and more big, natural off leash experiences.



Couple with dog | Park Board

¹ Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Planning. *People, Parks and Dogs Strategy*. Vancouver, BC, 2017.

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS PER CAPITA INVENTORY*

TYPE	#	PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	PROJECTED (2041) PER CAPITA SUPPLY BASED ON CURRENT (2017) INVENTORY	NOTES
Dog Off-Leash Areas	36	1 off-leash area per 17,541 people	1 off-leash area per 21,569 people	Calculated by total Vancouver population not by dog owners.

*Inventory and population projections from Park Board.

OPPORTUNITIES + CHALLENGES

The following list represents synthesized opportunities and challenges for Vancouver's park system based on inventory findings. Stakeholder weighed in on this opportunity and challenges at various events including fall 2017 Community Dialogue and Community Centre Association Meetings.

opportunities

interests of topics that have the potential to positively impact parks and recreation

challenges

constraints or obstacles that have the potential to negatively impact parks and recreation

OPPORTUNITIES

1. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING—With sedentary behavior and poor health on the rise, the need for health and wellness programs is high. The Park Board can explore partnership opportunities with health care providers to advance Healthy City initiatives and to fund, maintain and support recreation. For example, "Arts & Health - Healthy Aging Through the Arts" is a partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health and the Park Board. It is a working collaboration of seniors and professional artists, who together develop arts practice that focuses on creative expression of ideas and issues such as health, wellbeing and belonging.

- 2. SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY, INCLUSIVITY + WELCOME**— Through programming, activities, subsidies, permitting, events, art and education we can make spaces more welcoming, interesting and safe for everyone. Recreation through volunteerism and care of public space in our leisure time can help communities build social capital. Being connected to each other builds more resilient communities. Increased volunteerism, especially among persons 65+ could offer critical human capital to address stewardship needs. Among youth in Vancouver, there are reported feelings of social isolation and a lack of youth specific space throughout the city.
- 3. RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**—In the VanPlay survey, seniors programming, nature programming and multilingual services were all public priorities. Plans to expand aquatic recreation and access are currently underway in the Vancouver Aquatics Strategy and On Water study. There is a strong public desire for all-age play areas and risk/adventure playgrounds, such as the Terra Nova playground in Richmond. User groups also demand for better, safer, quality and adaptable recreation amenities.
- 4. COLLABORATION**— Colocation of compatible uses, such as sport field hubs or community centres with community gardens, can strengthen neighborhoods and extend the city's recreation network through partner operations. Equipment sharing or renting presents an opportunity to make recreation more affordable, accessible and community-oriented. The Park Board can play a bigger role in connecting service providers through programs such as the annual symposium for CCAs to share knowledge and spotlight trends.
- 5. EDUCATION + STEWARDSHIP**— Partner organizations offer opportunities to provide programming and education beyond traditional education. An affiliation policy could help provide consistent service to collaborators and partners by outlining responsibilities, expectations and values. This could help to expand the types of recreation offered in Vancouver to include the Field Sports Associations, dragon boating and other cultural programming.
- 6. INFORMAL PLAY** —Further study is needed to evaluate the current event and community use policies and protocols to allow for more everyday activation and informal uses. Prioritising enforcement and management on critical issues

and re-thinking regulation where possible. Large events with entrance or ticket fees offer opportunities to generate revenue that can help offset operations and maintenance costs especially where the event requires park restoration.

7. **RESILIENCE** — Recreation areas designed to withstand a higher level of use are necessary to keep up with growing demand. This may include more durable facilities in some areas, such as transitioning fields to synthetic turf or rubberized surface playgrounds, but also more flexibility in response to demand, such as lighting in winter to extend play hours and more free programming.

