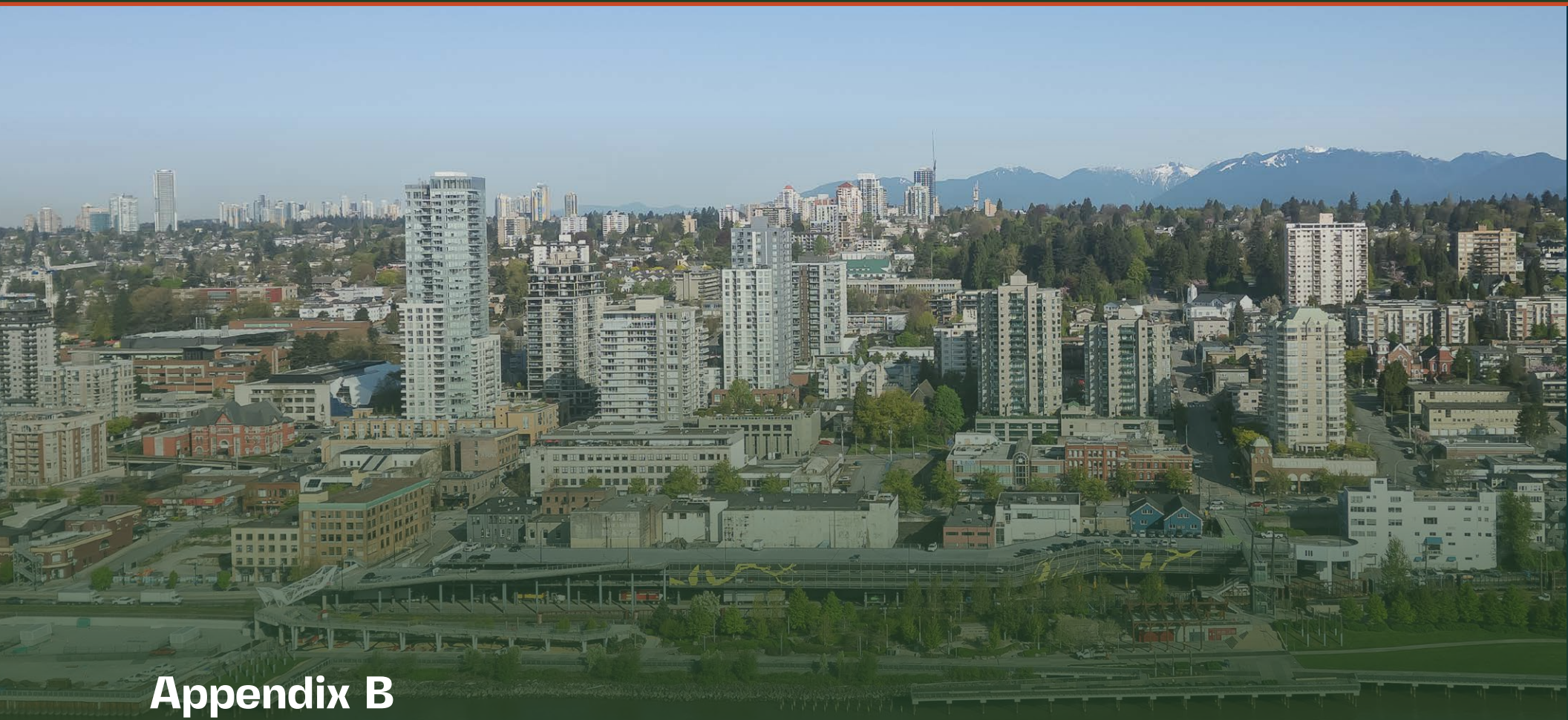
New Westminster



Appendix B

Context and Analysis

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize and respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. We acknowledge that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. As a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

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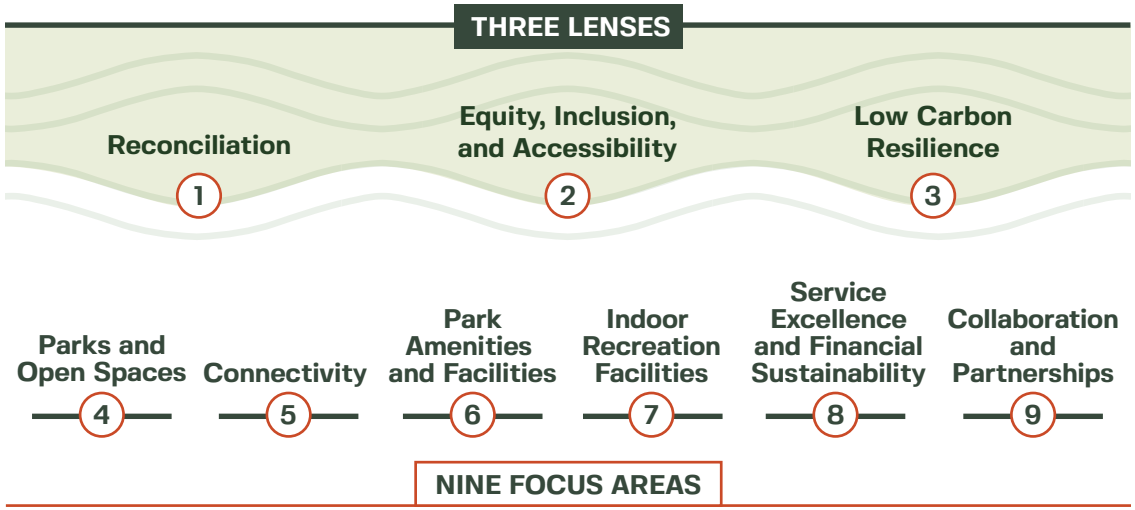
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Introduction

This Context and Analysis Appendix acts as the comprehensive technical companion to **People, Parks, and Play**, New Westminster's 2026 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

While **People, Parks, and Play** outlines the vision and policy framework, this report includes more detailed engagement findings, regional data, and technical analysis used to build that vision. It provides the "why" behind the Plan, detailing the community input and evidence-based research that led to the Plan's goals, objectives and actions.

This report is structured around nine interconnected focus areas. Three of these—Reconciliation, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, and Low Carbon Resilience—act as foundational lenses that are integrated into every aspect of the remaining six focus areas.



FOCUS AREA 1

1.0 Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a focus area with its own actions.

It also serves as one of the three lenses through which all of the Parks and Recreation Department's work is approached and implemented.

1.1 Context

1.1.1 Relationship Building

The City recognizes that a homogeneous approach to Indigenous engagement – failing to include all rights and title holders and the Urban Indigenous community – has contributed to ongoing systemic harms. To guide its actions, the City formally endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2018, establishing the minimum standard for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

New Westminster's commitment to reconciliation presents two primary engagement challenges that require a specialized approach:

1. **Historical trauma:** Conventional public engagement methods are often inadequate for creating a safe, respectful, and trauma-informed space necessary to share lived experiences, stories, and knowledge.
2. **Overlapping claims:** The city's geographic area is subject to the overlapping traditional territories and asserted rights and title of multiple Nations, villages, bands and communities. A single approach is insufficient to engage both Local First Nations (as Rights and Title Holders) and the distinct Urban Indigenous community.

The City's commitment to reconciliation is grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (TRC Calls to Action) and the Final Report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG Report). This framework is essential for addressing the historic trauma that has created deep distrust and systemic barriers. As a direct consequence of this history, Indigenous peoples in New Westminster face ongoing systemic barriers across various aspects of civic life.

1.1.2 Approach and Findings

The City currently maintains ongoing relationships and conducts engagement with a minimum of six First Nations who have identified rights and interests in the area (including Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Qayqayt, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh). This list is fluid and changes based on type, location and scale of the project or initiative, and the corresponding rights, interests, and capacity to participate.

These engagement challenges were evident in the Indigenous engagement process for **People, Parks, and Play**. The City undertook outreach through the referral processes of the six First Nations, and through contacts with self-identified Indigenous residents.

The engagement process highlighted the need for flexibility and equal representation. It yielded a higher participation rate from the Urban Indigenous community than from members of the local First Nations, underscoring the necessity of acknowledging both the interests of Urban Indigenous peoples (through programs and services) and the rights of local First Nations (as Rights and Title Holders in land and spaces).

1.1.3 The Role of Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department is an important contributor to the City's reconciliation in action efforts, leveraging its mandate as a provider of public spaces, programs and opportunities for cultural visibility.

The department's role is anchored in the City's commitment to continuous improvement through:

- **Staff development:** Training on UNDRIP, colonization history, and trauma-informed practices (guided by the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (DEIAR) framework) to ensure respectful interactions with First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community.
- **Creating safe spaces:** Actively making spaces available and safe for cultural and traditional practices (e.g., sweat lodges), including dedicated indoor spaces for programs, workshops and knowledge sharing (e.g., Elder talks, language classes), and ensuring outdoor spaces can be recognized and accessed for sacred practices. These shared spaces may also serve as places for the broader community to learn about local Indigenous histories and colonial harms, fostering education and awareness.
- **Planning and design:** Translation of policy into tangible action through the co-development of parks, open spaces and natural areas, particularly along the riverfront, ensuring Indigenous perspectives, knowledge and values help guide the planning and design process. Likewise, the department will work to support the Urban Indigenous community in providing indoor spaces for programs, workshops, and knowledge sharing, and the development and provision of services offered through its recreation programs.

The following examples illustrate some of the City's ongoing journey and commitment to this work. These efforts are often collaborative, with the Parks and Recreation department either leading or providing support for these initiatives, often with other City departments and community partners:

1.1.4 Annual Days of Recognition

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation –** annual community events held in partnership with other City departments
- **Red Dress Day –** annual recognition to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+), including displays in City parks and recreation centres
- **National Indigenous Peoples Day –** annual community celebrations
- **Aboriginal Veteran's Day –** Participation in ceremonial events, including laying a wreath at the City Hall Cenotaph.

1.1.5 Community and Ecological Programs

- Community Soup and Bannock events to connect residents, including dedicated sessions for older adults
- Ecological restoration in Queen's Park guided by a First Nations knowledge keeper and Indigenous youth
- Partnerships with local organizations on cultural programs, such as the "Cultural Collab" series focusing on Elders and traditional foods

1.1.6 Planning, Public Art, and Parks

- **təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre –** Incorporating Indigenous art and language into the indoor and outdoor areas, providing equal visibility and opportunity to all Nations.
- **'Ebb and Flow' at the new Riverfront Park –** Integration of Indigenous art into the park design (located in the westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park).
- **City-wide strategies –** ongoing engagement with First Nations on the preparation of key City plans, such as the Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy.
- **Future development –** exploring opportunities for the co-development of the former Timber Wharf site (the fire site located east of Westminster Pier Park) with First Nations partners.
- **'Every Child Matters' Crosswalk –** City collaboration with Spirit of the Children and Indian Reservation School Survivor Society to install, fund, plan and maintain) crosswalk.

1.2 What We Heard

The findings below represent a synthesis of Phase 1 engagement. These key takeaways reflect the diverse voices heard through Indigenous sessions, youth outreach, technical workshops, and public surveys (Appendix A: What We Heard).

1.2.1 Cultural Representation

- More Indigenous spaces and recognition - teaching ways to connect with the land, ceremonial spaces, educational spaces, language, and art.
- Integrate Indigenous learning and knowledge authentically, actively avoiding tokenism and cultural appropriation.
- Increase opportunities for Indigenous language instruction and classes.
- Decolonize park design and programming, as current parks are perceived as being designed in a colonial way and are often not welcoming for Indigenous peoples.
- Ensure spaces enable Indigenous residents and organizations to host cultural celebrations and events.
- The Moody Park totem pole is lacking information to learn about the history, artist, and cultural context.
- Want increased Indigenous presence in parks, such as through public art, signage, or other cultural programs.
- Create Indigenous-led food gardens and medicine spaces.
- Make parks and recreation equitably accessible and welcoming for Indigenous peoples and youth – including through the participation of Indigenous peoples as coaches and mentors.

1.2.2 Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples

- Engage respectfully and meaningfully with Indigenous peoples.
- The City should host and lead collaborative efforts as well; Indigenous groups should not always be asked to facilitate City-led Indigenous collaboration.
- Acknowledge First Nations as Rights and Title holders, not merely stakeholders.
- Contribute staff resources within Parks and Recreation to accelerate and track tangible reconciliation efforts and deliverables.
- Work with local Indigenous communities to create artwork and recognition that is culturally appropriate and relevant.
- During the Soup and Bannock engagement sessions, participants suggested using totem poles to commemorate 33 Nations in New Westminster. Through the City's research, this requires careful engagement, as totem poles are not part of every Indigenous culture on the west coast, and the practices around them are nuanced and different across communities. Any related project must be commissioned and led by the appropriate Nations).

In Phase 2 engagement, 80% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with advancing truth and reconciliation.

1.3 Analysis

Building on the What We Heard summary in Section 1.2, this section evaluates the City's parks and recreation services through the lens of reconciliation, identifying key strengths and challenges.

Strengths
Clear City commitment to and support for reconciliation is mandated for all city departments.
City-identified calls to action provides a measurable framework for departmental work.
Parks and Recreation programs demonstrate intent to prioritize Indigenous peoples and perspectives.
Parks and Recreation efforts to engage Indigenous peoples in the creation of this plan demonstrate proactive steps towards collaboration.
Parks and Recreation successfully engaged with Indigenous peoples on the naming of təməsewtxʷ Community Centre, providing a template for future co-creation.
The City's Indigenous Relations team has formed an interdepartmental staff committee for direct collaboration with Host Nations, formalizing respectful staff-to-staff working relationships.

Challenges
Difficult to capture the lived experiences of being Indigenous in New Westminster through public engagement processes.
Navigating partnerships with multiple Host Nations whose distinct and overlapping territorial claims exist within New Westminster creates a challenge for effective consultation and consistent collaboration on parks and recreation planning and programs.
Indigenous residents face persistent economic, administrative, and physical barriers to participation in parks and recreation programs and services (per Focus Area 1: Reconciliation **People, Parks, and Play**).
Lack of Indigenous staff within Parks and Recreation limits internal capacity, impacts cultural understanding, and makes it harder for Indigenous participants to feel inclusion and sense of being understood.

FOCUS AREA 2

2.0 Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility is a focus area with its own actions.

It also serves as one of the three lenses through which all of the Parks and Recreation Department's work is approached and implemented.

2.1 Context

Access to parks and recreation is not equitable across the diverse communities in New Westminster. Equity-deserving communities experience disproportionate difficulties participating in recreation due to a variety of intersecting factors including the following:

- Age and gender-based inequities
- Accessibility barriers for people living with visible and invisible disabilities
- Transportation barriers
- Challenges with technological and/or bureaucratic literacy
- Economic inequity
- Housing insecurity and homelessness
- Colonial practices
- Services and systems that are not trauma-informed
- Racism and discrimination

These barriers do not exist in isolation; they often overlap to create unique experiences of exclusion.

2.1.1 The Value of an Equity Lens

Applying an equity lens to parks and recreation planning offers significant benefits across the organization and the community, specifically to City operations, communities and individuals:

Enriching City Knowledge and Services: Engaging with the diverse knowledge and lived experiences of all residents improves decision-making process, leading to more responsive, culturally competent services and fostering a more inclusive organizational culture.

Building Community Trust: Inclusive planning empowers all community members, especially equity-deserving groups, to fully engage, which deepens public trust and cultivates positive relationships and greater civic participation.

Fulfilling legal obligations: Proactively employing an equity lens ensures the city meets its legislated duties regarding human rights and accessibility (e.g., Accessible Canada Act and Canadian Human Rights Act).

Supporting Diverse Community Needs: Focusing on equitable outcomes reduces barriers (related to income, ability, gender and geography), enhancing social stability, increasing affordability and accessibility, and improving the quality of life across New Westminster's diverse communities.

Improve health and well-being: Comprehensively addressing a wide range of needs, equitable planning in parks and recreation significantly enhances community belonging, which is central to improving mental and physical health and overall well-being.

Equity-deserving communities are often under-recognized and under-represented in positions of power and decision-making due to systemic barriers and, as a result, they are often excluded from parks and recreation planning. In New Westminster, the challenge for equity-deserving communities goes beyond simple physical access, preventing them from being actively engaged and meaningfully involved in recreational spaces, services, and programs.

The following are examples of the challenges faced by these groups and the existing initiatives within the city to support access, engagement and involvement.

2.1.2 Individuals Who Identify as Girls and Women

Girls and women face historical, cultural, and social barriers (e.g., socioeconomic disparities, under-representation in leadership) that affect their civic and recreation participation. Systemic barriers include being deprioritized in scheduling and a lack of spaces designed to accommodate female bodies and social experiences (e.g., lack of breastfeeding amenities, limited baby change tables in men's washrooms).

Examples of City of New Westminster Parks and Recreation initiatives that support women and girls include:

- **Dedicated and Inclusive Programming:** The City offers specific programs that create safe, comfortable, and empowering environments, such as Women's Only Swims and Girls-Only Ball Hockey, ensuring equitable access to facilities and activities.
- **Addressing Logistical Barriers:** To reduce obstacles for parents and caregivers, the city provides practical support like low-cost child-minding services. Recognizing that access to childcare can help enable participation.
- **Youth-Focused Programming and Events:** In partnership with racialized youth, the city supports programs and events year-round such as Multicultural Exchange and Cultural Collab, which provide dedicated spaces for youth of many cultures to come together and share their experiences.

Opportunities: The City will continue to advance gender equity by focusing on systemic improvements. Key opportunities include conducting a review of facility scheduling and space allocation policies to ensure fair and equitable access for girls' and women's activities.

2.1.3 Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples, who may face intersecting barriers rooted in colonial legacies while also navigating challenges related to accessibility and socio-economic equity. For a deeper exploration of the City's commitment to reconciliation and its integration with Parks and Recreation services, please refer to the 1.0 Reconciliation section of this Plan.

2.1.4 Newcomers

The experiences of newcomers vary depending on legal status (e.g., permanent resident, refugee, temporary resident, or undocumented immigrant), which impacts their access to resources and services and can lead to discrimination. This vulnerability, along with potential language barriers, creates significant obstacles to recreation and civic participation. As a designated Sanctuary City, New Westminster is committed to providing safe access to municipal services for all residents, regardless of their immigration status, to help reduce these barriers.

Examples of City of New Westminster initiatives for creating connections and providing support include:

- **Fostering Community and Belonging**: The City hosts inclusive cultural events and observances, such as community Meal Meet-Ups, that celebrate diversity and create accessible opportunities for newcomers to build social networks and feel at home in their community.
- **Connecting People to Resources**: Through strategic partnerships with key settlement organizations, the City supports programs tailored to specific newcomer groups and hosts Resource Fairs, bringing essential information and services directly to residents.

Opportunities: The City will deepen its commitment as a Sanctuary City by working with community partners to address key gaps. Future opportunities include developing more language-specific programming, such as conversation circles, and providing promotional materials in multiple languages. Also proposed are programs with newcomer communities to ensure that offerings are culturally relevant and responsive to their needs and aspirations.

2.1.5 Older Adults

New Westminster, like other municipalities, is experiencing a significant demographic shift. Residents aged 65 and over represent the fastest-growing age group in the city. This trend has profound implications for parks and recreation, as older adults are more likely to experience physical, cognitive, and social conditions that can be barriers to participation.

Data from the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability highlights this clearly – 40.4% of individuals aged 65 and over live with a disability, compared to just 23.4% of the working-age population[1] Many older adults may live with a greater risk of social isolation, creating additional physical and psychological barriers to accessing recreation and civic life[2].

Given this context, People, Parks and Play prioritizes the needs of an aging population by applying an age-friendly lens to its equity, inclusion, and accessibility actions. This includes a commitment to accessible places and programs, responsive staff, engagement and community connection and support.

1 Statistics Canada. (2023, November 6). A look at loneliness among older adults. Government of Canada https://www.statcan.gc.ca/o1/en/plus/4881-look-loneliness-among-older adults

2 Statistics Canada. (2024, March 28). Table 13-10-0374-01 Persons with and without disabilities aged 15 years and over, by age group and gender. Government of Canada. https://doi.org/10.25318/1310037401-eng

Examples of City of New Westminster initiatives that support older adults include:

- **Accessible and Diverse Programs**: The City offers a wide range of programs tailored to the varied interests and needs of older adults. This includes fitness, music, and arts classes, social out-trips, and essential workshops like Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety.
- **Community Connection and Support:** To combat social isolation, the City offers programs like Meal Meet-Ups that build community around food, education, and culture. This work is amplified by dedicated staff, such as the Community Connector, and through vital partnerships with organizations like the Century House Association and Seniors Services Society.
- **Empowerment and Engagement:** The City creates pathways for older adults to be active leaders and contributors. Through programming that supports leadership development and volunteerism, this helps older adults to be not just participants but integral partners who shape the community's vibrancy.

Opportunities: The department will deepen its age-friendly commitment by actively engaging older adults in the design of future programs and facility upgrades. Key opportunities include enhancing the universal accessibility of physical spaces, particularly washrooms and pathways, and continuing to diversify program offerings to reflect the evolving needs and interests of New Westminster's aging population. To support this, the department will continue to expand older adult programming across all community facilities, providing social and recreational opportunities closer to where residents live to reduce reliance on cross-town transportation. Furthermore, the department remains committed to supporting and expanding its working relationship with the Century House Association in these efforts.

2.1.6 People Living with Socioeconomic Disparities

Economic disadvantage does not only encompass people living in deep poverty and without housing. It also includes individuals and families that are housed and employed but are living in economic insecurity. The experience of economic insecurity may include receiving lower income, working long hours, working inconsistent hours, struggling to make payments for rent, food, childcare and/or utilities, and having to make difficult decisions between care work and work for income. Children and youth in families experiencing economic insecurity are most impacted as spending on food, rent, and utilities often means that sport and recreation pursuits are not a priority, undermining health, wellbeing, and development.

Examples of City initiatives that address these barriers include:

- **Reducing Direct Costs**: The Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program directly tackles affordability by providing eligible residents with a 50% discount on programs, as well as options for highly subsidized memberships and low-cost ($2.00) drop-in sessions to encourage trial and participation.
- **Addressing Logistical Barriers**: To support parents and caregivers, the department offers low-cost, hourly childminding services at the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre, enabling the safe care for children while adults participate.

Opportunities: The department is committed to improving and expanding these supports. Key opportunities include reviewing the Financial Assistance Program to ensure it is easy to access and effectively meets the needs of residents experiencing economic insecurity.

2.1.7 People Living Without Housing

Like many municipalities across British Columbia, New Westminster is navigating the intersection of a regional housing crisis, unaddressed mental health needs, and the toxic drug supply. Data from the March 2025 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count identified 217 individuals experiencing homelessness in New Westminster—a 7% increase since 2023 and a staggering 76% increase since 2020. Of those counted in 2025, 143 were residing in shelter settings, while 74 were unsheltered. Neighbouring municipalities experienced similar or higher increases in homelessness over the same time period, indicating that this is a regional issue fueled by a lack of housing affordability, the toxic drug crisis, barriers to appropriate and adequate health supports, and the COVID-19 pandemic, among other factors.

The data reveals that housing deprivation does not impact all residents equally. Approximately 47% of individuals experiencing homelessness self-reported a mental health issue. Additionally, 52% self-reported some form of addiction. This speaks to the importance of addressing housing, mental health, and substance use in a holistic and comprehensive way.

Indigenous people are significantly over-represented among the unsheltered population: 43% of those who were unsheltered on the night of the count self-identified as Indigenous, despite making up 3.1% of the total population in New Westminster. This may speak to broader issues within the shelter system that render them unsafe for Indigenous people; including the legacy of colonialism; a lack of culturally appropriate programming, staff, and supports; a general distrust of government and government-associated services due to colonial harms; and the fact that shelter settings can sometimes replicate traumatic institution-like settings.

In a study completed as part of the New Westminster Homelessness Action Strategy, people with lived and living experience of homelessness shared their comments, insights and suggestions.3 The following are the themes of the comments with implications for parks and recreation:

- They generally feel accepted and welcome in New Westminster, and they can better meet their needs than in other municipalities.
- They often feel unsafe, particularly near SkyTrain stations, and they have difficulty accessing public toilets, especially at night.
- They sometimes feel judged when using facilities and services, and face other barriers, such as a lack of safe storage and financial constraints, that limit their access and use.
- They were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many stating that they felt isolated or lonely.

Supportive actions in parks, facilities, and programming can have the most positive change in circumstances for people living without housing, short of providing actual housing. Parks, facilities, and programs are on the front line of helping people living without housing to access their human rights to health, hygiene, and sanitation by providing barrier-free access to public washroom and bathing facilities, and participation in community-building and recreation activities. The benefits include broader community awareness around homelessness, reducing social stigma, and improving social cohesion.

3 https://www.newwestcity.ca/database/files/library/City_of_New_West_Homelessness_Action_Strategy_8.5x11_rev2_DIGITAL_August_2_2022.pdf

Recognizing its front-line role in community care, the Parks and Recreation department is committed to providing dignified, barrier-free access to essential services that uphold the health and human rights of people living without housing. These actions aim to reduce stigma, improve community awareness, and foster social cohesion for all residents.

Examples of City initiatives related to this commitment focus on direct support and strategic collaboration, and include:

- **Dignified Access to Hygiene:** The City provides direct access to essential hygiene facilities, a cornerstone of health and dignity. A key example is the Free Shower Pilot Program at the Queensborough Community Centre, operated in partnership with the Crisis Response Team to connect vital services with community meal programs.
- **Collaborative Crisis Response**: Parks and Recreation is an active partner in the city's broader strategic efforts, supporting the multi-faceted Crises Response Pilot Project, which addresses the interconnected challenges of homelessness, mental health, and substance use through collaboration with senior government, community partners, and people with lived experience.

Opportunities: Parks and Recreation will be a key partner in implementing the recommendations of the City-Wide Public Toilet Strategy to expand the network of safe and accessible public washrooms. The City will also continue to work with community partners and people with lived experience to identify and remove barriers within facilities, focusing on compassionate staff training and the creation of welcoming environments that ensure everyone can access services with dignity.

2.1.8 People Living with Disabilities

In alignment with the Accessible British Columbia Act and its own Accessibility Plan (2025), the City is actively working to identify and remove barriers to its facilities, infrastructure, and services. In this work, staff are guided by the invaluable advice and lived experience of the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

People living with physical disabilities or neurodiversity often encounter significant physical, sensory, or societal barriers that hinder full participation. A significant physical barrier identified consistently through public engagement, and in the City-wide Toilet Strategy, is the lack of accessible washrooms across many parks and recreation facilities. Other barriers can be visible, such as challenges for someone using a mobility device, or invisible, such as hearing loss or stigma and discrimination that people with disabilities continue to face.

The City is committed to proactively identifying and removing the physical, sensory, and societal barriers that hinder full participation for people living with disabilities. The approach in parks and recreation is multi-faceted, focusing on inclusive programs, accessible spaces, and systemic planning.

Examples of City initiatives related to this commitment include:

- **Inclusive Programming:** The department offers specialized and adapted programs that create more welcoming recreational environments, such as Sensory Friendly Swims and All Bodies Swims, as well as 1:1 support staff in registered programs to assist participants.
- **Accessible Spaces and Facilities:** The department is committed to improving its physical infrastructure, from achieving Rick Hansen Foundation Gold Certification for the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre to installing specific features like the ice ramp for sledge hockey at Queens Park Arena.

- **Systemic Commitment and Planning:** The department's work is embedded in a system of continuous improvement, guided by the Accessibility Advisory Committee and informed by the ongoing accessibility audits of all recreation facilities, which direct future capital planning and upgrades.

Opportunities: The department will prioritize addressing key gaps identified through public engagement, with a particular focus on increasing the number of fully accessible washrooms across parks and facilities. Staff will also expand efforts to dismantle societal barriers through inclusive design principles and ongoing staff training, ensuring services are welcoming to people with visible and invisible disabilities.

2.1.9 Racialized People

The term 'racialized' acknowledges that race is a social construct and highlights how public policies and institutions can reinforce and sustain racial inequities. In a parks and recreation context, a significant barrier for racialized people is the accumulation of experiences that send the message, "you don't belong here." These systemic barriers, or "non-belonging signifiers," can manifest in several ways. For instance, a lack of diversity among staff and leadership can signal that racialized people are not seen as integral to the organization, a problem often linked to a lack of clear pathways for community members to become employees or volunteers. This sense of exclusion is further reinforced when services are not culturally or linguistically accessible, or when programming fails to reflect the cultural practices and traditions of the diverse communities being served.

These barriers are often compounded for those who hold multiple intersecting identities, as a racialized person may also be a newcomer, a youth, Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+, living with a disability, and/or facing economic disadvantage, each of which comes with its own set of challenges.

The City of New Westminster Parks and Recreation is committed to fostering a sense of belonging for racialized residents by offering culturally relevant and accessible programming. Key initiatives focus on celebrating cultural diversity and creating safe spaces for community connection.

Examples of City initiatives related to this commitment include:

- **Cultural Celebration and Connection:** The City partners with community groups to offer events that reflect the diversity of New Westminster, such as Black History Month celebrations (e.g., Barbers and Braids) and the Youth Diwali Celebration.
- **Youth-Focused Programming and Events:** In partnership with racialized youth, the City supports programs and events year-round such as Multicultural Exchange and Cultural Collab, which provide dedicated spaces for youth of many cultures to come together and share their experiences.
- **Women's Only Swims:** These are provided to respect the privacy requests of some cultural groups.

Opportunities: The department will continue to expand its partnerships with community-led organizations to co-develop programming that is responsive to the specific needs and cultural traditions of New Westminster's diverse racialized communities. This will include creating clearer pathways for community members to become volunteers and staff, increasing representation across the department.

2.1.10 Youth

Youth Community spaces and activities are vital for developing positive social relationships and supporting healthy emotional growth, particularly for youth without stable home environments. There are currently few places in the city where young people can gather freely without the stigma of surveillance or perceived loitering. Youth are also more likely to experience intersecting barriers, including being Two-Spirit and LGBTQIAP+, Indigenous, racialized, unhoused, or economically disadvantaged.

Examples of parks and recreation initiatives related to this commitment include:

- **Safe and Welcoming Spaces**: The New West Youth Centre serves as a central hub, complemented by free and low-cost Youth Drop-In programs that provide safe, supervised, and unstructured social time for young people.
- **Leadership and Skill Development**: The department offers programs focused on building confidence and life skills, including structured volunteer opportunities and leadership training courses that empower youth to assume active roles in their community.
- **Recreational and Social Engagement**: Many activities are available to promote physical health and social connection, from low-cost sports and fitness programs to major special events like Youth Week and seasonal out-trips and camps.

Opportunities: In collaboration with youth, the department is committed to deepening its understanding of the distinct barriers faced by this group. Staff will focus on co-designing programs that are affordable and youth-led, ensuring that spaces and activities are responsive and relevant, particularly for youth who are Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+, Indigenous, racialized, and/or facing economic instability.

2.1.11 Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ People

Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ people encounter stigma and societal discrimination that are barriers to civic and recreation participation. Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ people are also more vulnerable to having an intersection of equity-deserving experiences including youth, living without housing, Indigenous identity, and/or economic disadvantage. An example of a barrier to participation for Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ people may be the absence of representation in public spaces that only contain binary and hetero-normative references and options.

The City is committed to making spaces and programs more welcoming to Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ people.

Examples of City initiatives related to this commitment include:

- **Pride Programming**: The City supports this annual community festival with specific events tailored to connect and celebrate with youth and older adults from Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ communities.
- **"All Bodies" Privacy Swims**: In partnership with New West Pride, the City hosts dedicated swim sessions that provide a safe, inclusive, and comfortable environment for people of all genders and body types.
- **Universal Washrooms and Change Areas**: The City continues to prioritize the development of universal, non-gendered washrooms and change facilities in its parks and recreation centers to ensure safe and dignified access for everyone.

Opportunities: Recognizing the need to move beyond seasonal events toward year-round inclusion, the department is focused on embedding Two Spirit and LGBTQIAP+ affirmation into its core operations.

2.2 What We Heard

Equity-deserving communities often experience difficulties engaging in civic participation due to the same systemic barriers that lead to them being under-recognized in positions of power and decision-making. As a result, it can be challenging to capture proportional representation of equity-deserving groups in public engagement processes.

This occurred in the engagement process for the City of New Westminster's Parks and Recreation Plan. The number of survey respondents in five equity-deserving groups was significantly less than their representation as a percentage of the total city population in 2016.

The equity-deserving groups that were proportionately underrepresented were home renters, total visible minority population, persons for whom English is not the first spoken language, persons that moved to Canada within the last five years, and persons that identified as Indigenous (**Figure 2.1**).

Pop-up engagement activities in both phases of engagement were located to draw equity-deserving groups, and virtual workshops also targeted equity-deserving groups and organizations that serve them.

Figure 2.1: Population of Survey Respondents within Equity-Deserving Groups

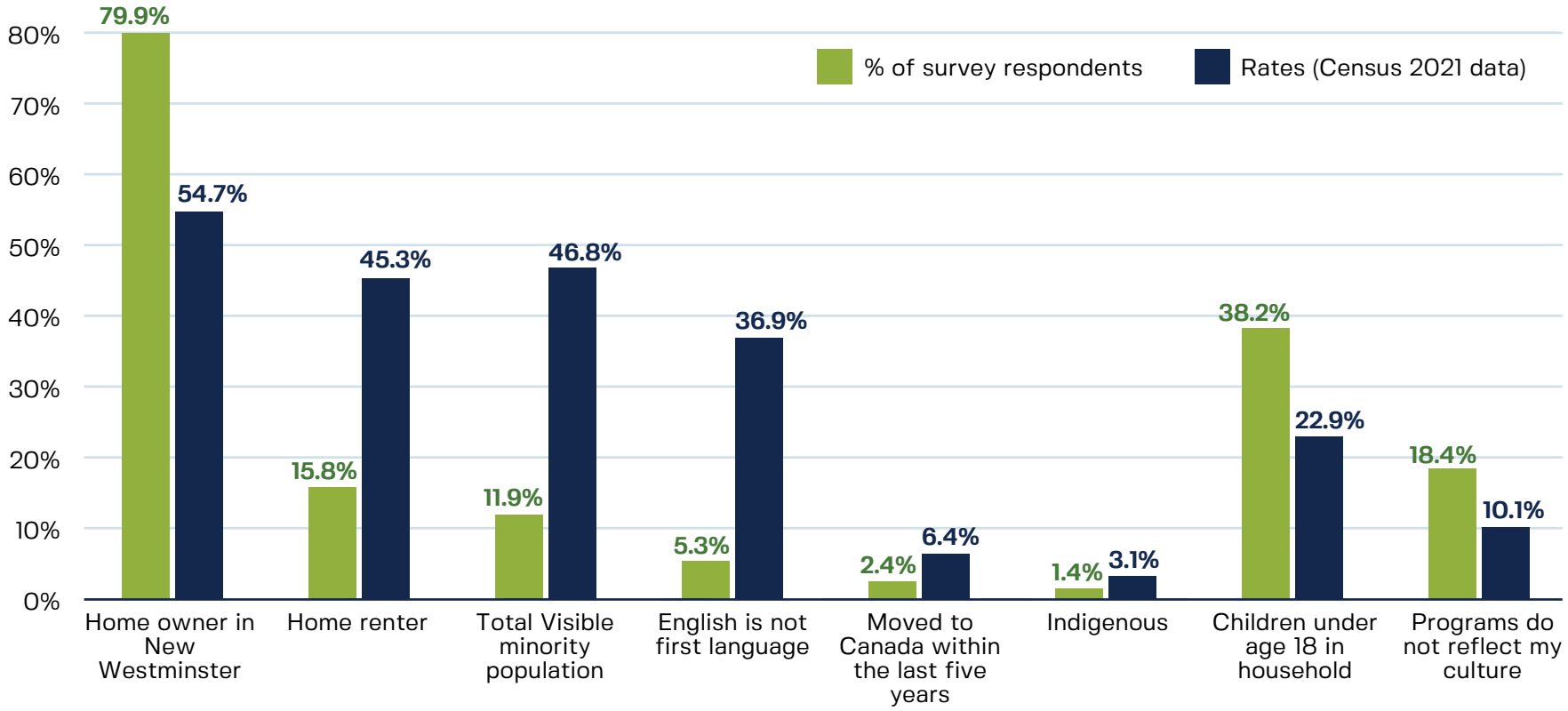


Figure 2.2 and **Figure 2.3** show the barriers to participation expressed by community survey participants:

Figure 2.2: Have you experienced any barriers to accessing a park, trail, or park amenity in New Westminster?

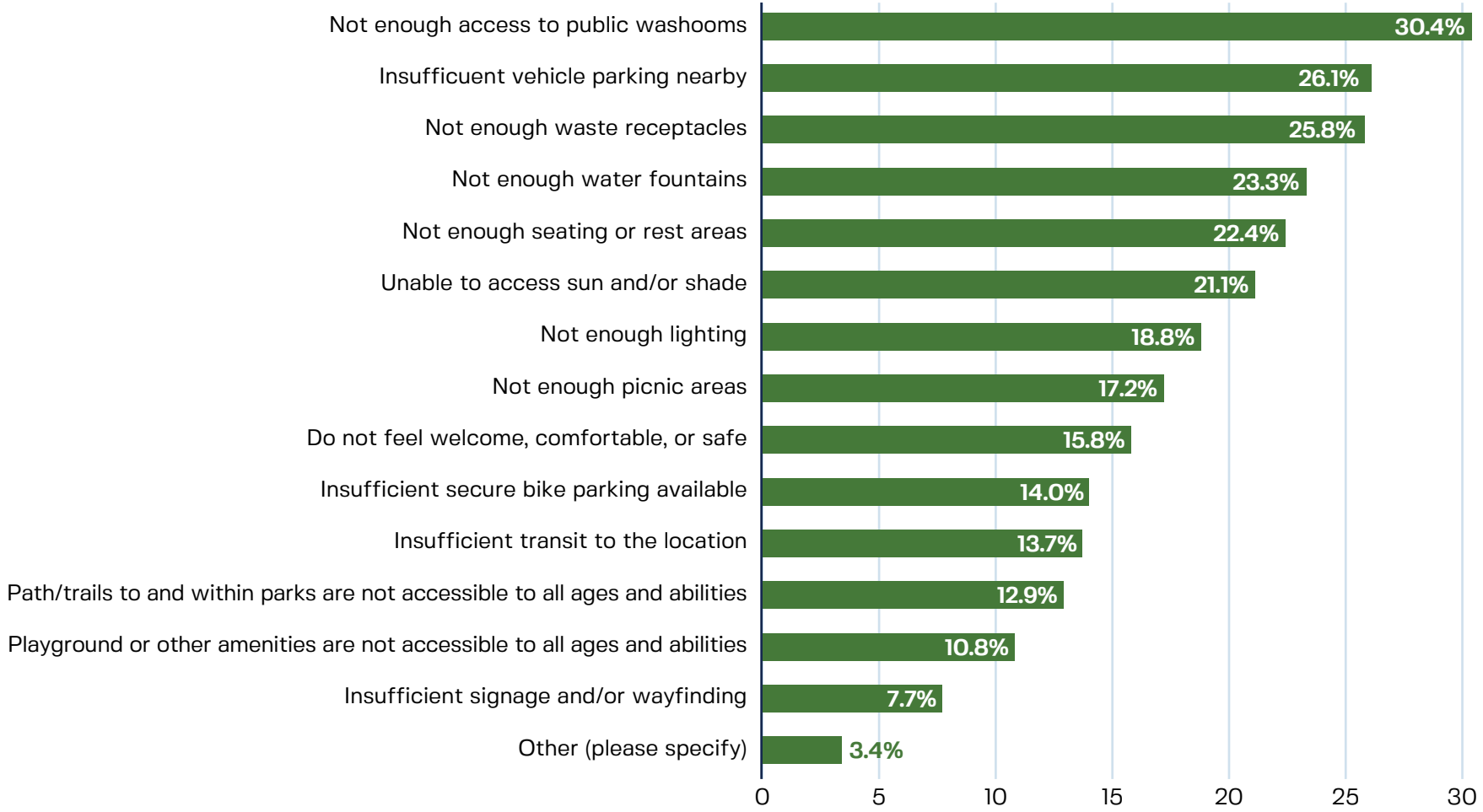
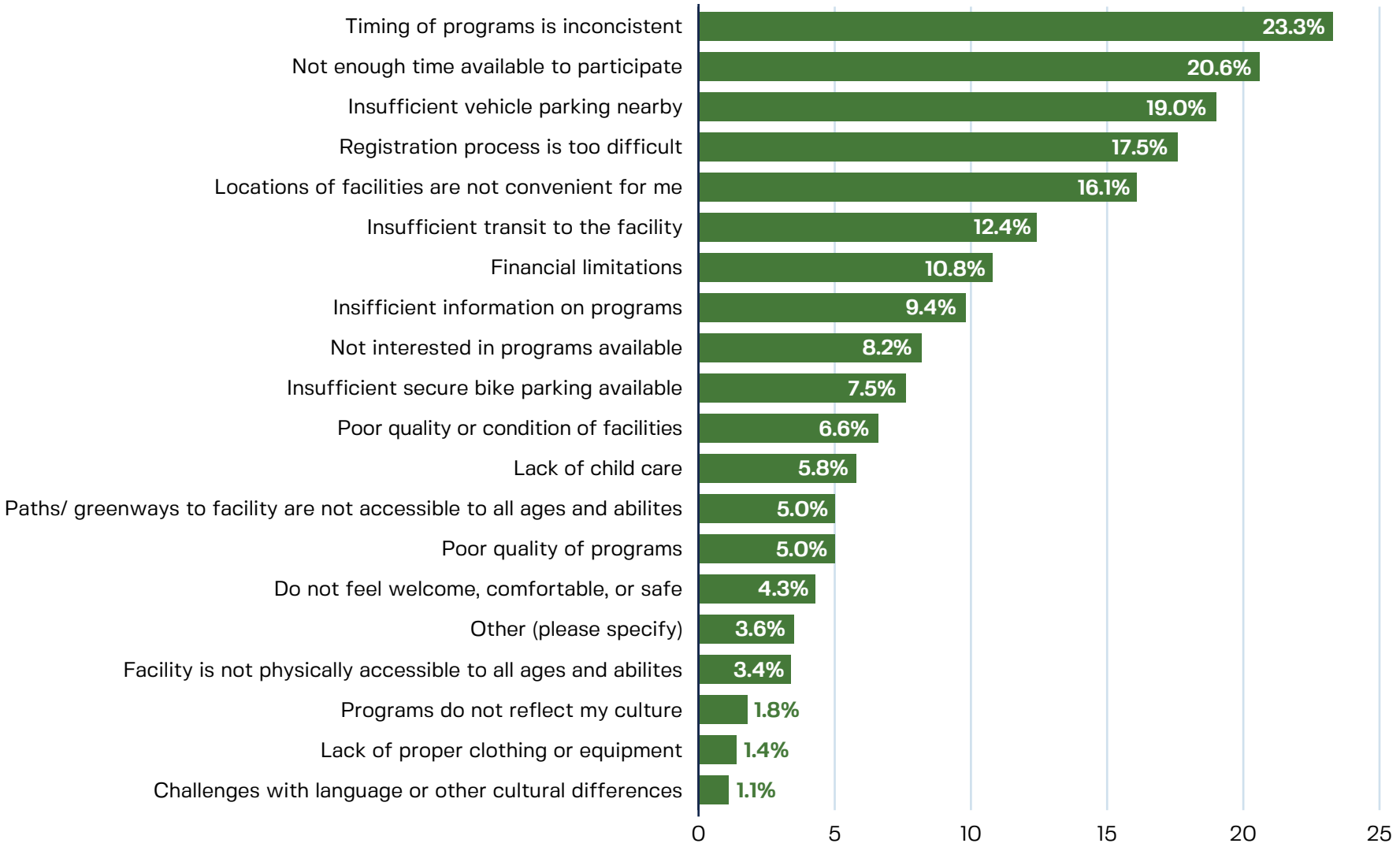


Figure 2.3: Have you experienced any barriers to participating in a program or drop-in at an indoor recreation facility in New Westminster?



The findings below represent a synthesis of Phase 1 engagement. These key takeaways reflect the diverse voices heard through Indigenous sessions, youth outreach, technical workshops, and public surveys (Appendix A: What We Heard). To provide a clear overview of community priorities, the feedback has been organized into eleven key themes.

