

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



Engagement Input



Analysis



Community Context



Strategic Directions and Recommendations

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

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

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 tēmәsewtx^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

Current Draft

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

Current Draft

4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

- 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

Current Draft

4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

- 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.

Current Draft

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?

Draft plan: Enhancing accessibility

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

Draft plan: Enhancing accessibility

4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

- 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.

Draft plan: Enhancing accessibility

4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

- 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.

Draft plan: Enhancing accessibility

4. Provide inclusive and equitable opportunities for all

- 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

Draft plan: Enhancing accessibility

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!