CHALLENGES

1. **LACK OF RESOURCES** — Securing sufficient funding for the renewal, replacement and maintenance of recreation amenities is a challenge. Due to ever increasing use and competing demands the Park Board is increasingly spread too thin. Beyond keeping up with demand, with sufficient resources the Park Board could invest in amenities which extend the reach of recreation such as cultural spaces to extend a sense of welcome to particular cultural groups and have facilities which meet the needs of the cultural group – tandoori ovens, outdoor covered spaces for Punjabi men to gather, etc.
2. **GROWING DEMAND** — Increased demand on recreation programs and amenities, especially in Downtown Eastside, puts both financial and capacity stress on the Park Board. In addition, in the Public Survey, a lack of available programs or programs of interest was the top reason for not participating in recreation activities. Overuse has long-standing impacts on parks and recreation sites. With a growing population and large public events, the city's beaches and lawns are slow to recover. Over use of playing fields causes many to be shut down for long periods to allow renewal.
3. **BARRIERS TO ACCESS** — There is a growing economic divide in Vancouver with the top 10% of earners bringing in 34% of the income. With the median personal income reported at \$29,000 in 2013, much of the population is struggling to meet their basic needs. Cost of living in Vancouver means that recreation is a low priority (despite its incredible benefits to health and wellbeing) and free programming only goes so far – time and energy is another barrier. Integration into everyday life (location, timing etc.), offering day-care etc. can reduce barriers.
4. **LACK OF EQUITY**— In analyzing the recreation facilities, there were several notable differences in service provision between neighbourhoods. High quality sports fields tend to be consolidated in East Vancouver, whereas West Vancouver has over 75% of the Grade B fields. Many West Vancouver neighbourhoods have longer timelines for renewal of playgrounds and other facilities. Providing equitable services between neighbourhoods and reflecting the conditions of use is an important priority. There are conflicting ideas on which programs should be offered and these vary between neighbourhoods, demographics (young families versus seniors) and local organizers. It is important to prioritise resources and increase capacity in the neighbourhoods that need it the most.
5. **LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**— Vancouver relies on the MetroVancouver region for sport hosting and tournament/competition facilities for sport. The Park Board is not currently set up to manage recreation programming outside of community centres (parks, outdoor tennis courts, etc) and cannot currently grant money to organizations to run recreational programs (art, sport, environmental etc.) Accommodating more capacity for partnerships and resource sharing will allow the Park Board to focus on its core mission and services.
6. **CLIMATE CHANGE** — Climate change will increase drought, floods, pests (chafer beetle), heat island effect and other factors that negatively impact human comfort and health of the living recreation systems like sports fields. Populations with income, mobility and health vulnerabilities will rely more on Park Board services.

FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

PEER CITY CASE STUDY

Providing recreation opportunities that encourage and engage everyone can be a challenging task.

TORONTO: INCLUSIVE RECREATION

By focusing on a comprehensive outreach and communications strategy and improving and enhancing access for underserved residents, *Parks, Forestry and Recreation* hopes to continue to increase the number of people involved in Toronto's recreation programs. The division distributes a FUN guide that details recreation programs and services, which is available online and in print. Residents can register for over 63,000 programs online, in-person, using an automated touch-tone phone or speaking with a customer service representative over the phone (residents can access interpreters in over 150 languages for free).

To address the needs of underserved residents, two programs have been established. The Investing in Families program is a partnership with Toronto Employment and Social Services, Toronto Public Health and Parks, Forestry and Recreation that uses a case-based approach to provide subsidies for recreation programs, equipment and transportation. The Newcomers Initiative, a federally funded pilot project was utilized to provide automated information kiosks for newcomers in local community centers. Services available for people with disabilities include adapted and integrated services, multi-sensory environments, warm water pools and large fonts in the FUN Guide and TTY services. While Toronto uses innovative approaches to inclusive recreation, performance is consistently measured and monitored and new actions are taken to continue to eliminate non-financial barriers to participation.



Recreation Service Plan 2013 – 2017



 **TORONTO**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation

THE ROTARY PLAYGARDEN IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

A true community park should be accessible to everyone and promote a feeling of connectedness. Multigenerational playgrounds that are accessible for people of all abilities is one way to achieve this. These multigenerational, all-ability playgrounds focus on low-impact equipment and ability sensitive design. The Rotary PlayGarden at Guadalupe River Park in San Jose is just over four acres and a great example of an all age play area.

The adult playground equipment includes fitness equipment, larger swing sets and a rubberized walking and jogging track. These features are chosen to improve balance, build muscle and increase range of motion while allowing for adults of abilities to use the play equipment. This park also has wheelchair accessible equipment like

a dual swing and a rope merry-go-round that the wheelchair can roll into and be secured on. There are climbing structures for all ages, even teenagers. The slides are made of concrete since plastic can interfere with cochlear implants. The slides also vary in length and width to encourage a variety of users to play on them.

Additional considerations are history panels, large murals and interesting sculptures throughout the park to appeal to older users. Benches surround the playground and are also scattered throughout the rest of the garden and trails to provide some more relaxing options. The Rotary PlayGarden is an example of a well-designed multigenerational playground that encourages fun and active lifestyles, minimize stress and encourages social interaction for users of all ages and abilities.



The Rotary Playgarden in
San Jose, California | Kent
Clemenco for ENR.com