

People, parks, and play!

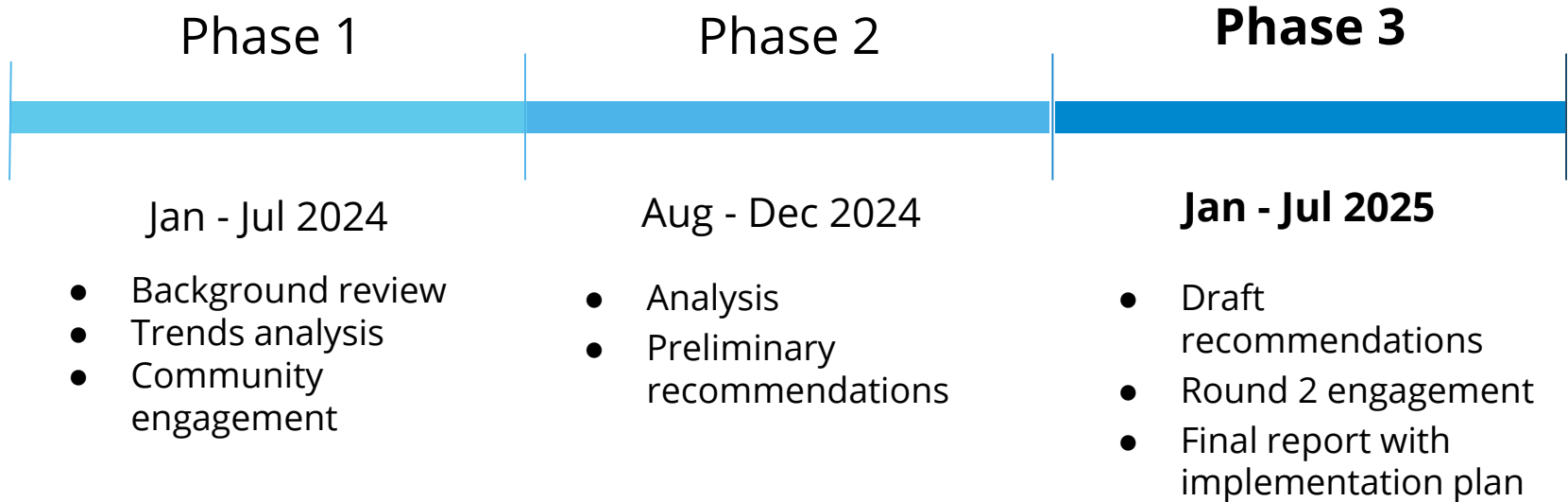
New Westminster Parks and Recreation Plan Update



Agenda

- Overview of Phase 2 Engagement – 10 minutes
- What we Heard from Phase 1 Engagement – 10 minutes
- Analysis - Key Findings, Strengths, Challenges – 10 minutes
- Strategic Directions and Recommendations – Discussion – 60 minutes
 1. How well do these align with Council's priorities for the community?
 2. Are there any significant gaps in the draft strategic directions, recommendations, or actions that you would like to see addressed in the updated plan?
 3. Do any of the specific draft strategic directions, recommendations, or actions raise concern?

Project Process



Round 2 Engagement

- Digital survey
- Pop-ups
- Focused engagement

Level of engagement

Phase 1

Phase 2

INFORM

Openly share information and updates

CONSULT

Welcome input on project direction and decisions

INVOLVE

Ensure priorities and concerns are heard and considered

COLLABORATE

Work closely together at each step and decision

EMPOWER

Give decision-making authority

IAP2 spectrum of public participation

Objectives

- Share back findings from Round 1 engagement
- Validate that the draft strategic directions represent the diverse needs, experiences, and interests of residents
- Collect input from vulnerable, marginalized and underserved community groups
- Raise awareness about the process to update the plan

Communications

- Be Heard New West
- Social media
- Email invitations
- Posters and flyers
- Pop-ups

Digital survey

- Participants are registered at Be Heard New West, with demographic data
- Participation
- Input on draft strategic directions
 - With key actions for each
- Flag any gaps in draft strategic directions

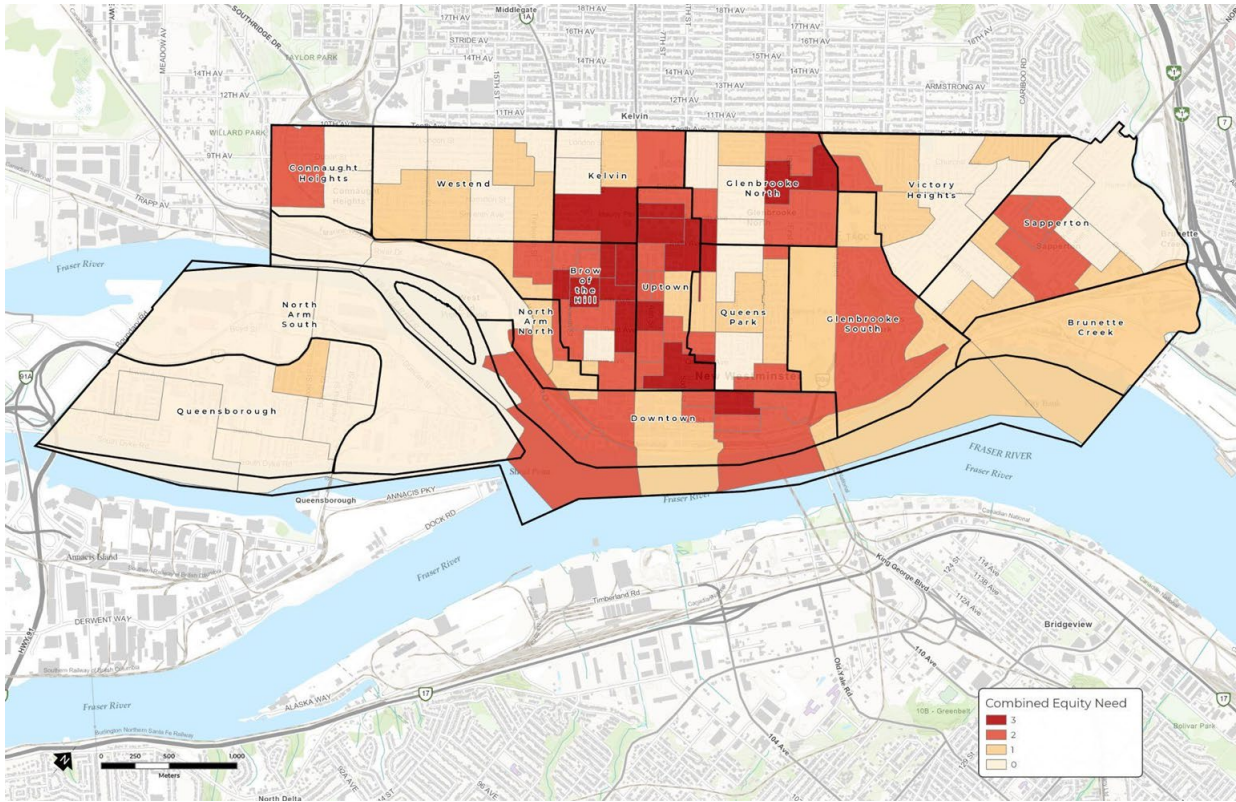
Focused engagement

- School District 40
- Indigenous organizations
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Community Groups

Pop-ups

- Same questions as survey
- Reach beyond typical survey participants
- Meet people where they are
- Create value for participants
- Enhance community representation