Affordability

- Would like more free spaces, including free entry to youth centres
- Some non-profit organizations cannot afford to use indoor city facilities
- Challenges with affordability of drop-in programs, which are perceived as expensive and not feasible for those on limited budgets
- Need improved subsidy programs to support low-income residents and individuals receiving disability pensions

Timing

- Timing of programs is inconvenient
- Lack of program offerings during evenings, weekends, and after work hours
- Not enough community events

Registration Challenges

- The requirement to provide an address to access programs can be a barrier
- Participants frequently mentioned not knowing when registration or events were happening, indicating a need for better communication about programming
- Participants noted that limited offline options for signing up for programs creates barriers for those without access to digital devices
- Registration process is too difficult
- Quality of registration process, including programs filling up quickly and issues with fairness

Promotion and Awareness

- Need more awareness of Crisis Response Team, Park Liaison Officers and the Park Ambassador programs, and services available for unhoused people
- Would like better communication regarding existing amenities and facility updates
- Need to share information about parks and recreation more widely, in more languages

Child Care

- Appreciate the provision of non-profit childcare at certain facilities and options for low-cost or free programs

Racialized People

- Need better and more focused engagement with newcomers and Indigenous people for City engagement processes

Youth

- Need more investment in spaces and programming options for youth (including older youth) at certain facilities
- Would like better facilities for youth sports

Youth and Older Adults

- Need more investment in spaces and programming options for older adults at certain facilities

- Need more inclusive programming and facilities catering to diverse ages, schedules, abilities, and intergenerational activities

Location

- Disparities in park amenities across different neighbourhoods
- Locations of facilities are not convenient
- Challenging to access facilities due to traffic congestion during rush hour, infrequent transit to facilities from downtown
- Distance to facilities, especially for residents of Queensborough, is a significant challenge

Accessibility and Amenities

- Accessibility upgrades are needed for aging playgrounds and recreation facilities to accommodate users of all ages and abilities
- Improved accessibility features for people living with disabilities, older adults, people using wheelchairs, and families with young children, including better trails, paths, sidewalks, and facilities
- Interests in gender-specific and universal washrooms

People Living Without Housing

- People who are unhoused request safe and dignified shelter and housing options that provide access to washrooms, showers, and kitchens
- In the absence of safe and dignified housing options for people experiencing homelessness, challenges such as discarded belongings and litter; sheltering in parks, public washrooms, or alcoves of public facilities; and public use of regulated and/or unregulated substances can create discomfort and/or safety concerns for other community members accessing parks and recreation facilities. Specific mentions include Moody Park, Westminster Pier Park, Uptown Plaza, and Hyack Square.

In Phase 2 engagement, 83% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with providing inclusive and equitable opportunities for all.

2.3 Analysis

2.3.1 Equity Mapping

As New Westminster grow more dense and culturally diverse, certain areas emerge with higher equity needs. The variables below were selected because they represent populations that historically face greater barriers to accessing services or rely more significantly on public infrastructure for their quality of life.

A map of high equity need areas in New Westminster was developed by overlaying the following variables from Statistics Canada census dissemination areas (2021) (**Map 2.1**):

- **Indigenous Identity –** Areas where over 5%of the population identify as Indigenous (Aboriginal per Statistics Canada)
- **Low income –** Areas where over 20% of the population earn less than $40,000 annually
- **Multi-unit housing –** Areas where over 80%of the housing is multi-unit (tenant or owner occupied)
- **Older adults –** Areas where over 20% of the population is age 65 or older

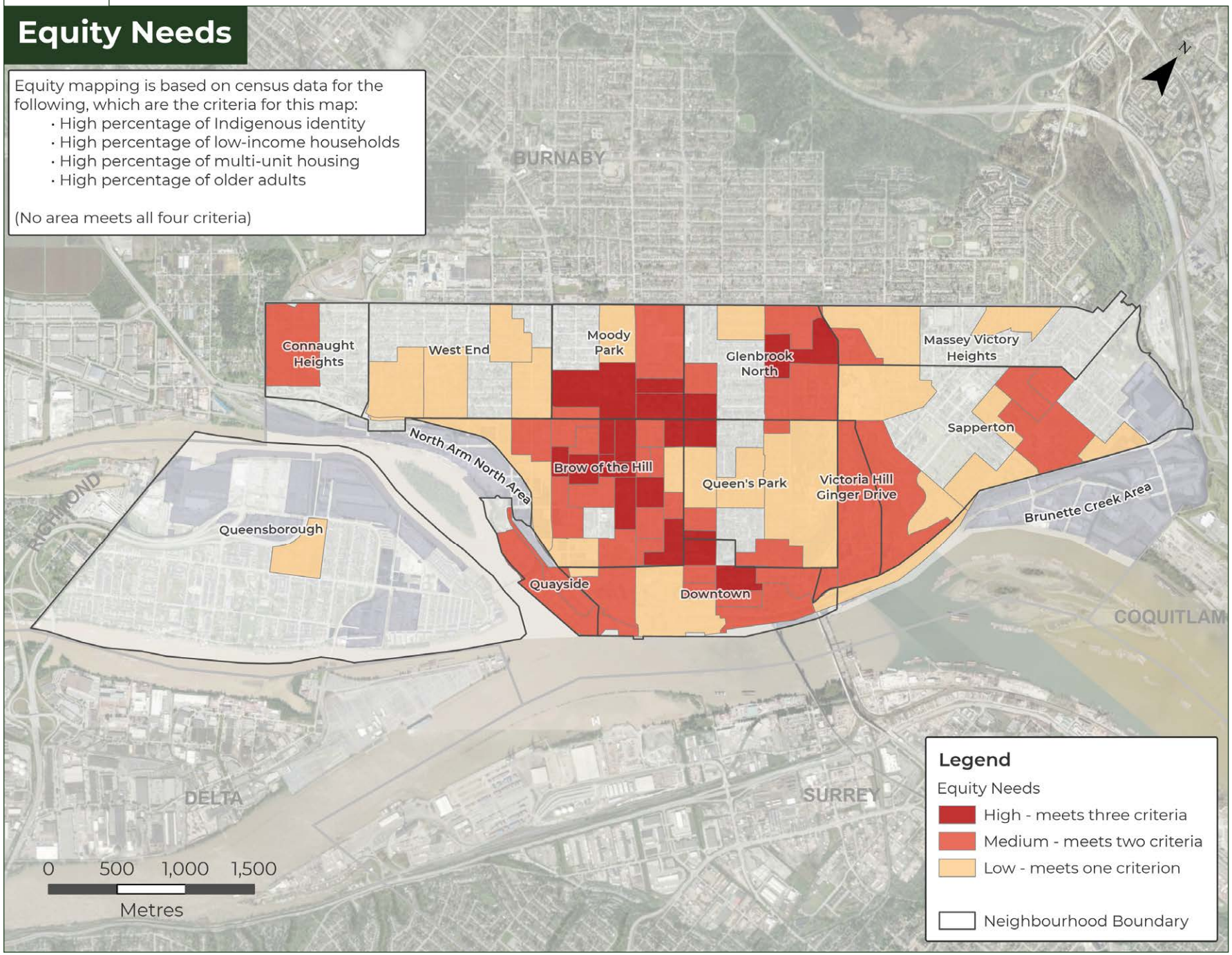
Map 2.1

Equity Needs

Equity mapping is based on census data for the following, which are the criteria for this map:

- High percentage of Indigenous identity
- High percentage of low-income households
- High percentage of multi-unit housing
- High percentage of older adults

(No area meets all four criteria)



The combined equity needs map shows how many of these criteria occur in each dissemination area. There are no values of "4", because there were no locations where all four criteria occurred. The combined equity needs map illustrates the concentration of multiple equity-related criteria across the city.

The areas with the highest need—an accumulation of three criteria—are concentrated in the central portion of the city, including the Moody Park, Brow of the Hill, Downtown, and Glenbrook North neighbourhoods. These high-need areas are also well-served by existing parks and services. This suggests that the current distribution of amenities aligns with the populations that require them most, rather than a lack of services being a primary issue in these specific locations.

Newcomer populations were not included as a separate variable on this map because their population is highly concentrated in Queensborough, which did not rank as a high-need area based on the other equity criteria.

Strengths and Challenges

Building on the What We Heard summary, this section evaluates the City's parks and recreation services through the lens of equity, inclusion, and accessibility, identifying key strengths and challenges.

Strengths
Dedicated and inclusive programming
Addressing logistical barriers
Cultural celebration and connection
Youth-focused programming and events
Fostering community and belonging
Connecting people to resources
Accessible and diverse programs
Community connection and support
Empowerment and engagement

Strengths (continued)
Dignified access to hygiene
Collaborative crisis response based on the Crises Response Pilot Project
Accessible spaces and facilities
Systemic commitment and planning
Safe and welcoming spaces
Leadership and skill development
Recreational and social engagement
Pride programming

Challenges
Ongoing economic, administrative, and physical barriers to participation
Lack of affordable and supportive housing and secure shelter spaces (resulting in people sheltering in parks)
Under-representation of equity-deserving communities in the engagement process
Pockets of community discomfort with people overnighting in parks
Navigating conflicts between different user groups in parks and facility spaces
Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program is not available to all who need it
Growing youth, newcomer, and older adult populations will increase pressures on parks, facilities, programs, and services

FOCUS AREA 3

3.0 Low Carbon Resilience

Low Carbon Resilience is a focus area with its own actions.

It also serves as one of the three lenses through which all of the Parks and Recreation Department's work is approached and implemented.

3.1 Context

People, Parks, and Play is guided by a robust foundation of City climate action policies, most notably the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action (2020). This framework commits the City to a zero-carbon future by 2050. Park and Recreation's work is categorized into four key areas and is informed by a variety of city-wide plans and policies:

Emissions and Energy: Aligning with the Seven Bold Steps (Steps 1–5), focusing on moving the corporation, community, buildings, vehicles, and energy grid toward a zero-carbon future. Key policies include the *Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy (CEERS) 2020*, *Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050*, and the *Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (ESAP), 2018*.

Urban Forest and Natural Areas: Driven by Seven Bold Steps (Step 6), the Robust Urban Forest initiative targeting 27% canopy cover by 2050-2055. Additional policies supporting this key area is the *Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (ESAP) 2018*, *Biodiversity and Natural Areas Strategy (2022)*, *Urban Forest Management Strategy (2017)*, and *Tree Planting Master Plan (2020)*.

Public Realm and Mobility: Driven by Seven Bold Steps (Step 7), which focuses on a Quality People-Centred Public Realm. This goal is supported by the *Active Transportation Network Plan (2022)*, *eMobility Strategy (2022)* and the *Downtown Building and Public Realm Guidelines (2016)*.

Adaptation and Water: Guided by documents focused on climate readiness and flood protection, including the *Floodplain Management Strategy Update (2022)*, *Citywide Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (2017)*, and the *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CCARP*) which is currently underway.

The Parks and Recreation Department actively translates the City's low-carbon resilience goals into tangible action across three core areas:

1. **Low-Carbon Operations and Infrastructure (Mitigation Focus)**
    - **Green Buildings:** Completed the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre as a Zero Carbon Building.
    - **Clean Fleet:** Transitioning departmental vehicles and maintenance equipment to electric.
    - **Efficiency:** Implementing energy efficiency upgrades, urban solar gardens, and sustainable waste management.

2. **Enhancing Natural Assets (Low-Carbon Resilience Focus)**
    - **Carbon Sequestration:** Protecting and expanding the urban forest, restoring wetlands, and integrating green infrastructure (e.g., pocket forests) into the urban fabric.
    - **Biodiversity:** Implementing specialized plans (e.g., *Glenbrook Ravine Invasive Plant Management Plan*) and programs (e.g., *Smart Gardening and Invasives*) to restore native ecosystems.
    - **Site-Specific Projects:** Restoring ecological functions through planning efforts (e.g., allowing the Brunette River to flood in Lower Hume Park Master Plan).

3. **Community Resilience & Engagement (Adaptation Focus)**
    - **Heat Mitigation**: Designing parks with drought-tolerant and climate adapted species, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and installing cooling infrastructure (misting stations, drinking fountains).
    - **Social Support**: Utilizing recreation facilities as designated cooling centres during extreme heat events, supported by the City's *Stay Cool Map*.
    - **Citizen Action**: Promoting public participation through stewardship events, the *Adopt-a-Street Tree Program*, the Biannual Tree Sale, Invasive Species Pulls and year-round environmental programming at sites like the new Habitat Area in Queen's Park.

3.2 What We Heard

The findings below represent a synthesis of Phase 1 engagement. These key takeaways reflect the diverse voices heard through Indigenous sessions, youth outreach, technical workshops, and public surveys (Appendix A: What We Heard). To provide a clear overview of community priorities, the feedback has been organized into three key themes.

3.2.1 Nature in the City

- A strong desire for re-wilding non-recreational areas to enhance green infrastructure, fight climate change, cool the city and improve health and wellbeing.
- Desire for sustainable rainwater management, including the introduction of more native plants and rain gardens.
- Interest in harnessing natural topography and creating closer connections with water sources for nature experiences.
- Desire for more trees (in neighbourhoods, streets, parks and near outdoor pools) to provide essential shade and cooling.

3.2.2 Social Supports Related to Climate

- Calls for leadership in tree protection and replacement, with specific emphasis on planting trees in vulnerable areas of the city to expand outdoor cooling opportunities.
- Strong support for community gardens as valuable spaces for food security, community building, education, and environmental stewardship.
- Support for providing cool indoor spaces (e.g., recreation facilities) for vulnerable populations during extreme heat periods.

3.2.3 Buildings and Transportation

- Desire for low-carbon primary and back-up power for indoor spaces, increased air filtration (addressing wildfire smoke/ air quality).
- Desire for development of sustainable transportation hubs (e.g., e-bike shares, transit connections) linked to parks and recreation facilities.

In Phase 2 engagement, 91% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with building resilience and adapting to climate change.

3.3 Analysis

3.3.1 The Role of Parks and Recreation

The City remains focused on implementing the initiatives required to meet its climate targets. Guided by a budgeting process that includes criteria for addressing its 'Seven Bold Steps' for low-carbon resilience, the City continues to advance a broad range of climate work.

The Parks and Recreation Department demonstrates leadership in low-carbon resilience. Through its high-contact community facilities, its unique experiences within parks, and its strong relationships with the public and partners, the department is uniquely positioned to help shift behaviours and foster citizen stewardship, turning corporate policy into community action.

The department also plays an important role in meeting the City's corporate carbon reduction targets by constructing resilient capital projects and reducing carbon emissions in municipal operations. The development and operation of large municipal recreation facilities, such as the zero-carbon təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre, exemplify this commitment to corporate emissions reduction.

3.3.2 Core Challenges

For Parks and Recreation, these pressures are most apparent in the core mandate to protect and expand the city's green spaces—its parkland, natural areas, and urban forest.

The primary challenge is not one of commitment, but of pace and scale in a rapidly growing community. These assets face competition for limited space in a dense, land-constrained city, a challenge amplified by new Provincial housing mandates. The struggle to increase the urban tree canopy is a prime example: while hundreds of new trees are planted annually, the city may still face a net tree canopy decrease due to the removal of mature trees for development and the long time required for new plantings to mature.

Overcoming this core challenge will require innovative strategies focused on acquiring new lands, expanding existing parks and natural areas, and creatively integrating natural assets throughout the community.

Strengths and Challenges

Building on the What We Heard summary , this section evaluates the City's parks and recreation services through the lens of low carbon resilience, identifying key strengths and challenges.

Strengths
New Westminster has a progressive agenda and is achieving significant successes integrating low carbon resilience into its services
Strong implementation of heat response initiatives
Connect and Prepare Program is strengthening community resilience
Standards and maintenance bylaw enforcement
Working on demand side management and clean energy actions for electricity at the utility
City residents are engaged and support climate action
Collective staff expertise and knowledge is high
The biodiversity target for natural areas is an important and valuable objective
The urban tree canopy target is important for improving environmental values and equity
New and upgraded Infrastructure considers opportunities to reduce hazards and increase equity during extreme events
The City and community are learning how to implement local solutions for low carbon resilience
City-wide programs and initiatives encourage and incentivize sustainable behaviours
Flood resilience plan is strong and flood mitigation work is underway in Queensborough
Political will and support for work in this area

Challenges
Urban heat island effect and heat illness / death
Highest deaths per capita during the 2021 heat dome event
High population of older adults and tricky to reach isolated older adults
Social equity
Climate migrants
New Canadians and getting the information they need
Tenants need a strengthened ability to cool their own units
Food security
Building design changing to improve climate resilience for future conditions
Maladaptations or feedback loops (i.e., adding air conditioning to all buildings)
How do we build climate resilience into social systems?
Homelessness – far more exposed to extreme weather
With increasing pressures for housing, where can and should people live if underlying climate risks are considered
Current flood risk and future flood risk are a concern in Queensborough
Atmospheric rivers and flooding events
Perceptions that City is not doing enough

FOCUS AREA 4

4.0 Parks and Open Spaces

4.1 Context

4.1.1 Parkland Classification

New Westminster's park system is fundamental to the city's livability, supporting everything from high-intensity organized sports to quiet moments of ecological connection. As the city grows and urban density increases, outdoor spaces need to evolve to continue to meet an increasingly diverse range of needs. To ensure this, the Parks and Recreation Department is updating how the definitions of parkland and calculations of adequate supply.

While the 2008 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan relied on a traditional three-tier classification system (city, community and neighbourhood parks), the updated **People, Parks, and Play** introduces an expanded classification system (**Figure 4.1**, **Map 4.1**, and **People, Parks, and Play Appendix 2**).

Why Expand the System?

The expansion from three to six City classifications is a strategic response to several key factors:

- **Urban Density:** In a built-out city, the Parks and Recreation Department must look beyond traditional parkland to include "linear parks" and "urban parks." These classifications allow the City to maximize linear corridors, street rights-of-way, and repurposed urban spaces for park purposes.
- **Low Carbon Resilience and Nature:** Recognizing "green space" and "nature parks" allows the City to prioritize biodiversity and climate action. This underscores the importance of preserving and enhancing natural areas for both ecological health and community wellness.
- **Partnerships:** By including School District lands and other non-City-owned lands (e.g., Metro Vancouver, BC Hydro, TransLink), the City can broaden the understanding of existing and future recreational opportunities available to residents. This enables the City to pursue formalized use agreements to secure and enhance public access, even if the City does not own the land.

The classification of parks and open spaces provides a framework for understanding the distinct roles different types of parkland play in the community. This system also assists in establishing future needs and determining equitable levels of service across the city. While the updated framework retains the core classifications from the 2008 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, it introduces three new park types – green space/ nature parks, linear parks, and urban parks - that respond to New Westminster's evolving urban context (**Figure 4.1** and **Map 4.1**). Typical amenities for each park type are provided, recognizing that not all parks of each type will include the amenities listed. Some parks have the potential to fall within more than one park type, in which case the dominant role of the park determines its type.

In addition to City-owned parks, the green space portion of school sites is also mapped as School Site Open Space, contributing to the city's broader park network during non-school hours. The City currently manages informal agreements for five such sites, where public school grounds provide neighbourhood amenities like playgrounds, sports fields, and courts. Although school properties are outside of the City's control, there are significant opportunities for the City and School District 40 to collaborate on enhancements that benefit both students and wider community.

Beyond City-owned and school district properties, New Westminster's park system includes a diverse range of other non-city owned lands that provide recreational value. These lands – including provincial holdings, utility corridors, and privately owned lands – are identified and mapped to provide a complete picture of the city's park and open space network. While these areas are outside of direct City control, they are governed by a range of ownership structures and formal use agreements that allow them to function as part of the city-wide park system.

Figure 4.1: Park Types and Characteristics

Classification	Size	Service Focus	Typical Amenities
City Park	Varying sizes, typically at least 1 ha Current range 0.6 – 30.3 ha Average current size 6.9 ha	Residents from the entire city, visitors from the region Ideally adjacent or connected to bike routes, greenways, and/or public transit stops Park attractions include natural features and/or major built facilities Parks are a destination	▪ Play areas (large or multiple) ▪ Event hosting infrastructure ▪ Gathering spaces (major) ▪ On-site parking ▪ Paths and trails (major) ▪ Horticultural features (large or multiple) ▪ Features of natural or cultural interest ▪ Washrooms (outdoor access) ▪ Major sports fields and courts, some with seating ▪ Picnic shelters ▪ Community gardens (large or multiple) ▪ Water play (spray, wade, or swim) ▪ Buildings – concession, clubhouse, etc. ▪ Infrastructure (major lighting, benches, waste receptacles, bike racks)

Figure 4.1: Park Types and Characteristics (continued)

Classification	Size	Service Focus	Typical Amenities
Community Park	Typically at least 1 ha Current range 0.1 – 2.6 ha Average current size 1.7 ha	Residents within a 5 to 10-minute walk – 330 to 660 m Ideally within a 5-minute walk of bike routes, greenways, and/or public transit stops	▪ Play area (mid size) ▪ Gathering spaces (moderate) ▪ Paths and trails (moderate) ▪ Sports courts (multi-use) ▪ Sports field (junior) ▪ Washrooms (small) ▪ Community garden (small) ▪ Horticultural features (modest) ▪ Picnic area / tables ▪ Water play (moderate) ▪ Infrastructure (moderate benches, waste receptacles, bike racks)
Neighbourhood Park	Preferably more than 0.4 ha Current range 0.08 – 2.4 ha Average current size 0.6 ha	Residents preferably within a 5-minute walk – 330 m	▪ Play area (small) ▪ Gathering spaces (small) ▪ Paths and trails (small) ▪ Sports courts (small) ▪ Lawn area ▪ Community garden (modest) ▪ Infrastructure (small number of benches, waste receptacles)

Figure 4.1: Park Types and Characteristics (continued)

Classification	Size	Service Focus	Typical Amenities
Green Space / Nature Park	Wide range of sizes	Available to all Valued for visual and environmental reasons Undeveloped grounds and natural areas Lands around recreation and other civic facilities Informal green spaces – road medians, roadside areas, pollinator gardens, etc.	▪ Limited trails and pathways (granular surfaces)
Linear Park	Wide range of sizes	Residents from the entire city, visitors from the region Ideally adjacent to bike routes, greenways, and/or public transit stops Provide off-road links for pedestrians and cyclists between neighbourhoods and key destinations including schools, commercial centres, employment centres, and other parks and recreation areas. Includes shoreline walkways	▪ Trails – all types ▪ Infrastructure (benches, waste receptacles, bike racks) ▪ Washrooms, play areas, gathering spaces, lighting (major linear parks)
Urban Park	Small urban spaces Current range 0.01 – 1.09 ha Average current size 0.11 ha	Located in dense urban areas where parks are not available Intended to serve the immediate neighbours May include street ROW, privately owned public space (POPS), parklets, boulevard rooms, half-street park, full street park	▪ Playful features, urban greening, seating, gathering spaces, special paving ▪ Infrastructure (benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, lighting)

Figure 4.1: Park Types and Characteristics (continued)

Classification	Size	Service Focus	Typical Amenities
School Site Open Space	Range of sizes	Green space portion of school sites used by students during school hours and available to community at other times	▪ Not within City control ▪ Grass, trees, sports fields, play areas, basketball courts ▪ Accessible to public outside of school hours

New Westminster has 281 parks and open spaces covering over 175 hectares (**Figure 4.2** and **Map 4.1**).

Figure 4.2: Parks and Open Spaces Supply

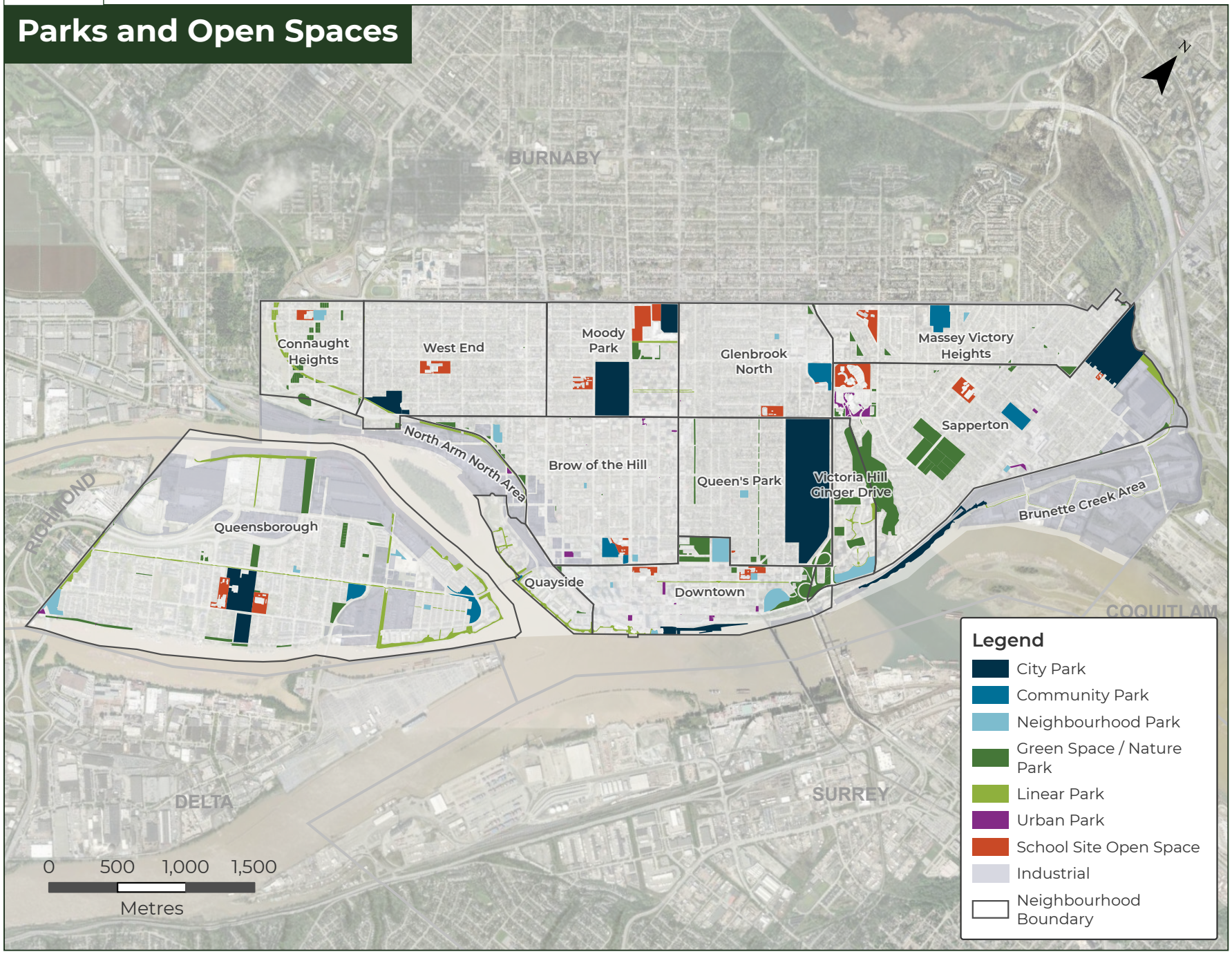
Classification	Number of Sites	Area (ha)
City Park	10	69.16
Community Park	7	11.61
Neighbourhood Park	18	11.27
Green Space / Nature Park	134	45.26
Linear Park	71	19.83
Urban Park	24	2.54
School Site Open Space	17	16.13
Total	**281**	**175.8**

Note: The high number of sites within the Green Space/Nature Park and Linear Park categories reflects instances where a single contiguous park location is composed of multiple legal properties or parcels.

NWSS Memorial Grounds is identified as a School Site and included in the inventory because it is owned by School District 40. The site is envisioned as future a passive, publicly accessible park designed for low-impact activities that honour its history as a designated cemetery.

Map 4.1

Parks and Open Spaces



Recognizing that not all land functioning as parkland is owned by the City, the New Westminster park system is a patchwork of ownership. This includes properties leased to the City by third parties; in many of these cases, the City operates and maintains the sites as part of the park inventory. Typically, any proposed improvements must be reviewed and approved by the landowner and funded by the City. Specific ownership variations are described later in this section. Mapping these sites alongside City-owned parks provides a transparent view of the current network and identifies where the Parks and Recreation Department should work towards formalized agreements to better secure these recreational opportunities for the future.

Sites such as Poplar Island are excluded from the parkland inventory. Although it provides habitat for wildlife, plants, and trees, Poplar Island is owned by the Province and is inaccessible to the public, so it is not categorized as parkland.

Industrial lands are identified on the map as they are low-priority areas for future parkland acquisition and development. While public spaces in industrial areas can enhance the well-being of the local workforce, current municipal strategy prioritizes investment in residential neighbourhoods where the parkland deficit and population density are highest. This approach ensures that limited resources are allocated to the areas of greatest community need.

4.2 What We Heard

The findings below represent a synthesis of Phase 1 engagement. These key takeaways reflect the diverse voices heard through Indigenous sessions, youth outreach, technical workshops, and public surveys (Appendix A: What We Heard).

Participation in visiting parks to eat, sit, play, or otherwise: 90%

Satisfaction with major parks such as Queen's Park, Moody Park, Westminster Pier Park: 68%

Dissatisfaction with major parks such as Queen's Park, Moody Park, Westminster Pier Park: 13%

Satisfaction with smaller parks close to home: 58%

Dissatisfaction with smaller parks close to home: 16%

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Not enough year-round outdoor spaces and programs
- Not enough parks close to my home
- Parks are a hub for the community and an important part of youth social life
- Perception that parks can be overcrowded
- Need to keep up with population growth and community demand
- Appreciation for the beauty of New Westminster's parks and gardens

In Phase 2 engagement, 97% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with protecting existing and acquiring additional lands for future parks and open spaces.

4.3 Analysis

4.3.1 Parkland Supply Analysis Overview

This section analyzes the parkland supply using three methods – population-based standards, proximity (walkability), and percentage of land area. Many municipalities in BC use population-based standards to calculate and plan their supply of parkland, and this method was used in the 2008 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. However, integrating proximity and land-area metrics provides a more nuanced understanding of where gaps exist in New Westminster's growing dense, urban context.

Parkland supply standards can be applied along with other metrics to ensure that a full range of park types is available to all residents. They enable a community to measure their supply over time, and to compare themselves with other communities. In recent times, when many municipalities are experiencing major population increases and challenges acquiring new parkland, standards can be helpful in the development process, e.g., they are often used to calculate park development cost charges (DCCs).

Trends in parkland acquisition have evolved as urban centres densify. For land-constrained and largely built-out municipalities like New Westminster, high land values have necessitated a move away from traditional quantitative supply standards. Consequently, there is a regional shift toward models that integrate qualitative criteria. This approach focuses on optimizing existing assets, pursuing non-traditional acquisitions, and increasing numbers and types of activities accommodated within parks.

Parks People is a Canadian organization that works to advance city parks as essential spaces to connect people to each other and the rest of nature (parkpeople.ca/who-we-are). The following are some trends noted in their 2024 Canadian City Parks Report:

- **Resourcing challenges –** including insufficient operating budgets and restrictive parkland dedication policies—are making it difficult for municipalities to deliver on targets for both quantity and quality of parkland
- **Standards variance –** parkland provision targets for cities vary widely, from 0.33 to 4.2 hectares/1,000 people (Halifax and Surrey, respectively)
- **New metrics –** some municipalities are adding walking distances into their parkland acquisition targets, and others are adding a percentage of gross land area for developments

The average parkland supply in the City of Toronto is 2.8 ha/1,000 population and they are trying to retain that. They also acquire parkland per gross development area in some locations - 10% if site is less than 5 ha, 15% if site is more than 5 ha. This helps to achieve parkland that is functionally useful rather than just an unusable sliver of land.

The City of Vancouver has a target of 1 ha / 1,000 population but they are falling behind on that, especially in some neighbourhoods. Parks cover 11% of the total land area. Most new parks come through large developments, street closures, and privately-owned public spaces (POPS) that are integrated into the public space network.

4.3.2 Population-Based Parkland Supply

Population-based parkland supply is a calculation of the amount of parkland per resident. It is based on the premise that there needs to be more parkland as the population grows.

Figure 4.3 shows New Westminster's city-wide parkland supply and how it has changed since the last Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (2008) was completed. This shows only city, community, and neighbourhood parks to enable a direct comparison with the previous plan.

The analysis shows that parkland acquisition has been outpaced by population growth over the last 17 years. In 2007, the city had 2.04 ha per 1,000 residents; by 2024, that ratio declined to just 1.01 ha per 1,000 residents. While a portion of this decrease may be attributed to the reclassification of certain lands, the primary driver is a rapidly expanding population within a fixed land base. This 50% decline in the level of service underscores an immediate need to "catch up" in underserved areas while establishing new, creative strategies to ensure the system can "keep up" with future population growth.

Beyond traditional purchase, municipalities are also securing new parkland through the following mechanisms:

- **Development-Led –** Leveraging 5% land dedication, POPS, and air-space parcels (rooftop parks)
- **Creative Infrastructure –** Transforming road and lane reallocations or repurposing utility corridors into recreational spaces.
- **Connectivity –** Integrating park amenities into linear corridors (i.e., multi-use pathways and trails) to create a cohesive, city-wide network
- **Consolidation –** Assembling residential lots to create larger, more functional neighbourhood parks

Figure 4.3: Population-based Supply of Park Types in 2007 and 2024

Classification	2007 (ha/1,000 pop)	2024 (ha/1,000 pop)
City Park	0.67	0.76
Community Park	0.98	0.13
Neighbourhood Park	0.39	0.12
Total	**2.04**	**1.01**

Figure 4.4 shows New Westminster's population-based supply of all park types for 2024 and 2034. For 2034, the calculations account for population growth and the addition of one future park – Muni Evers Park.

Figure 4.4: Population-based Supply of All Parks and Open Spaces in 2024 and 2034

Classification	2024 (ha/1,000 pop)	2034 (ha/1,000 pop)
City Park	0.76	0.59
Community Park	0.13	0.10
Neighbourhood Park	0.12	0.10
Subtotal for Active Parks (City)	**1.01**	**0.79**
School Site Open Space	0.18	0.14
Total Active Parks	**1.19**	**0.93**
Green Space / Nature Park	0.50	0.39
Linear Park	0.22	0.17
Urban Park	0.03	0.02
Total All Parkland	**1.94**	**1.51**

To provide a nuanced understanding of service levels, this analysis distinguishes between active parks and all parkland, as they serve different but complementary needs:

Active Parks – These are primary providers of playgrounds, sports courts, and gathering spaces. They are critical to meeting local recreation needs, especially in high-density areas. This category includes city, community, and neighbourhood parks. The green space and play/sport amenities on School District 40 school sites can also function as active parks for public use outside of school hours. These sites are considered in some of the analyses of active parks.

All Parkland – This encompasses the full park system, including all six city parkland classifications (city, community, neighbourhood, linear, urban, and green space/nature) plus school site open space.

The Supply Gap

The data reveals a significant supply gap, highlighting future deficits if parkland acquisition does not keep pace with projected growth. Currently, active parks maintain a ratio of 1.01 hectares per 1,000 residents for City-owned land, which increases to 1.19 hectares when including school sites. However, without significant intervention, this combined supply is projected to drop to 0.93 hectares within the next decade—a decrease that is contingent upon maintaining continued public access to green spaces on school properties. This trend extends to the broader park system; while the City currently provides almost 2.0 hectares per 1,000 residents of all parkland, this ratio is expected to decline to 1.51 hectares by 2034 unless additional parkland is secured to offset population increases.

These projections underscore that simply maintaining the existing inventory is insufficient. Proactive acquisition and strategic partnerships are required to maintain a livable balance of park spaces as New Westminster continues to densify. Since the city's population is projected to grow by approximately 25,500 people, around 25.5 hectares of active parkland will be needed to maintain a supply of 1 ha / 1,000 population.

Figure 4.5 shows a comparison of the population-based parkland supply for all parks in New Westminster and the comparable communities in 2024 (see A.4 Analysis Methods, p 7 of **People, Parks, and Play** for an explanation of the comparables). The average population-based supply of the comparables was 3.81 ha/1,000 population, much higher than New Westminster's 1.90 ha/1,000 population. Only Vancouver had a lower population-based parkland supply. This data highlights the pressure on New Westminster's existing park system and the need for creative land-use strategies and continued acquisition as the city's population grows.

Figure 4.5: Population-based Parkland Supply of New Westminster and Comparable Cities 2024

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster 92,433	City of New Westminster Comparison to Other Cities
Ha/1,000 population (2024) – all parkland	1.54	5.94	5.43	2.0	3.18	3.81	1.90	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

To provide an analysis of parkland distribution, the city is divided into four geographic districts (selected because population projections are available for these areas). **Map 4.2** illustrates the districts and the specific neighbourhoods within them:

- West – Connaught Heights, West End, Moody Park, Brow of the Hill
- East – Glenbrook North, Massey Victory Heights, Sapperton, Victoria Hill Ginger Drive, Queen's Park
- Downtown – Downtown, Quayside
- Queensborough – Queensborough

Figure 4.6 and **Figure 4.7** compare the population-based parkland supply across the districts for 2024 and projected for 2034. The projected figures in these tables include Muni Evers Park. **Map 4.3** illustrates the existing parkland supply by district.

The analysis shows that downtown and the west (west of Sixth Street) districts currently have the greatest deficiencies in parkland supply. Even when accounting for future acquisitions that have been identified to date. Their supply of active city parkland is well below the citywide supply of 1.0 ha / 1,000 population, resulting in an inequitable distribution of parkland.

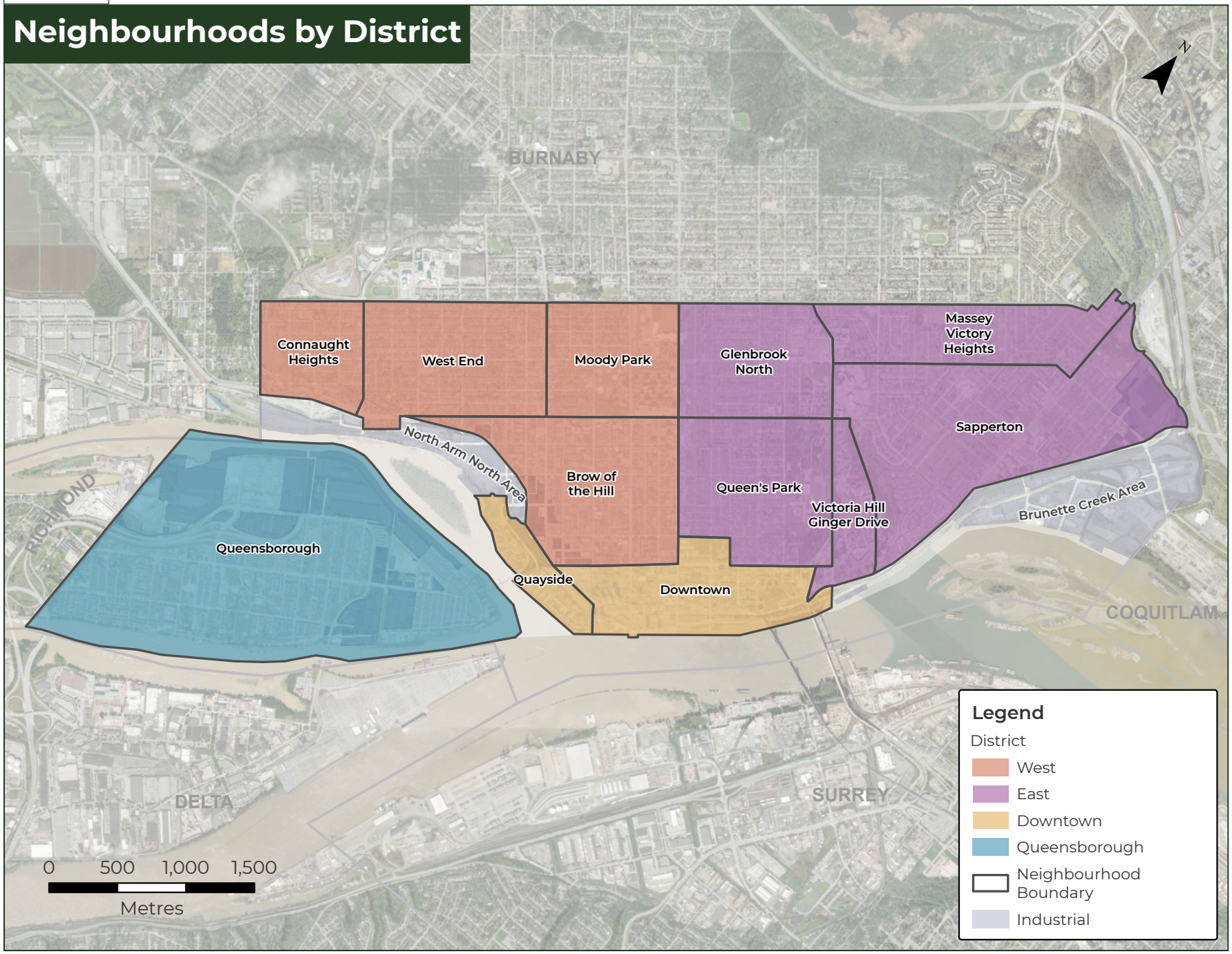
Figure 4.6: Population-based Supply of Active Parks in Districts 2024 and 2034

District	2024 Active Parks (ha/1,000)	2034 Active (Projected)	Status vs. 1.0 ha City Average
Downtown	0.38	0.32	Deficit
West	0.59	0.47	Below Average
Queensborough	0.99	0.83	Slightly Low
East	1.80	1.50	Above Average

Figure 4.7: Population-based Supply of All Parks in Districts 2024 and 2034

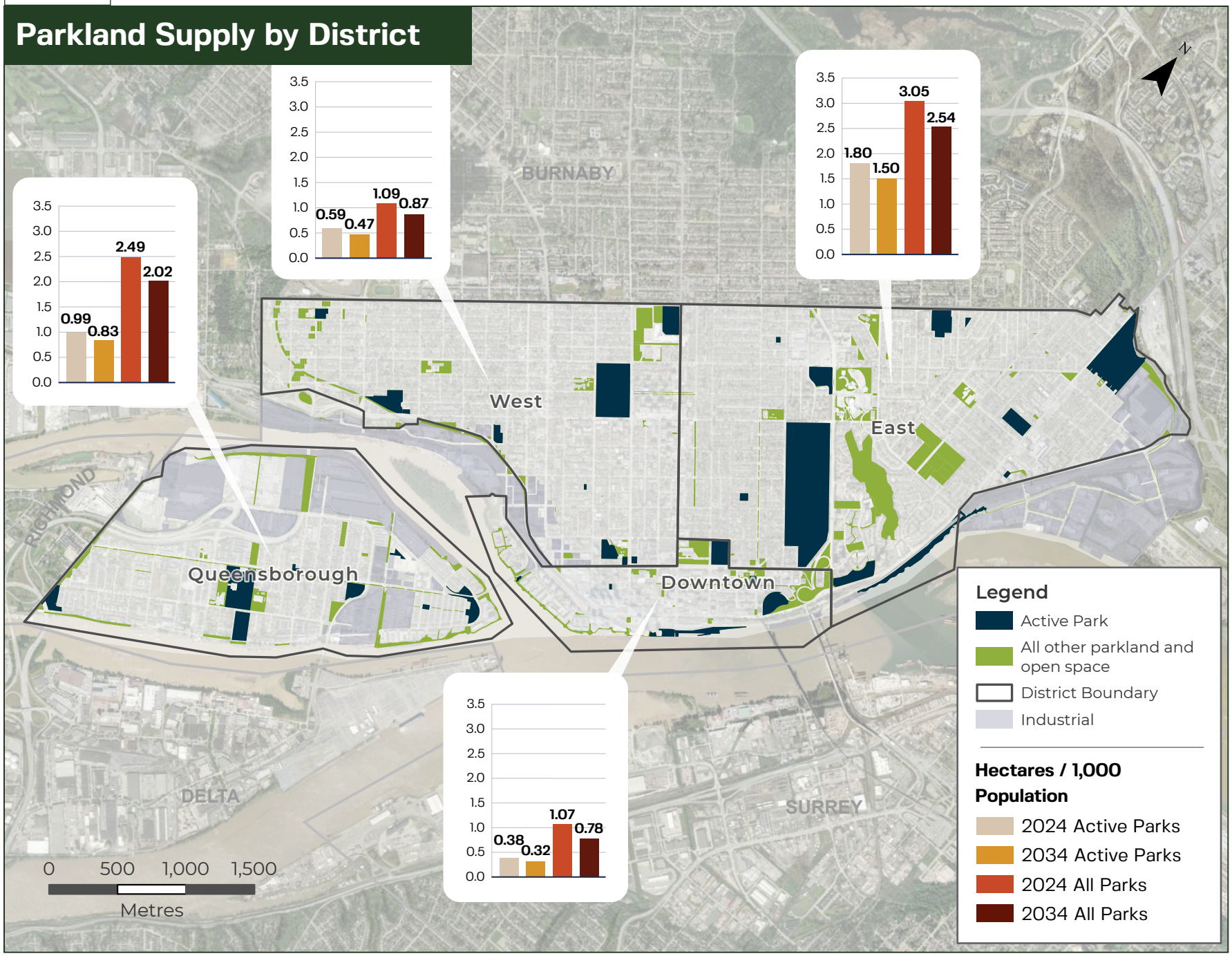
District	2024 All Parks (ha/1,000)	2034 All (Projected Including Future Known)	Status vs. 2.0 ha City Average
Downtown	1.07	0.78	Deficit
West	1.09	0.87	Deficit
Queensborough	2.49	2.02	On Target
East	3.05	2.54	Above Average

Neighbourhoods by District



Map 4.3

Parkland Supply by District



4.3.3 Proximity Analysis

Since the population-based supply of parkland is decreasing and more people are living in high-density housing, it becomes more important for residents to have a park close to their home. The proximity of parkland to residents is measured by the distance people can walk to reach a park. Communities use a variety of measures and distances for this analysis. New Westminster uses 330 metres for a five-minute walk, which is a more inclusive measure than longer distances used elsewhere and in the past. It is also appropriate because of the steep terrain. The walking distances are based on the network of pathways, trails, and roads (sidewalks).

