

ASSET TARGETS

PARKS

Many competing priorities and the high cost of land means that creative solutions are required in order to continue to supply park space to meet the needs of all Vancouverites.

The current asset target of “neighbourhood parkland” that was set in 1992, is 1.1 hectares per 1,000 people and has served the city well. Current citywide average provision of neighbourhood parkland is 1.06 ha per 1,000 and 99% of people are within a 10-minute walk of a park or green space (80% are within a 5-minute walk). However, distribution is uneven and some neighbourhoods are underserved. For example, Grandview Woodland and Fairview neighbourhood areas have less than 0.6 ha per 1,000 residents.

Recommendations for Capital Planning

As acquisition in high density areas is increasingly difficult, the focus in these areas will need to shift to improving capacity and quality, along with acquisitions, partnerships, and innovative solutions to make more space available.

High density areas can thrive through resilient park design, increased frequency of maintenance, operations and renewal rates, placemaking programs, and activation programming in parks.

Parkland Acquisition Priorities:

- Within Initiative Zones (*Strategic Bold Move Tool*);
- Along shorelines and waterfronts to improve access to the water and between existing parks and recreation nodes to create the Citywide Parks and Recreation Network (*Strategic Bold Move Tool*); and
- Other site specific and qualitative factors to improve accessibility, inclusion, and quality, such as regularizing boundaries of parks or expanding protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Policy, Programs and Strategy Recommendations

- Increase maintenance budgets, particularly in Initiative Zones and growth areas, to account for the increased intensity of use.



- Undertake a Park Use Inventory and Capacity Study, which considers the use of the space for different recreation functions (active sport, passive recreation, access to nature, ornamental horticultural displays, community events, impermeable surfaces, etc.). Once this data is collected, it can be used to inform decision-making to determine the optimum balance for these park uses and guide future park acquisition, planning and design activities.
- Work with Engineering and Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability to expand provision of open space in the city through parklets, road closures, privately owned publicly accessible spaces, land under overpasses/bridges, laneway activation, and other opportunities.
- Work with Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability to advocate for increased setbacks from waterways to ensure that as lands are redeveloped, we provide sufficient space for infrastructure, environmental restoration, and impacts of sea level rise, in addition to park space for recreation.
- Work with Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability to develop policy to optimize solar access to parks.

Considerations for Community Plans, Area Plans and Public Benefit Strategies

- Aim to provide a balance of access to nature, sport, and recreation space in dedicated parkland. The asset target parkland provision is 1.1 ha per 1,000 people (calculated as existing population plus the projected population of new residents within the defined study area, plus a 5-minute walk buffer). The asset target parkland provision based on this calculation should be thoughtfully delivered or required via policy as new or expanded parkland, using the following general guidelines as a minimum:
 - Aim to provide functional parkland or green space within a 5-minute walk of all residents (include parkland and existing densities beyond the boundaries of the study area).

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- Determine the land area requirements for the provision of recreational assets by considering the citywide asset targets outlined in this chapter and comparing current and future provision per resident within the study area (see page 49 for examples). The more detailed recreational assets needs assessment is informed by this larger list and prioritised through consultation with the community, stakeholders, Community Centre Associations and Park Board staff.
- Provide sufficient land to ensure the protection of natural areas, water ways, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Provide enough land for ecological and recreational connectivity, as per the Citywide Parks and Recreation Network vision (*Strategic Bold Move Tool*).

Considerations for Rezoning and Redevelopment Sites

- Aim to provide a balance of access to nature, sport, and recreation space in parkland. The quantity required should be based on the target parkland provision¹ using the proposed number of residential units on the site. Parkland should be thoughtfully delivered in a manner consistent with the proposed urban form, defined in collaboration with the City's Planning Department, and in alignment with the following guidelines:
 - Provide adequate dedicated parkland for passive recreation or open space purposes;
 - Identify outdoor recreational facilities and amenities (fields, tennis courts, etc.) in a recreation needs assessment;
 - Ensure the protection of natural areas, waterways and environmentally sensitive areas, as well as increasing connectivity, to achieve biodiversity goals;
 - Take a "multiple benefits approach," which considers how lands with the primary purpose of transportation, utilities, water management etc., could provide recreational and leisure benefit to the community.

¹ The asset target parkland provision is 1.1 ha per 1,000 people calculated as existing population plus the projected population of new residents.

For example, land used to manage stormwater using green infrastructure can also provide access to nature for the community.

- Locate and design park spaces to achieve goals as described in *VanPlay Report 2: 10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years*;
- Consider parks and recreation amenities within a 10-minute walk of the site for the purposes of ensuring connectivity, appropriate park functions and to determine if the existing population is experiencing a parkland deficiency; and
- Encourage innovative design in order to deliver the asset target parkland area. For example, publicly accessible roof tops could provide space for recreational amenities, courts, fields and open space.
- For proposals for commercial and industrial development consider the following principles for delivery of parks and recreation space;
 - Adding and enhancing connectivity for water and ecological systems;
 - Providing open space and access to sun for employees, customers and visitors to the development; and
 - Providing the potential of indoor recreational spaces (shared, re-purposed or created) for community art and culture production and exhibition, event spaces, skate boarding, roller skating, tennis, etc.
- Develop a policy statement, "Park Provision Policy," to guide implementation of the above recommendations that defines "adequate" and "balanced" provision of parkland and space for recreation amenities in more detail.

2040 Asset Targets

- A citywide average of 1.1 ha of neighbourhood* parkland per 1000 people.

*Neighbourhood parkland includes all park spaces that are not considered to be "destination" parks.