Equity Map: Informing pop -up locations



Pop-ups



Library Main Branch
716 Sixth Ave

Thursday, February 27
3:30-6:30 pm



**The Esplanade near
Q2Q Ferry dock**
West of the River Market

Saturday, March 1
1:00-4:00 pm



**Queensborough
Community Centre**
920 Ewen Ave

Monday, March 3
3:00-6:00 pm



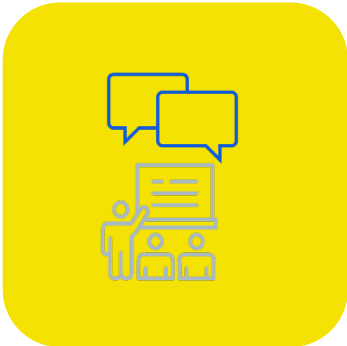
**təməsewtx^w Aquatic
Community Centre**
65 E Sixth Ave

Saturday, March 8
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Next Steps

- Phase 2 Engagement February 24- March 17
- **Council Workshop** **March 3rd**
- Complete final draft June
- Finalize plan for endorsement July / September

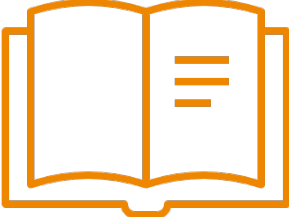
Engagement Input



Analysis



Community Context



Strategic Directions and Recommendations

What We Heard

Engagement Summary Overview

Overview of engagement

What we did



Promotion and outreach:



Web page

Survey promoted to 4,075 [Be Heard New West](#) subscribers



Press release

Press release circulated local media and featured in six *New West Record* articles



Email

Project promotion included in weekly Citypage e-newsletter to 1,700 subscribers



Interactive signage

Signage installed in key community locations with QR codes



E-receipts

and staff email signatures - included the link to the project Be Heard page



Social media

10 social media posts, receiving 29,333 impressions



Indigenous engagement

26 Engagement Invites
2 Soup & Bannock sessions
10 participants



Workshops

5 sessions
27 individuals and organizations



Youth drop -ins

6 locations
376 participants

Engagement activities



Pop-ups

8 pop-ups
1,237 participants



Survey

612 respondents

Indigenous Engagement

Learnings summary



Cultural representation and inclusion



Including greater awareness raising and education around First Nations, as well as spaces for Indigenous practices and ceremonies.

Accessibility, engagement, and education



Including outreach with Indigenous Peoples, and financial support for Indigenous people to participate in parks and recreation activities.

Collaboration and support



Including greater focus on traditional ecological knowledge, and involving Indigenous people in planning, decision making, and program delivery.

Youth Engagement

Key Findings



What youth like



- Parks and recreation facilities (including sports fields, skateparks, play areas, natural spaces and the tēmōsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre)
- Community and social spaces
- Activities and programs

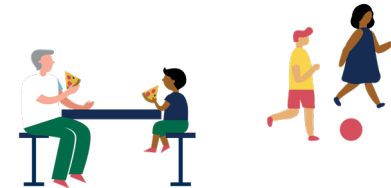
What youth dislike



- Parks and recreation facilities (lack of youth-specific facilities, overcrowding)
- Maintenance and cleanliness

What to add in the future...

- Courts and fields
- Play features
- Enhanced social spaces, indoors and outdoors
- Youth programming and events



Workshops

Learnings summary - workshops



Strengths

- Parks and natural spaces
- t̄m̄s̄w̄t̄x̄w̄ Aquatic and Community Centre
- High-quality facilities
- Diverse sports uses and recreation amenities
- Inclusivity
- Staff responsiveness and willingness to collaborate

Challenges

- Lack of all-weather spaces
- Competing uses and high demand for courts and fields
- Drug use and homelessness
- Equity in outreach and programming
- Affordability



Pop-ups

Learnings summary - pop -ups



Outdoor parks and recreation

What people like: People shared general satisfaction with outdoor parks and recreation. Additional “likes” include:

- Walkability, access and accessibility of Quayside waterfront
- Family- and child-friendly spaces
- Tree and green spaces
- Sports and outdoor amenities

What people dislike:

- Limited walkability on trail networks
- Outdated playgrounds and recreation equipment
- Cleanliness and safety
- Lack of year-round outdoor spaces
- Lack of accessible, inclusive spaces

POP-UP PHOTOS



Pop-ups

Learnings summary - pop -ups



Indoor parks and recreation

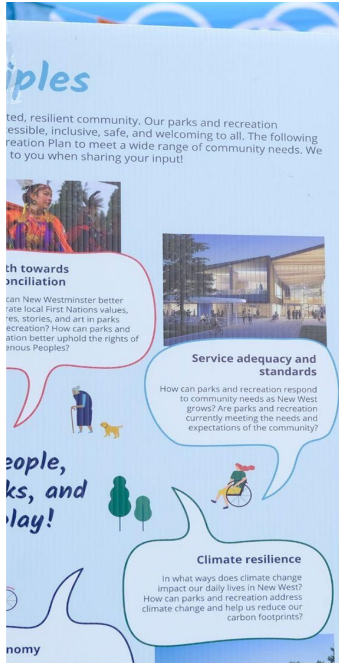
What people like: People shared general satisfaction with indoor recreation. Additional “likes” include:

- t̄m̄s̄ew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre
- Diverse programming
- Youth programming
- Century House

What people dislike:

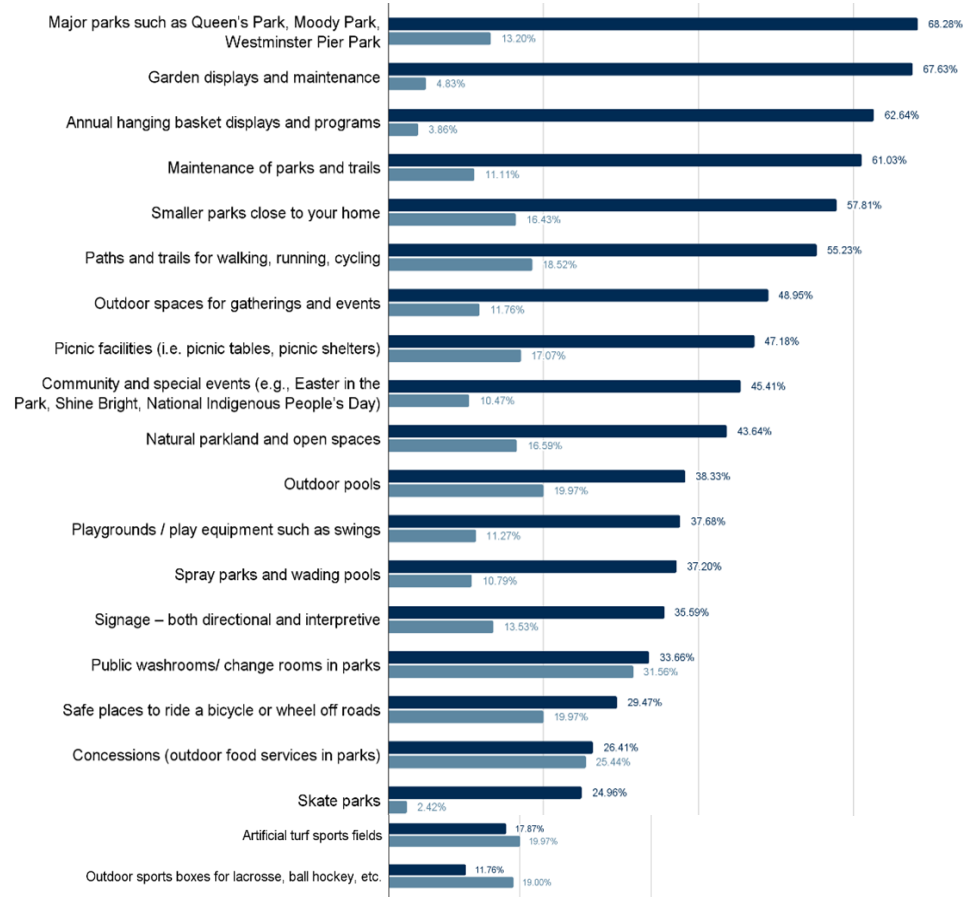
- Not enough dedicated courts for sports (e.g. pickleball, tennis, badminton, basketball, and soccer)
- Recreation program registration
- High program costs
- Limited youth and children's activities
- Limited seniors facilities