Map 4.4 shows five and ten-minute walking distances from Active Parks, which include city, community, and neighbourhood parks. Ideally, all residential areas should be within a five-minute walk of these parks. The analysis shows that most residents are within 10 minutes of an active park, but there are significant areas (804 hectares of land, which is 52% of the city) not meeting the five-minute target.

Map 4.5 shows five and ten-minute walking distances to all parkland (inclusive of all six classifications and school sites). The analysis shows that almost all residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park or school, as that covers 96% of the city, and most are within a five-minute walk (89% of city). This map also illustrates the active parks of neighbouring municipalities and their potential influence, as residents are not affected by jurisdiction when visiting a park.

However, proximity alone does not equate to a high level of service. While residents may be near a green space, many of the parks serving these catchments are small in scale, limiting the variety of activities they can support. For example, residents in Brow of the Hill and Connaught Heights have good proximity to local green spaces, but they face limited access to large-scale destination parks that provide major amenities, expansive natural areas, and gathering spaces for larger groups.

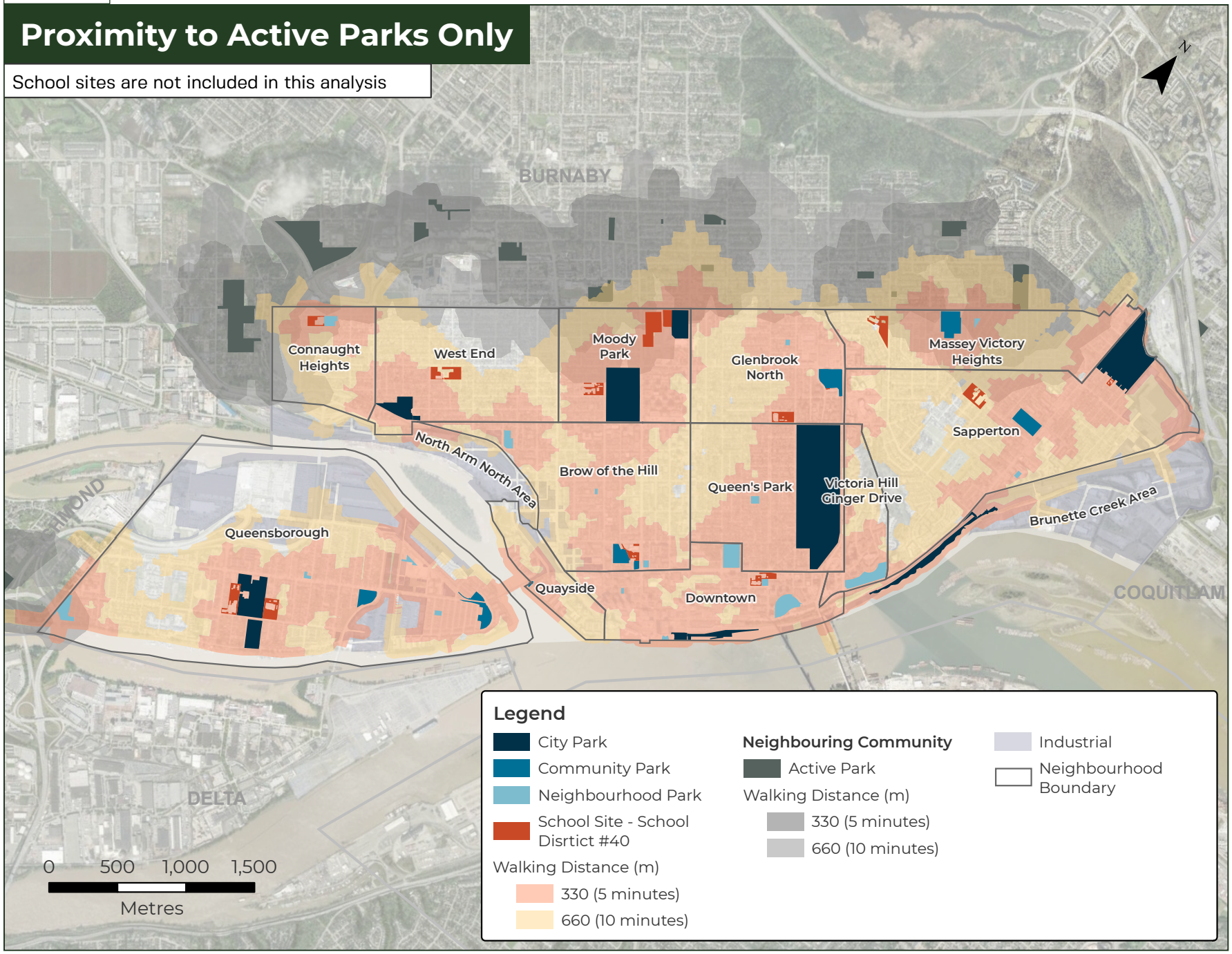
This distinction highlights that future park planning must focus not only on proximity (how close a park is) but also on variety to ensure all residents have access to a diverse range of park types and activities.

Map 4.6 shows five and ten-minute walking distances when the School District 40 open spaces are included in the active park network. This integration improves accessibility. The area beyond a five-minute walk of an active park drops to 695 hectares, or 45% of the city. This illustrates the contribution of public-school sites in meeting everyday park needs of residents.

Map 4.4

Proximity to Active Parks Only

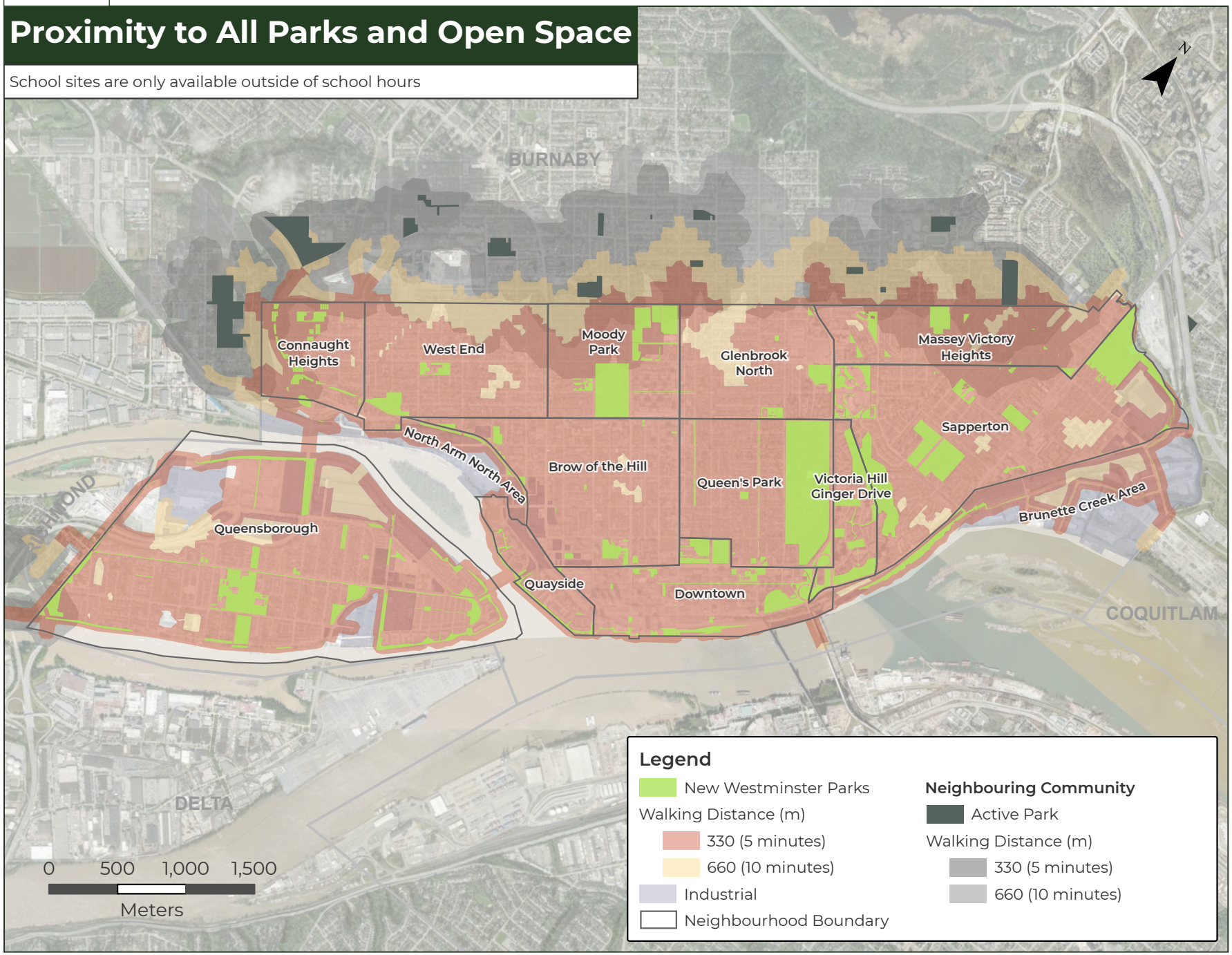
School sites are not included in this analysis



Map 4.5

Proximity to All Parks and Open Space

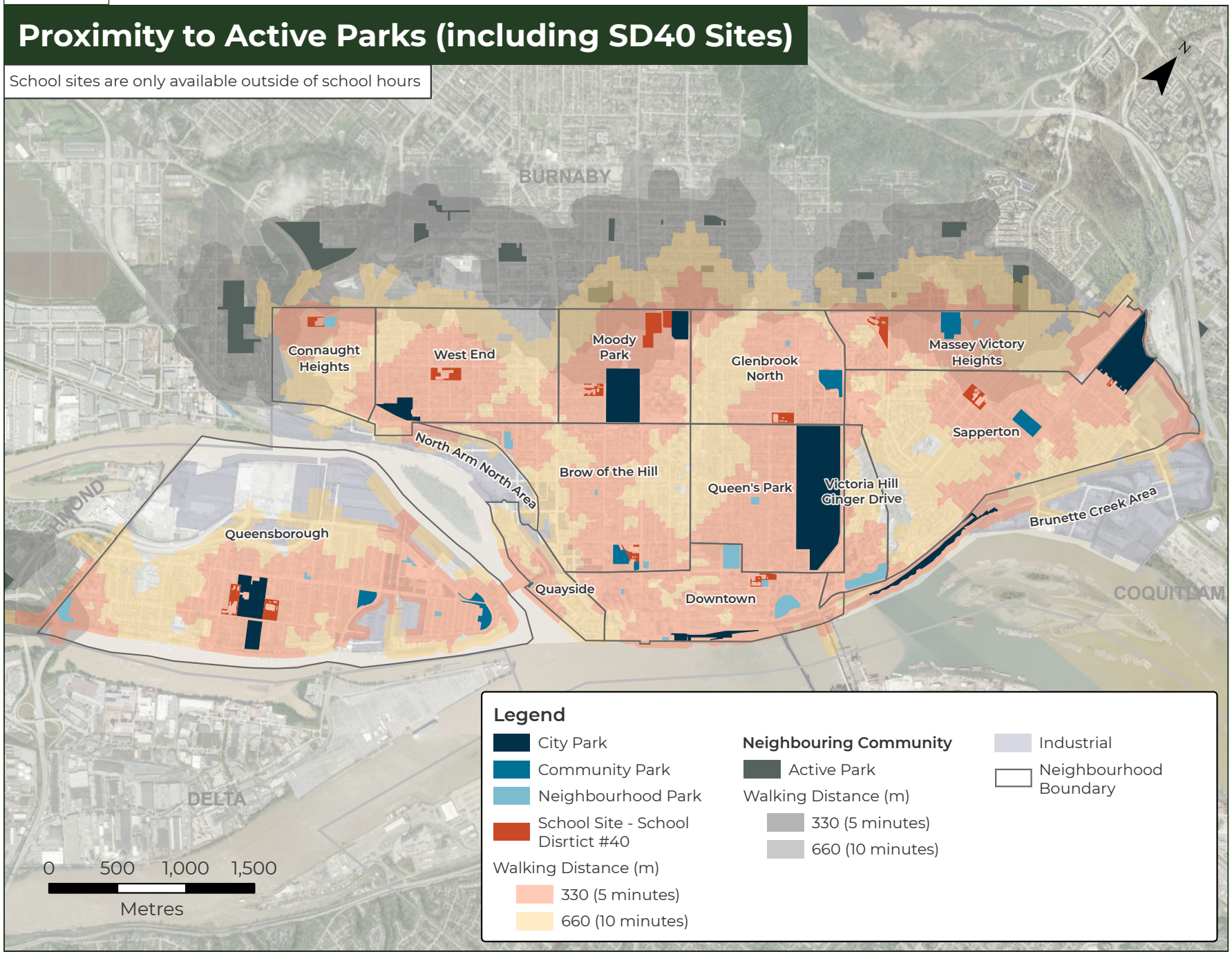
School sites are only available outside of school hours



Map 4.6

Proximity to Active Parks (including SD40 Sites)

School sites are only available outside of school hours



4.3.4 Percent of Land Area

Area-based analysis is another way to measure parkland supply, considering the proportion of the entire city area occupied by parks and open spaces. While there are no common targets for area-based parkland supply in urban areas, a best practice is to increase the portion of the city area attributed to parkland in line with population growth, as more parkland will be needed to serve more people.

Figure 4.8 illustrates the portion of the city occupied by parks and open spaces. Currently, 11.3% of New Westminster's total land area is dedicated to parks and open spaces. The majority of this area (4.4% of the city's land) is comprised of large city parks, green space / nature parks occupy 2.9% of the city, while most of the other park and open space types occupy very small proportions of city land.

Figure 4.8: Percentage of City Land Occupied by Parks

Classification	Area (ha)	Percent of City Land Area
City Park	69.16	4.4%
Community Park	11.61	0.7%
Neighbourhood Park	11.27	0.7%
Green Space / Nature Park	45.26	2.9%
Linear Park	19.83	1.3%
Urban Park	2.54	0.2%
School Site Open Space	16.13	1.0%
Total	**175.8**	**11.3%**

4.3.5 Population Growth Areas

The provincial housing legislation, Bill 44 Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act and Bill 47 Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act, enables increased housing supply, , diversity, and population growth. This legislation promotes multi-unit housing in all single family areas and high density growth within Transit-oriented Areas, respectively. The legislation does not address the need for additional parkland to support the increased population.

Map 4.7 illustrates the Bill 47 Transit-Oriented Areas and the higher density growth areas identified in the City's Official Community Plan. The following are the densities and housing forms prescribed in Bill 47 tiers.

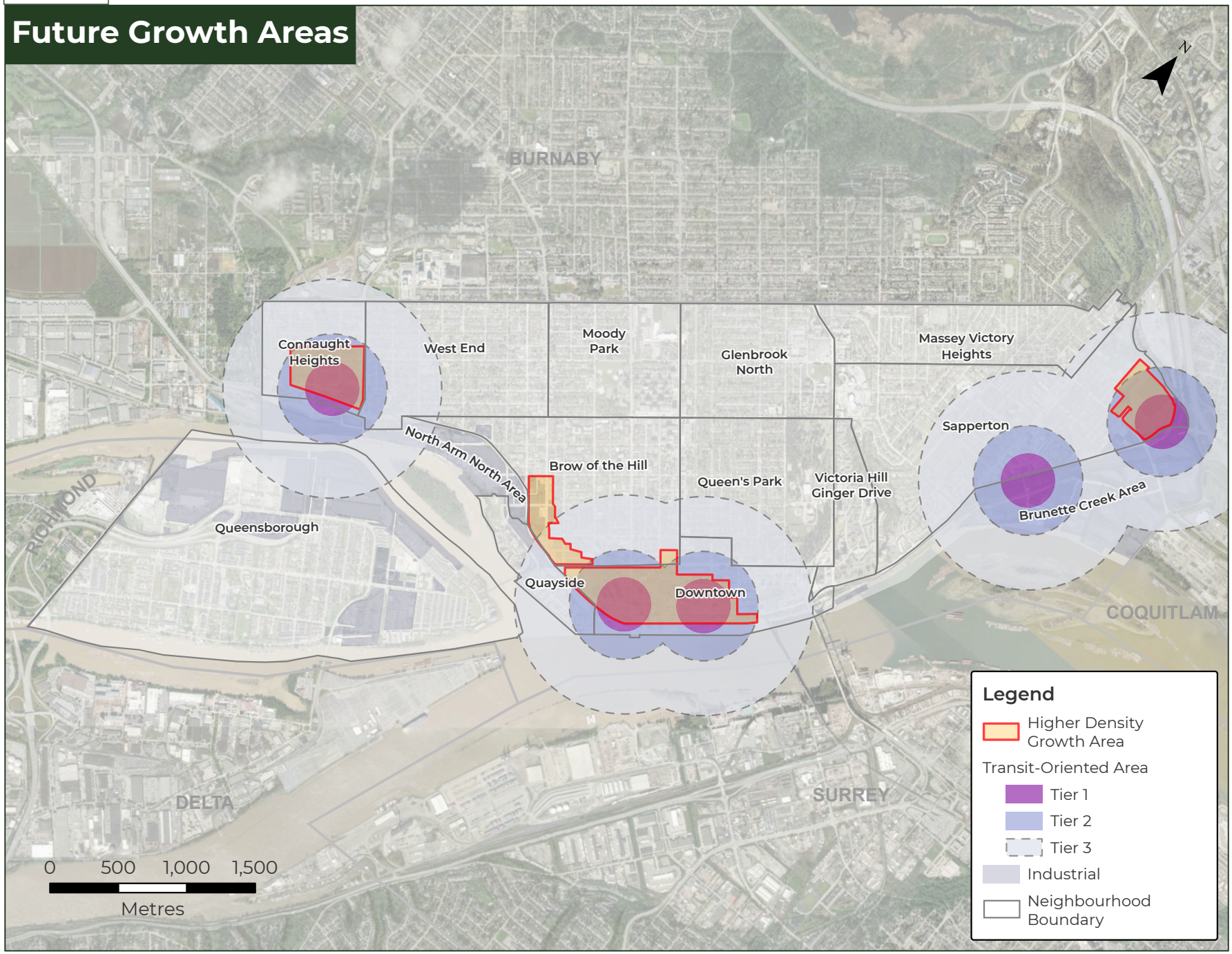
Tier	Prescribed Distance	Minimum Allowable Density (FAR)*	Minimum Allowable Height (Storeys)	Example of Building Type
1	200m or less	Up to 5.0	Up to 20	Apartment tower
2	201m to 400m	Up to 4.0	Up to 12	High-rise or mid-rise
3	401m to 800m	Up to 3.0	Up to 8	Mid-rise

*Minimum allowable density is expressed as Floor Area Ratio (FAR), which is the maximum amount of floor area or building space on a lot, expressed as a ratio. For example, for a lot area of 500 m² and a maximum FAR of 3.0, the maximum floor area is 1,500 m².

Within these areas, the need for parkland will be high due to the permissible number of people and housing forms. Residents will be dependent on parks as their outdoor living spaces, especially those living in developments lacking communal outdoor space.

Map 4.7

Future Growth Areas



4.3.6 Parkland Distribution Based on Equity

Parks are essential to civic infrastructure, but they do not serve every resident equally. An "equity-first" approach recognizes that certain populations rely more heavily on public parks for their health, social connection, and well-being. The analysis of high equity need areas in New Westminster is based on a spatial analysis that overlays four socioeconomic indicators from the 2021 Statistics Canada census data (dissemination areas) (**Map 4.8**):

Map 4.8 Aboriginal identity
Over 5 percent of the population identify as Aboriginal

Map 4.9 Low income
Over 20 percent of the population earn less than $40,000 annually

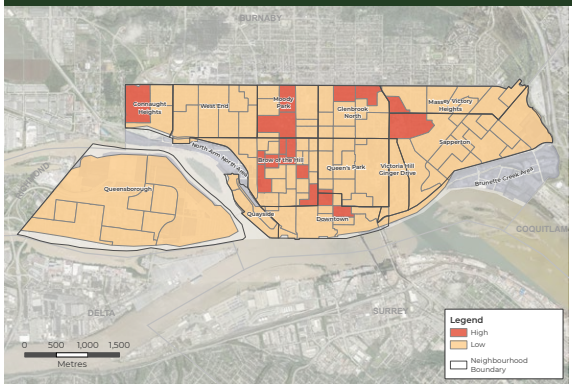
Map 4.10 Multi-unit housing
Over 80 percent of the housing is multi-unit

Map 4.11 Older adults
Over 20 percent are age 65 or more

Newcomers were not mapped for the purposes of this analysis because they are mostly located in Queensborough, which does not exhibit the other high equity needs criteria. Adding newcomers to this analysis would result in high equity needs extending across most of the city.

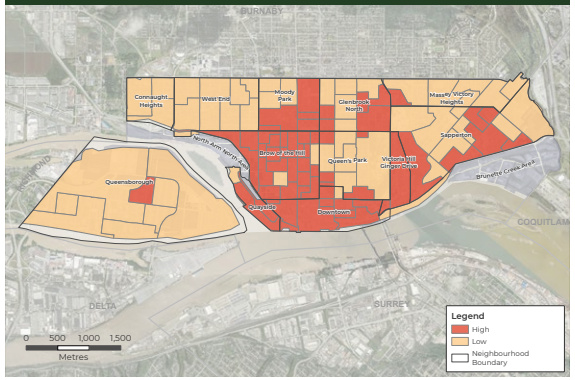
Map 4.8

Equity Needs – Aboriginal Density



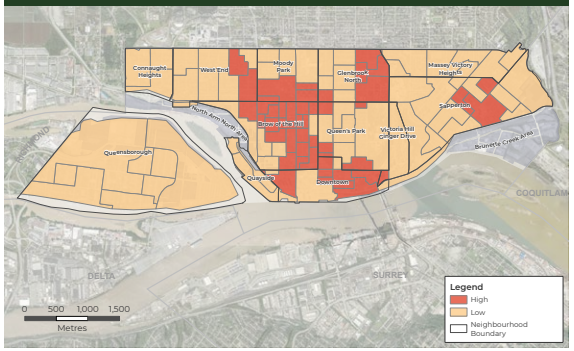
Map 4.9

Equity Needs – Low Income Density



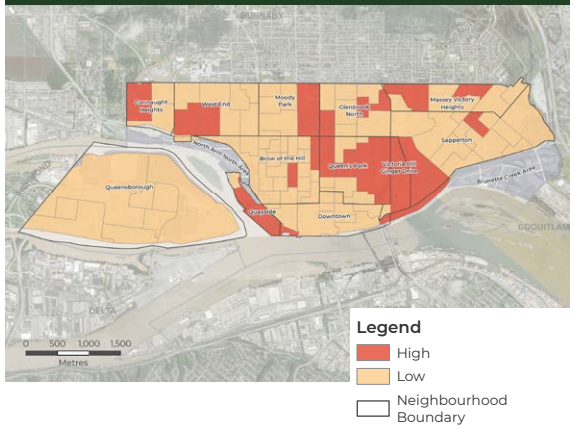
Map 4.10

Equity Needs – Multi-Unit Housing Density



Map 4.11

Equity Needs – Older Adults Density



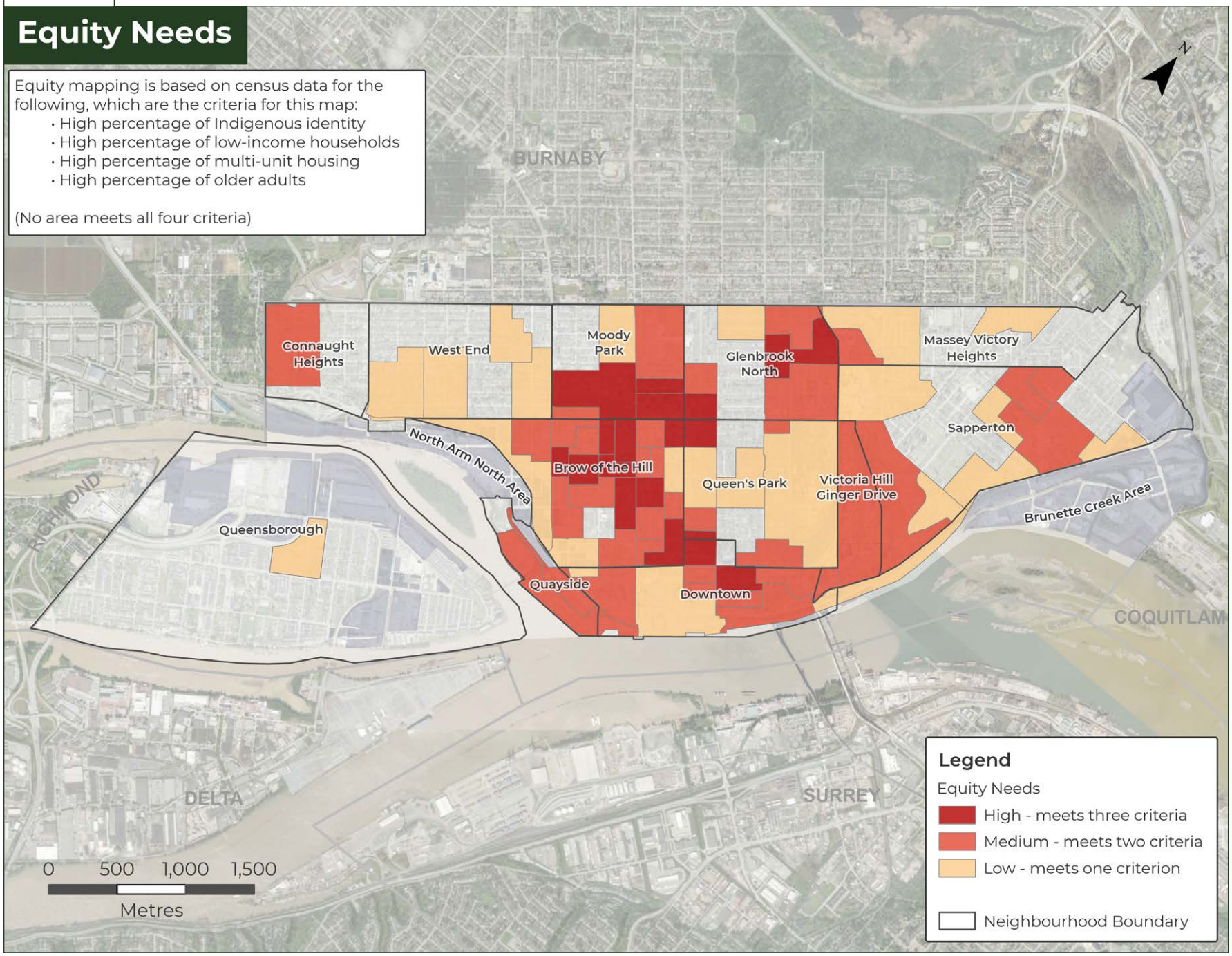
Map 4.12

Equity Needs

Equity mapping is based on census data for the following, which are the criteria for this map:

- High percentage of Indigenous identity
- High percentage of low-income households
- High percentage of multi-unit housing
- High percentage of older adults

(No area meets all four criteria)



Map 4.12 shows the combined equity needs. The highest equity need areas are most prevalent within Moody Park, Brow of the Hill, Downtown, and Glenbrook North. Next in terms of need are Connaught Heights, Quayside, Victoria Hill Ginger Drive, and Sapperton. For residents of these high-equity need areas, parks are essential as many of these residents live in smaller, high-density homes with limited access to private outdoor space or recreational resources, so their reliance on public spaces is higher. In this context, proximity is a primary determinant of equity.

To effectively serve these populations, high-quality public spaces must be located within a very short, barrier-free walking distance. When private yards are absent, the public park becomes the "community living room." Therefore, the strategy must prioritize:

- **Proximity:** Reducing travel barriers for those with limited time or mobility.
- **Barrier-Free Access:** Ensuring routes to parks are safe, inclusive, and universally accessible.
- **Diversity:** Providing a wide range of amenities that support diverse physical, social, and cultural needs within these dense catchments.

4.3.7 Park Ownership

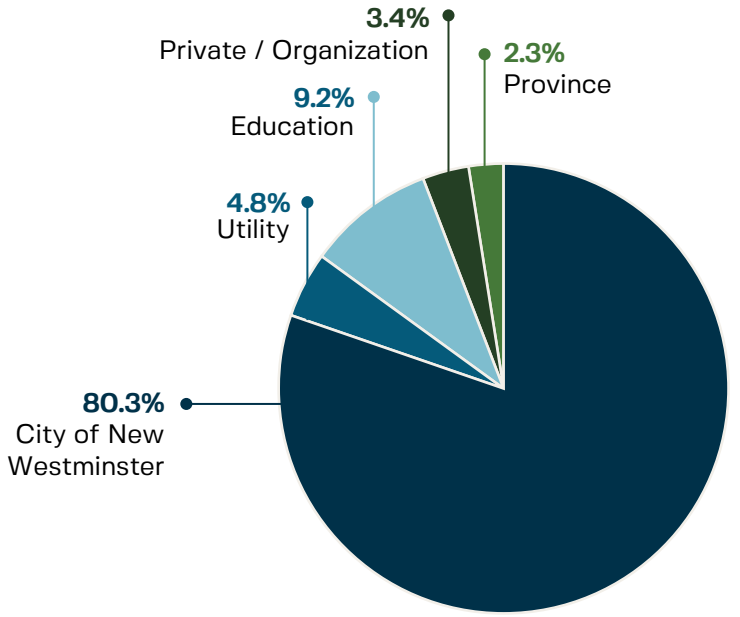
While the Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide an adequate supply of parkland, the ownership of park spaces varies. Understanding the ownership is important for long-term planning and managing public expectations regarding the permanence of specific spaces.

To expand the park network in a land-constrained environment, the City enters into legal agreements with third parties (e.g., private developers, utilities, senior levels of government) to enable creation of parkland without the prohibitive costs of land acquisition. In these instances, the City will typically fund capital improvements, such as playgrounds, seating, landscaping, and conduct ongoing maintenance and operations. However, because non-municipal land is subject to the different long-term priorities of its owners, there is an inherent risk that these sites may be reclaimed for alternative uses in the future. The Parks and Recreation Department aims to secure long-term use agreements whenever possible.

Map 4.13 and **Figure 4.9** illustrate the ownership. While the City remains the primary owner of over 80 % of the parks and open spaces, approximately 20% of the network relies on external partnerships. Most provincially owned land (2.3%) consists of green spaces along highways and roads managed by the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

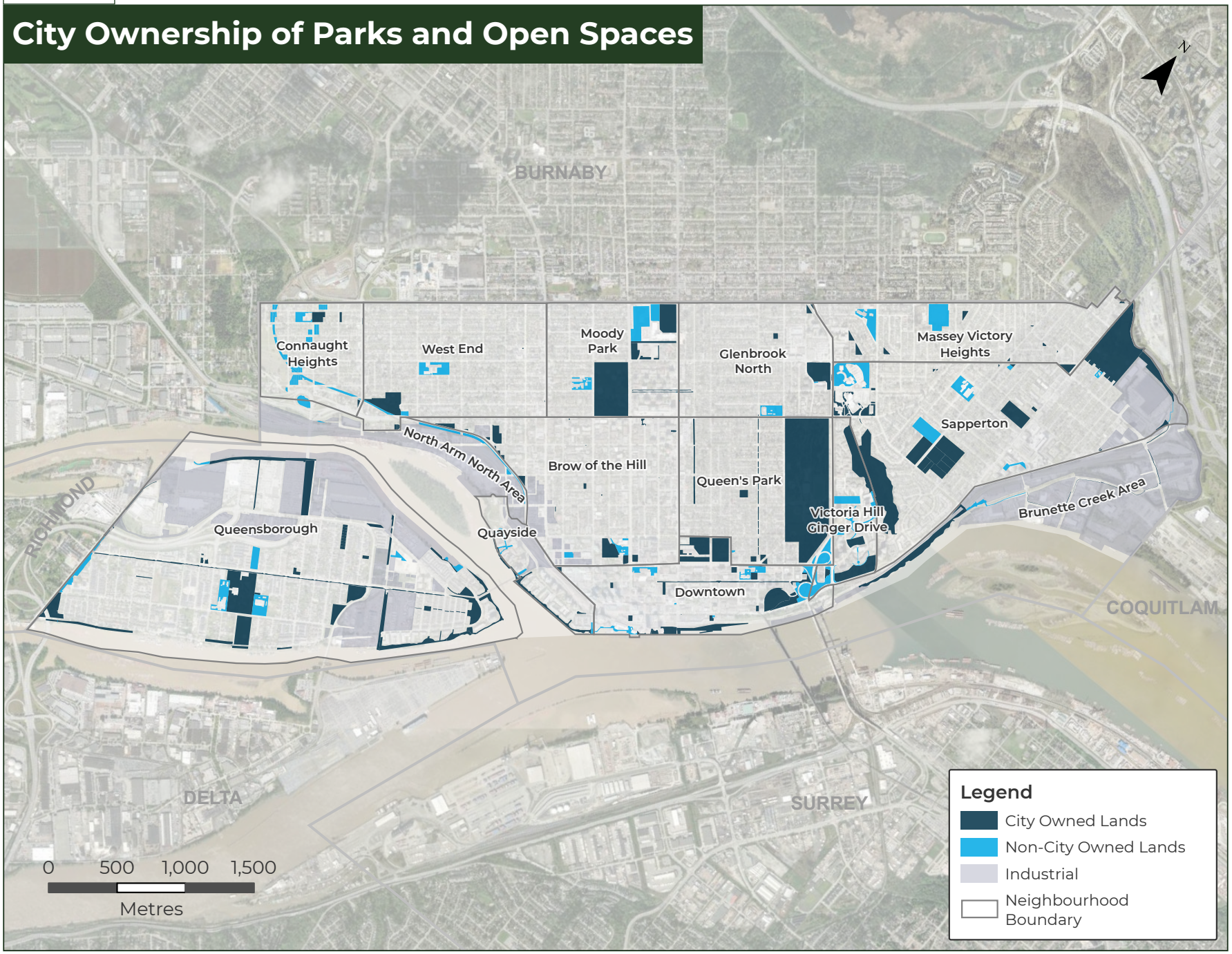
Figure 4.9: Park Ownership of Parks and Open Spaces

Owner	Percent of Parks and Open Space Area
City of New Westminster	80.3%
Utility	4.8%
Education	9.2%
Private / Organization	3.4%
Province	2.3%



Map 4.13

City Ownership of Parks and Open Spaces



4.3.8 Parkland Protections

Official Community Plan

Given the pressures on the current supply and distribution of parkland and the challenges the community will face in keeping up with an appropriate supply as the city's population increases, it is vital that the City recognizes the potential vulnerabilities regarding the tenure of its lands used for park purposes.

The City's current Official Community Plan (OCP) provides a vision, goals, and policies for New Westminster to the year 2041. Together, these elements connect the community's "big picture" aspiration with the tools needed to achieve it, including specific actions, development permit guidelines, and land use designations. The OCP is implemented by the City in various ways, including through policy initiatives, public programs, civic projects, and bylaws. Specific to intentions for, and protection of, lands for park purposes, OCP land use designations are an important tool that communicates both the current use of land and the intended future land uses.

OCP Land Use Designations

The purpose of the OCP land use map in this Plan is to understand how parks and open spaces are designated, specifically which lands have designations that allow park use, and which properties need to be reclassified for consistency with this Plan (**Map 4.14**). The newly classified future Muni Evers Park is included on this map.

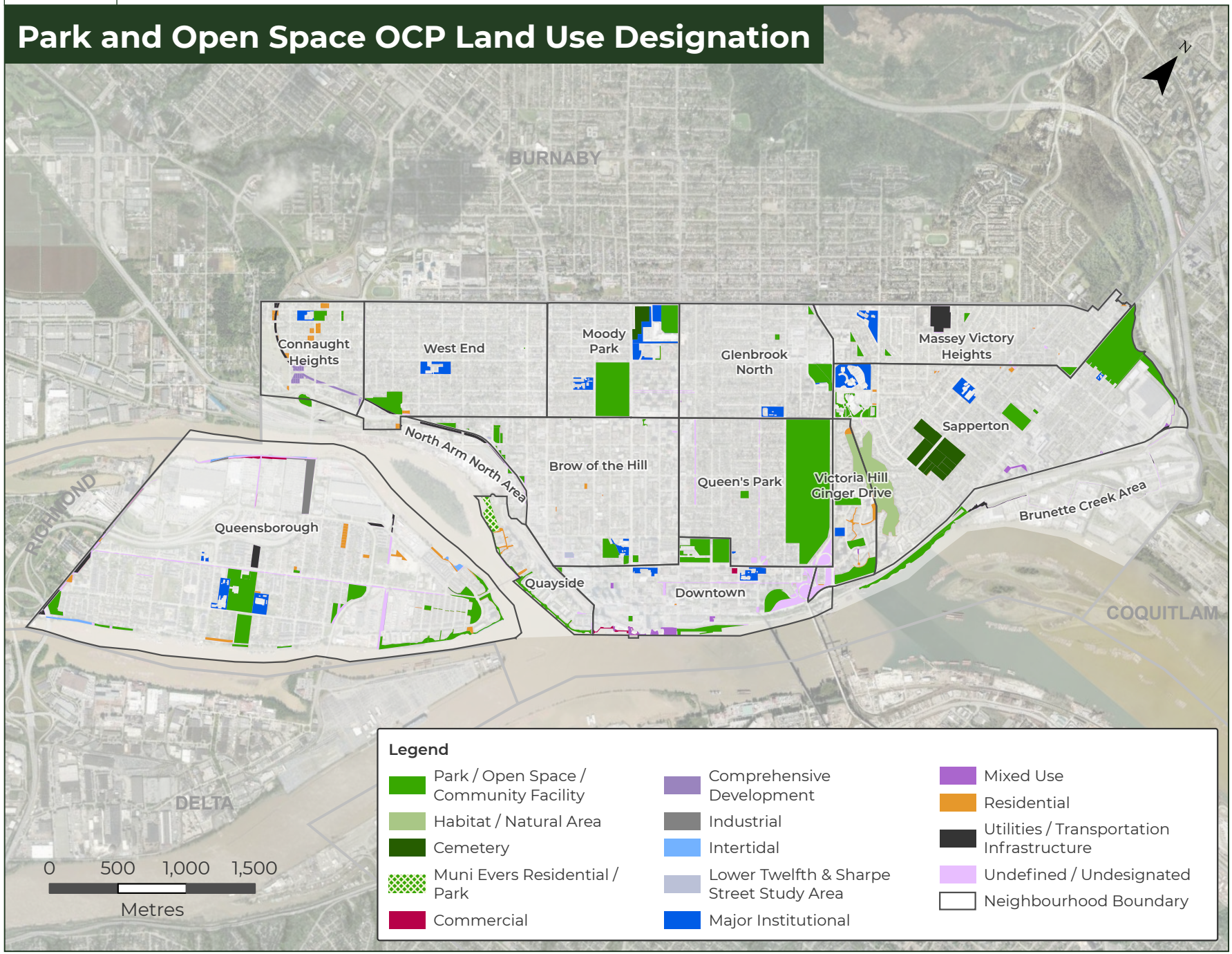
Figure 4.10 shows the extent of these OCP designations within the parks and open spaces. The number of OCP parcels is high because the properties are small, and in some cases there are multiple properties within one park.

Figure 4.10: Parks by OCP Designation

OCP Designation	Area (ha)	Percent of Parkland
Cemetery	12.54	7.13%
Commercial	1.03	0.58%
Comprehensive Development	1.57	0.89%
Habitat / Natural Area	11.17	6.36%
Industrial	2.65	1.51%
Intertidal	0.93	0.53%
Lower Twelfth & Sharpe Street Study Area	0.29	0.16%
Major Institutional	16.18	9.21%
Mixed Use	1.83	1.04%
Muni Evers Residential / Park	1.54	0.88%
Park / Open Space / Community Facility	100.79	57.33%
Residential	5.74	3.27%
Utilities / Transportation Infrastructure	6.82	3.88%
Undefined / Undesignated	12.72	7.24%
Total Parkland	**175.80**	**100.00%**

Map 4.14

Park and Open Space OCP Land Use Designation



The City's OCP contains several land use designation categories applicable to parks, natural areas, and public open spaces. The following designations permit parks, open space, or trails as a complementary use:

- Cemetery
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Habitat / Natural Area
- Intertidal
- Major Institutional
- Mixed Use
- Muni Evers Residential / Park
- Parks, Open Space and Community Facilities
- Residential
- Utilities and Transportation Infrastructure

The following OCP land uses will be subject to planning processes that will identify potential future parks:

- Comprehensive Development
- Lower Twelfth and Sharpe Street Study Area
- Bent Court Study Area
- Sapperton Green Transit Oriented Mixed-Use Community

Undesignated Lands and Priority Reclassification

There are some undefined and undesignated lands among those identified as parks and open space in this Plan. Most of these parcels are on or adjacent to roads, or they are the lands associated with the new staləw̓asəm Bridge that will be transferred to the City and designated as parkland. Undefined and undesignated sites will be reviewed to determine their status and necessity for reclassification.

While several designations allow for parks as a "complementary" use, this analysis allows the City to identify sites where park is not currently the principal land use. Determining whether to change these to primary park designation is a strategic action in this Plan, ensuring that park use is recognized as the highest priority for specific sites.

Other Parkland Protections

Beyond the land use designation provisions within the Official Community Plan, other mechanisms exist as enabling tools that help distinguish City-owned lands as parks versus other municipal land uses. Many of the enabling tools also contain protective limitations on the manner in which local governments may dispose of lands set aside for park uses. **Figure 4.11** outlines the common park establishment mechanisms and disposition conditions/limitations.

Figure 4.11: Common Park Establishment Mechanisms

Ref.	Common Park Establishment Mechanisms for Local Governments	Park Disposition Conditions/Limitations
A	**By Use** Lands owned by a local government can simply be used as park or public square, and the municipality can regulate and manage it like any other park or public square.	No limitations beyond standard requirements and provincial legislation that may apply to disposition of any other form of property held by a local government.
B	**Dedication by Plan** A common way for land to acquire legal status as park is for the landowner to dedicate the land as park by depositing a plan in the land title office. Upon the deposit of such a plan, the land shown as park on the plan becomes dedicated as park. The area shown as park no longer has any title in the land title office. If the dedicated land is in a municipality, the park then belongs to the municipality.	Where park is dedicated by deposit of a subdivision, reference or explanatory plan, the council may only dispose of the park by adopting a bylaw that has first received the approval of the electors.
C	**Dedication as a Requirement of Subdivision** Where an owner is required to provide parkland under the Local Government Act in connection with a subdivision of land, that parkland is to be shown as park on the subdivision plan and is dedicated as park.	
D	**Dedication by Bylaw** A municipal council may adopt a bylaw to dedicate or reserve municipal land for park purposes, by affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of all council members (section 30 of the CC).	In order to cancel the dedication or reservation, the council must adopt a bylaw, but only after the bylaw has received the approval of the electors.

