People, Parks & Play! Parks and Recreation Plan

Round 2 Engagement

Accessibility Advisory Committee March 11, 2025









Agenda

- Project overview
- Round 2 engagement
- Round 1 engagement findings
 Accessibility + Inclusion
- Draft Plan
- Key questions for you

Project overview

Project timeline

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Jan - Jul 2024	Aug - Dec 2024	Jan 2024 - Jul 2025
 Background review Trends analysis User experience engagement 	 New Westminster Growth Analysis Preliminary recommendations 	 Round 2 Engagement Final report Recommendations and implementation plan



Round 2 Engagement

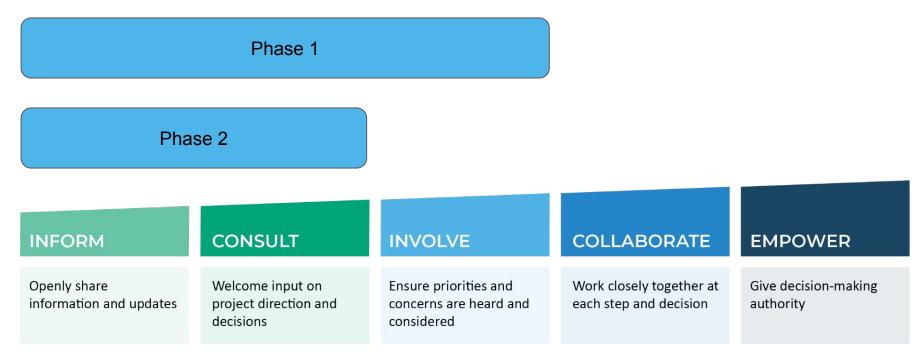
Round 2 Engagement

- Digital survey open until March 17
- Four Pop-ups
- Focused engagement
 - School District 40
 - Indigenous organizations
 - Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - Community Groups

Round 2 Engagement Objectives

- Share back findings from Round 1 engagement
- Check 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

How we'll be engaging the community



IAP2 spectrum of public participation

Round 1 Engagement findings

Key accessibility strengths

- Accessibility of Westminster Quay
- Communications and outreach using both digital and traditional media
- Increase in drop-in activities
- Century House programming and support
- Accessibility of təməsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre

Key accessibility challenges

- Lack of accessible washrooms, seating, sports fields, trails, and viewing areas at sports venues
- Registration for recreation programming is too difficult
- Not enough parking near parks and recreation facilities
- Quality of pathways in and around parks
- Inclusion and accessibility are being muddled together

Key accessibility challenges

- Maintenance/upkeep at key parks, such as Westminster Pier Park is critical (and coming up short now)
- Aging playgrounds are not accessible
- Aging recreation facilities do not accommodate all ages and abilities
- Need for additional spaces and facilities for seniors
 Including evening programming

Key accessibility challenges

- Limited staff understanding of diverse accessibility needs and universal accessibility
- Limited access to the Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program
- Administrative challenges of accessing the Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program

Draft People, Parks + Play Plan:

Current

Draft plan: Strategic Directions

- 1. Protect existing and acquire additional lands for future parks and open spaces
- 2. Expand, renew, and optimize park amenities
- 3. Expand, renew, and optimize indoor recreation facilities
- 4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all
- 5. Advance truth and reconciliation
- 6. Build resilience and adapt to climate change

Draft plan: Strategic Directions

- 7. Integrate nature and nature-based solutions
- 8. Strengthen connections to and within the parks and recreation system
- 9. Improve and expand core services
- 10. Collaborate and formalize partnerships
- 11. Plan for financial sustainability

2. Expand, renew, and optimize park amenities

• Regularly audit the performance and use of park amenities, and implement changes based on audit findings to improve their use.

3. Expand, renew, and optimize indoor recreation facilities

• Regularly evaluate and improve recreation facilities to address user needs and enhance the community's recreational opportunities.

4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

• Increase participation of underrepresented groups by removing systemic barriers

- Prioritize all forms of accessibility:
 - Physical accessibility to facilities and park amenities
 - Programmatic accessibility
 - Communication accessibility
- Collect data to make data informed decisions about programs, facilities, and resource allocation.
- Review and revise existing policies and procedures to ensure they reflect priorities related to equity and inclusion
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with community organizations

- Implement an inclusive marketing and communication strategy
- Ensure that staff, volunteers, and leadership within the parks and recreation department reflect the diversity of the community.
- Equip parks and recreation staff with training, knowledge, and skills to create inclusive and welcoming environments for all.

9. Improve and expand core services

- Expand and diversify programs in recreation, health/wellness, and culture, for all participants, in response to evolving needs and trends.
- Improve parks and recreation administrative services to reduce technological barriers to marketing, communication, registration, and bookings.

Draft People, Parks + Play Plan: Proposed accessibility revisions

Questions for you

- What actions listed here do you think are most important?
- Are there any other actions you would like to suggest?
- Are there any experiences in parks and recreation spaces or programs that you would like to share?

- 2. Expand, renew, and optimize park amenities
- Ensure all new playgrounds include accessible features. Build one new playground to universal design standards.
- Include accessible garden plots at all three new community gardens.

3. Expand, renew, and optimize indoor recreation facilities

• Build new facilities to Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Gold

- Universal accessibility at facilities and park amenities (e.g. accessible washrooms; low stimulation spaces, kits and programming; universally accessible play equipment at rec facilities and playgrounds).
- Communicate accessibility features at each facility
- Ensure programs that are accessible to people with cognitive and/or physical disabilities are easily identifiable online and in the Activity Guide.
- Provide regular accessibility training for front of house to meet the needs of people with cognitive and/or physical disabilities.

- Continue to promote activities and conduct outreach using a mix of digital and traditional media.
- Ensure that accessible programs listed in the Activity Guide and online are clearly marked and detail the parts of accessibility that they fulfill.
- Ensure that online sign-up forms are accessible.
- Communicate in plain language.
- Identify and promote New Westminster's accessible trails. Detail the accessibility features offered.

- Collect data to make data informed decisions about programs, facilities, and resource allocation.
- Review and revise existing policies and procedures to ensure they reflect priorities related to equity and inclusion
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with community organizations

- 9. Improve and expand core services
- Expand access to Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance program
- Reduce administration steps needed to apply for Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program

Questions for you

- What actions listed here do you think are most important?
- Are there any other actions you would like to suggest?
- Are there any experiences in parks and recreation spaces or programs that you would like to share?

Other ways to get involved

• Survey open on Be Heard New West until March 17

Thank you!