POP-UP PHOTOS



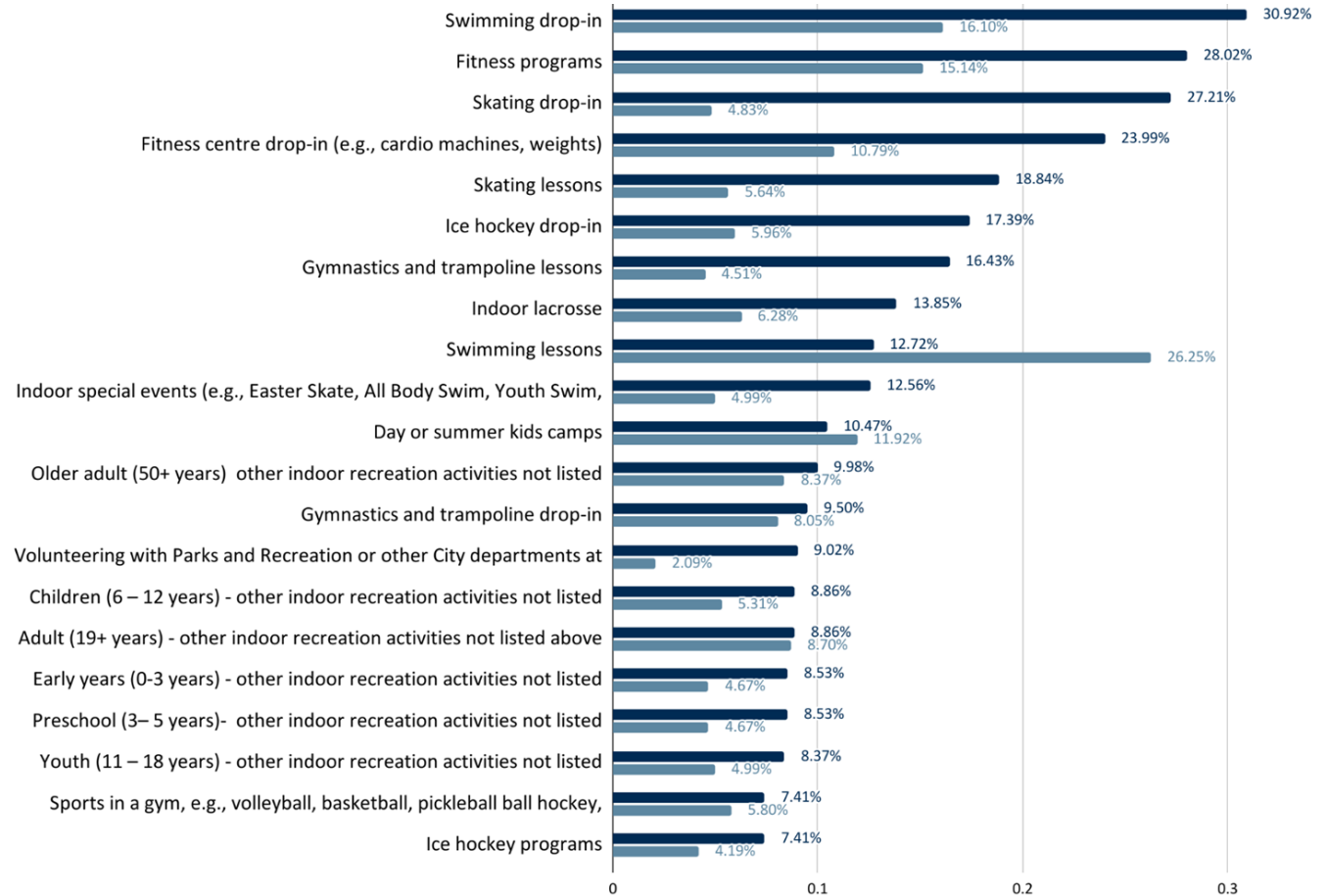
Online Survey

What is your level of satisfaction with the quantity and quality of the following park services, activities, paths, and amenities (features in a park) in the City of New Westminster?



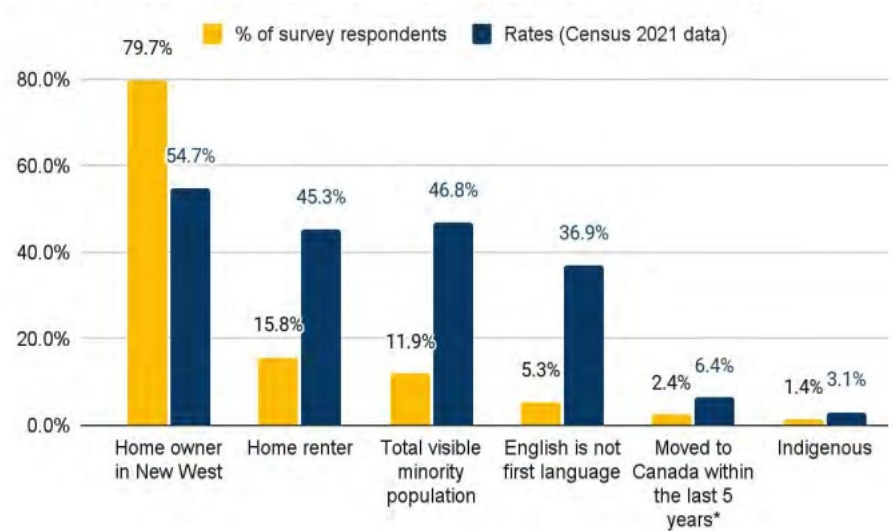
Online Survey

What is your level of satisfaction with the quantity and quality of the following programs, services, and facilities offered by the City of New Westminster?



Survey Respondents

- There were challenges in achieving full representation of New Westminster's diverse population in the engagement process