Figure 4.11: Common Park Establishment Mechanisms (continued)

Ref.	Common Park Establishment Mechanisms for Local Governments	Park Disposition Conditions/Limitations
E	**Crown Grant** The specific terms of a crown grant from a senior level of government to a local government may specifically limit the use of the land to park purposes.	In theory, a condition subsequent or possibility of reverter does not prevent the local government, as owner, from selling the affected land. However, the new owner of the land will take subject to the condition subsequent or possibility of reverter. In other words, the new owner must use the land for the purpose set out in crown grant giving rise to the condition subsequent or reverter, or else risking having the land go back to the crown. In order for the local government to deal with such lands free of such restrictions, the crown would need to release the condition subsequent or take steps to remove the possibility of reverter. The crown may expect to receive fair market value in return for giving up these use restrictions.
F	**Trust** A landowner may transfer land to a local government on the trust condition that the land be used for park purposes. The intention to create such a 'trust' might be expressly stated in the documents transferring the lands to the local government. Alternatively, a trust may arise by implication.	Where a municipality receives land subject to a trust that it be used for park purposes, if the council considers that the trusts are no longer in the best interests of the municipality, the council may apply to the BC Supreme Court for an order that the trust be varied as the court considers will better further both the intention of the donor, settlor, transferor or will-maker and the best interests of the municipality.

4.11: Common Park Establishment Mechanisms (Continued)

Ref.	Common Park Establishment Mechanisms for Local Governments	Park Disposition Conditions/Limitations
G	**Statutory Right of Way** A common way to hold parkland is for the local government to acquire a statutory right of way over private property, commonly for public trail or walkway purposes. In the normal case, the local government maintains and operates the trail as part of its trail network and the statutory right of way creates an interest in the subject property that permits the local government to operate and maintain the trail and to permit the public to use the trail.	Upon mutual agreement of both the beneficiary of the statutory right of way and the private property owner, the right of way can be discharged.
H	**Parks on Private Property** Sometimes, such as in connection with a rezoning application, a developer will agree to having public access over private amenities, such as to walkways and trails, or a public plaza, located within the development. Such public use is typically secured by means of a use covenant in favour of the local government requiring the developer to use or provide the affected areas as required.	Upon mutual agreement of both the local government and the title holder of the property, the public access covenant can be removed.

A small number of existing park sites have extraordinary establishment mechanisms with related park disposition conditions/limitations (**Figure 4.12**).

Figure 4.12: Extraordinary Park Establishment Mechanisms

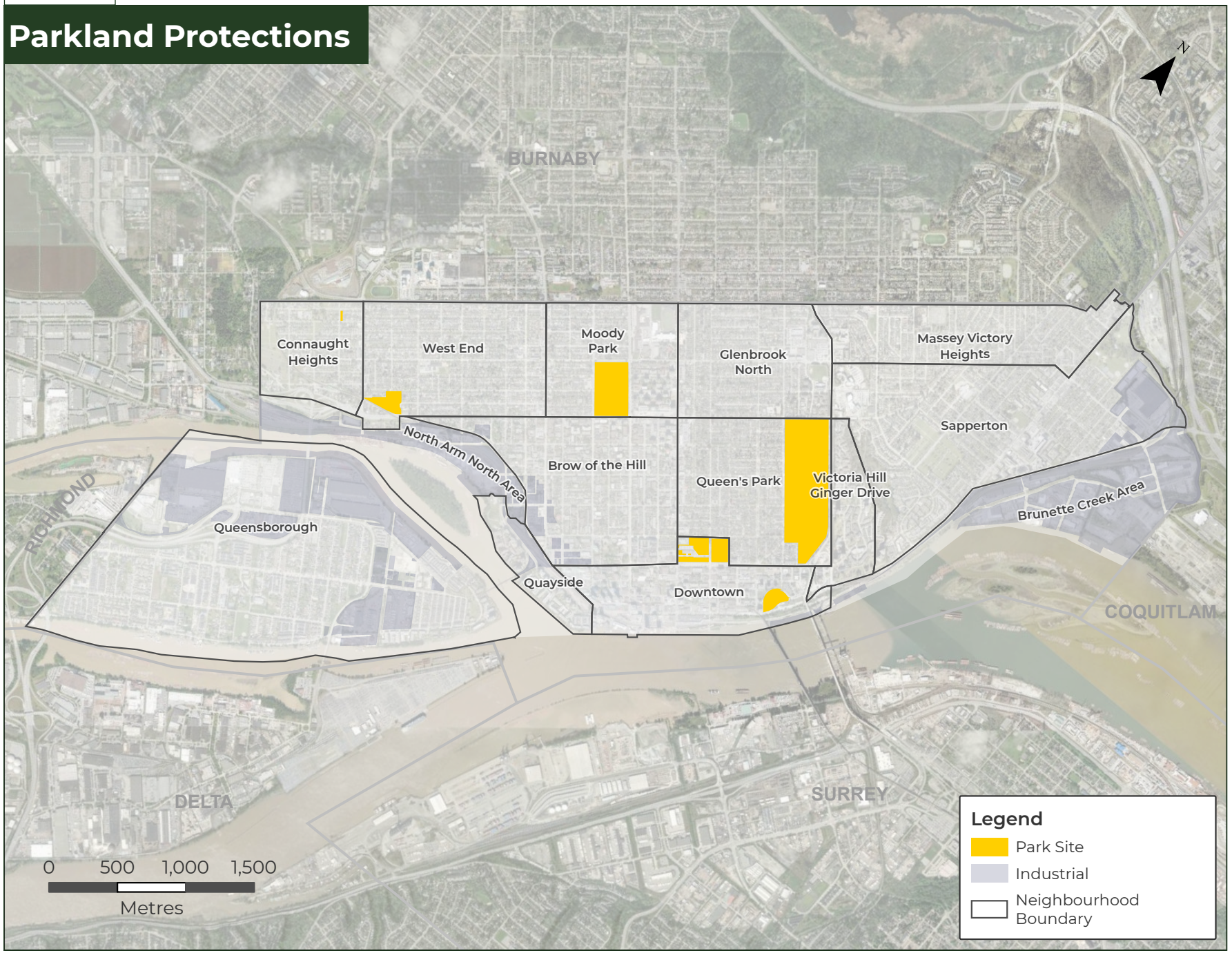
Park Site / Parcel Address	Establishment Mechanism Ref. (per Figure 4.11)
Queen's Park	E (New Westminster Parks Act, 1908 and related amendments)
Moody Park	E (New Westminster Parks Act, 1908 and related amendments)
Tipperary Park (including Friendship Gardens/City Hall grounds)	E (New Westminster Parks Act, 1908 and related amendments)
Albert Crescent Park	E
2038 Ninth Avenue	E (Land Act No. 9071 / 1061)
Grimston Park	D

In addition to these six sites, the Parks and Recreation Department will conduct a comprehensive review of other sites currently managed as park space that were created by subdivision.

Given the pressures on the current supply and distribution of parkland and the challenges the community will face in keeping up with an appropriate supply as the city's population increases, it is vital that the City recognizes the potential vulnerabilities regarding the tenure of its lands used for park purposes and consider implementing additional measures to secure, in perpetuity, both its current and future parklands specifically for park-related uses.

Map 4.15

Parkland Protections



Strengths and Challenges

The following is a summary of the key strengths and challenges of the City's parks and open spaces.

Strengths
The city has a wide range of park types
All portions of the city have access to some parks
The large city parks are important destinations for many activities and community members
The waterfront parks are particularly valued
There is very high community support for acquiring more parkland
School District 40 school sites help support the community's needs for active parkland
Most of the city's parks have appropriate OCP land use designations and some park sites have extraordinary mechanisms in place to further secure the land use for park purposes

Challenges
Multiple residential areas do not have access to active parks within a five-minute walk
The west and downtown districts of the city are particularly low in the supply of parks and open spaces
The city is low in the supply of parks and open spaces compared to other communities, and the supply in relation to population will decrease with the anticipated growth
Not all park and open space lands are owned by the City
School District 40 lands are not within City control and there is currently no formal Joint Use Agreement

4.4 Parkland Needs

More parkland is needed to support New Westminster's growing population and ensure equitable access to recreation. To guide acquisitions, this planning process included evaluation of several metrics, ultimately landing on a dual-target approach that balances local proximity with city-wide service levels.

While the City also explored a "District-Based Active Parkland Target" (1 ha/1,000 residents within each individual district), land limitations and high acquisition costs make this unfeasible. Instead, the department will focus on the following two targets to reach a total combined acquisition goal of **25.5 hectares** based on projected population growth of approximately 25,500 over the next 10 years.

4.4.1 Target 1: Proximity and Equity ("Catch Up")

The priority is to ensure all residents live within a 330-metre (five-minute) barrier-free walk of an active park. Currently, to bridge existing gaps and meet this target, the City requires 13.2 hectares of new parkland (22 parks at an average of 0.6 ha each). This "catch up" acquisition identifies locations that are beyond a five-minute walk from an active park (**Map 4.16** and **Map 4.17**). These locations identify general areas and are not intended to target specific properties or sites.

Map 4.18 identifies priority locations for establishing these new parks. It is an overlay of locations where 1) residents live beyond a five-minute walk of an active park; 2) equity needs are high; and 3) high-density growth is anticipated. Areas are identified as "high relative need" if all three factors apply. Those rated "medium" experience two of these factors, with "low" areas having one.

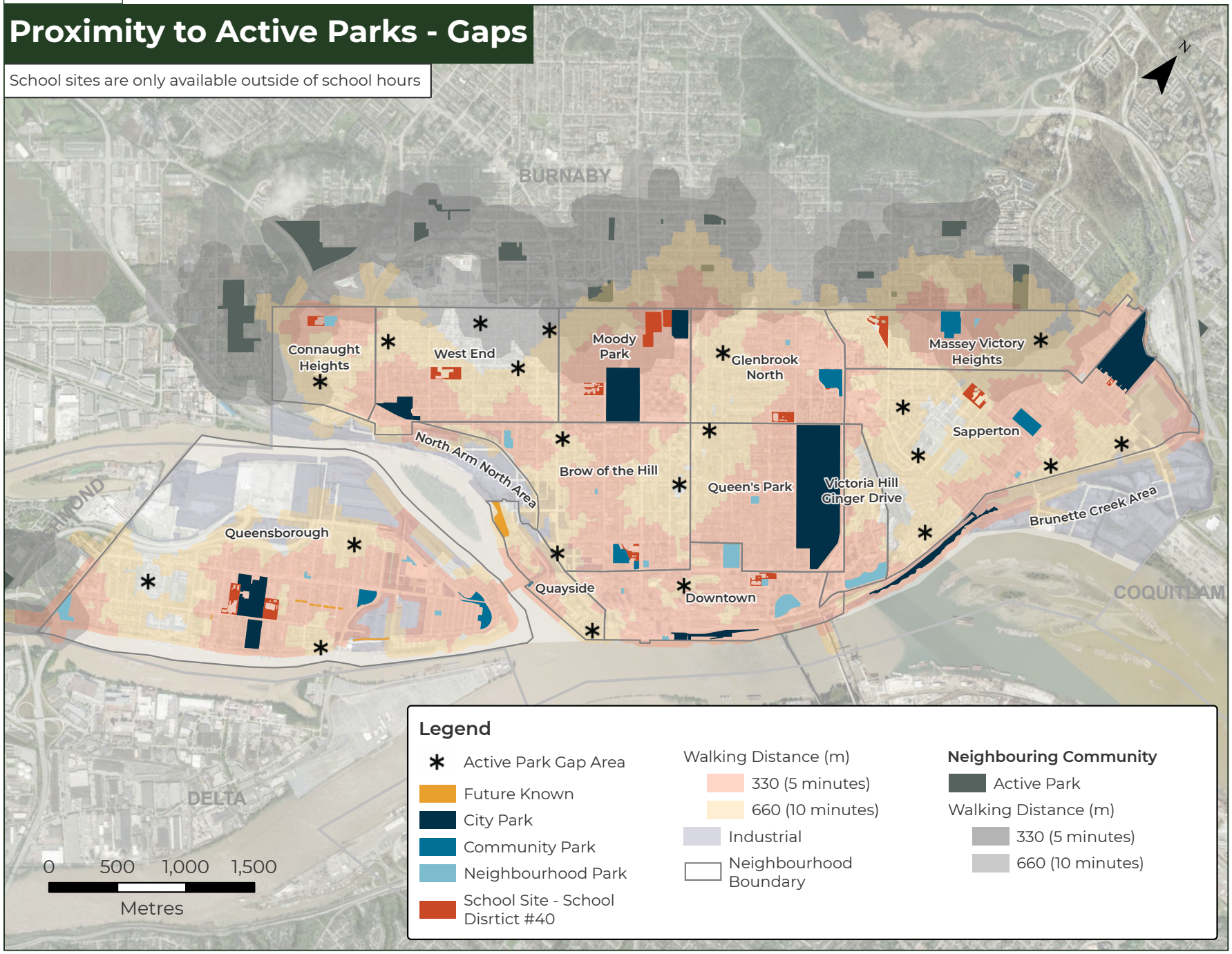
4.4.2 Target 2: Population – Based Supply ("Keeping Up")

To maintain a functional service level as the city grows, the City aims to provide 1 hectare of active parkland per 1,000 residents. Based on 2034 population projections, an additional 12.3 hectares is required to maintain this ratio. Muni Evers Park, 1.55 ha, will be a community park located at the Poplar Landing site in the Quayside neighbourhood; it is jointly owned by Metro Vancouver and the City of New Westminster. Since it has already be acquired as a future active park, an additional 10.75 hectares of land will be required.

Map 4.16

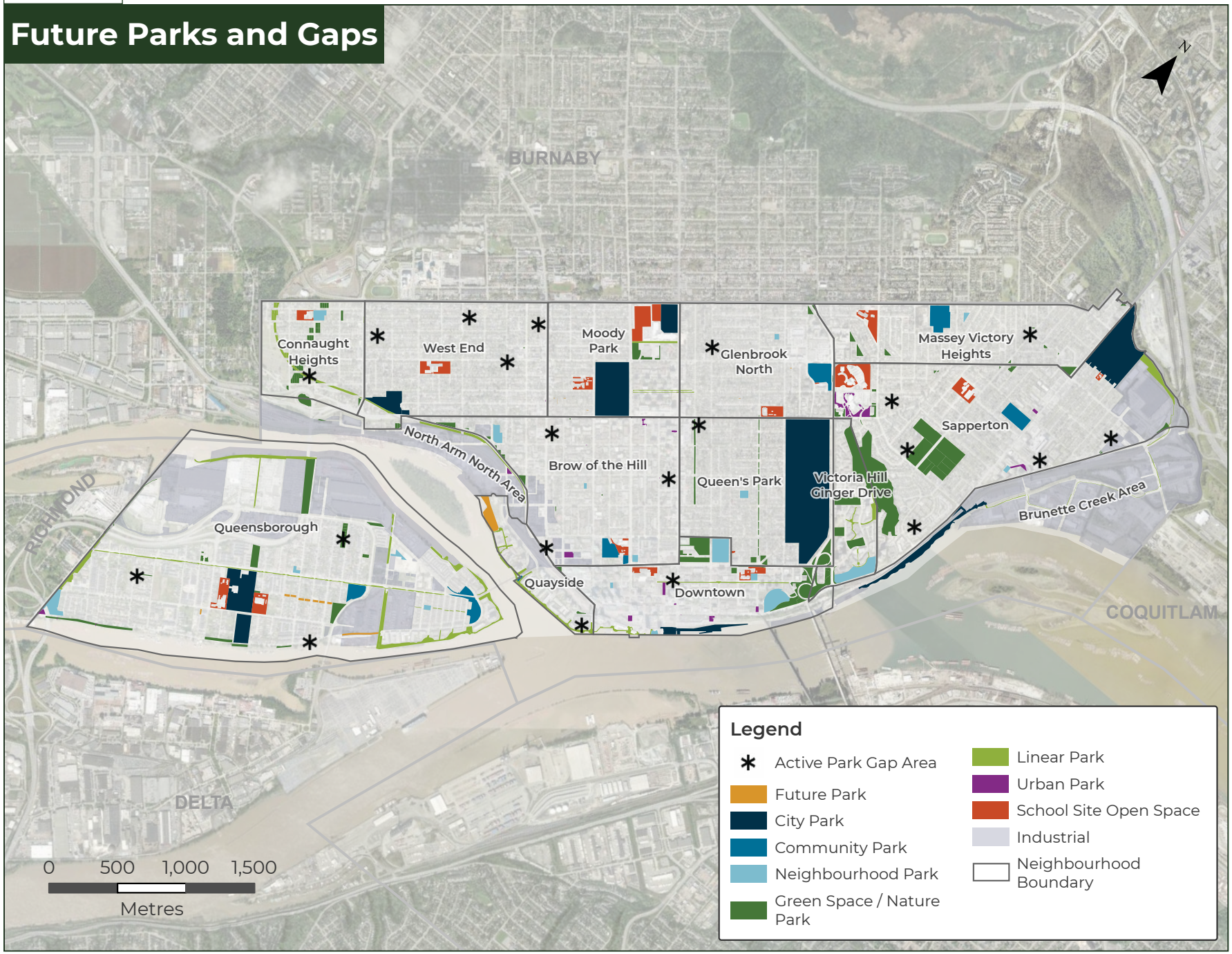
Proximity to Active Parks - Gaps

School sites are only available outside of school hours



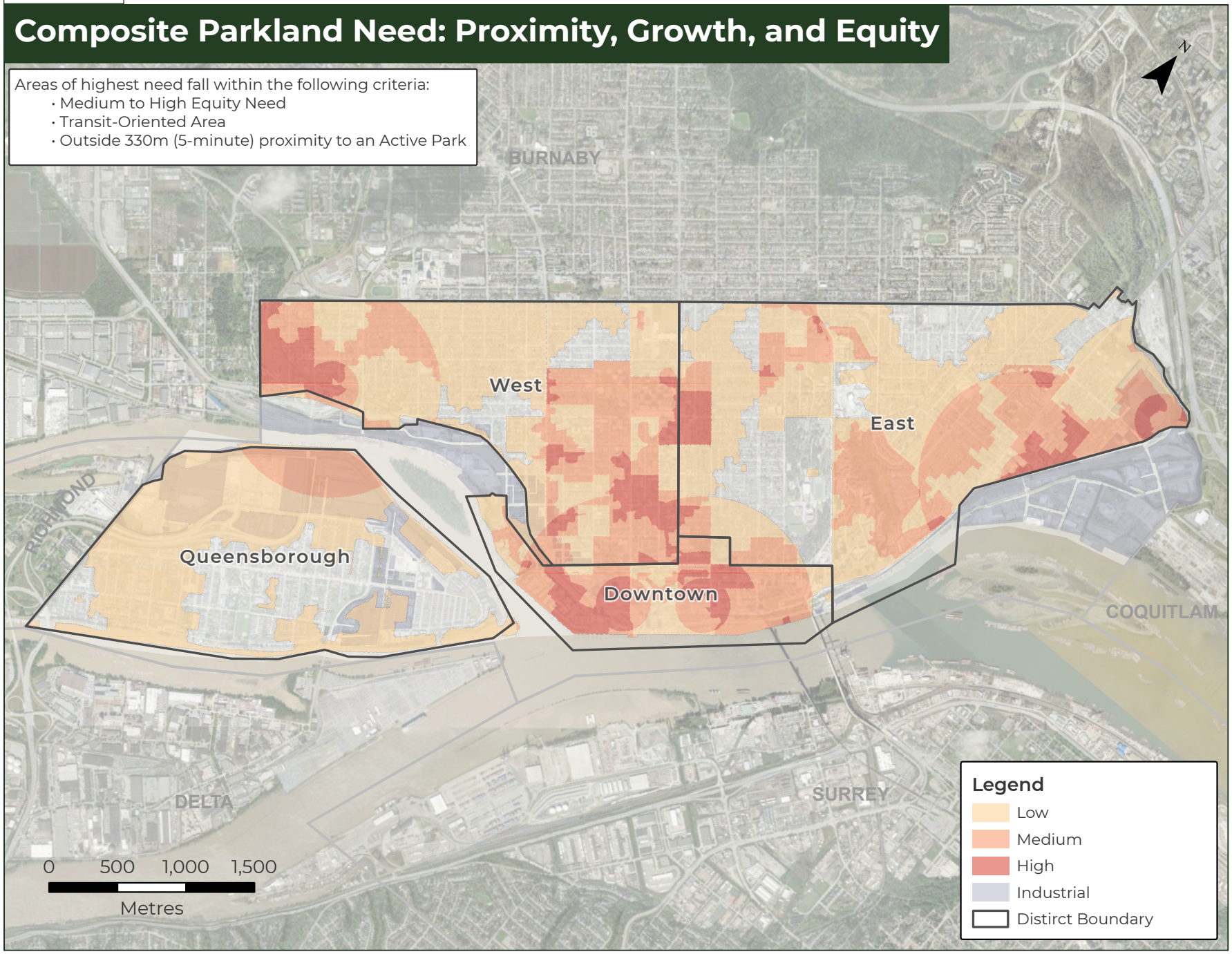
Map 4.17

Future Parks and Gaps



Map 4.18

Composite Parkland Need: Proximity, Growth, and Equity



FOCUS AREA 5

5.0 Connectivity

5.1 Context

As valued public assets, park trails and pathways see high use, confirmed by the high number of residents who use them for recreation and active transportation (90% of respondents report participation in walking/jogging). To support this, New Westminster's pedestrian and cycling infrastructure is designed as a series of enhanced corridors that prioritize accessibility, safety, and comfort.

There is increasing collaboration between the Parks and Recreation and the Engineering and Public Works Departments to integrate park amenities such as benches, increased tree canopy, and fitness equipment. This coordination creates a high-quality environment that supports recreation within active transportation corridors. While the City has completed several major projects optimizing road corridors for safe transit, **People, Parks, and Play** complements this work by focusing on connectivity—specifically, trail and pathway opportunities through and to parks and green spaces. This integrated approach ensures that:

- **Recreation Facilities are Connected:** Residents can safely reach community centres and arenas via non-vehicular routes.
- **Park Trails and Pathways are Integrated:** Natural areas, park pathways, and shoreline trails are linked to the broader city-wide network.
- **Amenities are Accessible:** There are direct paths to a variety of parks to use specific amenities (e.g., playgrounds, picnic areas, community gardens, sport fields, and courts).
- **Promote Active Lifestyles:** Routes are designed specifically for leisure and physical activity, separated from the pace of street traffic (refer to Linear Parks below).

By bridging the gap between street-level infrastructure and park-based trails and pathways, the City is developing a holistic network for movement and health.

5.1.1 Master Transportation Plan (2015)

The Master Transportation Plan was the City's first comprehensive plan that integrated active transportation. It outlines a vision of a multi-modal transportation system and directions that work towards achieving the City's aspirations and community goals. It provides long-term direction that has guided transportation policies, priorities, and investments, including:

- Creating a walkable community that ensures walking is a safe, convenient and universally accessible way to get around the city
- Making cycling a comfortable and attractive way to move throughout the city for people of all ages and abilities
- Providing attractive and convenient transit for trips within the city and region
- Managing local and regional travel through the city, including regional goods movement
- Creating a network of great streets that are vibrant destinations in and of themselves

- Preserving neighbourhood livability by reducing the negative impacts of vehicle traffic through neighbourhood traffic calming while encouraging walking and cycling
- Ensuring supportive programs and policies are in place to encourage walking, cycling, and transit, and to reduce the need to travel by automobile

5.1.2 All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan (2022)

The All Ages and Abilities Active Transportation Network Plan (AAA ATNP) updates the long-term active transportation network plans identified in the City's Master Transportation Plan, Downtown Transportation Plan, Uptown Streetscape Vision, and other overarching planning documents. The plan identifies an updated active transportation network, including a core network that will connect all major destinations, including neighbourhoods, commercial areas, civic facilities, schools, parks, and interregional routes, and a supporting network that provides additional local connections. The plan is based on a rapid implementation approach to expedite the implementation of a city-wide All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Active Transportation Network within the next five years.

Multi-use pathways (MUPs), serving active transportation and outdoor recreation, are a primary feature of the ATNP. The MUPs travel through parks and open spaces, as well as along road corridors. The ATNP looks at MUPs, along with bike lanes, to provide integrated cycling routes.

The City has been implementing the ATNP through the planning and construction of multiple projects:

- Rotary Crosstown Greenway (Fifth Street to Eighth Street)
- Agnes Street Greenway
- Braid Street section of Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway
- North Road improvements as part of Central Valley Greenway
- MUP connections delivered with the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project
- Seventh Street Active Transportation Route (underway in 2025/ 2026)
- Boyd Street Multi-Use Pathway (underway in 2025/ 2026)
- Rotary Crosstown Greenway Improvements, west of Moody Park (underway 2025/ 2026)

5.1.3 Electric Mobility Strategy (2022)

An inventory based on 2016 data found that transportation is responsible for nearly half of New Westminster's community emissions. The City aims to reduce these emissions and improve quality of life with its two transportation-related Bold Steps (car light community and pollution-free vehicles).

This strategy defines a vision for accelerating electric mobility (eMobility) adoption in New Westminster to advance towards these targets. The strategy includes the following ten objectives and tangible actions:

1. Incorporate eMicromobility into city planning and outreach.
2. Advance supportive eMicromobility policies.
3. Enhance e-bike accessibility.
4. Improve access to secure public and private e-bike parking.
5. Improve access to EV charging in public spaces.
6. Improve access to EV charging at home.
7. Improve access to EV charging at work.
8. Support affordability of electric vehicles.
9. Proactively manage electricity grid impacts of EV charging.
10. Successfully implement the eMobility Strategy.

5.1.4 Pathway Classification

People, Parks, and Play proposes a pathway classification system that is complementary with the AAA Active Transportation Network Plan, with a focus on pathways that serve recreation needs, as described below (see **Map 5.1**):

Multi-use Pathway (MUP) – existing and proposed facilities that are physically separated from motor vehicles; can be located within the road right-of-way or within parks and open spaces. They provide sufficient width to be used by people walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation such as in-line skating and jogging (consistent with ATNP, 2022).

Pathway / Trail – other major paths through parks, intended mainly for walking and recreational wheels, that extend through parks or to other destinations (some are mapped as "supporting network" in the ATNP, 2022).

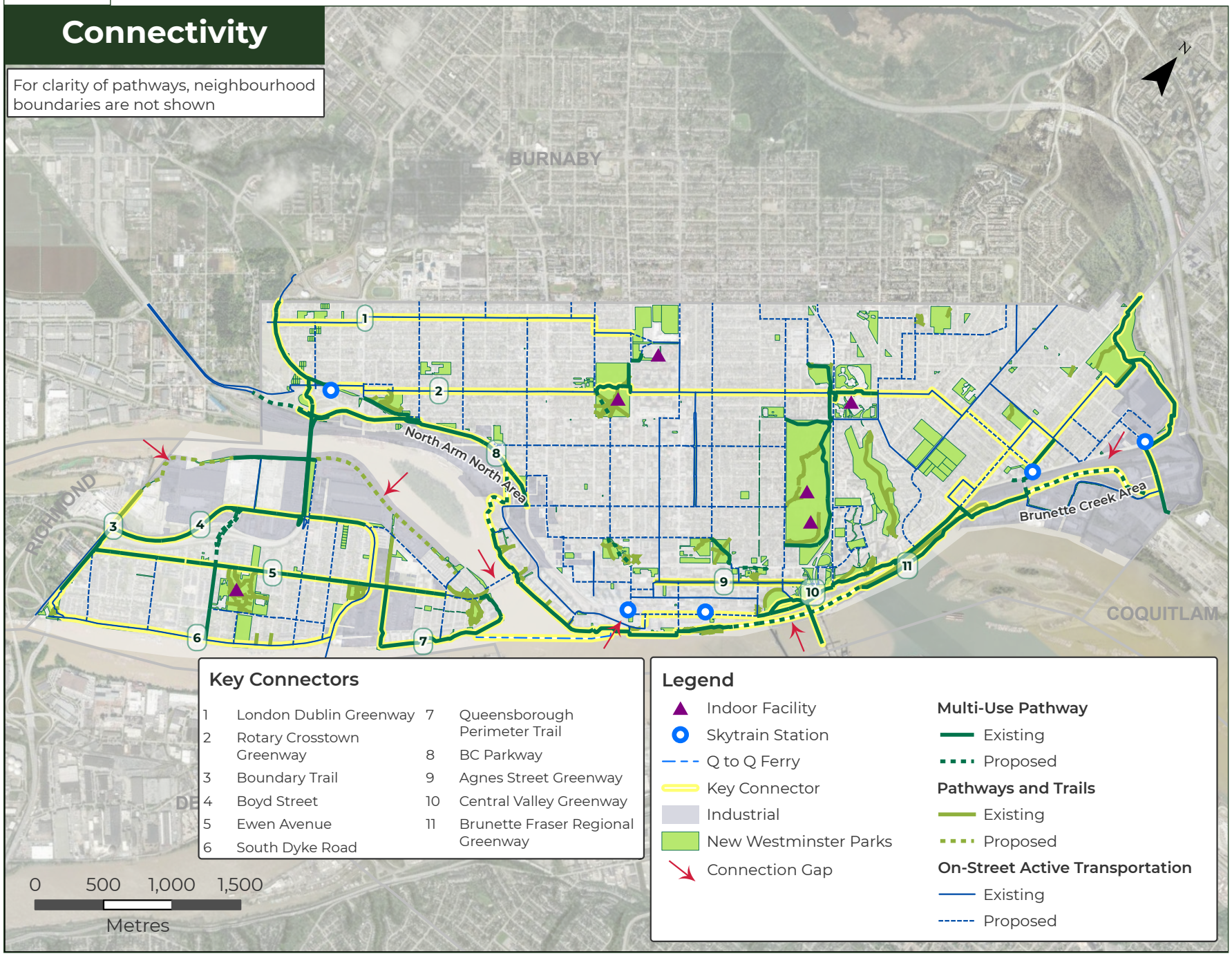
On-Street Active Transportation – protected bicycle lanes and local street bikeways in the ATNP, 2022 (shown for context as this Plan will be connecting to but not planning them).

Key connectors (see Focus Area 4) are also indicated on the map. These are named routes that were part of the City's previous greenways plan. While the term "greenways" is no longer used, some of these routes will continue to be called greenways.

Map 5.1

Connectivity

For clarity of pathways, neighbourhood boundaries are not shown



Key Connectors

1	London Dublin Greenway	7	Queensborough Perimeter Trail
2	Rotary Crosstown Greenway	8	BC Parkway
3	Boundary Trail	9	Agnes Street Greenway
4	Boyd Street	10	Central Valley Greenway
5	Ewen Avenue	11	Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway
6	South Dyke Road		

Legend

- Indoor Facility
- Skytrain Station
- Q to Q Ferry
- Key Connector
- Industrial
- New Westminster Parks
- Connection Gap

Multi-Use Pathway
- Existing
- Proposed

Pathways and Trails
- Existing
- Proposed

On-Street Active Transportation
- Existing
- Proposed

5.2 Analysis

5.2.1 Distribution

Despite the broad vision and high use, a significant gap exists between the pathway network and the lived experience of residents. Public feedback consistently highlights that the current system feels more like a collection of valuable but disconnected segments rather than a seamless, city-wide network.

Map 5.1 illustrates the locations where key connectors and multi-use pathways provide connections through the city. The best connected areas to date include portions of the waterfront, the connections in Queens Park, and some routes through Queensborough. Even on these routes, there are key gaps.

Key opportunities to address the gaps include improving network connectivity to parks, recreation centres, and the riverfront, and enhancing the user experience. Achieving this vision will require ongoing collaboration with the Engineering and Public Works department to ensure a unified approach that seamlessly integrates park and pathway planning with the broader active transportation network.

The following are the priorities for improving pathway connections (indicated by arrows on **Map 5.1**):

- **Riverfront –** complete missing links from Sapperton Landing Park to the future Muni Evers Park.
- **Queensborough Perimeter Trail –** complete missing links especially in northwest and northeast.
- **Bridge –** improve the connection for pedestrians and cyclists between the mainland and Queensborough.
- **Hyack Square –** upgrade the pedestrian overpass.

5.2.2 Analysis Summary

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of connectivity, trails, and pathways.

Strengths
High community satisfaction with key existing trails, especially in Queen's Park
Multi-use pathways are well used by pedestrians and other active transportation modes
Pathways provide residents access to natural areas, wildlife, and riverfront experiences
Recent pathway projects integrate trees, social spaces, and recreation amenities

Challenges
Connectivity lacking, e.g., access to and along the waterfront pathways are not all connected with each other
Many of the greenways have bike infrastructure but no multi-use pathway
Safety on pathways related to pedestrians and higher speed eMobility devices
Due to the lack of provincial regulation, enforcement of micromobility modes is challenging

FOCUS AREA 6

Park Amenities and Facilities

6.1 Context

This section discusses the City's outdoor facilities and amenities that include the following:

- Outdoor recreation amenities are features in parks and along trails such as playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, courts, sports fields, and seating
- Outdoor facilities are major structures such as stadiums, field houses, washrooms, bandshells, pavilions, and amphitheatres

The findings below represent a synthesis of Phase 1 engagement. These key takeaways reflect the diverse voices heard through Indigenous sessions, youth outreach, technical workshops, and public surveys (Appendix A: What We Heard).

6.1.1 Park Plans and Park Asset Inventory

The location and design of amenities in parks in New Westminster have historically been guided by various planning efforts, including neighbourhood public realm guidelines, master plans for specific parks, and the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (2008). Several strategies and master plans are underway or have been recently completed, and they are in various stages of implementation:

- Westminster Pier Park Master Plan
- Queen's Park Master Plan and Farm Transition Master Plan
- Riverfront Park Master Plan
- Hume Park Master Plan
- People, Parks and Pups Strategy
- Downtown Building and Public Realm Design Guidelines and Master Plan
- Grimston Park Master Plan (underway)
- Simcoe and Toronto Place Park Master Plan (underway)

The City is committed to best practices in the planning and development of its parks amenities and facilities. This comprehensive approach includes:

1. Collecting relevant background information (e.g., site reports and data on environmental, cultural, and physical considerations, site history);
2. Conducting a site analysis of existing physical and experiential conditions including surrounding influences (existing and anticipated); and
3. Facilitating community engagement, with scope tailored to the level of park (city parks have the highest level of engagement, followed by community and neighbourhood parks, in that order.

The City maintains an asset inventory of its park amenities, and evaluates the condition of these every few years (Appendix B.**1**).

What We Heard

Engagement feedback revealed strong public interest in park planning. Participants were eager to provide input on processes for major parks and facilities, as well as for smaller projects within their own neighbourhoods, and expressed appreciation for the engagement opportunities as part of **People, Parks, and Play**.

Analysis

Only four of the eight city and community parks have guiding master plans in place, and two additional plans are underway. These plans are important tools as they provide a long-term vision that allows for strategic, phased improvements as funding becomes available. In a land-constrained city like New Westminster, this forward-thinking approach is essential to maximize the use of parkland and deliver the greatest community benefit. As the population grows, preparing plans for all existing and future city and community parks will be a key priority.

There are also opportunities to leverage innovative planning tools, such as the Downtown Building and Public Realm Design Guidelines, to successfully integrate parks and recreation space into dense areas of the city with limited available lands. This requires developing broader public realm guidelines to ensure park functions and design are seamlessly integrated into the urban fabric of all neighbourhoods, including reallocation of space within street rights-of-way.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's park amenities and facilities.

Strengths
Guiding plans are already in place or underway, for six of the City's major parks, ensuring new and renewed amenities, and potential expansion areas, are guided by a clear, long-term vision supported by the community.
A consistent practice of renewing park assets as they reach their end of life ensures that parks remain safe and well maintained.
A specific plan for integrating urban parks into the downtown neighbourhood demonstrates innovative approaches to creating recreational space in dense, land-constrained areas.
A dedicated strategy (People, Parks and Pups) provides a clear framework for integrating dog off-leash areas into the park system.

Challenges
The absence of guiding plans for remaining city or community parks makes it difficult to strategically prioritize investments, identify and pursue expansion opportunities, and maximize community value.
The city's audit process for park amenities needs improvement to proactively evaluate their condition, monitor use, and ensure they are meeting evolving community needs.
Current public realm planning tools are not broad enough to ensure park functions and design are integrated into the urban fabric of all neighbourhoods, including street rights-of-ways.

6.2 Play Features

6.2.1 Playgrounds

Context

New Westminster has 23 playgrounds in parks, each offering a variety of play features designed to serve children of multiple ages and abilities. A key strength is the provision of age-appropriate design, with popular destinations like Moody Park that has diverse offerings encouraging unstructured play for all age groups. Other sites, such as Ryall Park, provide distinct, separate play areas for toddlers and school-age children. A key strength of the system is the synergy between parks and schools; many City-owned playgrounds are located adjacent to schools and serve as play spaces for students. Notable examples of this shared use include Terry Hughes Park, Saint Mary's Park, Connaught Heights Park, Simcoe Park, and Ryall Park. This shared-use model also presents a challenge with heavy use of these playgrounds resulting in a higher level of wear and increased maintenance requirements. This demand is expected to grow as more urban schools within New Westminster rely on public park spaces for outdoor recreation for students.

The playgrounds are replaced on a cycle based on their condition. At the time of preparing this plan, most were in good or very good condition and the City continues to upgrade playgrounds as needed.

Trends in playgrounds are based on increasing creativity, inclusivity, and interest. Features include interactive, collaborative play environments and equipment, enabling children to experience more nature in parks, offering opportunities to build skills through unstructured play (e.g., playful features in public spaces), and providing a range of options from traditional metal play equipment to natural wooden features for all ages and abilities.

Residents place a high value on having access to natural environments within the city for sport, play, and relaxation. In areas where natural settings are not close by, this need can be met by incorporating natural features like boulders, logs, trees, and meadows into playgrounds and park settings. The City has installed natural log playgrounds at Sapperton Park and Quayside Park to support natural play environments. However, these playgrounds have challenges with accelerated log decomposition leading to shorter lifespans and higher maintenance costs compared to traditional metal and plastic playgrounds.

An important design consideration for maximizing community benefit is the strategic co-location of playgrounds with other park amenities. This involves locating playgrounds close to amenities like sport fields and courts, outdoor fitness stations,and seating and gathering areas that provide comfort for caregivers. This approach allows parents and guardians to more effectively and comfortably supervise children engaged in a variety of activities.

Playgrounds are more than just play spaces - they offer social settings for children and their caregivers. In line with other child-friendly cities, New Westminster strives to provide play opportunities within a five-to-ten-minute walk of all residents.

As outdoor public space becomes more limited with a growing population, achieving this goal requires looking beyond traditional playgrounds in parks. The future of urban recreation in New Westminster involves expanding play opportunities to include play amenities and playful features within urban spaces. This approach embeds opportunities for play and discovery in daily life by transforming streetscapes, plazas, pocket parks, and linear parks. By embracing this broader definition of play, the city will become a more vibrant, accessible, and child-friendly community.

What We Heard

Use of Playgrounds: 42% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with Playgrounds: 38% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with Playgrounds: 11% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Playgrounds are important community gathering spaces
- Would like more playgrounds
- People like a variety of play equipment, with engaging and natural play features
- Include features for children of all ages and abilities
- Improve playgrounds – equipment, enclosures, shade, large slides, swings, seating and washrooms nearby
- Upgrades needed on Moody Park playground, especially the concrete slide
- Add signage for dogs to be on leash near playgrounds

Analysis

Figure 6.1: Playground Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Playgrounds	167	82	55	18	37	23	0.288	0.249	**Comparable**

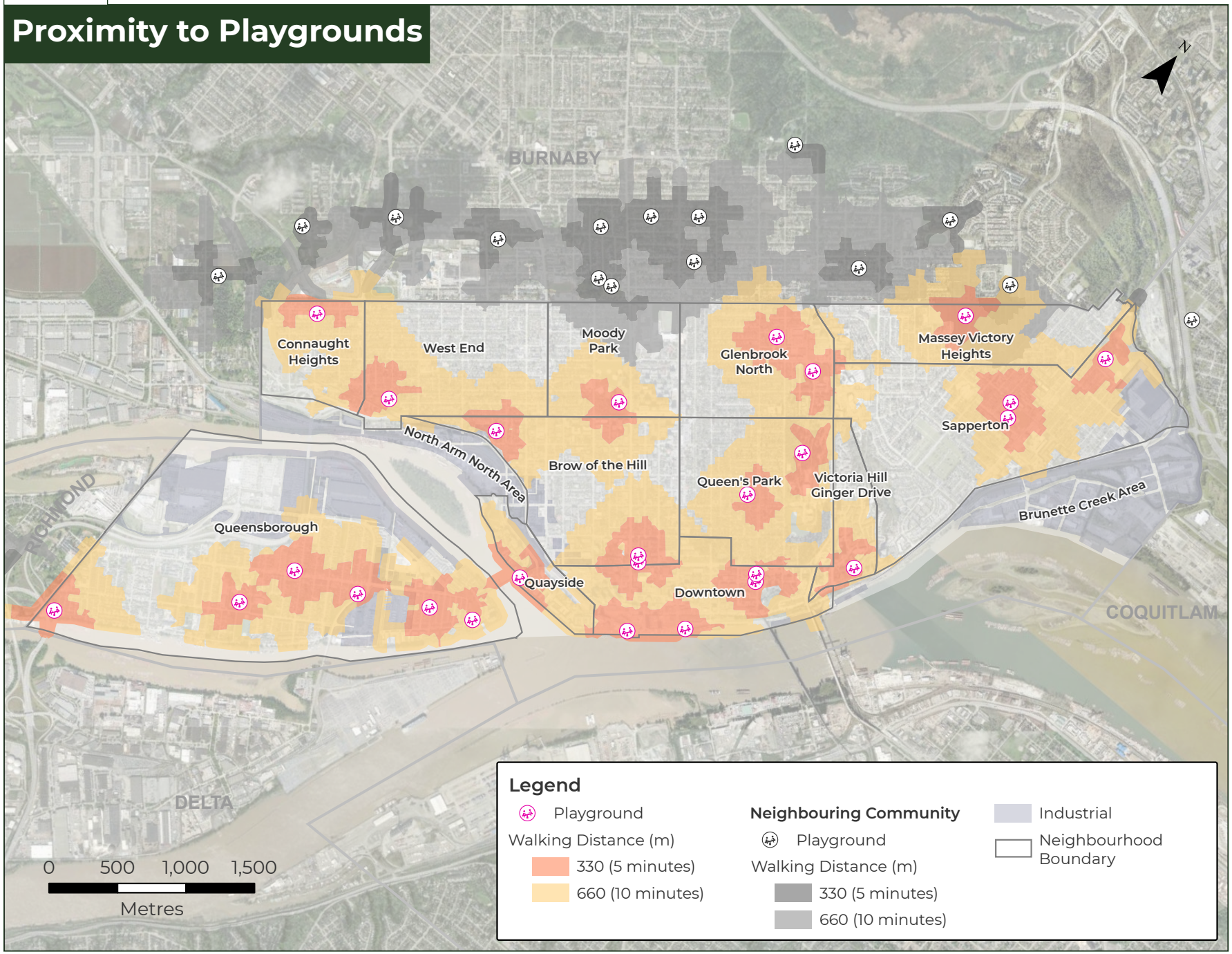
Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Map 6.1 illustrates the distribution of playgrounds. There are areas in most neighbourhoods that do not have a playground within a 10-minute walk.

Map 6.1

Proximity to Playgrounds



Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's playgrounds.

Strengths
Playgrounds and play features are well-distributed across many neighbourhoods
Supply of playgrounds is comparable to that of similar communities
Playgrounds serve as important community hubs that foster social connection
Investments in new playgrounds have proven successful and are popular with the community
Shared-use of playgrounds adjacent to school sites provides play opportunities to both students and the broader community, and reduces resource duplication

Challenges
Gaps in access remain, with some residents lacking play opportunities within a short walk
Some existing playgrounds need enhancements including better accessibility, more creative designs, and a greater diversity of play experiences
The supply of play opportunities will need to expand to meet the needs of a growing population
Funding will need to be secured to upgrade older, less engaging play spaces across the city
Shared-use of these areas results in high utilization and accelerated wear and tear, with increased maintenance costs to the City

6.2.2 All Wheel Parks

Context

There are three all-wheel parks in New Westminster. Two accommodate all ages, abilities, and wheel types, from beginner to expert. The New West Skatepark in Queen's Park, designed with input from the local skateboarding community, includes a large bowl, peanut style bowl, and "street style" elements, with zones for different levels of ability from beginner to expert.
The Boro All Wheel Park in Ryall Park is popular with skateboarders and BMXers and includes quarter pipes, banks and extensions with enough space for all skill levels. There is also a bike skills park in Queen's Park integrated into a forested area. It is a purpose-built bike park with seven features and split-rail fencing to protect the adjoining forest restoration area; this bike skills park requires surface upgrading.

Parks for wheeled devices have seen a significant evolution in recent years, diversifying from simple dirt mounds into a sophisticated range of facilities. These include specialized bike parks and pump tracks, various styles of skateparks (street, flow, vert), and the newer, inclusive all wheel parks that cater to skateboarders, scooters and bikes. These spaces have become standard and expected community amenities, serving as important family-friendly hubs that foster a sense of community and user stewardship.

Dedicating large parcels of land for a single purpose is a significant challenge in New Westminster. To meet growing demand, one approach is to integrate smaller, more flexible skate spots directly into urban spaces instead of relying on large, destination all wheel parks. This strategy can support a network of accessible opportunities for skill-building and recreation in otherwise underutilized spaces.

A good example is the skate spot under the downtown parkade at the Fourth Street Stairs. This innovative use of existing infrastructure provides a covered, lit area for skateboarding. This model can be applied elsewhere by incorporating features like grind rails along planters or stairs, manual pads and ledges in public plazas, and small ramps and quarter pipes at the edge of a park.

What We Heard

Use of skateparks: 10% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with skateparks: 25% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with skateparks: 2% of survey respondents

Use of bike park: 10% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with bike park: 17% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with bike parks: 8% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- There is high satisfaction with the city's skateparks
- Youth are particularly interested in using skateparks
- There is high use of skateparks and a demand for more
- Request for more lighting at skateparks for night use and safety
- Older youth are particularly interested in using bike parks
- Bike park in Queen's Park is an asset
- Would like a bike pump track

Analysis

Figure 6.2: All Wheel Park Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Skate parks / all-wheel parks	10	4	8	6	2	3	0.036	0.032	**Comparable**

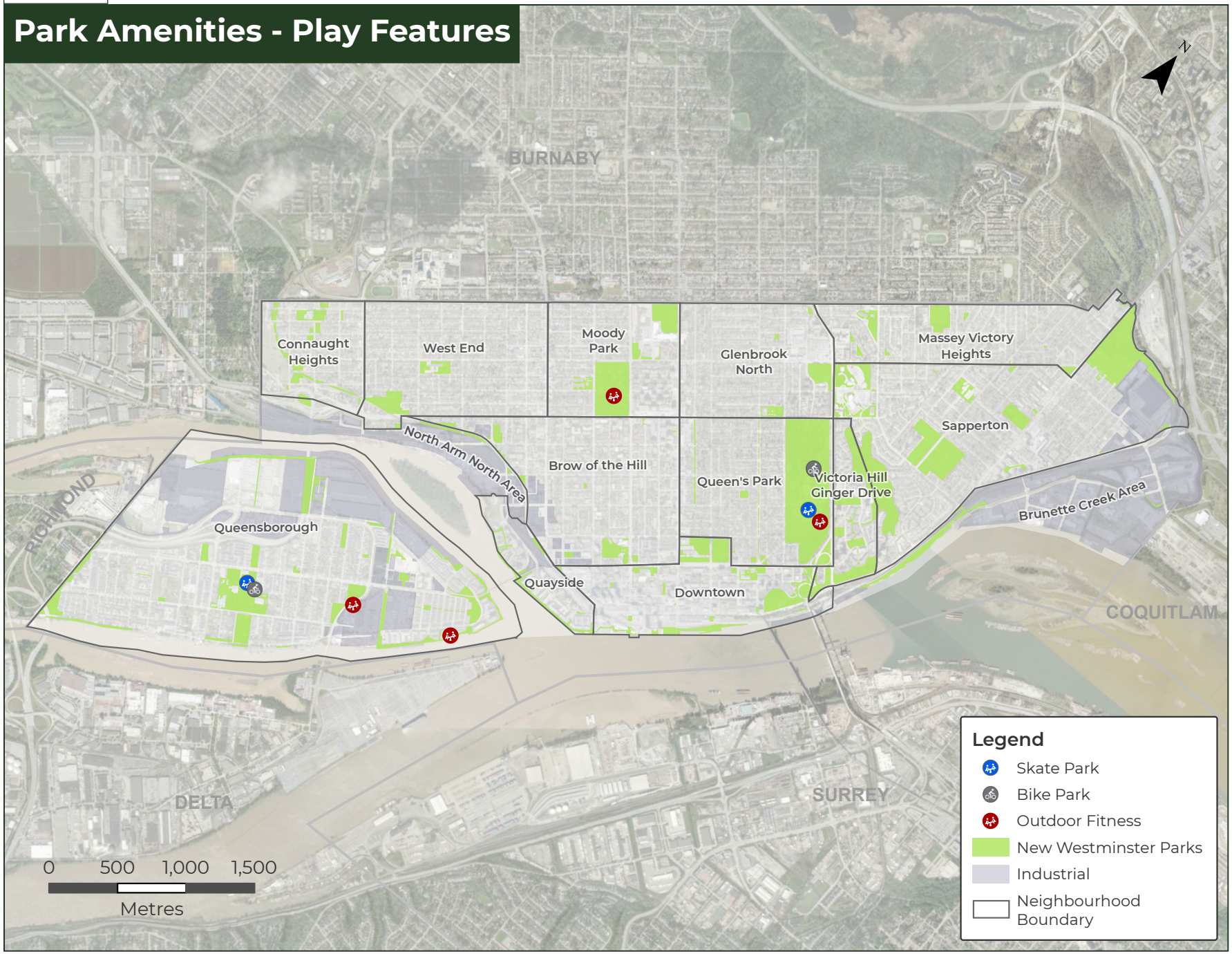
Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The city's all-wheel amenities are well-distributed (**Map 6.2**).

Map 6.2

Park Amenities - Play Features



Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's all wheel parks.

Strengths
All wheel parks are highly valued, serving as important social and recreational hubs for youth and families
The city has two existing all-wheel parks, each with its own unique features
The inclusive deign of all- wheel parks appeals to diverse users including families, youth, and adults
Successful utilization of urban spaces (i.e., under the parkade) provides purpose-designed skate spots. This approach can mitigate damage and disruption from unauthorized skating in the public realm.

Challenges
There is need for more all wheel parks, including some with weather protection to extend usability
There is specific, unmet demand from the community for new wheel sport facilities, most notably for a pump track
Providing lighting to extend the hours of all wheel parks is an operational challenge, constrained by high costs, available power supply, and impacts on residential areas

6.2.3 Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Existing Situation

There are five outdoor fitness areas in New Westminster, some of which have multiple pieces of equipment. One is located at Old Schoolhouse Park in Queensborough, and three are along the Komagata Maru. These are well used and benefit from an adjacent path where people enjoy walking for exercise. There are also fitness circuits in Queen's Park, Moody Park, and the westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park. The city aims to increase the supply of these amenities to actively encourage time outdoors, health, and wellness, making it convenient for residents to exercise. This equipment is benefits all residents as it is free, accessible, and often located on people's existing route while walking, jogging or cycling.

Outdoor fitness equipment has been installed by many communities with varying levels of success. It does not always receive high use, and some equipment is not suitable for all body types, abilities, and fitness levels. New Westminster installs features for all abilities, including those with mobility challenges. Outdoor exercise equipment is most successful in locations with many people, e.g., in or near larger playgrounds, near community centres, or along linear parks, trails and pathways.

What We Heard

Participation in Outdoor Exercise Equipment: 18% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with Outdoor Exercise Equipment: 18% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with Outdoor Exercise Equipment: 12% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Public washrooms, waste receptacles, parking, water fountains, and seating make outdoor fitness more attractive
- Desire for more fitness stations at parks for inclusive access to fitness equipment
- Interest in more covered outdoor exercise facilities

Analysis

Distribution

The five locations with outdoor fitness amenities are well distributed (**Map 6.2**).

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's outdoor fitness equipment.

Strengths
City has outdoor fitness equipment in five locations
Some residents report significant use of the equipment
Residents appreciate the outdoor fitness equipment

Challenges
Desire for more fitness stations at parks, along trails, under cover, and near infrastructure
Balancing a selection of outdoor fitness equipment that serves all ages and abilities

6.3 Field Sports

The sports fields in New Westminster are used primarily for soccer, football, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. Ultimate frisbee and rugby are also played. Most city and community parks have sports fields, with some smaller fields in neighbourhood parks (**Map 6.3**).

6.3.1 Sports Fields

This section focuses on rectangular sports fields, with ball diamonds addressed below. New Westminster has multiple locations where rectangular fields and ball diamonds overlap, on grass and artificial turf fields.

Context

The City has 16 grass sports fields, and two lit artificial turf fields, the latter of which support high levels of use (**Map 6.3**). The Queen's Park artificial turf is due for replacement, and the Mercer Stadium artificial turf was installed in 2016 and has an 8-to-10-year lifespan on the surface, so it will also need to be replaced soon. Some of the grass fields are in poor or fair condition. There is limited spectator seating at many of the fields.

Most of the fields are on City property, but some portions of the fields are on School District land. All of the fields in the inventory are booked by the City for community use.

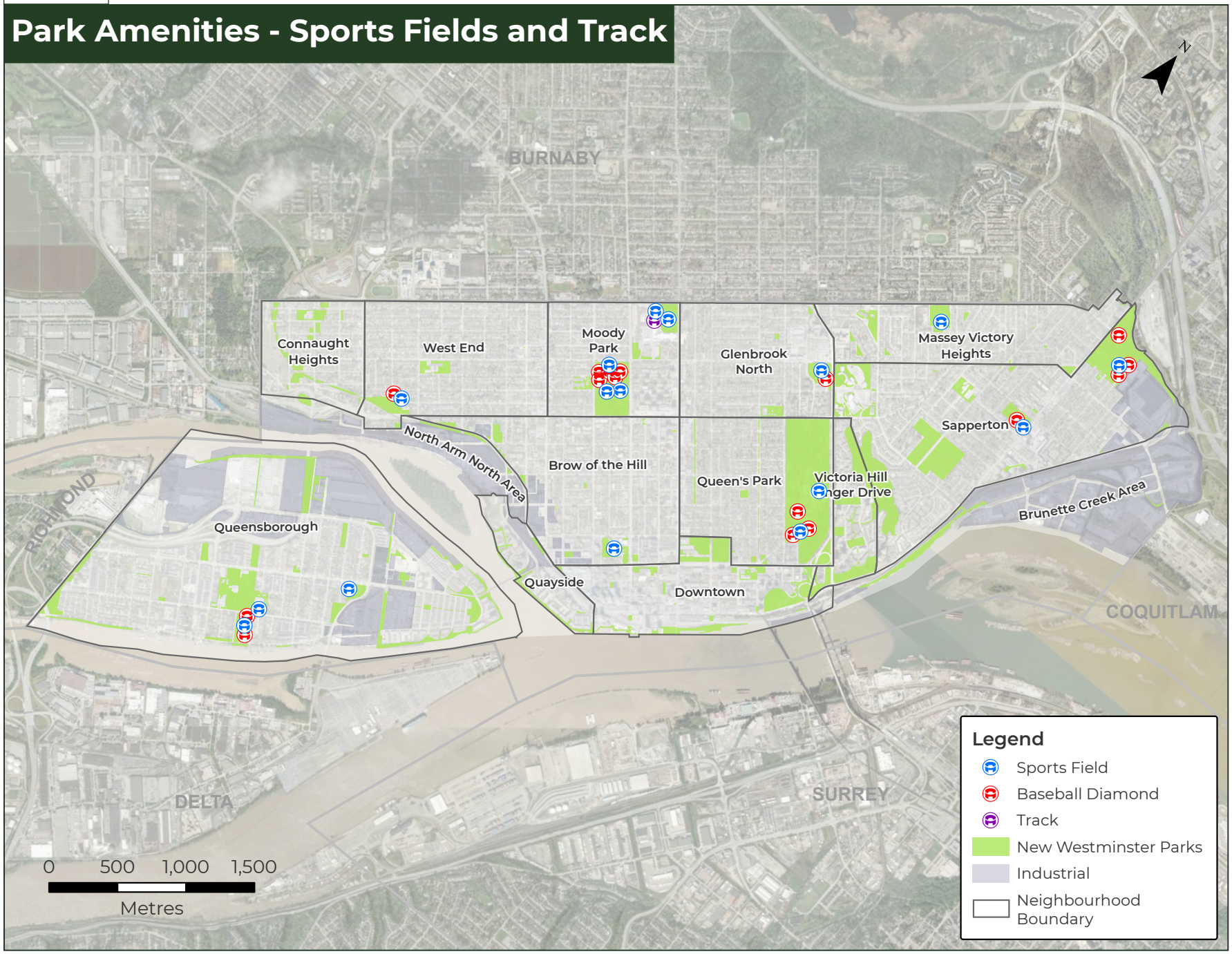
In dense communities, lit artificial turf fields are a key asset for meeting the high demand for field sports. Given that sports fields consume a large amount of land, which is costly and a limited resource in New Westminster, maximizing land utilization is vital. As the population grows, the use of existing fields will intensify, driving the need to look at year-round use to maximize the limited land available. Planning for additional artificial turf fields are one part of the solution.

Unlike natural grass fields, which require rest periods and are often unusable in wet weather, artificial turf fields can accommodate significantly more play, extending recreational opportunities year-round and into the evening.

While artificial turf fields provide immense recreation benefits, they can also create impacts for surrounding residents and the local environment. However, newer technology is emerging that utilizes alternative fill materials, offering reduced environmental impacts and improved player safety. For this reason, the City undertakes a thorough site selection and analysis process before any new artificial turf field is installed. This due diligence includes a review of impacts such as noise, light spill, increased parking demand, and drainage - alongside a public engagement process - to ensure the location and site are suitable and that neighbourhood impacts are appropriately mitigated. A feasibility study, supported by the neighbourhood consultation, is currently underway for the city's third artificial turf field in Ryall Park in Queensborough.

Map 6.3

Park Amenities - Sports Fields and Track



What We Heard

Use of sports fields: 35% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with natural grass sports fields: 25% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with Natural grass sports fields 13% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with artificial turf sports fields: 18% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with artificial turf sports fields: 20% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with seating areas at fields/courts: 20% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with seating areas at fields/courts: 18% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- High demand and insufficient supply of sports fields
- Need more fields with lighting
- More changing rooms and washrooms at fields
- Would like more artificial turf fields
- Need more sheltered spectator seating
- Fields are generally clean, varying opinions on maintenance
- Varying perspectives on costs to rent fields
- Lacking a sports field in Queensborough that is playable in all seasons

Analysis

Figure 6.3: Sports Field Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Fields – artificial turf	13	9	7	4	1	2	0.0031	0.022	**Low**
Fields – rectangular grass	14	54	39	12	26	13	0.205	0.141	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Sports fields are well distributed throughout the city (**Map 6.3**).

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's sports fields.

Strengths
The City's sports fields are well distributed across most neighbourhoods, providing broad geographic access for residents
Key fields within the system are maintained to a good standard, supporting regular community play
High-capacity artificial turf fields are a key asset, allowing for intensive, year-round use that is essential in a dense city
The City is proactively undertaking a feasibility study for a third ATF in Ryall Park to meet demands
The City conducts a through analysis for new ATFs, including impact mitigation and newer technology

Challenges
The overall supply of fields is low compared to demand and best practices, compounded by a growing population and significant land constraints that limit space for new fields
Many fields lack amenities, including sufficient lighting, spectator seating and a need for storage, and washrooms/ changing rooms
Specific areas like Queensborough face a shortage of fields that are adequate in both quality and size
Overlapping layouts of sports fields and ball diamonds can create user conflicts and limit playable hours, hindering efforts to maximize limited land

6.3.2 Ball Diamonds

Context

The City of New Westminster has 16 baseball diamonds in seven different parks. Some of the ball diamonds are standalone and others overlap rectangular sports fields (**Appendix B.1**, **Map 6.3**, and **Figure 6.4**).

Moody Park is home to five ball diamonds that are very well used for tournaments. Softball (including slopitch) and baseball are the key sports, and they sometimes are played on the artificial turf field at Queen's Park. The condition of the baseball diamonds varies from fair to very good. There is concern from user groups that there are not enough ball diamonds and that some do not have washrooms, change rooms, and storage facilities.

Figure 6.4: Baseball Diamonds

Amenity	Location	No. per Location	Condition Summary
Baseball Diamond (Grass)	Moody Park	5	Good
	Queen's Park	3	Very Good
	Sapperton Park	1	Very Good
	Hume Park (lower)	1	Good
	Hume Park (upper)	2	Good
	Ryall Park	2	Good
	Terry Hughes Park	1	Very Good
	Grimston Park	1	Very Good
Total		**16**	

Most municipalities work to satisfy needs for ball diamonds through a variety of sizes and quality of diamonds, with grouping of multiple diamonds to support tournaments. Ball diamonds are usually on grass. Baseball is typically played during a short spring season; softball is played throughout the spring, summer, and early fall.

What We Heard

Participation on ball diamonds: 15% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with ball diamonds: 22% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with ball diamonds: 6% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- There is high use of baseball diamonds during the season of play
- Respondents indicate a need for more ball diamonds, especially full-size ball diamonds and for players aged 12-15
- There are not enough washrooms, change rooms, and storage facilities near ball diamonds
- Users would like more upkeep and maintenance of ball diamonds and dugouts
- People appreciate covered ball dugouts, desire expressed to expand dugouts at Queen's Park diamond 2

Analysis

Figure 6.5: Ball Diamond Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Ball diamond	119	60	34	3	31	16	0.180	0.173	**Comparable**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Ball diamonds are well distributed throughout the city.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's ball diamonds.

Strengths
Supply of ball diamonds is equivalent to comparable communities
Tournament facilities exist

Challenges
More ball diamonds will be needed with population growth
Storage space, change rooms, and washrooms are insufficient in some locations

6.3.3 Athletic Tracks, Trails, and Pathways

Context

Mercer Stadium, located adjacent to New Westminster Secondary School, is the City's premier facility for track and field. It serves as a vital hub for a wide range of users, including students from the high school for physical education and team training, three community track and field clubs, two of which are elite-level, and the general public, who have regular access for walking and running. The facility features a synthetic, eight-lane, 400-metre regulation track integrated with an artificial turf infield, spectator seating, and public washrooms. This shared-use model among the City, School District, and community groups makes Mercer Stadium a critical and highly valued recreational facility.

Beyond the specialized track at Mercer Stadium, the city's parks contain a network of established pathways, trails, and informal circuits that offer recreational opportunities for easy walking, jogging, and biking within natural or green space settings, free from vehicular traffic.

These pathways, while sometimes serving as connections or part of the City's Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP), offer a dual purpose for recreational exercise. Key examples of recreational routes include:

- The Millennium Trail within Queen's Park
- Informal walking trails through forested areas of Queen's Park, Glenbrook Ravine, and Hume Park
- The Waterfront Esplanade in the downtown area
- The Queensborough Perimeter Trail in Queensborough
- The BC Parkway, Crosstown Greenway, and Central Valley Greenway connect the city from east to west, with specific segments within parks that also serve as recreational exercise routes.

Track and Pathway Practices

Synthetic tracks are now a best practice, as paved tracks are hard on human joints, and granular tracks are challenging to maintain for sports. It is common to build synthetic tracks around lit artificial turf fields. This provides a quality experience and allows for much more use than paved or unlit granular tracks.

Less formal recreational walking circuits in parks also serve a large portion of the community. These can vary in shape and length to fit within available spaces, and they can provide opportunities for the community and for family members who accompany those participating in sports activities.

This recreational walking circuit model is an excellent fit for New Westminster's land-constrained dense environment.

These circuits offer flexibility in design; they can be flat or incorporate climbing slopes, providing a variety of options for different types of users and fitness levels. They can also be lit for safety and evening use, and can have fitness stations integrated along their route, increasing their value as comprehensive, accessible health and wellness amenities.

What We Heard

Satisfaction with track: 20% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with track: 11% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- People in Queensborough would like access to a track or walking circuit

Analysis

Figure 6.6: Track Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Tracks	7	3	2	2	2	1	0.016	0.011	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The track is central to the mainland portion of New Westminster. Currently, residents of Queensborough do not have access to a track, which is of interest to that community for recreational walking and jogging.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's athletic track, trail, and pathway facilities.

Strengths
The City's one regulation track at Mercer Stadium is a high-quality, premier facility that serves the high school, clubs, and the public
Existing plans, such as the Hume Park Master Plan, have identified opportunities to add non-regulation perimeter walking paths
As part of the ATF Feasibility underway in Ryall Park (in Queensborough) also includes the provision of a perimeter recreational walking track (non-regulation)
The network of existing park pathways and trails (Millennium Trail, Glenbrook Ravine, Waterfront Esplanade, etc.) offers extensive, non-regulation recreational walking and jogging opportunities
Integration of non-regulation recreational walking paths in existing and new parks presents a practical and space-efficient way to expand access to running and walking facilities

Challenges
With only one track for the entire city, the overall supply is low compared to resident demand and the offerings of similar communities
There is a significant geographic gap in access, with no track facilities currently located in Queensborough
Regulation tracks require a very large land footprint and are expensive to build and maintain, making them difficult to site

6.3.4 Stadiums

Context

The city has two outdoor stadiums for sports field spectators that include washrooms, change rooms, and storage. Mercer Stadium offers seating for 1,000, and the Queen's Park Stadium can accommodate 2,000 spectators. These large facilities provide important community benefits by offering capacity not only for major sports tournaments but also for significant civic and cultural events, enhancing the city's ability to host large-scale gatherings.

The Queen's Park Stadium grandstand structure is at the end of its service life per the "Queen's Park Stadium Projected Need for Spectator Support Amenities Final Report" from April, 2023. The demand for spectator seating is typically from 500 to 700 people at a time.

Most communities of a comparable size have only one stadium or grandstand. The older facilities were typically designed only for seating. Newer stadiums integrate other uses such as washrooms, change rooms, storage, and meeting rooms. Some fields have small supporting buildings and structures, and bleachers, often portable.

What We Heard

Participation in grandstand seating at Queen's Park or Mercer Park: 33% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with grandstand seating: 23% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with grandstand seating: 14% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Quality and accessibility of grandstands need improvement
- Need to improve washrooms and concessions at Queen's Park Stadium
- Need to improve washrooms and change rooms at Mercer Stadium

Analysis

Figure 6.7: Stadium Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Stadium / Grandstands	1	1	1	1	1	3	0.007	0.032	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The grandstands are well distributed in the mainland portion of New Westminster. There is no stadium located in Queensborough.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's stadiums.

Strengths
There is high provision of facilities with two outdoor stadiums
Supporting amenities at the stadiums are important for hosting major games or tournaments as well as for hosting civic and cultural events

Challenges
The Queen's Park Stadium requires complete replacement as it is at the end of its service life, and Mercer Stadium needs significant improvements
Access to suitable change rooms is lacking at both Mercer and Queen's Park stadiums
There is no major spectator facility in Queensborough

6.4 Courts

The city has a variety of courts in parks. Some are single use, but most support multiple uses (**Map 6.4**).

6.4.1 Outdoor Lacrosse Boxes

Context

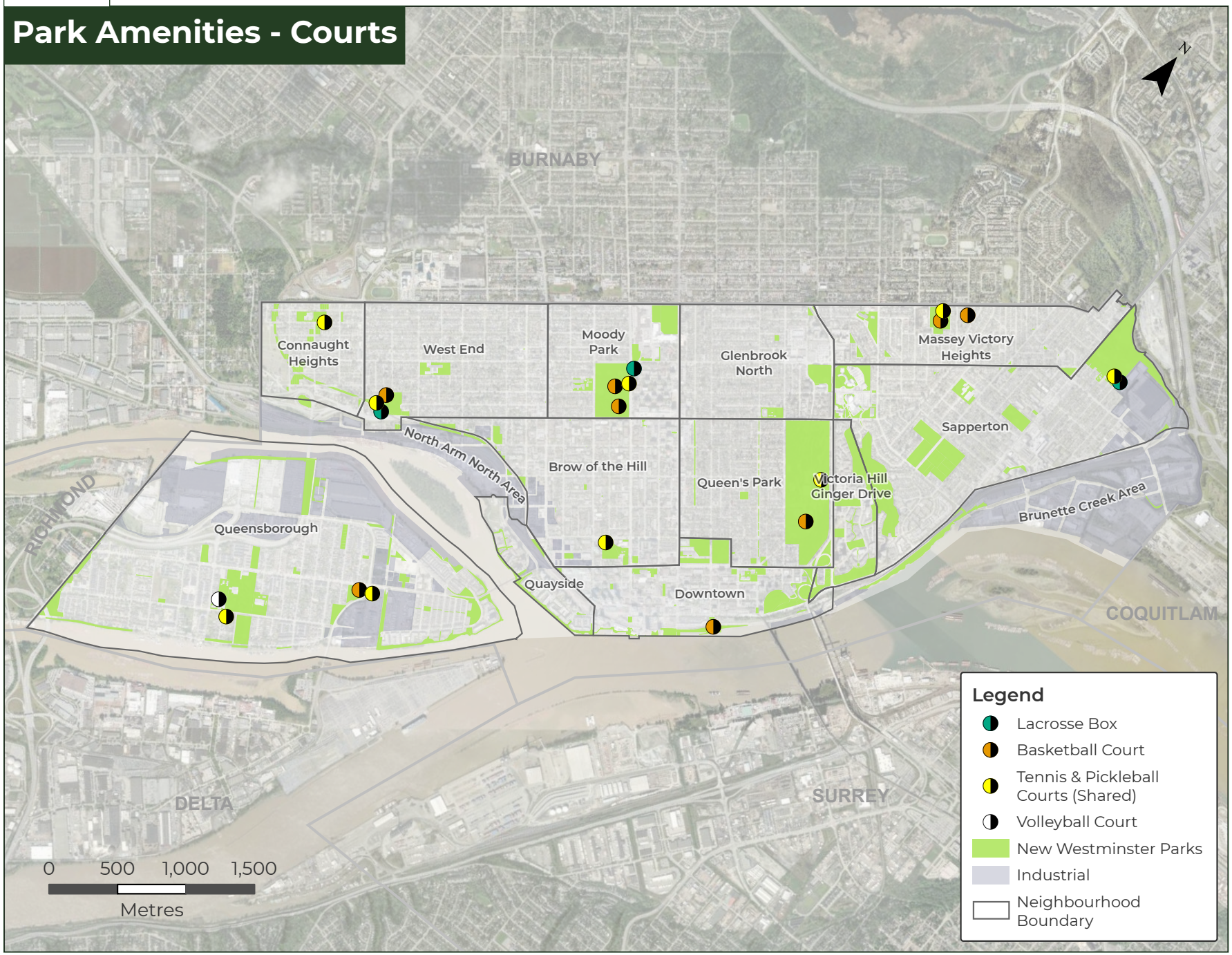
There are three dedicated lacrosse boxes in New Westminster. They are used by multiple lacrosse teams as the sport has deep roots in the community. The lacrosse box at Hume Park is in good condition, while those at Moody and Grimston Parks are in fair condition.

A newer, more space-efficient trend is integrating lacrosse boxes into outdoor open-air and covered multi-sport boxes that can be used for a variety of sports. In a land-constrained urban environment, these versatile facilities maximize the use of available space and offer year-round play. The inclusion of a cover is particularly important for use during fall and winter rains and to provide essential shade and cooling during extreme summer heat.

This model, successfully implemented in neighbouring communities like the Jack Crosby Multi-Sport Box in Burnaby, offers significant spatial and financial benefits over traditional single-sport courts. By accommodating a diverse range of activities like lacrosse, pickleball, basketball, and ball hockey in one location, these facilities demonstrate efficiency and flexibility. The city is transitioning to this model with the inclusion of a covered multi-sport box in the Hume Park Master Plan and the planned upgrade of the Moody Park lacrosse box to a multi-sport court in 2026.

Map 6.4

Park Amenities - Courts



What We Heard

Participation in outdoor sports box:
21% of survey respondents

Level of satisfaction with outdoor sports boxes:
12% of survey respondents

Level of dissatisfaction with outdoor sports boxes:
19% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- High interest in covering at least one lacrosse box
- Need for better maintenance and cleaning of lacrosse boxes
- Desire for more access to lacrosse in Queensborough
- The Grimston Park lacrosse box is at end of service life.

Analysis

Figure 6.8: Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Lacrosse boxes - dedicated	2	1	4	3	1	3	0.017	0.032	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Lacrosse boxes are well distributed in the mainland portion of New Westminster. There is no lacrosse box in Queensborough (**Map 6.4**).

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's outdoor lacrosse boxes.

Strengths
City has a high supply of outdoor lacrosse boxes
Lacrosse boxes are well distributed on the mainland, providing geographic access for many residents
The City is committed to transitioning to the multi-sport court and the multi-sport box models

Challenges
Two of the lacrosse boxes are in fair condition and need significant investment or renewal
There is no lacrosse box in Queensborough, causing an equity and access issue for residents in that neighbourhood
The current single-use design of the boxes prevents them from supporting other sports and activities, limiting their overall utility
The city currently lacks a covered outdoor lacrosse box, which restricts play during rainy seasons and limits potential programming

6.4.2 Basketball

Context

New Westminster has seven basketball amenities in parks that include a mix of full and half basketball courts, as well as mini-courts (**Appendix B.1** and **Map 6.4**). The condition of the courts varies. The outdoor basketball courts are used informally by park visitors.

Municipalities typically provide basketball courts throughout their communities, though in many places, they are provided on school grounds so there are often fewer courts in parks. Basketball attracts youth and families who can play informally at no cost. Many newcomers also like to play basketball. Recent trends include incorporation of basketball hoops into multi-sport courts.

A key opportunity to maximize land use is the integration of basketball hoops or courts into underutilized paved spaces, which can create recreation opportunities in a land-constrained city. There may be potential to integrate full or half-size basketball courts within city facility parking lots that can be used during non-peak parking hours for informal play.

What We Heard

Participation on basketball courts:
16% of survey respondents

Level of satisfaction with basketball courts:
16% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with basketball courts:
9% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Not enough full-sized basketball courts, especially according to youth, and particularly in Hume Park

Analysis

Figure 6.9: Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Basketball Courts	35	23	17	4	8	7	0.078	0.076	**Comparable**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Basketball courts are well distributed throughout the city (**Map 6.4**).

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's basketball facilities.

Strengths
Supply and distribution of basketball facilities is reasonable
Basketball courts will be added to new or upgraded multi-sport courts
Basketball is a popular, no cost, and informal recreational activity that appeals to diverse groups, including youth, families, and newcomers

Challenges
The current inventory is mainly non-standard courts, including undersized full courts, half-courts, and a shooting pads, which limits opportunities for full-court games
Improvements are needed across the system to bring existing courts up to a higher standard
The current number of functional, full-sized courts is inadequate to meet the demands of future population growth

6.4.3 Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Context

The city's inventory includes 23 public outdoor tennis courts, all of which are also lined to provide 30 pickleball courts (**Appendix B.1** and **Map 6.4**). There are also two dedicated pickleball courts at Westburnco Reservoir.

The condition of the courts varies widely from poor to very good. Lighting is available at the Queen's Park and Moody Park courts, but none of the public courts are covered for all-weather play. The courts at Hume Park are prioritized for pickleball. The temporary courts at Westburnco Reservoir are maintained by the City and owned by Metro Vancouver. Any improvements to the courts require Metro Vancouver approval.

The New Westminster Tennis Club operates a community-based club located in Tipperary Park that requires a membership fee to the club. There are four lit dedicated tennis courts there. These are not included in the inventory due to the need for membership.

Tennis has experienced varying levels of participation over the years. Communities with multiple tennis courts together are more likely to have active tennis communities. Lighting on tennis courts extends the sports season in the spring and fall.

Participation in pickleball has been growing at a rapid pace in the past couple of decades across Canada. Given the limited land in New Westminster, the City has prioritized upgrades and new sports courts that accommodate multiple activities. With this approach, single-sport tennis courts reaching the end of their service life will be reviewed for renewal and may be proactively converted into multi-sport courts, maximizing use of the available paved surface.

What We Heard

Participation in tennis outdoors: 19% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with tennis courts: 24% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with tennis courts: 7% of survey respondents

Participation in pickleball outdoors: 15% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with pickleball courts 13% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with Pickleball courts: 13% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Need dedicated pickleball courts
- Need more tennis courts in general and in Queensborough
- Great job resurfacing tennis/pickleball courts at Moody Park

Analysis

Figure 6.10: Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 pop.)	New Westminster (x/1,000 pop.)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
	Qty.	Qty.	Qty.	Qty.	Qty.	Qty.	Ha/1,000 population	Hectares	
Tennis courts – shared		30	8	2	20	23	0.093	0.249	**High**
Tennis courts – dedicated	177	51	21.5	11	52	0	0.239	0.000	**Low**
Pickleball – shared	11	87	26	2	20	30	0.166	0.325	**High**
Pickleball – dedicated	7	12	8	21	13	2	0.107	0.022	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The tennis / pickleball courts are well distributed throughout the city.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's tennis and pickleball courts.

Strengths
Supply of tennis courts is reasonable to serve the community's current needs
The city has efficiently adapted existing tennis courts for pickleball by adding shared lines, increasing the utility of its facilities to meet emerging demand
Lighting at Queen's Park and Moody Park extends the playing time and season of the courts

Challenges
More tennis courts may be needed for population growth, especially in Queensborough
Lack of data on court use hinders evidence-based decisions for upgrades, scheduling, and future planning
Lack of a dedicated pickleball facility is a concern to pickleball players
There is a desire for lighting at more of the tennis courts to extend the playing season into the evenings in spring and fall
New Westminster is land-constrained, so building new single-use courts is no longer feasible or efficient
None of the existing public courts are covered, restricting play during wet seasons and limiting usability during extreme heat

6.4.4 Outdoor Volleyball Courts

Context

There are currently two outdoor volleyball grass courts in Ryall Park that are available on a seasonal basis. They are in good condition.

Outdoor volleyball played on sand, or sometimes grass, has become a popular recreation and social activity. Originating on beaches, many municipalities now provide sand courts within parks. This is a low-cost amenity to build, and it is inclusive due to the low cost of participation, but it is typically only played during warm weather. Grass courts are not as popular and they require a high level of maintenance, though they can support multiple uses if the volleyball use is not high enough to damage the grass. While sand courts are popular, they present challenges as they are typically single-use facilities that cannot be adapted for other recreational activities.

What We Heard

Participation in volleyball courts: 15% of survey respondents (respondents may have been considering outdoor courts in other municipalities or indoor courts)

Satisfaction with volleyball courts: 10% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with volleyball courts: 9% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Need more outdoor volleyball courts
- People miss the beach volleyball courts that were at Pier Park
- Residents of Queensborough would like more volleyball courts at Ryall Park

Analysis

Figure 6.11: Volleyball Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Volleyball – beach / field	65	6	7	2	4	2	0.043	0.022	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

There is inadequate distribution of this amenity with only one facility in Queensborough and none on the mainland of New Westminster.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's outdoor volleyball courts.

Strengths
Outdoor volleyball is a popular, inclusive, and social activity that is relatively low cost for the city to provide and for residents to play
Grass courts can support multiple uses when not actively booked for volleyball, offering some flexibility

Challenges
There is a significant service gap and lack of access for residents on the mainland
Sand courts are limited to a seasonal window, reducing their overall utility and year-round community benefit
Grass courts may require a high level of maintenance if utilization increases, posing an operational challenge

6.4.5 Outdoor Multi-Sport Courts

Context

While the city has numerous courts that support two sports, such as combined tennis and pickleball, New Westminster lacks modern, purpose-built, multi-sport courts. A modern multi-sport court is defined as a single, versatile surface intentionally designed to accommodate three or more sports (e.g., basketball, volleyball, and futsal lined on one surface) or a specialized facility like a lacrosse box adapted for various activities.

This approach provides diverse recreational opportunities within a single, efficient footprint. This model is ideal for a land-constrained city like New Westminster because it maximizes the recreational value of limited parkland and significantly reduces per-sport construction and maintenance costs.

Moving forward, the City's strategy will be to convert existing suitable courts into multi-sport facilities (three or more activities) where feasible, and prioritize the development of new, purpose-built multi-sport amenities (including covered boxes) to enhance service levels and land efficiency.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Add multi-sport courts for flexibility in use

Analysis

Figure 6.12: Sports Court Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Sports Courts – Multi-use	18	3	14	0	2	0	0.037	0	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

N/A

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's multi-sport courts.

Strengths
Multi-sport courts serve many sport and recreation needs
They also reduce the cost of construction and space required by providing multiple sport opportunities on one court

Challenges
Demand for multi-sport courts is high and none exist now
Peak demand by different users or conflicts between casual and organized team sports can be a challenge on multi-sport courts

6.5 Dog Off-Leash Areas

Context

The City is guided by its 10-year strategy, "People, Parks and Pups," which outlines a proactive approach to sharing New Westminster's limited park space among residents with and without dogs. Currently, the city has 10 dog off-leash areas, and one dog relief area (**Map 6.5**). The areas range from larger parks to smaller parklets and dog relief stations, all of which vary significantly in size, design, and condition. To extend use into the evening and winter months, three of the off-leash areas have lighting - the Agnes Greenway, Moody Park, and the downtown dog relief station.

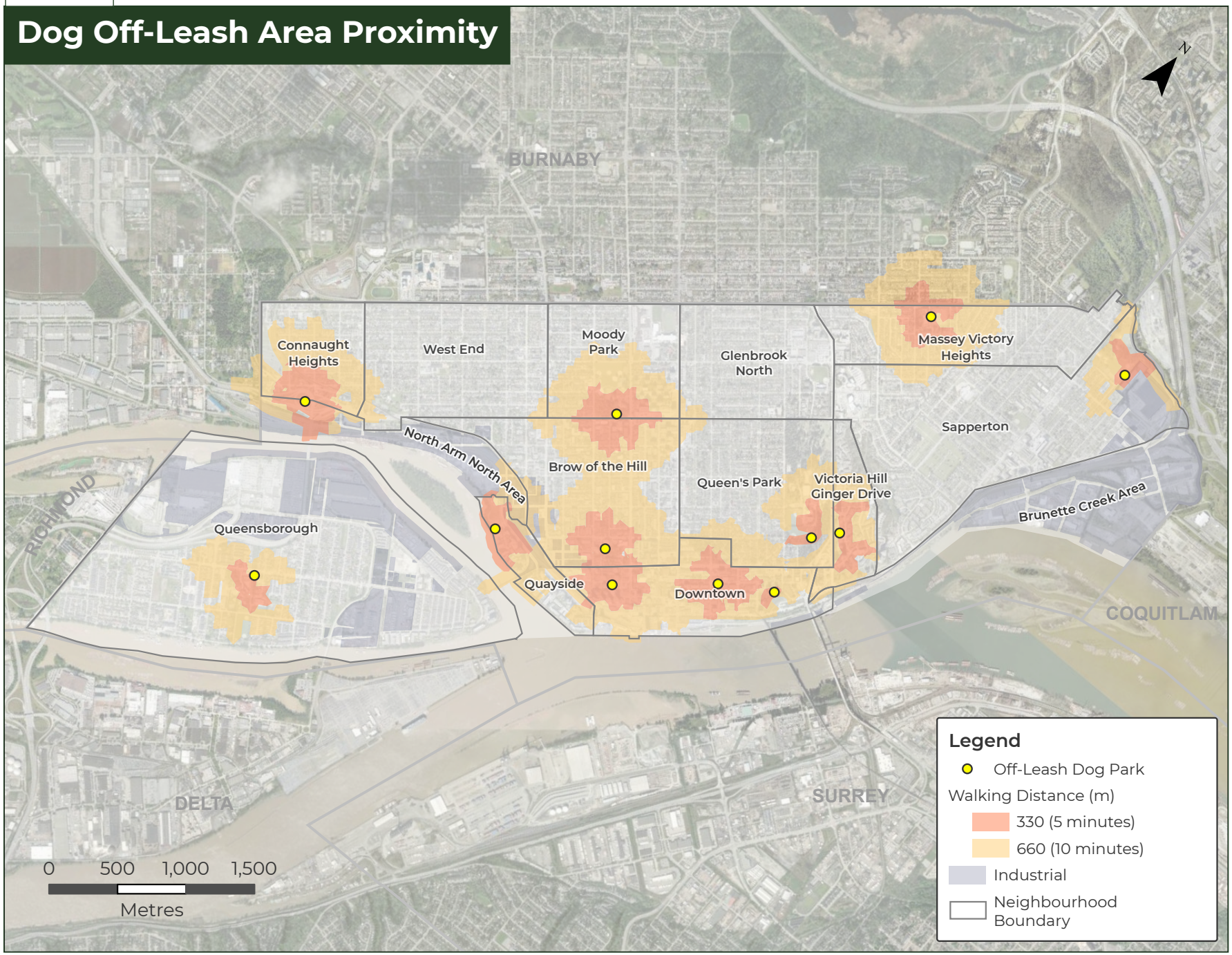
In an effort to address a shortage of dog off-leash areas downtown, the City piloted an unfenced, timed, off-leash area in Albert Crescent Park during 2024-2025. This shared-use model was an attempt to serve dog owners without displacing other park users. Based on community feedback from the pilot, the decision was made to convert a portion of the open lawn into a permanent, fenced dog off-leash area while retaining the majority of the park for general use.

As human and dog populations have been increasing in cities, dog off-leash areas have become a critical component of parks, as noted in the City's People, Parks, and Pups Strategy. They offer many benefits to dogs and humans, including socialization, exercise, and fresh air. Best practices are to establish a range of dog off-leash areas from large facilities with paths, play features, and water stations, to small spaces, referred to as dog parklets, available at a neighbourhood scale. The goal is to provide access to a dog off-leash area within a five-to-ten minute walk of all residents.

To complement the public park system, the City requires new private developments to provide their own on-site dog relief areas. These spaces, which must be a minimum of 9.3 square metres (100 square feet), are owned and maintained by the stratas for their own use. This policy helps augment the city's overall network of off-leash spaces and reduces dog waste on sidewalks and planted areas along streets.

Map 6.5

Dog Off-Leash Area Proximity



What We Heard

Use of dog off-leash areas: 24% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with dog off-leash areas: 23% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with dog off-leash areas: 14% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Residents appreciate dog off-leash areas
- Call for more dog off-leash areas and dog-friendly trails
- Queen's Park neighbourhood had higher satisfaction for dog off-leash areas
- Make sure dog off-leash areas are accessible
- Dog off-leash areas need lighting for winter use
- Make sure dog off-leash areas are cleaned and maintained regularly
- Call for a dog off-leash area in Port Royal Park

Analysis

Figure 6.13: Dog Off-Leash Area Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Dog Off-Leash Area	44	5	3	3	12	1	0.051	0.011	**Low**
Dog parks - Fenced	10	8	4	3	1	10	0.023	0.108	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The dog off-leash areas are fairly well distributed.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's dog off-leash areas.

Strengths
City has a reasonable supply of dog off-leash areas
Many residents appreciate dog off-leash areas including people with and without dogs
The City requires dog relief areas in private developments to augment the public park system

Challenges
Single-use and fenced dog off-leash areas require significant land, posing a challenge when balancing all community needs in a land-constrained city
Some of the dog off-leash areas have issues like poor drainage, lack of seating, insufficient space
More and better dog off-leash areas will be needed for population growth
Several neighbourhoods still lack a dedicated off-leash area, creating significant service gaps in the city
The City is having challenges finding a surface material suitable for all dogs and people
Most of the dog off-leash areas are unlit, which reduces usable hours in fall and winter months

6.6 Cooling Amenities and Facilities

New Westminster has multiple amenities that can support cooling in hot weather (spray parks, wading pools, misting stations, drinking fountains) and some large facilities that also support this (outdoor pool) (**Map 6.6**).

6.6.1 Spray Parks

Context

New Westminster operates six spray parks that typically run from late May through late September using user-activated systems with regulated water nozzles.

- Hume Park spray park has been upgraded with new water features and a rubberized surface.
- Moody Park features spray jets with an integrated water play channel.
- Ryall Park features a tugboat-themed design and a rubberized surface.
- Sapperton Park includes a simple line of water jets with a rubber surface.
- Queen's Park spray park includes water jets and natural features with a rubberized surface.
- The westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park includes a plaza with spray jets.