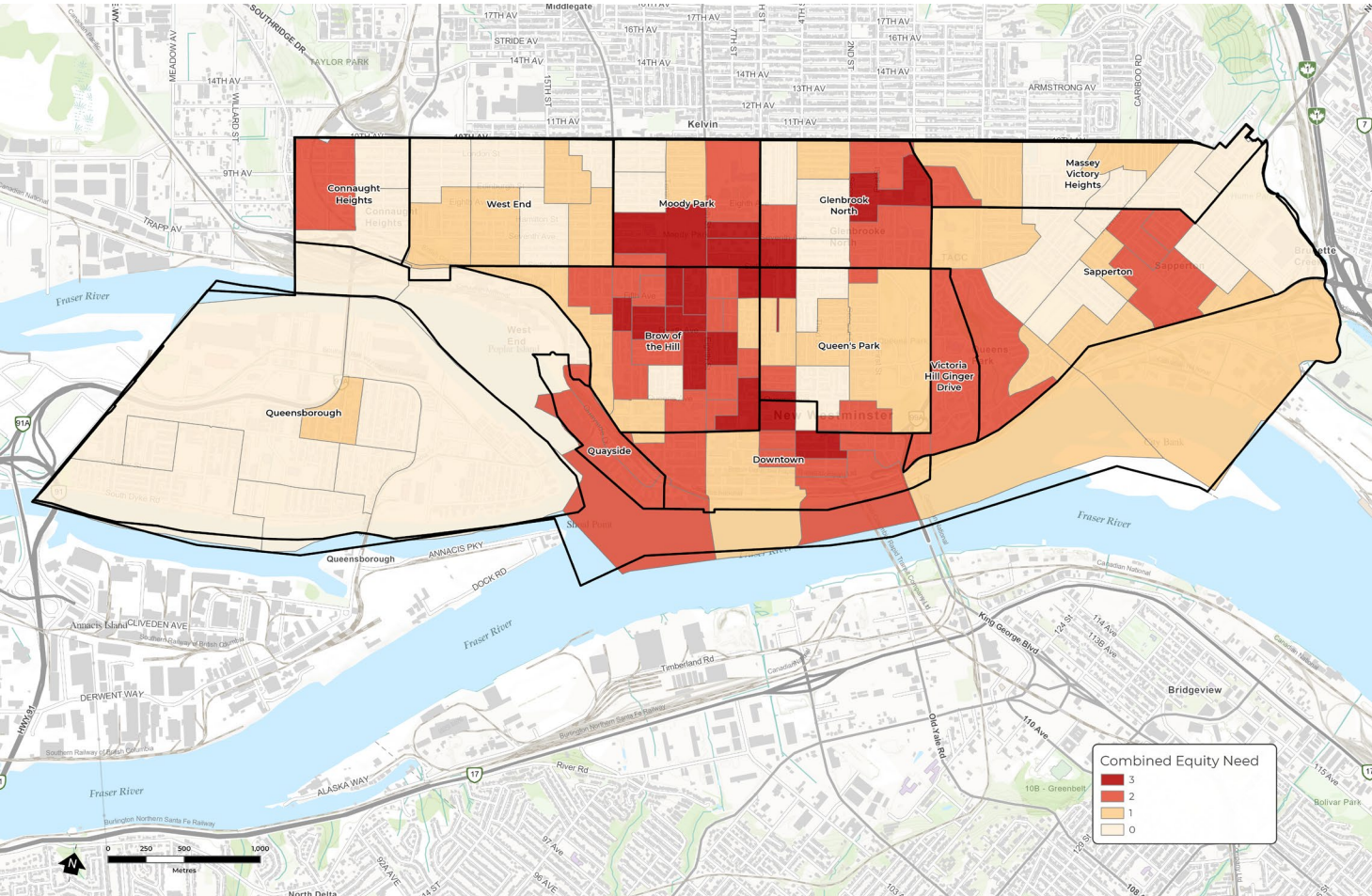


Analysis

Key Findings, Strengths, Challenges

Combined Equity Needs

Aboriginal
Low income
Multi-unit housing
Seniors



Human Movements Analysis

- More inflow of surrounding residents to New Westminster facilities than the reverse
- Queensborough Patterns
 - 79% of visits to Queensborough parks are by Queensborough residents
 - 21% are by residents of the rest of New Westminster
 - 9% of visits to NON-Queensborough parks are by Queensborough residents
 - 91% are by residents of the rest of New Westminster
- Areas of very high and very low equity need have lower use of parks

Classifications	Area (ha)
City Park	67.50
Community Park	9.05
Neighbourhood Park	15.47
Green Space/Nature Park	47.50
Linear Park	8.66
Urban Park	2.50
Other	41.29
Total	184.97

Parkland Classifications and Supply

New classifications to recognize expanded role of parks

Urban Parks

Urban spaces are part of the comprehensive parks and open space system and may not require land acquisition – can be integrated in streets, sidewalks, lanes, and setbacks

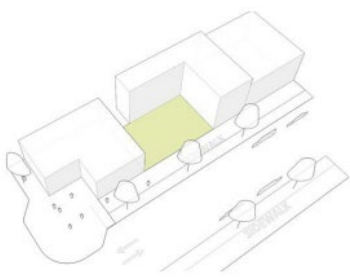
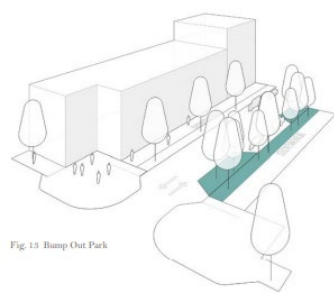


Fig. 10 Bump Out Park



Corner Plaza

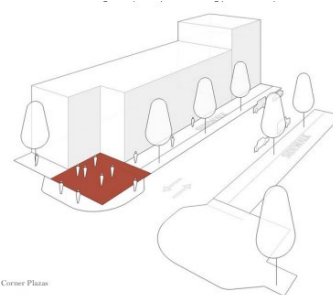


Fig. 9 Sidewalk Plaza

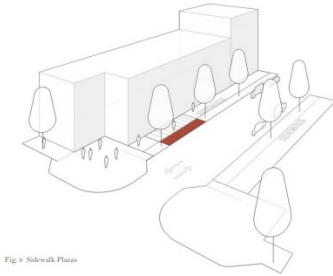


Fig. 10 Pedestrian Platform

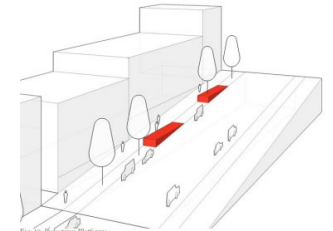


Fig. 12 Boulevard Park

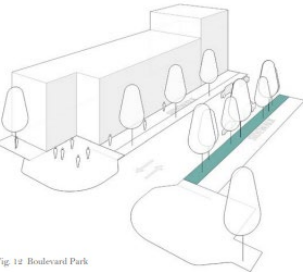
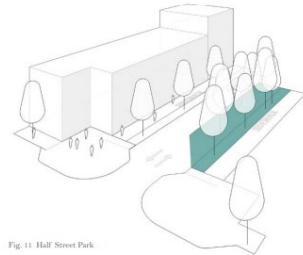


Fig. 11 Half Street Park



- P** Pedestrian Rooms:
1. Median
 2. Parklet
 3. Boulevard Room
 4. Corner Plaza
 5. Pedestrian Platform