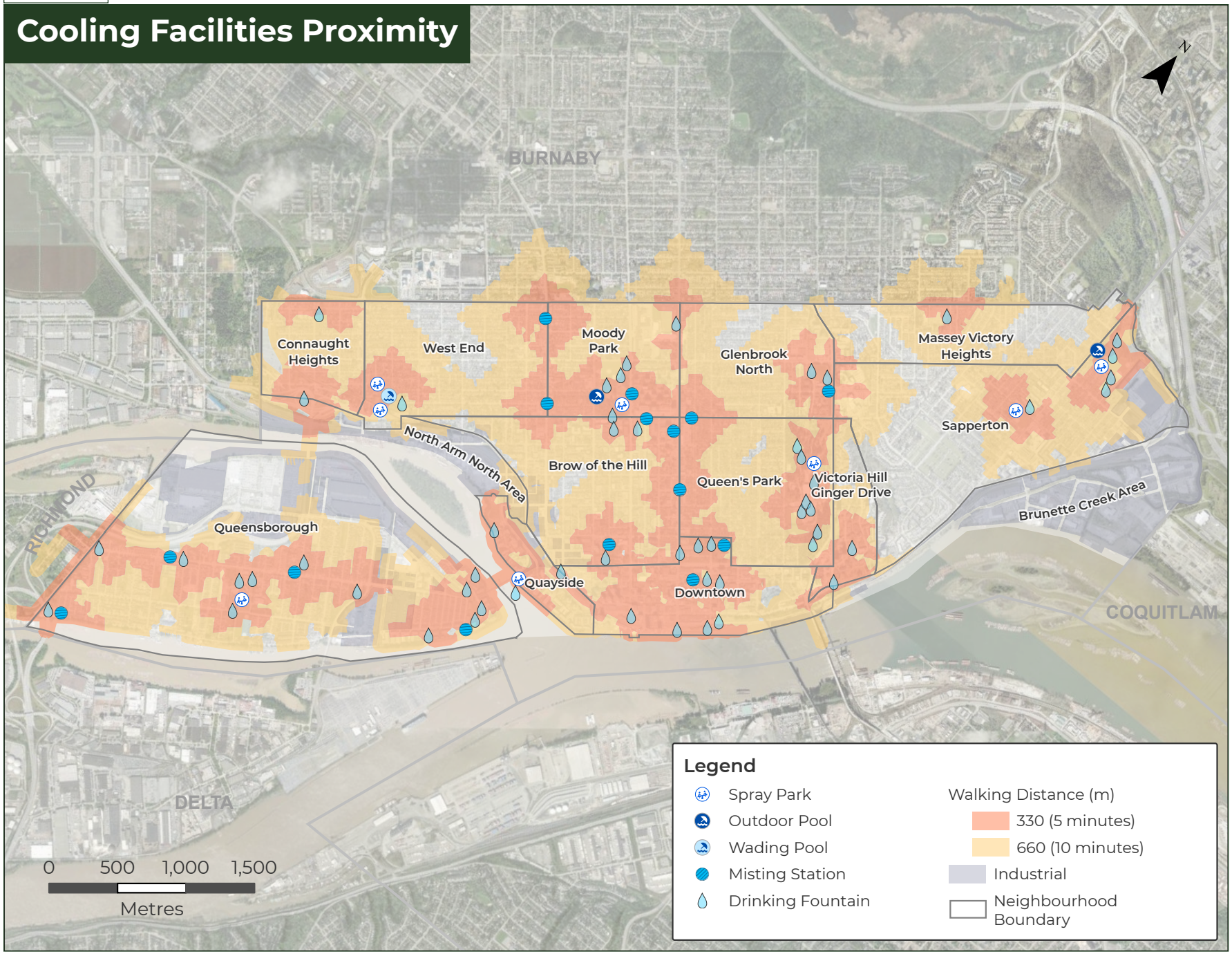
Children's spray parks have become increasingly popular in recent years, offering safe, interactive, water-based fun without requiring a full swimming pool. Modern design trends are expanding the utility and inclusivity of these spaces, focusing on offering sensory-rich environments to accommodate children with diverse needs. Beyond traditional park settings, there is an increasing trend to integrate simple spray jets into small urban plazas and underutilized public spaces as a flexible and cost-effective way to animate the area, create dynamic social hubs, and provide an essential spot for the community to cool down during warm weather.

Many spray parks are being designed to accommodate more than just water play. They may include shaded seating areas for parents, picnic tables, and nearby playgrounds or sports courts. Additionally, contemporary designs focus on sustainability, incorporating practices such as eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient pumps, recirculating systems, and natural features like rain gardens to manage water runoff.

The City will continue to review best practices for safe and durable spray park surfaces. While rubberized surfacing is visually attractive, it has failed in various locations and is costly to replace. Future consideration will be given to using textured concrete surfaces to provide a cost-effective, durable, and anti-slip solution.

Map 6.6

Cooling Facilities Proximity



What We Heard

Participation with spray parks and wading pools: 38% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with spray parks and wading pools: 37% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with spray parks and wading pools: 11% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- People would like more spray parks
- Updates and maintenance requested for spray parks at Queen's Park, Ryall Park, Moody Park, and Sapperton Park
- Longer season wanted for spray parks
- People are worried about water use in spray parks during droughts

Analysis

Figure 6.14: Spray Park / Splash Pool Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Spray Parks / Splash Pools	33	19	11	7	2	6	0.059	0.065	**Comparable**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The west side of the city lacks spray parks.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's spray parks.

Strengths
Spray parks are a popular and safe amenity, providing a fun, interactive way for young families and children to cool off
New spray parks are designed with inclusive, sensory-rich features for children of all abilities
Spray parks are an excellent alternative to outdoor pools

Challenges
The current supply of spray parks is not enough to meet the needs of a growing population, and a significant geographic service gap exists on the west side of the city's mainland
Several existing spray parks are in need of upgrades and improved maintenance to meet community expectations
Desire for a longer operating season to extend access to spray parks into the cooler spring and fall months

6.6.2 Outdoor Pools and Wading Pools

Context

New Westminster has two outdoor pools and one wading pool. The pool at Moody Park is over 10 years old and it is in very good condition. As with most outdoor pools, it is a popular summer destination. The outdoor pool at Hume Park is beyond its lifespan, and the wading pool at Grimston Park is in fair condition.

Outdoor pools are challenging for municipalities as they present a significant financial and operational burden. They require heavy subsidies to cover expensive costs for maintenance, operations, and eventual rebuilding, largely driven by the high energy consumption of aging infrastructure. While modern, energy-efficient construction is available, it is extremely expensive and the cost is often prohibitive.

This major investment is difficult to justify for an amenity with a short operating season, typically limited from June to September. Extending this season to meet public demand is often not feasible, as the existing boiler systems are not designed to heat the pools during the cooler months.

Consequently, the traditional outdoor pool represents a financially and environmentally unsustainable model. Many cities are now shifting focus to newer alternatives like spray parks, which offer a more flexible, affordable, and sustainable path forward for providing community water play.

What We Heard

Participation – Swim at an outdoor pool – 50% of survey respondents

Satisfied with outdoor pools – 38% of survey respondents

Not satisfied with outdoor pools – 20% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- People enjoy Aquafit in outdoor pools
- Longer season desired for outdoor pools
- Larger outdoor pools wanted, with more shade nearby
- No outdoor pools near downtown or in Queensborough
- Improve Moody Park pool – add shade, shallow area, expand size and depth, hot tub
- Upgrades to Hume Park pool are needed

Analysis

Figure 6.15: Outdoor Pool Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Outdoor Pools	5	4	2	0	0	2	0.010	0.022	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

This comparison was conducted for full outdoor pools and not wading pools.
New Westminster has more outdoor pools than similar communities; however, one of the two is in poor condition.

Distribution

The outdoor pools are distributed east to west across the mainland, there is no outdoor pool facility in Queensborough. The newest pool at Moody Park is fairly central. As a specialized amenity, outdoor pools are not expected to be within walking distance of all residents.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's outdoor pools.

Strengths
Compared to similar communities, the city has a high supply of outdoor pools
Outdoor pools are popular
Moody Park Pool is an attraction
Pools are an important asset during extreme heat

Challenges
Outdoor pools are expensive to build, maintain and operate, and they consume significant amounts of energy
Two of the outdoor pools are in poor or fair condition, requiring major capital investment or decommissioning in the future
Moody Park Pool lacks some amenities desired by the public such as shade and a shallow area
Short operating season (June to September) is a hard limit due to boiler capacity, frustrating public desire for a longer swimming season

6.6.3 Misting Stations

Context

There are 15 misting stations in New Westminster; four in Queensborough and eleven on the mainland. Misting stations are a new introduction to parks and public spaces, triggered by recent heat events and providing seasonal (May-October) opportunities to cool off and fill a water bottle. Misting stations, typically located in high-use public spaces, can be sustainable by minimizing water use with micro-mist technology and fabrication with recyclable materials. These features share some of the benefits of spray parks.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- People enjoy the misting stations
- People would like more misting stations

Analysis

Figure 6.16: Misting / Cooling Station Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Misting / Cooling Stations	9	10	3	5	13	13	0.053	0.141	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Misting stations are well-distributed across the mainland and Queensborough, with a strategic focus on high-density areas where the urban heat island effect is most pronounced.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's misting and cooling stations.

Strengths
Misting stations provide an essential and highly appreciated public cooling opportunity
The stations are strategically located to help people cool off where urban heat island effect is most severe

Challenges
There is not a misting station in every neighbourhood, leaving service gaps in some areas
The stations are vulnerable to vandalism and require significant ongoing maintenance to remain functional throughout the summer

6.7 Outdoor Enjoyment

There are various other amenities and facilities that contribute to peoples' enjoyment of parks. These include, but are not limited to, picnic areas and pavilions, outdoor stages / plazas, community gardens, and disc golf courses (**Map 6.7**).

6.7.1 Picnic Areas and Pavilions

Context

There are six picnic shelters in New Westminster (**Appendix B.1**). Lower Hume Park, due to its unique location, is one of the most popular, often hosting company functions, private picnics, and community events.

The shelters at Ryall Park and Queen's Park are also popular, benefiting from the proximity to a playground, recreation facilities, public washrooms, and other park amenities. There are approximately 140 picnic tables distributed among the parks in New Westminster, and these are generally in good condition. Although some of these are accessible, the City is conducting accessibility audits and making picnic areas and tables more inclusive.

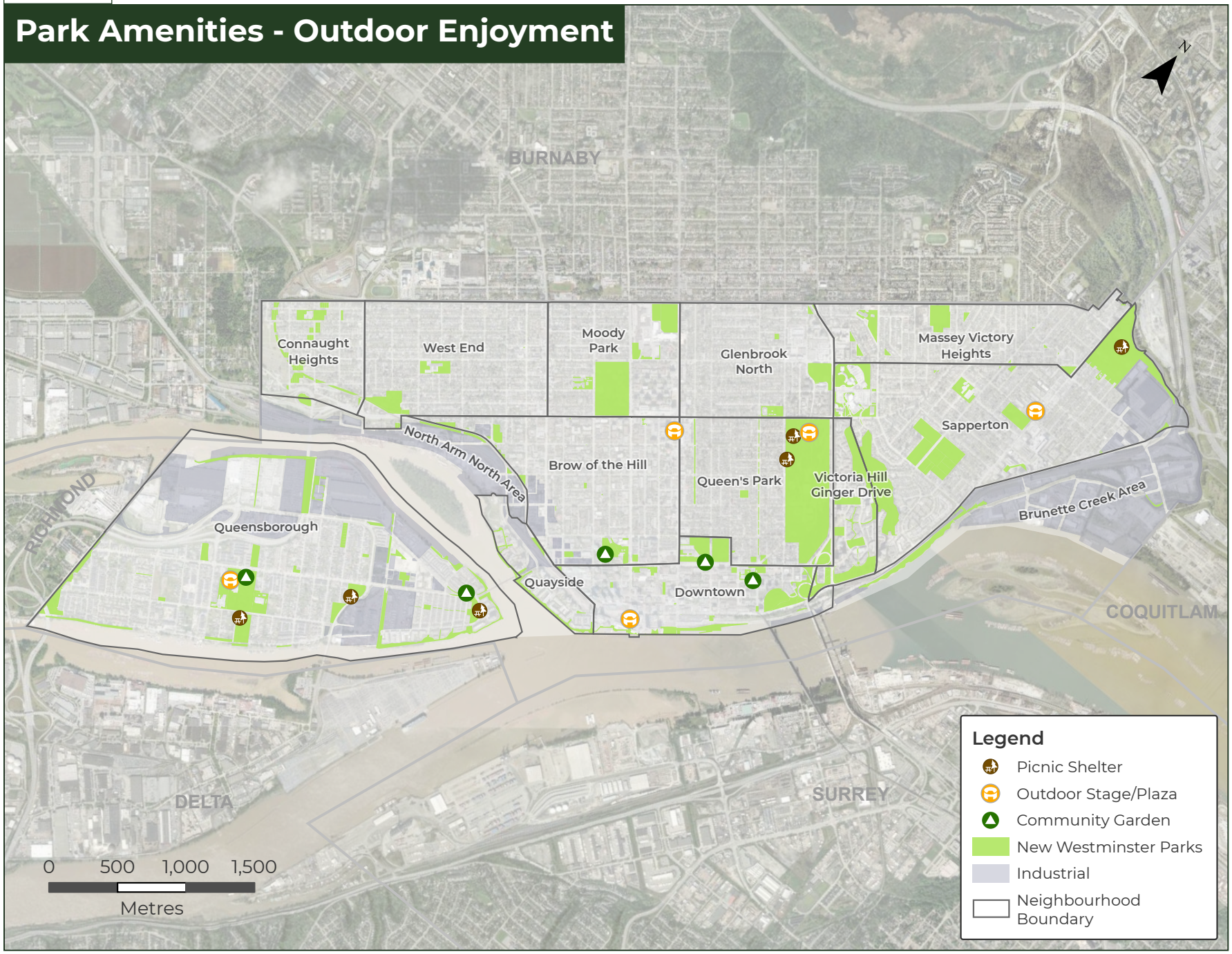
Picnic shelters have significant benefits, supporting social gatherings and informal use in many weather conditions. As municipalities become more densely populated, picnic shelters become important spaces where people can spend time outdoors. The City of New Westminster has alcohol-permitted zones in designated areas of parks, often in picnic shelter or picnic table areas.

New Westminster also has pavilions that support outdoor activities. The Rose Garden Pavilion is booked regularly for weddings as well as supporting informal use. There are also two outdoor pavilions at the Habitat that are used for outdoor classes and workshops. Other infrastructure at picnic areas includes ping pong tables and concessions.

To expand spaces for gathering and socializing beyond transitional park boundaries, the City is pursuing opportunities for street furniture within its road corridors. This is especially important in densely populated areas where people do not have private backyards. In collaboration with the Transportation division, the Uptown Streetscape Improvements (along Belmont Street to Sixth Avenue) now serve as a successful model for this strategy; the installation of picnic-style tables in an urban setting has made the street "sticky," encouraging residents to linger for eating, socializing, and people-watching. This approach effectively transforms underutilized public rights-of-way into functional, social spaces.

Map 6.7

Park Amenities - Outdoor Enjoyment



What We Heard

Participation in picnic facilities and seating areas:
68% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with picnic facilities and seating areas:
47% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with picnic facilities:
17% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with outdoor concessions:
26% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with outdoor concessions:
25% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Families enjoy places with picnic tables
- Need for more covered outdoor facilities and picnic tables especially along the Quay, in Queen's Park, and in Moody Park
- Picnic areas are preferable when they have public washrooms, garbage and recycling, nearby
- Would like a better booking system for picnic shelters

Analysis

Figure 6.17: Picnic Facility Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Picnic Shelters	32	11	11	9	1	6	0.057	0.065	High
Picnic Tables	115	60	46	17	10	40	0.193	0.433	High

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Alcohol Allowed Zones: There are nine of these zones within seven parks. These zones are well distributed across the city, and they are in good to very good condition.

Ping pong tables: There are four ping pong tables located in parks; two downtown in Quayside Park and two in Moody Park. All are in very good condition. Three more ping pong tables have been installed in the westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park.

Concessions: Outdoor concessions are located at Westminster Pier Park, at Queen's Park, and Hume Park.

Distribution

There are no picnic shelters west of Queen's Park, including downtown, on the mainland.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's picnic facilities.

Strengths
City has a reasonable supply of picnic shelters for the current population
Picnic shelters are popular and well-used amenities that are inclusive, foster social connection, and extend the hours people can comfortably use parks

Challenges
More picnic shelters will be needed for a growing population
The supply is picnic shelters is low on the west side of the mainland and in the downtown area
The utility of many shelters is limited by a lack of convenient access to essential amenities like washrooms and drinking water
Many picnic tables are not connected to an accessible path, which prevents residents with mobility challenges from using them

6.7.2 Outdoor Stages / Plazas

Context

The City has four primary locations that can host social and cultural performances and gatherings - Queen's Park, Ryall Park, Sapperton Plaza and Hyack Square. The types of events possible in Hyack Square are limited due to public art installed on the stage.

The presence of permanent stages and dedicated event power at these locations is helpful for supporting community groups. This infrastructure significantly reduces the logistical and financial burden on organizations by eliminating the need to rent and set up portable stages and generators, making event hosting more accessible and affordable. When not in use for performances, these fixed stage structures can be utilized as day-to-day furniture, serving as convenient, elevated seating where residents can gather, socialize, and people-watch.

Two new community gathering spaces are planned for construction in 2026 - new stages and plazas in the westward expansion of Westminster Pier Park and at the new commemorative park at 824 Agnes Street.

As New Westminster grows denser, residents rely more on parks and public squares to build community, foster social connections, and create inclusive opportunities for all. These flexible public spaces are vital for a wide range of uses, from large-scale cultural events, celebrations, and recreational activations to informal, day-to-day social activities.

What We Heard

Participation in outdoor festivals or special events:
70% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with outdoor festivals or special events:
49% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with outdoor festivals or special events:
12% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- People enjoy cultural events and elements like the totem pole in Queen's Park
- Residents want more music festivals, arts and culture events outside
- Need more access to a power supply and food permits for outdoor events
- People like doing Tai Chi in Queen's Park Bandshell (multi-use spaces are appreciated)

Analysis

Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Not measured but appears to be a high supply

Distribution

These venues are well distributed.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's outdoor event spaces.

Strengths
Outdoor event spaces are popular and highly valued public assets that build community, foster social connections, and provide an inclusive platform for cultural celebrations
Plazas are flexible spaces that support a wide range of activities
The city is actively expanding its network of event spaces

Challenges
Some existing spaces have physical limitations that restrict their use, such as the public art on the Hyack Square stage
Additional public gathering spaces will be needed to adequately serve new and densifying communities and to ensure equitable access for a growing population

6.7.3 Community Gardens

Context

There are six community gardens in parks and on the City Hall grounds, including a new community garden for youth that was installed adjacent to the Queen's Park skate park in 2025 (**Appendix B.1**). The Port Royal Park community garden is one of the oldest, most well-established, and well-managed. There are fruit or nut trees planted at three of the gardens – Ryall, Port Royal and Saint Mary's Park. Most of the community gardens are in good condition.

Community gardens provide major benefits to residents who may not have easy access to nature or space for gardening. For a relatively low cost, they provide opportunities for locally grown food, socializing, exercise, and fresh air. They are also important for education, helping people understand where their food comes from. While there are food security benefits, these are typically low for small garden plots.

What We Heard

Participation in community gardening: 8% of survey respondents

Level of satisfaction with community gardens: 23% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with community gardens: 15% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Not enough community garden spaces to meet demand
- There is no community garden in some neighbourhoods
- Interest in community fruit trees
- Youth are interested in using community gardens as gathering spaces
- Would like more Indigenous-led food forests
- People who identify as LGBTQ2S+ had higher dissatisfaction with community garden spaces

Analysis

Figure 6.18: Community Garden Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Community Gardens (plots)	58	3	6	13	11	6	0.083	0.055	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

Community gardens are concentrated Downtown, Brow of the Hill and in Queensborough, to primarily serve multi-family neighbourhoods. They are not equally distributed across the city.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's community gardens.

Strengths
Community gardens are valued assets that provide residents with opportunities for local food production, socializing, exercise, and education about food systems
The City has actively responded to the interests of younger residents by creating a new community garden for youth at Queen's Park
Some gardens successfully incorporate popular features like community fruit and nut trees, aligning with public interest in diverse urban food sources

Challenges
The city's overall supply of community gardens is low compared to similar municipalities, resulting in long waitlists
Community gardens are not distributed equitably, with significant service gaps in several neighbourhoods
Residents who identify as LGBTQ2S+ report significantly higher dissatisfaction, pointing to a need to improve the safety and inclusivity of these spaces
Growing community desire for different models of urban agriculture, particularly more community fruit trees and Indigenous-led food forests

6.7.4 Disc Golf

Context

There are no disc golf courses in New Westminster. With the rising popularity of disc golf, it is an amenity being increasingly integrated within parks. Course layouts are often woven into natural landscapes or near other recreation areas. Many cities are designing courses that are sensitive to local ecosystems. They are prioritizing habitats for wildlife, minimizing disruption to existing flora and fauna, and incorporating "leave no trace" principles into course construction and maintenance.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- People would like disc golf – it is becoming more popular
- People would like a disc golf course at Queen's Park

Analysis

Figure 6.19: Disk Golf Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Disc Golf Course	3	1	1	1	8	0	0.025	0	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

N/A

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the key strengths and challenges related to disc golf.

Strengths
Disc golf can be installed in existing parks
Disc golf is an inclusive activity with a minimal cost to participate
Disc golf courses are very inexpensive to install
Disc golf is a social activity that brings people together

Challenges
There are currently no disc golf courses
Disc golf requires a significant amount of space with a low volume of other uses

6.8 Public Washrooms

Context

There are 15 permanent washrooms located within or near parks, including new buildings with universal design and older facilities (**Map 6.8**). Some of the washrooms are standalone buildings, and others are integrated with concessions, public schools, or recreation buildings that are accessible from outdoors. There are also 10 temporary washrooms or seasonal porta-potties. Two free-standing public toilets are planned for installation as part of the Westminster Pier Park westward expansion project in 2026. A new public washroom will also be located adjacent to the park at 824 Agnes Street.

Public washrooms are an important component of inclusivity, enabling people of all ages and abilities to spend more time in the parks and on the trails. Porta-potties are often temporary and seasonal in nature, and they are also basic and inaccessible to some. Newer washrooms, compared to older facilities, are accessible, better to withstand vandalism, and they support ease of maintenance and year-round use.

The City is preparing a City-Wide Toilet Strategy to improve public washroom access. Key to this initiative is a city-wide inventory and analysis designed to identify gaps and ensure more inclusive, accessible facilities for all residents.

What We Heard

Satisfaction with washrooms:
34% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with washrooms:
32% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Need more public washrooms in parks
- Make all washrooms accessible
- Washrooms should be open later hours and year-round
- Place sharps bins in all washrooms
- Need more regular maintenance and cleaning of washrooms
- Requests for a washroom in Tipperary Park

Analysis

Figure 6.20: Public Washroom Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City of North Vancouver 67,308	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 279,881 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Washrooms	135	41	32	15	17	15	0.177	0.216	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The washrooms are well distributed.

Strengths and Challenges

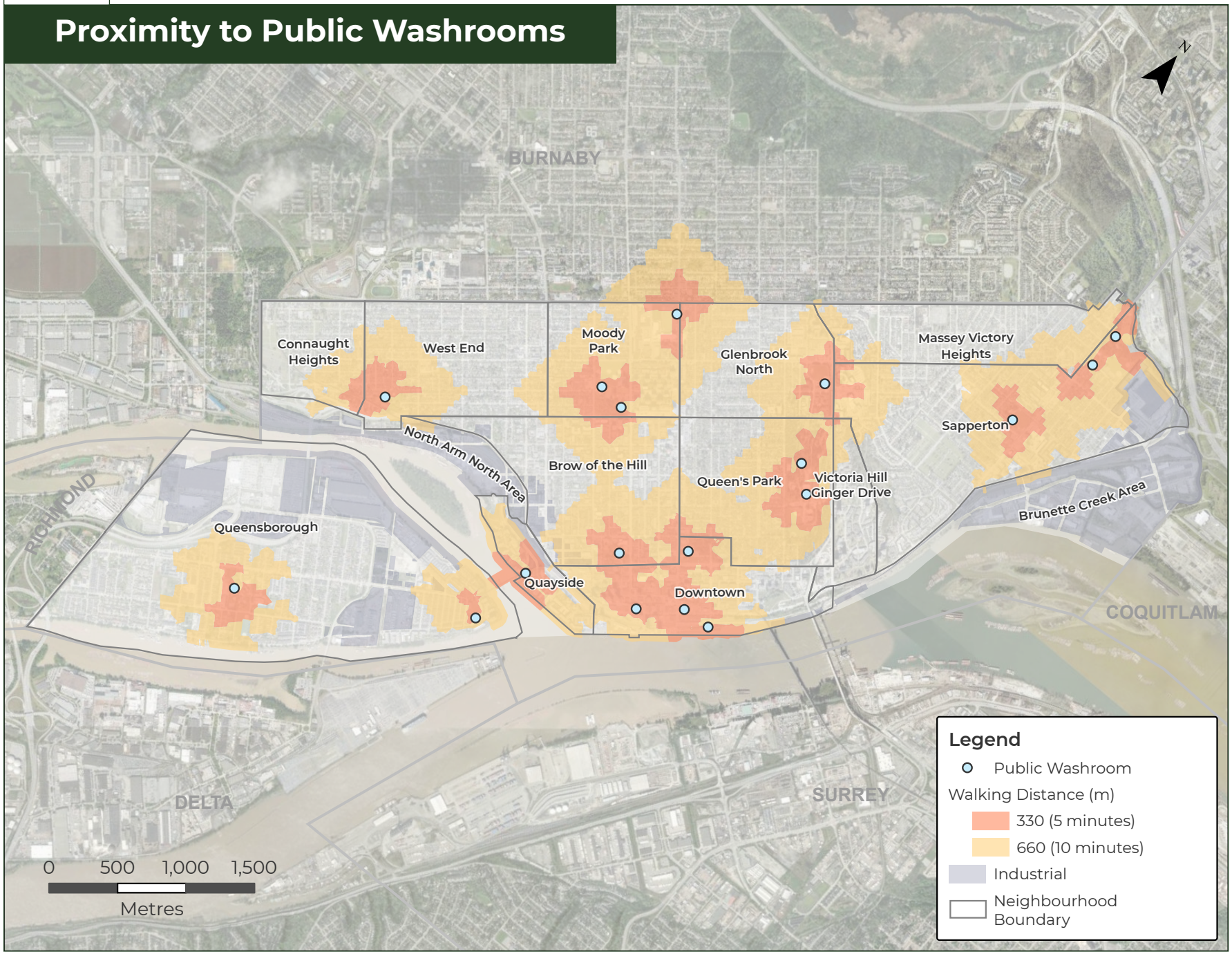
The following are the key strengths and challenges of the City's public washrooms.

Strengths
The supply of washrooms is relatively high
New washrooms are accessible and easier to clean

Challenges
Multiple washrooms need improving or replacement
Washrooms are not always open
Challenging to provide enough washrooms that meet all needs

Map 6.8

Proximity to Public Washrooms



FOCUS AREA 7

Indoor Recreation Facilities

7.1 Context

Context for All Indoor Facilities

This section discusses the City's major recreation facilities, with an overview of the amenities, service delivery, and unique characteristics of each facility. Community input on the facilities is included; however, during the first phase of engagement for this project, the Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre were closed and təməsewtxʷ Community Centre was under construction. Engagement results, therefore, may not reflect input on typical operations.

The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan (2008) provided the policy framework and capital investment strategy to support the City's delivery of services, to meet the needs of the time, and to plan for anticipated future needs of the growing community. Other plans and strategies that have also guided the work to date include:

- Queen's Park Master Plan
- Arena Strategy
- Gymnasium Strategy

New Westminster has two main types of facilities:

Community Hub – these are community facilities that meet the social and recreation needs of many residents through diverse activities, programs, and informal gathering spaces

Special Purpose – these are purpose-built facilities that accommodate one or several specific activities

The City's facilities fall within one or both of those types (**Figure 7.1**).

Figure 7.1: New Westminster Facility Type Examples

Types of Facilities	Examples
Community Hub	Queensborough Community Centre is a true community hub with many activities for all ages
Community Hub and Special Purpose	təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre is a community hub with special purpose aquatics
Special Purpose	Queen's Park Sportsplex serves ball hockey and gymnastics, and could also accommodate court sports Century House / New Westminster Youth Centre serves older adults and youth with potential for more community use at low-use times Queen's Park Arena serves mainly ice hockey, lacrosse, and special events Moody Park Arena serves mainly skating lessons and hockey in winter, and lacrosse and ball hockey on dry floor

The facilities are at varying stages of their respective life cycles as documented in 2023 facility condition assessments. These facilities are unique from each other and are positioned strategically across the city to address citywide, diverse community needs. All facilities offer safe welcoming spaces for community activities and gatherings that reduce isolation and enhance community belonging.

What We Heard

The findings below represent a synthesis of Phase 1 engagement. These key takeaways reflect the diverse voices heard through Indigenous sessions, youth outreach, technical workshops, and public surveys (Appendix A: What We Heard).

Phase 1 comments are presented for each facility separately in the sections below.

In Phase 2 engagement, 87% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with expanding, renewing, and optimizing indoor recreation facilities.

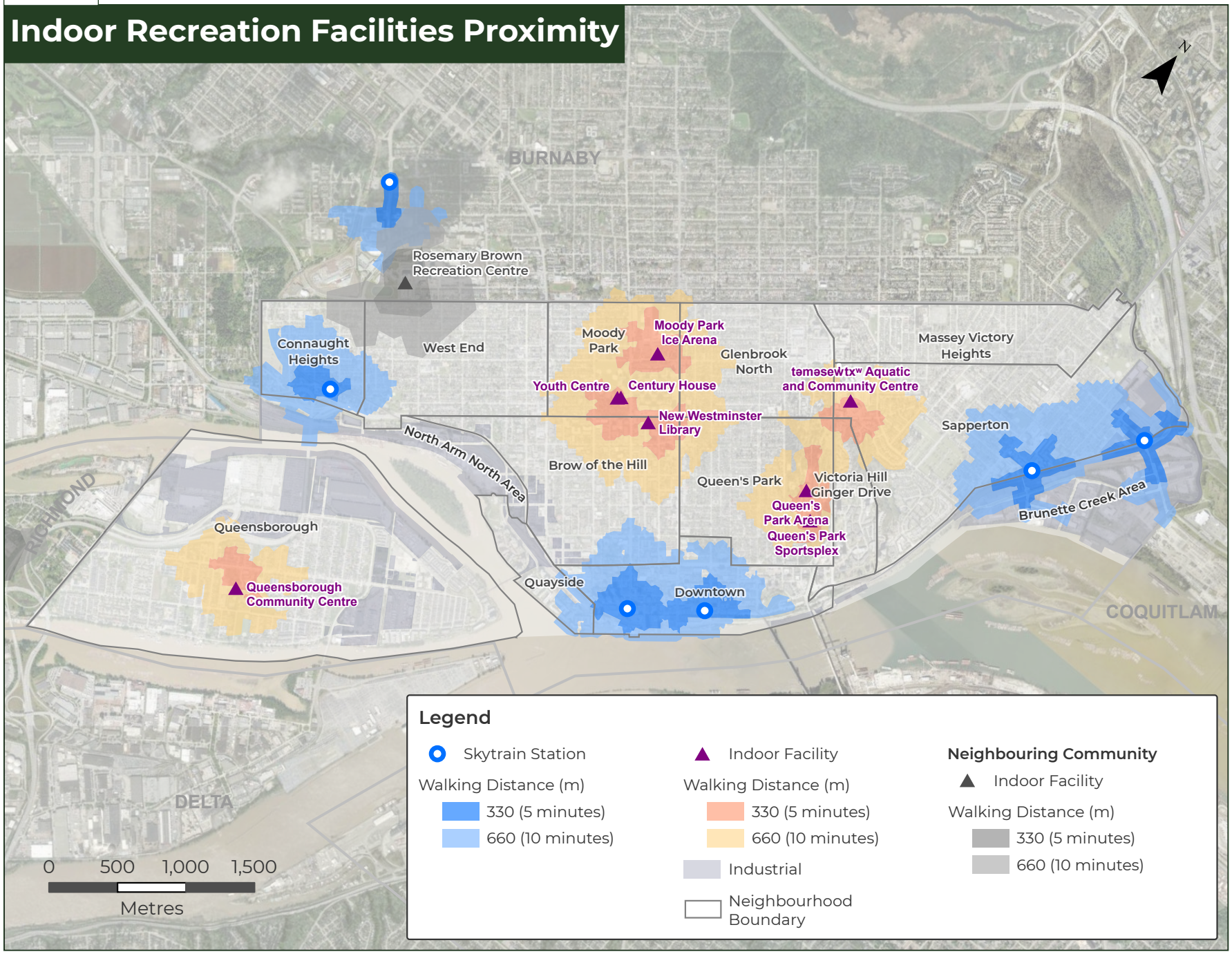
Analysis

Distribution

Map 7.1 shows all indoor facilities in relation to SkyTrain stations and five- and ten-minute walking distances. The community centres and sports complexes are well distributed in the centre of New Westminster and Queensborough, with less access in the west and east. There are no major recreation facilities within walking distance of a SkyTrain station.

Map 7.1

Indoor Recreation Facilities Proximity



7.2 Community Centres and Sports Complexes

This section pertains to the City's four recreation centres:

- Century House and Youth Centre
- Queensbourough Community Centre
- təməsewtxʷ Community Centre
- Queen's Park Sportsplex
- This section assesses the supply of arenas, then reviews each facility separately.

Analysis

The following is the overall supply of community spaces in relation to comparable communities.

Figure 7.2: Community Centre Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City and District of North Vancouver 166,371	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 299,694 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Community Centre	25	7	13	14	7	4	0.057	0.043	**Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024
Note: number for City of North Vancouver includes District of North Vancouver population because their indoor recreation services are combined.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the community centres and sports complexes as a whole.

Strengths
The existing community centres and sports complexes are highly used and appreciated
There are a variety of spaces that host diverse well attended programs
The City continues to invest in making its facilities physically accessible to as many users as possible

Challenges
There are not enough community centres to meet the needs of residents in New Westminster
Some of the community centres are old and need replacing
Residents in the west and east parts of the city's mainland have less access to community centres
There are geographic gaps in facility locations that may limit accessibility to equity-deserving groups
The downtown area, with its high and expanding population, needs a full-service community centre
There are not enough indoor gymnasiums in New Westminster

These community facilities are described and analyzed individually below.

7.2.1 Century House and Youth Centre

Context

Located in Moody Park, Century House, first constructed in 1958, is a single storey structure with a partial basement. The Youth Centre expansion was completed in 2010. Century House is one of the oldest municipally run senior centres in Canada and a destination site for many 50+ people across the lower mainland. The facility will be open seven days per week, effective spring 2026.

Size 2,312 square metres

Spaces small gymnasium, computer lab, fitness centre, multipurpose spaces, community living room, industrial kitchen, meeting spaces, office spaces, pottery studio, snooker room, dart room, eating spaces, city payment services , youth games room

Condition Fair – 5 year FCI is >17%, identified as 'moderate risk' in Facilities Asset Management Plan (2023)

Services

Facility services focus on older adults and youth, as well as the broader community for priority groups. City food service staff provide healthy and delicious lunch services five days per week as well as grab-and-go refreshments that are available during operating hours. The facility is very popular for meals. City staff provide programming for older adults including out-trips, socials, music, arts, fitness, language, and pottery programs, as well as workshops, community meals, and referrals to services for vulnerable 50+ community members.

The City collaborates with the Century House Association (CHA), as outlined in a Memorandum of Agreement, to enhance community engagement, volunteerism, and offerings at Century House. The CHA provides more than 40 activity and support groups as well as monthly special events and peer counselling services. More than 300 City and CHA volunteers at Century House help in various capacities within the facility.

The Youth Centre offers opportunities for social connection, leadership development, education, and drop-in activities for youth aged 13 to 18. This includes special events, fitness, sports, cooking, out-trips, camps, leadership opportunities, and games.. Staff create a safe, welcoming space and provide consistent supervision and mentorship that empower youth to achieve self-actualization.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Century House is highly appreciated for its programs and sense of community
- Upgrades to facilities and expansion are needed
- Programming requests from older adults – programming for people with dementia, more pottery classes, designated yoga studio, bigger pickleball and badminton courts
- Youth appreciate playing video games, hanging out with friends, and enjoying, sports, arts, and DJing
- Youth would like free admission
- Would like cleaner equipment
- More parking needed

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the Century House and Youth Centre.

Strengths
This facility is an important gathering and activity space for older adults and youth
The programs for older adults and youth are diverse
Facility use is high
Availability of low and no-cost activities

Challenges
Utilization is low at certain times
The facility needs upgrades to improve condition and utilization of all spaces
There are demands for additional programs
It is challenging to set prices that are inclusive and supportive of growth
There is limited parking for those who drive and have mobility challenges

7.2.2 Queensborough Community Centre

Context

Located in Ryall Park, Queensborough Community Centre (QCC) was renovated and expanded in 2013, with systems and components replaced or updated, making it LEED Gold certified and fully accessible, including an elevator.

Size 2,529 sq. m.

Spaces small gymnasium, fitness centre, branch library, community living room, community kitchen, city payment services, Six multipurpose rooms and two meeting rooms

Condition

Good - 5 year FCI is < 6% and no critical priorities have been identified for capital repairs between 2024 - 2033 beyond regular maintenance/replacement (Facilities Asset Management Plan, 2023)

Services

Queensborough Community Centre offers fitness, music, dance, karate, cooking, special event programs, and a variety of age-based programs. Some spaces are available for rent.

What we Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Central community space that fosters gathering and connection
- Good programs for older adults and children and youth play drop-in
- QCC fitness is too busy weekends and evenings (needs confirmation with təməsewtxʷ Community Centre open)
- Program requests include more weekday evening fitness classes, programming for parents and babies, child care, classes for 50+ age, and drop-ins for youth
- Kids are underserved in Queensborough because it is hard to access services such as aquatics and arenas across the bridge

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the Queensborough Community Centre.

Strengths
This facility is an important gathering and activity space for the community
The programs for older adults, youth and children are popular
QCC offers diverse services for all age groups in one facility

Challenges
It is challenging to meet demands at peak hours
There are demands for additional programs
Some participants are limited by the costs

7.2.3 təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre

Context

təməsewtxʷ is a Community Centre and an Aquatic Centre (see 11.1.2 for specific information on the aquatic component). It opened in 2024 and it is a state-of-the-art, , fully accessible, multipurpose recreation and aquatic facility. It is LEED Gold and Rick Hansen Gold certified , and it uses innovative building materials and systems. The facility ties into the Crosstown Greenway, part of the active transportation network, and is well-served by public transit.

Size 10,644 square metres

Condition

New building opened in 2024 – excellent

Services

Community programs and services include sports (volleyball, basketball, badminton, pickleball, soccer, and martial arts), day camps (School's Out programs), general interest programs (cooking, education, preschool, youth activities), arts and heritage programs (art and technology, art, dance, music), fitness and wellness (drop in, group fitness, yoga, Pilates, meditation), community living room space, rehabilitation and wellness spaces (physio space leased), city payment services , accessible universal washrooms, and change room with motorized adult change tables. Many of the spaces are available for rent.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

The community survey was conducted before opening of this community centre. The following are themes from pop-ups and workshops:

- təməsewtxʷ is a huge strength with tremendous facilities
- All age groups are happy with the wide variety of programs available
- The space is welcoming for everyone in the community

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the təməsewtxʷ Community Centre.

Strengths
People enjoy the facility and it is well used
The new programming is in high demand
təməsewtxʷ is an excellent facility for social and recreation activities
Energy initiatives should reduce operating costs
Community living room is being used for public gatherings and there are opportunities for special events in this space
Community living room offers a “free” space for community to connect to wifi, social opportunities, and access to public amenities
Programming has been responsive to community demand
təməsewtxʷ is highly innovative in its energy systems and use

Challenges
City is still learning about community needs and opportunities here
Filling the mid-day programming slots and finding uses for underutilized spaces
Gym demand is exceeding capacity for programs
Keeping up with the demand for certain types and times of fitness classes

7.2.4 Queen's Park Sportsplex

Context

The Queen's Park Sportsplex is a gymnasium facility opened in 2020. The facility is fully accessible and features photovoltaics and heat recovery ventilation units. It was built to LEED Gold standards and was the City's first net-zero carbon facility.

Size 1,184 square metres

Spaces large indoor gymnasium with gymnastics and trampoline equipment, and lines for basketball, volleyball, ball hockey, and badminton training and competition; transparent and traditional hockey boards, universal washroom

Condition

Excellent – FCI > 1% (Facilities Asset Management Plan, 2023)

Services

The facility offers gymnastics and trampoline lessons, ball hockey, volleyball, badminton, pickleball and basketball.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- The facility works well for ball hockey
- Sportsplex isn't always available enough for ball hockey rentals due to gymnastics priority[4]

4 This is consistent with City allocation policy that places programs before rentals.

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the Queen's Park Sportsplex.

Strengths
Provides flexible space for a variety of sports – ball hockey year-round, gymnastics as key users
Sportsplex is in excellent condition
Central location in New Westminster
High quality gymnastics program not typically available at public facilities
Potential to accommodate gym-based programs, easing demand at other facilities

Challenges
Competing interests due to specialized needs of gymnastics and ball hockey
Need to set up and take down gymnastics equipment
No spectator seating
Building life expectancy is around 40 years
Facility has insufficient change room and storage space

7.3 təməsewtxʷ Aquatic Centre

Context

This facility is the only indoor aquatic centre in New Westminster. It is the first aquatic centre in Canada to achieve a Zero Carbon Building standard, and the first aquatic centre in North America to use inBlue pool drum filtration system.

Aquatic Centre Spaces eight-lane 50 metre pool with dive tank and adjustable floor; leisure pool with lanes, lazy river, spray features, tot zone, and gradual entry; hot tubs, steam room, and sauna; and universal and gendered change areas

Condition

New building opened in 2024 – excellent (See section above on təməsewtxʷ Community Centre and Aquatic Centre for additional information)

Programming

Programs at təməsewtxʷ include drop-in swimming, specialty swims, registered swimming lessons at many levels, and aquatic fitness classes. Swim lessons are in high demand and the City has increased staff to accommodate demand and expand programs.

What We Heard

Participation in swimming lessons or drop-in: 60% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

The community survey was conducted before opening of this community centre. The following are themes from pop-ups and workshops:

- təməsewtxʷ is a huge strength with tremendous facilities
- Very excited for the new pool

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic Centre only.

Strengths
Aquatic centres provide diverse recreation opportunities for all age ranges
Aquatic centres make swimming available year-round

Challenges
Aquatic centres are expensive to build, staff, and maintain
The city needs more aquatic facilities to serve a growing population

Figure 7.3: Aquatic Centre Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City and District of North Vancouver 166,371	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 299,694 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Aquatic Centres	9	3	3	4	1	1	0.015	0.011	**Slightly Low**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Distribution

The aquatic centre is central in New Westminster, but it is a difficult commute from Queensborough (**Map 7.1**).

7.4 Arenas

This section assesses the supply of arenas, then reviews each facility separately.

Context

There are two arenas with seasonal ice sheets that also host dry sports. New Westminster published an Arena Strategy Report in 2021 that outlined the current and future use and expected upgrades needed to New Westminster's arena inventory.

What We Heard

Participation in skating lessons or drop-in:
30% of survey respondents

Participation in ice hockey (team) or drop-in:
11% of survey respondents

Participation in indoor lacrosse:
14% of survey respondents

Analysis

Figure 7.4: Arena Supply in Relation to Comparable Communities

Comparable Cities Population (2024)	Vancouver 756,008	Burnaby 298,986	Coquitlam 174,248	City and District of North Vancouver 166,371	Victoria 102,856	New Westminster 92,433	Average of Comparables 299,694 (x/1,000 population)	New Westminster (x/1,000 population)	City of New Westminster Amenity Comparison to Other Cities
Ice Sheets	8	4	7	5	1	2	0.021	0.022	**Comparable**
Arenas	8	3	3	3	1	2	0.013	0. 22	**High**

Data Source for Population: Statistics Canada Projections for 2024

Note: number for City of North Vancouver includes District of North Vancouver as well because their services are combined.

Distribution

The arenas are in Moody Park and Queen's Park neighbourhoods, so they are moderately well distributed on the city's mainland (**Map 7.1**).

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the arenas as a group, with the analysis of each one following.