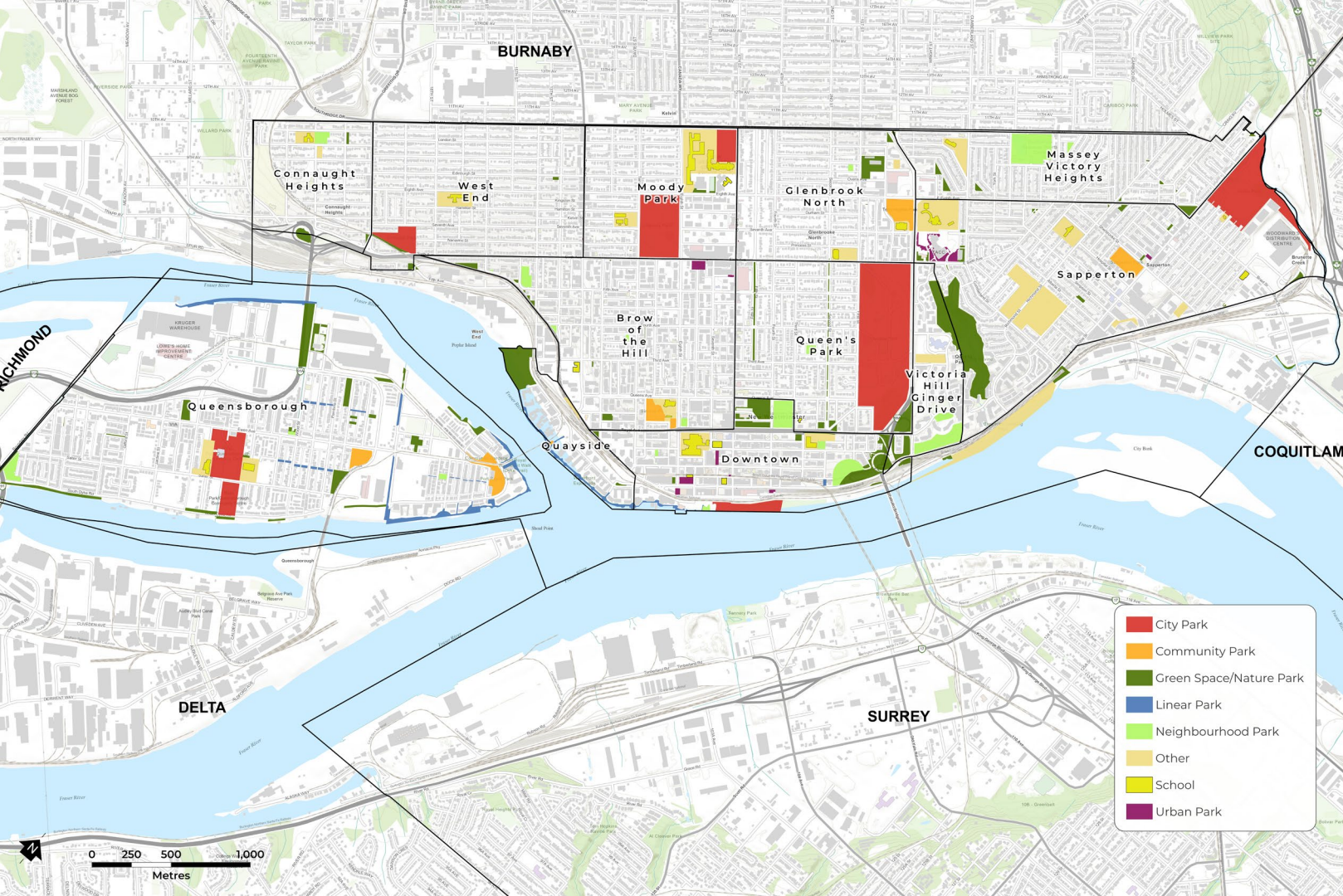
- S** Park Streets:
1. Half Street Park
 2. Boulevard Park
 3. Bump Out Park

- C** Connectors:
1. Lane/Narrow Street
 - a. Ground treatment
 - b. Wall Art
 - c. Overhead Lighting
 2. Pedestrian Passageway

- N** Nodes:
1. Feature Intersection
 - d. In-Ground Treatment
 - e. Crossing Treatment
 - f. Overhead Structure/ Lighting
 - g. Vertical Markers
 2. Breadcrumbs of Activities

- PO** POPS:
1. Courtyard
 2. Plaza
 3. Mid Block Connection and Breezeway
 4. Building Interface:
 - h. Setback
 - i. Forecourt

Parks Map



Parkland Supply – past to future

- Three primary types of active parkland to enable comparison

Classifications	Area (ha)	New West 2007	New Westminster 2024	New West 2034*
City Park	67.5	0.67	0.74	0.58
Community Park	9.05	0.98	0.10	0.08
Neighbourhood Park	15.47	0.39	0.17	0.13
Total Parks	92.02	2.04	1.01	0.79

The current target is 2.2 ha/1,000 population for active parkland and City is not achieving it

*Using high growth scenario for population growth from Coriolis report

Parkland Supply Analysis

(comparable communities)

Comparable Cities	Vancouver (2021 pop)		Burnaby Vancouver (2021 pop)		Coquitlam Vancouver (2021 pop)		City of North Vancouver (2021 pop)		Victoria (2021 pop)		Average of Comparables	New Westminister Vancouver (2024 pop)	
Population	662,248		249,125		148,625		58,120		91,867		241,997	90,799	
	Qty.	Ha.	Qty.	Ha.	Qty.	Hectares	Qty.	Ha.	Qty.	Ha.	Ha/1,000 Population	Qty.	Ha.
Total	254	1161.7	166	1776.4	110	946.9	71	197.7	165	434.4	3.73	67	185.0
Ha/1,000 population (all parkland)	1.75		7.13		6.37		3.40		4.73		4.68	2.04	

Parkland Supply – potential targets

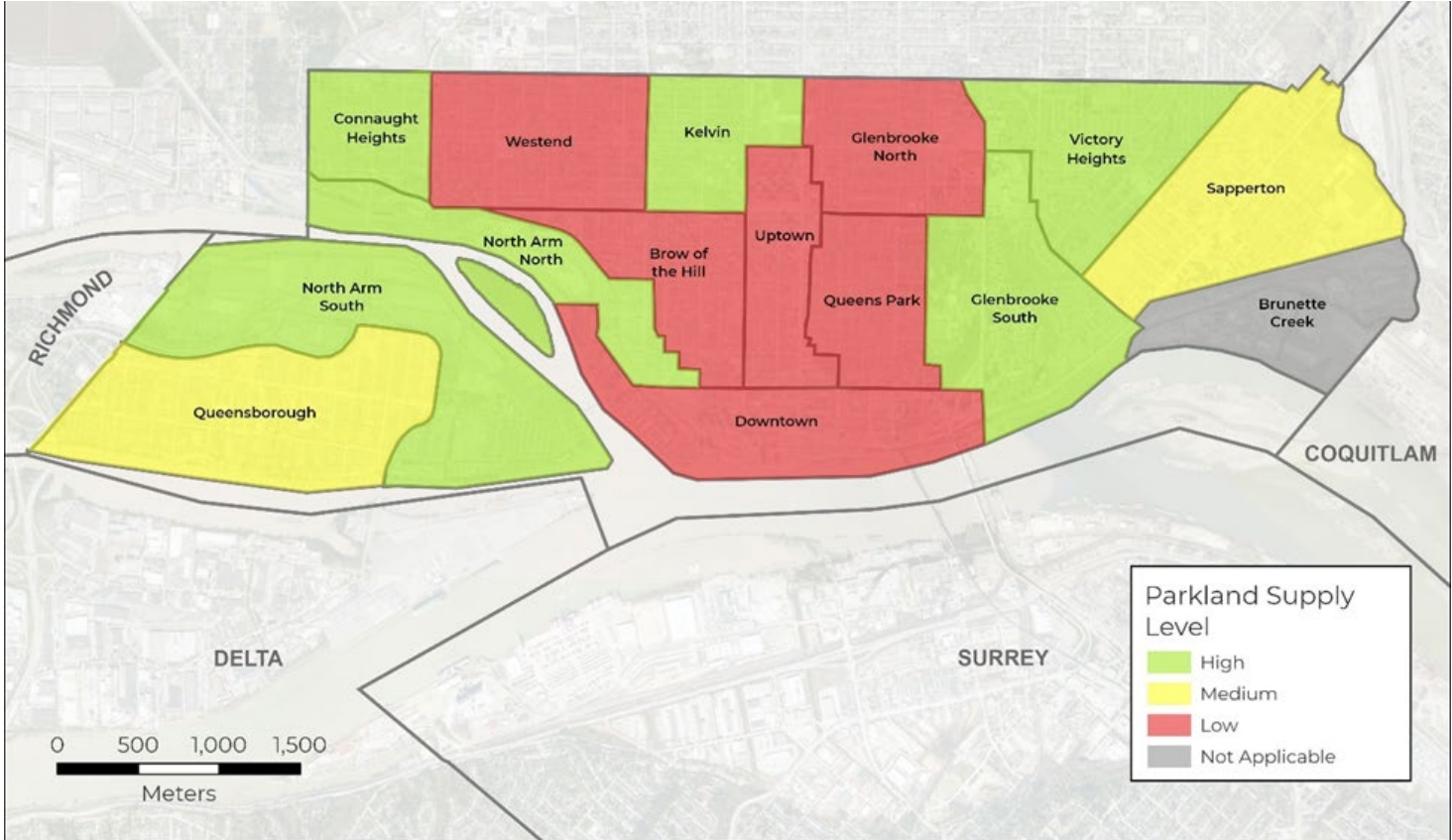
- City, community, and neighbourhood parks - 1.0 ha/1,000 population
 - City would need to designate approximately 25 hectares of new active parkland by 2034 (Queen's Park is 30 ha)
- All park types - 2.00 ha/1,000 population
 - City would need to designate approximately 50 hectares of new parkland by 2034