Strengths
The arenas provide important lacrosse, ball hockey, skating, and ice hockey facilities to the city
Arenas support drop-ins, school programs, lessons, and rentals during mid-day hours
Queen's Park Arena can generate income from larger events when available

Challenges
The city arenas are old and are nearing end of life without significant investment
Arenas will be expensive to maintain or replace
Arenas in dry floor periods are underutilized during the daytime off-peak hours

7.4.1 Queen's Park Arena

Context

Queen's Park Arena has a seasonal ice sheet, and in the spring and summer it is a dry floor arena. Originally constructed in 1930, with an addition completed in 1948, the arena is 5,356 sq. m. and has significant historical value. Queen's Park Arena has seating for 3,500 spectators, a concession, multipurpose room, meeting room and sport and historic displays. Recent environmental upgrades included installing LED lighting, use of electric ice resurfacers, and electric vehicle charging stations. The Arena Strategy suggests adding a second ice sheet to Queens Park Arena as soon as 2031.

Condition

Fair – FCI >17%, identified as very high risk in the Facilities Asset Management Plan (2023). Critical capital items include studying and replacing the sanitary waste system and branch wiring and devices. Other capital repairs identified for 2024-2033 include replacing the structure, foundation, slab on grade, bleachers, and sprinklers.

Programming

The arena hosts ice hockey, lacrosse, and special events. Dry floor season runs from April to August, with ice in place from September through March. In typical years, Queen's Park Arena is available for ice users for about 81.5 hours per week for 26 weeks a year, and 66.5 hours per week for 24 weeks per year for dry floor programs.

What We Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Facilities are outdated
- Upgrades needed to bleachers and washrooms
- When the arena is closed there are not enough washrooms in the park
- Gets too hot in the spring

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the Queen's Park Arena.

Strengths
An important venue for large spectator seating
Important space for lacrosse, hockey, and other activities
Important facility for hosting events

Challenges
Costly upgrades are needed to the structure, bleachers and washrooms
High demand for lacrosse s pace when there is no dry floor available in late fall and winter
Only offers one seasonal ice sheet
Accessibility upgrades are needed to host more diverse users

7.4.2 Moody Park Arena

Context

The Moody Park Arena was constructed in 1975, with additions and renovations of an unknown age. It is 2,858 square metres with one ice sheet that is also used as a dry floor arena. The arena features a concession. The Arena Strategy recommends replacing the Moody Park Arena after construction of the Queen's Park Arena expansion.

Condition

Good to Fair – FCI > 14% and facility is nearing end of useful life.

Identified as 'high' risk to availability/reliability due to both facility condition and potential magnitude of disruption to service levels (Facilities Asset Management Plan, 2023). Potential critical capital issues include studying sanitary waste system, and repairing and replacing rainwater drainage piping and fittings. Building also needs a sprinkler system and ice rink dasher boards.

Programming

The arena hosts skating lessons, drop-in, and programmed ice activities. New Westminster High School operates a hockey academy out of Moody Park arena during the daytime as a class offering. Dry floor season runs from April to June, with ice in place from July through March. In typical years, Moody Park Arena is available for ice users September to March for about 81.5 hours per week for 26 weeks a year. During the summer months, the ice is available for 66.5 hours per week for 8 weeks, and 66.5 hours per week for 16 spring weeks per year for dry floor programs.

What we Heard

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

- Facilities need to be updated
- Traffic and parking can be difficult
- Spectator seating has bad visibility
- Gets too hot in the spring

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges of the Moody Park Arena.

Strengths
Ice sheet supports highly attended skating lessons and hockey
Dry floor here is important for lacrosse and ball hockey

Challenges
The facility needs updates and is nearing the end of its lifespan
High demand for lacrosse and ball hockey when there is no dry floor available in late fall and winter
Only offers one seasonal ice sheet
Accessibility upgrades are needed to host more diverse users such as sledge hockey

7.5 Indoor Facility Needs

7.5.1 Community Centres and Sports Complexes

As noted previously, New Westminster has a low supply of community centres in relation to comparable communities. Per that analysis and community engagement, more community centres will be needed to catch up with existing needs and to support New Westminster's growing population.

Due to the high costs of these facilities, additional analysis on needs is provided here. Many people walk for more than 10 minutes, bike, take transit, or drive to community centres due to the high level of services provided. **Map 7.2** shows a 20-minute walking distance to the four existing facilities as a reasonable proximity target. There are significant gaps in the west, east, and downtown.

New facilities would serve the most needs where residents are beyond a 20-minute walk from a community centre, where equity needs are high, and in locations slated for high-density growth. **Map 7.3** shows a combination of those factors. This analysis confirms needs in the west, east, and downtown.

Because land is in such short supply, it is assumed that the new community centres will be integrated within development projects. There are good precedents for this in Metro Vancouver. A new community centre of around 2,800 square metres can include a gymnasium, fitness facility, multi-purpose rooms, and social space. These are the amenities most in demand to meet community needs.

There are excellent examples of new community centres within high-density developments in Metro Vancouver. These include Lions Gate and Lynn Creek Community Centres in North Vancouver, and City Centre and Capstan Community Centres in Richmond. There are two main models for this – developer builds shell and municipality does the fitting out, or developer builds all and hands over a turnkey facility.

Figure 7.5: Supply and Targets for Community Centres in New Westminster

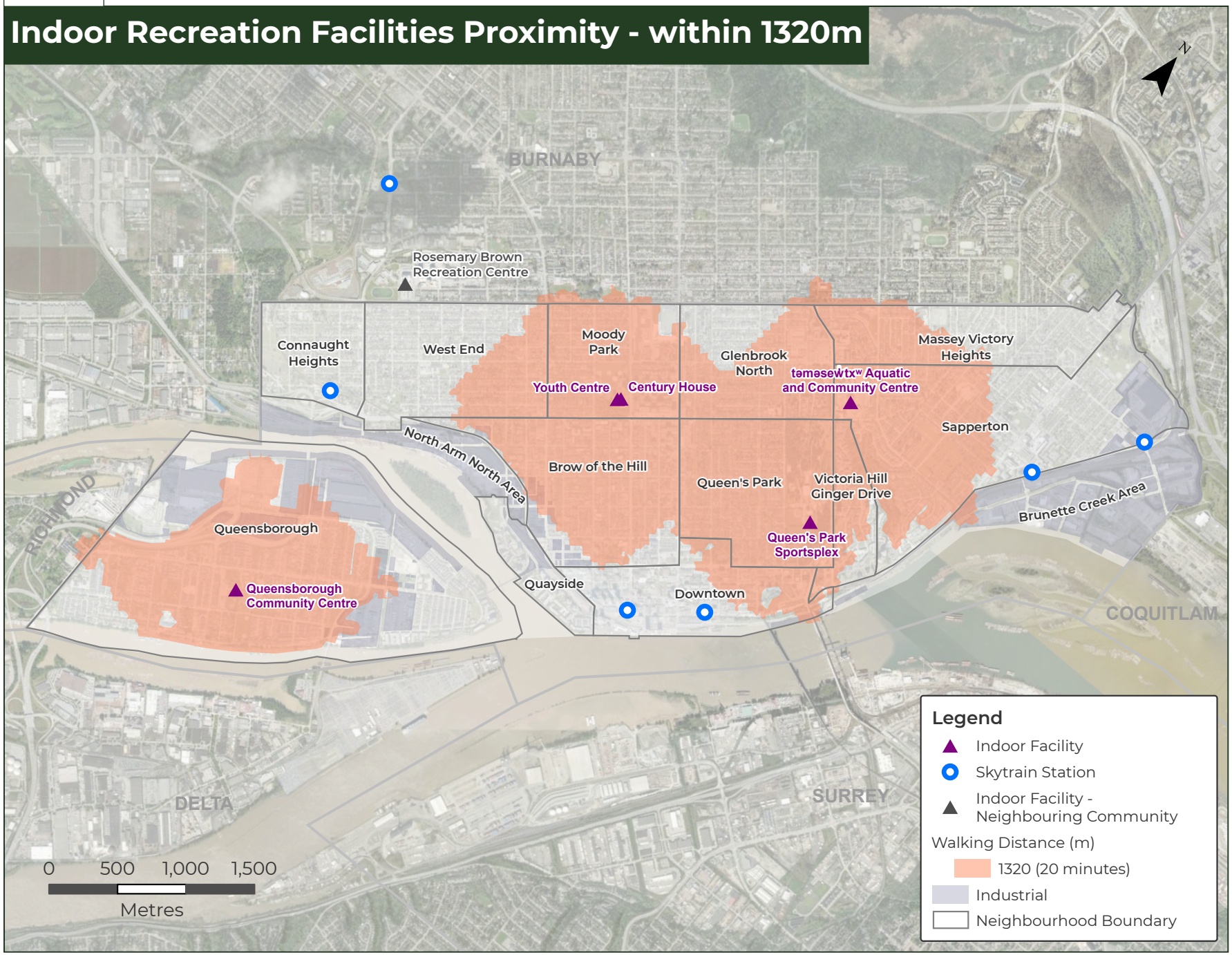
Community Centres	Square Metres	Square Metres / 1,000 Population (cumulative)
Existing Community Centres	10,000	108
Proposed Facility to Meet Existing Needs	2,800	139
Proposed Facility to Meet 10-year Needs	2,800	134

The proposed target is 135 square metres / 1,000 population (**Map 7.3**). The proposal is therefore for one community centre to be built in the near future, with a second required within the 10-year timeframe of this plan.

City of Vancouver has a target for community centres of 125 square metres / 1,000 population.

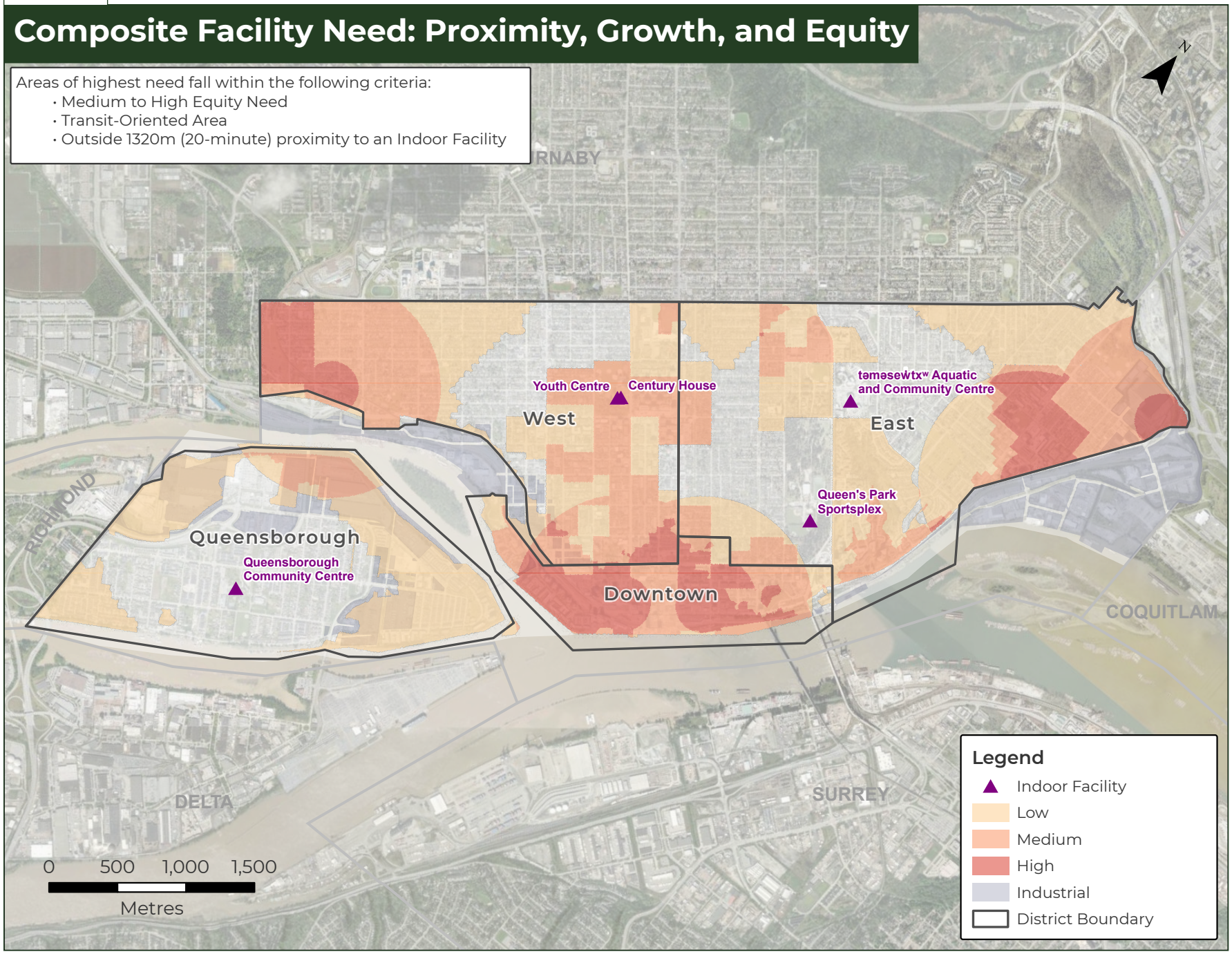
Map 7.2

Indoor Recreation Facilities Proximity - within 1320m



Map 7.3

Composite Facility Need: Proximity, Growth, and Equity



7.5.2 Aquatic Centres

New Westminster has a lower supply of aquatic centres than similar municipalities, but the very high quality, size, features, and central location of təməsewtxʷ Aquatic Centre have made it a destination facility that is meeting most community aquatic needs. Previous City studies have determined that a population of 148,000 will be the trigger for an additional aquatic centre.

One challenge is that Queensborough residents do not have good access to təməsewtxʷ. While the Queensborough population is lower than that typically used to justify an aquatic centre, south Richmond residents are within a similar catchment area. There are some precedents for small learning pools in industrial or commercial buildings; there could be an opportunity for that type of facility in Queensborough. The precedents are private facilities that focus on swimming instruction.

> There are some good precedents for learning pools in existing buildings. Aquaventures in Vancouver was retrofitted into an existing 1950s concrete retail/office building. Pedalheads Aquatic Centre is located in Park Royal Mall in West Vancouver.

The proposal is therefore to support private companies that may want to develop a pool facility in Queensborough and to evaluate the need for a new public aquatic facility towards the end of this plan's timeframe.

The regional supply of aquatic centres is shifting over time, and the development of the Burnaby Lake Recreation Complex, set to open in 2028, may alleviate some capacity issues at the təməsewtxʷ Aquatic Centre (burnaby.ca/our-city/projects/burnaby-lake-recreation-centre). As regional supply increases, some aquatic centre users may visit other facilities, but program registration data indicates that most demand is being generated by residents. Geographic factors are an important consideration. For example, a new facility in Burnaby may increase access to aquatic centres for residents in the West End and Connaught Heights, but will not alleviate access challenges for residents in Queensborough.

7.5.3 Arenas

New Westminster has a comparable number of ice sheets in relation to similar communities, but the facilities are outdated. Burnaby is building an arena that will serve the needs of the west part of New Westminster.

The Arena Strategy recommends a service level for arenas of one sheet per 30,000 residents. It also recommends a new full-sized ice sheet to be added to Queen's Park Arena to replace the Moody Park Arena. The new two-sheet venue could be developed with a new lobby to support both arenas and improvements to the facility's windows. This arena complex would offer more opportunities for tournaments. It would also operate more efficiently than the two single sheet venues the City currently operates. The savings in operating costs would help to finance the capital investment.

FOCUS AREA 8

8.0 Service Excellence and Financial Sustainability

8.1 Context

This section focuses on how the City of New Westminster manages its parks and recreation assets, provides programs and services to the community, and finances the system. It reviews the many programs and services offered, and community input on those, as they are delivered through distinct functions of the Parks division and the Recreation division, linked by a common Administration team.

The Parks division is responsible for the direct management, maintenance, and stewardship of the city's natural assets. While the Parks division plans and implements new and renewed park assets, the day-to-day maintenance of park assets (e.g., litter picking, playgrounds, sports fields) is largely the responsibility of the Public Works division within the City's Engineering and Public Works. The Parks division within the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintenance of landscaped features (e.g., gardens) across parks and public open spaces in addition to the management and maintenance of the urban forest on city owned public lands and within city parks. The Parks division, and the Parks and Open Space Maintenance division, coordinate regularly to ensure levels of service for park assets are met.

The Recreation Services and Facilities division is responsible for delivering programs, activities and services that foster social connection and well-being. The division is also responsible for the operation of the facilities within which those programs and services reside. Facility capital renewal and long-range facility planning responsibilities are shared between the Recreation Services and Facilities division of Parks and Recreation and the Civic Buildings and Properties division within the Engineering and Public Works Department. Recreation service delivery is guided by social influences such as active living, health and fitness, and fostering community connections and a sense of belonging. The division reviews the many programs and services offered and summarizes community input on those to ensure relevance and quality.

The Parks and Recreation Administration division provides centralized oversight where the two divisions overlap in policy and process, and the overall department capital and operating budget. This includes management of administrative policies and processes, centralized functions such as bookings and rentals, as well as permits and license agreements with community groups and external partners. The delivery of these services is sometimes accomplished through partnerships with community groups and by leveraging the dedicated efforts of community volunteers (further details in Section 9).

The Parks and Recreation department must balance broad public benefit (essential services for all residents) with cost recovery. Since the system operates under a public mandate, there is significant resource allocation to deliver essential community benefits. Furthermore, the City actively seeks partnerships with external groups to leverage available resources for the development and enhancement of park and recreation amenities.

The actions identified within this section will measure and improve the delivery of programs and services, facilities and amenities, while ensuring long-term financial sustainability within this balanced framework.

8.2 Asset Management

8.2.1 Context

The City of New Westminster's 2024 Facilities Asset Management Plan (FAMP) establishes the corporate framework for evaluating community recreation facility service levels, which guides the service level outcomes for the Parks and Recreation Department. Key service level considerations defined in the FAMP are in **Figure 8.1**.

Figure 8.1: FAMP Service Level Considerations

Element	Description	Key Considerations
Capacity and Use	Services have enough capacity and are available at appropriate times to residents and relevant stakeholders	Does the facility or service area have enough physical space to accommodate growth needs?
Function	Services meet customer needs while limiting health, safety, security, natural, and heritage impacts	Does a facility function appropriately or are upgrades needed?
Quality and Reliability	Services are provided reliably and to the overall quality to residents and relevant stakeholders	Is a facility at an appropriate condition level to maintain quality and reliability?
Affordability	Services are financially sustainable	How do facilities, programs, and services connect to financial sustainability and funding need?

Building on these attributes, the FAMP also establishes levels of service and technical performance measures for the City's entire asset portfolio (**Figure 8.2**).

Figure 8.2: FAMP Technical Performance Measures

Level of Service		**Technical Performance Measure**		
Service Attribute		Performance Measure	Target	Current Performance
Functional	Accessibility	Number or % of washrooms meeting city accessibility standards	# of facilities assessed and meeting RHF Accessibility Certified standards	One facility formally assessed and all other facilities informally assessed.
	Environmental Sustainability	Annual energy consumption (natural gas / electricity) per sq. m (energy intensity)		0.97 GJ/sq.m
		Total GHG emissions (tC02e) for City buildings	2030: 1,038	2022: 1,535
Quality and Reliability	Quality	% of facilities in fair or better condition (based on Facility Condition Index)	Maintain Current FCI	71.3%
	Quality	FCI 5-year % of investment needed in facility (based on total facility value)	Maintain ~17%	17.5%
Affordability	Financial Sustainability / Efficiency	Facility asset renewal annual investment as a % of replacement value	1.4%	21/22: appx. 1%

The City is currently developing departmental service levels. The condition of parks and recreation assets varies widely, from very good to poor, with resulting risks tied to the potential magnitude of disruption. The primary service level risks - ranging from low to very high – are concentrated in availability and reliability (i.e., capacity and use, quality and reliability). As was the case in the 2008 plan, the primary challenge for the city will be to ensure that parks and recreation capacity keeps pace with population growth, with a secondary challenge of maintaining existing assets.

Based on best practices research, a review of facilities, amenities, programming, and services, and the City's FAMP, measures of service levels, considerations, and indicators are shown in **Figure 8.3**.

Additional measures specific to parks and recreation, building upon the FAMP and based on feedback from staff and important topics identified through community engagement, are presented in green below. These elements and indicators are for City consideration only and are not necessarily recommended for implementation, as many elements may not have datasets available to support analysis (i.e., new data may need to be collected). In addition, targets for these elements have not been identified as baseline information will be needed to set realistic goals. Elements in green intend to illustrate how FAMP can be enhanced to more holistically encompass areas of importance to parks and recreation.

Figure 8.3: Measures Specific to Parks And Recreation

Element	Description	Key Considerations	Indicators
Capacity and Use	Facilities and spaces have enough capacity and are available at appropriate times to residents and relevant stakeholders	Does the facility or service area have enough physical space to accommodate growth needs?	▪ Per capita provision of park space and recreation facility square footage ▪ Total operational hours available per year ▪ Program registrations
Function	Services meet customer needs while limiting health, safety, security, natural, and heritage impacts	Does a facility function appropriately or are upgrades needed?	▪ Number of safety or accessibility issues that exist currently ▪ Customer feedback ▪ Environmental sustainability
Quality and Reliability	Services are provided reliably and to the agreed quality to residents and relevant stakeholders	Is a facility at an appropriate condition level to maintain quality and reliability?	▪ FCI index % ▪ Number of days facilities or amenities are closed for maintenance

Figure 8.3: Measures Specific to Parks And Recreation (continued)

Element	Description	Key Considerations	Indicators
Affordability	Services are financially sustainable	How do facilities, programs, and services connect to financial sustainability and funding need?	▪ Department cost recovery percentage ▪ Number of residents accessing ▪ Financial Assistance Program ▪ Departmental operating and capital budgets
Equity and Inclusion	Facilities, spaces, programs, and services are delivered equitably and promote inclusion	Are facilities, spaces, programs, and services accessible to all residents of New Westminster?	▪ Number of equity seeking individuals and groups served ▪ Number of special events or programs focused on reconciliation, diversity, and/or inclusion
Natural Assets	Facilities, spaces, programs, and services consider, are reflective of, and strive to protect and enhance New Westminster's natural assets	Can Departmental operations be enhanced to support New Westminster's natural assets?	▪ Development of a Natural Assets Management Strategy ▪ Urban tree canopy condition ▪ Number of trees planted ▪ Fragmentation of existing and addition of new natural assets ▪ Biodiversity and Natural Areas condition
Resident and User Group Demand	Programs and services reflect the demand and preferences of residents and user groups	Are current programs and services meeting current and future demand?	▪ Customer survey feedback ▪ User group engagement feedback

Figure 8.3: Measures Specific to Parks And Recreation (continued)

Element	Description	Key Considerations	Indicators
Trends and Benchmarking	Facilities, parks, programs, and services are responsive to emergent and anticipated trends and benchmarking compared to other municipalities	▪ Can we accommodate emergent trends in programs and services? ▪ Is our parks and recreation infrastructure adaptable? ▪ Are other municipalities making investments that we should be aware of?	▪ Research ▪ Benchmarking data
Economic Benefit	Investment in parks and recreation infrastructure, programs, and services generates economic benefits	▪ How do parks and recreation facilities contribute to New Westminster's attractiveness for visitors and new residents? ▪ What other economic activities are supported by our parks and recreation system?	▪ Quality of life indicators ▪ Resident feedback ▪ Job creation ▪ Economic impact assessments ▪ Tourism dollars

8.2.2 Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges related to asset management.

Strengths
The FAMP is an important tool for managing Parks and recreation Facilities.

Challenges
Absence of a formalized Asset Management Plan for park assets increases risk and limits proactive maintenance planning.
The FAMP's role in guiding Parks and Recreation long-range planning and informing service delivery decisions is currently underutilized.
A primary challenge with Parks and Recreation assets is ensuring that capacity keeps pace with population growth.
Parks and Recreation facilities face a wide range of service level risks due to aging assets.

8.3 Programs and Services

8.3.1 Context

Service Delivery Approach

In 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department began restructuring the organizational structure of the Recreation Services Division by shifting from a facility-based model (i.e., managers of facilities were responsible for all aspects of a facility and programming within that facility) to a function-based model in which managers primarily focus on program service areas. With the function-based model, staff are tasked with adopting a community-wide service perspective, can develop deeper program curriculum, consistent delivery and subject matter expertise (e.g., aquatics, gymnastics, fitness), and develop better understanding of particular demographic user groups (e.g., older adults, youth). Facility operations and maintenance are largely overseen by a facility maintenance coordinator, staff and functional managers with subject matter expertise.

The City of New Westminster is involved in the direct and indirect provision of parks and recreation programs and services to residents and visitors (**Figure 8.4**).

Figure 8.4: Provision Approach Examples

Provision Approach	Examples
Direct	▪ Design, invest, develop, and operate parks and recreation facilities ▪ Design and deliver programming (via City staff)
Indirect	▪ Provide facility space and access to City grant application process to user groups and community-based organizations to deliver programs and services ▪ Lease agreements for space within City facilities (e.g., user group operates within a City-owned facility through a lease agreement, or provides specialized services not offered by the City, such as daycares, rehabilitation services) ▪ Subsidized facility access fees (e.g., City provides access to facilities at a discounted rate to user groups for programming) ▪ City staff support (e.g., City staff support user groups and organizations with tasks such as strategic planning, marketing, event planning, etc.) ▪ Facility rental agreements (e.g., agreements with School District to use schools for City-run programs before and after school hours)

The Parks and Recreation Department has a long history of working successfully with community organizations and service delivery partners to support broader community development efforts (**Figure 8.5**). Examples of these successful arrangements include the Century House Association, the Queensborough Special Programs Committee, Community Sport Organizations, and the BC YMCA. Some of these relationships were initiated since the adoption of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan in 2008. Partnerships are integral to service delivery in New Westminster.

The Parks and Recreation Department's **Facility Allocation Policy and Procedures** (2010) defines user groups and sets prioritization criteria for the booking of facilities and park amenities as follows:

1. Department programs, events, and services
2. City programs, events, and services
3. Department or City community events offered in partnership with a community group
4. Youth activity groups, non-profit organizations, and School District #40
5. Returning users
6. New user groups
7. Commercial groups

Several types of cooperative relationships in programming and service delivery are reviewed in the table below, many of which are already practiced in New Westminster.

Figure 8.5: Cooperative Partnerships with Community Organizations

Cooperative Partnerships with Community Organizations	Description
Blended Program Delivery	▪ The City is highly successful with blended program delivery approaches, including direct and indirect parks and recreation programming ▪ City staff deliver programs in some areas for effectiveness and efficiency, e.g., aquatics ▪ Community organizations deliver programs based on location, user demand, and program area (e.g., long-standing user group operated programs)
Building and Operational Agreements	▪ The City has agreements with non-profit and/or commercial entities to build and operate programs and facilities, e.g., agreements in təməsewtxʷ with the YMCA operating a child care program and New West Physio opening a clinic ▪ Public-private partnerships (P3s) and design-build-operate (DBO) models can be used to reduce facility capital costs, increase access to financing, and increase program capacity without increasing the municipal staff / financing burden (not a current practice) ▪ Potential benefits of contracting out facility operations include lower operating costs, reduced budgetary risk with fixed fees, and less day-to-day facility management; there are also potential risks including less oversight over fees, less control over programs and services offered, reduced transparency of operating costs, and perception and potential reality of third-party operators profiting from public goods (not a current practice)
Program and Partnership Criteria	▪ Program and partnership criteria can help organizations determine whether to offer, enhance, or stop delivering parks and recreation programs and services, and to assess potential partnerships with third parties
Leveraging Online Tools	▪ The City offers a wide range of parks and recreation services online, including program registration, park and facility booking requests ▪ The City expands online services to support access, equity, and inclusion (e.g., providing options for phone and in-person access similar to online program registration)

Direct Programs and Services

The City of New Westminster directly delivers a comprehensive range of parks and recreation programs and services, which vary over time and by season. The following are the key programs delivered directly by the City. Registrations are accepted online, over the phone, or in person at facilities. All programs delivered to children and youth (0-18 years) are taught by instructors trained in Welcoming and Safe Children's Programming based on High Five and Commit to Kids principles.

- Day camps (winter break, spring break, summer) and School District Professional Development Days for children aged 3-15 years, including general recreation, and arts and heritage)
- Early years and Preschool programming – 0-5yrs (registered programs*, drop-in activities**)
- School age programs 5-12yrs (registered programs*, drop-in activities**)
- Youth programming 11-18yrs (registered programs*, drop-in activities**)
- Adult programming 16+yrs (registered programs*, drop-in activities**, sports leagues***)
- Older Adults programming 50+ (registered programs*, drop-in activities**)

* **Registered paid programs** include skill based lessons (e.g., swimming, skating, gymnastics), general interest, sports, dance, fitness, arts and heritage, cooking, socials, out-trip and music programs.

** **Drop-in activities** are available on a walk-in basis, or users can register in advance for limited-capacity sessions. Drop-in activities are offered in aquatics, group fitness classes, fitness centres, gymnastics, skating, hockey, sports (e.g., pickleball, badminton, table tennis, ball hockey, volleyball, basketball) and for general interest activities (e.g., youth and older adults' programs, indoor playland, arts and heritage programs).

***Sports Leagues**, primarily for adults, are organized and managed by the department in those instances where demand for league play may exist and there are no local community based sport organizations available to run the league (e.g., slo-pitch, volleyball, ball hockey)

Other services and supports offered by the City are diverse and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The City offers the **Parks and Recreation Financial Assistance Program**, which provides eligible residents a 50% fee discount on eligible programs, as well as Active 10-Visit and Active 30-Day multi-session passes. There are also multiple drop-in programs offered at a $2.00 admission fee for low barrier 'Try It' experiences to encourage accessible participation in new and emerging programs. New Westminster residents referred by New Westminster social service agencies are eligible for a 50% discount on admission fees.
- The City offers a **Participation Assistant Support Service** to those requiring one-to-one support to participate in programs. Complimentary daily admissions are available for support workers who attend with participants who require support.
- **Hourly childminding Services** are provided at təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre.
- **Administering the Parks Dedication Program**, which offers residents and community groups the opportunity to celebrate life events through the purchase of park benches, picnic tables, and loungers, accompanied by a plaque.
- **Community volunteers** are recruited and retained by the City's Community Services Department to assist with multiple areas, including recreation services, food services, older adults' activity groups offered in partnership with the Century House Association, biannual tree sale, special events, and animal services.
- Providing **community grants** to community organizations to support community livability and social equity (e.g., child care, environment, initiatives for older adults, Indigenous peoples, and youth), social and cultural vibrancy (e.g., arts, festivals, youth amateur sport, and sport travel), and economic activation (e.g., festivals and events). The grants provide funding that covers fees for City services and facilities in the offering of these events and programs.

Fees and Charges

The City charges fees to users to help recover program, facility, and parks operating costs. Fees and charges in effect for recreation facility admissions (after tax) as of February 2026 are in **Figure 8.6**:

Figure 8.6: New Westminster Recreation Facility Admission Fees 2026

Age Group	Single Visit	10 Visit Pass	30 Day Pass	365 Day Pass
0 – 3 years	Free	Free	Free	Free
4 – 12 years	$3.85	$30.75	$35.00	$24.75 / month or $297.00
13 – 18 years	$5.10	$41.00	$46.00	$33.00 / month or $396.00
19 – 64 years	$7.70	$61.50	$69.25	$49.50 / month or $594.00
65 – 74 years	$5.10	$41.00	$46.00	$33.00 / month or $396.00
75+ years	$3.85	$30.75	$35.00	$24.75 / month or $297.00
Student with ID	$5.10	$41.00	$46.00	$33.00 / month or $396.00
Family Member	$3.85			

The City sets fees and charges for parks and recreation services on an annual basis through Bylaw No. 8343. Rather than charge different rates by facility, the City charges the same access fee for all its facilities. Fees and charges are adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that helps indicate overall inflation rates within the economy, and by comparing its rates to surrounding municipalities to ensure broad regional alignment. The City, as is standard practice, charges varying fees based on age group (e.g., 0–3, youth, older adults) and offers access support programs for lower-income households.

A 2025 comparison of drop-in and annual rates for recreation facility access by municipality are presented **Figure 8.7**.

Figure 8.7: Comparison of Recreation Facility Access Fees

Rate/Fee Type	Average	Median	New West	Burnaby	Coquitlam	Surrey
Drop-in Programs and Services Admission						
1 Visit Pass						
Infant	$1.13	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2.28	$0.00
Child	$3.46	$3.43	$3.57	$3.43	$3.38	$3.57
Youth	$4.57	$5.00	$4.76	$5.14	$5.00	$3.57
Adult	$6.89	$6.86	$7.14	$6.86	$6.67	$7.14
Older Adult	$5.20	$5.14	$4.76	$5.14	$5.14	$5.47
Super Older Adult	$3.55	$3.38	$3.57	$5.14	$5.14	$2.14
Family	$3.57	$3.57	$3.57	N/A	N/A	$3.57
Student	$5.24	$5.24	$4.76	N/A	N/A	$5.47
365 Day Pass						
Infant	$81.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$243.00	$0.00
Child	$243.82	$243.00	$282.86	$217.50	$243.00	$270.95
Youth	$320.73	$326.25	$377.14	$326.25	$365.00	$270.95
Adult	$488.13	$486.00	$566.71	$436.50	$486.00	$541.70
Older Adult	$365.89	$365.00	$377.14	$326.25	$365.00	$406.43
Super Older Adult	$243.96	$243.00	$282.86	$326.25	$243.00	$162.62
Family	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	$1,083.81
Student	$385.72	$385.72	$377.14	N/A	$365.00	$406.43

Source: City of New Westminster

Compared to similar municipalities, New Westminster is generally cost-competitive within the region, with some instances of charging slightly more or slightly less than average. Drop-in programs and services admission rates are very comparable to Burnaby, Coquitlam, and Surrey. New Westminster charges more for annual passes, for all user groups except students. The price differential ranges from 3–16% depending on user group, which is a reasonable differential given varying amenities and user group programming / preferences. Rates presented above are for illustrative purposes only; differences in facility quality, amenity, and other features are important contextual factors to consider.

Indoor spaces (room rentals, arenas, pool, gymnasia) and outdoor spaces (picnic shelters, courts, track, sport fields, public spaces, plazas, storage) are rented out on an hourly basis in New Westminster, with differential fees based on user group type (e.g., heavily subsidized rates for New Westminster youth and older adult groups, subsidized rates for individuals and non-profits, non-subsidized rates for businesses). For arenas, rates vary by prime vs. non-prime time. **Figure 8.8** presents a comparison of hourly rental rates as of June 2025, with additional municipalities examined for context.

Figure 8.8: Comparison of Hourly Rental Rates

Municipality	Arena – Ice (Prime Time – All Users)	Arena – Dry Floor (Prime Time – All Users)	Pool – 25m Lane (Non-profit)	Turf Field Prime Time – Non-profit	Grass Field Prime Time – Non-profit
Burnaby	$335.00	$107.86	$34.50	$49.00	$16.00
Coquitlam	$314.00	$106.00	$25.67	$64.25	$28.75
Delta	$420.00	$108.00	$33.13	$90.00	$18.75
Port Coquitlam	$346.70	$150.00	$22.98	$74.07	$27.00
Surrey	$394.87	$114.14	$26.50	$112.72	$17.04
West Vancouver	$332.70	$127.35	$32.80	$44.10	$0.00
Victoria	$244.01	$78.28	$16.49	$57.99	$14.34
Average of Similar Communities	$341.04	$113.09	$27.44	$70.30	$17.41
New Westminster	$326.40	$107.86	$20.00	$50.48	$13.33

Source: City of New Westminster

Across all rental types examined, New Westminster charges less than the average charged by other municipalities.

Registered program fees vary by duration, service, and by child or adult user. The City uses the following criteria to determine program fees, with elements considered for partial or full cost recovery presented in **Figure 8.9** below. The City does not recover all costs through fees so some programs are subsidized by other means. Minimum and maximum participant numbers are also considered when determining program fees.

Figure 8.9: Elements Factored into Program Fees By Partial or Full Cost Recovery

Cost Recovery Element	Partial	Full
Instructor Wages and Training	•	•
Program Supplies / Materials	•	•
Program Equipment	•	•
Direct Program Administration	•	•
Basic Facility Usage (Shared)	•	•
Facility Operations (Utilities, Janitorial)		•
Maintenance and Repairs		•
Building Lifecycle (Depreciation)		•
Admin Overhead (Management, Clerical)		•
Corporate Overhead (Finance, Legal)		•
Marketing and Communications		•
Program Planning and Evaluation		•
Clerical Support		•
Risk Management and Insurance		•
Technology and Software		•

Source: City of New Westminster
Note: Registered program fees are subject to applicable taxes and fee changes based on Fees and Charges Bylaw amendments.

Department revenues consist of program, rental, pass, and drop-in revenues. Expenses are related to amortization, salaries, benefits, and health taxes.

Overall cost recovery rates, based on 2024 data, indicate that parks recovers approximately 4% of operating costs and recreation recovers around 24%. Blended together, the recreation recovers 24% of operating expenses.

What We Heard

The following is a synthesis of the first phase of engagement, including Indigenous engagement, youth drop-ins, workshops, pop-up, and the online survey (Appendix A What We Heard).

Participation in aquatics lessons and/or drop-in: 60% of survey respondents

Participation in fitness programs and/or drop-in: 46% of survey respondents

Participation in skating lessons and/or drop-in: 30% of survey respondents

Participation in gymnastics or trampoline lessons and/or drop-in: 60% of survey respondents

Participation in sports in a gym, e.g., volleyball, basketball, pickleball, ball hockey, badminton: 21% of survey respondents

Participation in day or summer kids camps: 18% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with swimming drop-in: 31% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with fitness programs: 28% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with skating drop-in: 27% of survey respondents

Satisfaction with fitness centre drop-in: 24% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with swimming lessons: 26% of survey respondents (survey conducted during transition between Canada Games Pool closure and opening of new aquatic centre)

Dissatisfaction with swimming drop-in: 16% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with fitness programs: 15% of survey respondents

Dissatisfaction with day or summer kids camps: 12% of survey respondents

Key Themes from All Forms of Engagement

Aquatics

- Provide aquafit and accessible classes for all people, not just older adults
- More aquafit classes in evenings and weekends
- Would like more swimming lessons- they fill up too quickly
- Improve booking system for swimming lessons
- Better communication and scheduling regarding pool closures and program availability
- More outdoor pool hours for adults and older adults swim time
- Provide an aquatic facility in Queensborough

Skating

- Not enough skating lessons available to meet demand
- Would like year-round skating and hockey in New Westminster
- Provide more advanced classes for youth

Day camps

- Provide more variety of camps year-to-year so youth don't repeat the same ones

Gymnastics

- More gymnastics class times- they are in high demand
- People in Downtown, Sapperton, Queens Park, Glenbrooke North, Victoria Hill Ginger Drive and Moody Park have higher satisfaction with gymnastics and trampoline drop-in

General interest and education programs (arts, music, dance, heritage, technology, literacy, skill development)

- More art drop-ins wanted at Anvil Centre
- More arts and culture programs desired
- Provide dance classes at Anvil Centre
- Would like baby/parent dance classes
- Would like coding and AI classes for adults and older adults

Sports

- Provide pickleball scheduled after work hours and on weekends

General fitness

- More classes for people aged 18-55
- More variety in types of fitness classes offered
- Post-partum fitness classes desired
- Would like more strength training classes
- More fitness classes desired at Anvil Centre
- More fitness classes desired in evenings and weekends in Queensborough

Early years and preschool

- More programming for parents and babies
- Better streaming of prerequisites from preschool to youth level
- Would like more programming for preschoolers
- Make childcare available at gyms so that parents can participate after work

Older adults' programming

- There are limited older adults' facilities
- Would like programming for people with dementia
- Address technological barriers to program information and registration
- Consider lowering older adults' prices
- Demand for more 50+ / older adults' programming options at Queensborough Community Centre

Youth programming

- More drop-ins for youth and older youth
- More youth fitness programs wanted at Anvil Centre
- Improve the quality of youth programming
- In Phase 2 engagement, 98% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with improving and expanding core services.

Analysis

Data from the City's registration and tracking system was used to compare and contract participation levels for registered programs. The data needs to be considered in the context of the following:

- Sportsplex was under construction in 2019, so gymnastics programs were held at New Westminster schools and the Royal City Curling Club.
- The soft launch of təməsew̓txʷ Aquatic and Community Centre halfway through spring 2024 affected several functional areas across the recreation services division.
- The period between 2019 and 2024 has not been included for comparative purposes due to the impact of extraordinary local and global circumstances such as the COVID-19 Pandemic starting in 2020 and the premature closure of former Canada Games Pool in 2021.

Figure 8.10 illustrates high level programming data provided by the City for 2019 and 2025. This table provides general insight into participation trends, but during that period the Department transitioned from a facility-based programming model to a city-wide, function-based programming model. As a result, illustrating changes by function from 2019 to 2025 is not possible. However, this data still illustrates changes in program counts, registrations, and waitlist data (numbers rounded to the nearest 10). Season dates are as follows:

- Winter: January 1 – March 31
- Spring: April 1 – June 30
- Summer: July 1 – August 31
- Fall: September 1 – December 31

Figure 8.10: New Westminster Registrations by Season 2019 and 2025

Season	# of Programs Offered		Resident Reg.		Non-Resident Reg.		Waitlist	
Year	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025
Winter	1440	1840	5510	8350	1790	2070	820	2890
Spring	1380	1550	5830	7240	1930	1760	980	2680
Summer	1480	1480	5410	6120	1750	1650	820	1650
Fall	1910	2270	6670	9230	2060	2560	940	2840
TOTAL	**6210**	**7140**	**23420**	**30940**	**7530**	**8040**	**3560**	**10060**

Source: City of New Westminster

The following are high-level findings from this data:

- Between 2019 and 2025, the total number of programs offered by the City increased by 15% - or 930. Winter and fall saw the largest increases in programs offered, with summer program counts remaining constant over this time period.
- Total resident registrations increased by 32% over this period (+7,520). The largest seasonal increases in resident registrations were in winter and fall, indicating that the City is actively increasing program offerings in seasons where there has been increased resident demand.
- Resident registration demand has increased at a greater rate (32%) than program growth (15%). This may suggest that existing program offerings are being better subscribed and/or more efficiently delivered by the City.
- Non-resident demand has remained relatively stable, increasing by around 6.8% between 2019 and 2025.
- Growth pressure for programming is primarily being driven by New Westminster residents, rather than regional users.
- Waitlist numbers have increased significantly between 2019 and 2025, increasing in total by 182%. The most significant waitlist increases were in winter (252%), fall (202%), and spring (173%). Summer waitlist counts doubled over this period as well.
- Likely drivers of programming demand include high population growth over this period, demographic changes leading to new demand or higher participation, increased program popularity, and potentially limited alternatives within the private sector.

Key strategic considerations include:

- Work to quantify what would be needed to reduce or eliminate waitlists, including facility capacity, staffing, and budget considerations.
- Explore policy options to improve service delivery for residents, including resident-only priority windows, tiered pricing for non-residents, and targeted seasonal programming pilots for increasing program offerings.

Registration data by season for 2025 is presented in **Figure 8.11** through **Figure 8.14**, following by an analysis of the data. There is a +/-5% margin of error in this data due to reporting differences.