Parkland Supply – percent of land

Classifications	% of City
City Park	3.6%
Community Park	0.5%
Green Space/Nature Park	2.2%
Linear Park	0.5%
Neighbourhood Park	0.8%
Other	2.2%
Urban Park	0.1%
Total	10.0%

Parkland Supply Analysis

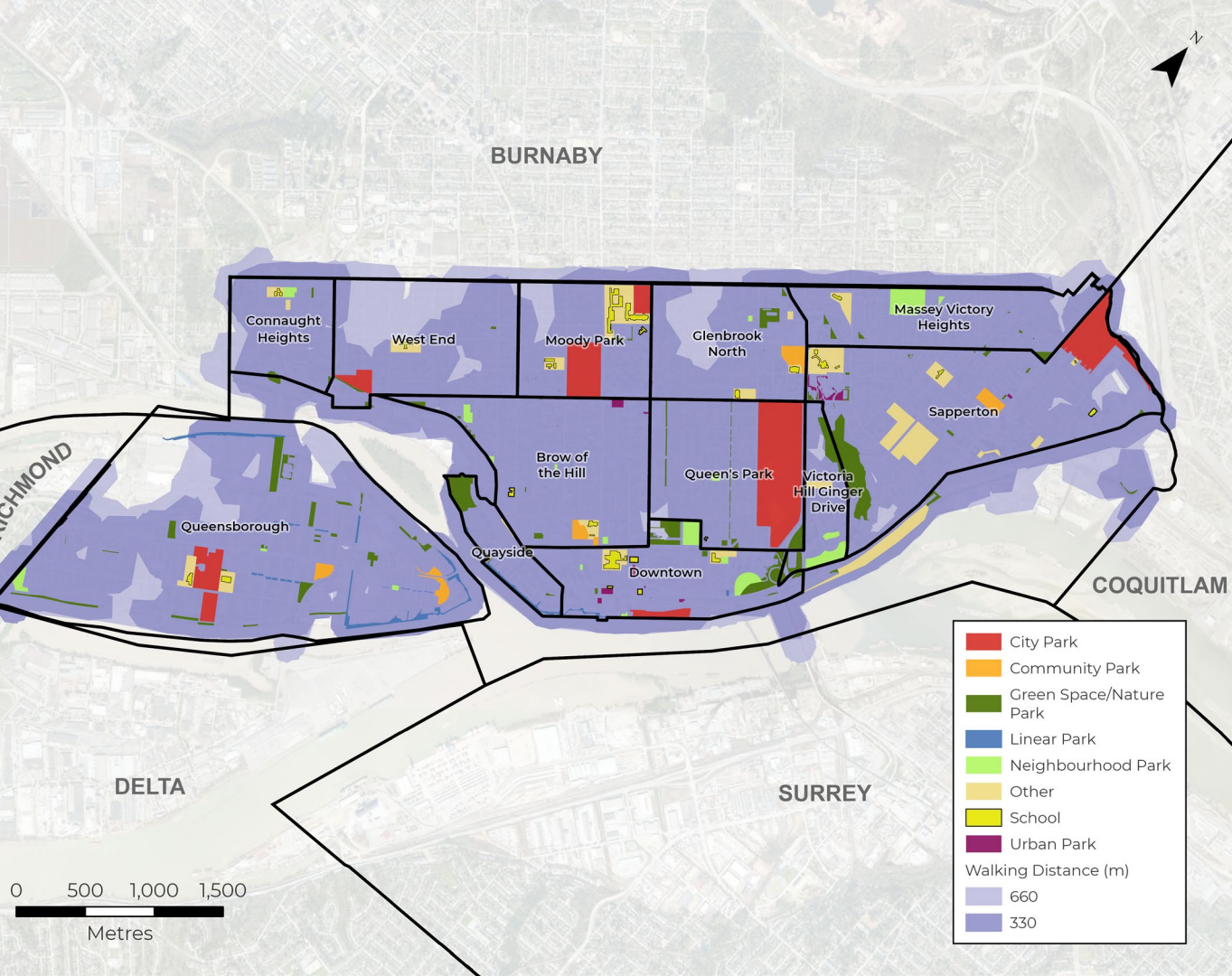
(by neighbourhood)



Map will be updated with new population data

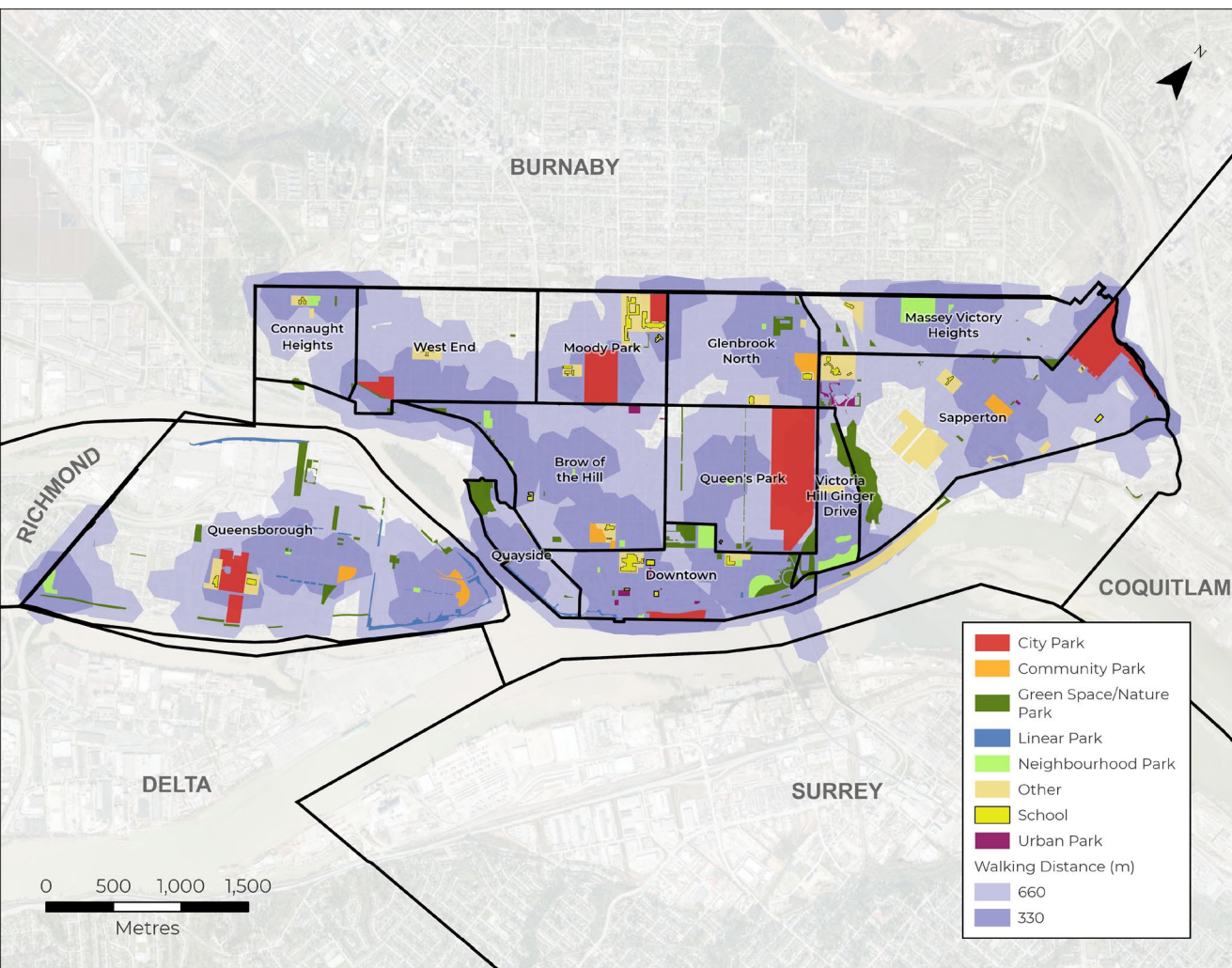
Proximity Analysis

All parks

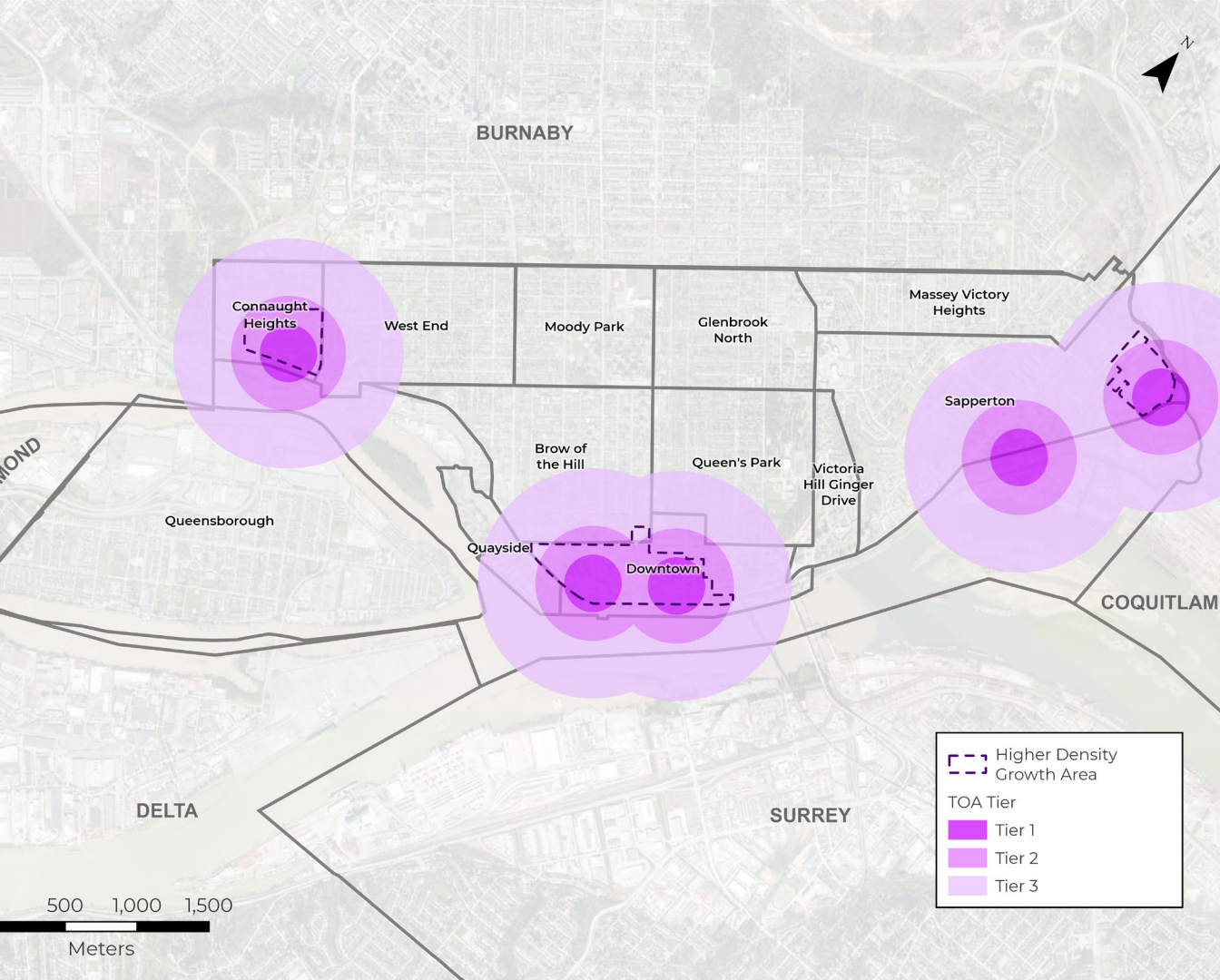


Proximity Analysis

City, Community, Neighbourhood Parks



Growth and TOA Areas



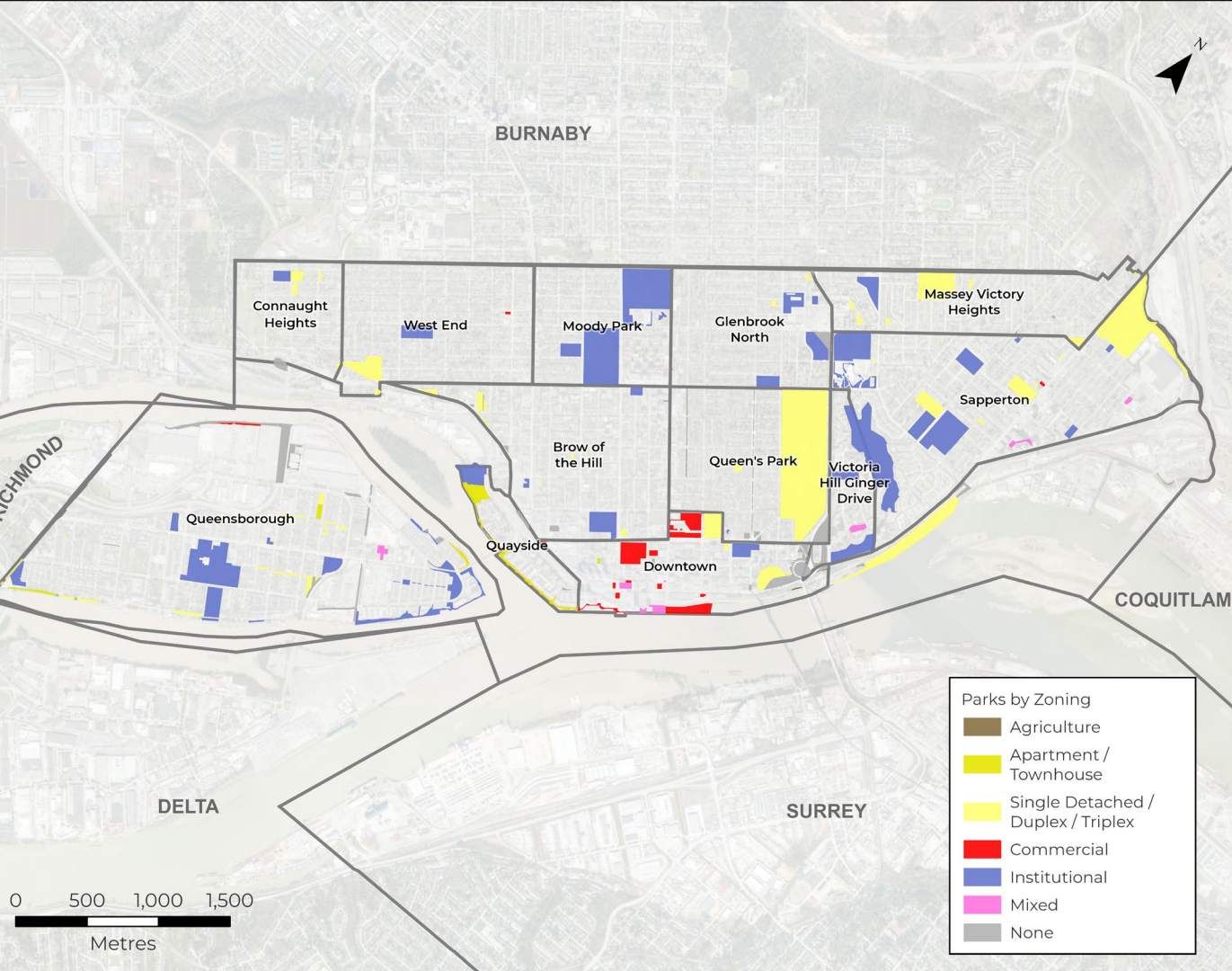
500 1,000 1,500
Meters

Higher Density Growth Area

TOA Tier

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3

Park Zoning



Zoning Category	Total Area (ha)
Institutional	88.5
Single Detached / Duplex / Triplex	71.9
None	17.5
Agriculture	0.1
Commercial	8.5
Apartment / Townhouse	4.5
Mixed	2.7

Amenities Comparables

	Qty/Population Average of Comparables	#/1,000 population New Westminster	Amenity comparable to other cities
Play Amenities			
Playgrounds	0.333	0.291	comparable
Skate Parks / all wheels parks	0.042	0.025	low
Spray parks/splash pools	0.068	0.038	low
Misting/ cooling stations	0.060	0.165	high
Outdoor pools	0.012	0.025	high
Outdoor Enjoyment			
Picnic shelters	0.066	0.076	high
Washrooms	0.205	0.342	high
Off-Leash dog areas	0.058	0.051	comparable
Dog parks (enclosed in fence)	0.027	0.089	high
Community Garden plots	0.095	0.063	low
Parks with Picnic Tables	0.225	0.507	high

Amenities Comparables

	Qty/Population Average of Comparables	#/1,000 population New Westminster	Amenity comparable to other cities
Field Sports			
Artificial turf fields	0.037	0.038	comparable
Other rectangular fields	0.237	0.165	low
Ball diamonds	0.208	0.203	comparable
Tracks	0.018	0.013	comparable
Stadium / Grandstand	0.008	0.038	high
Field Houses	0.039	0.051	high
Beach/field Volleyball	0.049	0.025	low
Courts			
Tennis Courts (shared)	0.107	0.114	comparable
Tennis Courts (dedicated)	0.274	0.051	low
Pickleball (shared)	0.194	0.114	comparable
Pickleball (dedicated)	0.123	0.000	low

Amenities / Facilities

Comparables

	Qty/Population Average of Comparables	#/1,000 population New Westminster	Amenity comparable to other cities
Courts			
Multi-Use Sports Courts	0.043	0	low
Lacrosse boxes (dedicated)	0.019	0.038	high
Basketball Courts	0.091	0.101	comparable
Disc Golf Courses	0.029	0.000	low
Facilities			
Aquatic Centres	0.034	0.013	low
Ice Sheets	0.034	0.025	low
Arenas	0.021	0.025	comparable
Community Centre	0.101	0.038	low

Recreation Facilities Analysis

Strengths	Challenges
High use of facilities especially tēmәsewtx ^w and the Sportsplex	Some spaces are not being used to their maximum capacity
Facility rental revenues are strong	Aging facilities may not maintain revenues
Facilities appear to be meeting most needs, except in Queensborough	The existing facilities will not support the future population
The City continues to invest in accessibility	Geographic gaps in facility locations

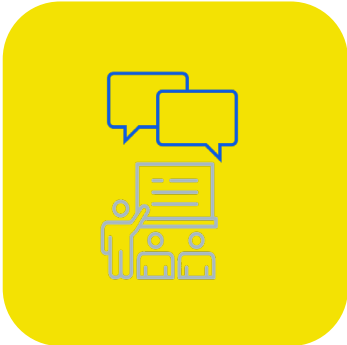
Programs and Services Analysis

Strengths	Challenges
There are many diverse recreation programs	Facility annual pass fees are higher than similar communities
Many programs are very popular (swimming, day camps, drop-in programs for fitness, seniors', youth)	Waitlists for many programs (aquatics, gymnastics, ball hockey, arena programs, day camps, and seniors' programs)
Direct and indirect service delivery is working well	Some programs are running under capacity
New staff organization is functioning well	The City is lacking accurate and consistent data on participation and utilization

Programs and Services Analysis (2)

Strengths	Challenges