Figure 8.11: Winter Program Registration 2025

Program Area	# of Programs	# Programs Under Min. Registration	# of Cancelled Programs	Resident Registrations	Non-Resident Registrations	Total Registrations	Waitlist
Aquatics	581	49	8	1773	269	2042	1329
Arenas	352	17	2	1096	248	1344	582
Gymnastics	425	52	2	1351	537	1888	513
Fitness and Drop In Sport	86	4	1	405	102	507	20
Youth	7	0	6	161	40	201	6
Older adults	52	4	3	879	326	1205	96
CHA	14	0	0	330	175	505	2
Community Recreation	298	33	47	2062	323	2385	221
Day Camps	20	2	0	290	53	343	116
TOTAL	**1835**	**161**	**69**	**8347**	**2073**	**10420**	**2885**

Source: City of New Westminster

- Overall program demand is strong, with more than 10,400 registrations and a cumulative waitlist across all program areas nearing 2,900.
- Aquatics is the largest pressure point from a program area perspective, with the most significant waitlists across all program areas. Just over 8% of programming within aquatics has under the minimum registration required to offer programs.
- Demand pressure for aquatics, despite programs under minimums and cancellations, outweighs potential delivery inefficiencies given the substantial waitlist. This waitlist could be attributed to a number of factors, including overall supply and demand of programming, qualified lifeguards and instructional staff availability, and hours and locations of programming.
- Arena programming has strong demand, as evidenced by registrations, and also a sizeable waitlist at 582. There are few program cancellations and under-minimum registrations. This could indicate ice time constraints.
- Gymnastics has strong registration numbers and a sizable waitlist, indicating program area health as well. The 52 programs delivered under minimum registration suggests some potential inefficiencies, perhaps due to age segmentation or scheduling.
- Fitness and Drop In (DI) Sport indicates efficiencies and stability in program demand, with a low waitlist, minimal programs delivered under minimum, and few cancellations.
- Youth programming data suggests some structural instability, with seven programs offered and six programs cancelled. Youth interests and schedules vary significantly and can be a challenging program area for municipalities to see sustained registration demand.
- Robust participation in older adults programs is encouraging, indicating that the City is meeting the needs of a growing aging population in a very effective manner. High registration numbers and low waitlist numbers suggest supply is meeting demand.
- Community Recreation programs are the most subscribed based on total registrations. However, this program area also has the highest number of program cancellations and demand pressure as evidenced by the waitlist. There may be some inefficiencies within this program area that should be explored further.
- Winter daycamp numbers suggest a good balance between programming and demand, with waitlist data indicating that additional programs could be supported.
- Aquatics and arena programming account for 66% of total waitlists. Capital investment in additional assets and/or scheduling strategies may be worth exploring to close these gaps.
- Fitness and drop-in sport, Century House Association, and older adults programs illustrate efficient delivery and predictable demand. These program areas could be expanded incrementally with little risk.

Figure 8.12: Spring Program Registration 2025

Program Area	# of Programs	# Programs Under Min. Registration	# of Cancelled Programs	Resident Registrations	Non-Resident Registrations	Total Registrations	Waitlist
Aquatics	741	59	9	2398	389	2787	2044
Arenas	12	1	3	82	4	86	11
Gymnastics	277	29	1	832	316	1148	217
Fitness and Drop In Sport	114	3	1	452	88	540	17
Youth	11	1	7	131	37	168	0
Older adults	105	6	3	1224	397	1621	152
CHA	6	0	0	243	208	451	30
Community Recreation	285	33	49	1921	325	2246	240
Day Camps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**1551**	**132**	**73**	**7283**	**1764**	**9047**	**2711**

Source: City of New Westminster

- The overall ratio between those on a waitlist and participating in programming is significant at 30% (2,711/9,047).
- Aquatics, much like in winter, has the largest waitlist (75% of total registrations) indicating a capacity bottleneck, in terms of scheduling, staffing, or infrastructure.
- Community Recreation again has the highest number of program cancellations, which may indicate a mismatch in program offerings, rather than a lack of demand given waitlists.
- Older adults programming again illustrates strong performance, with close alignment among program numbers, registrations, and waitlist data.
- Youth programming again has a high program cancellation rate (64%), but lower than in the winter season.

Figure 8.13: Summer Program Registration 2025

Program Area	# of Programs	# Programs Under Min. Registration	# of Cancelled Programs	Resident Registrations	Non-Resident Registrations	Total Registrations	Waitlist
Aquatics	410	69	2	1248	257	1505	872
Arenas	288	12	0	779	229	1008	297
Gymnastics	385	121	1	829	608	1437	53
Fitness and Drop In Sport	82	4	1	219	60	279	8
Youth	19	4	2	207	26	233	38
Older adults	45	0	10	618	171	789	83
CHA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Recreation	142	23	25	789	120	909	134
Day Camps	105	4	2	1435	180	1615	161
TOTAL	**1476**	**237**	**43**	**6124**	**1651**	**7775**	**1646**

Source: City of New Westminster

- In terms of overall demand, summer is the least busy of the City's four seasons, with fewer registrations and individuals on waitlists than any other season. Around 16% of programs are under minimum registration thresholds, the highest of any season. The total waitlist ratio is 21%, also the lowest of any season.
- Overall, registration pressure appears to drop from the spring season. This likely coincides with children being out of school (thus the increase in daycamp programming and registrations), families taking vacations, and more people recreating outdoors through other structured or unstructured activities.
- The waitlist for aquatics programming drops to 872 (from 2,044 in spring), which is a significant drop – but still a substantial number of individuals on waitlists.

- Gymnastics sees more programs being delivered under minimum registration targets, with only 53 individuals on waitlists. This suggests that there may be an oversupply of gymnastics programming in the summer season.
- Daycamps are the City's most popular program by registration numbers in the summer, with strong demand and a reasonable waitlist. Additional programs could be offered at low risk to address waitlists, but supply is generally meeting demand.
- Arena programming takes a huge jump from spring, increasing from 12 to 288 programs total, with strong registration numbers. Waitlist data suggests that additional programs could be supported, but this may also be a facility capacity and scheduling constraint. While program specific information is not available for the 'arenas' category, dry floor use by lacrosse, ball hockey, and other users are likely driving some of this increased demand in the summer.
- Summer, based on data reviewed, appears to be the City's most operationally flexible season.

Figure 8.14: Fall Program Registration 2025

Program Area	# of Programs	# Programs Under Min. Registration	# of Cancelled Programs	Resident Registrations	Non-Resident Registrations	Total Registrations	Waitlist
Aquatics	647	43	6	2000	399	2399	1697
Arenas	367	22	1	1014	245	1259	238
Gymnastics	508	82	4	1352	763	2115	348
Fitness and Drop In Sport	311	10	6	748	156	904	28
Youth	21	8	11	207	48	255	4
Older adults	106	2	14	1603	548	2151	130
Community Recreation	294	33	47	2097	347	2444	353
Day Camps	12	0	0	210	54	264	43
TOTAL	**2266**	**200**	**89**	**9231**	**2560**	**11791**	**2841**

Source: City of New Westminster

- Fall is the City's busiest season for program delivery, with 2,266 programs being the highest offered across the four seasons. Registration numbers are also highest in the fall, but average number of participants per program is lower than in the spring (5.2 registrations per program in fall, 5.7 in the spring)
- Aquatics program demand returns to similar levels as winter and spring, with the waitlist jumping to 1,697.
- Gymnastics registrations also jump from summer, exceeding 2,000 with close to 350 waitlisted, but there are also many programs offered under minimum registration targets.
- Community Recreation programs continue to have strong demand, but a high number of program cancellations and several below minimum registration targets.
- Older adults programs remain well-subscribed and waitlist numbers are healthy, suggesting a continued balance between program offerings and demand.
- Youth programs continue to have a high proportion of cancelled programs (52%), a trend observed across other seasons.

2025 Program Data General Observations

- Across the four programming seasons, the annual waitlist is 5,942. Aquatics alone accounts for more than 50% of waitlist demand. While there are a few under-minimum programs offered in aquatics throughout the year, there is significant unmet demand in this program area. Unmet demand is not a program portfolio issue based on this data, but rather a staffing or facility constraint.
- Aquatics programming was offered at a similar level in 2025 as in 2019, with the program area being in great demand. However, offerings are very dependent on aquatic staff availability. Training, hiring, and onboarding of aquatic staff is a significant focus for the City and as more staff are onboarded, more program offerings are intended.
- Arena programming has consistent demand across all seasons, with moderate waitlists and few program cancellations. Registrations are likely limited by ice time availability or staffing, rather than market demand.
- Gymnastics program demand is highly seasonal, with high demand and waitlists in the winter and fall, but much lower demand and higher under-minimum programs in the spring. This suggests seasonal variability in demand and that summer programming may exceed demand.
- Fitness and drop-in sport are highly efficient program areas, with few program cancellations, very low waitlists, and stable participation as evidenced by registration numbers. Increasing programming in this area may be low risk, but is unlikely to relieve major system-wide pressure.
- Youth programming has a consistently high percentage of program cancellations compared to programming offered. Demand depth for programs appears thin, with program design potentially misaligned with demand.
- Older adults programming has consistently high registrations, low cancellations, and moderate waitlists. This appears to be a programming area that could be a scalable, stable segment. Increased older adults programming could be strategically important when considering broader demographic trends in New Westminster.
- Community Recreation programs generally have high cancellations, a high number of programs offered under minimum registration targets, and moderate waitlists. Registration data illustrates that some subsegments of Community Recreation programming are well-subscribed and popular, but there may be the wrong mix of program offerings.
- Daycamps, as should be expected, illustrate seasonal variability. However, well-subscribed programs and moderate waitlists suggest that the City is adequately meeting demand.

System Level Observations

- System level pressure is primarily driven by three program areas: aquatics, arenas, and gymnastics.
- Seasonal elasticity can be observed, with summer having higher inefficiencies and lower waitlists. Staffing and scheduling adjustments may be needed to redistribute resources to other seasons or other program areas.
- Aquatics is a difficult program area to navigate due to excessive demand and large waitlists; challenges within this program area may include lane hour constraints, facility capacity constraints, certified instructor or lifeguard staffing challenges, and prime-time compression issues. Operational changes may lead to some improvement, but capital or structural changes may be required long term. Barring non-residents from registering in aquatics programming would not substantially alleviate waitlists. Development of new aquatics facilities within the region may help to relieve some pressure, but would also potentially see New Westminster residents traveling to other communities for aquatics programming.
- High cancellations and waitlists within Community Recreation programming suggests that some programs may be too niche or that demand is concentrated into just a few subprogram areas.
- Older adults programming is a major area of strength across all seasons and changing community demographics may warrant additional allocation of resources towards this important program area.

Summary of Trends

- Registration numbers are increasing.
- Waitlists saw a significant increase from 2019 to 2024. About 50% of these were for aquatics programs, likely in anticipation of the new pool. Excluding aquatics, waitlist numbers were similar in 2019 and 2024.
- Participation in youth drop-in programs increased from 2019 to 2024.
- Data for older adults' drop-in programs was not available for 2024, but there were close to 2,900 sessions offered in 2019 with more than 122,000 participants. With growth in the city's older adult population over this period, it is likely that participation has increased.
- Summer 2024 saw around 1,000 more registrations compared to 2019. A significant portion of this increase came from gymnastics services and the summer camp program at indoor facilities.
- There was a notable rise in withdrawals in 2024 compared to 2019. A spot check suggests the refund policy is not being consistently followed, likely due to a security setting in Xplor.
- A significant number of programs were running under capacity, potentially due to program quality, participant interests, and/or program pricing.
- Rooms were not all being used to their maximum capacity.
- The Xplor Recreation System was not being used to its full potential, as it could provide information to support better decision-making, especially for drop-in programs.
- Century House only did rentals in the Spruce Room in 2024, and could consider expanding rental services on evening and weekends.
- Older adults and youth participated primarily on a drop-in basis.
- Facility use data may not be accurate for Century House as hours of operation may have been different in 2019.
- Data is likely not complete for older adults drop-in or for Century House spaces.

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges related to programs and services.

Strengths
The combination of direct and indirect service delivery is working well.
The organizational approach with staff responsible for functional areas appears to be operating effectively, since it's recent implementation.
The City is interested in and responsive to expanding its programing and services to meet evolving user needs, particularly newcomers, at-risk populations, and equity-deserving groups
The City has policies for fees and charges
The City has an allocation policy that focuses on equity-deserving groups
Some of the City's fees are comparable with those of similar communities
There are many recreation programs available in the City for diverse activities and age groups, and participation is increasing
Many programs are very popular, especially swimming, day camps, gymnastics, and some arts programs
Drop-in programs are well-subscribed, particularly fitness, older adults' activities; and youth programs

Challenges
There are apparently a significant number of equity-deserving households that would benefit from an expansion of Financial Assistance Program eligibility (e.g., income caps for larger households may limit participation)
Facility annual pass fees are higher than those of similar communities
The City's allocation policy makes it difficult for new users to obtain space
Lack of comparable data between 2019 and 2024 limits the accuracy of analysis, and drop-in program types vary by year, making direct comparison difficult.
The City is lacking accurate and consistent data on participation and facility utilization, making comparison across years and trend identification challenging
There are waitlists for many programs, limiting potential participation, particularly in aquatics, gymnastics, ball hockey, arena programs, day camps, and older adults' programs
Some programs are running under capacity, including general interest programs, some arts programs, and some fitness and wellness programs
Growing youth, newcomer, and older adult populations may create access challenges related to user-appropriate programming, timing of delivery, and access (e.g., transportation, fees)
A primary challenge will be to ensure that program capacity and space keep up with population growth.

8.4 Financial Sustainability

8.4.1 Context

Introduction

People, Parks, and Play is a guiding document that will be implemented in phases based on evolving community needs, the pace of population growth and development, funding opportunities, and Council priorities. This living document does not commit the City to any project nor limit future opportunities but sets the long-term vision, goals and objectives to guide future decisions in Parks and Recreation. The recommendations will need to be reaffirmed through annual workplans and budgets, funding sources, emerging City Council priorities, workplans, budgets, and partnerships on an ongoing basis.

Most of the City's funds for parks and recreation operating costs are derived from departmental revenue sources and property taxes. Capital projects, which includes new and renewed amenities and facilities, are funded by a combination of sources including capital reserves, government and third party grants, debt, and finance tools related to growth (e.g., Development Cost Charges, Amenity Cost Charges, Works and Services Agreements, Density Bonusing and Parkland Dedication). In some cases, the Climate Action Reserve Fund (CARF) may be applicable for incremental funding if the project is advancing the City's climate action strategies.

As property development occurs, some parkland acquisition and construction will be paid for through Development Cost Charges (DCCs). DCCs are one-time fees collected from developers to help fund the cost of growth-related infrastructure, park improvements and parkland acquisition. DCCs are regulated through the *Local Government Act*. The rates charged reflect the impact growth has on infrastructure and parks; the greater the impact, the larger the charge. This helps ensure that development contributes towards the necessary growth-related infrastructure improvements.

DCCs are paid by applicants at time of complete applications for subdivision (for new single-family lots) or Building Permit (for multifamily residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments).

The capital park improvement costs that can be covered by DCCs are specific and currently include fencing, landscaping, drainage, irrigation, trails, rest rooms, change rooms, and playground and playing field equipment. Items not included on that list cannot be paid for through DCCs, e.g., access roads, parking lots, hard surfaces other than trails, dugouts, bleachers, shelters, tennis or basketball courts, baseball diamonds, artificial turf, spray parks, skate parks, tracks, or lighting systems.

In 2025, the Development Cost Charges Amendment Bylaw was adopted by Council to combine the Queensborough Parkland DCC and the Mainland Parkland DCC as one City-Wide Acquisition and Development DCC. The New Westminster Amenity Cost Charges Bylaw No. 8540 was also adopted in 2025.

Amenity Cost Charges (ACC) is a new financing tool introduced by the Province. It is similar to DCCs, which are charges levied on new development (i.e., levied at the subdivision, or building permit stage) to assist in funding the cost of new infrastructure and facility upgrades that are outside of the DCC bylaw - examples include, but are not limited to, urban parks, community centres, libraries, and daycares.

While the Province has introduced **Bill 46** to allow for **Amenity Cost Contributions** (ACCs) in addition to existing park **Development Cost Charges** (DCCs)—which remain the primary tool for land acquisition and specific park improvements—there is a recognized gap between the revenue these tools generate and the actual cost of expanding the system.

Other financing tools related to new development are Parkland Dedication and Works and Services Agreements:

- **Parkland Dedication** As a condition of subdivision approval, five percent of the development site must be dedicated for use as parkland, or a cash contribution in lieu of the land may be provided. However, given the few remaining areas large enough for subdivision, parkland dedication is now less utilized. Future opportunities are more likely to involve lot consolidation for development and increasing the parkland inventory.
- **Works and Services Agreements** These agreements between the City and a development applicant ensure that water, sewer, electrical, transportation (e.g., crossings, curbs, sidewalks) infrastructure, street trees and public realm amenities within and adjacent to the development site provided or improved to meet current City standards. Works and Services Agreements are required for all new development.

Other funding sources for Parks and Recreation potentially include the following:

- Third-party grants for special projects, sometimes secured in collaboration with community groups or other city departments (e.g., for community events, active transportation, green infrastructure or climate action initiatives)
- Recapture of costs through program and user fees
- Private donations or bequests from individuals or organizations
- Commercial revenues from business operations at concession and facility leases (e.g., food vendors, physiotherapists)
- Sponsorship opportunities (e.g., major events, brochures, maps, naming rights)
- Paid parking at high-demand parks and recreation facilities
- Paid permit process for temporary construction impacts on parkland; while the Parks and Recreation Department strives to avoid the use of parkland for construction staging, allowing it only in cases where it is the sole viable option
- Partnerships (e.g., with community groups, sports organizations, cultural groups)
- Marketing initiatives to increase visitation to key attractions (e.g., related to the riverfront and special events)

Co-Benefits of Investment in the Parks & Recreation System

Investment in the parks and recreation system generates significant co-benefits that extend beyond the core service delivery, directly enhancing the City's financial resilience, supporting the local economy and providing substantial cost savings.

These benefits, citing Canadian and BC articles and data applicable to New Westminster, include:

Financial & Economic Benefits

- **Job Creation and Local Business Support –** Parks and recreation create direct and indirect employment (e.g., event management, hospitality) and attract visitors, driving spending at local businesses and supporting a more resilient local economy.
- **Tourism and Events Revenue –** Hosting sports tournaments, festivals, and other programs attracts residents and visitors, generating substantial revenue through fees, sponsorships, and visitor spending (e.g., sport-related tourism contributed $7.4 billion to the Canadian economy in 2019).

- **Community Volunteering –** Volunteer work in sport, physical activity, and recreation provides a financial equivalent worth billions nationally (estimated $13.6 billion in 2020), substantially supporting the maintenance, operations, and event organization.

Cost Savings and Operational Efficiency

- **Healthcare Cost Reduction and Mental Wellbeing –** Regular physical activity (reducing chronic disease incidence) and time spent in nature (mitigating stress and anxiety) significantly reduce healthcare demands. These benefits translate into substantial public healthcare savings (e.g., a 10% increase in physical activity could save Canada an estimated $629 million annually) and improved community mental health outcomes. The impact of physical activity and time spent on nature is especially critical for mental health, as BC Centre for Disease Control data for Fraser North (including New Westminster) in 2022/2023 indicated that 30% of residents had been diagnosed with a mood and/or anxiety disorder at some point during their lives, a higher lifetime prevalence than any of the other reported chronic health conditions.
- **Crime and Safety Reduction –** Engaging youth in structured activities promotes pro-social behaviors, reducing anti-social behaviour and crime rates, which can lower law enforcement and public safety costs. According to Middle Development Instrument data for the New Westminster School District for 2024/2025, 91% of grade 5 and 84% of grade 8 students participated in out of school activities.
- **Climate Resilience and Infrastructure Protection –** Parks and green spaces provide essential ecosystem services. For example, they act as natural stormwater buffers to mitigate flood risks, and increase urban cooling (combating the urban heat island effect), which protects municipal infrastructure and reduces energy consumption/utility costs.
- **Enhanced Productivity –** Regular participation in physical activity improves cognitive function, productivity, and reduces absenteeism (with one study finding a 6% to 10% increase in earnings for active individuals). Based on the BC Centre for Disease Control's 2023 Public Health Survey of adults, 54% of New Westminster adults exercised 150 minutes/week or more, which was slightly than the Fraser North average of 53% but lower than the BC average of 59%.

Social Benefits and Skill Building

- **Social Cohesion –** Parks and programs serve as vital gathering spaces, fostering strong social networks and high levels of civic engagement, which improve community resilience during emergencies. Based on the BC Centre for Disease Control's 2023 Public Health Survey of adults, 57% of New Westminster respondents, 59% of Fraser North respondents and 56% of BC respondents reported a weak sense of community belonging.
- **Workforce Development –** Community volunteering in recreation programs enhances employability for youth and the unemployed by providing valuable, transferable skills like leadership and teamwork. The youth (15-24 years old) unemployment rate in British Columbia remained elevated as of October 2025 at 15.6%.

What We Heard

The Phase 1 engagement did not request input on financial strategies.

In Phase 2 engagement, 83% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with planning for financial stability.

Analysis

Strengths and Challenges

The following are the strengths and challenges related to achieving long-term financial sustainability for the Parks and Recreation system.

Strengths
The City utilizes a comprehensive and diverse array of financial tools to fund parks and recreation assets and services.
Extensive forecasted development provides opportunity to collect growth-related funding (e.g., DCCs and ACCs) to fund parkland acquisition, park development and recreation facilities to support growth.
Local businesses can benefit from offering complementary services and filling gaps

Challenges
Significant capital funding gaps exist to address legacy needs, maintain existing assets, and accommodate future growth, particularly for parkland acquisition and the development and redevelopment of parks amenities and recreation facilities.
It is difficult to secure adequate long-term operational funding to staff, maintain, and sustain newly acquired parkland and completed capital projects.

FOCUS AREA 9

9.0 Collaboration and Partnerships

9.1 Context

The City of New Westminster's ability to deliver comprehensive parks and recreation opportunities is significantly enhanced through a wide array of partnerships. The Parks and Recreation Department collaborates with diverse groups and organizations across many sectors, illustrating the broad impact and importance of the City's parks and recreation system.

The Parks and Recreation Department's existing collaborations include:

- **Indigenous Peoples –**This is a high-priority relationship for the City, addressed in Focus Area 1 Reconciliation.
- **Sports Organizations –** Parks and Recreation provides indoor and outdoor spaces and supports the activities of a wide range of sports groups that use sports fields, tracks, courts, pools, arenas (for ice, dry floor, and indoor court space), gymnasiums, and multi-purpose rooms.
- **Business Associations and Businesses –** Parks and Recreation works with local businesses and associations to support activities, events, and sponsorships.
- **Local Community Organizations (including clubs and associations) –** The Department offers spaces and supports the activities of recreation, arts, culture, health, environmental, climate response, and other diverse community groups.
- **Community Service Providers –** Parks and Recreation coordinates services and programs with organizations and prioritizes those that support equity-deserving groups.
- **Residents' Associations –** Parks and Recreation coordinates facilities, services, and targeted engagement to meet the parks and recreation needs of the city's neighbourhoods.
- **Schools and Daycares –** Parks and Recreation coordinates some facilities and services with School District 40, post-secondary institutions, private schools, and daycare operators to improve efficiency and meet the needs of community and education groups.
- **City Departments –** The Parks and Recreation Department collaborates with all other City departments, with particularly strong partnerships with Community Services, Social Planning, Public Art, and Library Services to foster community connection and belonging. This collaborative approach acknowledges the multiple influences and shared portfolios that contribute to public well-being, as was demonstrated when seeking broad departmental input for **People, Parks, and Play**.
- **Development Planning Teams –** Parks and Recreation increasingly collaborates with the Planning and Development Department, Transportation, and other departments to prepare park-specific master plans and to integrate parks and recreation needs into large-scale community master plans (e.g., as part of amenity contributions) and active transportation projects.

- **Regional Organizations –** Parks and Recreation coordinates the provision of facilities, services, and outdoor spaces with other municipalities, health authorities, transportation bodies, and other organizations and levels of government.

To explore creative solutions and opportunities for collaboration, the **People, Parks, and Play** project team interviewed the following key organizations:

- School District 40 (SD40)
- Douglas College
- Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC)
- Fraser Health Authority (FHA)
- Metro Vancouver
- Neighbouring Municipalities (Burnaby, Coquitlam, Richmond, Surrey)

The discussions focused on understanding shared challenges and identifying potential models for delivering new and improved outdoor spaces, services, and amenities. The following are some of the key themes from those discussions:

- **Shared Facilities:** School sites with outdoor recreation amenities, parking lots, and indoor spaces (e.g., gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms) should be shared to maximize opportunities for school and community members.
- **Urban School Model:** A new "urban school" model will be needed, with features such as multi-level schools, smaller building footprints, rooftop gardens and playgrounds, integration of schools into urban buildings, and schools as "community hubs", potentially through expansion of existing schools or mixed-use development opportunities.
- **Connectivity:** City parks and facilities are used by students at all levels, so co-location or providing non-vehicular connections among schools, parks, and City facilities can have benefits.
- **Internships and Co-op Placements:** Post-secondary student placements in community programs are an existing arrangement with potential for expansion.
- **Health and Wellness:** Collaboration with the Fraser Health Authority on four areas within their Wellness Strategy – active living, mental wellness, tobacco and vaping cessation, and food security and nutrition – are valuable for supporting vulnerable populations and making sure that their needs are addressed in the city.
- **Regional Planning:** Metro Vancouver collaborates with New Westminster on regional parks, greenway, and blueway planning, and the Metro Vancouver Natural Asset Strategy. These efforts help to build on the city's natural corridors and connections within the region. The City and Metro Vancouver co-own land at 1400 Quayside, which presents a potential opportunity for park development.
- **Inter- Municipal Services:** Neighbouring municipalities are interested in coordinating services across city boundaries, which can reduce duplication and support municipalities offering programs that are unique in the region.

9.2 What We Heard

The Phase 1 survey of the engagement process did not request input on collaboration and partnerships.

In Phase 2 engagement, 84% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed with the goal of collaborating and formalizing partnerships.

9.3 Analysis

The following is a summary of the key strengths and challenges of the City's parks and recreation services in relation to collaboration and partnerships.

Strengths
The City maintains many formal and informal relationships with community groups, businesses, different levels of governments, organizations, and the development sector.
There is some existing and ongoing collaboration (informally and through shared use agreements) between the City and SD40 for indoor facility and outdoor amenity sharing, and service and maintenance coordination, maximizing resources for students and residents.
There is a recognized opportunity for a formal joint operations and maintenance agreement between the City and SD40 to enable wider, all-season community use of school sports fields, which may help to address resource limitations.
Neighbouring municipalities have expressed interest in formalizing cross-boundary coordination on parks, facility, and services planning.
Fraser Health Authority partners with the City to deliver services and programs that are specifically targeted to the needs of equity-deserving residents (vulnerable populations).
There is a strategic long-term Riverfront Vision that relies on interdepartmental collaboration and extensive future partnerships to achieve its goals to create a continuous, connected and activated riverfront.
The City's existing Public Art Strategy facilitates cross- departmental collaboration, with policy development currently underway to integrate public art and cultural visibility into parks and facilities.

Challenges
Some local community groups lack the necessary resources for effective outreach and programming required to meet evolving needs, limiting co-delivery of services with the Parks and Recreation Department.
Some of the stewardship groups are not consistently or formally connected with the City, resulting in missed opportunities for coordinated action on environmental and climate response initiatives.
The absence of a comprehensive Activation Strategy hinders the consistent and coordinated programming of parks and open spaces, limiting the potential of new and existing partnerships.
Dedicated resources and staffing capacity are not yet secured for the effective long-term implementation of the Riverfront Vision.
Planning for co-location and joint acquisition of land for future schools and parks is not coordinated, and this is becoming more relevant given the urban school model and land constraints in New Westminster.
SD40 maintenance standards for school sites, including sports fields, are lower than City standards, which limits the values of those sites for community use where there is no City / SD40 partnership for maintenance.
A formalized mechanism for cross-municipal coordination on parks and recreation planning and service delivery does not exist.
There is no formal system for integrating programming and service delivery between Parks and Recreation and Community Services departments to address gaps, overlaps, or inconsistencies.
A comprehensive policy is needed to guide partnership agreements, defining the scope, terms and evaluation criteria for successful collaborations and clarifying what “partnership” means for the City.
There is no policy to guide commercial or public uses of underutilized city-owned or non-city owned lands (e.g., vacant or underutilized lands) for temporary recreation, markets, community events, programs, or other quick response community activations.

10 Implementation

10.1 Implementation Strategies

People, Parks, and Play will be implemented in phases over time, based on community needs, population growth, pace of development, funding capacity, and Council's priorities. It is important to note that the Plan is designed to be flexible; the work can be scaled up or down based on the actual pace of population growth.

This is a guiding document for the provision of parks and recreation amenities, facilities, programs, and services. This Plan is also a living document, and the recommendations will need to be reaffirmed through annual workplans, associated budgets, and partnerships on an ongoing basis. Ultimately, the most important guidance is provided by the goals and objectives, which should be used to guide future decisions.

Most of New Westminster's resources to fund parks and recreation operations and capital projects are derived from tax revenue and the accumulation of reserve funds, with some recapture of costs through fees and charges. Other key funding and development mechanisms include:

- Development Cost Charges (DCCs) (update planned for 2026/ 2027)
- Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs)
- Parkland Dedication (typically 5% of land value or area, secured through the Subdivision Bylaw)
- Works and Services Agreement requirements stipulated during the development approval process, and grants from older adult governments and other third-party organizations

The City collects Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for parkland acquisition and basic park development necessitated by growth in accordance with Development Cost Charge Best Practices Guide March 2025). These funds, charged to development projects, are restricted to providing and improving parkland that directly serves future residents. While DCCs assist in the acquisition of land for future parks and the development of those lands into parks, they do not fund all elements and amenities typically included in contemporary parks.

In the fall of 2023, Bill 46 – 2023: Housing Statues (Development Financing) Amendment Act (Bill 46) made amendments to Division 19.1 of Part 14 of the Local Government Act (LGA). These changes introduced Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs), a new development finance tool that allows local governments to collect funds from new development that results in increased population, to be used for amenities such as community centres, recreation centres, daycares, and libraries (Amenity Cost Charge Best Practices Guide). ACCs offer more flexibility than DCCs, and can be tailored to local priorities in keeping with the City's goals of equity, accessibility, nature-based solutions, and inclusive programming.

Other opportunities for acquiring parkland include the following strategies in addition to direct land acquisition (purchase with capital funds) and the approaches listed above:

- Acquisition or dedication of land or air space parcels
- Development of City-owned lands for park purposes
- Securing public access to Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS)
- Public access agreements for lands owned by older adult governments and public institutions
- Third party grants
- Preparing a City-Wide Land Acquisition Strategy that will focus on identifying suitable remaining lands across the city, with priority given to underserved areas, so the City can act strategically when opportunities arise

Space will also be required for community centres (Focus Area 7 Indoor Recreation Facilities). Given the limitations on land in New Westminster, there are various potential approaches for accomplishing this:

- Developer builds the facility integrated within a new development as a turnkey facility
- Developer builds the facility integrated within a new development as a shell and City constructs the improvements
- Conversions of commercial space (malls) or industrial space to community centres, but this requires a suitable building
- Vertical expansion of existing community facilities or co-location of community recreation with other City-owned facilities

10.1 Future Growth

Priorities for establishing the locations for actions and delivery of facilities and amenities will be based on the pace of growth, equity needs and other factors (see Implementation in **People, Parks, and Play**).

In reviewing the needs for facilities and amenities, **Figure 10.1** shows typical sizes to guide property or parkland acquisition. The data shown for "existing" is the 2025 supply and the City's estimated 2024 population of 90,799.

Figure 10.1: Facility and Amenity Sizes

Facility or Amenity	Size (ha)
Community Centre (e.g., təməsewtxʷ Aquatic and Community Centre)	1
Community Centre (e.g., Queensborough Community Centre)	0.25
Arena	0.5
Artificial Turf Field	1.1
Artificial Turf Field with full-size ball diamond and outfield	1.3
Artificial Turf Field with regulation-sized Track	2
Sports Court with Lacrosse (not covered)	0.16
Sports Court with Lacrosse (with viewing area)	0.27
Tennis Courts (two) (8 pickleball courts)	0.11

For items not listed above, such as playgrounds, water play, dog off-leash areas (People, Parks and Pups recommends a benchmark of 0.4 ha), and picnic areas, the sizes are variable. For sand or grass volleyball, three courts are the same size as a lacrosse box. These will need to be fit within parks according to the type of park and amenity proposed. New community centres will likely be located within multi-storey developments so they will not require dedicated land. Parking lots, surface or underground, are not included in the sizes listed.

10.2 Monitoring Progress

The City will be tracking progress towards achieving the **People, Parks, and Play** actions annually (See Implementation, Monitoring Progress section in **People, Parks, and Play**). This section identifies additional quantitative measures that may be used in the future. The City will need to determine if, when, and how this analysis may be conducted.

10.2.1 Parkland Supply

Parkland supply can be tracked for the city as a whole as well as for each district per the following tables (**Figure 10.2**). The data shown for "existing" is the 2025 supply and the City's estimated 2024 population of 90,799.

Figure 10.2: Parkland Supply Measures

	Target	Existing per this Plan	Year of Analysis _____
All Parkland ha / 1,000	2.00	1.94	
Active Parkland ha/ 1,000	1.00	1.01	
% within 5 minute walk to all parkland		89%	
% within 5 minute walk to active parkland		48%	

10.2.2 Amenities Supply

Amenities supply can be tracked for the city as a whole, with proximity mapping to help identify needs in the districts. The first analysis is amenity supply in relation to population (**Figure 10.3**). The data shown for "existing" is the 2025 supply and the City's estimated 2024 population of 90,799.

Figure 10.3: Amenity Supply Measures in Relation to Population and Proximity

	Target (Q/1,000 population)	Existing per this Plan (Q / 1,000 population)	Year of Analysis _____
Playground		0.253	
All Wheel Park		0.033	
Artificial Turf Field		0.022	
Sports Field		0.143	
Ball Diamond		0.176	
Sports Court		0.716	
Picnic Shelter		0.066	
Water Play		0.120	
Dog Off-leash Area		0.011	

	Targets within 5 and 10 minute walk	Existing portion of city within 5 minute walk per this Plan	Existing portion of city within 10 minute walk per this Plan	Year of Analysis _____
Playground		18% (276.36 ha)	57% (883.43 ha)	
Washroom		12% (185.68 ha)	44% (681.33 ha)	
Cooling Facility		32% (497.03 ha)	74% (1,161.08 ha)	
Dog Off-leash Area		8% (132.07 ha)	22% (349.65 ha)	

10.2.3 Facilities Supply

Facilities supply can be tracked for the city as a whole, with proximity mapping to help identify needs in the districts. The first analysis is facility supply in relation to population (**Figure 10.4**). The data shown for "existing" is the 2025 supply and the City's estimated 2024 population of 90,799.

Figure 10.4: Amenity Supply Measures in Relation to Population and Proximity

	Target	Existing per this Plan (Q / 1,000 population)	Year of Analysis _____
Community Centre	135 sq m / 1,000 population	108 sq m / 1,000 population	
Aquatic Centre	1 / 125,000 population	1 / 94,000 population	
Ice Sheet	1 / 30,000 population	1 / 45,400 population	

	Target portion of city within 20 minute walk	Existing portion of city within 20 minute walk per this Plan	Year of Analysis _____
Community Centre		51% (803.01 ha)	



Appendix B.1

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment

The following table lists the city's outdoor amenities and their condition as of 2023.

Outdoor Amenities

Outdoor Enjoyment

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Playground	25	1	Brow of the Hill	Riverside Adventure Park	Good
		1	Connaught Heights	Connaught Heights Park	Very Good
		1	Quayside	Quayside Park	Fair
		1	Downtown	Riverfront Tugger Gathering & Play Area	Good
		1	Downtown	Saint Mary's Park	Very Good
		2	Downtown	Westminster Pier Park	Very Good
		1	Glenbrooke North	Terry Hughes Park	Very Good
		1	Glenbrooke North	Sinclair Park	Very Good
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Victoria Hill / Ginger Drive	The Great Lawn - Victoria Hill	Very Good
		1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Red Boat Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Port Royal Park	Very Good
		1	Queens Park	Sullivan Park	Very Good

Outdoor Amenities

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Playground (cont.)		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Thompson's Landing Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Sukh Sagar Park	Good
		2	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Good
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Very Good
		1	Brow of the Hill	Toronto Place Park	Good
		1	Victory Heights	Victory Heights Park	Good
		1	Westend	Grimston Park	Good
Spray Park	7	1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Good
		1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Fair
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Fair
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Fair
		1	Downtown	Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park	Under Construction
Wading Pool	1	1	West End	Grimston Park	Fair

Outdoor Amenities

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Outdoor Pool	2	1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Very Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park	Poor
Outdoor Fitness	7	1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Fair
		1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Very Good
		3	Queensborough	Komagata Maru Perimeter Trail	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Very Good
		1	Downtown	Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park	Under Construction
All Wheel Park	2	1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Good
Bike Skills Park	2	1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Fair
Community Garden	6	1	Brow of the Hill	Simcoe Park	Good
		1	Downtown	Saint Mary's Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Port Royal Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Fair
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Downtown	City Hall grounds	Good

Outdoor Amenities

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Concession	3	1	Downtown	Westminster Pier Park	Very Good
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park	Fair
Alcohol Allowed Zone	9	1	Downtown	Westminster Pier Park	Very Good
		2	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Good
		1	Queensborough	Port Royal Park	Good
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	Very Good
		2	Sapperton	Hume Park	Very Good
		1	Westend	Grimston Park	Very Good
Off-Leash Dog Area	13	1	Brow of the Hill	Simcoe Park	Very Good
		1	Quayside	Quayside Off-Leash Dog Area	Fair
		1	Downtown	Dog Relief Station	Good
		1	Downtown	Downtown	Good
		1	Downtown	Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park	Under Construction
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Very Good

Outdoor Amenities

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Off-Leash Dog Area (cont.)		1	Connaught Heights	West Side Dog Area	Fair
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park Off-Leash Dog Area	Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Very Good
		1	Downtown	Albert Crescent Park	Very Good
		1	Victoria Hill / Ginger Drive	260 Ross Drive (FHA lands)	Good
		1	Victory Heights	Westburnco	Good
Outdoor Stage/Plaza	8	1	Downtown	Hyack Square	Very Good
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Fair
		1	Queensborough	Port Royal Park Plaza	Good
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Good
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Plaza	Very Good
		1	Downtown	824 Agnes Street	Under Construction
		1	Downtown	Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park	Under Construction
		1	Queen's Park	Uptown Plaza	Very Good

Outdoor Amenities

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Picnic Shelter	6	1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park - Large Shelter	Good
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park - Small Shelter	Good
		1	Queensborough	Port Royal Park	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Fair
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (lower)	Very Good
Picnic Table	149	3	Connaught Heights	Playground Area	Generally in good condition. Staff replace each unit as needed.
		1	Downtown	Nearest to play ground, high path	
		1	Downtown	High path, closest to covered area	
		3	Downtown	Community Garden	
		1	Downtown	Waterfront Esplanade near train bridge	
		4	Downtown	High path	
		1	Downtown	By playground	
		1	Glenbrooke North	Sinclair Park	
		1	Queen's Park	By playground	
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park skate park	
		1	Queen's Park	Near Playground	
		3	Queen's Park	Below gravel parking	

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Picnic Table (cont.)		3	Queen's Park	Behind greenhouse	Generally in good condition. Staff replace each unit as needed.
		1	Queen's Park	1st and 6th Ave	
		1	Queen's Park	CCC Playground	
		1	Queen's Park	Near Bernie legge Theatre	
		4	Queen's Park	By playground	
		3	Queen's Park	By bandshell	
		1	Queen's Park	By shelter 1	
		1	Queen's Park	Near spray park	
		2	Queen's Park	Queen's Park skate park	
		2	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park spray park	
		11	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	
		2	Victoria Hill / Ginger Drive	Victoria Hill	
		1	Queen's Park	Natural meadow	
		2	Queen's Park	By shelter 2	
		1	Queen's Park	Outside Horticulture building/Boardroom	
		1	Queen's Park	By gravel parking lot	
		3	Moody Park	Near 6th Avenue	
		2	Moody Park	Dog park	

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Picnic Table (cont.)		1	Moody Park	Moody Park spray park	Generally in good condition. Staff replace each unit as needed.
		1	Moody Park	Moody pool	
		1	Moody Park	Spray park	
		2	Moody Park	Moody playground	
		3	Moody Park	Playground	
		1	Moody Park	Picnic area	
		1	Moody Park	Moody park	
		2	Moody Park	Youth centre area	
		3	Moody Park	Moody pool	
		1	Queen's Park	By Queen's Ave	
		2	Queen's Park	By Queen's Ave	
		1	Queen's Park	By path	
		2	Queensborough	By spray park	
		1	Queensborough	By rock climbing playground	
		1	Queensborough	By picnic shelter	
		1	Queensborough	By electrical tower	
		1	Queensborough	Sandbox by tot gardens	
		1	Queensborough	By spray park and rope climbing structure	

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Picnic Table (cont.)		2	Queensborough	By elementary playground	Generally in good condition. Staff replace each unit as needed.
		3	Queensborough	Between parking lot and field	
		1	Queensborough	By electrical tower	
		1	Queensborough	Megan's Playground	
		1	Queensborough	By playground	
		2	Queensborough	By Megan's Playground	
		1	Queensborough	By the tot gardens	
		3	Queensborough	By playground	
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	
		1	Sapperton	Hume park near washrooms	
		2	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	
		14	Sapperton	Hume Park	
		3	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	
		3	Sapperton	Playground	
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park near spray park	
		1	Downtown	By City Hall	
		15	Downtown	Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park	
		4	Westend	Wading pool area	

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Outdoor Enjoyment (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Ping Pong Table	7	2	Quayside	Quayside Park	Very Good
		3	Downtown	Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park	Under Construction
		2	Moody Park	Moody Park	Very Good
Public Washroom (Permanent)	15	1	Quayside	1264 Quayside Dr (Quayside Park)	Fair
		1	Downtown	1 Sixth St (Westminster Pier Park)	Very Good
		1	Glenbrooke North	701 Park Cres (Terry Hughes Park)	Good
		1	Queen's Park	600 First St (Queen's Park)	Very Good
		2	Moody Park	600 Eighth St (Moody Park)	Very Good
		1	Moody Park	830 Sixth St (Mercer Stadium)	Fair
		1	Queensborough	215 Salter St (Port Royal Park)	Very Good
		1	Sapperton	351 E Columbia St (Sapperton Park)	Good
		1	Sapperton	660 E Columbia St (Hume Park - lower)	Fair
		1	Sapperton	660 E Columbia St (Hume Park - upper)	Good
		2	Downtown	1 Sixth St (Westward Expansion Westminster Pier Park)	Under Construction
		1	Downtown	824 Agnes Street (Commemorative Park)	Under Construction
		1	Westend	1900 Seventh Ave (Grimston Park)	Good

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Sports Fields

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Sports Field (Grass)	16	3	Moody Park	Moody Park	Good
		2	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Moody Park	Mercer Park	Good
		2	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Good
		1	Brow of the Hill	Simcoe Park	Good
		1	Glenbrooke North	Terry Hughes Park	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Good
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	Very Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (lower)	Fair
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Fair
		1	Victory Heights	Westburnco Reservoir Sports Courts	Fair
		1	Westend	Grimston Park	Very Good

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Sports Fields (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Baseball Diamond (Grass)	16	5	Moody Park	Moody Park	Good
		3	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (lower)	Good
		2	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Good
		2	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Good
		1	Glenbrooke North	Terry Hughes Park	Very Good
		1	Sapperton	Sapperton Park	Very Good
		1	Westend	Grimston Park	Very Good
Artificial Turf Sport Field	2	1	Moody Park	Mercer Park	Good
		1	Moody Park	Queen's Park East Field	Fair
Track	1	1	Moody Park	Mercer Park	Very Good
Stadium	2	1	Moody Park	Mercer Park	Good
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Fair

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Court Sports

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Basketball Court	7	1	Downtown	Westminster Pier Park	Good
		1	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		2	Moody Park	Moody Park	Fair
		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Fair
		1	Victory Heights	Victory Heights Park	Fair
		1	Victory Heights	Westburnco Reservoir Sports Courts	Fair
Tennis Court	22	2	Brow of the Hill	Simcoe Park	Fair
		2	Connaught Heights	Connaught Heights Park	Fair
		4	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		3	Moody Park	Moody Park	Very Good
		1	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Good
		2	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Very Good
		2	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Very Good
		4	Victory Heights	Westburnco Reservoir Sports Courts	Fair
		2	Westend	Grimston Park	Good

Outdoor Amenities Condition Assessment (2023)

Court Sports (cont.)

Amenity	Total Number	Number per Location	Neighbourhood	Location	Condition Summary
Pickleball Court	31	2	Brow of the Hill	Simcoe Park	Fair
		2	Connaught Heights	Connaught Heights Park	Fair
		4	Queen's Park	Queen's Park	Very Good
		3	Moody Park	Moody Park	Very Good
		2	Queensborough	Old Schoolhouse Park	Good
		8	Queensborough	Ryall Park	Very Good
		8	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Very Good
		2	Victory Heights	Westburnco Reservoir Sports Courts	Fair
Volleyball Court	1	1	Queensborough	Ryall Park (seasonal outdoor grass courts)	Good
Lacrosse Box	3	1	Moody Park	Moody Park	Fair
		1	Sapperton	Hume Park (upper)	Good
		1	Westend	Grimston Park	Fair



New Westminster