<p>City's responsiveness to expanding its programming and services to meet needs, particularly newcomers, at risk populations, and equity-deserving groups</p>	<p>Some would benefit from expansion of Financial Assistance Program eligibility (e.g., income caps for larger households may limit participation)</p> <p>Growing youth, newcomer, and senior populations may create access challenges related to programs, timing, and access (transportation, fees)</p>

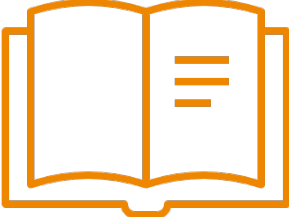
Engagement Input



Analysis



Community Context



Strategic Directions and Recommendations

Community Context

- Key Factors
 - Exponential population growth and mandated growth targets
 - Changing population and needs
 - Three crises - housing, toxic drugs, and mental health
 - Limited land base – falling further behind on parkland

Questions for Council

1. How well do these align with Council's priorities for the community?
2. Are there any significant gaps in the draft strategic directions, recommendations, or actions that you would like to see addressed in the updated plan?
3. Do any of the specific draft strategic directions, recommendations, or actions raise concern?

Strategic Direction 1

Protect existing and acquire additional lands for future parks and open spaces

- a. Expand parkland
- b. Improve protection of existing parks
- c. Develop new parks

Strategic Direction 2

Expand, renew, and optimize park amenities

- a. Prepare a plan for all city and community parks
- b. Prepare a Long-Term Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
- c. Provide new and improved park amenities

Strategic Direction 3

Expand, renew, and optimize indoor recreation facilities

- a. Improve the performance and use of existing indoor recreation facilities
- b. Plan and develop new facilities

Strategic Direction 4

Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

- a. Promote equity, access and inclusion
- b. Support community well-being
- c. Activate parks and open spaces

Strategic Direction 5

Advance truth and reconciliation

- a. Collaborate with Indigenous communities
- b. Integrate Indigenous culture and knowledge
- c. Promote accessibility and inclusion

Strategic Direction 6

Build resilience and adapt to climate change

- a. Enhance climate resilience in parks and open spaces
- b. Mitigate climate change in park development
- c. Integrate climate action in design and planning
- d. Enhance community well-being

Strategic Direction 7

Integrate nature and nature-based solutions

- a. Protect natural assets and natural areas
- b. Integrate nature-based solutions into parks and open spaces
- c. Expand community partnerships

Strategic Direction 8

Strengthen connections to and within the parks and recreation system

- a. Enhance connectivity between parks and facilities
- b. Improve connections to and along the riverfront
- c. Activate the riverfront

Strategic Direction 9

Improve and expand core services

- a. Manage park and recreation assets
- b. Diversify and expand programs and services
- c. Optimize operations

Strategic Direction 10

Collaborate and formalize partnerships

- a. Strengthen existing and foster new partnerships and relationships

Strategic Direction 11

Plan for financial sustainability

- a. Secure capital funding
- b. Manage operational funding

Questions / Comments

1. How well do these align with Council's priorities for the community?
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